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# Leaders Agree Hill Can't End Vietnam War

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The congressional leaders of both parties agreed yesterday that, in practical terms, there is no way the 93d Congress can end the Vietnam war.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana and the Republican leaders of both houses, Sen Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, appearing in separate television interviews, agreed that Congress's only real weapon is a fund cutoff. Such a move they agreed would surely be vetoed by President Nixon and it is unlikely the veto could be overridden by Congress.

"We can pass resolutions but we can't end the war—it's really up to the President," Mansfield said. "We shouldn't fool ourselves."

"We can cut off funds. Whether or not a majority of the Senate . . . or the Congress would do it, I don't know. If they did, it could be overturned, vetoed, and that veto probably could not be overridden," Mansfield said.

Ford called the question of congressional power to stop the war "an exercise in semantics. Congress has the power to stop the war only if it can find a way to stop the war, and I don't believe Congress can find a way to stop the war."

If funds were cut off, he added, Mr. Nixon would have the option of vetoing the act, or, if his veto were overridden of "facing a constitutional crisis" over "whether, as commander-in-chief, he could continue the conduct of military operations. I think the courts would sustain him. If they did not, it would be the courts that stopped the President and not Congress."

Mansfield attributed his assessments not to lack of anti-war sentiment in Congress — he said he did not know of any member of Congress who still favors the war—but to an unwillingness to oppose the Pres-

ident. For those who oppose a fund cutoff, he said, "It is a question of supporting the President . . . of giving him as much flexibility as possible."

Both Scott, interviewed with Ford on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC), and Mansfield, who appeared on "Face the Nation" (CBS, WTOP), said they expected, and would support, moves by Congress to reassert its authority over when and if the United States should go to war.

"In the future—so that it will not be a criticism of John Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson who began this war or of Richard Nixon who is trying to end it—and directed only toward the future, I would expect to support some limitation of the war powers of the President within constitutional framework," Scott said.

All three agreed, also, that power traditionally held by Congress has been eroded and taken over by the executive branch, though they differed on how serious the erosion is.

"I don't think it is as serious as some people allege . . . and if there are any problems it is because the Congress has neglected its own responsibilities," Ford said.

Mansfield admitted, "We've given away a lot of our authority, a lot of our responsibility under the Constitution. I don't blame the executive branch for it. I blame the Congress because what we've done we've done voluntarily . . . We've got to try to bring about a restoration of those powers. It's easy to give; it's hard to take back, but we'll keep trying."

He added, "Let me say that the words have been spoken in the Democratic caucus at least. Now we'll see whether the Senate will get behind the leadership and do what they said they were in favor of at the time the caucuses were held."

"So the words are there; let's see if the substance is forthcoming. It's not up to the leadership; it's up to the Senate as a whole," he said.