

McCarthy Hints Readiness To Lead a 3d Party in '72

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BLOOMINGTON, Minn., May 23—Former Senator Eugene J. McCarthy ridiculed several of the leaders of the Democratic party in a major speech today and suggested that he might be ready to lead a third party in the 1972 Presidential campaign.

Mr. McCarthy told a throng of more than 25,000 in the jammed Metropolitan Sports Center just south of the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul that he hoped insurgents in both parties would succeed in nominating candidates committed to ending the war, reforming American politics and re-ordering priorities.

"If we cannot," he added as the crowd came to its feet and cheered, "then let us have a new party and a new policy and a true America."

Mr. McCarthy also set himself apart from most of his party's critics of the war in Indochina by arguing that Congressionally mandated withdrawal from Vietnam might well be counterproductive. It would invite chaos in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, he said, and constitute an abdication of responsibility.

"The answer is that we should negotiate now," the former Senator said. "We should work for a political settlement."

Third Rally in Series

Mr. McCarthy, who unsuccessfully sought the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1968, was the main speaker at the third in a series of nonpartisan "dump Nixon" rallies organized by antiwar groups around the country with the help of former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein, Democrat of Nassau. Today's crowd was far bigger than those at Providence, R. I., on April 18 and at Indianapolis yesterday. Although young people again dominated the scene, a scattering of adults, including some labor officials, were on hand here. All the seats in the arena were filled, as were the hallways and the floor.

For the first time, the organizers managed to attract a few prominent Republicans. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peavey Heffelfinger, who are leading party contributors. Mrs. Heffelfinger is a former Republican National Committee-woman.

In an interview, Mr. Lowenstein expressed irritation that Mr. McCarthy had talked about a third party, adding: "I want us to elect a new President, not start another protest movement." He said that rallies this summer in Oregon, California and Ohio were in the planning stage, and that arrangements for a major event at Mineola, L.I., on June 13 were nearly complete.

Among the other speakers were Representatives Donald W.

Riegle Jr., Republican of Michigan, and Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican of California, M. Lowenstein, and John Kerr who led the Vietnam veteran protest in Washington last month.

But it was Mr. McCarthy back on his home ground, who stirred the audience most.

His speech was laced with waspish observations on Democratic and Republican policies and Democratic officials.

He dismissed President Nixon's Vietnamization policy as a plan "to change the color of the corpses." American politicians who have been urging truly free elections in South Vietnam, he said, "should have been in Chicago for the convention in 1968." The Presidency, he said, "must not be looked upon as a politician's Mount Everest, to be scaled because it is there."

Without mentioning the names, but couching his remarks in such a way that it was obvious whom he meant, Mr. McCarthy had sarcastic comments on the following persons:

Lawrence F. O'Brien, the Democratic National Chairman—"He campaigned against me in 1968 on the grounds that my success would give aid and comfort to the enemy. Later in that campaign he supported Senator Robert Kennedy, who was also opposed to our military policy, and then still later reappeared as a quasi-hawk, in support of Hubert H. Humphrey, and then still later, reappeared within a few days after the Nixon inauguration as fully committed against the war. That takes versatility."

Mr. Humphrey—"There is one candidate who says he didn't present his views on Vietnam because President Johnson wouldn't let him do it."

Senator Edmund S. Muskie—"Another says that he was privately against the war in 1968, but said publicly that he supported it. That's principle."

Former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara—"He told us that we could have enough guns for two Vietnams and still have butter. What a wonderful way to stir moral indignation."

Discussing the McGovern-Hatfield resolution, which would force withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam by the end of this year, Mr. McCarthy said half jestingly, "It's all right, I guess, but I was really for withdrawal by March of 1969."

But then he criticized the resolution, arguing that the United States would have no influence on the political situation in Indochina once all American troops were gone. Negotiating now, Mr. McCarthy continued, would produce "results far more acceptable than what is likely to come from Vietnamization or withdrawal unrelated to a political settlement."