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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE
FROM YOUR CONGRESSWOMAN

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There is nothing so rare in Congress as legislation substantially improving a Federal program at sharply reduced cost to the taxpayers.

Better performance and lower prices are often, unfortunately, incompatible goals. Improvements usually cost money. A reduction in funds generally means a reduction in service.

But once in a while, by dint of hard work, bi-partisan cooperation and careful attention to details, Congress cuts the cost and produces a better program, at one and the same time.

The Mutual Security Act of 1959, which the House passed last week, represents just this kind of achievement. To my mind, this bill is a better foreign aid program than we have had in several years, and so I added my vote to the big majorities in both parties who supported this year's legislation.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee gave this measure the most intensive kind of scrutiny: 11 weeks of hearings, 44 meetings, 90 witnesses, and more than 2,000 pages of testimony -- in addition to all the background of work and study and investigation that preceded introduction of the bill.

Impressive Results

The results were impressive. As passed by the House, the bill lowered the cost of the program by nearly \$367 million below the request in the President's balanced budget. And this huge saving won't, in my judgment, deprive the Administration of a single essential dollar. Yet, this one intelligent economy alone could guarantee what all of us are seeking: a balanced budget, fiscal responsibility, and an end to inflation-producing deficit financing.

Despite this budget reduction -- or, in one sense, because of it -- our mutual security program should be considerably strengthened. The committee carefully wrote

new standards and criteria into the program which will assure that American economic and military assistance will be allocated to countries which most need it and for purposes that will produce the greatest benefits.

Improved accounting and better control of these funds will be assured by a more strictly enforceable system of inspection and review.

And waste and inefficiency will be further reduced by requiring, in advance, more precise and realistic justifications for every proposed project -- including more detailed information and the completion of necessary engineering and technical studies, before funds are obligated.

It is widely known -- and acknowledged -- that there have been abuses and waste in the operation of some of our foreign aid programs. Some of it has been inevitable in the functioning of new and world-wide responsibilities. Some of it has been inexcusable. This bill, however, will do more than any recent attempt to obtain, in cooperation with the Administration, a more economical, efficient and orderly use of the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

Economic Aid Stressed

Two major changes in the mutual security program, largely changes of emphasis, were made by the committee and approved by the House. While military assistance and related defense support activities account for the largest part of the aid, the House bill stressed economic assistance to a greater extent than in the past. The important Development Loan Fund was kept at the level requested by the President, and the long-range approach toward helping underdeveloped countries help themselves, through the medium of long-term loans and technical assistance, was generally favored.

Military aid, however, was not minimized. This form of assistance helps support our more than 250 military bases overseas, and bolsters the on-the-spot, ready-to-fight strength of our allies. Their 4.9 million fighting men, 2,500 combatant ships, and 30,000 aircraft -- which we help support -- save us money and manpower and directly discourage Soviet aggression.

As one Republican colleague declared in debate, the mutual security program is really a second defense program.

The fundamental purpose of the program was also stated in a new and refreshingly positive fashion. The new language explicitly recognizes that the United States and

the rest of the free world share the same interests, not alone in opposition to the evil spread of communism, but as well in the constructive work of building the conditions of peace and progress, of encouraging in practice the spread of freedom and justice and opportunity to people everywhere.

President Feels Strongly

It is easy to understand why President Eisenhower feels as he does about the mutual security program. Minority Leader Halleck explained it to the House: "I think I should say," Halleck told us, "that the President of the United States views this proposition with greater interest, and more concern, and speaks of it more often than any other program about which I have occasion to talk with him or to hear discussed in his presence. He feels it is of tremendous importance to the security and defense of our country."

It is good to report, therefore, that both parties in the House cast aside all shades of partisan feeling and struck another blow for peace and freedom in the world.