

JACKSON WARNS OF SHIFT ON SAIGON

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Senator May Oppose More Aid Unless Nixon Obtains a 'Genuine' Election

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 — Senator Henry M. Jackson, a leading supporter of past United States policies on the Vietnam war, threatened today to oppose further aid to the Saigon States policies on the Vietnam Government if the Nixon Administration did not help arrange a "genuine" Presidential election in South Vietnam.

In a Senate speech, the Washington Democrat complained that the Administration had not taken a strong stand and had thereby helped South Vietnam's President, Nguyen Van Thieu, to "sabotage" the impending Presidential election, turning it into a "meaningless one-man referendum."

If a "competitive" and "genuine" Presidential election is not arranged in South Vietnam, he said, "I must reserve my position regarding future United States military and economic aid to the South Vietnamese Government."

The Senator said in an interview that his speech did not represent a switch or modification in his past Vietnam posi-

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tion. He has generally supported the policies of the Johnson Administration and the Nixon Administration.

Rather, he said, he was "trying to give a little help to the President in getting tough with those guys in Saigon."

The Senator, who was Mr. Nixon's first choice to be Secretary of Defense and who has since supported Nixon national security policies, observed that, "in light of my background, I thought I could be helpful in getting some action" within the Administration.

Senator Jackson also said that he was attempting to serve

notice on the Administration that "they just can't take me for granted."

According to political associates of the Senator, the speech represents a new political approach in his unannounced candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Alone among the announced and unannounced Democratic Presidential candidates in the Senate, Mr. Jackson has opposed a fixed deadline for the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam and has helped lead the Administration fight against withdrawal amendment offered by Senate doves.

In the process, his campaign advisers have become concerned that Senator Jackson has become too closely identified by the public with Southern conservatives and Vietnam hawks on foreign policy.

"Unfortunately," the Senator

said today, "the United States administration has not only allowed the election situation to deteriorate, it has contributed to the deterioration."

Over the last year, he said, the Administration has "maintained the facade of a 'hands off' policy which could only be construed initially as an endorsement of President Thieu and more recently his methods." Further, he said, "the Administration allowed our embassy to convey the impression that Thieu was really 'our man.'" "The Administration," he continued, "has issued rationaliza-

tions and apologies for the situation, getting President Thieu 'off the hook,' and in effect sanctioning the one-man referendum.

"The Administration should stop pretending to be helpless, saying there is nothing more to be done. The United States still has sufficient influence in Vietnam to see that a pointless referendum is transformed into a meaningful political contest, if necessary, at a later date."

One possibility he suggested was that the Supreme Court of South Vietnam could reopen

the list of candidates and postpone the October election for 30 to 90 days "to provide the time necessary in which to organize a genuine and open election."

Meanwhile, in separate statements on the Senate floor, two Senate doves — Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, and Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, Democrat of Illinois — said that the Thieu regime's handling of the parliamentary and Presidential elections had obviated any argument for a continuing American military commitment to South Vietnam.