

Senate ponders new watchdog committee

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate continues debate this week over creation of a permanent intelligence committee and Congress will move toward sending President Ford another military aid bill to replace the one he vetoed.

Also, Ford and the Senate might take the last step to get federal campaign money flowing again to presidential candidates.

The Senate fight over creating a permanent committee to keep watch on the CIA and other intelligence agencies has no end in sight.

A compromise worked out by leaders to give the new committee exclusive jurisdiction over the Central Intelligence Agency is being filibustered by members of committees losing the jurisdiction, particularly the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A cloture vote to halt the filibuster and force action is scheduled for Tuesday but there appears to be little prospect of getting the 60 votes required to invoke cloture, thus limiting debate.

The House is scheduled to vote on a new military aid authorization bill to replace the one Ford vetoed two weeks ago, and the Senate is to act on its version if it gets the intelligence committee issue settled.

Both bills still carry features Ford objected to, primarily power for Congress to veto large U.S. weapons sales around the world.

But they drop some of the provisions Ford did not like, such as a partial lifting of his trade embargo against Vietnam.

The House bill would authorize \$7 billion for U.S. military aid for two years and the Senate bill \$6.7 billion.