

Congressional Roundup

Widely Backed Bill Would Open Most Records on Kennedy Killing

By ADAM CLYMER
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WASHINGTON, March 26 — Leading lawmakers from both houses of Congress today introduced legislation to make public almost everything in Government files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Representative Louis Stokes, the Ohio Democrat who headed the House investigation into the killing in the late 1970's, said the measure was supported by Congressional leaders and had no discernible opposition. "This resolution is going to sail through," he predicted.

Senator David L. Boren, the Oklahoma Democrat who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he had been assured of cooperation by the directors of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He predicted that "99.999999999 percent of the documents" in Government files would be fully released.

Under the legislation, a five-member commission would be appointed by Federal judges to rule on whether information could be deleted or withheld. None of the panel members could be Government employees or have been involved with previous investigations of the assassinations.

2 Years for Disclosure

The commission would have two years to see to the release of files from the House Assassinations Committee, the Warren Commission and any material held by other Government agencies. The bill urges Russian authorities to make public information in the files of the defunct K.G.B. and the G.R.U., domestic and military intelligence agencies of the Soviet Union.

The only grounds allowed for continued secrecy would be to protect personnel records of previous investigations, cases in which a current intelligence agent or informer's identity would be disclosed, where a current intelligence gathering method would be compromised, and where there would be a severe invasion of privacy of a living person. Some details of the autopsy of President Kennedy would also be kept from public display, Mr. Boren said.

Both leaders, and others of both parties who joined them, said it was important to make the information public to dispel suspicion, especially among young people whose view of the event came from Oliver Stone's movie "J.F.K.," which suggests that the assassination was plotted by the Government to keep the President from halting the Vietnam War.

Mr. Stokes said he doubted the files

would provide any sensations. "I can assure you we didn't seal up any smoking gun in our files," he said.

Measure on Forests

On the Senate floor today, an overwhelming majority approved a measure that could begin to decide the fate of the nation's last stands of virgin forests. It would carve up more than six million acres of timberland in Montana into tracts to be preserved and other tracts eligible to be cut.

The ambitious proposal sets out broad goals for managing timberlands in 10 national forests in the state. The compromise measure was adopted by a vote of 75 to 22.

This bill was developed by Montana's two Senators, Max Baucus, a Democrat, and Conrad Burns, a Republican. But Montana's Representatives, Ron Marlenee, a Republican, and Pat Williams, a Democrat, have both expressed reservations. Both environmentalists and timber companies have said they were disappointed in this bill.

The measure joins several others the House is set to consider this spring over cutting the old growth forests of the West.

The Senate bill calls for setting aside 1.2 million acres as permanent wilderness, diverting another one million acres as recreational areas and regions off limits to cutting, and designating 4 million acres to be managed by the Forest Service for timber harvesting and other industrial development.

America's 'Marshall Plan'

Congress's Joint Economic Committee called for a "Marshall Plan for America" to strengthen the nation so it can compete more effectively against Japan and Germany.

The committee said cuts in the military budget should be invested in areas like high-speed rail, air traffic control systems and a nationwide data communications network. Under the 1990 budget act, such shifts from military spending cannot be made until next year; the Senate tonight killed a Democratic effort that would have allowed the transfers this year.

Also today, the Congressional Budget Office issued a report analyzing President Bush's budget, saying it would have little effect on the outlook for the Federal deficit. It said the President's proposals would slow the accumulation of the Federal debt by just \$3 billion over the next five years.

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