

# US 'scrap disarmament' group

From UPI in Washington

A bipartisan "Coalition of peace through Strength" of 148 members of Congress, has opened a campaign to reverse a disarmament trend they said leaves the US "military inferior to the Soviet Union."

At a Capitol Hill news conference with the Senate and House of Representatives co-chairmen of the group, Mr John Fisher, of the conservative American Security Council, said the coalition had been organised "to reverse the unilateral disarmament trend which has made the United States military inferior to the Soviet Union." It would also "work for the adoption of an affirmative strategy of peace through strength."

Its sponsors said the coalition's membership also includes two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, three former Cabinet secretaries, three former military intelligence chiefs, five former ambassadors, 24 college presidents and 44 civil and educational organisations.

Representative Robert Michel (Republican, Illinois), the assistant House Republican Leader and a co-chairman of the coalition, said: "I feel safe in predicting that our coalition will be to defence policy what Proposition 13 is to tax policy; a warning that the American people do not like the current policies and want a change."

Mr Fisher said the coalition's new national strategy was based on seven principles, "the opposite of present US policy."

Inspiring, focusing and projecting the national will and determination to achieve world peace with freedom;

Attaining overall military-technological superiority over the Russians;

Providing a strategic defence and civil defence to protect US citizens against nuclear war "at least as well as the Soviets defend their citizens";

Signing no arms control agreements that jeopardise US or allied security;

Achieving by positive, non-

military means a retreat of Communist power;

Helping allies and other non-Communist countries to defend themselves against internal and external Communist takeovers.

Meanwhile the House of Representatives voted yesterday to ban Government-paid abortions for military women, and then approved a \$119.2 billion defence appropriations Bill, the largest spending measure in US history. House approval on a 339-60 vote sent the measure to the Senate.

Before final approval, House members voted 226-163 for an amendment by Mr Robert Dornan (Republican, California) to bar the use of any defence money to pay for abortions for military women or female dependents of military men. The one exception is where the life of the mother is at stake.

The House turned down a proposal to stop spending any military money for asbestos on navy ships until studies determine its health effects.