

## HOUSE UNIT BACKS CAMBODIAN FUNDS

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But Floor Fight Is Expected  
on the Issue of Bombing

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WASHINGTON, May 3 —

The House Appropriations Committee defeated a bid today to deny funds for the bombing of Cambodia setting the stage for a major floor fight over the Administration's Cambodian policies.

By a vote of 31 to 14, the traditionally hawkish committee rejected a proposal to deny the Pentagon authority to transfer funds within the defense budget to pay for the bombing.

The financing issue, which is providing a focal point for a Congressional attack on the bombing, will now be raised on the House floor, perhaps late next week.

In preparation for the floor fight, the Democratic Policy and Steering Committee of the House adopted a resolution by an 18 to 3 vote urging House Democrats to delete the spending authority, which is included in a supplementary appropriations bill.

### Shift in Attitude Noted

Even such supporters of the Administration as Representative George H. Mahon, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, where predicting that the vote would be close.

One indication of what Mr. Mahon described as "the changing mood in the House" was that Speaker Carl Albert, in the past a defender of Administration policies in Indochina, voted for the policy committee resolution.

Even if approved by the House, the bombing funds authority would face prolonged debate in the Senate with a good possibility, in the judgment of party leaders, that the Senate would block the funds.

For the first time in its protracted battle on the Senate, the Administration is seeking funds specifically for military actions in Indochina. In the past, Indochina funds have been included on the defense budget, making it difficult for the critics, particularly when American troops were in Vietnam,

### Making Direct Request

Now, however the Administration is requesting authority to transfer \$500-million in defense funds to finance Indochina expenses. The House Appropriations Committee, in approving the request today, reduced the amount to \$430-million.

To support its request, the Administration is relying heavily on the argument that it wants the authority only until the end of the present fiscal year, on June 30. This argument is reflected by Mr. Mahon, who said, "I am willing to give the President this flexibility for a period of less than two months in order to try to achieve a more meaningful cease-fire in Indochina."

Opponents raised the objection that if Congress approved the transfer authority, it would be giving "backdoor" authorization for the Administration's bombing in Cambodia. They cite a recent line of Federal court decisions holding that even in the absence of a declaration of war, Congress has authorized the Vietnam war by voting appropriations for it.

This view was voiced in a minority report submitted by three Democratic members of the Appropriations committee — Representatives Joseph P. Addabbo of Queens, Robert H. Giaimo of Connecticut and John J. Flynt Jr. of Georgia—who sought unsuccessfully today to delete the transfer authority from the supplemental appropriations bill.

In the Senate, meanwhile, Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Republican of Maryland, introduced a resolution saying that the continued bombing in Cambodia was "contrary to the laws of the United States" and calling on the President to cease all military actions in Indochina that had not been approved by Congress.

### Mansfield a Co-sponsor

Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, immediately joined as the principal co-sponsor.

Mr. Mansfield asked quick approval, perhaps by next week, of the Mathias resolution. Then, if the White House ignores this "advice" from the Senate, the Democratic leadership will seek to cut off funds for further bombing in Cambodia.

Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, complained that the Mathias resolution would "serve notice" on North Vietnam that the United States "has not the will nor the resolve to use its strength" to enforce a cease-fire in Indochina.

Senator Mansfield, his voice rising with emotion, responded to Senator Tower by asking: "Haven't we had enough of war in Indochina? 'If it's a question of face, I for one am prepared to give up whatever face is involved.'"