

SENATOR SAM ERVIN ★ SAYS ★



When Congress reconvened on August 31, the legislative calendar found action complete on most Presidential requests. Of those remaining, however, three presented highly controversial issues, each a bar to adjournment. These were: the perennial controversy over the foreign aid program, a rider to this bill which is known as the Mansfield-Dirksen proposal to grant "stays of Federal court orders" at the request of State legislative bodies facing reapportionment problems, and a medical care plan that has since been attached to the Senate version of the House-passed social security amendment bill.

Legislative battles have arisen over each of these questions. But if these issues have formed a hurdle for adjournment, appropriation bills have moved along much more rapidly than last year. Only one regular and one supplemental appropriation bill require further action. These are the foreign aid appropriation and the catchall supplemental appropriation for agencies showing emergency needs not provided in the regular appropriation measures.

The eleven regular and four supplemental disaster appropriation bills which have cleared both houses provide funds totaling \$89.7 billion for the fiscal year 1965. Foreign aid, when acted upon, will complete the regular appropriations

calendar. The Senate has been debating the foreign aid authorization request since August 3. The House-passed version of this bill calls for \$3.3 billion and represents a \$200 million cut in the Administration request.

As matters stand now, it appears that this year's appropriations are like to approximate last year's. The first session of the 88th Congress made regular and supplemental appropriations of \$92.4 billion. The totals for the same appropriation categories this session are likely to be around \$93.0 billion assuming that final action on the foreign aid bill approximates the house figure.

Not reflected in these amounts is the item of interest on the national debt which is embraced in a separate category which is called "Treasury disbursements of permanent funds." In 1963, this item amounted to \$10.1 billion. This year the item is expected to rise sharply to \$11.1 billion. The rise in national debt interest costs is significant, and will represent a major budget problem for the foreseeable future.

Senate-House differences over medical care under the social security program and state legislative reapportionment represent the yet unresolved questions of the session. Even with these issues settled, foreign aid is still of such controversial nature that it could trigger a long debate to keep Congress in session for a considerably period.

OTHER EDITORS SAY

THE SOUTHEASTERN MILLER

Contrast In Wheat Areas

Canada attracted worldwide attention last year by harvesting the largest wheat crop in its history and selling unprecedented quantities of wheat and flour to Russia. Today the Dominion is receiving added attention owing to the fact that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has revealed that the prairie provinces have planted a total of 29,080,000 acres to spring wheat this year, a new all-time high. The area compares with 26,996,000 acres in the previous year and shows an increase of 21 per cent from the 1952-61 average of 23,448,400. Prior to this year the peak in prairie wheat plantings was 27,750,000 acres in 1940. The new high mark is of particular interest to the United States because here, under the wheat production controls enacted by Congress, the last report of the Department of Agriculture showed only 49,041,000 acres for harvest, whereas back in 1949 the harvested area was 75,900,000 acres, the peak for this country.

The contrast between Canadian and American wheat acreage trends thus revealed is not surprising under the producing conditions of the

two countries so far as governmental intervention is concerned. The Canadian growers have been advised in the last year that markets can be found for all of the wheat which they raise, with no acreage limitations. On the other hand, drastic controls on plantings are in effect in the United States, with the national acreage allotment 49,500,000 acres, the minimum permissible under the present law. The largest area ever planted to wheat in the United States is 83,905,000 acres, for the 1949 crop.

Owing to extreme variations in the weather of Canada, including drought over extensive areas, especially in Saskatchewan, the 1964 Dominion prairie wheat crop is privately estimated at only 500,000,000 to 592,000,000 bushels in face of the larger acreage. The record production of the Dominion provinces last year was 730,000,000 bushels. With its carryover from the record crop after the huge sales to Russia, the Dominion will still be in a position to export heavily in the coming year.

The American wheat and flour trade has reason for some concern over the diverse trend in wheat

acres here and in Canada. The concern is intensified by the fact that Argentina and Australia are credited with some increases in plantings. Population expansion over the world is leading to an eventual situation wherein all of the wheat every country can produce will find a ready market. In the meantime, the United States should not be alone in adjusting supplies to the effective demand.

SO WHO'S BORED?—Puppies, especially when they're only 10 weeks old, haven't much to do other than get into trouble and sleep. These pups, part collie and shepherd, plan some snoozing. They live at a Schenectady, N.Y., animal shelter.

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