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Plan would keep troops in Lebanon until '85

From Reuter News Report

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Thomas O'Neill Tuesday tentatively approved a bipartisan compromise agreement under which Congress would authorize the White House to keep U.S. Marines in Lebanon until early 1985.

An aide to Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, R-Tenn., told reporters a resolution embodying the accord had been introduced in the Senate.

President Reagan's Republican Party controls the Senate, but the Democrats command a majority in the House and approval from O'Neill, a Massachusetts Democrat, was considered crucial to the agreement.

Under the plan worked out by the White House and congressional leaders, Reagan would formally disagree with a legislative finding that the conflict in Lebanon subjects the U.S. troops in the international peacekeeping force there to the kind of imminent hostilities requiring congressional action under the 1973 War Powers Act.

The act bars a president from keeping troops overseas longer than 60 or 90 days without a specific vote of Congress.

O'Neill said in acceding to the compromise allowing the Marines to stay for 18 months from Aug. 29, the White House also was tacitly acknowledging that the War Powers Act must be invoked.

Reagan has resisted invoking the act, even after the recent deaths of four Marines in the factional fighting in Lebanon.

He and previous presidents have contended that the measure, passed after the Vietnam War, infringes on

powers that properly belong to the executive branch of the U.S. government.

This argument was bolstered by a Supreme Court ruling last June striking down the so-called legislative veto by Congress of actions taken by the Executive, although there is disagreement over how much of the War Powers Act was affected.

The aide to Sen. Baker said the compromise would permit Reagan to say that he still had reservations about the constitutional standing of the War Powers Act.

O'Neill said his backing was contingent on concurrence by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which met Tuesday.

But since the accord is close to what committee leaders suggested two weeks ago, agreement there was expected.

O'Neill said there may be disagreement later in the full House over the 18-month time period.

It was chosen after administration officials argued that six months was too short and would allow Syria, which is backing Moslem forces in Lebanon, to "wait out" the Americans.

A year-long commitment was rejected because it would force a fresh congressional debate on the issue in the middle of the 1984 presidential election campaign.

Aides to O'Neill said the compromise agreement would require Reagan to obtain congressional approval if he wanted to increase the number of soldiers substantially beyond 1,200 — the number of Marines now ashore in Beirut.

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Daily Nebraskan photo

Jan Dutton (left), a junior accounting major, visits the ASUN table at the Activity Mart in the Nebraska Union main lobby Tuesday. Mark Cross, a graduate college senator, oversees the ASUN exhibit.

Activity Mart successful

Questions, questions and more questions.

The Campus Activities and Programs Office sponsored the sixth annual Activity Mart Tuesday in the Nebraska Union main lobby in an attempt to provide answers to students' many questions about the university's many activities, Tom Chochvek, co-coordinator of the project said.

Forty organizations set up booths at the mart and the CAP booth attempted to answer students' questions about organizations that were represented in the exhibits.

"Freshman are asking lots of good questions," said Lynne Bertch, a senior ASUN senator majoring in pre-pharmacy and math. "People look at the Student Legal Services Handbook and say, 'Wow, this is really helpful.'"

Chochvek said CAP stresses student involvement in extracurricular university activities so students can fully benefit from the educational system.

"We feel the Activity Mart is fairly successful," Chochvek said. "We have a good representation of campus activities. Students are leaving with information they may not have been aware of before."

Chochvek, a graduate student in education administration, was assisted by Gwen Meister, a graduate student in community and regional planning.

CAP East will sponsor Activity Mart '83 on East Campus Sept. 29. The event will be in the Great Plains Room of the East Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Neighborhood Watch: Community awareness helping to decrease crime

By Suzanne Teten

What would you do if a robber stuck a gun in your ribs? To be safe, just about anything the robber demanded, according to a film on safety shown to more than 100 Lincoln residents at a Monday meeting of the Lincoln Neighborhood Watch Association Inc.

Two members of the Lincoln Police Department presented the film, which was called "The National Crime And Violence Test."

During the hour-long film, viewers were asked 28 questions about crime and violence.

The LPD will show the film to any organization or group interested, said officer Mike Geidner, crime prevention specialist for the police.

Rex Swanson, president of the city watch group, said he flunked the film quiz and was surprised at the amount he learned.

Among the film's safety tips were the following: Always check locks on windows and doors, especially at night.

Always lock any vehicle when leaving it, if even for a few minutes.

Don't walk outside at night unless someone is with you. If you must, walk in lighted areas.

Never open the door unless you know who it is first.

Never admit repairmen until you see their identification first.

"One reason we started the neighborhood watch is because there were a lot of people in the neighborhood that just didn't know what to do," Swanson said.

The Lincoln watch association was formed in November 1981 under the guidance of Mayor Helen Boosalis and Chief of Police B. Dean Leitner, Anderson said. Anderson is one of five officers who work solely on crime prevention programs.

The association has grown to include more than 1,100 watch groups in Lincoln. Each of these groups basically was formed block by block, Geidner said. The average group consists of 10 to 12 homes.

Anderson said 20 percent of Lincoln's population — about 32,000 people — is now involved with a neighborhood watch group.

"Even if the crime rate stayed just like it is, if we can get neighborhoods together and start communicating and cooperating and working together ... the program is successful," Anderson said.

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