

Stennis Asks Congress to Upset Veto

Washington

Senator John C. Stennis (Dem-Miss.) urged Congress yesterday to override President Nixon's veto of the war powers resolution.

Nothing in the bill would have prevented President Nixon from ordering last week's military alert in the Middle East crisis without the approval of Congress, Stennis said in a Senate speech.

Stennis called the alert and the ordering of extra ships into the Mediterranean Sea "careful and responsible" use of the President's powers as commander-in-chief. He said the modest changes in readiness of the armed forces contributed to agreement in the United Nations Security Council on a peacekeeping force to supervise the Middle East cease-fire.

"Nothing in the war powers resolution would hinder the President from taking these types of steps in the future on his own authority as commander-in-chief and nothing in the resolution would require congressional approval" of such action, Stennis said.

The House is expected to vote Wednesday on whether to override the President's veto. A two-thirds majority is necessary to override.

The bill would forbid commitment of U.S. forces to combat or the imminent danger of combat for longer than 60 days without the approval of Congress.

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