

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE B-1 BOMBER

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DEAR FRIENDS:

Boy, we're down to the last round of 3-1 votes and our chances are probably better than ever! It's a little like making it to the World Series; we can be proud of it.

We won the last authorization round in the Senate, and it looks like we must now win in the House. Here's the situation:

The Senate just finished the defense authorization bill and retained the Culver amendment -- but not without some further struggles! Sen. Taft of Ohio attempted to reverse the Culver amendment by offering one that would permit the president to go ahead with B-1 production this Fall if he thought it would help the SALT talks! No matter that the B-1 has had nothing to do with the SALT talks, and no matter that such an amendment should have been offered last week when the Culver and McGovern amendments were considered, the real point of the amendment was that many B-1 foes were out of town: we didn't have the votes to beat back the Taft! But our Senate allies, especially Culver and Proxmire, out-maneuvered Taft by threatening a filibuster for a week or two if the Taft amendment were not tabled (rejected.) The strategy worked: enough senators wanted to finish the bill and go home that the tabling motion carried. So go the machinations.

We had reports last week that Pentagon officials were "madder than hornets" after the Culver vote, that they were "simmering, boiling"! So we can expect more Taft-type tricks. One argument we should expect to hear is that "jobs will be lost." Mary McGrory gives us the adequate rebuttal to that -- see her column inside. "Defense" spending costs us jobs!

Unfortunately, our Senate win may not be sustained by the Conference Committee just named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of the bill, SO WE'LL HAVE TO WIN IN THE HOUSE AT APPROPRIATIONS. Take a look at the conferees and you'll see why the Culver provision may be scrapped: FROM THE SENATE: Stennis, Symington, Jackson, Cannon, McIntyre, Harry Byrd, Nunn, Culver, Thurmond, Tower, Goldwater, Scott of PA, and Taft. Only CULVER, SYMINGTON, JACKSON, NUNN AND McINTYRE VOTED FOR THE CULVER AMENDMENT!!!

AND FROM THE HOUSE: Price, Hebert, Bennett, Stratton, Ichord, Nedzi, Randall, Wilson (CA31), Wilson (CA41), Leggett, Dickinson, Whitehurst, and Spence. ONLY NEDZI AND LEGGETT SUPPORTED THE SEIBERLING AMENDMENT!!

These are all conservative, senior armed service committee members -- the conferees we expected. OUR ONLY HOPE FOR THE CONFERENCE IS THAT CULVER SUPPORTERS WILL INSIST ON THE PROVISION, AND WE CAN WRITE THEM AND ASK THEM TO UPHOLD THE WISDOM OF THE SENATE, COMMENDING THEIR VOTE FOR THE CULVER. Symington, in particular, is an honorable old fellow about to retire, and he might respond to your patriotic appeal to sustain the Culver!

But be prepared to lose in conference. Conferences are called "The Third House of Congress" because of their considerable discretionary power; the two "other" houses can only accept or reject the conference's total package.

All this highlights our judgment that we must WIN IN THE HOUSE AT APPROPRIATIONS, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 17th. PLEASE LOOK AT THE ENCLOSED TARGET LIST AND GO TO WORK ON YOUR REPS.

We can win in the House: the situation is very much improved since April 8th, when we came surprisingly close thanks to your phenomenal work. The SENATE WIN helps immensely; it's much easier for a lonely Rep to oppose the B-1 now. The PRESS IS WATCHING CLOSELY NOW, so thousands of other citizens are, too. The RED SCARE CLIMATE HAS SUBSIDED. Our NATIONAL GROUPS ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN EVER. OUR TARGET LIST IS SMALL AND ACCURATE.

IN SHORT-----WE ARE READY FOR THIS ONE.

One last note: can you rescue us from the jaws of insolvency? We are dangerously low of funds for the last 6-8 weeks, and even a couple dollars from everyone who reads this will take the pressure off a lot. Support your local campaign first, but help if you can, please!

Thanks, and very best regards from all of us in Washington!

SUMMARY OF WHAT TO DO NOW:

1. WIN YOUR REP. Confirm Reps who were right last time and ask for their help winning others. GO ALL OUT TO WIN TARGETS!!!
2. When your Rep is solid or hopeless, WRITE TO KEY CONFEREES: Symington, Jackson, Nunn, McIntyre: ASK THEM TO HOLD FAST.
3. THANK or SCOLD your senator for last week's vote; ask them to get conferees to hold to Culver amendment.
4. THANK MAIN B-1 Foes: McGovern; Culver; Proxmire for his remarkable series of speeches against B-1 in recent weeks. Thank Robert Byrd for the motion to table Taft amendment.
- ✓ * 5. HOUSE LEADERS ANYONE CAN WRITE TO: Phil Burton, Brock Adams, Tip O'Neill, Jerome Ambro, Norman Mineta, Martin Russo. ASK THEM TO LEAD FIGHT AGAINST B-1 IN HOUSE.

Ⓢ send contrals, mention letter, Robinson etc.