

the situation by claiming that the Republicans were holding out for definite assurances of a compromise that would avoid any possibility of an embarrassing Presidential veto of the final bill. Whether this was true was open to some doubt since there had been earlier reports that a compromise agreeable to the President had already been informally agreed upon. Whatever the true facts, it still remained that if the Republican leadership continued to block the bill it would be a blow to Mr. Nixon. Once the Vice President had publicly involved himself it appeared to be a matter of political necessity that the bill go through, no matter how much Halleck would have preferred to have it blocked.

The Rules Committee met again on Friday of last week and Tuesday of this week without taking any further action on the bill. Yet there appeared to be a very broad feeling among both Democrats and Republicans that the committee would eventually reverse itself and allow the bill to get to conference. Theoretically the Rules Committee could block it again on its way back from conference to the House for final passage, but this was regarded as unthinkable. It looked, after 10 years of frustration, as if there would at last be federal action to alleviate the nationwide shortage of 140,000 classrooms.

Pauling vs. the Senate Internal Security Committee: Contempt Action Likely as He Refuses To Give Names

Linus Pauling, the University of California Nobel-prize-winner, happened to be in Washington last week, and the Senate Internal Security committee took the occasion to call him up to Capitol Hill and ask him to tell about a nuclear test ban petition he circulated in 1958. The committee allowed Pauling to explain his position at length, which he did, often with eloquence.

He said the petition, signed by 11,000 scientists, was initiated entirely by himself and that there were no hidden forces or hidden motives to be uncovered; that he simply thought it a bad idea to continue nuclear weapons testing, which, he said, seems now to be the official view of the United States government. The committee asked him for the names of the people he had written to asking them to help gather signatures, and also the names of those who had responded to his request and sent back lists of signatures. Pauling

said he couldn't understand what business it was of the committee to want to know these names.

Legality Denied

He said he would supply the committee with a list of the people he had written to, since that was entirely his own responsibility and implied nothing about the attitudes of the recipients. But he declined to supply the names of scientists who had cooperated in gathering signatures. He said he couldn't see where the committee had any legal right to ask for these names and that he knew from personal experience that giving the names to a Congressional committee could lead to reprisals against the people who cooperated in gathering the signatures who, he said, had been doing nothing more than exercising their constitutional right to petition the government.

The tone of the hearing was fair, even genteel. But at last it took on a familiar ring. The committee issued a formal demand that Pauling return August 9 with the names. Pauling told reporters that he "surely would not" give the committee the names. The committee will, presumably, cite him for contempt. It will then be up to the Justice Department to prosecute the case, and to the courts to decide whether the committee had the right to ask for the names. Recent Supreme Court decisions make the committee's position doubtful.

One step in this procedure may inject the affair into the presidential campaign. A person is cited for contempt of Congress, rather than for contempt of a particular committee. Congress is not likely to be in session to vote on the citation. If it is to take effect it will have to be authorized by the presiding officers of the two houses. In the Senate, of course, the presiding officer is the Vice-President.

Un-American Science

Richard Arens, the staff director of the House Un-American Activities Committee, has told reporters on a number of occasions that he has "enemies" who are constantly working to take his job away from him. The enemies seem to be making some progress.

The source of his difficulties is Arens' extracurricular work for a number of individuals and organizations of the sort that even William F. Buckley has

called psychopathic. One of the most curious, and the one which seems to have gotten Arens into the deepest trouble, is a committee, consisting mainly of Arens himself, which is helping a New York millionaire named Wycliffe Draper to give away grants for research in "genetics and immigration." What Draper would like is some good solid scientific evidence that Negroes are congenitally inferior to whites, and a nice, wholesome, workable plan to "immigrate" them back to Africa. Draper apparently felt that the responses his offers of funds were getting were an insult to his dignity. He seems to have engaged Arens to avoid any more such unpleasantness, for Arens was to provide him with the names of people who could be expected to accept Mr. Draper's generous offer in support of science. All of this was brought to the attention of Francis Walters, chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee, who reportedly did not seem much upset, and to Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, who appeared extremely upset. If Rayburn has his way, which he generally does, it is believed that Arens will no longer be staff director when the next Congress convenes.

U.S. Support for Foreign Research

The House has passed its version of a bill to allow the use of foreign currencies for grants and fellowships to promote medical research abroad. The program will use money accumulated through the sale of food surpluses. The bill now goes to conference with a broader bill already passed by the Senate, which allows spending of \$50 million a year for this purpose.

This will be the newest of a number of programs authorizing the use for scientific and educational purposes of foreign currencies accumulated by the U.S. government. The Fulbright scholarships, of course, have long been financed in this way. Another program, again using funds obtained through the sale of food surpluses, allows the Department of Agriculture to make research grants to foreign institutions. Last week, for example, the Department announced seven grants to Polish institutions for studies of plant genetics, livestock parasites, and forestry. The total for these agricultural grants has been running to about \$1.6 million a year, and is expected to increase.—H.M.