

Over 50 in Senate Ask Support Funds For Europe Radios

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WASHINGTON, March 2—

More than 50 Senators joined today in the introduction of a resolution to put pressure on Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to drop his opposition to a House measure to finance Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe and end a deadlock that threatens the future of the two American-controlled stations.

The official United States overseas radio, the Voice of America, is not involved in the controversy.

The resolution, originally sponsored by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, and Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, was described by its supporters as an 11th-hour move to prevent the stations from going off the air in two weeks.

Senate and House Disagree

The two stations, which until last year were financed by the Central Intelligence Agency, beam programs to the Soviet Union and its European allies, often to the annoyance of the governments.

United States funds for the stations—estimated at \$36-million a year—ran out on Feb. 22. Officials of the Munich-based stations have said they

have money to continue only until the middle of this month.

A bill passed by the Senate would provide funds until June 30 to be administered by the State Department. A House bill, backed by the Administration, would provide funds through June 30, 1973, and set up an independent agency to administer the station.

Senator Fulbright, who heads the Senate conferees, has urged the end to the stations, calling them "relics of the cold war," and has refused to compromise with the House conferees. They in turn have refused to accept the Senate bill on the ground that in an election year it will be heard to vote further funds.

Supporters of the Percy-Humphrey resolution said they hoped the fact that a majority of the Senate, including six of the Foreign Relations committee's 16 members, supported it would persuade Mr. Fulbright to compromise. But Mr. Fulbright's aides said that he regarded the resolution as "arm-twisting" by the Administration and antiCommunist organizations, which he would resist.