

News from Washington

Freeze Bill May Reach Congress Soon

Congressman Markey of Massachusetts has written the Comprehensive Freeze and Arms Reduction Act, and plans to introduce it into the House around mid to late July, after the vote on the Comprehensive Test Ban Resolution. The anticipated passage of the Test Ban Resolution (which continues the present test ban treaty) would be a positive influence for the future of the Markey Freeze bill. The main provisions of the bill are:

- *Thirty days after enactment, a halt to testing and deployment of all nuclear warheads and of missiles whose range is over 600 kilometers.
- * One year after enactment, the act mandates a halt to testing, production, and deployment of all nuclear warheads missiles and strategic bombers, including in the production halt components as well as final assembly. After transition expenses, the act will save \$25 billion per year.

The Comprehensive Freeze Act now has 64 co-sponsors including 2 Republicans (Claudine of RI, and MacKinnon of CT). House Speaker O'Neill has indicated that he will take an active PR role in the boting on this bill when there are 100 sponsors. So, our role now is a strong PUSH TO PASS campaign which will include phone and letter lobbying efforts media events, and a petition. This petition asks Reagan and Gorbacev to place a moratorium on the testing, production and deployment of all nuclear weapons during US-USSR negotiations and states that this can be achieved through the Comprehensive Freeze bill.

In addition, there is an Interstate Freeze Lobby Network, through which Mass. Freeze activists call Freeze contacts in states whose representatives have not, but may become co-sponsors. This is a good way to keep up the pressure.

If you are interested in collecting signatures for the petition, or in being an Interstate Lobbyist, call Robin at 646-3002. And remember to look out for a legislative alert to Tip on the ACC phone tree in late summer.

Other legislative News

The House and Senate are now in the authorization phase of the 1986 Fiscal Year Defense Bill (appropriation will come up later). Debate began June 3rd in the Senate and June 10th in the House. Here are the highlights so far:

- * The Senate denied an additional 48 MX missiles and an amendment has been introduced to cap the number of MX's at 50
- * Mavroules and MacGurdy (House) have introduced an amendment to cap MX's at 40
- * Kerry has introduced an amendment in the Senate to cap SDI (star wars) spending at the 1985 level of 1.4 billion
- * Mavroules has introduced the same amendment in the House and Dellums introduced one to cap at 955 millior and eliminate projects that threaten the ABM treaty
- * Kerry's amendment to continue an ASAT moratorium was defeated
- * A similar amendment in the House has a good chance of winning.

WE NEED TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE. LET'S LET OUR REPS KNOW HOW WE FEEL----YOUR VOICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.