

Senate, 55 to 42, Defeats McGovern-Hatfield Plan

Administration Backed in Rejection of Troop Withdrawal by End of Year—June, 1972, Deadline Also Beaten

By JOHN W. FINNEY JUN 17 1971
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WASHINGTON, June 16—The Senate, in a victory for the Nixon Administration's Vietnam policies, refused twice today to set a deadline for the withdrawal of American forces from Indochina.

By a 55-to-42 vote, the Senate rejected the McGovern-Hatfield "end-the-war" amendment to the selective service bill that would have required withdrawal of all forces by the end of this year.

Earlier, by a 52-to-44 vote, the Senate defeated a compromise amendment to the same bill by Senator Lawton Chiles, Democrat of Florida, that would have set a withdrawal deadline of June 1, 1972.

The Administration had opposed any Congressional withdrawal deadline. The Senate rejection of both proposals could be interpreted as a vote of confidence in President Nixon's Vietnam policies.

But the Administration's victory was not as decisive as it appeared, for it was apparent that there were 8 to 10 wavering Senators who were ready to vote for some form of a Congressional resolution calling for withdrawal by a specific date.

As a result, the Vietnam debate is expected to continue in the Senate, with further attempts to attach anti-Administration amendments to legislation.

One approach being advanced by Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader, is an amendment calling upon the President to enter into an immediate cease-fire providing for phased and rapid withdrawal of American troops in return for phased release of American prisoners of war.

Another approach, by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, would provide that the President has constitutional authority to withdraw troops from Vietnam but not to link the withdrawal schedule to the viability of the South Vietnamese Government.

The forces led by Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, did little better than last year, when a similar amendment was defeated by a 55-to-39 vote. Nine months later, they were able to add only three votes to their side.

But an indication of the shifting sentiment, was the vote of Senator Milton R. Young of North Dakota, a senior Senate symbol of Republican conservatism.

Last year, Senator Young voted against the amendment. Today, to grasps from some of his colleagues, Senator Young, at the bottom of the

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Momentum Was Lacking

Several factors, in the opinion of Senate leaders, lay behind the defeat of the McGovern-Hatfield amendment despite the growing antiwar sentiment in the Senate.

The McGovern-Hatfield forces were never able to generate the interest and momentum that they achieved last year in the public protests following the invasion of Cambodia. The week-long debate leading up to today's vote was sporadic and dispirited, with frequently only two or three Senators on the floor.

Since last year, the President appeared to have eased the Vietnam issue with his policies of troop withdrawals and many Senators obviously were willing to accept the President's assurances that his policies would lead to total withdrawal.

There was also considerable reluctance to impose a Congressional deadline upon the President.

Senator John Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, who as chairman of the Armed Services Committee was defending the Administration's case, declared:

"The basic question is, do we really want to relieve the President of his responsibility in the handling of the war?"

'Help to Our Enemies'

The amendment, he said, "is an interference with the President of the United States" and "a help to our enemies," although not so intended by its sponsors.

The rejoinder of Senator Hatfield was that Congress has a constitutional responsibility for the war and the power to bring it to an end.

"We cannot avoid the harsh reality that we, the elected members of this body, share in the responsibility for those who are wounded and who die in this war," he said. "That is what our Constitution intends. We cannot pretend that we can abdicate this responsibility—that we can call on only the President to bear that heaviest of all burdens."

Senate Roll-Call Vote On Vietnam Deadline

WASHINGTON, June 16 (UPI)—Following is the 55-42 roll-call vote today by which the Senate defeated the McGovern-Hatfield amendment requiring the withdrawal of all United States troops from Vietnam by Dec. 31.

For the Amendment—42

Democrats—34
Anderson (N.M.) Mansfield (Mont.)
Bayh (Ind.) McGovern (S.D.)
Burdick (N.D.) McIntyre (N.H.)
Chiles (Fla.) Metcalf (Mont.)
Church (Idaho) Mondale (Minn.)
Cranston (Calif.) Montoya (N.M.)
Eagleton (Mo.) Moss (Utah)
Gravel (Alaska) Muskie (Me.)
Harris (Okla.) Nelson (Wisc.)
Hart (Mich.) Pastore (R.I.)
Hartke (Ind.) Pell (R.I.)
Hughes (Iowa) Proxmire (Wisc.)
Humphrey (Minn.) Ribicoff (Conn.)
Inouye (Hawaii) Stevenson (Ill.)
Jordan (N.C.) Symington (Mo.)
Kennedy (Mass.) Tunney (Calif.)
Magnuson (Wash.) Williams (N.J.)

Republicans—8

Brooke (Mass.) Mathias (Md.)
Case (N.J.) Percy (Ill.)
Hatfield (Ore.) Schweiker (Pa.)
Javits (N.Y.) Young (N.D.)

Against the Amendment—55

Democrats—19
Allen (Ala.) Hollings (S.C.)
Bentsen (Tex.) Jackson (Wash.)
Bible (Nev.) Long (La.)
Byrd (Va.) McClellan (Ark.)
Byrd (W. Va.) McGee (Wyo.)
Cannon (Nev.) Randolph (W. Va.)
Eastland (Miss.) Sparkman (Ala.)
Ellender (La.) Stennis (Miss.)
Ervin (N.C.) Talmadge (Ga.)
Gambrell (Ga.)

Republicans—36

Aiken (Vt.) Griffin (Mich.)
Allott (Colo.) Gurney (Fla.)
Baker (Tenn.) Hansen (Wyo.)
Beall (Md.) Hruska (Neb.)
Bellmon (Okla.) Jordan (Idaho)
Bennett (Utah) Miller (Iowa)
Boggs (Del.) Packwood (Ore.)
Brock (Tenn.) Pearson (Kan.)
Buckley (N.Y.) Prouty (Vt.)
Cook (Ky.) Roth (Del.)
Cooper (Ky.) Saxbe (Ohio)
Cotton (N.H.) Scott (Pa.)
Curtis (Neb.) Smith (Me.)
Dole (Kan.) Stevens (Alaska)
Dominick (Colo.) Taft (Ohio)
Fannin (Ariz.) Thurmond (S.C.)
Fong (Hawaii) Tower (Tex.)
Goldwater (Ariz.) Weicker (Conn.)
Paired: for, Fulbright (D. Ark.), against
Spong (D. Va.)
Absent and not voting, Mundt (R. S.D.)

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roll-call, quietly voted for both the McGovern-Hatfield and the Childs amendments.

The House, meanwhile, put off a vote on the war issue until tomorrow. There, Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, and Charles W. Whalen Jr., Republican of Ohio, have offered an amendment to the military authorization bill. That would prohibit the use of military procurement funds in Vietnam after the end of the year. This amendment is expected to be rejected.