

# First House Vote Against The War

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**The House went on record for the first time yesterday against continuation of the war in Indochina.**

By a vote of 219 to 188, the members of the House reversed their eight-year record of solid support for the administration's policies and went on record in opposition to the war.

The vote was on an amendment by Representative Joseph Addabbo (Dem-N.Y.) to block a \$430 million transfer of funds at the Pentagon to relieve shortages caused by the continuing drain of Cambodia expenditures.

The House action is virtually certain to be endorsed by the more dovish Senate, thus setting the stage for a constitutional showdown between the White House and Congress over the President's power to conduct a war.

While it was a major foreign policy defeat for President Nixon, the action in itself will not stop the bombing of Cambodia. The administration had said before the showdown that it would continue military action in Indochina regardless of the outcome.

## AMENDMENT

Passage of the Addabbo proposal was followed minutes later by approval, 224 to 172, of another amendment to the \$2.8 billion supplemental appropriations bill that was even more specific. It would bar the use of any funds in the measure "to support directly or indirectly combat activities in, over or from off the shores of Cambodia by United States forces."

As if they were watching the final seconds of a closely fought basketball game, war critics who have fought in

vain in the past to steer anti-war legislation through the House shouted "5, 4, 3, 2, 1" as the scoreboard clicked off the remaining seconds of the roll call.

The House then exploded in cheers and applause, and it took nearly a minute to restore order.

The scorecard registered 184 Democrats and 35 Republicans for the Addabbo amendment, with 45 Demo-

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crats and 143 Republicans opposed.

The tensely watched roll call followed a two-hour debate in which administration supporters pleaded for "just a little more time" to obtain Communist compliance with the January 27 cease-fire.

"The Communists are testing us," said Representative Robert Sikes (Dem-Fla.). "They want to see how far they can push us. This amendment will play right into their hands."

"Give them one more chance to let peace be achieved," urged Representative Samuel S. Stratton (Dem-N.Y.).

## CLEAR

But the House majority — with Speaker Carl Albert using his influence in opposition to the war for the first time — clearly had run out of patience with the conflict. That Congress authorized nearly ten years ago when it overwhelmingly adopted the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

Representative Robert N. Gialamo (Dem-Conn.) said the administration, by seeking the funds transfer authority, was asking Congress for "a stamp of approval after the fact for what they have done" in Cambodia.

"Have we become so impotent, so stupid and so uncaring that we no longer exercise our prerogatives under the Constitution?" he asked.

This was the major theme of war critics throughout the debate — that President Nixon was conducting the bombing of Cambodia without any authority from Congress and without any right

under the Constitution.

## PROPOSAL

The administration had asked for the \$430 million in "transfer authority" for the Defense Department as part of the \$2.8 billion supplemental appropriations bill. This would enable the Pentagon to shift funds from its weapons and research accounts into its personnel and operations accounts, which are near exhaustion as the end of the fiscal year, June 30, approaches.

Although the drain on resources is primarily the result of unexpectedly high costs of the Indochina war, the Pentagon contends that defeat of the transfer authority would not put a stop to the bombing of Cambodia.

Defense Secretary Elliot L. Richardson said the effort to save Cambodia from a Communist takeover has such a high priority that — if necessary — the Pentagon will freeze promotions, stop new enlistments and reduce forces in Europe to save money for it.