

Nixon Views Jolt Dutch Observer

By Drew Pearson
And Jack Anderson

All reports from the capitals of Europe indicate that no other American election has aroused such interest as this one, and probably no country is more interested than the Netherlands.

Willem L. Oltmans, correspondent for the Netherlands television system who has been traveling with the candidates, tells how the Dutch are actually conducting a poll as to who should become President of the United States and are hoping they may influence the outcome of the vote.

"The United States intervenes in our affairs, we have the right to intervene in yours," he quotes Hendrik Jan Diekerhof as saying. Diekerhof is the head of AKTIE, a group formed to influence the American balloting.

"The United States can decide whether we have war or peace," says Oltmans. "Naturally we are interested in whom you will select to be the man who will have his hand on the nuclear trigger."

Oltmans was traveling with Nixon through New Hampshire during last winter's primary when he had a conversation with the GOP candidate at the airport at Keene, N.H. It was one he has not forgotten.

"The greatest mistake the United States made regarding Indonesia," Nixon told the

Dutch TV correspondent, "was not to have sent troops into Indonesia to help the Dutch against Sukarno in 1948."

Oltmans was flabbergasted. If the United States had sent troops into Indonesia to help the Dutch, it would have alienated India, then emerging from the domination of British troops, and every other Asiatic nation. It would also have put the United States in the same position as the French in Indochina and bogged us down in an Indonesian war as interminable and inconclusive as the war in Vietnam today.

Later Oltmans reported the conversation to Nixon's director of foreign policy research, Richard V. Allen, on loan to Nixon from the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace. This is one of the hawkish groups on the West Coast and Allen himself is considered something of a rightist. Even he, however, was shocked that Nixon in 1968 should make a statement favoring the sending of troops into Indonesia in 1948.

"Have you published that?" he asked.

"Not yet, but I'm going to," said Oltmans.

"You bastard," exclaimed the Nixon adviser.

Note: Later Oltmans learned that in April, 1954, Vice President Nixon, addressing the American Society of Newspaper Editors, reported that President Eisenhower was planning to land American troops in Indochina (now

Vietnam) to help out the French. Public reaction was so negative that Eisenhower hastily reversed the decision.

Nixon's Law Firm

Dutch telecaster Oltmans has been busy reporting to the Dutch people on many other interesting ramifications of the life of Richard Nixon, particularly the Nixon law firm. He made a telecast this week describing how Nixon, as attorney for Pepsi-Cola, had flown to Taiwan where Chiang Kai-shek had canceled the Pepsi-Cola concession.

Oltmans also told Dutch viewers how Nixon's law firm had been paid almost a million dollars by two railroads, and how he had come out vigorously against a trucking bill before Congress in September which the railroads opposed; also how Nixon's firm had represented El Paso Natural Gas and other oil firms and that Nixon had issued a statement favoring the 27½ per cent oil depletion allowance and opposing too much Federal regulation of industry, oil and gas always having been heavily regulated industries.

Oltmans also reported to Dutch viewers that the Nixon law partners were actively managing his election campaign.

Nixon Thoroughness

Nixon, looking ahead to the possibility that a three-way division of the votes on Nov. 5

may throw the election into the House of Representatives, has worked out his post-election strategy with his usual thoroughness.

It would cause a bad public reaction, he feels, if he made any deal with the extremist candidate George Wallace. Some aides have suggested that he bypass Wallace and make a direct appeal to all electors, who are not bound by law to vote for the candidate to whom they are pledged. These aides have urged that Nixon use his ambassador to the South, Sen. Strom Thurmond, to dicker with the Wallace electors.

However, the Republican candidate has also rejected this proposal. Any backstage bartering of the Presidency, he believes, would be resented by the voters. Therefore, he has decided to make an appeal to the House delegations to cast their votes strictly according to the popular vote in each state if electors give no one a majority.

Note: If Nixon is upset over the foot-in-mouth troubles of his running mate Spiro Agnew, the GOP candidate has given no hint of it to Agnew. Not once has Nixon complained to his running mate, even by implication, over the way he is running his end of the campaign. Surprisingly no tension at all has disrupted the Nixon-Agnew relationship.

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