Lincoln watching budget with eye to job losses

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The effects will be multiplied by the fact that the cuts are retroactive to July 1. Considering the Senate’s delay in getting a defense appropriation bill, the weeks or even months which might pass before House and Senate agree on a final defense budget, and the notice Lincoln is required to give his own employees, it may be March or April before personnel cuts will be made. And since the Labs have been spending money which they expected to receive since July, each week of delay multiplies the effect of the cuts on the Labs.

“There is some talk of a compromise to spread out the effects so they don’t have to be taken all at once,” Gray told The Tech. “But these items are, in view of the whole military budget, so close to the final point that it’s hard to interest the average congressman in these items.”

Massachusetts congressmen, however, are taking serious interest. Representative Paul Tsongas, who said he was told last week that the Navy expects to receive $1000 million in his Bedford-Lexington district, called the cuts “an economic nightmare.”

And Senator Edward Brooke has been involved in strategy sessions to stop the cuts in House-Senate conference.

“We didn’t make an effort to stop the cuts when the bill was on the floor,” a Brooke aide explained. “There was a decision, instead, to concentrate on conference committee where we have a better chance to deal with the cuts that we’re interested in.”

Brooke doesn’t expect to fully stop the cuts, however. “We aren’t going to end up with everything — we just hope to end up in a better position than we’re in,” the aide explained. The “better position” Brooke hopes for, he said, is a way of slowing down the cuts and easing the effects over two or three years rather than having them hit all at once. “We’re working out some kind of understanding,” Allen agreed.

With the Senate completion of the budget bill Tuesday, the conference committee is expected to convene after the Thanksgiving recess early in December. If the conference can get a report that will satisfy both houses without too much trouble, the fate of the FYC budget might be settled before Christmas.

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