

Marine Bill Could Affect Shipping

By Frank Hewlett
Daily News Correspondent

WASHINGTON--A Congressional committee has reported out a far-reaching merchant marine bill which contains an important-to-Guam provision establishing tax-deferred construction funds for shipping lines operating in the nation's non-contiguous off-shore trade.

Key provision of the bill is President Nixon's program to strengthen the U.S. merchant marine with a program to build 300 ships within the next 10 years.

The bill also extends existing programs for subsidizing the construction and operation of merchant ships to help offset the

extra cost of shipbuilding in the United States over foreign building and United States-flag operations over foreign-flag operations.

The tax-deferment proposal came out of a conference here last month in which Guam's Representative Antonio B. Won Pat participated. It was jointly sponsored by the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department and the Transportation Institute on Noncontiguous Trade.

The tax-deferred benefits plan was approved by a narrow vote and only after it was amended to extend the privileges to commercial fisheries and operators in the Great Lakes as well as the noncontiguous off-shore areas of the United States.

British Debate On War

London (AP)--Left-wing laborites in the British parliament today forced an emergency debate on the Indochina crisis with demand that Britain denounce the American drive into Cambodia and the resumption of air raids on North Vietnam.

The speaker of the House of Commons, Dr. Horace King, bowed to their pressures by setting aside three hours for the discussion.

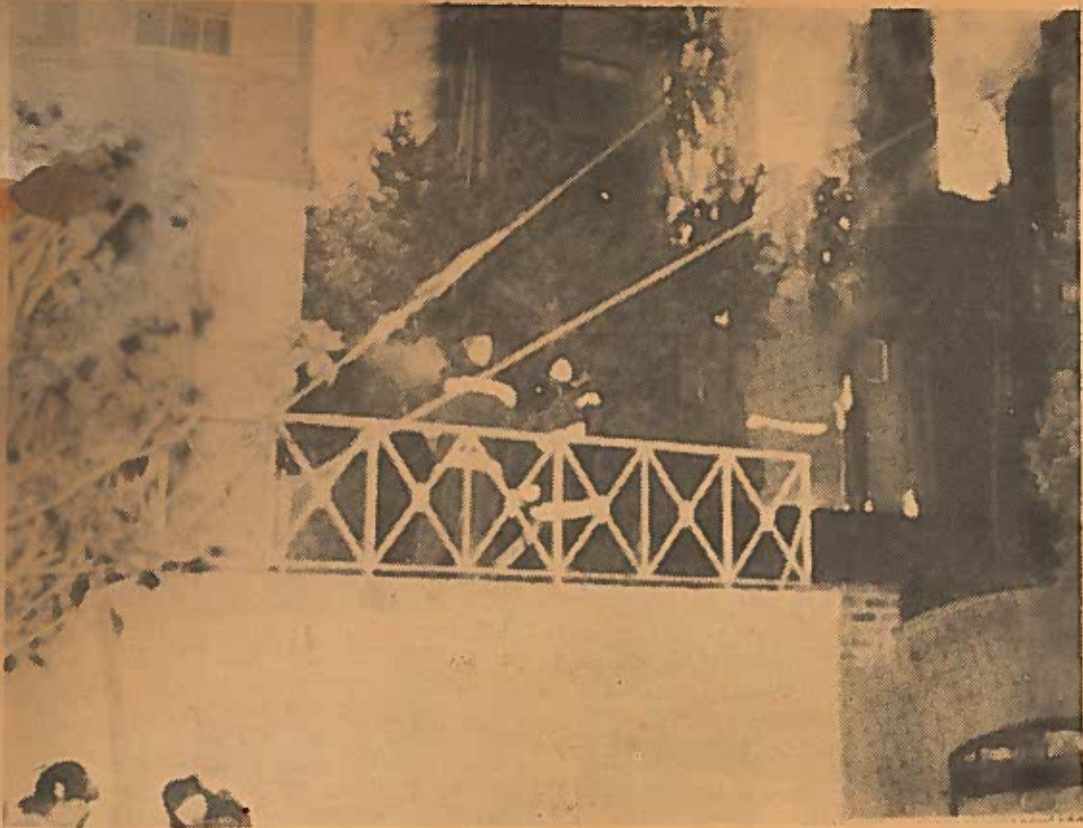
Members of Prime Minister Harold Wilson's cabinet did not resist the move, led by old-time leftist Michael Foot.

"Nobody can doubt the scale of the crisis... which has been intensified by the invasion of Cambodia and the reopening

of the bombing attacks on North Vietnam," Foot said.

"The governments of France, West Germany and many other countries have expressed in the strongest terms their opposition to the action of the U.S. government. It is the desire of many members of Parliament that the British government should express opposition in similar terms."

Wilson has stuck by successive U.S. administrations on Vietnam since 1965 to the dismay of left-wing and middle-road supporters. But now he faces a national election campaign and is anxious to preserve an appearance of labor party unity.



SAN FRANCISCO--CHILDREN DIE IN FIRE--Two of San Francisco Supervisor Ron Pelosi's children and a housekeeper died when flames swept their \$100,000 home. Pelosi and his wife arrived home from a social engagement to find the house in flames. He attempted to rescue his children, but fell from a ladder and broke his hip. Two other Pelosi children were rescued. (AP Wirephoto)

Ombudsman Suggested Addition To Organic Act

Requiring an ombudsman for the Government of Guam has been suggested as an addition to the Organic Act by Constitutional Convention delegate, Gregorio M. Borja.

An ombudsman is an independent, high level official who receives complaints on matters relating to the administration of the government's executive branch, pursues into the matters involved, and makes recommendations for suitable action. He may also make investigations of administrative actions on his own initiative. His weapons are persuasion, criticism, and publicity.

An ombudsman is a relatively new idea in government, but is becoming very popular. The first ombudsman bill for consideration by an American legislature was drafted by Ralph Nader and introduced in the Connecticut legislature in 1963.

As a receiver of complaints from citizens, the ombudsman serves as a liaison between the people and the government which is often viewed by them as being distant and unresponsive.

When the ombudsman receives a complaint which seems valid, he asks the agency involved for an explanation and conducts an investigation if necessary.

According to a model bill written by Walter Gellhorn, one of the nation's leading authorities on the ombudsman and a professor of law at Columbia University, the ombudsman must be given any information, records, or documents he seeks from an administrative agency.

He may enter and inspect the premises of an agency, and he may issue a subpoena to compel a person to appear to give testimony or to produce evidence.

The findings of the ombudsman are reported to those concerned, including the complainant, the agency involved, and the public, if necessary. A specific remedy to rectify a complainant's injustice or an over-all improvement in the operation of an agency may be suggested by the ombudsman.

Although there are many methods of selecting the ombudsman, Borja's proposition recommends that he be elected

by the members of the Legislature for a six year term. The most important requirement is that his selection is as non-political as possible.

In the model bill written by Gellhorn the person qualifying for the office must be "well equipped to analyze problems of law, administration, and public policy" and must not be actively involved in partisan politics.

During the session of the ninth Guam Legislature, Senators Richard Taitano, Pedro Santos, and Antonio Cruz introduced a bill to create the office of

ombudsman based on the model bill written by Gellhorn; however, the local bill was defeated.

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