

NY Times 19 AUG 70

Senate Doves Say Agnew Tries to Intimidate Them

Hatfield, Fulbright and McGovern Reply to His Attack on Peace Amendment—Fear Undermining of Constitution

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—Stung by an accusation that they would sponsor the United States' first military defeat, counter-attacking Senators asserted today that Vice President Agnew might be undermining constitutional government.

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, one of Mr. Agnew's prime targets in a speech yesterday, said he feared that the Nixon Admin-

istrations might be giving up trying to forge a political settlement of the war and might be seeking a military solution.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, who was said by Mr. Agnew to have a history of "querulous fuddudduism," declared:

"I know of no precedent for the President of the Senate attacking personally members of this body."

Mr. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, accused Mr. Agnew of attempting to intimidate Senators in "a very dangerous perversion of the democratic process." He said Mr. Agnew was potentially more dangerous than the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy because Mr. Agnew is in line for the Presidency.

Mr. Agnew, in his speech to a veterans' group, had said the so-called end-the-war amendment could lead to the first United States military defeat and produce a bloodbath in Southeast Asia under a Communist take-over.

The amendment, sponsored

Continued on Page 23, Column 1

SENATORS REPLY TO AGNEW ATTACK

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

by Mr. Hatfield and Senator George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, would set a Dec. 31, 1971, deadline for full withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam.

"The Vice President's speech entails a direct attack on our constitutional process," Mr. Hatfield told the Senate.

"Apparently, he either fails to comprehend or simply disagrees with the provisions of our Constitution," Mr. Hatfield said. "I believe any war must be determined by the people acting through their constitutional processes."

This response to Mr. Agnew's Presidentially supported views came on the eve of another Senate test on the Administration's program for expansion of the Safeguard antiballistic-missile system.

A vote is set for tomorrow afternoon on Senator Edward W. Brooke's amendment to a pending military procurement bill. The Massachusetts Republican is asking that the proposed expansion of Safeguard to two more sites be blocked but that all requested ABM funds be devoted to development of the two sites approved last year.

The Senate already has defeated two other amendments that would have curbed Safeguard to a greater degree. It is expected to be several weeks before it votes on the end-the-war amendment.

McGovern Replies

Senator McGovern said today that Mr. Agnew apparently had so intimidated the press he could command unlimited and unprecedented publicity for his own ideas.

"We who are seeking disengagement from a cruel and mistaken war are at a painful disadvantage" Mr. McGovern told an audience at American University.

He said more extensive publicity had been given to Mr. Agnew's attack on the amendment than to the amendment itself "in all the weeks since we introduced it."

Another co-sponsor, Senator

Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, said, "We should be discussing this amendment in a rational and temperate manner rather than using it as an excuse for partisan political bomb-throwing."

Hatfield Sees Recklessness

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18—Mr. Hatfield asserted that what he called Mr. Agnew's "reckless rhetoric" was a disservice to President Nixon, for whom the Oregon Senator had campaigned.

"This kind of speech may raise money, it may tickle the humor of the audience, but I say it is a disservice to the cause of the President," he told the Senate.

Mr. Hatfield warned "that the most repressive period in history followed the silencing of public debate by the use of fear tactics by those in power." He said "Nazi Germany, McCarthyism, Hungary and Czechoslovakia all stand as examples of people intimidated into silence and fear."