

# House GOP OKs Nixon War Policy

## But No Vote On Bombing

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — House Republicans yesterday endorsed President Nixon's efforts to end the war and declined to take a position on the bombing of North Vietnam but anti-war leaders claimed there was enough opposition to insure the success of a bi-partisan push to cut off funds for the war in Indochina.

The White House disagreed.

Both sides — supporters and opponents of Nixon's war policies — claimed success after a 2½-hour caucus of the House Republican Conference which was charged with heated debate over the war.

The caucus adopted a resolution by Rep. William S. Mailliard (R-San Francisco-Marin), which supported Nixon's moves to end the war.

It said the Republican Conference "fully supports the efforts of the President now again under way to end, as a matter of highest priority, the conflict in Indochina through a negotiated settlement which will affect the safe withdrawal of all American forces, the return of all U.S. POWs and an accounting of those missing in action."

But there was considerable grumbling that it might be interpreted as support for the bombing.

And seven or eight GOP House members — depend-

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ing on who did the counting in the closed-door meeting — were upset enough at the massive air raids to vote against it.

Rep. John B. Anderson of Illinois, chairman of the House Republican Conference who presided over the meeting, said afterwards that the vote was 135-7. However, an announcement just after the vote reported the score was 127-8.

And eight GOP members who attended the meeting — or their aides — told a newsman they voted against the Mailliard resolution.

### Opposed Bombing

Some others who favored it said privately they opposed last month's heavy bombing raids against North Vietnam but did not feel they could oppose the resolution because it supports negotiations.

The eight who were reported voting no were Charles A. Mosher of Ohio, Gilbert Gude of Maryland, Margaret M. Heckler of Massachusetts, William B. Widnall of New Jersey, Edward G. Biester Jr. of Pennsylvania, Stewart B. McKinney of Connecticut, Bill Frenzel of Minnesota and Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

The caucus beat back an attempt by McCloskey to call for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Indochina pending release of American war prisoners and to end aerial and naval bombardment of North Vietnam "save by prior approval of Congress."

### Happy With Outcome

Despite his failure to get a vote, McCloskey was happy with the outcome of the caucus. "I was tremendously

encouraged," he said after the caucus avoided voting on his motion by adjourning instead.

The adjournment vote was 91 to 43.

"That's highly significant because it indicates a substantial minority opposes the bombing," McCloskey said.

"It shows that in the Republican membership in the House, at least a third are prepared to vote to end the bombing. . . It is a clear signal to the President and to Hanoi that the Congress of the United States does not support the bombing."

### Demo Vote 154-75

On Tuesday, House Democrats voted 154 to 75 in caucus to support cutting off war funds. The Senate Democratic caucus on Thursday also voted — by a three to one margin — to cut off funds.

Assuming the Democrats and the 43 Republicans who opposed adjournment today without debating the bombing hold the line if it comes to a vote in the House, that would insure the success of a funds cutoff move.

But a White House official noted that the 75 Democratic votes added to the 135 Republican votes comes just short of the 218 votes needed for House majority and added that 50 Republicans were absent from yesterday's meeting.

With some of the absentees' votes, the official said, it is clear the number of House members supporting the President "is well in excess of the number needed."

Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, House Republican leader, called the caucus's action "a clear indication of strong support for the President," and the White House agreed.