

# The Nation

In Summary

## Unexpectedly, Pentagon Loses A Budget Battle

Cooperation between Republicans and Democrats in new House and Senate Budget Committees has had an unexpected result. The Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, which normally supports Pentagon requests, last week rejected Defense Secretary James Schlesinger's appeals and let stand most of a \$7.6-billion cut in the defense appropriations bill.

Mr. Schlesinger had sought a restoration of at least \$2.6-billion after the House of Representatives approved a \$90.2-billion measure; the Senate subcommittee restored only \$406-million. The reduction from the Administration's \$97.8-million request is unusually large; the Defense Department is accustomed to getting most of the money it asks for.

The difference this year is a strengthened Congressional budgeting procedure and a Congressional Budget Office staffed by fiscal experts.

Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate Budget Committee warned Senator John McClellan, chairman of the Senate appropriations subcommittee, that they would oppose on the Senate floor any substantial increase in the Defense measure. Senator McClellan, fearing a defeat, did not push the point.

### A Questionable Gap

Two high-ranking United States intelligence officials have raised a serious question about the validity of figures used recently by Defense Secretary James Schlesinger in seeking restoration of the defense budget cuts. Mr. Schlesinger has asserted that lower American defense spending has created a military gap giving the Russians a substantial advantage.

In documents released by a Senate subcommittee last week, however, William E. Colby, director of Central Intelligence, and Lieut. Gen. Daniel Graham, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, seemed to contradict Mr. Schlesinger. Their view is that differences in the economic systems make the figures misleading and that the dollar comparisons of military strength do not take into consideration intangibles such as the effectiveness of weapons or morale and the discipline of troops.

After the documents were released, by Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, General Graham and Mr. Colby, reportedly at the behest of Mr. Schlesinger, expressed support for the Defense Secretary's contention.

### The Military Aid Request

President Ford has asked Congress for \$4.7-billion in foreign military aid for the present fiscal year. The amount is more than twice last year's \$2.2-billion allocation even though \$2.7-billion was deducted in aid planned for Indochina. Most of the increase reflects new United States commitments that are part of Secretary of State Kissinger's Israeli-Egyptian settlement: 70 per cent of the \$4.7-billion request is for countries in that region.

## Kissinger Says Presidents Knew Of Covert Action

Secretary of State Kissinger has testified that no covert intelligence operations were undertaken without Presidential approval during his six years as national security adviser in the Nixon and Ford Administrations. Mr. Kissinger told the House Select Committee on Intelligence last week that he had never made such decisions in a President's name.

A dispute between the executive and legislative branches over testimony by middle-level State Department officials remained unresolved. The Secretary repeated his willingness to let the committee have summaries of policy views by these individuals but not to see what the individuals themselves have written.

### Details on Snooping

A director of the highly secret National Security Agency has for the first time publicly described one of the agency's operations in acknowledging the broad scope of its electronic surveillance. Lieut. Gen. Lew Allen Jr. told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence last week how the agency intercepted international messages of 1,680 American citizens and groups and 5,925 foreign nationals and organizations. He said a seven-year operation on behalf of various Government intelligence agencies ended in 1973.

According to General Allen, the surveillance sought, among other things, to determine whether there was foreign support for domestic disturbances, to get information about possible threats to the safety of high United States officials following the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and data on suspected drug traffickers.



Cesar Chavez

## Successes for Cesar Chavez

Elections to decide union representation for California's 250,000 farm workers have been under way since Aug. 28, and the United Farm Workers union of Cesar Chavez is doing surprisingly well against the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Of the 34,600 field hands on 276 farms who have voted so far, the Chavez organization has won the right to represent 13,300 (54 per cent of those voting) and the Teamsters 9,700 (40 per cent). Results on 37 other farms, representing 10,000 workers, are undecided because of challenged votes. About 1,600 workers on 13 farms have voted against any union.

Teamster President Frank Fitzsimons has said that his union has been mainly concerned with protecting the 400 contracts it held before the vote. So far, 25 ranches previously controlled by the Teamsters have been won over by the Farm Workers Union; the Teamsters have not taken any of the 12 contracts held by the Farm workers before the vote.

## More Power To Mayor Daley

Chicago's City Council has voted 43 to 3 to abolish the city's Civil Service Commission by the end of the year in favor of a highly centralized municipal hiring system. The action puts 40,000 more jobs under the potential control of Mayor Richard J. Daley, from whom virtually all power already flows in Chicago.

The new system sets up a personnel director and a personnel board, all appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor and his department heads will be permitted to exempt from competitive examinations an unspecified number of jobs because of "administrative necessity," which, critics fear, will mean whatever Mr. Daley wants it to mean.

The ordinance also abolishes by 1978 about 10,000 so-called temporary jobs, some of which have been filled for 40 years. These are largely patronage posts that could conceivably be retained under the "administrative necessity" provision. There are 3,000 or so other municipal jobs in the city not covered by Civil Service, all of which are under direct or indirect control of the Mayor.

Proponents say the new plan will eliminate "dead wood," make promotions contingent more on merit than seniority, and facilitate dismissals for incompetence. Others view it as simply another power grab by the Mayor, who is also head of the Cook County Democratic organization. Civil Service workers are expected to seek a legal basis for challenging the plan.

## Ford Testifies In Fromme Case

President Ford has agreed to submit to a videotape interview with the lawyers of Linette Alice Fromme. In doing so, the President has apparently accepted the principles that lawyers for an accused person have the right to question witnesses in person and a jury has the right to observe the demeanor and behavior of persons giving testimony. Miss Fromme faces life imprisonment for allegedly attempting to assassinate the President. Her trial is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

The deposition with the President was taken yesterday in Washington. The videotape will presumably not be made public until the jury sees it, as expected, during the defense presentation at the trial.

It is the first time in United States history that a President has submitted in person to interrogation by lawyers concerning a criminal case.