

SFChronicle  
SenateDemos Vote  
On the War

Washington Post Service

## Washington

The Senate Democratic caucus laid down a direct challenge to President Nixon's Vietnam policies yesterday, condemning his "escalation of the war" by a 29 to 14 vote and endorsing a proposed Vietnam fund-cutoff by a 35 to 8 vote.

The caucus also voted 44 to 0 against postponing a Senate floor vote on the fund cutoff until Mr. Nixon returns from his trip to Moscow late this month.

The three votes represent—

See Back Page

## From Page 1

ed the strongest official repudiation of Mr. Nixon's Vietnam policies ever voted by the Senate Democrats as a group.

The votes came after three hours of stormy debate in which Senators like Gale W. McGee of Wyoming and Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina argued that the caucus should withhold action at this time in order to give the President a chance to "lick out" (as McGee put it) on his latest Vietnam move.

## REBUFF

Moreover, the votes directly rebuffed the President's televised plea for public support.

In the House, the Nixon announcement set off more than an hour of impassioned oratory pro and con. It was interrupted three times by outbursts from the visitors' gallery, where young people shouting anti-war slogans were hustled off by police.

Today the Democratic members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee will take up three differing versions of legislation fixing a date for troop withdrawal, in compliance with last month's demand by the House Democratic caucus.

If such a bill wins committee approval, it will be the first time that a House committee has endorsed a pull-out date since the war began.

## CUT OFF

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said the 35 to 8 vote approving the modified fund cutoff proposed by Senators Frank Church (Dem.-Idaho) and Clifford P. Case (Rep.-N.J.) was the first caucus endorsement ever of a fund cutoff.

The Case-Church plan, as modified, stops all funds for all U.S. lands, sea and air combat operations in Indochina four months after North Vietnam agrees to release U.S. prisoners of war. An earlier version, already contained in the State Department - U.S. Information Agency bill now before the Senate, cuts off funds December 31 of this year, subject to release of prisoners.

## SHOWDOWN

Case and Church moved to modify the language after the President, in announcing the mining of Haiphong harbor in his Monday night speech, said all U.S. use of force would stop four months after a cease-fire and prisoner release. Case and Church don't require a cease-fire. The new language will be substituted for the existing wording prior to the showdown Senate vote on whether to keep the language in the bill.

Opposition to the President's war-escalation was proposed by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, who called for a vote of "no confidence" in the President. That was modified, however, to a vote of "disapproval" of his "escalation of the war," and in that form, passed, 29 to 14.

The fund cutoff with the modification to bring the language closer to the President's proposal was then passed, 35 to 8. Sponsors believe they have reversed the tide against their proposal and are picking new strength.

## VOTE

On the 35 to 8 vote, all the Democratic presidential candidates save Henry M. Jackson of Washington, voted in favor of the Case-Church proposal. The eight against it were: Jackson, McGee, Ervin, John Stennis of Mississippi; Whip Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, James O. Eastland of Mississippi; James B. Allen of Alabama and Russell B. Long of Louisiana. Several voted by proxy.

A move by Allen to condemn the "invasion" of South Vietnam by North Vietnam was dropped after Alan Cranston of California on a 30 to 8 vote, substituted the word "incursion."

Meanwhile, presidential candidate Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota led Democrats in a round of furious denunciations of the President's actions, in some of the strongest language heard since the U.S. move into Cambodia two years ago.

Republicans rallied to the President's support, although Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts

said he would press for a vote on his own plan to cut off Vietnam combat funds after August 31 and Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut — while endorsing the President's latest moves — nevertheless announced that he will vote for a fund cutoff after having opposed it in the past.

## Record

On the Senate floor, Senator Mike Gravel (Dem.-Alaska) read into the record excerpts from a secret 1969 report on Vietnam prepared by Henry A. Kissinger, quoting the Defense Department and CIA as saying that even with a blockade and all-out air interdiction campaign, it would be extremely difficult to cut off the flow of supplies from Russia and China.

Gravel said the United States is now "the bully of the world," and charged that the President, while knowing that the new policies are fruitless, is nevertheless making bellicose gestures out of a sense of need to prove "male machismo."

Both Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Stennis and Senator Jackson who have backed the President up to now, opposed "roadblocks" to the President, but their comments feel short of all-out endorsement of the President's moves.