

Vote to Force Pullout Hinted

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Criticism of Viet Bombing Grows in Congress

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A rising tide of congressional criticism was directed at President Nixon yesterday for persisting in the full-scale bombing of North Vietnam.

Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and one of the most powerful members of Congress, predicted that the House next year will for the first time approve legislation to force U.S. withdrawal from Indochina.

Mills, in Arkansas, was also quoted by news services as saying the Nixon ad-

ministration has shown "perhaps an ineptitude" in its efforts to end the war.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) said in Minneapolis that if the bombing isn't ended he would vote to cut off funds for it.

"President Nixon's decision defies reason," said Humphrey. "It is a national outrage."

Humphrey said he was beginning to feel like Sen. William B. Saxbe (R-Ohio) who said earlier that the President "appears to have left his senses" in resuming the bombing of North Vietnam.

Saxbe added yesterday that the bombings are an act

of "arrogance and irresponsibility." He predicted that "all hell is going to break loose" in the nation unless Mr. Nixon changes policies. "I'm not talking about the radicals, either," said Saxbe. "I'm talking about the average upright American who's had enough." Saxbe had supported the President's policies in the past.

About 60 House Democrats met here yesterday and agreed overwhelmingly to support a fund-cutoff resolution at the caucus of all House Democrats next Tuesday. The resolution would

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declare it to be caucus policy that no further funds should be appropriated or spent for U.S. combat operations in Indochina, subject only to release of U.S. prisoners. This came at a meeting called by the liberal Democratic Study Group originally to discuss congressional reforms; that subject was put off for a later meeting.

A smaller group of 18 House Democrats sent a letter asking the Democratic national chairman, Robert Strauss, for a special meeting of the Democratic National Committee to organize a campaign to mobilize the nation against the bombings.

Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) called a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for Tuesday af-

ternoon and invited both Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger, the President's chief negotiator, to attend and brief the committee on the war and efforts to end it.

Fulbright's committee consists largely of war critics of long standing. Kissinger has never appeared at a formal meeting of the committee where a record of the discussion would be kept, but he has held informal discussions with committee members.

A few hours later, Rep. Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which has been friendlier to the administration, issued a similar invitation to Rogers and Kissinger to a meeting early next week.

No response to the invitations had been received late yesterday. On one previous occasion when Fulbright tried to get Kissinger to ap-

pear before his committee, the administration outflanked him by inviting a large group of Congress from both houses to the White House for a briefing where detailed questioning proved impossible.

Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) and Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.) both issued statements denouncing the bombing and saying Congress should act to end the war.

"Even if the bombing is successful in bringing the parties back to the negotiating table," said Mathias, "the price would be too high in lives lost . . . and highest of all in our loss of moral leadership in the world."

Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) called for Kissinger to explain to Congress the negotiations and the bombings. If no such explanation is forthcoming, Congress should cut off war funds, said Tunney.

Outside Congress, there were these protests:

- The Chicago city council passed without opposition a resolution calling for a halt to the bombing, saying it "does not appear to be conducive to the goal of ending the war."

- In Menlo Park, Calif., 75 members of a liberal Republican organization, the California Republican League, which supported Mr. Nixon's re-election, asked him to halt the bombing.

- Sidney Lens, national labor chairman of the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, said talks are under way by waterfront unions in Europe on a worldwide boycott of U.S. shipping because of the bombing.

- In New York, the Rev. Daniel Berrigan and six other peace activists held a protest vigil in front of St. Patrick's cathedral.