

Ike Assailed By Democrats On A-Weapons

Aroused Democrats lit into former President Dwight D. Eisenhower yesterday for his permissive attitude toward the possible use of nuclear weapons in the Vietnam war, while some pained Republicans strove to dissociate their Party from such a hard line.

In an emotional speech on the Senate floor Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) implored the Administration to avoid getting so boxed in that it would have no resort but to use nuclear or thermonuclear weapons.

When he finished, Majority Leader Mike Mansfield was immediately on his feet to commend Pastore's speech and say, "I hope it will be heard downtown and adhered to. It is a warning in time."

A ranking Republican, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), took issue with his Party's elder statesman by rejecting "any intimation of the use of atomic weapons" in Vietnam.

The former President touched off the debate Monday in a press conference with former Vice President Richard Nixon when he said he would not "automatically preclude anything," including the use of nuclear weapons, in Vietnam.

In an interview, Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), House Minority Leader, avoided direct criticism of Gen. Eisenhower's views. But he referred to the Republican Coordinating Committee's statement of last December, which urged greater use of conventional air and sea power to strike significant military targets in North Vietnam.

On the Senate floor Pastore said:

"I implore Lyndon B. Johnson, the President; I implore Robert S. McNamara, the Secretary of Defense; I implore Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State; and I implore the Joint Chiefs of Staff not to maneuver the United States in Vietnam into a position where we have to use nuclear or thermonuclear weapons.

"If we do, all I can say is, God help us, God help us."

Javits said he was concerned that Gen. Eisenhower's statement implied a possible use of nuclear force and a lack of bipartisan support of present policy.

"This ought not to be a party issue," he said. "This sort of thing never has been a party issue in our country. I believe it will be found it is not a party issue."

Outside the Senate, GOP Majority Leader Sen. Everett M. Dirksen supported the contention by former New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey that Gen. Eisenhower "simply meant we shouldn't advise the enemy in advance as to what we are going to do."

This hardly satisfied Mansfield, who said in an interview that Gen. Eisenhower should produce "specifics" on how he would go about winning the war.

He claimed that the former President was the best informed man outside the Government on Vietnam, because President Johnson saw to it that he was constantly briefed on developments and his advice and suggestions were always sought.