

A WAR POWERS BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2—The House passed and sent to the Senate today a war powers bill that would require the President to report promptly to Congress when he commits the armed forces to conflict without specific Congressional authorization.

The legislation, approved on a voice vote after little debate, is similar to a bill that was passed by the House in the last Congress but died in the Senate.

The House bill is considerably weaker than legislation being considered by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to restrict the warmaking powers of the Presidency. In the Senate, the general approach is to authorize the President to undertake military action to meet certain emergency situations but to specify that he cannot continue hostilities beyond a month without obtaining Congressional approval.

In contrast, the only requirement imposed by the House bill is that the President, in the event he has committed military forces to hostilities or substantially enlarged military forces in a foreign nation, should promptly submit a report to Congress setting forth the circumstances necessitating his action, the estimated scope of the hostilities and the Constitutional, legislative or treaty authority for his action.