



City of Cambridge

9.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 25, 1979

COUNCILLOR WYLIE

- WHEREAS: There are many indications that the coming debate over Senate ratification of the Salt II Treaty will be one of the most serious and far reaching public debates of this generation;
- WHEREAS: Organizations and groups already have started multimillion dollar publicity campaigns both for and against ratification, assuring that the general public will be drawn deeply into the debate despite the technical nature of the subject;
- WHEREAS: Cambridge citizens are as likely to be confused over the complexities and as confused by the rhetoric of both sides of the debate as citizens anywhere, but Cambridge citizens have received considerable experience in grappling with knotty problems and resolving divisions among themselves;
- WHEREAS: As one of the comparatively few democracies in the world, and as the strongest democracy, the United States has a heavy responsibility to engage many more citizens in full participation in decision making and to gain a greater consensus among its citizens on key issues;
- WHEREAS: The effectiveness, negotiating power, and credibility of any President and of Congress rests upon a shallow foundation when the public is poorly informed, uncertain, and indecisive;
- WHEREAS: Municipal governments could fill a gap in American life by creating forums for public discussion and a means by which citizens might find the confidence that they have a measure of control over their destinies and that their beliefs and desires can be expressed usefully;
- WHEREAS: Cambridge is uniquely equipped to develop a "municipal voice" which would interest and influence the President and Congress, because of our social, ethnic and economic diversity, and this would be true whether our "voice" expressed consensus on a given issue or expressed both majority and minority opinions; now therefore be it

City of Cambridge

PAGE TWO.

ORDERED:

That the City Council designates the 120 day period subsequent to adoption of this Order for "The Cambridge Deliberation" for the purpose of promoting, encouraging and facilitating discussions of any and all aspects of the issues surrounding the question whether the United States Senate should ratify the Salt II Treaty, and requests the Director of Libraries and the Council's Administrative Aid to assist in facilitating said Deliberation, with the assistance of such organizations as the Cambridge Forum, League of Women Voters, and the Democratic and Republican City Committees to the extent that they may be interested in participating, with the aim of causing some or all of the following activities to occur:-

1. Public debates, panel discussions, speakers and forums where the expression of all points of view shall be encouraged.
2. Opinion polls.
3. Preparation and dissemination of written materials providing all points of view.
4. Enlistment of neighborhood association and other civic associations and organizations to conduct programs.
5. Provision for a speakers bureau.
6. Requesting the School Committee and parochial and private school administrators to take up the issue for study.
7. Encouragement of citizens to study the issue and to form a conclusion.
8. Creation of a means for determining how Cambridge citizens who have thought about the issue believe the U. S. Senate should vote on the Treaty, by polling, conducting a referendum, assembling meetings, or in any other suitable way.

City of Cambridge

PAGE THREE

9. Communication of Cambridge's point of view or points of view to the U. S. Senate, the President and the media.

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#11.

Order #9

S-458

C. Wylie re: ratification of the Salt II
Treaty.

In City Council,
June 25, 1979

CHARTER RIGHT BY COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
6/25/79

Sept 10, 1979
No Action Taken
Rule #19 - Removed
FROM THE Calendar