

House Ponders Aid To Maritime School

The House of Representatives Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries took testimony in Washington, D. C., this week on a plan to spend Federal money as an aid to the California Maritime Academy ~~here~~.

The measure before the committee is S. 1728, which has already passed the upper house.

Rep. John F. Baldwin, 6th District (Solano-Contra Costa Counties) testified in favor of the measure.

Baldwin said the bill would accomplish the following:

1—Codify and bring up-to-date those Federal laws that pertain to State Maritime Academies.

2—Increase the certainty of Federal assistance to the State Maritime Academies by providing that the Maritime Administration could make contracts for annual payments with each of the academies for periods of up to four years.

3—Increase the Federal grants for each State Maritime Academy from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

4—Increase the Federal allowances for each student for uniforms, books and subsistence, from \$475.00 to \$600.00 per year per student.

Baldwin pointed out in his testimony that California had invested several millions of dollars in the Maritime Academy, and that a permanent dormitory was now under construction at the academy.

He also pointed out the California Academy was the only State Maritime Academy west of New York, the other three State Maritime Academies being located in Maine, Massachusetts and New York.

HE STRESSED the important role that the Maritime Academies played in training competent marine deck officers and engineer officers, and pointed out that S. 1728 would be of great benefit to the state academies in establishing a more permanent program of Federal assistance and in providing increased Federal contributions to meet the increase in costs of operation of these academies.

Baldwin stated Admiral M. S. Tisdale, USN (ret.), of Vallejo had been most active and helpful in urging the committee to hold hearings upon this legislation.