

# Senate Votes to Block Hanoi Aid

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The Senate voted 88 to 3 yesterday to bar any U.S. aid to North Vietnam unless specifically authorized by Congress.

The prohibition against aid to Hanoi was tacked on to the dollar-devaluation bill, which was then passed and sent to the House by a 79 to 11 vote.

Senator Harry Flood Byrd

Jr. (Ind.-Va.), sponsor of the aid ban, said the vote would "send a message, a clear signal" to President Nixon that Congress opposes any aid to North Vietnam while that nation is still engaged in combat against South Vietnam, and when the U.S. is slashing its own domestic programs.

Senate Majority Leader

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## HANOI

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Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.), George McGovern (Dem-S.D.) and several others used the aid debate as an occasion to launch a broad assault on the President for continuing to bomb Cambodia.

### AUTHORITY

They said that with U.S. troops out of Vietnam, Cambodia not a party to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and the Gulf of Tonkin resolution repealed, Mr. Nixon has no legal authority to bomb in Cambodia.

"Yet here we are at this late date digging ourselves deeper into another tragic military involvement," Mansfield said.

Although he has said he would support aid to North Vietnam, he warned yesterday, "I cannot and I will not vote for reconstruction in North Vietnam or South Vietnam . . . If we continue to pour out great sums to pay for continual bombing runs over Cambodia which risk the ruin of more American lives."

McGovern offered an amendment to block the President from Cambodia bombing but it was ruled out of order — to the relief of

Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) and Clifford P. Case (Rep-N.J.), sponsors of a similar amendment. They feared that forcing a show-down now would be premature and might result in an administration victory that could be used to justify further Cambodia bombing.

### AMENDMENT

As originally offered by Byrd, the aid amendment was simply a flat, outright ban on direct or indirect aid to Hanoi. The Nixon administration, which has promised economic aid to North Vietnam for reconstruction, at a hinted figure of \$2.5 billion, opposed the Byrd amendment in that form.

However, the administration withdrew its active opposition after it became clear that Byrd would win easily and after Byrd softened his original language by adding the words "unless specifically authorized hereafter by the Congress."

Administration spokesmen contended this changed the tone from one of an outright prohibition on aid to simply a demand that the President first seek Congressional authorization — a condition, they said, that the President has already assured Congress he would meet.

The Byrd language change

left somewhat fuzzy the precise collective signal which the Senate meant to send to the White House by passing the amendment. But many senators made it perfectly clear that their votes indicated opposition to Hanoi aid now or in the future, regardless of whether an authorization is sought.

Byrd and William Proxmire (Dem - Wis.) said the Byrd amendment blocks absolutely any attempt by the President to transfer to North Vietnam by executive action any military and economic aid funds already voted by Congress for other countries.

Voting against the Byrd amendment were: John Tower (Rep - Tex.), Ted Stevens (Rep - Alaska) and Gale W. McGee (Dem - Wyo.).

The dollar - devaluation bill as passed increases the dollar cost of gold from \$38 an ounce to \$42.22 in accord with the 10 per cent devaluation of the dollar. It also contains the Byrd amendment, a ban on presidential fund impoundments, a \$263 billion federal spending ceiling, permission for U.S. citizens to own gold, and a requirement that multinational corporations report their currency transactions.