

Klein on McGovern Speech

By Jack Viets

The top spokesman of the White House flew here yesterday to praise the policies of Mr. Nixon—and to brand Senator George McGovern's latest Vietnam pullout speech "a move toward surrender."

"McGovern's speech represents a major step backward," said Herbert G. Klein, at a press conference.

"I don't believe this is a time for weakness — it's a time for strength."

Klein, who is a director of communications for the Executive Branch in the Nixon Administration, said that in the past McGovern's Vietnam policies were based primarily on "massive hope."

But the Democratic presidential candidate's nationwide TV speech Tuesday night was "a move decidedly toward surrender," he said.

'UNDERCUT'

The total pullout advocated by McGovern would "undercut our policies anywhere in the world," he declared.

McGovern taken care of, Klein began answering questions with cool professionalism.

What about the Watergate bugging?

"The Watergate incident

has been fully investigated by the FBI," he said. "Now the chips will fall where they may."

"The President has deplored it. He thinks its stupid. So do I."

SPYING

And all the stories about that cloak and dagger spying that has allegedly been formed by Republicans to wreak havoc on the Democrats are "untrue," he said.

"They're inuendo."

But has the credibility of President Nixon and his administration been perhaps sullied by these recurring stories, a reporter pressed.

"It's a most unusual thing," Klein answered.

Then, he added:

"The President's credibility has remained very high — but what has happened credibility-wise has happened to McGovern."

WAR

There were questions about ending the Vietnam war. What could Klein say about Henry Kissinger and his four days of talks with the North Vietnamese in Paris?

"They're secret. We're encouraged that they've been extended," he answered.

Does that extra time in Paris perhaps mean that Kissinger has found another girl, a newsman countered.

"Of course," laughed Klein.

Earlier, Klein received a standing ovation at the American Bakers Association convention at the Fairmont Hotel after his speech on the nation and the "spirit of the United States" under President Nixon.