

Attempt to Divert War-Powers Bill Opposed in Senate

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WASHINGTON, March 30 — Senator John Stennis, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader, today opposed moves to divert to the Senate Judiciary Committee a bill defining the President's war-making powers. Such a diversion is favored by the Nixon Administration.

The legislation, now before the Senate, would authorize the President to use the armed forces in certain emergencies. But it would provide that he could not continue hostilities for more than 30 days without Congressional approval.

Lacking the votes to defeat the measure directly, the Administration is seeking to have it referred to the Judiciary Committee or move that Senator Mansfield said "would amount to sending it to a graveyard."

Senator Stennis, a leader among the Southern conservatives, who is a cosponsor of the bill, said he hoped the Senate "would come to grips with this issue now" and not send the bill to the Judiciary Committee.

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, issued a statement charging that the bill was "as shot through with holes as limburger cheese."

All voting on the measure has been put off until next week, largely to accommodate Senator Goldwater, who has gone to California to attend his son's wedding.