

House Toughens Its Bombing Ban

BOMBING BAN

Washington

The House, with anti-war forces now firmly in control, stepped up efforts to end U.S. bombing of Cambodia yesterday by voting to cut off funds for bombing into the indefinite future.

Yesterday's action, taken by a series of votes with wide and lengthening victory margins, was considerably stronger than the House funds cutoff vote on Monday.

The earlier action was taken on a supplemental appropriation bill which could be vetoed without much damage and whose authority beyond the end of the fiscal year Saturday was unclear.

The language approved yesterday was attached to a stop-gap resolution to finance the entire federal government from July 1 to September 30, or until the regular appropriation bills have been enacted.

None of the regular bills has cleared Congress yet, and the size of yesterday's votes indicated Congress will attach a similar bombing ban to the defense appropriation bill when it is taken up by the House in July or in September after the August recess.

VOTES

The provision, adopted by votes of 218 to 194, 232 to 181 and 240 to 172 states that

none of the funds authorized to be spent by the resolution and no funds previously appropriated could be used for U.S. military operations in or over Cambodia or Laos.

The several votes were needed to clear away other amendments, including the same one offered and defeated on Monday, by a tie vote, to give the President 60 more days to try to bomb the contending forces in Cambodia into a cease-fire.

The resolution was then passed, 325 to 86, and sent to the Senate which is expected to approve the House bombing ban.

Representative Clarence Long (Dem-Md.), sponsor of the anti-bombing provision, said the bill should be "virtually vetoproof" because a presidential veto would

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mean the entire federal government would be without funds as of midnight Saturday until the issue could be resolved.

HOUSE

House majority leader Thomas P. O'Neill (Dem-Masa.) said the votes show that the house has finally been converted to a firm anti-war position and "there is no way to turn it around."

Never until this year had the House cast any kind of an anti-war vote. Now it has voted to—cut off all funds, both those left over from previous appropriations and those provided for the future, for military operations in Cambodia and Laos. There is a cease-fire in Laos as well as in North and South Vietnam.

But minority leader Gerald R. Ford (Rep-Mich.) said he will "strongly urge" President Nixon to veto both the \$3.3 billion supplemental appropriation bill to pay various unbudgeted expenses during the final days of this fiscal year and the continuing resolution for the next three months.

The Senate gave final approval yesterday, 81 to 11, to the supplemental which forbade the use of previously provided funds for bombing.

All 11 votes were cast by Republican.

Both House and Senate plan to go on a Fourth of July recess next week. The President could decide to

veto one or both bills and call them back into special session next week to reconsider them. The House votes indicate that while it now has a solid majority against the bombing, it could not muster the two-thirds vote required to override a veto.

A veto of the continuing resolution could set off a fierce power struggle with the ability of the government to function hanging in the balance.

Representative George H. Mahon (Dem-Texas), House appropriations committee chairman, urged defeat of the bombing ban so the President would "not stand naked before the Communists." Representative Bob Casey (Dem-Texas) added that "we've almost got this disease cured. If we stop taking the medicine it will build up again." Ford said the ban would "undercut efforts to achieve a cease-fire."

Representative Robert Leggett (Dem-Calif.) said, "Let's say what we mean and mean what we say and get the hell out."

Speaker Carl Albert who took no part in the two-day debate, told reporters: "Obviously, the House feels it's time to end the bombing. I guess it's time to give the administration the word." Albert, as is traditional with speakers, did not cast a vote on either bill, but said he would have voted for the bombing ban had his vote been needed to approve it.

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