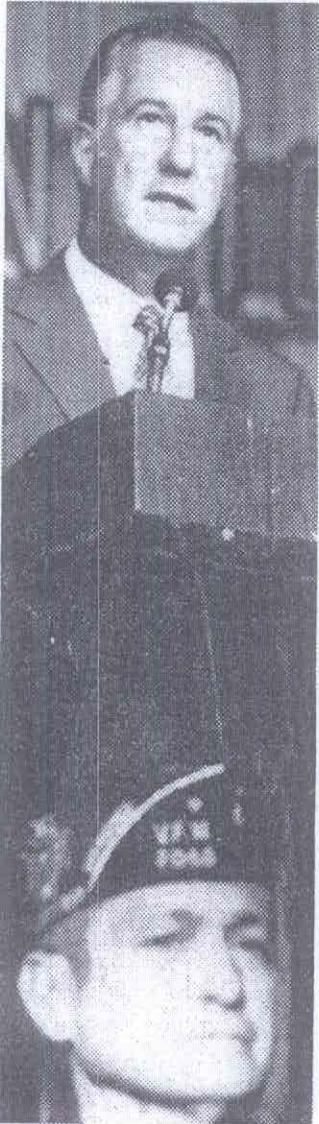


Agnew Assails Plan to Set A Troop Withdrawal Date



Associated Press
Vice President Agnew speaking at veterans' convention.

Amendment of Hatfield and McGovern Viewed as a 'Humiliation'

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17—Vice President Agnew charged today that a Senate proposal for a fixed withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam was "a blueprint for the first defeat in the history of the United States."

He said that the Nixon Administration was prepared to

Excerpts from Agnew speech will be found on Page 18.

see the war to "an honorable end."

Mr. Agnew, in a Miami Beach speech to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, attacked an "amendment to end the war" and its chief sponsors, Senators Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, and George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota. A text of the speech was released here.

The Hatfield-McGovern plan would halt American combat operations in South Vietnam at the end of this year and bring all United States troops home by mid-1971. Referring to the possible consequences of the proposal, Mr. Agnew said of the sponsors: "One wonders if

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they really give a damn."

Passage of the proposal, Mr. Agnew said, would destroy prospects for a negotiated settlement in Paris, leave the South Vietnamese prey to a Communist slaughter, imperil other allies in Southeast Asia and offer the American people nothing more than "humiliation and disaster" for its combat efforts.

He acknowledged that his charges were "among the strongest since I took office" 19 months ago but said that "no more dangerous" proposal had been presented to Congress in those 19 months—or in 19 years for that matter.

Reaction on Capitol Hill was swift. Senator McGovern issued a statement saying the real defeat would be to continue "on a self-defeating course which is slaughtering the people of Southeast Asia, wasting the lives of American

men and disrupting both the American economy and our society."

The Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, told reporters he favored an accelerated withdrawal of American forces but agreed with Mr. Agnew that the Hatfield-McGovern amendment would be a "precipitous retreat."

The proposal is being offered as an amendment to a military procurement authorization bill.

Like Earlier Criticism

Mr. Agnew's remarks were not unlike his earlier assaults on Senate critics of the Nixon Administration's Vietnam policy. They reflected as well the intentions of the White House to reassure Asian allies that Mr. Nixon had no plans to turn his back on them—a message the Vice President will carry to South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and South Vietnam next week.

But Mr. Agnew stated today, more forcefully than any Administration official has done, the White House view that the war in South Vietnam had prevented a Communist takeover of Southeast Asia.

"Are the isolationists content

to let Asia go by default to the Communists because they lacked the perseverance to see this through?" asked the Vice President. "Well, we are not, my fellow Americans and my fellow veterans—and the President is not—and together we shall see this war through to an honorable end that will do justice to the sacrifices of all our sons."

"Could any nation put trust in the word and capacity of the United States," he asked, "if we slink home, defeated, from the battlefield of Southeast Asia?"

Nixon's 'Finest Hour'

Mr. Agnew assailed Senate doves, including J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, who argue that the President's decision to send troops into Cambodia underscores a need to place limits on a President's war-making powers.

Instead, said the Vice President, the Cambodia decision, which he called "the finest hour in the Nixon presidency," makes the case that the Senate "should leave the President alone" to take necessary steps to protect American troops.