

Senators Blast Funding for Indochina War

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Anti-war senators kept up a staccato attack on funding of U.S. forces in Indochina today while work was being finished on a \$20.5 billion weapons authorization proposal.

Using the Pentagon procurement bill as a vehicle, war foes offered amendments with various shadings of anti-war sentiment.

As the debate wound toward its scheduled close tonight, Sen. George Aiken (R-Vt.) suggested incorporating President Nixon's language in proposals for withdrawal from Vietnam made to the North Vietnamese.

Cranston Proposal

There were also amendments of Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and Edward Brooke (R-Mass.) calling for Indochina withdrawal combined with release or agreement to release American prisoners held by the North Vietnamese.

Much of the debate seemed stronger and more extreme on both sides than the several other battles in past years over the war on the Senate floor.

"I'm proud President Nixon has been bombing as he has," said Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) "The Democratic candidate has said he would cut tail and run. He would disgrace America."

Sen. Harold Hughes (D-Iowa) called Thurmond's reference to Sen. George

McGovern "absolute hogwash."

Then, roaring in his bass voice, Hughes said "How much strain can the integrity of the people stand? . . . There is no doubt we have been destroying allegedly to save. We can end our contribution to the slaughter.

"My God, I can see us here four years from now debating the same issue," Hughes said.

Every time the Senate considers a Pentagon budget, Cranston said, "a new Soviet weapon, or missile, is miraculously unveiled . . ." The administration uses the same transparent, manipulative techniques on the war.

'Where Is Peace?'

After nearly four years of debate, Cranston said, "Where is the peace he (Nixon) promised?"

Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.) repeated the presidential view that negotiations seem to have the best chance of achieving a settlement.

Nixon has called Seattle anti-war efforts "prolong the war amendments," and Griffin said they won't stop the fight: "It can be continued if Hanoi wants to fight on."

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said withdrawal now "would mean the utter collapse of American honor . . . It would mark the United States as an unstable, inconsistent nation."