



House Backs Referendum
To Bring Back Slots: B 22

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Accord Move Tected At Paris

Communists Might Have Reached through, Observer Says

By STOKES S. SMYTHE
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

—A highly Vietnamese National Liberation Front—regulate a political and

Comment: One of the major obstacles has been that Saigon and the front with each other, aside from all the first of the same conference in Vietnam as

On Great Remarks The diplomatic observer said he believed he may have detected a split in the front's cooperation refusal to deal with the Saigon representative.

His analysis is based on the unpublished records of the oral remarks of the North Vietnamese negotiator, Xuan Truy, and would be in the front negotiator, Tran Dieu Xuan, at the last two sessions of the Paris negotiations.

In last week's session, Mr. Xuan eagerly demanded that the front should discuss the front's other two negotiators for a Vietnamese inter-party government, did not back up

U.S. DECIDES TO RESTUDY ERIE OIL STEVE

Will Join Canada In A 2d Look; Hinkel Keeps California Ban

By SAUD W. WARD
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, March 21 — Decision of the oil well blowout which produced many headaches in California, the United States and Canada have decided to re-examine an earlier determination

to shut off all wells in Lake Erie area. Meanwhile, Walter J. Hinkel, Secretary of the Interior, announced that drilling of the same oil well will be suspended until "the same procedure" that the likelihood of a recurrence is "nil."

On February 7, Mr. Hinkel suspended drilling in the Santa Barbara area to prevent more blowouts like the one January 22, which eventually spread oil over 200 square miles of sea and

beached. Nixon to Survey Damage President Jimmy will survey the damage of the 1969-70



The President and former President Truman and Mr. Truman smile as he plays "Missouri Waltz" for (behind President) at the Truman Library.

Nixon Plays To Truman's Tune

FULBRIGHT SCORES ABM 'FEAR' TALK

Feels Laird Is Trying To Scare Nation Into Accepting System

By JAMES E. L. STEVENS
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, March 21 — Senator J. William Fulbright accused the Nixon Administration today of using "the technique of fear" in order to gain support for deployment of an anti-ballistic missile system.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee made the charge after Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense, warned for the second consecutive day of the new Soviet SS-9 missile capable of carrying a 20,000-pound warhead.

Revealing that the Soviet Union already has 200 such missiles in its arsenal, Mr. Laird declared: "With their large arsenals, they are going for a first strike, aren't they?"—there's no question about it."

A Press-Photo Press

The defense secretary said the Russians would not need so huge a retaliatory force to strike back at American cities instead of a few strategic targets. He said that the country's Midgetman ICBMs.

It was this presentation that provoked Mr. Fulbright's complaint at a nationally televised Senate hearing about the President's alleged penchant for depicting the Russians as men "10 feet tall... about to overtake us."

"I suppose this is good administration," the Arkansas Democrat went on. "... This is the kind of technique of fear designed to precipitate acceptance of the IABM system."

Out And Threat This exchange typified the cut-and-throat atmosphere of the encounter between the defense secretary and the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on disarmament.

All the senators who attended the hearing in the white-marble Senate caucus room were critics of President Nixon's decision to begin phased deployment of a "safeguard" ABM system.

Senator Albert Gore (D, Tenn.), antimissile chair.

A First-Strike Force

The defense secretary said the Russians would not need so huge a warhead if they were building a retaliatory force to strike back at American cities instead of a first-strike force to knock out this country's Minuteman ICBM's.

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"I suppose this is good salesmanship," the Arkansas Democrat went on. ". . . This is the kind of technique of fear designed to precipitate acceptance of the [ABM] system."

Cut And Thrust

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Senator Albert Gore (D., Tenn.), subcommittee chairman, opened proceedings with the tart observation that the ABM "is a weapons system searching for a mission."

This was a reference to the varying justifications that have been offered for ballistic missile defense plus the switch from the Johnson administration Sentinel system, which emphasized city defense, to the Nixon Safeguard

(Continued, Page A 2, Col. 2)

LAIRD CITES VIET POLICY ALTERNATIVE

If Paris Talks Fail, He Says, Other Tactics Would Be Used

Washington, March 21—Mr. Laird, Secretary of Defense, said today the Nixon administration would follow an "alternative" course in the conduct of the Vietnam war if Paris peace talks fail.

