

NIXON CRITICIZES SENATE ON ENVOY

Rejection of Godley Harms
Foreign Service and U.S.,
White House Asserts
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WASHINGTON, July 12 —

The White House said today that the Senate Foreign Relations committee's rejection of President Nixon's nominee as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs was deplorable and that the consequences "go far beyond the injustice done an outstanding Foreign Service officer."

Yesterday, by a 9 to 7 vote, the committee killed the nomination of G. McMurtrie Godley, former Ambassador to Laos, on the ground that he was too closely identified with the Administration's Indochina policies. It recommended to Secretary of State William P. Rogers that Mr. Godley be nominated for a post not connected with Southeast Asia.

The Nixon Administration interpreted the action as a further sign of the committee's long-standing opposition to its policies in Indochina.

Today both the White House and the State Department issued statements saying the

Continued on Page 4, Column 6

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

committee's decision raised new questions about whether career Foreign Service officers should be held responsible for loyally carrying out the policies of the Presidents they serve.

Gerald L. Warren, Deputy White House press secretary, said that President Nixon believed "it is not in the interest of the Foreign Service or the United States that career officers become subject to retribution for diligent execution of their instructions."

Mr. Rogers said that the votes against Mr. Godley's nomination "reflect disagreement with policies which Ambassador Godley was directed to carry out rather than with Ambassador Godley's personal qualifications for the position of Assistant Secretary of State.

Praise from Rogers

In a statement issued by the department, Mr. Rogers said:

"Ambassador Godley has been a career diplomat under six Presidents. He has served all of them with loyalty, energy, imagination and courage.

"Those are the best qualities that a diplomat can place at the service of his country. They are the qualities the Senate has indicated it expects of our senior diplomats. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has acknowledged those qualities in Ambassador Godley by indicating it would approve his nomination for any other distinguished position."

Mr. Rogers said the committee action raised "profound questions for a career service which is charged with carrying out policy under whatever administration it serves."

"Foreign Service officers must be able to serve a President," he went on without being cited as a symbol by some senators opposed to Presidential policies."

Mr. Godley refused to comment on his rejection.

Issue of Punishment

Committee staff members said that in the discussion about Mr. Godley's qualifications, several senators raised the question of whether he was being punished unjustly for policies he did not originate.

The most vocal supporter of Mr. Godley was reportedly Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, who noted that he himself, when he was Vice President under Lyndon B. Johnson, had to support policies he did not favor.

But the determining factor, the staff aides said, was the view of the committee majority that Mr. Godley was an enthusiast for the bombing policies in Laos, and that as Assistant Secretary he would be

in a position to advocate hard-line policies in Southeast Asia, rather than the "new look" the committee would prefer.

A spot check of Foreign Service officers at the State Department today found a surprising number who agreed more with the committee action than with Mr. Rogers's comment.

Call for New Faces

Several officers, most of them at middle-level jobs, volunteered that the Administration should introduce some new faces into the Southeast Asian policy-making jobs.

Some said the committee action was different from the "witchhunting" days of Senator Joseph McCarthy in the nineteen-fifties when Foreign Service officers who had worked in the China area were forced from the service, in effect blamed for the Communist takeover on the mainland.

"The difference today," one officer said, "is that the committee wasn't after Godley's blood. They only said he should be assigned to another part of the world."

One middle-grade officer said he hoped "a lesson would be

learned" from the Senate action. "The lesson is that a Foreign Service officer must pay heed to other things than just the Foreign Service," the officer said. "He should be aware of the Congress, the public, the press and to a general morality." He acknowledged that he personally opposed the Administration's bombing policies in Indochina.

Mr. Warren said: "The President deeply regrets the failure of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to act favorably on the nomination of Ambassador Godley.

"It is deplorable that this distinguished Foreign Service officer should be penalized for faithfully carrying out the policies of his Government which were not set by him."

The committee formally voted to "postpone indefinitely" any action on the nomination, a move tantamount to rejection. Theoretically, a senator could move on the floor of the Senate for the committee to report Mr. Godley's name for a vote by the full Senate. But this is deemed highly unlikely.