

Ex-AF Chief Is a Hawk On Vietnam

By Randolph Pendleton

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 3 (UPI)—Retired Gen. Curtis LeMay, 61, a Vietnam "hawk" who said he regarded the nuclear bomb as "just another weapon in the arsenal," was picked by George C. Wallace today as his vice presidential running mate.

LeMay told newsmen after a speech accepting the nomination of the American Independent Party he "would use any weapon we have in the arsenal if necessary" although he did "not believe we need to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam."

LeMay said the main fault in the present U.S. policy on Vietnam was the "lack of the will to win." He said more U.S. force was needed in Vietnam, if there were to be any progress in the U.S. North Vietnamese talks in Paris.

"I don't think they're going to negotiate at Paris until we twist their arm a little more," he said.

LeMay, who commanded the atomic bomb drops on Japan in 1945 and was a key architect of the Strategic Air Command, has advocated intensifying the allied fighting role in Vietnam to achieve a military victory.

Democratic presidential candidate Hubert H. Humphrey, campaigning in West Virginia, said he was "shocked and deeply disturbed" by LeMay's statement.

"Anyone who can speak so lightly about the use of nuclear weapons has no conception of the reality of their terror," Humphrey said. "It

Wallace LeMay for

Chooses Ticket

would be disastrous if anyone who spoke as Gen. LeMay did this morning should come into a position of high responsibility."

"It would be a disaster for this country," Humphrey said.

In a question-and-answer session with newsmen, LeMay, World War II Air Force commander and later Air Force Chief of Staff said:

"If necessary, I would use anything we could dream up to end the war. I know I will be misquoted. It has happened before. I'll be damn lucky if I don't appear as a drooling idiot whose only solution is to drop atomic bombs all over the world . . .

"I think to most military men a nuclear weapon is just another weapon in the arsenal. Nuclear war would be horrible. To me, any war is horrible. To me, if I had to go to Vietnam and get killed with a rusty knife or get killed with a nuclear weapon, I would

