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Senate Rejects 2 Curbs on Nixon

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 5—The Senate rejected today moves to cut the White House budget and curb future "security improvements" on President Nixon's private homes.

The Senate acted as both houses of Congress, refreshed after a month-long recess, returned to work after sampling the views of constituents back home.

The Senate action, together with statements by various Congressional leaders today, appeared to signify a determination on the part of Congress to avoid, whenever possible, an all-out confrontation with the President on strictly legislative matters.

The leaders' statements were made before President Nixon's news conference.

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, the Democratic leader of the House, called upon both Congress and the President to work together on legislation.

'Go at Least Halfway

The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, also sounded a conciliatory note as he promised that Congress would "go at least halfway" in working with the President to insure that the Federal Government continued to function properly.

"All he has to do is grasp the hand that's extended out to him," Senator Mansfield said, extending his own hand.

Both today's Senate action and the statements of the two Democratic leaders were in stark contrast to the Congressional actions and words in the waning days before the August recess.

The House, just before recessing, had voted to impose the curbs on the White House budget and on "security improvements" that the Senate decisively rejected today.

Length of Truce Uncertain

Furthermore, there had been loud grumbling, by both Democrats and some Republicans, over the President's leadership as the Watergate scandal began unfolding for a nationwide television audience in the weeks before the recess.

Just how long the new and perhaps still uneasy truce between the White House and

Congress might last is uncertain.

President Nixon, in a news conference today, said he had found the Congressional performance this year "very disappointing" in terms of Administration requests.

"I am not placing individual blame on them," he said, in what appeared to be a conciliatory move on his own part. "I'm simply saying we have three months left. And I know that the Congress is usually a last-quarter team. In that last quarter we have to score a lot of points."

The President further disclosed that he would submit a new State of the Union message to Congress this weekend, outlining his legislative requests, and that he would veto a minimum wage bill that Congress had passed before the recess.

The House did little more than mark time today while the Senate engaged in its day-long debate over efforts to trim the White House budget and to curb security work on the President's private residences at San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla.

Accusing the President and his personal aides of treating Congress and the American people with "complete disdain," Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, proposed a series of amendments to a White House appropriations bill.

Domestic Council Funds

The Senator sought first to cut the appropriation for the President's Domestic Council from \$1.1-million to \$350,000, thus reducing the staff from 30 to 10 persons. John D. Ehrlichman, the President's top domestic adviser, headed the council before he left the White House staff following the Watergate disclosures.

Senator Mondale noted that two employees of the council—Egil Krogh Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy—had been involved in the Watergate affair, principally through the activities of the White House "plumbers" group set up to plug national security leaks.

Members of the Domestic Council, Senator Mondale complained, were set free "to do anything they damn well wanted to do."

The cutback in funds for the

Domestic Council was rejected by a vote of 56 to 30.

Senator Mondale further proposed deleting the full \$1-million earmarked for a White House special fund, a traditional fund given all Presidents since 1958 for various projects.

The House had wiped out the \$1.5-million the President had sought for this fund in early August, but the Senate Appropriations Committee had restored \$1-million of the amount.

Leaders of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees conceded that the Administration had refused to divulge how the Nixon Administration had used this fund in the past. Other sources say, however, that at least part of the money was used to pay the \$100-a-day consulting fee of E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the convicted Watergate conspirators.

Reports Required

The Mondale proposal to delete the \$1-million for special projects was defeated, 52 to 36.

The Senate also modified a House-passed provision that would have required specific Congressional approval before any further "security" improvements are made on the President's private homes. Instead, the Senate merely voted to require quarterly reports to Congress after such expenditures are made.

The General Services Administration has said that about \$310-million has been spent on security at the Nixon private homes and on homes of close friends or members of his family.

A bill to finance operations of the White House, the Treasury Department and the United States Postal Service passed the Senate by a vote of 87 to 0. Differences between the Senate and House bills will be worked out in conference.