

SENATORS, 81 TO 10, VOTE FOR REPEAL OF TONKIN ACTION

G.O.P. Seizes Initiative on
Resolution Johnson Used
as Basis for Wider War

HOUSE BACKING NEEDED

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Doves Accuse Republicans
of Indulging in Crude and
Cynical Partisanship

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WASHINGTON, June 24 —

The Senate voted today in favor of repeal of the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin resolution, once interpreted as the statutory equivalent of a declaration of war in Vietnam.

The legal effect of the action, by a vote of 81 to 10, is probably minimal since the Nixon Administration has stated that it is not relying on the resolution enacted at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson, as authority for current policies in Indochina. But the vote may have marked a turning point in the increasingly acerbic bickering in the Senate over the war.

Supporters of the Administration had seized the initiative from the Democratic leadership by moving yesterday to repeal the resolution and they threatened similar tactics against amendments on Vietnam offered by Senate doves. The doves responded by accusing the Republicans of indulging in crude and cynical partisanship.

Both Actions Speedy

The Tonkin Gulf resolution, which was often referred to by President Johnson as Congressional sanction for stepping up the war in Vietnam, was speedily passed in August, 1964, after two American destroyers reportedly had come under attack by North Vietnamese PT-boats.

The resolution gave Congressional support to the President's determination to "take all necessary measures" to prevent further aggression in Southeast Asia.

The action on the resolution, which had been adopted with two dissenting votes, was taken by the Senate with almost equal speed after two days of perfunctory debate. Behind the decision, which must be concurred in by the House of Representatives, was a convergence of views between hawks and doves.

To some senators, particularly on the Republican side, the resolution had become meaningless. To others, particularly among the doves, the Senate was acting against a grant of warmaking power to the President. Still other senators were eager to vote for repeal of a resolution that had been used to justify an expansion of the war.

The repeal motion had been offered by Senator Robert J. Dole, a conservative Kansas Republican, as an amendment to the foreign military sales bill before the Senate. The Democratic leadership had planned a later measure sepa-

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Senate Backs Repeal of Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

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rately repealing the Tonkin resolution.

It is likely that the House will balk at accepting the military sales bill—and thus also reject repeal—particularly if the bill contains the Cooper-Church amendment restricting future military operations in Cambodia.

The bipartisan Cooper-Church amendment to the military sales bill would cut off all funds for American forces in Cambodia after July 1, the date set by President Nixon for termination of the operation there. The amendment has been the focus of protracted Senate debate on United States policy in Indochina, particularly in relation to the President's powers in wartime.

In that case, the Democratic leadership would get another chance at repealing the resolution though a concurrent resolution, which does not require the President's signature.

Under the Mills bill, the volume of imports would be significantly rolled back from the level of 1968, though it contains a provision for a higher level of imports if the President can negotiate a voluntary agreement with any

supplying country.

The Ways and Means Committee, after it hears Mr. Stans, will shortly begin closed-door consideration of trade legislation and in particular, the quota issue. A majority of members of the House of Representatives have already endorsed bills imposing textile quotas. If legislation is passed, it would be the first important trade bill in eight years.

The President of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, Donald F. McCullough, said today: "These long and fruitless negotiations have convinced the textile industry that the Japanese have no intention to work out realistic agreements and developments this certainly confirm this. The Japanese offered proposals this week similar to those which had previously been presented and rejected by the United States. At no time, to our knowledge, did they appear willing to actually negotiate on any meaningful basis."

The refusal of Japan to negotiate an agreement, despite "generous concessions" by the United States, Mr. McCullough added, "underscores the necessity for legislation."

Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota,

who is a member of the committee

to require that all American forces be out of Vietnam by mid-1971, took the floor to assert that the Republicans were engaging in "crude and cynical partisanship" and were being contemptuous of the procedures of the Senate in proposing to call up the matter now with the purpose of defeating it, as Republicans have threatened to do.

By a 52-38 vote, the Senate rejected a proposal by Senator Jack Miller, Republican of Iowa, that would have eliminated from the military sales bill a Foreign Relations Committee provision requiring countries receiving American arms to put up 50 per cent of the value in local currencies. The money would be used to finance educational and cultural exchange programs.