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U.S. Senate Approves Legislation To Prohibit Government Officials Fund-raising For Prohibited Activities

by Deborah Tyroler
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On July 18 the Senate approved by 57-42 legislation to would prohibit US officials from soliciting or diverting funds from private or foreign sources to carry out activities for which US assistance is prohibited. The amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for 1990 was criticized by minority leader Bob Dole (Kan.), who described it as "almost certainly unconstitutional on several grounds." President Bush has expressed strong opposition to the amendment. State and Justice Department officials have reportedly indicated they will recommend a veto of the entire foreign relations bill if the provision is included. The amendment was designed to forestall future imbroglios like the Iran-contra affair. Bill sponsor Pat Moynihan (D-NY) told his colleagues the following: "It simply says that the officers of the government may not do indirectly what they may not do directly in consequence of a provision of law." He added that the bill would only apply to future activities, and that it was in no way contemplated to limit the powers of the president.

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