

Humphrey Asks Hard Line And Endurance on Vietnam

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By HOMER BIGART

Vice President Humphrey preached a hard line on Vietnam yesterday and called for a display of national endurance to surmount "frustrating and at times heartbreaking" times ahead.

He talked for an hour and two minutes to newspaper executives here without once mentioning the prospect of peace negotiations. On the contrary, he warned against proposals for a coalition government in Saigon that would include the National Liberation Front, the political arm of the Vietcong. Such proposals, he said, come right out of the book of Communist conquest.

It is a waste of time to debate whether the United States should or should not be in South Vietnam, Mr. Humphrey said

Excerpts from Humphrey's speech are on Page 38.

at the annual luncheon meeting of the Associated Press at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

"We are there," he said. "I'm not going to argue about that, because that's ancient history and can't be repealed."

He was also impatient with critics who recalled the French defeat in Indochina.

Fighting For Freedom

"Well, we're not the French, with all respect to that fine nation," he said. "We are not colonialists. We have no empire to save. We are not fighting against a whole people. We are fighting for the freedom of that people."

Critics who call it a civil war "ought to know better," scolded the Vice President. His version: "The war is being waged by the National Liberation Front (political arm of the Vietcong). The N.L.F. is a front. That's the only honest word in it. It's a front for Hanoi."

Despite the implication of blood, sweat and tears ahead, Mr. Humphrey said he'd be willing to "bet" President Johnson would not ask for a tax increase.

Even without a tax rise, the nation would have both guns and butter, he promised.

"Guns and butter, foreign aid

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