

NYTimes JAN 3 1973  
CONGRESS CRITICS  
OF WAR THREATEN  
TO FIGHT FUNDING

House Democrats Vote for  
Halt in U.S. Operations—  
Fulbright Vows Action

SESSION TO OPEN TODAY

Albert Wins Re-election as  
Speaker, and O'Neill Is  
New Majority Leader

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2—Congressional opponents of the war in Vietnam threatened today to try to cut off appropriations for the war if the Nixon Administration did not quickly obtain a peace settlement.

On the eve of the formal opening of the 93d Congress tomorrow, the House Democratic Caucus voted, 154 to 75, to declare its policy in favor of terminating United States military operations "immediately," subject only to "arrangements necessary to insure the safe withdrawal of American troops and the return of American prisoners of war."

Meanwhile, Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said after an informal meeting of the committee that its members were determined "that the legislative powers of the Congress should be brought to bear" if peace had not been negotiated by Jan. 20, the date of President Nixon's second inauguration.

Return of Control Sought

The actions in both houses reflected growing preoccupation in Congress with steps to reassert control over foreign policy and Federal spending.

The antiwar vote followed the reorganization of the House Democratic leadership. Mr. Albert was elected to a second two-year term as Speaker over the nominal opposition of Representative John Conyers Jr. of Michigan, a leader of the Con-

gressional Black Caucus. The vote in Mr. Albert's favor was 202 to 25.

Representative Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts was chosen without opposition to become the Majority leader, replacing Representative Hale Boggs of Louisiana, who was presumed killed in the disappearance of a light plane in Alaska last October.

Mr. Albert reportedly told the House Democrats in the closed meeting that in his view the accumulation of power within the White House had to be halted and that he would help to re-establish Congressional control over spending and war.

Earlier, Mr. Albert told a small group of relatives of Americans held as prisoners in Vietnam that Congress was likely to refuse to vote more money for the war if the conflict had not been brought to a negotiated end by the time the first relevant appropriation bill reached the House floor.

Determination Shown

The House caucus action was not legally binding, but it represented an increasing determination in the House, where support for the President's Vietnam policies has been strongest, to terminate United States involvement in the war.

The resolution, sponsored by Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, also reflected Congressional opposition to the intensive United States bombing campaign over North Vietnam that followed a breakdown in the peace negotiations late last year.

The resolution complained that President Nixon had ordered "extensive military combat operations without notification of, consultation with, or

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explanation to the Congress" and it described the bombing as "unprecedented and reprehensible."

Senator Fulbright said, after a 90-minute private meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee, that its members were "disturbed" by the bombing campaign and by the lack of consultation with the White House on Vietnam policy.

Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, left the Foreign Relations Committee meeting to meet privately with President Nixon at the White House. He said later that they had discussed Vietnam and domestic issues facing the Congress.

The consultation with the Senate Democratic leader appeared to have been one move by the White House to lessen the tension, but Mr. Fulbright said that it would take more to develop "a certain respect" between the executive and legislative branches.

He said that it was a consensus of the committee members that "we do not wish to take any action which would inhibit the negotiations" that were scheduled to resume in Paris on Monday.

But, he added, if the negotiations do not bear fruit by the inauguration, his committee will feel compelled to begin the search for legislation to end the war.

Asked how long after the inauguration it might take before the committee began to shape a bill to halt war spending, Mr. Fulbright replied, "What day is the inauguration?"

Told that it was a Saturday, Mr. Fulbright then said that steps to legislate peace would begin "the following Tuesday," the first Congressional working day after the inaugural ceremony.

White House lobbyists had attempted to beat back or forestall the antiwar resolution. Richard Cook of the President's Congressional liaison staff met during the afternoon with House leaders. He reportedly told them that the President feared that the adoption of the resolution would jeopardize the negotiations in Paris.

The resolution was adopted after Representative Joe D. Waggoner Jr., Democrat of

Louisiana, persuaded the caucus to add language stipulating that the halt in Vietnam funding would not place the prisoners or departing United States forces in jeopardy.

Mr. Waggoner said later that he felt that the impact of his amendment was to cut the strength from the language of Mr. Nedzi's resolution, but Mr. Nedzi disagreed. The caucus accepted the change by a voice vote.

Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of Manhattan, said that the caucus vote had been "a notable victory for peace and a restoration of the independence of Congress." She urged that it be followed by legislation putting the resolution into effect.

Representative Samuel Stratton, Democrat of upstate New York, said, however, that it was "unfortunate that we expressed our opinion without having the facts."

Resentment against the Administration for keeping the details of its efforts to end the war private appeared to be breaking out in several places in the Capitol.

Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, the defeated Democratic candidate for President, issued a statement urging his Democratic colleagues to demand that the President appear before a closed session of the Senate to cite "the reasons for his bombing in Indochina and the constitutional authority he claims for carrying out these attacks against the civilian population of North Vietnam."

Mr. Stratton attempted to win the approval of the House caucus for creation of a special committee of House leaders to confer with the resident on the peace talks. But the Democrats defeated the proposal and adopted the stronger resolution.

A group of Senate Democrat leaders said that they would join in a friend-of-the-court brief to be filed in a lawsuit in Missouri challenging the President's power to impound—that is, not spend—Federal highway trust funds appropriated by Congress.

House Democrats voted against a move by liberal reformers, to make the majority whip post, third in importance, elective rather than appointive.