

House Votes To Override 2 Ford Vetoes

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By overwhelming margins, the House yesterday overrode President Ford's vetoes of bills to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act and to revamp administration of the vocational rehabilitation program.

The Senate's override votes are scheduled today.

Money was not the issue in either bill. So while the

House votes show a willingness to stand up to the White House, they give no indication of what might happen when crucial spending issues affecting inflation are at stake.

However, Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.), a chief deputy whip for the Democrats, said, "I think it shows overall the weakness of the Ford White House in the country and in the eyes of Congress."

Brademas also said he thought Mr. Ford was being "ill advised" by Nixon holdovers on his choice of bills to veto.

On the Freedom of Information Act amendments, the vote was 371 to 31, more than 100 votes over the needed two-thirds of those present and voting.

The vocational rehabilitation veto was overridden by a margin of 398 to 7.

Overriding a veto requires a two-thirds vote of both houses. Though the Senate passed the Information Act changes by a lopsided 64 to 17, that override vote is expected to be close. "But both sides expect the Senate to override the vocational rehabilitation veto."

A House attempt to override a veto of a private bill giving relief payments to two Miami Herald reporters shot by U.S. Marines in the Dominican Republic uprising in 1965 failed by a 236-163 margin. Another private bill scheduled for an override vote was sent to a committee instead.

During his 3½ months in office, President Ford has vetoed 13 bills. Only his veto of a railroad retirement pension bill has been overridden by both houses.

In overriding the vocational rehabilitation veto, Congress is ignoring President Ford's contention that he pocket-vetoes the bill, a method that does not allow Congress to vote to override.

The Constitution gives the President 10 days from receipt of a bill to sign it, let it become law without his signature, or veto it and return it to Congress for an override vote, unless "the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return." Courts have ruled invalid pocket vetoes that occurred during short recesses like the recent election recess, which lasted about a month.

The Justice Department

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may decide to appeal these rulings to the Supreme Court in light of yesterday's override on the supposedly pocket-vetoes vocational rehabilitation bill.

The bill, passed 400 to 1 by the House earlier this year, changes the way the government administers \$680 million in vocational rehabilitation funds.

In his veto message, the President said the bill was "an attempt to administer through legislation," "dictates where in HEW minute decisions must be made" and would create a new 250-person bureaucracy.

Supporters of the bill say the transfer of the program to a new administration headed by a commissioner would not require a 250-person bureaucracy and was originally an administration suggestion anyway.

Most of the seven votes against the override were by lame duck Republicans including Rep. Joel T. Broyhill, the recently defeated Virginia congressman.

The Freedom of Information Act changes would expand and clarify a bill passed in 1966 to make it possible for the press and public to obtain government documents.

It would set a 10-day limit for an agency decision on whether to furnish requested information, a 20-day limit on

determinations of administrative appeals, and a 30-day limit for government response to lawsuits.

It would also authorize a federal judge to examine documents in his chambers at his discretion to determine whether they are properly kept from public view.

The President's veto message said intelligence secrets could be adversely affected, and said courts should not be forced to make decisions on classification in areas where they have no expertise.

He called the 10-day and 20-day time limits "unrealistic in some cases" and said the FBI and other law enforcement agencies could not maintain confidentiality if they had to open their files indiscriminately.