

Congress' Power Play Fizzles

Washington

A day-old drive by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to reclaim some congressional power from the executive branch died yesterday at the hands of House-Senate negotiators on foreign aid, and President Nixon emerged the victor.

The negotiators voted to continue foreign aid spending until June 30 at the \$3.6 billion level of last year, because of policy differences between the House and Senate that have blocked agreement on regular appropriations bills for the current fiscal year.

Their action, subject to routine approval by both Houses, served to strip the Foreign Relations Committee of further jurisdiction over the aid program for the rest of this fiscal year, and to kill off a series of strong amendments it approved Sunday.

Those amendments, attached to a \$1.55 billion military aid authorization bill over Republican opposition, included one forbidding future foreign aid spending unless the President released about \$4 billion he has impounded in domestic funds already approved by Congress.

Others would have blocked reconstruction aid for North Vietnam without congressional consent, and required overseas base agreements to be submitted as treaties for Senate action.

It was clearly a plus for the administration, even though the aid money was less than it had sought for this year.

Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem - Ark.), the committee chairman, said there is no chance now that Congress will approve any of his panel's amendments.

United Press