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On May 14, the Senate Finance Committee voted 15 to 3 to approve a two-year extension of President George Bush's fast track authority in bilateral trade negotiations. The current authorization expires May 31. The House Appropriations Committee must also approve the measure in order for both chambers to introduce a floor vote. The latter is expected in the last week of May. If both houses of the congress approve the extension, the congress cannot approve, reject or amend clauses of the treaty. The only vote on the measure would occur after the negotiations process. The congress would then vote "yes" or "no" on the accord as a whole. [Basic data from Agence France-Presse, EFE (Spanish news service), 05/14/91]

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