He did not, however, describe what this "alternative" would be.

During a hearing before members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Laird said the administration still was "hopeful" that the Paris negotiations would succeed.

Every effort is being made, he said, to bring about a settlement as well as through regular diplomatic channels, to achieve this objective, he said.

Mr. Laird's cautious words, along with some other congressional comment, supported the belief that important behind-the-scenes negotiations are underway.

The two Senate Democratic leaders, Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), gave no support Monday to an attack on the administration's Vietnam policy by Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.).

Earlier Mr. Kennedy called in a letter to the president asking

Fulbright Says Pentagon Is Trying To Scare Nation Into Accepting System

Senator Fulbright drew loud laughter from an audience plainly sympathetic to the committee when he quipped: "The panel but Secretary Laird, unorthodox and serious, said if he were President he would prefer to have this choice rather than to launch an ICBM.

Argument Challenged

Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho), with support from Mr. Gore, quickly challenged Mr. Laird's argument.

If an enemy knows for certain that an attack from the United States will be countered by offensive missiles, the senators argued, the American deterrent will have more credibility.

Mr. Laird defended his belief in having a control theme that the United States will be able to counter the Soviet system will be required to guarantee retaliatory power against



THE PENTAGON VS. FULBRIGHT—The Nixon administration's Pentagon chiefs await questioning by a hostile Senate subcommittee on the ABM system. From left: Gen. Earle Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Senator Fulbright; Messrs. Foster, Packard and Wheeler.

growing Soviet nuclear capabilities.

During the last three months of 1968, he reported, the defense establishment "received the very hard, strong, factual basis" on which the decision was made to protect missile sites.

Not only was it feared that the Soviet Union had deployed "over 200" SS-9 missiles, he said, but it was determined that the Russian fleet or were built, the ICBM launchers than displayed yesterday before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Laird warned that the necessary since the United States is building an arsenal of more than 10,000 nuclear warheads.

He calculated that Phase I of the Safeguard plan, which will provide protection for 200 of the 2,500 ICBM launchers, will be completed only 3 per cent of the way by the end of the year.

Secretary Laird, building on the national elevation evidence, considered the figures by adding the first phase would give heavy protection to 20 per cent of the ICBM force and this protection to another 20 per cent.

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During a hearing before members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Laird said the administration still was "hopeful" that the Paris negotiations would succeed.

Every effort is being made, in private as well as through regular diplomatic channels, to achieve this objective, he testified.

Mr. Laird's cautious words, along with some other congressional comment, supported the prevalent notion in Washington that important behind-the-scenes negotiations are underway.

No Support For McGovern

The two Senate Democratic leaders, Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.), gave no support Monday to an attack on the administration's Vietnam policies by Senator George McGovern (D., S.D.).

Later Mr. Kennedy talked in vague terms of a Nixon peace "plan" and Mr. Mansfield said the President had a number of Vietnam "proposals."

Today Representative Gerald R. Ford (R., Mich.) told a group of newsmen the administration "is hopeful some real progress will be made in Paris."

In words paralleling those by Mr. Laird at the Senate hearing, he also remarked:

"I think we're either going to get a settlement or have some action... a different solution militarily than what we've had."

Political Solution

Any such action, Mr. Ford added, would not be designed to achieve a military victory but rather a "political solution," perhaps a "Korea-type settlement."

Mr. Ford said that a failure to end the war would hurt the Republican party in the 1970 elections, perhaps even more than an unfavorable settlement.

His political assessment was much like that offered by Senator J. William Fulbright (D., Ark.), who stated at the Senate hearing that de-escalation of the war would "not only be a great service to the American people but... would also be good politics."

If the Vietnam conflict continues, Mr. Fulbright warned, it will become "Nixon's war."

Chance To Be Great

The Foreign Relations Committee chairman said President Nixon and Secretary Laird have a chance to be "great leaders" if they "turn around" the nation's war policies. Otherwise, he cautioned, they will face the political fate of former President Johnson.

In response to Mr. Fulbright's assertion that "escalation is in-