

Senate Backs Peace Efforts In 89-2 Vote

Mansfield Rider Is Attached to Viet Money Bill

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The Senate voted yesterday to support "efforts being made by the President of the United States and other men of good will throughout the world" to prevent expansion of the Vietnam war and to negotiate an honorable settlement.

A "sense of Congress" declaration to this effect was tied to a \$4,467,200,000 supplementary authorization for Vietnam military procurement in a compromise maneuver by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.). Mansfield's problem throughout was to keep Senate "hawk" and "dove" factions from each others' throats.

The amended Vietnam mon-
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ey bill was later whisked through the Senate by an 89 to 2 vote — the precise count by which Mansfield policy rider was initially adopted.

In the intervening two hours the Senate's embattled war and peace factions debated furiously just how to interpret the language they already had tentatively adopted—in the first Vietnam policy declaration of any kind since the controversial "Gulf of Tonkin" resolution was adopted, Aug. 7, 1964.

Mansfield told Senate combatants the language represented a "consensus" of what he believes are the views of the Senate and the objectives of the Johnson Administration.

Southern Democratic "hawks" and some GOP conservatives nonetheless voiced dismay that much of the language was taken from an alternate policy amendment by Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.), a leading dove.

A second round of voting reaffirmed the Mansfield declaration, but by a significantly smaller margin. This time the count was 72 to 19.

What prompted Mansfield's compromise move was a strong dove declaration originally offered by Clark and supported by Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.)

The initial Clark declaration had proposed a formal declaration of war before the U.S. could bomb North Vietnam or escalate U.S. ground forces above 500,000.

Mansfield warned that a neg-

ative Senate vote on such language might be interpreted as a "black check" from Congress to escalate the war, and quickly moved in with a substitute.

In drafting his own language he mollified Clark by drawing freely on a milder amendment the Pennsylvania Democrat already had prepared, in case his first move failed.

The resulting Mansfield compromise was in three parts. It asserted (1) the firm intention of Congress to back up U.S. armed forces in Vietnam (2) supported efforts currently being made around the world to bring the war to the conference table and (3) suggested the Geneva Conference agree-

ment of 1954 as a basis for settlement.

The White House indicated satisfaction with the result. Presidential Press Secretary George Christian said:

"The President was familiar with the Mansfield resolution. He thought it was a good one. Secretary Rusk thought it was a good resolution. The President is pleased with the 89-2 vote."

Christian represented the President as feeling "that sometimes the world doesn't understand our system of Government . . . where there can be a good deal of disagreement but when it comes to American troops and support for them" and support for the country to

achieve peace "there is a great deal more unity than some people imagine."

The two votes against the Mansfield language on the first go round were cast by Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), floor manager of the Vietnam money bill, and Sen. Norris Cotton (R-N.H.). Russell said there was nothing in the Mansfield language he objected to, but "I am very leary of policy declarations on appropriations bills." Cotton complained it might give North Vietnam the idea "we are infirm in our intentions."

The opposition climbed to 19 on clinching the Mansfield language in the bill, but the compromise won by a nearly 4 to 1 margin.