

# Senate's End-War Amendment Is Dropped From Military Bill

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 — A Senate-House conference committee today scrapped an end-the-war amendment that the Senate had attached to a military procurement bill requiring the withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina in four months.

With the Vietnam amendment put aside, the conferees completed action on a bill that authorizes \$20.9-billion in procurement of weapons and military research, including most of the program for improving the nation's nuclear arsenal sought by the Administration in the wake of the arms limitation agreements with the Soviet Union. The bill is expected to be given routine approval early next week by the House and Senate.

The action of the conferees of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees probably spelled the collapse of the antiwar movement efforts in this session of Congress.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee plans to attempt to revive the issue next week by attaching the same end-the-war amendment to a foreign aid authorization bill. But as political lines harden in advance of the November elections and a weariness develops over re-fighting the issue, it was no longer certain that a narrowly divided Senate would once again approve the amendment, adopted by a 49-47 vote in August.

Furthermore, in view of re-

cent votes in the House, it was virtually certain that no end-the-war amendment would now be accepted by the House. In August in a crucial setback to the antiwar movement, the House refused to accept an end-the-war amendment drafted by its House Foreign Affairs Committee by a 229-177 vote.

The House vote, according to Senator John C. Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was cited by the House conferees in their refusal to accept or compromise on the Senate amendment.

Through a cut-off of funds, the amendment, sponsored by Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, would have required the withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina and termination of all hostilities in four months, dependent upon a concurrent release of prisoners of war.

The House conferees, Senator Stennis reported, also took the position that the Brooke amendment was substantially the same as an amendment that Congress enacted into law last year declaring it to be the policy of the United States to withdraw promptly all its forces from Indochina by a certain date, subject only to the release of prisoners of war. The House conferees offered to accept last year's provision — an offer Senator Stennis said he rejected on the ground that it would be "silly" to re-enact an existing law.