

House members assemble in the Capitol as the 94th Congress opens. After Speaker Carl Albert took the oath of office, he swore in all other members en masse.

Associated Press



House Kills Security Panel as Congress Opens

Democratic Majority Wins Easily

By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Internal Security Committee, bans of civil libertarians for nearly 30 years, died yesterday as the new 291-144 Democratic majority easily won the first fight at the opening session of the 94th Congress.

A provision transferring the committee was contained in a lengthy resolution listing House rules for the new Congress.

There was no direct role on abolishing HISC, formerly known as the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAO). The key vote on a motion to open the resolution to amendments was defeated, 247 to 172. All 143 Republicans present voted to permit amendments, which would have included an attempt to retain

Senate Convenes Amid Disputes

By Spencer Rich
Washington Post Staff Writer

HISC. But some Republicans favored its abolition and were voting instead to consider other rules changes, including opening House sessions to television.

The first attempt to abolish HUAO, on grounds it trampled on civil liberties, was supported by only six votes in 1961.

Other rules changes adopted earlier by the caucus of all House Democrats undid two actions taken by the House last year. One change approved yesterday modified the total ban on proxy voting in committees by absent members, permitting it under certain conditions. Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) protested that another change reduced the Republicans' guarantee of one-third of the funds

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Soviets Reject Trade Terms, Void '72 Pact

By Marilyn Berger
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union has rejected the terms under which the United States offered equal tariff treatment and has informed Washington that the trade agreement that was instrumental in inaugurating détente in 1972 is null and void.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger told reporters yesterday that the Soviet government "states that it does not intend to accept a trade status that is discriminatory and subject to political condition and, accordingly, that it will not put into force the 1972 trade agreement."

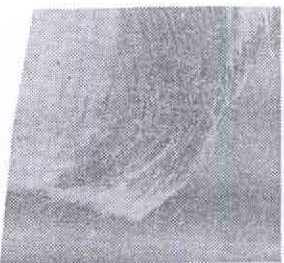
Moscow's action is in response to the terms of the trade bill that President Ford signed Jan. 3. It requires finding that any country receiving most-favored-nation tariffs permits free emigration of its citizens. The Russians were also angered by the congressionally imposed ceiling of \$300 million over a four-year period on credits to the Soviet Union.

Kissinger said that the Soviets had "informed us that statements were made by the National States in the terms of

Viet Fighting Near Peak Since Truce

From News Dispatches

Fighting in South Vietnam mounted yesterday to one of the highest levels since the cease-fire agreement two



two

House Security Panel Killed As 94th Congress Convenes

HOUSE, From A1

for committee staffing to about one-fifth.

Democrats criticized their closed caucus actions that the House adopted in the open last year. They protested that the minority should have some "input" in decisions on House procedures. Rep. John B. Anderson (R-Ill.), chairman of the Republican conference, denounced the Democratic action barring amendments as the "wantonnness of power."

But after one hour of debate, Democrats with their 2-to-1 majority in the House adopted their rules by a vote of 289 to 150.

Earlier, in a typical opening ceremony, the new House was called to order at noon with its clerk, W. Pal Jennings, presiding, because none of the 435 members had yet taken the oath of office. Thanks to a House rule permitting members to take their children up to the age of 14 onto the floor, there appeared more kids than members. Many Democratic congressmen had to stand in the rear as the roll was called.

Carl Albert of Oklahoma was predictably re-elected Speaker over Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) and pledged his best efforts for quick action on legislation to cure the nation's economic ills.

The party-line vote was 287 to 143.

The two candidates didn't vote and three members were absent. Rep. Dawson Mathis (D-Ga.) was attending the inaugural of his state's new Democratic governor. Rep. Bill Nichols (D-Ala.) was making a long-planned speech in a new bur D. Mills (D-Ark.) was part of his district. Rep. Will hospitalized at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, where his friend, Rep. Joe D. Waggonner (D-La.), was authorized to administer the oath of office.

Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.), dean of the House, administered the oath of office to Albert who then swore in all other members en masse. The final steps in organizing the House to do business are the election of committee chairmen, which Democrats will do in caucuses Thursday, and the selection of ranking minority members on committees by Republicans next week.

There has been talk of trying to unseat one or more senior committee chairmen—including Patman of Banking, Currency and Housing; F. Edward Hebert (D-La.) of Armed Services and W. R. Poage (D-Tex.) of Agriculture.

Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), fourth-ranking member of the Banking Committee, who has been considering running against Patman, 81, for weeks, said yesterday that if the caucus rejected

Patman he would be available.

Patman expressed pleasure that Reuss, after being "indecisive" for many weeks, had finally made up his mind. He said Reuss had never talked to him about why a change was needed. Reuss has said he believes he is the best qualified to lead the committee when it will play a crucial role in problems.

The 75 first-term Democratic members, having interviewed committee chairmen for four days, will discuss today whether they should vote as a group against any chairman. Also, the 13 Democratic freshmen assigned to Patman's committee plan to meet with him and Reuss separately today to ask what treatment they could expect at the bottom of the committee ladder.

The only contest among Republicans is on the Interior Committee. Rep. Sam Steiger (R-Ariz.) who led the fight against land use and strip-mining control bills last year, wants to jump over Rep. Joe Skubitz (R-Kan.) into the position of ranking minority member, where he would be the chief GOP spokesman in bargaining for money and personal allocation on the committee. Steiger conceded yesterday that he has little chance to win, but said competition is good for the system.

job.

Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.) laid the ground work for a battle, starting Friday, over his proposal for cutting off filibusters by a vote of three-fifths of senators present and voting, instead of the current two-thirds.

Sen. Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) and William V. Roth (R-Del.) signaled their intention to press for adoption of open-committee rules. Both caucuses will meet today on this proposal. The decision on how to investigate the accusations that the CIA has exceeded its charter and spied on civilians in America may be the most significant facing the Senate as it gears up.

Mansfield, in an opening statement to the caucus, made clear he doesn't want a big pack of different committees—each with some existing claim to oversight powers over CIA—conducting separate investigations. Stearns reportedly argued strongly for the rights of his

(H-VL) was barred as secretary of the GOP caucus without opposition, and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) won the Wednesday Club.

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