

House Rebuffs Ford on Angola, HEW-Labor Bill

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Arms Aid Prohibition Approved

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The House delivered a resounding rebuff to the President yesterday by voting to stop the administration from spending any of the funds in a \$112.3 billion defense appropriations bill for military support to forces fighting in Angola.

Despite a strong letter from President Ford to House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) expressing "grave concern over the international consequences" of banning military aid to Angola, the vote was 323 to 99 in favor of the ban.

The Pentagon money bill goes now to the President. The Senate attached the Angola ban in December, approving 54 to 22 an amendment by Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) to the conference compromise on the Defense Department outlay. It had already passed the House without the amendment.

On yesterday's vote, 251 Democrats were joined by 72 Republicans in supporting the ban, while 69 Republicans and 30 Democrats voted against it.

"The literature the White House is putting out is very, very weak," Albert said.

The White House had hoped to use about \$30 million of the defense money for activities in Angola. In his letter, the President noted that from March to December of 1975, the Soviet Union and Cuba provided "almost \$200 million in weapons and other military assistance to a minority faction in Angola," in addition to 10,000 Cuban combat troops.

Implying that the \$30 million would hardly offset the Soviet Union and Cuban investment, Albert said, "There's no use in doing anything if you don't do enough. This is a typical Ford operation where you wave your hand and make a gesture and then forget it."

The President, in the letter, contended that "resistance to Soviet expansion by military means must be a fundamental element of U.S. foreign policy . . . The failure of the U.S. to take a stand will inevitably lead our friends and supporters to conclusions about our steadfastness and resolve. It could lead to a future Soviet miscalculation based upon its perception of that resolve. It would make Cuba the mer-

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conaries of upheaval everywhere."

At a morning hearing of the House Armed Services Committee the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. George S. Brown, said a pro-Soviet victory in Angola would be a Moscow "masterstroke," giving the Soviet Union another base from which to threaten oil tanker routes between the Persian Gulf and the United States.

House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) said there was "no indication" whether the President felt strongly enough to veto the massive defense appropriations bill. But the 323 to 99 vote was well

over the two-thirds needed to override.

Neither Rhodes nor any other Republican leader spoke for the President. Rhodes said he intended to but was tied up in his office and the debate ended before he could get to the floor. Rhodes said the President's letter to the speaker was not read on the floor because "I didn't know about it."

Rhodes said he was not surprised at the vote. "It could pretty well be traced to a lingering fear of getting involved in another Vietnam," he said.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman George H. Mahon (D-Tex.) argued for the President's position, but he admitted, "At this time there really is no effective

way to grant aid to forces in Angola."

Mahon pleaded to send the funds as a way of "seeking to rebuke the Soviet Union for supporting Cuban expeditionary forces for the purpose of subversion."

But Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo (D-N.Y.) said, "I feel no need to involve the United States in the internal affairs of an African nation simply because the Russians are supporting one side against the other. Let them. Angola is no critical hunk of land."

Speaking for the ban, a member of the House Black Caucus, Rep. Andrew Young (D-Ga.), said Soviets had involved themselves before in such African nations as Mozambique and Nigeria.

"They go in there and then

in a while they are thrown out. They can't stay anywhere, because the Russians are worse racists than Americans," Young said.

Rep. Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn.) deplored the secrecy that marked the start of Central Intelligence Agency funding for the anti-Soviet factions, and said the President should come to Congress openly for an authorization if the policy was a good one.

In his letter the President said the administration did consult with congressional committees having oversight over the CIA.

"The matter of our assistance in Angola was the subject of 25 separate contacts with eight congressional committees," he wrote.