

SENATE SUPPORTS NIXON ON PULLOUT

But Shows Division on Any
Future Role in Cambodia

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WASHINGTON, May 26—In the first vote in a prolonged Cambodia debate, the Senate made clear today that it endorsed President Nixon's troop withdrawal plans, although it remained divided on curbing any future military involvement in Cambodia.

The somewhat inconclusive vote came on a revised preamble that was offered for an amendment to a foreign military sales bill sponsored by Senators John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho.

The amendment would provide that the President could spend no funds to "retain" United States forces in Cambodia or to provide military advisers, mercenaries or combat air support to the Cambodian Government. However, the debate centered on the preamble.

Partly to meet the objections of the White House which is concerned about the President's powers, the sponsors revised the preamble to emphasize that the amendment was being offered "in concert with the declared objective of the Presi-

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dent of the United States to avoid the involvement of the United States in Cambodia after July 1."

The revision also made explicit that funds would not be cut off until July 1.

The revised preamble was adopted 82 to 11, the first vote since the Cambodian debate began nearly two weeks ago. The margin was misleading, however, for many voted for the revised preamble who were still opposed to the amendment.

Bare Majority Possible

At this point the Cooper-Church amendment appears to command at least a bare majority. But when a vote will be reached on it is indefinite.

There were growing indications that some Republicans want to postpone a vote until after the American troops are withdrawn from Cambodia. Their tactic would be to offer a series of amendments.

After a Senate Republican policy committee luncheon, Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Republican leader, insisted there was no desire to delay a vote. But he smilingly observed, "You cannot stop Senators from offering amendments."

For the moment, the Administration was reportedly taking a noncommittal position. As Senator Scott made clear, however, the amendment will not be acceptable to the Administration unless it includes reference to the authority of the President as Commander in Chief.

The sponsors of the amendment are reluctant to make that revision lest the authority be used by the President to circumvent the operative sections of the amendment.

An Acerbic Exchange

What had been cast as a historic constitutional debate was alternately lackadaisical and emotional. At one point this morning the Senate had to recess for nearly two hours for lack of speakers. Then later an unusually acerbic exchange developed between Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate majority leader and a co-sponsor of the Cooper-Church amendment, and Senator Robert P. Griffin, Republican of Michigan.

Dismissing the revised preamble as nothing more than "cosmetics," Senator Griffin said that the amendment was still "a slap in the face of the resident" that undercuts and undermines him at a very critical time.

It was the latest in the series of critical jabs that Senator Griffin has thrown at the bi-



Associated Press

SPONSORS OF MEASURE ON CAMBODIA: Senator Frank Church, left, Idaho Democrat, and John Sherman Cooper, Kentucky Republican, at Capitol yesterday. Revised amendment was debated, and first vote was favorable.

partisan sponsors of the amendment, and Senator Cooper shed his reticence as he replied.

Turning on Senator Griffin two desks away, Senator Cooper told his Republican colleague that if the implication was that he was trying to "undermine" the President, "I challenge you from the very bottom of my soul."

"All we are saying," Senator Cooper said, "is that before the operation is extended and leads us into a war in Cambodia, under the Constitution the President must come to Congress and get its approval."

Mansfield Backs Cooper

Blocked by Senator Cooper from replying immediately, Senator Griffin left the floor. In his absence, Senator Mansfield came to the defense of Senator Cooper.

Standing in the center aisle, Senator Mansfield observed that there is "a general air of malaise in this chamber that carries with it innuendoes and aspersions that are not a healthy sign" and that brought back "a very bad memory" of an earlier period in the Senate. He was apparently referring to the period of McCarthyism when debate was often punctuated by attacks on the personal motives of Senators.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meanwhile, charged that the Administration had "disregarded" and "subverted" the spirit of the foreign aid law.

Under a provision in the foreign aid law, the President cannot send military aid unless he formally determines and informs Congress that such shipments are important to the security of the United States. Senator Fulbright's complaint was that the Administration had

made this determination retroactive, to cover a decision that had already been made.

"The shipment of arms to the Cambodian Government was begun on April 22," he told the Senate. "The President's decision to send those arms was announced eight days later in his speech of April 30. But the formal determinations required by law were not made until May 21, nearly a month after the arms were shipped."

Text of Both Versions

Following is the text of the revised preamble approved today: "Limitations on United States involvement in Cambodia:

"In concert with the declared objectives of the President of the United States to avoid the involvement of the United States in Cambodia after July 1, 1970, and to expedite the withdrawal of American forces from Cambodia, it is hereby provided that unless specifically authorized by law hereafter enacted, no funds authorized or appropriated pursuant to

this act or any other law may be expected after July 1, 1970, for the purposes of." This is followed by the operative portions of the amendment.

The original preamble read: "Prohibition of assistance to Cambodia:

"In order to avoid the involvement of the United States in a wider war in Indochina and expedite the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam, it is hereby provided that, unless specifically authorized by law hereafter enacted, no funds authorized or appropriated pursuant to this act or any other law may be expended for the purpose of:"

The rest of the amendment, on which there has not yet been a vote, reads as follows:

1. Retaining United States forces in Cambodia;
2. Paying the compensation or allowances of, or otherwise supporting, directly or indirectly, any United States personnel in Cambodia who furnish military instruction to Cambodian forces or engage in any combat

activity in support of Cambodian forces;

3. Entering into or carrying out any contract or agreement to provide military instruction in Cambodia or to provide persons to engage in any combat activity in support of Cambodian forces; or

4. Conducting any combat activity in support of Cambodia in support of Cambodian forces.