

Nonpolitical Trips and Mr. Kennedy

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON (AP) Republican haven't chosen their Presidential candidate yet, but President Kennedy has already begun his campaign for re-election. What are called as "non-political" trips are really opportunities to cement political friendships and to link with the local leaders—an important piece of political campaigning in itself.

Mr. Kennedy (on this weekend to Florida) himself, it is announced, to take a first-hand look at the work being done on the new U.S. Moonshot facilities he can be offered on various aspects of the program and on other phases of the civilian space project and will witness the launching of a Pioneer 3-A satellite.

Now this trip means it within the legitimate business of the Presidential office, but the question arises whether the trip will purposely arranged for the inspection of the space project or whether the visit to Cape Canaveral is just an excuse to attend political rallies in Florida.

The Tampa Times an independent paper and one of the largest and most influential dailies in the state, said editorially the other day:

"PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S trip to Florida is billed as nonpolitical. That, of course, fool nobody. No President less than a year from a bid for re-election takes nonpolitical trips. Mr. Kennedy will be making a strong appeal for votes and support in an attempt to swing Florida out of the Republican column which it occupied in the last three Presidential races."

Mr. Kennedy is scheduled to make five talks in Florida—in the northern as well as southern part of the state. He addresses at Tampa a dedication ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of an early aviation flight. He then talks to the Florida State Chamber of Commerce and that is followed—also in Tampa—by a speech to 600 labor leaders from various unions which are influential throughout Florida.

IN MIAMI THERE is to be what is described officially as a "rally" at the airport where he doubtless will speak to the crowd to be assembled there. Then the President will attend a dinner of the Inter-American Press Institute.

When Mr. Kennedy left here yesterday he went first to New York to address the A.F.E.-C.I.O. convention. He hasn't missed a speech to the national labor leaders at their meeting each year since he has been in the White House.

Vietnam Negotiation?

By WILLIAM R. FRYE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.—One of the most interesting effects of the coup in Saigon has been revival of talk about a negotiated peace for Vietnam.

Soundings in Hanoi are indications to have collected expressions of interest from Ho Chi Minh, the Viet Cong leader. Just how far the explorations have gone is not known, but informed U.N. diplomats are taking the project seriously.

It is in a sense paradoxical that this should have happened in the wake of the coup that overthrew Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu. One of many impelling reasons for the coup was suspicion that Nhu was secretly trying to come to terms with Hanoi.

What is involved now, however, is not a substantive deal which could undercut the war effort. On the contrary, the main river cities, high of protecting the war with new vigor and effectiveness. It has a far better base of public support from which to do so.

What is involved is a serious first step intended to lead to a resumption of the Geneva conference of 1954 and thence, to one of two solutions for final disposition of reunification and neutralization.

THESE QUESTIONS arise: (1) What is the situation in a much stronger position than it entered the recent conference of leaders. At that time pro-Western forces were joining the Viet war. As a result of the Saigon coup they have a very prospect now of winning the war in Vietnam.

They have had to be very, very prosaic in successfully pacifying South Vietnam. The task of conquering the North would be of an entirely different order of magnitude.

This improved prospect of victory for Saigon puts the West in a strong bargaining posture. It does much to explain Ho Chi Minh's receptivity to recent diplomatic overtures.

It is HOWEVER by no means the only favorable factor in the equation.

South Vietnam is today much less likely to be committed to its own coalition. Fully as the Diem regime had begun to turn many who would otherwise have been anti-communists into Communist sympathizers.

Indeed, the flow of political influence in the future may be northward, rather than southward. The South is in a position to exert a considerable pull on the North.

Still another factor is Ho Chi Minh's own unhappy stance in the middle of a Sino-Soviet tug of war. Moscow, trained and oriented he has realized his party's drift toward Peking. Centuries of animosity between Vietnamese and Chinese have made dependence on China still more distasteful to him.

YEN MOG, of Ho Chi Minh's younger followers have insisted upon talking to China, and they have had

geography and logistics on their side. More and more, the Viet Cong, as it fact come to ride the dragon's tail.

A peace settlement could release Hanoi from some of the necessity to depend upon Peking. Ho Chi Minh could then turn back to Moscow, or



become more interesting. Moscow unquestionably would be equally happy to arrest the spread of Chinese influence.

General Eisenhower could well be inclined to encourage Moscow in this view. U.N. people believe, with the hope of freeing Vietnam from foreign influence.

An open alternative for the West to be guaranteed that a negotiation with the Viet Cong would be fruitful may come early next year. That is, Hanoi would normally be in the Western interest.

There is a possibility, of course, in the diplomatic community, to think out a three-way deal. One with international look at the Viet Cong expenditure by the United States alone for some 100 million would produce an identical result. The same mentioned Vietnam which could be won at the bargaining table, then it would be folly to fight.

But there is, as yet, no agreement on what should emerge from a Vietnamese peace negotiation. Until there is agreement, talk on peace is not likely to be much more than talk.

Americanism

DORIS JAMES HEGLI

WHAT IS AMERICANISM? WE know what Americanism is. WE were born in it. We breathe Americanism from birth. And the foundation stone of all Americanism is the freedom to believe and to disagree. It is right to hold a point of view, no matter how much it might be counter to some one else's.

On this foundation can be erected all kinds of differences, ideas or divergent philosophies. But they must be contested by reason and logic, not force and the treatment of burning brown.

About Youth

Dodge City (Kansas) Globe

TO STAY YOUNG, associate with young people. And to get old in a hurry try to keep up with them.