

Also okays women cadets

House refuses to chop weapons package

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Mindful of claims America's military resolve is doubted in some quarters, the House Tuesday rejected all efforts to cut the Pentagon's \$32 billion weapons procurement bill and approved it intact.

In two days of voting, the House turned back successive efforts to trim back the B1 bomber program and the Trident submarine program, and to eliminate the A10 fighter plane project all together.

A final effort to slice \$1.9 billion

from the measure, a proposal that would have left it to the Defense Department to designate programs to be cut back, was easily beaten 216-183.

Before final passage the House approved an amendment ordering the services to admit women to the military academies on the same terms as men, combat assignments included. The vote was 303-96.

The giant authorization bill, covering a 15-month period be-

ginning July 1, was sent to the Senate on a roll call vote of 333-63. The Senate's own \$30.3 billion version is to be debated there later in the week, with a final vote probably coming after the Memorial Day recess which ends June 2.

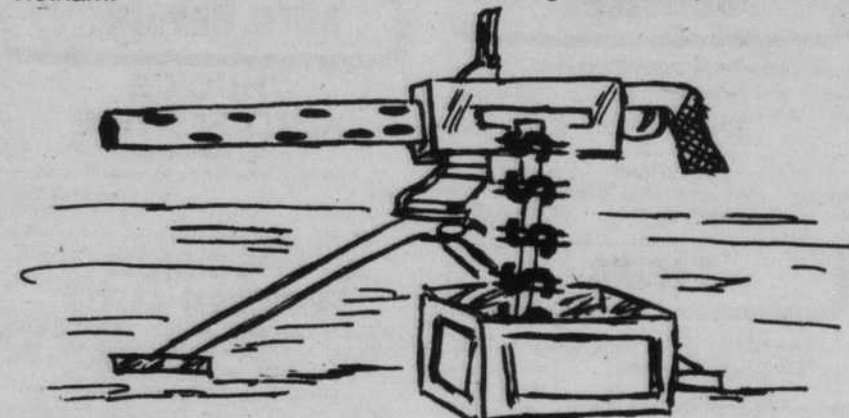
Among other amendments rejected by the House was one to cut back U.S. troops stationed abroad by 70,000 persons. It was defeated 311-95.

This coincided with urgings from The Senate Armed Services

Committee that no major deployment of American servicemen be made overseas until the nation can resolve the uncertainty that resulted from the loss of South Vietnam.

related to U.S. security interests."

The committee asked the Pentagon to report by the end of the year on long-term basing of U.S. forces in the Pacific and Asia — including Korea, Japan, Taiwan,



The committee specifically cautioned against any more reduction of American military power in the Pacific — particularly South Korea — until the United States develops a clear post-Vietnam Asian policy.

In a major report, the committee said "now is not the time for major redeployment of American forces."

The current period is one of uncertainty in the wake of the recent upheaval in Southeast Asia and continuing instability in other areas of the world," the report said.

"The results of the major events that have taken place in Southeast Asia over the last few weeks are not yet clearly apparent and the broad range of implications for U.S. foreign policy have not been thoroughly assessed."

The committee called American military forces "a foreign policy instrument" and said their presence "should be carefully tailored" and strictly tied to U.S. objectives as

the Philippines and other locations.

The committee said it would be "psychologically and militarily detrimental" to withdraw forces from Korea but said keeping any major combat forces in Thailand serves no U.S. interests.

In a report accompanying the military procurement bill, the committee noted that troop levels in the Pacific have been cut from 243,000 in 1964—before the Vietnam buildup — to 165,000.

"Although there are questions which can be raised regarding the number of military personnel the United States keeps in any particular country or base, we should not continue cutting our military forces in the Pacific until we have developed a clear policy upon which we can base a military posture," the report said.

Among the committee's recommendations was withdrawal from Thailand because — with the fall of South Vietnam and Cambodia — U.S. combat forces are no longer needed there.

Man is seadog's best friend

NEWARK, N.J. (UPI) — The captain of a schooner which sank in the icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean last year was indicted for manslaughter Tuesday for refusing to throw his 80-pound dog out of a lifeboat and let two men crawl aboard.

