

MAY 2 1972
 SFChronicle
Senate
Restores Big
USIA Cut

Washington

The Senate overrode the objections of Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.) yesterday and voted 57 to 15 to restore \$45 million the committee had slashed from the United States Information Agency's authorization for fiscal 1973.

Senator Gale McGee (Dem-Wyo.), a member of the committee, offered the amendment boosting the USIA authorization to the full \$200,249,000 sought by the USIA.

McGee said the cuts in the USIA's radio, TV and press activities would give the United States an "imagery problem" overseas and cripple the USIA's capacity to tell the peoples of the world "what we think we mean (in our policy actions), rather than what others say we mean."

Fulbright protested that the issue in the vote wasn't the size of the cut in the USIA authorization, but rather the right of Congress to obtain from the executive branch the program information needed to make wise policy judgments.

He said the USIA budget request was cut only after the USIA, at the instructions of the President, had refused to turn over to the committee planning documents and memoranda which the committee said it needed to make wise judgments on the value of USIA media programs in various countries.

He argued that unless the executive branch were overturned Congress would be robbed of its capacity to exercise supervision and oversight over executive branch agencies.

But McGee, while conceding that "the Foreign Relations Committee is justified in receiving a great deal more information than it does," contended the cuts were simply too great and would force enormous slashes in USIA staff and effectiveness.

United Press