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90-DAY AID PLAN OPPOSED IN SENATE

Fulbright Favors 'Interim'
Bill, Backed by Ellender

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—Despite new Administration appeals, the Democratic leadership of the Senate balked today at proposals for a 90-day extension of the foreign aid program financed at last year's \$2.64-billion annual rate.

Instead, Senator J. W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, indicated that his panel would have an "interim" measure ready for Senate consideration early next week.

Senator Allen J. Ellender, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said he would oppose any continuing resolution unless an interim authorization measure was clearly in prospect.

The moves by the chairmen, with the support of Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader, reflected a determined effort to retain the initiative in their continuing struggle to prevent a three-month extension of the present program with all aid categories intact.

The Administration began its campaign for the 90-day continuing resolution last Saturday after the Senate's unexpected 41-to-27 vote Friday rejecting a \$2.9-billion authorization bill. Key Democratic Senators countered with a proposal to limit any extension to 30 days, or even two weeks, to permit the foreign relations committee to prepare a stopgap bill.

Authority Expires Nov. 15

Authority of foreign aid spending since the end of the fiscal year on June 30 is based on a continuing resolution that expires Nov. 15.

The \$2.9-billion authorization bill killed by the Senate had set limits on loans and grants for economic development and military aid programs under the Foreign Assistance Act for the current fiscal year, which began July 1.

However, the Senate action did not mean an immediate halt in aid, as there is about \$4.7-billion of previously authorized funds in the pipeline, most of which has been obligated.

Nor did the Senate action have any effect on other authorizations, estimated at \$6-billion, under other legislation. These included about \$2-billion for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and its affiliated institutions, about \$2.25-billion in military aid for Indochina in the Pentagon's own budget and smaller amounts for the Peace Corps, the Food-for-Peace program and the United States Export-Import Bank.

Statement by Rogers

Apparently in an effort to enlist public support for a three-month extension current spending authority, Secretary of State William P. Rogers said today after conferring with President Nixon that the Senate's rejection of the aid bill was "a very serious blow" to United States foreign policy and weakened the president's ability to negotiate with other world powers.

On the eve of a scheduled appearance with the foreign aid administrator, John A. Hannah, before the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Rogers said at a White House news conference that he hoped the Senate would "take action to repair quickly the damage that has been done."

He said, "We think it essential that Congress act now to pass a bill which will be coordinated and balanced to carry on essential foreign policy."

He mentioned the Paris negotiations on Vietnam, diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union and China and the situation in the Middle East as areas where, in his view, the United States position would be jeopardized unless foreign aid was continued.

Interim Bill Stressed

Senator Fulbright said in commenting to newsmen:

"I am not for a continuing resolution even for a week or 10 days, but for reporting a bill to the Senate by the first of next week. It would be an interim bill to give time to reconsider and develop a new foreign aid program."

He said he was working closely with Senator Ellender, whose intervention in the debate added a new and critical element, since any continuing resolution must originate with the Louisiana Senator's Appropriations Committee.

"We should have a new bill," Mr. Ellender said. "Unless the Senate and the Congress can agree on legislation to authorize a revised form of foreign aid, I do not believe the Appropriations Committee will agree to funding our aid operations by means of a continuing resolution."

Senator Ellender explained that, in theory, the extension of funding authority by means of a continuing resolution was based on an assumption that authorizing legislation would be passed within a reasonable time.