Captain Cyril LaBrecque, 50, of Santa Ana, Calif., was charged by a federal grand jury with causing the deaths of two Connecticut high school graduates, Bradford Blakely, 20, and Paul Sagarino, 19, who died of exposure after nine hours of clinging to the lifeboat in 43-degree waters.

Their bodies were found tied to the side of the boat on Jan. 29, 1974, when an oil tanker spotted it five miles off Atlantic City and rescued the four survivors — LaBrecque, his wife, an injured crewman and a Navy veteran who finally crawled aboard the lifeboat. The dog, an 11-year-old Labrador retriever named "Happer," also survived and was taken to an animal

shelter for treatment. LaBrecque was reported to have told authorities that he could not bear to throw the dog overboard.

According to Tuesday's indictment, the two Connecticut high school graduates and Navy veteran Valentine Bach, 47, of Chester, Conn., were forced to tie themselves with ropes to the edge of the 11-foot wooden lifeboat and float in the icy waters.

LaBrecque allegedly refused repeated requests to throw his dog overboard. The indictment also charged that he refused to allow the three persons outside the boat to rotate positions with the three persons sitting inside it.

After nine hours it became apparent that Blakely and Sagarino, both recent graduates of South Windsor, Conn., High School, had died of exposure. At that point, Bach struggled aboard.

Goldstein said LaBrecque faces a maximum 14 years in jail if convicted on all three counts in the indictment.

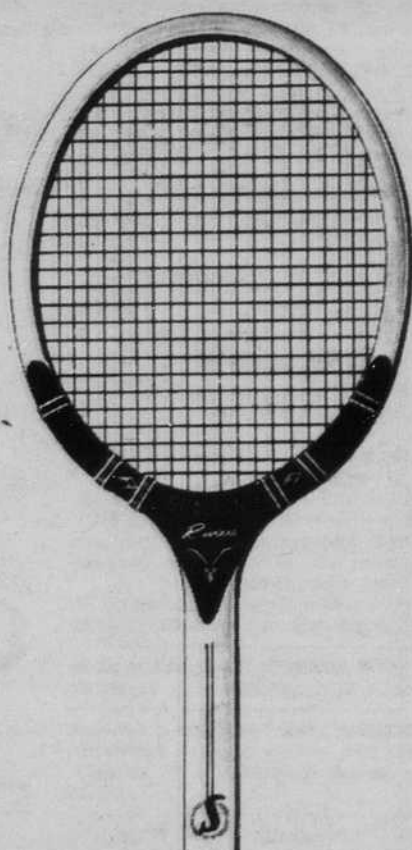
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Sirhan free in 10½ years

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. — SIRHAN SIRHAN, convicted and sentenced to death for the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy, will be freed on parole from San Quentin prison in 10½ years, the state decided Tuesday.

A parole date of Feb. 23, 1986 was established by the state Adult Authority and will mean Sirhan, 31 years old now, will have served 16 years and nine months in the prison.

Sirhan, who attended the parole hearing at San Quentin, was spared death in the gas chamber by the 1972 state Supreme Court ruling which held capital punishment unconstitutional.

Rocky to be on '76 Ford ticket

NEW YORK — Pres. GERALD FORD, saying "I see no reason to change," wants NELSON ROCKEFELLER to be his vice presidential running mate next year, the *New York News* reported Tuesday in an exclusive interview.

In standing by Rockefeller, Ford obviously had rejected the suggestion of one of his political advisors that he throw open the vice presidential nomination at the next year's GOP convention in order to satisfy the conservative wing of the party.

In his interview with the *News*, top Washington correspondents, Ford said he believed a Ford-Rockefeller ticket could win the presidential election next year.

Douglas into hospital for tests

NEW YORK — Supreme Court Justice WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS has been transferred from a rehabilitation unit to the University Hospital of the New York University Medical Center for testing and observation, it was disclosed Tuesday.

But a spokesman for the NYU Medical Center's Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, where Douglas was admitted in April after suffering a stroke, stressed that the justice "has been making excellent progress in his therapy program."

Routine monitoring tests will be performed to confirm the proper functioning of his pacemaker," a spokesman said.