

House rejects effort to weaken nuclear freeze

WASHINGTON (AP) — With plenty of votes to spare, the House on Wednesday rejected efforts to dilute a nuclear freeze resolution labeled "a formula for permanent insecurity" by Pres. Ronald Reagan.

House Democratic leaders remained confident of victory for the largely symbolic call for a "mutual and verifiable" halt in the arms race. But, with 39 amendments still pending, the House quit work on the measure in the early evening, putting off further consideration until next week.

By 229-190, the Democratic-run chamber rejected a major modification proposed by Rep. Elliot Levitas, D-Ga., that would have permitted older nuclear weapons to be replaced by newer ones in lieu of a flat freeze, with the new ones replacing the old ones in a one-for-two "strategic build-down."

Later, the House turned back, 219-195, a bid by Rep. Hank Brown, R-Colo., that would have endorsed the administration's insistence on reductions in U.S. and Soviet arsenals in advance of any

freeze. In its place, the House agreed to wording suggested by freeze proponent Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, that any reductions in nuclear arms could only be negotiated after a freeze was in place.

Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D-Mass., said despite the House's slow progress, the resolution would "win quite easily" in a final vote despite furious lobbying by the president and ranking officers of his Cabinet.

Many of the remaining amendments were filed by

Republicans and defense-minded conservative Democrats who claim the proposal, although nonbinding, could undermine the president's ability to negotiate with the Soviet Union.

"If we don't finish it today, we'll finish it next week... We've got plenty of time," O'Neill said.

Levitas told the House his "strategic build-down" proposal, which suggested that two old warheads be retired for each new one produced, would give the president more

flexibility.

But freeze proponent Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., called the Levitas proposal "just a public relations cover for the arms build-up the Reagan administration wants."

O'Neill suggested that freeze leaders would be able to fend off all other major amendments — including a proposal by Rep. Mark Siljander, R-Mich., endorsing the administration's insistence on reductions of U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals before consideration of a freeze.

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College GOP holds conference

From Associated Press and Emerald reports

A college Republican group invited state GOP conservatives Wednesday to attend its conference this weekend since those Republicans have been spurned by the more moderate Dorchester Conference organizers.

David Ridenour, chairman of the College Republican

Federation of Oregon, extended the invitation during a press conference at the University.

Dorchester Conference officials, attempting to rebuild the moderate wing of the Oregon GOP, excluded some of the more conservative members of the party from the guest list at the 19th annual conference, being held in Bend on Friday and Saturday, Ridenour said.

The college Republican conference also is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, in

Portland at the Marriott Hotel. Rep. Denny Smith is scheduled to address Friday night's banquet, which is to be followed by seminars and conferences on Saturday.

Issues to be discussed are similar to topics scheduled at the Dorchester conference, including a resolution calling for the resignation of U.S. Interior Secretary James Watt.

But the focus will be on local issues, such as Atityeh's proposal for a tuition freeze and the Republican opposition to sales tax, Ridenour said.

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