

END-WAR MEASURE BEATEN IN HOUSE BY 228-178 VOTE

AUG 11 1972

Margin Is Said to Bar Any
Action by Congress Now
on a Pullout by U.S.
NYTimes

ADMINISTRATION VICTOR

House Goes On to Pass the
\$2.1-Billion Foreign
Aid Bill, 221-172

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10—In a crucial setback for the anti-war movement in Congress, the House of Representatives rejected today an amendment demanding the withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina.

The vote of 228 to 178 was a major victory for the Administration, which had lobbied intensively to defeat the Vietnam troop-withdrawal amendment that the House Foreign Affairs Committee had attached to a \$2.1-billion foreign aid bill.

In view of the House action, it now seemed improbable that any "end-the-war" legislation would be passed in this session of Congress.

The House went on to pass the foreign aid bill by a vote of 221 to 172. The bill's authorization of \$2.1-billion in military assistance in the current fiscal year is about \$200-million less than the amount requested by the Administration. A similar foreign aid bill was killed in the Senate last month after an amendment on ending the war was attached.

Stand Seems Decisive

The Senate earlier this month attached an amendment to a military procurement bill that through a cut-off of funds would require withdrawal of all forces in four months, subject to concurrent release of prisoners of war, and it is likely that the Senate will add the same amendment to the foreign aid bill when it is received from the House.

With the decisive position taken by the House, however, all such Senate amendments are now likely to die in a Senate-House conference committee.

The 50-vote margin represented a loss of strength from last October for House critics of the Vietnam war policy. At that time in a procedural action

House Kills 'End-the-War' Amendment

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the House voted 215 to 193 to instruct House conferees not to accept a troop-withdrawal amendment approved by the Senate. In advance of today's vote, a White House aide predicted, "if we win by 40 votes or more, end-the-war legislation is dead for this session."

House doves contributed to their own defeat because they were divided over what deadline to set for the withdrawal.

As approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the amendment demanded a termination of all hostilities and withdrawal of all American forces by Oct. 1, subject to release of prisoners of war and a limited cease-fire with North Vietnam to assure the safe withdrawal of the troops.

The Oct. 1 deadline was set several months ago when the amendment was first being drafted by its co-sponsors — Representatives Lee H. Hamilton, Democrat of Indiana, and Charles W. Whalen Jr., Republican of Ohio.

In an attempt to pick up added votes for the amendment, Representative Whalen moved on the floor to change the deadline to Dec. 31. Administration forces taunted supporters of the "end-the-war" amendment, saying they were proposing to "extend the war by another 90 days."

The change in the deadline was also opposed by some of the more outspoken doves, such as Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal, Democrat of Queens, and Representative Ronald V. Dellums, Democrat of California.

Republican Ranks Solid

In what was to be a critical test vote, some of the doves thus lined up with opponents of the amendment to reject an extension of the deadline by a vote of 304 to 109.

With that, the doves lost the support of Speaker Carl Albert and Representative Hale Boggs, the majority leader, both of whom had voted for extension of the deadline.

With the White House successful in holding the Republican ranks almost solid in opposition to the amendment, the votes of the two Democratic leaders had been regarded as crucial in swinging over some moderate Democrats.

As appraised by an official of Common Cause, the organization that mounted a nationwide lobbying campaign for the amendment, the outcome depended in large measure upon some 50 Democrats, most of them committee chairmen or subcommittee chairmen and thus part of the Democratic Establishment, which has tended to support the President on foreign policy issues.

The two Democratic leaders

were under intense political pressure from their own Democratic ranks to support the amendment, particularly in light of the action of the House Democratic caucus in April in calling for legislation providing a prompt termination of the war. It was the caucus action that influenced the once hawkish House Foreign Affairs Committee to adopt the troop-withdrawal amendment.

Right up to the debate, the two Democratic leaders remained publicly uncommitted on how they would vote, an indecision that some doves felt was hurting their cause. Then with the decision not to extend the deadline, Representative Boggs came out publicly against the amendment.

Noting that it was unlikely that the foreign aid bill would be enacted before Oct. 1, Mr. Boggs roared from the well of the House:

"I am not going to stand here and do something that is a vain and useless thing and could be misinterpreted around the world."

Mr. Albert also then voted to strike the amendment from the bill. The only member of the Democratic leadership to vote for the amendment was Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, the majority whip, who led the move to place the Democratic caucus on record in favor of legislation to end the war.

Among the doves, there also was some bitterness directed to Representative Thomas E. Morgan, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for insisting that the first vote come on whether to change the withdrawal deadline. The doves had felt they would be in a stronger position if there had been a vote first on the amendment, with a subsequent vote on changing the deadline.

Mr. Morgan had supported the amendment in committee, but in the maneuvering on the floor, some doves felt he had worked to the advantage of the Administration.

The move to strike the amendment from the bill was led by Representative Richard Bolling, Democrat of Missouri, who argued that in a Government of divided powers "there is no way Congress can make the President accept terms he finds unacceptable" and "it is a cruelty to the American people to pretend otherwise."

By voice vote, the House accepted an amendment by Representative Ogden R. Reil, Democrat of Westchester, authorizing the President to suspend foreign aid to any nation that refuses to prosecute or extradite plane hijackers when requested to do so by the United States.

The House, by a vote of 253 to 140, also struck out a committee amendment restoring to the President authority to ban the importation of Rhodesian chrome in compliance with a United Nations embargo.

The President's authority to control the importation of strategic materials from Rhodesia was removed in legislation passed last year by Congress.

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