

HOUSE BARS CURB ON THE PRESIDENT

But Also Rejects Approval of
Intervention in Cambodia
—Debate Is Emotional

MAY 7 1970

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 6 —The House of Representatives, in a confused climax to an increasingly emotional debate on Cambodia, refused today either to sanction President Nixon's intervention in Cambodia or to place restrictions on his authority to undertake military operations in Southeast Asia.

The House overwhelmingly rejected amendments designed to restrict the President's authority to introduce American ground combat troops in Cambodia, Laos, or Thailand without the consent of Congress.

The debate concerned amendments to a \$20.2-billion military authorization bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

On the Senate side of the Capitol, Secretary of the Treasury David M. Kennedy told the Foreign Relations Committee that the action in Cambodia would have no effect on defense spending either this year or next. [Details on Page 69.]

Amendments to restrict the President had been opposed by the White House. To that extent the votes were a victory for an Administration increasingly caught up in a constitutional struggle with Congress, over the war-making powers of the presidency.

But when it came to an amendment endorsed by President Nixon, the House went through a parliamentary somersault that left the constitu-

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tional issue deliberately unresolved.

By a 171-to-144 vote, the House tentatively adopted an amendment by Representative Paul Findley, Republican of Illinois, that would have had the effect of authorizing the President to send ground combat troops into Cambodia, Laos or Thailand if he thought such action necessary to protect the lives of American troops in South Vietnam.

But when it came to final adoption, the House turned around and rejected the amendment by 221 to 32.

It was apparent that the majority of the House was willing to support the President in his decision to send troops into Cambodia, but was unwilling to enter into the constitutional debate by moving to sanction or circumscribe the President's action.

The debate now moves to the Senate, where Administration critics are more numerous, better organized and determined to place legislative restrictions on the President's use of defense funds in Southeast Asia.

Opposition Appears to Grow

Despite the inconclusiveness of the votes, the amendments provided the first opportunity for a full-scale foreign-policy debate in the House since it adopted a resolution last fall endorsing President Nixon's efforts to achieve a "just peace" in Vietnam.

Administration critics were still in a minority, but the attacks by both Republicans and Democrats indicated that opposition was growing as a result of the Cambodian operation.

The five-hour debate, before galleries packed with students opposing the Cambodian attack took on an increasingly emotional tone, particularly after Representative L. Mendel Rivers of South Carolina, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, finally succeeded in imposing of time limit of 45 seconds for each speaker.

At one point, loud hisses were heard from the gallery after Mr. Rivers observed that if the young people were "frustrated" it was because "their parents have not taken enough time to talk to them about patriotism."

The white-haired Mr. Rivers stood impassively in the well as cries of "Throw them out!" arose from members. The students were allowed to remain.

The members listened in silence as Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Cambridge, Mass., a Democrat, arose to protest the limitation on debate. "Forty-five seconds," he complained, "Why, it takes more time to say hello."

Through a special parliamentary device, Mr. O'Neill arranged to get five minutes. He proceeded to recount to the House how "frustrated" and "despairing" students had been crowding his office all day protesting against the Cambodian operation and how his daughter would not receive her degree this year because her college was on strike.

"What good is it to destroy sanctuaries in Cambodia if our country is torn apart from within?" he asked.