

House Votes Radio Free Europe Funds for 2 Years

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 —

The House of Representatives approved an administration-backed measure today that would provide funds to keep Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe alive for at least two more years.

By a vote of 271 to 12, the House paved the way for the creation of a nine-man commission to study and make recommendations on the future of the controversial stations. Until this year they had been clandestinely financed by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The House bill, which had been reported out by the Foreign Affairs Committee represented a compromise between a measure adopted earlier by the Senate calling for direct funding for one year through the Secretary of State and the original Administration bill for the creation of a permanent nonprofit organization to administer the stations.

Bill Returned to Senate

The bill now goes back to the Senate for further action. Backers of the House measure expect opposition from Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who has shown little sympathy for continuing the stations, which he has called "vestiges of the cold war."

Under the provisions of the House measure, \$36-million would be authorized for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, and \$38.5-million for the 1973 fiscal year. No other Government financing would be permitted.

A nine-man Commission on International Radio Broadcasting, with two members each from the House, Senate, and Administration, and three from private life, including broadcast experts, would set up "to

review and evaluate international radio broadcasting and related activities of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty."

A report would be submitted to the President for transmission to Congress by Nov. 30, 1971, but the stations would be given funds until June 30, 1973.

Broadcasts to Soviet Bloc

Radio Free Europe, established in 1950, and Radio Liberty, in 1951, broadcast to the peoples of Communist countries in Europe. Radio Free Europe beams its programs to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Rumania. Radio Liberty directs its broadcasts to the Soviet Union.

A report submitted to the House by Representative Thomas E. Morgan of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that in the early nineteen-fifties, Radio Free Europe engaged in psychological warfare and its broadcasts were "polemical and politically oriented."

But by the mid-nineteen-fifties, the report said, "it dropped this approach and developed a highly professional staff with specialized linguistic and research capabilities."

"The focus is upon objective and accurate news reporting and balanced commentaries," the report said. "The current emphasis is to give encouragement to the indigenous forces of peaceful reform and to provide a mechanism for increasing within authoritarian governments the public accountability of public officials for their public acts."

The report said that Radio Liberty initially aimed at "liberation" of the Soviet Union, but this soon shifted to "liberalization." It said that the station offered "positive alternatives to the Soviet system, couched in friendly tones." Radio Liberty, which is heavily jammed by the Soviet Union, also broadcasts

extensively from the unpublished manuscripts that are smuggled to the West.

Both radio organizations also have research and monitoring staffs that publish material on developments in the Communist world.

Because the stations often broadcast material otherwise not available in the Communist media, the Soviet Union and its allies have long sought their abolition. They are both based in Munich, so the Communist Governments have put pressure on the West German Government to have the stations removed.

Senate Rejects Proposal

The future of the stations became an issue earlier this year when Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, disclosed that the C.I.A. had been financing them. He said he would support their continuation but only if their funds were openly appropriated by Congress.

The Nixon Administration

submitted a proposal for a nonprofit American Council for Private International Communications, Inc., which would have been independent of the Government but financed by Congress. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee rejected this proposal and pushed through the Senate a stopgap one-year measure providing \$35-million through the State Department.

The Administration objected to the Senate bill because it sought to disassociate the two stations from the United States Government. The Voice of America, an arm of the Government, reflects American policy, but Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which often are more incisive in their criticism do not.

The Administration said it would support the compromise offered by Representative Dante B. Fascell, Democrat of Florida, which set up the temporary commission and financed the stations for two years.