

OCT 17 1973

Anti-AMRC Rejected

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After a two-hour debate on the issue's relation to the Karleton Armstrong case, the City Council Tuesday night rejected, 15-7, a resolution urging the University of Wisconsin-Madison to cut its ties with the Army Mathematics Research Center (AMRC).

The facility, now called the Mathematics Research Center,

has a contract with the U.S. Army Research Office.

Armstrong, one of four men charged with the bombing of it in August, 1970, last month pleaded guilty to the charge. A pre-sentence hearing is under way in Dane County Circuit Court.

The council twice rejected pleas to refer the resolution until the Armstrong case is completed.

The first time came when the

Stirling Hall

council agreed to hear six speakers favoring the resolution, including two Ohio members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who said the AMRC's research for the Army's "electronic battlefield" still was being used in Indochina. They said it helped "indiscriminately kill" citizens.

"If they (the veterans) have something to say, they can send it to us in writing," Ald. Michael Ley, 18th Dist., said. The two veterans were only going to be in Madison Tuesday night, but Ley argued the public hearing should be delayed.

"I can't think of a more relevant issue in the city of Madison at this time than the future of the AMRC," resolution

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co-sponsor Ald. Michael Christopher, Sixth Dist., said.

The second time came on a 12-10 vote just before the final vote, after Ald. Roy Waldren, 20th Dist., said the debate was a "one-sided operation so far and it's ill-timed."

Ald. Ray Davis, Eighth Dist., the other co-sponsor, said that MRC Director R. Creighton Buck had declined an invitation to appear.

"We are all the losers when there is a research center in our own backyard helping people to

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kill people instead of helping people to live longer," Christopher argued.

Ald. Ivan Imm, First Dist., said supporters of the resolution should lobby for it with the state and UW, not the City Council

"I think we have a terribly inflated ego. I don't think people are waiting with bated breath to hear what we say," he said.

After the final vote, Davis rose on a point of personal privilege to defend Armstrong and the bombing.

He said that people who turned a deaf ear to peaceful anti-Vietnam protest — including the council, the UW, and members of

the MRC — were responsible for the death of physics researcher Robert Fassnacht in the blast.

"I don't think Karl Armstrong was responsible for that death," Davis said. "It was an act of courage and to imprison him for that act is a terrible injustice."

Mayor Paul Soglin delayed the meeting several minutes after Davis' comments while he and Asst. City Atty. Henry Gempler tried to determine if they qualified as a point of personal privilege.

Soglin said the remarks and others by aldermen in the past "were not within the scope of privilege."

The vote on the resolution was:
For — Christopher, Cohn, Davis, Parks, Phillips, Sack, and Thompson — 7.

Against — Ashman, Disch, Emmerich, George, Imm, Knutson, Ley, McGilligan, Parker, Staven, Thorson, Waldren, Wexler, and Zimmermann — 15.

Absent — 0.