

VOTE ON WAR CURB IS PLANNED TODAY

Senate Acts on Amendment
by Hatfield and McGovern

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 —

The Senate lumbered through five hours of debate today on its "amendment to end the war," preparing to vote on it tomorrow and then go home for a week.

The amendment was introduced by Senators George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon. Supporters of the amendment, now revised to give the President more latitude in obeying its injunction to get the troops out of Vietnam by the end of next year, were predicting they would have 42 votes.

They were hoping that many senators planning to vote against it would already have left the capital by tomorrow morning. They also felt that even if they did not win, they would have registered the will of at least some senators and some citizens that American soldiers should be brought home from Indochina.

Reliable sources reported that Senator Thomas J. McIntyre, Democrat of New Hampshire, one of those publicly uncommitted, had decided to vote for the amendment. At least two other senators, the influential John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and George D. Aiken, Republican of Vermont, were said to be still undecided.

Limits on President Eased

The revised amendment provides that no more than 280,000 troops could be kept in Vietnam after April 30 of next year and that all American troops would have to be withdrawn by the end of next year. It says, however, that in case of an "unanticipated clear and present danger," the President could keep American troops in Vietnam for 60 days beyond the end of the year and, if he thought it necessary, come back to Congress by Jan. 10, 1972, and ask it to authorize a new withdrawal date.

Today's debate and earlier statements by supporters and opponents of the amendment have involved a number of issues.

One is the effect on the enemy's tactics. "We hamstringing the President if we adopt an amendment of this sort," Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, has said. "We telegraph our punch to the enemy. We deny him really the opportunity to negotiate because by passing legislation of this sort we bring the enemy's goals within reach."

Senator McGovern has said, "Far from causing the enemy to attack, I think it would have the opposite impact, it would cause him to see that we are terminating our activities and that therefore there's no reason to press an attack on American forces."

A second issue raised was political reprisals against South Vietnamese. It has been often asserted that there would be a bloodbath in which the enemy would slaughter South Vietnam's present leadership. Senator McGovern has said that the South Vietnamese Army should be able to prevent any bloodbath.

The question of Congressional participation in managing a war has also been debated.

Opponents have questioned conducting the war by Congressional committee. Supporters have spoken of the danger of placing too much power in the hands of the President.

Two of the other issues cancel have been the effect of the amendment on the safety of American troops and on the Vietnamization program.

Vice President Agnew has called the amendment "a blueprint for the first defeat in the history of the United States." Senator McGovern has said that he does not see how "the Vice President can talk about any formula for defeat unless we assume that we're now pressing for a military victory I think the President has ruled that out."