

HOUSE DEMOCRATS OPPOSED, 189-49, TO CAMBODIAN AID

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Sentiment in Party Caucus
Makes Approval Unlikely,
Speaker Albert Holds

SHIFT IN SUBCOMMITTEE

A Compromise Plan Offering
Limited Installments Gets
Support in Reversal

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WASHINGTON, March 12—
Democratic members of the
House of Representatives voted
189 to 49 today against addi-
tional military aid to Cambodia
and South Vietnam in the pres-
ent fiscal year.

Shortly afterward, a House
Foreign Affairs subcommittee
approved, by 4 to 3, a compro-
mise plan to provide Cambodia
with \$82.5-million in additional
aid in the last three months of
the fiscal year, which ends June
30. Under this plan, aid would
be provided on a monthly basis
and be contingent on efforts to
end the conflict.

In view of the one-sided vote
by the Democrats, who met in
a special caucus, House lead-
ers said it was unlikely that
the House would endorse any
aid. The House has 289 Demo-
crats, 144 Republicans and two
vacancies.

Albert Predicts Defeat

Carl Albert, the Speaker, told
a reporter that he now believed
any aid request "would be de-
feated all the way in the
House."

Representative Phillip Burton,
of California, chairman of the
caucus, said the vote "clearly
spells the end to any further
military aid for Cambodia and
South Vietnam for the balance
of the fiscal year."

The Administration had re-
quested \$222-million for Cam-
bodia in addition to \$275-million
already approved by Congress
and \$300-million for South Viet-
nam in addition to \$700-million
already approved.

For the moment, the struggle
concentrates on the Cambodian
aid. The White House has been
saying, as it did again today,
that the Lon Nol Government
will fall unless the supply of
ammunition continues.

In view of Congressional op-
position to the full aid request,
the Administration has been
searching for a compromise,
such as the one approved today
by the House subcommittee or
the version approved yesterday
by a Senate Foreign Relations
subcommittee. The Senate ver-
sion would permit the Pentagon
simply to transfer \$125-million
in existing ammunition stocks
to Cambodia.

The principal purpose of the
caucus, which was called large-
ly at the initiative of freshmen
members, was to block this
movement toward a compro-
mise by placing the Democratic
majority on record as opposed
to any additional aid.

Representative Bob Carr, who,
as a 31-year-old newcomer from
Michigan, sponsored the resolu-
tion approved by the caucus,
said the effect of the vote was
to "shore up a position that
appeared to be faltering."

The Carr resolution ex-
pressed the sense of the Demo-
cratic caucus as being "firmly
opposed to the approval of any
further military assistance to
South Vietnam or to Cambodia
in fiscal year 1975."

An identical resolution is to
be presented to the Senate's
Democratic caucus tomorrow
by Senator James Abourezk of
South Dakota. While the Sen-
ate is believed to be more even-
ly divided than the House on
the issue, the Democratic lead-
er, Mike Mansfield of Montana,
does not expect the Senate to

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approve additional aid.

While the action of the House
caucus did not bind members,
it provided a test of sentiment
that the Administration may
find difficult to reverse.

With 189 Democrats now on
record as opposed to aid, only
28 additional votes are needed
for a majority.

Mr. Burton predicted that up
to 20 votes would be picked up
among the 47 Democrats who
did not participate in the cau-
cus. Based on past voting pat-
terns, about 30 Republicans
could be expected to vote
against further aid.

Some older Democrats
voiced resentment over the way
the younger members were us-
ing the caucus to define a party
position by bypassing the com-
mittee system. However, the
caucus defeated, 151 to 98, a
move by David R. Obey of
Wisconsin to refer the issue
to the House Democratic Pol-
icy and Steering Committee.

No Impact on Committee

The caucus action appeared
to have no impact on the House
Foreign Affairs Committee,
which, in the past, has sup-
ported the administration's
foreign policy. Thomas E. Mor-
gan of Pennsylvania, chairman
of the committee, dismissed the
caucus action as an attempt by
members to accommodate Com-
mon Cause, which describes
briefly as a citizens' lobby.

The full House Committee
will meet tomorrow to consider
the compromise narrowly ap-
proved by the subcommittee
after a switch by Pierre S. du-
Pont, Republican of Delaware,
who had voted against military
aid yesterday. On the basis of
the votes of committee mem-
bers in caucus, it appeared that
the committee would approve
the compromise by a small
margin.

The subcommittee proposal
would provide monthly install-
ments of \$45-million, including
\$27.5-million in military aid
and \$17.5-million in economic
aid. Each installment would be
contingent on monthly certifi-
cation by the President that
the United States and the
Phnom Penh Government were
taking specific steps to end the
conflict by June 30, and that
the United States had requested
Secretary General Waldheim of
the United Nations to assist in
ending the war.

Switch by du Pont

Yesterday the subcommittee divided 3 to 3 on the issue. Mr. du Pont switched his position today when a provision was inserted that it would be United States policy to achieve an end to the conflict by June 30 and that all military assistance would be ended by then. Like many members, Mr. du Pont expressed concern that an abrupt termination of aid would lead to widespread killing if the Communist-supported insurgents took over Phnom Penh.

Voting for the compromise, along with Mr. du Pont, were Lee H. Hamilton, Democrat of Indiana, the subcommittee chairman; Larry Winn Jr., Republican of Kansas, and L. H. Fountain, Democrat of North Carolina. Opposed were Michael J. Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts; Don Bonker, Democrat of Washington, and Gus Yatron, Democrat of Pennsylvania, who did not vote yesterday.

In the Senate, the Foreign Relations Committee will meet Monday to consider a compromise adopted yesterday by a subcommittee by a vote of 4 to 3. The 17-man committee was expected to approve the proposal, which would permit the Pentagon to transfer \$125-million in existing stockpiles without any new appropriation.

At a breakfast meeting with a group of reporters, Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, proposed that President Ford send Senator Mansfield to Peking to open discussions with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, nominal leader of the Cambodian insurgents.

Mansfield Offers Services

Senator Mansfield, who is a supporter of Prince Sihanouk, said that he "would be glad to do anything to bring an end to the agony in Cambodia," but that, under the Constitution, it was for the President to decide whether to send a spokesman.

The White House reacted coolly to the suggestion. John W. Hushen, deputy press secretary, said the "problem in Cambodia is not a lack of channels of communication."

Ron Nessen, the press secretary, quoted President Ford as having told a Cabinet meeting that there is no lack of initiatives on negotiations but that there can be no negotiations if the other side thinks it can win it all militarily rather than sharing power.

Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger was quoted as having told the Cabinet meeting that with a continuation of American military aid, there was a reasonable chance that the Lon Nol government would survive.