Meeting Saturday

CMA Governors Plan To Appeal Fund Cut In Federal Budget

State Senator Luther E. Gibson said today the future of the California Maritime Academy here may be seriously jeopardized because Federal funds to help operate the school were not included in the President's budget proposal to Congress. Senator Gibson, a member of the school's board of governors, declared the board will strenuously object to the Federal government in an effort to have from $315,000 to $400,000 in Federal funds restored.

The senator said the President's failure to include Federal aid to maritime schools in the budget will be thoroughly discussed at the board of governors meeting Saturday and that a course of action to reclaim the lost Federal funds will be mapped.

TheVallejo man expressed surprise that the annual Federal funds were eliminated from the budget without notification to the board.

"WE FEEL ourselves in a bad position," Senator Gibson said, "by having our Federal funds cut without the board's knowledge. This unexpected turn of events has come as a complete surprise to us.

"I cannot understand who maneuvered these funds cut out of the budget, especially after they have been included in the budget for 25 years or more," Senator Gibson declared.

"This is the first time in the history of the budget have been cut off from Federal funds."

The senator said he and other board members will immediately contact California's two U.S. Senators and the state's Congressmen in an effort to bring about the restoration of the Federal funds to the local school's budget.

HE ASSERTED Federal support is essential if the California Maritime Academy and similar schools in New York, Maine and Massachusetts are to continue their mission of training maritime officers. The design of U.S. aid apparently was in line with a new Federal attitude that financing of maritime schools should be a state function. It was Maritime Administrator Louis R. Bolling who first revealed President Eisenhower had made no request for funds for maritime schools, believing they should be solely a state function.

At that time Rohnert expressed doubt that the funds of 1962 and 1963 would be restored. The design of the maritime schools.

However, Hugh Gallagher, assistant to the president of the Maersk Navigation Co. and a member of the California Maritime Academy's board of governors, has taken a more optimistic view and indicated the Academy school may be forced to close at the cost of the current semester unless the funds are restored.

Both Senator Gibson and Gallagher held out hope with the new Federal attitude that financing of maritime schools should be the sole responsibility of the state.

The Federal government should join support these schools," Senator Gibson asserted, "because they are maintained solely for the training of our maritime officers who in time of war or a similar emergency will be sorely needed to augment our naval forces. Our maritime schools are just as much a Federal activity as they are a state activity and as such both governments should share the cost of their operation.

"WE HAVE NO alternative," he added, "but to join forces with representatives of our other maritime schools and fight this budget cut on a Federal level."

Gallagher was equally vehement.

"Training of these officers is a state function and never has been," he declared. "We rejected a backing of federal Merchant Marine deck officers and engineers for both world wars. And today we need a backlog of these trained men."

"This is a special time of duty," he continued. "You can't put a man on a ship and say 'You're a captain.' You have to turn him around and Indicate the Vallejo school just happens to be located in California," Gallagher said. "But there are a number of out-of-state students. If the government refuses to restore these funds, we'll have to ask the state to foot the bill for a Federal program because that is what it is.

"The funds excluded from the President's budget included $25,000 for administrative rises at the academy; $50,000 for annual overhaul of the school's training ship, the Golden Bear; funds for special support of Naval ROTC students; and additional funds to defray part of the tuition for out-of-state students of the school."

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"That these Federal funds should be taken from us and without warning," he added, "is a very tragic thing."

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THE STATE defrays the remainder of the costs involved in the training of Merchant Marine deck officers and engineers at the CMA here.

A total of 40 students are enrolled this year, tuition is $400 annually for residents of California and $700 for nonresidents.

The school, under the command of Comma. Russell L. Usen, has been in operation here for 12 years.