

# Fulbright Threatens to Fight Extension on Aid

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, served notice today that he would fight extension beyond next Monday of the continuing resolution that provides foreign-aid spending authority, unless the committee's \$3.3-billion bill was acted on by that time.

Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, made his announcement in a letter to the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The announcement could mean that more than 4,000 employees of the Agency for International Development would lose their jobs if the committee bill was not approved by the Monday deadline.

## Fulbright Cites a Prohibition

Since the current fiscal year began, on July 1, the agency, which administers foreign aid, has been operating under a continuing resolution that expires at midnight Monday. To prevent wholesale dismissals and a cut-off of all aid spending, the House is scheduled to act tomorrow on the solution for a 30-day extension. Follow-up approval by the Senate has been a formality in the past.

However, in his letter to the committee chairman, Senator Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, Senator Fulbright said that he would invoke a provision writ-

ten into the law last year. The provision, never invoked, prohibits the use of a continuing resolution unless authorizing legislation is pending in both houses of Congress.

Senator Fulbright suggested that the time had come to implement the prohibition in view of the Senate's defeat Oct. 30 of the authorizing legislation and "the great uncertainty surrounding the future of the entire foreign aid program."

"To allow continuation of appropriations for foreign aid and military sales under the circumstances would make this restriction a nullity and create precisely the type of situation which the provision was designed to correct," Senator Fulbright added.

He specifically requested that any provision for additional funding of foreign aid programs or personnel be deleted from the House's continuing resolution "until Congress has enacted an authorization bill."

## Versions Must Agree

Congressional enactment requires not only passage of legislation by both houses but separate approval of a conference report resolving differences between the Senate and House versions. Observers agreed that to accomplish this by Monday would require a burst of speed unequalled since the early days of the New Deal.

Pending action on the committee's truncated version of the Administration's \$3.5-billion

request, Senator Fulbright suggested that the necessity of terminating the employment of A.I.D. employees would not arise until Nov. 23, rather than Nov. 15, as Administration spokesmen contend.

The Senator is understood to have obtained an informal opinion from the Controller General that the agency could meet its Nov. 23 payroll "because of the lag between the end of pay periods and actual payment of salaries."

The resolution that the House will consider tomorrow would extend foreign-aid spending authority for 30 days beyond Monday, or until adjournment of the present Congressional session. It would be at the same annual spending rate of \$2.6-billion that Congress appropriated for last year.