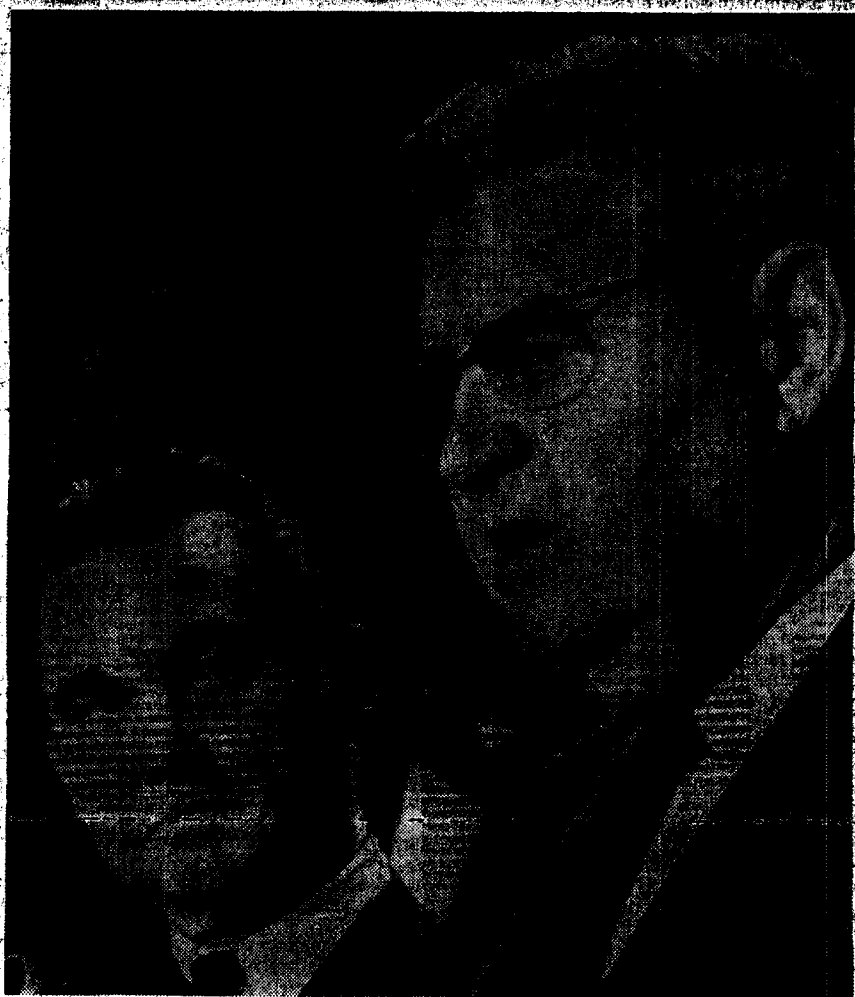
See WALLACE, A8, Col. 5



Associated Press

Curtis LeMay, Wallace's running mate, faces reporters.

Curtis LeMay Joins Wallace



Third-party ticket: George Wallace and Curtis LeMay.

Associated Press

WALLACE, From A1

rather get killed with a nuclear weapon.

"I don't think it is necessary to use nuclear bombs in Vietnam. I don't want to explode one unless I have to. I don't want to stab anyone in the belly with a rusty knife unless I have to."

LeMay, wearing rimless spectacles and a small, gray mustache, told a news conference at which Wallace announced his selection that many Americans had a "phobia" about nuclear weapons and that this fear weakened national defense.

[Flying from Pittsburgh to Indianapolis with LeMay accompanying him, Wallace said he was convinced he and his running mate saw eye to eye on the issue of nuclear weapons, Associated Press reported.

"Gen. LeMay has told me privately," Wallace said in an interview, "that he is against all war. He said to me, 'We can't have a third world war: a third world war would destroy civilization.' And he said the best way to prevent it is to be strong militarily.

"Gen LeMay doesn't feel we would have to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam," Wallace said. "But when you ask a man whether he can think of any situation where you would use nuclear weapons, that's different—why, what if somebody attacked us with nuclear weapons, would you use them then?"

Wallace took a subordinate role at the news conference. He introduced LeMay as "a man of peace who has dedicated his career to defending his Nation and the free world."

Speaks His Mind

Wallace said LeMay was a "man of great courage" and he admired him for his "willingness to speak his mind."

"The keystone of our campaign is courage," Wallace said.

Gov. Marvin Griffin of Georgia has served as Wallace's "stand-in" vice presidential candidate to enable Wallace to get on state ballots. Griffin's name will remain on the ballots in those states where it was too late to remove his name, but Wallace said this did not present a

problem since the electors were "free agents" who could vote for whomever they pleased.

The tough-talking, cigar-smoking LeMay, long an advocate of a U.S. military victory in Vietnam, said he and his wife would travel with the Wallace party through Saturday. His future campaign plans would be announced Saturday, he said.

Earlier this year LeMay was mentioned as a possible candidate on the Republican national ticket. A national LeMay-for-President headquarters was set up by a group of Republicans in Ohio, but the movement never got off the ground.

Confidence Lost

LeMay said in his acceptance speech he lost confidence in the Republican Party and felt it offered no "meaningful solutions to our problems." He said the Nation "has deteriorated" under the recent Democratic administrations and another Democratic victory in November would send the Nation "further downstream."

He said Wallace was the only candidate "who has spoken out forthrightly on the issues and has expressed a willingness to take the necessary steps to win the war in Vietnam on honorable conditions."

He said he was confident Wallace and he could solve the country's racial problems.

First to Integrate

"The Air Force integrated before anyone else did, and did it without any trouble," he said.

LeMay, who retired from the Air Force in 1960 and now lives in Fort Lauderdale, said he declined when Wallace first asked him to be his running mate. He said he later accepted "after reflecting on the matter for two months."

The LeMay announcement came Saturday in a six-day trip Wallace was making through the Midwest and Northeast.

In Indianapolis later Thursday, Wallace introduced LeMay at a rally attended by more than 10,000, according to police.

At least two minor fights broke out in the crowd. One man was charged into the arena and pushed through to the demonstrators.