

## Report on Markup of H.R.2519

Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related  
Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-121, approved 10/27/93)

in the

Conference Committee

Wednesday, October 13, 1993

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House and Senate appropriations conferees start ironing out differences in their respective versions of legislation [H.R. 2519] providing roughly \$22.8 billion in fiscal 1994 for the Commerce, Justice and State departments, the Judiciary Branch and related agencies.

Negotiators ironed out much of their differences beforehand, leaving the issue of whether to fund Radio and TV Marti -- two ventures that funnel U.S. programming into Cuba -- on the table for public debate.

They ended up providing \$21 million for Radio and TV Marti, trimming \$7 million from fiscal 1993 levels.

But, the compromise would withhold \$7.5 million of the money until an advisory panel reports to Congress on the programs' usefulness and cost-effectiveness -- a concession to Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., who earlier this year waged a personal fight to cut the funding because of claims the programs don't work.

The advisory panel created to review Radio and TV Marti's effectiveness could help identify ways to fix some of the programs' technical glitches, particularly in TV Marti.

The \$21 million combined with \$7 million of unspent monies from fiscal 1993, would boost TV/Radio Marti funding to the level requested by the Clinton administration, he noted.

In July, Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., used a procedural move to cut \$28 million proposed for the two programs from the House bill; the Senate later restored the money in its version.

Under the accord, TV Marti would receive \$7 million in fiscal 1994, which began Oct. 1, but \$2.5 million would be withheld until after July. The money would pay for the dismantling of the venture unless the advisory panel deems TV Marti to be effective.

Similarly, the less-controversial Radio Marti would receive an initial \$9 million, with another \$5 million after the report to Congress.

"TV Marti will fade into the sunset next Spring unless there is a miraculous resolution to its technical problems," said Skaggs after the conference committee meeting.