

Mansfield Joins Senate Fight on War

Times-Post Service

Washington

A Senate resolution to force an end to United States fighting in Southeast Asia by the middle of next year won an important public endorsement yesterday from Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield.

The Democratic floor leader announced that he will be a co-sponsor of the measure known as the McGovern-Hatfield resolution, which would require the executive branch to halt American combat activity in South Vietnam by July 1, 1971.

Mansfield predicted that the measure "is going to have a great deal of strength and I would point out that of those who have signed up on the McGovern-Hatfield amendment at the present time, approximately 82 or 83 per cent of them are ex-servicemen serving in the Senate. Many of them are combat veterans."

TV

The Montana senator made the remark on the television program "Face The Nation" (CBS) as the Senate enters what promises to be at least a month of debate on the war in Indochina.

First at hand is a more limited resolution aimed at curbing the war, the Cooper-Church amendment to prohibit any Americans fighting in Cambodia after June 30 of this year.

Then, when the defense procurement bill is up for passage, the "resolution to end the war" will be offered by senators George McGovern (Dem-S.D.) and Mark Hatfield (Rep-Ore.) and others. It would order a halt to U.S. fighting not only in Cambodia, but Laos and South Vietnam as well.

STATEMENT

Another leading war critic in the Senate, Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.) held back yesterday from a full endorsement of the McGovern-Hatfield measure, concerned that its broader impact might become confused in the current debate over the narrower Cooper-Church resolution on Cambodia.

However, Fulbright de-

See Back Page

Mansfield Joins Senate Fight on War

Prom Page 1

clared on television's "Issues and Answers" (ABC) that "the objective of that (McGovern-Hatfield resolution) I undoubtedly at the proper time will support."

Both Mansfield and Fulbright used the television forums to emphasize the theme which Senate critics of President Nixon's war policy will advance in the coming weeks—that congressional action to curb the fighting is a rebirth of Congress' neglected constitutional powers, not a usurpation of the President's.

Fulbright, in particular, warned that if Congress doesn't act, the war might continue to grow wider, including U.S. invasion of North Vietnam or the introduction of Red Chinese troops. The "unpredictability" of President Nixon's sudden move into Cambodia, claimed as a point of strength by Administration officials, might lead China's leaders to enter the war, Fulbright argued.

Mansfield likewise warned of the open-ended implications of the Nixon Administration's reasoning for sending troops to wipe out enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia.

"If he can do it in Cambodia, which is a sanctuary, there are other sanctuaries as well," Mansfield said.

"What about the sanctuary in North Vietnam? What about the sanctuary in Laos? What about the sanctuaries in China?"