

Congress Ends Recess and Faces Mass of Legislation

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Congress returned from an 11-day Easter recess today to grapple with a mass of legislation that may force eight and week-end sessions before the July recess for the Democratic National Convention in New York.

Among the major legislative items to be considered in the next 10 weeks are bills dealing with reconstituting the Federal Election Commission, food stamps, gun control, clean air standards, revenue sharing, public service jobs, foreign arms sales, aid to Israel, military bases in Spain, Greece and Turkey, and scores of authorization and appropriation measures.

The Senate-House conference committee on the election commission bill is due to meet tomorrow to complete action to reconcile differences between measures passed by the two houses, and the final bill could be passed within a week.

Final action on the foreign aid bill, which contains major changes in the manner in which

arms made in the United States may be sold overseas, is also likely to be passed within the next 10 days.

Tomorrow the House, in line with the new Congressional budgetary process enacted two years ago, is scheduled to start debate on the first concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year 1977, which sets spending and revenue targets. The first target calls for a budget authority of \$425.3 billion, including a deficit of \$50.6 billion.

On Wednesday, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is due to consider two issues: the status of its investigation into the unauthorized disclosure of the report of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, and a request that the committee inquire into the conduct of Representative Rober L. F. Sikes, Democrat of Florida.

Three weeks ago, Common Cause, a public-affairs lobbying group, accused Mr. Sikes of misconduct and conflict of interest involving military contracts, and demanded an investigation. The demand was re-

laid by 44 representatives. The proposal is controversial, since neither the House nor the Senate has shown enthusiasm for any investigation of its members.

Another controversial bill that the Senate may act on next month would create a special committee that would have legislative oversight on the Federal Intelligence Committee.

After a delay of several years, the House is expected next month to vote on a proposal to permit the broadcasting by radio and television of some proceedings on the floor. The bill, which is bitterly opposed by some representatives, has been bottled up in the House Rules Committee. But today its chairman, Representative Ray J. Madden, Democrat of Indiana, changed his stand and said he would support the bill.

In the only major floor action in the House today, the chamber passed, by a vote of 279 to 59, a bill authorizing funds for the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. The bill authorizes \$100 million for the fiscal year 1977 and \$113.5 million for fiscal 1978. For

those two years, \$35 million would be earmarked as "challenge" grants to cultural institutions so that \$3 in private funds would be matched by one Federal dollar. The bill also would set up a new institute of museum services in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Kentucky Mine Explosions To Be Studied by Congress

WASHINGTON, April 25 (UPI) — Two committee chairmen said Sunday that Congress would conduct its own investigation of the Scotia coal mine explosions that killed 26 men, even though the Department of the Interior is already investigating the disaster.

Senator Harrison A. Williams Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and Representative Carl D. Perkins, Democrat of Kentucky, chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, said the joint hearings would open May 7 in Whitesburg, Ky. Later hearings will be held in Washington.

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