

Nixon Pushes Hard to Win Support of Vietnam Policy

By JOHN HERBERS

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 13—On Sept. 27, President Nixon said on national television that "under no circumstances will I be affected whatever" by the antiwar demonstrations then being planned around the country.

Since then, the Nixon Administration has carried out an extensive campaign larger than any attempted by former President Johnson to undercut the effectiveness of the demonstrations and mobilize public opinion in support of his Vietnam policy.

The latest manifestation of that campaign came today when Mr. Nixon made a rare visit to Capitol Hill to seek Congress support for his method of seeking a "just peace." And tonight the Administration released a speech by Vice President Agnew in Des Moines, Iowa, criticizing "a small band of network commentators and self-appointed analysts" for expressing "hostility" to the President's policies.

Persons who are arranging the antiwar demonstrations are convinced that the Administration's efforts go further than attempts to sway public opinion, and include such devices as using the Federal Bureau of Investigation to discourage the chartering of buses to bring demonstrators to Washington.

Evidence Is Lacking

Checks around the country failed to turn up conclusive evidence that such tactics were being used, and it appeared that the hard-line opposition to the demonstrations taken earlier by the Justice Department was largely a reflection of the personal views of Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and other officials.

What the Administration has done rather consistently with White House approval or instigation includes the following:

☐ Attempts to discredit the demonstrations and those organizing and participating in them.

☐ Appeals to "the great silent

majority" of Americans to support the President's policy.

☐ Encouragement of the reactivation of the militant right, which would step up American military efforts against Communism around the world, apparently in an effort to make it easier for the President to take a middle course between continuing the war and early withdrawal.

☐ Efforts to remove some of the irritants that have contributed to the antiwar clamor.

The campaign got under way almost immediately after the Sept. 27 Presidential news conference, and has increased in intensity as the time for Saturday's mass march in the capital approached.

Steps Taken Last Month

Early in October, Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of the military draft and one of the targets of antiwar youth, was removed by President Nixon. The President also put the resources of the White House behind an effort to institute a lottery system of selection for the draft to make it more fair.

After massive antiwar demonstrations throughout the country on Oct. 15, Vice President Agnew made speeches denouncing those who supported them, referring on one occasion to the demonstrators as "an effete core of impudent snobs." On Oct. 30, Mr. Nixon said publicly he was "proud" to have Mr. Agnew in his Administration.

On Nov. 3, the President appeared on national television and appealed for the support of "the great silent majority" of Americans for his plan of gradual withdrawal from Vietnam, the timetable for which he did not disclose.

As plans for this week's demonstrations were stepped up, the Justice Department warned that violence was likely to result here, and declined to grant the demonstrators permission to march on Pennsylvania Avenue, the traditional place for parades.

This amounted to a reversal of policy as developed in the Justice Department under the

Johnson Administration and appeared to be part of the Administration's over-all opposition to the demonstrations. But the department was later overruled by the White House after Mayor Walter E. Washington made an appeal to Mr. Nixon for a more relaxed method of handling the demonstrators.

Several sources said the Justice Department development was largely an internal one growing out of the policies of Attorney General John N. Mitchell and his deputy, Mr. Kleindienst. Under the Johnson Administration, the department had developed a set of rules for handling militants on the street.

The rules said, among other things, to avoid the kind of arbitrary barriers to demonstrators that had been prescribed in Chicago during the 1968 Democratic National Convention and not to warn publicly in advance of possible violence.

However, the experts on handling demonstrations had left the department or been dismissed when the new Administration came in, chief of these were Warren M. Christopher, Mr. Kleindienst's predecessor, Mr. Kleindienst's predecessor; Nathaniel . Kossack, first assistant in the criminal division who is now in the Department of Agriculture; and D. Robert Owne, first assistant in the Civil Rights Division, who has resigned from the Government.

Mr. Kleindienst laid down a hard line until the White House intervened and got a reversal of policy, including permission for the march on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Policy Pushed on Holiday

However, the war of words and attempts to win new political support for the President's policies continued. The White House helped generate in Congress a resolution in support of Mr. Nixon. Leaders of both parties were called to the White House yesterday where they announced 300 signers in the House and 37 in the Senate.

On Veterans Day, traditional ceremonies honoring the dead of all wars were used, with the Administration's approval, as forums for support of the President's policy.

* See story by Paul Montgomery, "FBI said to thwart bus hirings," pasted separately. Both stories were printed on same page (p. 20), 14 Nov 69.