

Senate Decisively Rejects Efforts To Cut \$46-Billion Defense Money

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The Senate rejected yesterday the first two efforts to make cuts in an annual defense money bill providing more than \$46 billion.

First, a voice vote defeated a proposal by Sen. William Proxmire, (D-Wis.) to cut out \$47 million for development of a new bomber. Then a vote of 78 to 5 rejected an attempt by Sen. George McGovern, (D-S.D.) to cut 4 per cent from the funds recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Under the proposal, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara would have had authority to decide where to make the cuts.

A World War II bomber pilot, McGovern, contended this country already has enough nuclear weapons to devastate Soviet Russia and most of the world.

Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) floor manager of the huge bill, said this was "a dangerous oversimplification" of the theory of overkill.

"It is much better to have too much and not need them than to need them and not have enough," Russell said of the huge stock of nuclear weapons now ready to hit back if this country is attacked.

Russell contended that funds for a new bomber should be retained also. He

said present planes are old and need replacement.

"I want a mix of missiles and manned bombers," Russell said, adding that by 1970 the newest of the present B-52 heavy jet bombers will be 12 years old and the oldest will have been in service 21 years.

Russell said Congress should provide the money for a new bomber even though it might never be spent. In the past, the Administration has declined to spend some money that Congress voted for planes.

Proxmire noted that the bill had a total of \$52 million for bomber development and said that taking out \$47 million would still leave \$5 million for that purpose, "all that President Johnson and Secretary McNamara asked."

But a chorus of "no" shouted down the amendment.

Russell told the Senate the \$46 billion in the bill is "about as economical as we can be without cutting into the muscle of our defense establishment."