

Senate Votes \$21.9-Billion For Weapons Procurement

**Bars Further Cuts in Aid to Saigon in
Close Contest—Presidential Control
on Exports to Soviet Is Backed**

NYTimes By JOHN W. FINNEY JUN 12 1974

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 11 — The Senate approved today a \$21.9-billion military procurement bill after having narrowly rejected a further reduction in military aid to South Vietnam.

By a 46-to-45 vote, the Senate defeated an amendment by Senator Edward M. Kennedy that would have lowered the ceiling on military aid to South Vietnam in the coming fiscal year to \$750-million.

In the bill approved by the Senate, the Armed Services Committee had set the ceiling at \$900-million, which was \$700-million less than requested by the Government. The House-approved bill sets the ceiling at \$1.126-billion, the level established for the current fiscal year.

The Senate bill, which provides \$1.3-billion. The conference is expected to yield a compromise of around \$22.1-billion.

Neither version makes any significant change in the major weapons programs sought by the Pentagon. In eight days of debate, the Senate, usually by a decisive margin, beat down all attempts to cut back on weapons programs, such as the B-1 bomber, or to withdraw

some troops from overseas bases.

As drafted by the Armed Services Committee, the Senate bill does attempt to achieve some savings in manpower costs, which now account for 56 per cent of the defense budget of \$86-billion. The bill ordered a 49,000-man reduction in the 2,152,100-man active-duty strength sought by the Pentagon and a 44,600-man cut in the 1,027,300-man civilian payroll of the Defense Department.

The Senate bill also directs a 23,000-man cut in support troops in Western Europe. The troops do not necessarily have to be withdrawn and may be added to combat forces.

The manpower reductions are estimated to save \$1.6-billion annually. But, responding to pressures from retired military groups, the Senate offset some of these savings by approving increases in retired military pay that would cost \$342-million in the first year and eventually a total of \$16-billion.

Before adopting the bill by a 84-to-6 vote, the Senate modified an amendment by Senator Henry M. Jackson,

Continued on Page 7, Column 1

\$21.9-BILLION BILL FOR ARMS IS VOTED

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

Democrat of Washington, authorizing the Secretary of Defense to veto the export of any goods or technology to the Soviet Union that he determined would significantly increase Soviet military capacity.

Unable to block the Jackson amendment, the opposition pushed through a modification by Senator Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, leaving the determination to be made by the President on the basis of a recommendation from the Secretary of Defense.

The provision underscored skepticism about expanding trade with the Soviet Union, particularly if it involved advanced technology.

Secret Study Cited

Senator Jackson told the Senate that the view that American technology was helping the Soviet Union improve militarily was supported by a secret study carried out by the National Security Council.

The Senate approved an amendment by Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, that would direct the Defense Department to abandon its policy of not sending officers to universities that have dropped Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

The amendment is expected to be resisted in conference by Representative F. Edward Hebert, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, at whose insistence the Defense Department adopted its present policy. The practice affects Dartmouth, Harvard, Hobart, Pratt Institute, Stanford, the State University of New York at Buffalo, Tufts and Yale.