

SENATE, 47 TO 44, KILLS FUND CURB ON VIETNAM WAR

Rejects an Amendment That
Money Could Be Used
Only for Withdrawal

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 28—The Senate, by a three-vote margin, today rejected a proposed amendment that would have specified that the President could not use funds in Indochina except to withdraw all American forces.

The Senate action represented a major Administration victory in the running battle with the doves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The withdrawal amendment, sponsored by Senators John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, had been included by the Senate Committee in the \$3.2-billion foreign aid authorization bill. Amid threats that President Nixon would veto the bill if the Cooper-Church amendment remained, Administration forces in a series of close votes succeeded in deleting the amendment from the bill.

Scott Motion Wins

The crucial vote—on a motion by the Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott, to delete the Cooper-Church amendment—was 47-44.

The Administration, meanwhile, maintained an outwardly neutral stance as Senators James L. Buckley, Conservative-Republican of New York, and Peter H. Dominick, Republican of Colorado, introduced four amendments to limit United States contributions to the United Nations. The amendments were a reaction to the General Assembly's expulsion of Nationalist China Monday.

In the first vote on the United Nations issue, the Senate defeated, 55-28 one of the two Buckley amendments, which would have cut \$102-million from so-called voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization's world food program.

Javits Protests

Senator Buckley said that his amendment was "not intended as a punitive measure" but rather reflected nothing more nor less than a loss of confidence in the United Nations.

Senator Jacob K. Javits protested that approval of the Buckley amendment would be interpreted as an act of "petulance" against the United Nations for expelling Nationalist China and warned, "If we take this road we're doing ourselves

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a grave disservice."

"We can take on the world if we wish or we can live with the world," Senator Javits said.

Put off until tomorrow were votes on the other Buckley amendment as well as on the two Dominick amendments. The second Buckley amendment, which is believed likely to be approved, calls upon the President to negotiate a reduction in the annual United States assessed contribution from the current level of 31.52 per cent of the United Nations budget to not more than 25 per cent.

The two Dominick amendments were more restrictive. One would require annual Congressional authorization for the mandatory or assessed contributions, which totaled \$111.8-million in 1971, as well as for the so-called voluntary contributions, exceeding \$223.5-million this year, to various specialized agencies of the United Nations.

The second Dominick amendment would specify that the share of the United States voluntary contributions to the specialized agencies could not exceed the United States share of the mandatory payments to the United Nations budget. The effect would be to reduce the United States contributions to the specialized agencies, which now rely upon the United States for about 40 per cent of their budgets.

After a White House conference, Senator Scott told reporters that the Administration was taking "no position" on the Buckley and Dominick amendments.

Another Amendment Deleted

The White House, however, made a major effort to defeat the Cooper-Church amendment on Indochina as well as another Foreign Relations Committee amendment, which would impose a \$250-million ceiling on all military and economic aid to Cambodia in the current fiscal year.

A group of about 20 Republican and Democratic Senators were summoned to the White House for a breakfast briefing by Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser.

After the meeting, Senator Scott reported that Mr. Kissinger had indicated that the President would veto the foreign aid bill if the two amendments were not removed. The Administration, the Senator said, would "rather have no bill at all than a bill that removes opportunity for further negotiations in Paris."

The foreign aid bill has already been passed by the House.

Among those attending the White House meeting were Senators Lawton Chiles, Democrat of Florida, and Lloyd M. Bentsen, Democrat of Texas, both of whom had been expected to vote for the Cooper-Church amendment but voted against it. Combined with the absence from the Senate of Senators Fred R. Harris, Democrat of Oklahoma; George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, that was enough to assure a rare margin of defeat of Cooper-Church amendment.

The Administration failed, however, by a 52-35 vote, in its attempts to delete an amendment by Senators Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, and Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, imposing a ceiling on military and economic spending in Cambodia. To achieve the victory, however, Senator Symington agreed to raise the ceiling to \$341-million—the amount the Administration plans to spend in Cambodia this fiscal year.

In another victory for the Administration, the Senate, by a 43-40 vote, deleted a committee amendment that would have repealed the 1955 resolution authorizing the President to use the armed forces to protect the security of Taiwan and the Pescadore Islands.

Before the United Nations vote expelling Nationalist China, the committee voted to repeal the resolution regarding Taiwan as a step toward curbing the warmaking powers of the Presidency. The Nixon Administration had taken the position that it was not relying upon the authority of the resolution and had no objection to its repeal.

In the wake of the United Nations vote, however, pro-Administration Senators objected that repeal of the resolution on Taiwan would be untimely and would be interpreted as a sign that the United States would no longer stand by its commitments to the defense of Taiwan.

The defeat of the Cooper-Church amendment today marked the first time in two years that the doves on the Foreign Relations Committee have failed in their moves in the Senate to impose legislative restrictions on the President's authority to undertake military operations in Indochina.

Still remaining in the bill was an amendment by Senator Mike Mansfield, the majority leader, setting forth the policy that the United States should withdraw all its forces from Indochina in six months, subject only to the release of all American prisoners of war. Rather than fighting the amendment on the Senate floor, the Administration decided to rely upon a Senate-House conference committee to modify the amendment, as was done when a similar Mansfield amendment was attached to the draft extension bill.