

Some GOP Pleas In Congress for End to Bombing

Washington

Several Republicans joined Democrats yesterday in demanding an end to the Vietnam bombing and promised a congressional fight to cut off funds for continuation of the war.

President Nixon's support among his own party members in Congress wavered as several Republicans, including the chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, Representative John J. Rhodes (Rep-Ariz.), called for a White House explanation of the accelerated bombing.

In a random survey of Republican members of Congress by the Los Angeles Times, seven of 19 members polled support the President's current bombing policies. Seven voiced opposition and five reserved opinion or expressed mixed feelings and said they wanted a further explanation from the President.

BACKER

Representative Craig Hosmer (Rep-Calif.), fully backed Mr. Nixon, declaring: "The trick is to end the war in a way so that the seeds of another will not be planted. We didn't do this before and Korea and Vietnam were the results. The President's critics forget this. Nixon has the guts to demand a durable peace."

Even some who supported the President expressed uncertainty. "Until I get back to Washington and find out something different, I'm going to stick with the President," said Representative John E. Hunt (Rep-N.J.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Representative William Dickinson (Rep-Ala.), also on the committee, said, "I've sent the President a telegram urging him to go on television to explain the necessity (for the bombing) to American people. Unless there is a real good reason for it, the American people's support for the President's policies will erode and so will my own."

FOE

Senator Edward W. Brooke (Rep-Mass.) said in a letter to all senators that he intends to offer again his proposal to cut off all funds for prosecution of the war in Southeast Asia, provided that Hanoi releases U.S. prisoners and accounts for men listed as missing in action.

The measure would limit the use of appropriated funds in the Southeast Asian theater to withdrawal and protection of Army, Navy and Air Force personnel in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The fund cutoff would take effect two months after enactment of the legislation.

Earlier versions of Brooke's proposal passed the Senate twice last summer, as amendments to the foreign military aid authorization bill, but were killed on reconsideration.

The prospect of parallel action on the House side was raised when the Democratic Study Group, an organization of left-of-center party members in the House, voted for a resolution that demands an immediate end to financing of military operations in Southeast Asia.

The resolution will be put before Tuesday's caucus of all Democratic House members for action.

The reaction of the Demo-

cratic caucus will provide an initial test of the degree to which the newly elected House has changed from the 92nd Congress, which regularly supported the President on war matters.

Unlike Brooke's draft bill, the study group resolution proposes immediate termination of military activity "in or over" Indochina and would allow the administration no grace period in which to wind down operations. Before it passed, the study group rejected a number of amendments that would have made it even stiffer.

Senators George Aiken (Rep-Vt.) and Jacob K. Javits (Rep-N.Y.) spoke out strongly against the bombing. Javits called it "tragic."

Earlier Senator William B. Saxbe (Rep-Ohio) had said, "I have followed President Nixon through all his convolutions and specious arguments, but he appears to have lost his senses on this."

Representative Donald W. Riegle Jr. (Rep-Mich.) said, "As a Republican in Congress I applaud Senator Saxbe for his statement because we are following a mindless policy, self-righteous barbarism that casts shame on every American in the country. What we're doing constitutes criminal acts, saturation bombing in areas of civilian population."

LETTERS

While Republicans reassessed their positions, 22 Democratic House members sent speaker Carl Albert (Dem-Okla.) and Democratic national chairman Robert Strauss letters urging a unified party campaign against the bombing.

They asked Strauss to call a special meeting of the Democratic national committee and told Albert the House Democratic caucus should adopt a resolution calling for "an immediate halt to the bombing of Vietnam and the prompt signing of a peace agreement."

Representative Edward I. Koch (Dem-N.Y.) notified other members of Congress that he will introduce legislation Wednesday to order an immediate halt to the bombing and require withdrawal of remaining U.S. forces in Indochina.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee scheduled a closed meeting Tuesday to discuss the war. Chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.) said he had asked the administration to send Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger, the President's foreign affairs adviser to the session.

L.A. Times Service