

Senate Group

A Vote to Halt Funds for War

Washington

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted yesterday to cut off all money for all United States forces fighting in Indochina on December 31, if Hanoi returns all American prisoners.

The vote on the amendment of Senators Clifford Case (Rep-N.J.) and Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), was 9 to 1, said Senator J. W. Fulbright (Dem-Ark.), the committee chairman. He added that Senate action on the proposal is expected next week.

The committee acted after hearing Secretary of State William P. Rogers describe the bombing of North Vietnam as essential to the protection of American troops.

'HORRORS'

"The way to end the bombing, to end the horrors of the war, is to end the war," Case told newsmen after the committee vote.

"It is a question of whether to do this now or ten years from now. This is the only way to see if Vietnamization will succeed, the only chance I see to bring the war to close that is within our power."

Church said the amendment to the state department financing bill "really implements the policy of the Mansfield amendment," passed last year by the Senate and which called for U.S. withdrawal as a matter of policy. "The President has been disregarding that," Church said.

MONEY

Supplies and money would still be available to the South Vietnamese. Case said, but not a residual force as he sees it.

The key wording of the amendment is that no money "may be expended or obligated after Dec. 31, 1972, for the purpose of engaging U.S. forces, land, sea, or air, in hostilities in Indochina, subject to an agreement for the release of all prisoners of war held by the government of North Vietnam."

Case and Fulbright were optimistic about chances of passage in the Senate. Fulbright noted a similar war-ending move, the Hatfield-McGovern amendment

failed by only 12 votes, and that the Mansfield amendment was passed several times.

The lone committee vote against was Senator George D. Aiken, (Rep-Vt.), who commented, "I voted against accepting North Vietnamese terms. All they would have to do is back up behind the DMZ again."

Senators John Sherman Cooper (Rep-Ky.) and William Spong (Dem-Va.) abstained, saying such a move belongs elsewhere, not in funding legislation for the State Department.

Voting in favor were: Fulbright, Case, Church, and Senators Stuart Symington (Dem-Mo.), Claiborne Pell (Dem-R.I.), Edmund Muskie (Dem-Maine), Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.), Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.) and Jacob Javits (Rep-N.Y.).

Absent were Senators James Pearson (Rep-Kan.), John Sparkman (Dem-Ala.) and Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.).

In the House, Representative Phillip Burton (Dem-Calif.) said he would seek to cut off all funds for continuing U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia.

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