

House are reasonable and the Senate should accept them en bloc, gives its final approval to S. 2679, and send it to the President.

Under the amended legislation, the commission would consist of the following members: six Members from the House of Representatives appointed by President of the Senate. Four Members shall be selected from the majority party and two shall be selected, after consultation with the minority leader of the House, from the minority party; six Members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate. Four members shall be selected from the majority party and two shall be selected, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, from the minority party; one member from the Department of State appointed by the President of the United States; one member of the Defense Department appointed by the President of the United States; one member of the Commerce Department appointed by the President of the United States.

Some may feel that the commission underrepresents the minority party. However, I believe that the monitoring of the Helsinki Accords is a matter above any kind of partisanship—it will require hard work and constant effort and it will focus on the very real human problems of people oppressed by foreign governments. Party membership has nothing to do with carrying out that task. Furthermore, I expect that the executive branch is not going to change hands and so the balance will be redressed somewhat by the President's selections.

Among others, this legislation has been endorsed by the following groups and organizations: American Hungarian Federation; Assembly of Captive European Nations; Association of American Publishers; Association of American Ukrainian Baltic Women's Council; Czechoslovak National Council of America; Estonian American National Council; Federation of American Scientists; Freedom House; Hungarian Freedom Fighters' Federation; Lithuanian-American Community of the U.S.A., Inc.; Lithuanian Affairs Committee; Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc.; Lithuanian World Review Radio, New York; National Confederation of American Ethnic Groups; National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Polish American Congress, Inc.; the American Latvian Association in the United States, Inc.; the Joint Baltic American Committee; the Lithuanian American Council, Inc.; Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation; Ukrainian National Women's League; Union of Councils for Soviet Jews; U.S. Advisory Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

It is clear that the supporters of this bill know the anguish many families and individuals have suffered as a result of policies in the Communist States prohibiting the right of emigration, of family reunion and the free exchange of information and ideas.

The humanitarian sections of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation, signed by 35 nations in August 1975, held out the hope that as a

result of a peaceful process these restrictive policies might be changed. But this hope can be realized only if we actively engage in monitoring the agreement and in calling public attention to instances where its goals are fulfilled and to instances where its promises are not backed up by appropriate action.

By our action in approving this legislation today, we will help assure millions of people in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union that the Helsinki pledges are not going to be forgotten by us and they will know that we shall continue to try to be of assistance.

I think President Ford has put it best of all: History will judge the effectiveness of the European Security Conference "not by the promises we make but by the promises we keep."

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate concur in the House amendment.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF THE MARINE PROTECTION, RESEARCH, AND SANCTUARIES ACT

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 818, S. 3147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3147) to extend the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act for 2 years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the bill was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 111 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (33 U.S.C. 1420) is amended by striking "and not to exceed \$1,550,000 for the transition period (July 1, through September 30, 1976)," and inserting in lieu thereof "not to exceed \$1,550,000 for the transition period (July 1, through September 30, 1976), not to exceed \$4,800,000 for fiscal year 1977, and not to exceed \$4,800,000 for fiscal year 1978."

GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I have been contacted by the press and have noted several stories to the effect that "MANSFIELD Blocks Gun Control Bill for 1976." The source of this story is given as an "aide" who attended a meeting of the Joint House-Senate Demo-

cratic leadership last Wednesday morning.

The story goes on to say that—

Senate Majority Leader MIKE MANSFIELD, citing political considerations, has notified House leaders that he will not schedule action on gun control legislation in the Senate this year, a decision that apparently dooms the measure.

May I say this is untrue. No such statement was made. The question was raised and my reply was, first, that there was no such legislation on the Senate calendar, that it was highly doubtful if any gun control legislation would be reported out of the Judiciary Committee, and that even if it were, it would have to be considered by the Democratic Policy Committee before any action could be taken on the floor.

As far as the allegation that I told the House leadership that I "would refuse to bring up the legislation in the Senate, irrespective of any action by the House," that statement is totally false. What the House does is its business; what the Senate does is the Senate's business; and we have detailed procedures by means of which any bill reported out by any committee is given the same consideration by the Policy Committee as any other bill.

I am also supposed to have said that—

The measure is too controversial to tackle this late in an election year.

I do not recall making any statement of that kind. As far as a measure of this kind being controversial, it would be controversial at any time, in any year, and under any circumstances.

The article goes on to say that—

As leader of the majority party in the Senate, MANSFIELD, . . . controls the legislative calendar in the chamber. Thus, he apparently would be able to block consideration of the gun control measure.

That is inaccurate.

I assure the Senate and the press and the people that, if any bill of any nature, including gun control legislation, is reported out by any committee, it will receive the same consideration as any other proposal and that, as far as I am concerned, it will not be blocked. May I say, incidentally, that I have never personally blocked any legislation in my 16 years as majority leader, and I do not intend to start now.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

ROUTINE MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business not to exceed beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with statements therein limited to 5 minutes each.

EXTENSION OF ROUTINE MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be extended for a period not to exceed beyond the hour of 11:45 a.m.