Senate, House return from recess

Energy plan, weapons debate facing Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rigorous examination of President Carter's energy plan will occupy much of Congress time this week, whether or not the nation's nuclear arsenal is to be bas, outright any deployment of the neutron bomb. A compromise he is offering would permit either the House or Senate to veto a decision by Carter to go ahead with the weapon. A proposal requiring both houses to vote the bomb was given a second chance of approval, however.

The neutron bomb, which relies on controlled radiation to kill enemy soldiers rather than the huge explosive power of other nuclear weapons, has been criticized as an addition to the arsenal race. Proponents say it provides a weapon for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, otherwise outnumbered by Soviet and Eastern European forces. As it returns from its 10-day Independence Day break, Congress has less than a month to work on a heavy legislative load before leaving town for the traditional August recess.

The Senate is due to vote on Carter's proposal to halt a controversial reactor project that would produce more plutonium than it consumes. The President said earlier this year he wanted to end U.S. reliance on such nuclear breeder reactors, such as the one planned for the Clinch River nuclear power plant, now under construction in Tennessee.

Carter's allies in the Senate debate will be Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., who plans an amendment to an Energy Research and Development Administration appropriation bill to add $2 million to phase out the Clinch River plant. Other senators will urge spending the full $150 million for further construction.

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, a supporter of plutonium development, is expected to urge a compromise $75 million authorization with a year's construction delay to give Carter time to reconsider countries from proceeding with their plans.

While the full House has few issues of broad public interest scheduled for this week, its committees will be busy. There are House-Senate committee meetings scheduled on the President's proposed Energy Department, with major differences to be ironed out between the two versions over how much control the White House will have in setting natural gas prices.

Other conference committees are to take differences in legislation setting auto exhaust standards.

A House Commerce subcommittee has before it a proposal for an 18-month moratorium on the Food and Drug Administration's plan to ban saccharin, the artificial sweetener which tests have linked to cancer in rats and humans. Three congressional committees will spend most of the week working on the Carter energy package. A critical test will come in the House Commerce Committee when it votes for a second time on whether to deregulate natural gas or to add a $1.75 ceiling for every thousand cubic feet of gas, as proposed in the administration energy plan.

Only 250 hear Ali speak

By STEVE LATUS
Jourial Staff Writer

Muhammad Ali came and saw, but unfortunately failed to conquer the hearts or imaginations of Upper Peninsula residents—at least not to the point they were willing to pay $5 a ticket to hear him speak. A gathering estimated at 250 persons listened to the world heavyweight champion's Saturday afternoon lecture at the C.B. Hodgehead Fieldhouse on the Northern Michigan University campus. In a facility designed to hold upwards of 5,000, the small audience was dwarfed by the empty chairs and bleachers.

Ali spoke for slightly more than 20 minutes from a podium set in the middle of the boxing ring. He spoke not of sports nor of his long and illustrious career, but of friendship. It was the same topic he chose to speak on as Harvard's commencement speaker a year ago.

Ali began his presentation by asking the audience if they felt they had at least one real friend. He said he'd ask the audience the same question at the end of the lecture to see if he had taught them anything. He failed to pose that question when he finished, and appeared disappointed both in the turnout and the response of those in attendance.

Upon concluding his talk, he immediately left the ring and departed for his hotel. The weigh-in slated to follow his talk was cancelled.

The champ's lecture dealt with finding the true meaning of friendship. "To pass the examination of friendship," he said, "is the most difficult thing in the world." He cited ego and pride as the chief barriers restricting friendship.

Ali claimed the great error we all make in our lives is that, "We claim friendship before we understand its true meaning."