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Aid Plan of Thurmond Beaten Off in Senate

By Morton Mintz
Staff Reporter

The Senate defeated yesterday a proposal by a persevering opponent of the Civil Rights Act to deny foreign aid funds to any nation that practices discrimination.

The vote was 25 to 34. "I didn't expect it to pass," the sponsor, Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S.C.) told the Senate.

His proposal was defeated by a bipartisan coalition. His supporters included backers of the Civil Rights Act, some Southerners and a few opponents of the \$3.5 billion foreign aid authorization bill to which Thurmond's proposal was offered as an amendment.

Explains Purpose

"I wanted to show the hypocrisy of the argument that was made in the civil rights debate that this country had to change its pattern of life because our image might be hurt with other countries," Thurmond said.

He tried to make what he saw as a paradox sting as much as possible. On the one hand, he said, the Civil Rights Act allows the Federal Government to deny funds to programs in which discrimination is found. On the other hand, almost all countries have discrimination of one kind or another.

Thurmond drew his amendment to conform as closely as practicable with the relevant section, Title VI, of the Civil Rights Act. He told the Senate that unless his proposal was approved it would appear "that we have set a double standard"—one for the American people, and another for the people of other nations.

Method Held Wrong

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, told the Senate that however laudable the objective, the amendment was the wrong way to achieve it. He made the remark in response to a ques-

tion by Sen. Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) about Arab countries that deny entry to American citizens who are Jews.

The amendment episode provided some ironic highlights during a Saturday session that helped to clear the way for adjournment before the start of the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 24 in Atlantic City.

The Senate passed military construction and agriculture appropriation bills and prepared for probable action on the foreign aid bill next week.

Morse Amendment

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) introduced and spoke on the first of several amendments he has drawn up. It would give countries that do not maintain a military establishment greater than their own economies can sustain.

As it is now, Morse told the Senate, the United States is building up the capacity of nations such as India and Pakistan and Greece and Turkey to

fight each other, while getting nothing "of the slightest value to us in the event of a war with Russia."

In addition to Morse's amendments, the Administration will have to cope with the formidable rider backed by the Minority Leader, Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (Ill.), to overturn the Supreme Court's one-man one-vote ruling on apportionment of state legislatures.

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) called for a conference of the involved nations to seek a political settlement in Southeast Asia, lest an indefinite continuance of the fighting in South Viet-Nam lead either to defeat or entanglement in a major war. His proposal was endorsed by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.). Both had voted for the resolution.