

Nixon Said to Face G.O.P. Revolt on War Funds Curb

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 20—The White House was reportedly faced today with the possibility of a revolt by some moderate and liberal Republican Senators if it failed to go along with an amendment cutting off funds for future military involvement in Cambodia.

In intense maneuvering between the Senate and the White House over Cambodia, some moderate-to-liberal Republicans were reliably reported to have warned the White House that it had better accept the substance of the amendment on Cambodia offered by Senators John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho.

Possible 12 Votes Seen

According to one Republican Senator, they were raising the threat that if their warning was ignored, many of them might accept the far more restrictive amendment offered by Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon.

The Cooper-Church amendment, now before the Senate, discusses only Cambodia. It provides that the President can use no funds for "retaining" United States forces there. The McGovern-Hatfield amendment applies to all of Indochina and specifies that all American forces must be withdrawn from Cambodia within 30 days, from Laos by the end of the year and from Vietnam by mid-1971.

The McGovern - Hatfield

amendment is believed by its sponsors to command about 32 of the 100 votes in the Senate. If the White House holds out against the Cooper-Church amendment, the Republican senator, a liberal, observed, "we might be able to add 12 votes" to that total.

With Cooper-Church version apparently commanding majority support, negotiators continued between the White House and the amendment's sponsors to seek an accommodation that would avert a confrontation between the Administration and the Senate. For the moment they were stalled on the basic issue of the President's powers as Commander in Chief as against powers of Congress to declare war.

The sponsors were reported to be willing to reword the preamble to make it clear that the amendment supports the President's declared plan to withdraw all American forces from Cambodia by July 1. The change would be designed to meet the White House's objection that the amendment could be interpreted as a repudiation by the Senate of a pledge by the President.

The White House was also reported to be proposing that the amendment be reworded to make it clear that it would not encroach on President's authority as Commander in Chief to protect American troops in Vietnam. That authority was cited by Mr. Nixon in ordering the intervention against Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

The division within Senate Republican ranks was illustrated when Senator Hugh Scott, the minority leader, joined cause with Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader, in emphasizing that the Cooper-Church amendment was designed to work in concert with the President's withdrawal plans.

But Senator Robert P. Griffin, the assistant Republican leader, assailed the basic purpose of the amendment, saying it would "give aid and comfort to the enemy."

Later, exercising the privilege of revising remarks on the

floor, Mr. Griffin expunged the statement from the record, but he left unchanged statements that the amendment was an attempt to "make essentially battlefield decisions" and "cut off the options and tie the hands of the Commander in Chief in the areas of his responsibility."

Shaking a folder at Senator Griffin after he spoke, Senator Mansfield replied that the President had "tied his own hands" when he declared that American troops would not go beyond 21.7 miles into Cambodia and would be withdrawn by July 1.