

Plan increases defense budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — A five-year defense plan that will increase military spending has been promised Congress and Senate Democratic leaders by the Carter administration in an effort to win support for the SALT II treaty with Russia.

"I believe they can do it by November," said Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd.

"And I will go further to say not only that they should, but that they better do it because I do not anticipate this treaty being called up prior to the presentation of the five-year plan."

Senate Democratic Whip Alan Cranston said he has been "given assurance" by the defense department that the administration expects to send

the plan to the Senate floor by November.

He said he has talked this week with Secretary of Defense Harold Brown who previously said that January would be the earliest the Pentagon could complete the job.

"If the Department of Defense speeds preparation of its 1981 defense budget and its five-year plan, SALT could be brought to a vote this year with a reasonable chance of success," Cranston said.

A number of senators, led by Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., have said they will not be able to vote to ratify the treaty unless the administration greatly increases defense spending to correct what they see as military imbalances and to counter the growing momentum of the Soviet Union in long-range nuclear weapons.

Byrd said he has personally urged the president, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and presidential national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski to speed the five-year plan to Congress.

Cranston said he believes the Senate coalition necessary to produce 67 votes needed for ratification of the treaty can be built by agreeing on a "reasonable" defense modernization program coupled with instructions to U.S. negotiators to urgently seek substantial reductions in weapons when a SALT III treaty begins to take shape.

"That could quite possibly make unnecessary some of the significant increases in our defense spending that might otherwise be made," Cranston said. "I think we have the seeds of an agreement here that could be of great significance."

In another development, Byrd said he has not shut the door on proposals to televise the Senate SALT II debate. "Maybe we can have this debate televised and get a time agreement on it," Byrd said. "That would be my quid pro quo."

Byrd said he believes debate on the treaty can be concluded in three to four weeks.

It has been estimated it might take two months or more to bring SALT II to a ratification vote if no agreement is reached to limit debate.

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

WASHINGTON — Attempts to weaken the Energy Mobilization Board's authority to speed up energy development were rejected by the Senate Thursday, moving the agency toward final approval.

By a 65-28 vote, the Senate refused to accept an amendment that would have split the powers of the new four-member board with the 2-year-old Department of Energy.

The amendment was sponsored by Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio. It marked the last major effort by opponents to weaken the agency, which has been pushed by Pres. Carter as a means of cutting governmental red tape to expedite development of energy projects. Legislation to authorize establishment of the board represents the first piece of Carter's package of energy measures to reach the Senate floor.

Final Senate approval of the Energy Mobilization Board would give Carter his first significant congressional victory since proposing a series of new energy measures in a nationally-broadcast speech on July 15.

WICHITA, Kan. — A federal judge lifted his restraining order against Amtrak on Thursday, freeing the passenger railway to eliminate three of its trains.

U.S. District Judge Frank Theis said the Amtrak Reorganization Act of 1979, which was signed by President Carter on Saturday, changed the complexion of the suit.

"The temporary restraining order cannot stand and must be dissolved," he said. "Once Congress has specifically spoken on national railway transportation policy, the courts thereby are bound."

The judge did not immediately set a time for his dissolution order to become effective.

Theis ruled last Friday that Amtrak must continue running three lines — the Lone Star from Chicago to Houston; the North Coast Hiawatha from Chicago to Seattle, and the Floridian from Chicago to Miami. The three trains were among five scheduled for elimination last Monday.

SPENCERVILLE, Ohio — The investigation into the procedures used during the aborted cross country flight of the balloon DaVinci TransAmerica and the ownership of the aircraft are expected to take about two weeks, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said Thursday.

The gondola and balloon that make up the DaVinci remained on the ground Thursday where it made an emergency landing two days earlier after encountering a thunderstorm. One member of the four-member crew was injured in the landing.

Joy Dawson, owner of the local soybean field where the DaVinci landed, said she hadn't heard when the aircraft would be moved.

The Federal Aviation Administration office in Columbus said the agency had approved removal of the aircraft.

The injured balloonist, Vera Simons, meanwhile, was reported in fair condition at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, Ohio. She is recovering from a broken leg.

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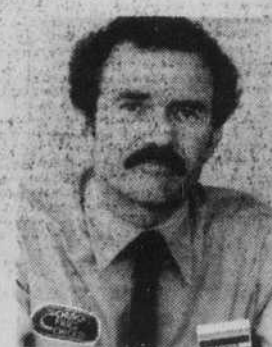
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