Senate Does About-Face on Hiring Plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate moved Monday toward giving the government broader authority to curb job discrimination but reversed itself a few hours later.

The presence or absence of Democratic presidential aspirants made a crucial difference on each roll call.

At issue was how the federal prohibition against job discrimination based on race, religion, sex, or national origin was to be enforced.

The bill before the Senate would give the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission power to issue cease-and-desist orders. At present it can employ only persuasion and conciliation.

Sen. Peter H. Dominick, (R-Colo.) called up an amendment to strike out the cease-and-desist authority and to require the commission to bring court suits to enforce its findings of discriminatory practices.

This is what President Nixon recommended. It also is what the House voted for last September by a vote of 202 to 197 when it passed the legislation.

The Senate at first rejected Dominick's amendment by a 43-41 vote.

But two hours later Sen. William B. Saxbe (R-Ohio) moved to reconsider the vote. A motion to table and thus kill his move was beaten 39 to 37.

Then on another roll-call vote, the motion to reconsider the original vote carried 40 to 39.

At this point, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) succeeded in blocking a new vote on Dominick's amendment by offering an amendment to it.

Javits said he had a series of amendments to offer, indicating no final vote on Dominick's amendment could be expected before Tuesday.

Before offering his amendments, Javits failed to get unanimous consent to set a vote for this morning on Dominick's amendment so that all senators would be on notice.

Javits said it was well known that this is "the presidential season" when senators come and go and supporters of Dominick's amendment had chosen the most opportune time for trying to force a second vote.

Last week Dominick predicted the vote on his amendment would be close. He said he might win if Democratic presidential candidates were away.

The voting indicated he was right. On the first roll call, when his amendment was rejected, Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey, Henry M. Jackson, George S. McGovern and Edmund S. Muskie were among the Democrats who voted against it.

But by the time Saxbe made the motion to reconsider, Humphrey and Jackson no longer were present. McGovern and Muskie voted against reconsideration.

A fifth Democratic senator who is running for president, Vance Hartke of Indiana, was not present for any of the votes.

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