SFChronicle Albert Doubts Angola Worth Risks

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House Speaker Carl Albert said yesterday that the administration has yet to convince him that the war in Angola is worth the risking of an American life, the expenditure of a single tax dollar or the chance of a confrontation with Russia.

Addressing a meeting of Democratic congressional freshmen, Albert, who has usually supported White House foreign policy under Republican and Democratic presidents, criticized President Ford's failure to confide to Congress why this country is secretly involved in the war.

"If there is anything in Angola that would justify the life of one American or the expenditure of one tax dollar or the possibility of a major confrontation with the Russians, I have yet to see it," Albert said.

Albert and other Democratic House leaders sat before about 20 Democratic freshmen who had returned to Washington early to demand action on some of the bills they had campaigned for in 1974. The new session of Congress starts next week.

Freshmen are always vulnerable election targets, especially after landslides such as the one in 1974, which elected 75 new House Democrats. Two more were elected subsequently to fill vacancies.

Albert promised that the House will vote January 27 on a Senate-passed provision that would cut from a defense appropriations bill any money to finance covert military action in Angola by the CIA.

He also endorsed a bill that would guarantee a government job for every worker who wants to work but can't find a job. The bill's cost is estimated at \$40 billion, but backers say it would eliminate the need to spend about \$30 billion now devoted to unemployment compensation and other aid to the jobless.

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