

SENATE TO MEET NIGHTS IN LOGJAM

Will Continue the Debate on
Cambodia by Day and Act
on Other Bills in Evening

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WASHINGTON, June 18 —

With considerable interparty jockeying, the Senate moved today to break the legislative logjam created by its protracted Cambodian debate by agreeing to hold evening sessions to consider Administration bills.

The Cambodian debate, now entering its sixth week, has prevented Senate action on unrelated pending legislation, such as an increase in the debt ceiling starting July 1, a supplementary appropriations bill for the current fiscal year, a \$4.5-billion education appropriations bill, and postal reform.

There was some movement in the Cambodian standoff today, but still no sign that the issue would reach a vote soon.

In an attempt to move the Cambodian debate to a conclusion, Senator Mike Mansfield, the Majority Leader, has refused to lay aside the foreign military sales bill with its amendment by Senators John Sherman Cooper and Frank Church. The amendment would preclude the President from spending funds for military activities in Cambodia after July 1 without Congressional consent.

As other legislation has

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backed up on the Senate calendar, each side has blamed the other for the logjam.

Starting next week, the Senate will consider the foreign military sales bill by day and other legislation by night.

Supporters of the Administration, attempting to put pressure on Senator Mansfield and the Democrats, have protested that proponents of the Cooper-Church amendment were blocking essential legislation. The amendment's supporters, in turn, have accused some Republicans of stalling to prevent a vote on the amendment until after the scheduled withdrawal of American troops from Cambodia by the end of this month.

GOP Accepts Proposals

At a party caucus today, the Democrats sought to place the burden on the Republicans by proposing evening sessions to consider other legislation. After some hours of hesitation, the proposal was accepted by the Senate Republican leadership, although it meant giving up its

charge that a Democratic-controlled Senate was blocking action on important bills.

The Democratic leadership, in turn, no longer could use the logjam of legislation as pressure on the Administration's supporters to stop their delaying tactics against the Cooper-Church amendment.

The amendment now appears to command a clear majority of at least 54 votes in the Senate. The problem, however, is how to bring the amendment to a vote under the Senate's rules of unlimited debate.

Senator Robert F. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, today offered another amendment to the Cooper-Church measure.

In a crucial vote last week, the Senate defeated a Byrd amendment that specified that the prohibition against retaining United States forces in Cambodia would not preclude the President from taking steps to protect American troops in Vietnam. Today Senator Byrd offered a variation of that amendment.

In an attempt to meet Ad-

ministration objections to the Cooper-Church amendment, the Senate last week added a provision stating that "nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to impugn the constitutional powers of the President as Commander in Chief." To this statement, Senator Byrd is now proposing to add, "including the exercise of that constitutional power which may be necessary to protect the lives of United States armed forces wherever deployed."

The practical legal effect of the proposed Byrd language upon the prohibitions in the Cooper-Church amendment was subject to varying interpretations.

Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, the assistant Republican leader who is a co-sponsor of the Byrd amendment, interpreted the language as authorizing the President to order another military operation against enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia if he thought such action necessary to protect the lives of American forces in Vietnam.

But that interpretation was

challenged by Senator Church, who described the Byrd amendment as an "innocuous specification" of already recognized powers of the President as Commander in Chief. Even with the Byrd amendment,

Senator Church contended, the President, if the Cooper-Church amendment is adopted, could not order another sustained military operation in Cambodia without obtaining Congressional approval.