

Two Senate Attempts to End Bombing

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In a double-barreled challenge to President Nixon's Indochina policies, two Senate groups voted yesterday to cut off funds for U.S. bombing of Cambodia.

The Foreign Relations Committee, by a 13 to 3 vote, approved an absolute ban on the use of any present or past government funds to finance any U.S. combat or bombing activities in Cambodia, Laos, South Vietnam and North Vietnam.

The far-reaching prohibition, sponsored by Senators Clifford P. Case (Rep-N.J.) and Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), was attached to a bill authorizing operating funds for the State Department.

The Senate defense appropriations subcommittee, in a less sweeping but also significant action that is expected to reach a floor test earlier than the Case - Church language forbade any funds or transfer authority in the \$2.9 billion supplemental appropriations bill to be used to finance bombing of Cambodia or Laos. The prohibition applies only to funds in the supplemental bill, not to money previously voted

for military activities.

VOTES

Action on the sweeping Case - Church prohibition, which is intended as a flat and complete ban on the use of any government funds of any type for Indochina combat activities of any type, came as the Foreign Relations Committee adopted a series of amendments to the State Department authorization measure.

These included: addition of a \$36.5 million authorization for aid to Jewish refugees from Russia; a prohibition against further U.S. contributions for the support of the permanent SEATO headquarters in Bangkok, starting July 1, 1974; and requirements that the Azores base treaty and any future agreements calling for stationing of U.S. armed forces overseas be submitted to the Senate for approval as a treaty.

Approval of the Indochina

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(NYTimes story filed Congress)

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anti-bombing provisions by the two Senate panels is part of a two-step strategy by critics of the President.

FUNDS

Congressional endorsement of the narrower supplemental funds bill provision is the first step of the two-part strategy. The House in its first-ever fund-cutoff vote on Indochina, voted last week to bar any funds in the bill from being used for Cambodia bombing. The Senate defense appropriations subcommittee approved the same ban yesterday but also added Laos to its scope.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.) and others argue that if the Senate now joins the House and votes to block funds in the \$2.9 billion supplemental fund from being used for bombing, that will signal the intent of Congress on Cambodia, clearly to the White House, and the President ought to reshape his policies to comply.

However, the administration has argued that since the bombing ban in the supplemental bill would apply technically only to funds in that measure, the President would have the right to continue bombing, and intends to do so with funds previously voted in other legislation.