

WXPost APR 26 1975
\$327 Million Viet Aid
Approved by Senate

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The Senate gave 46-to-17 approval yesterday to a compromise bill that would authorize \$327 million in humanitarian and evacuation aid for South Vietnam, and would permit use of U. S. armed forces, if necessary, to evacuate Americans and Vietnamese imperiled by the Communists.

The bill, worked out yesterday morning by a House-Senate conference committee, will be voted on in the House next week. Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa) refused to sign the conference report, in protest against what he called the lagging pace of withdrawal of U. S. citizens from Saigon despite the rapid closing of the Communist ring around the capital city.

Sens. Joe Biden Jr. (D-Del.), Adlai E. Stevenson III (D-Ill.), and James Abourezk (D-S.D.) expressed uneasiness about the bill's authority for troop use.

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say, "I'm informed we're just recognizing newspaper reports."

Although the President probably has inherent powers under the Constitution to rescue Americans without prior congressional approval, most members of Congress believe that, under the 1973 War Powers Act and various laws barring further U.S. combat in Vietnam, he can't use troops to rescue South Vietnamese without congressional approval.

Mr. Ford asked for this power two weeks ago, and for \$250 million for humanitarian aid. The current bill would give him the troop authority plus funds for humanitarian and evacuation purposes. But Mr. Ford is unlikely to get much if any

But Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), conceding fears of further U.S. military entanglement in Vietnam and "misgivings about the sluggish pace" of withdrawal of Americans before force may be needed, said, "explicit restrictions contained in this bill" would help guarantee that American troops will be used only for rapid and limited evacuation operations, rather than any major re-entry into the war.

Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-Mich.), a senior GOP conferee, told reporters early in the day that "there seems to be at least a tacit ... understanding" with the Vietcong that they won't attack Saigon "at least until Monday" to give the United States time to get its people out. At first Broomfield said he'd heard this from government sources, but later he amended this to

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of the \$722 million he sought for weapons aid to South Vietnam.

Clark said latest reports showed 1,357 Americans and several hundred dependents still in South Vietnam, although thousands of Vietnam nationals—5,587 in the last 24 hours—had been flown out.

Conferees endorsed a Clark resolution that urged the President to withdraw all dependents of Americans "forthwith" and to reduce American officials to the minimum number "necessary to perform residual functions of the mission"—a figure estimated at 500 or fewer.

Because they were subject to a House point of order, two Senate provisions that would allow some of the humanitarian aid to go to Cambodia were dropped. But

conferees approved a declaration urging the President to provide food aid to needy Cambodians through international agencies, using his existing authority under other laws.

Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) announced that he and other Foreign Relations Committee members were introducing a separate bill that would provide \$50 million humanitarian aid to Cambodia.

Yesterday's bill would enable the President to use the armed forces to rescue U.S. citizens and their immediate dependents if other methods of evacuation aren't available. But the bill stipulates that the use of U.S. forces must cease after 60 days—in accord with the War Powers Act — unless Congress specifically authorizes continuation. More-

over, at any time before the 60 days expire, the troop authority can be cut off immediately by a concurrent resolution of Congress.

The bill would authorize the President to use the armed forces to rescue Vietnamese endangered by possible Communist reprisals and Vietnamese who, under U.S. immigration laws, might be eligible for U.S. entry as relatives of Vietnamese who are U.S. citizens.

But rescue operations for the latter category may be undertaken only incidentally to removal of Americans and direct dependents, and the President may not enlarge the number of troops or the scope or duration of the military operation beyond what is needed for the rescue of Americans.

The \$327 million in the

bill is a ceiling; actual funds must be voted separately in appropriations bills.

The bill specifies that \$150 million shall be used for humanitarian aid, which the President can channel through international relief agencies if he chooses.

The other \$177 million is for the costs of evacuation—food, medicine, relief, transportation—and not primarily for weapons aid to Saigon, Broomfield told reporters. However, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said the President could use part of the \$177 million for Saigon weapons if he determines that these are absolutely necessary to shore up the evacuation plan.

The final bill retains a House provision that would bar any of the aid from going to Hanoi or the Vietcong.

Sens. J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.) and Harry F. Byrd Jr. (Ind.-Va.) voted for the conference report. Sens. William L. Scott (R-Va.) and Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) were absent.



Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, left, questions Assistant Secretary of State Philip C. Habib about Americans remaining in Vietnam.

By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post