

Congressmen Differ on Nixon Television Interview

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WASHINGTON, July 2 —

President Nixon's televised interview on the Southeast Asian conflict won from Congress today praise for his designation of a new peace negotiator, some Democratic resentment in the Senate and a new Republican peace proposal in the House.

Senator Mike Mansfield served notice that "the Senate will not be dissuaded" from its efforts to end the war in Southeast Asia "as long as Americans continue to die in this misbegotten situation in Vietnam."

Responding to Mr. Nixon, the

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Senate Democratic leader did not directly answer Mr. Nixon's description of recent Senate actions as "not particularly distinguished," or his prediction that the House of Representatives would deal with the same issues "in a more responsible" manner.

"The Senate is concerned with the policies which continue to exact a tragic loss of American lives and great expenditures of United States resources in Southeast Asia," Mr. Mansfield declared in a statement.

Would Modify Policies

"In Cooper-Church and in other ways," he said, "we are seeking Constitutional means to modify these national policies to the end that it will no longer be necessary for the President to spend American lives in order to protect American lives."

Mr. Mansfield was referring to an amendment sponsored by Senators John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, that would restrict the President's power to resume military operation in Cambodia. It was adopted 58 to 37 last week but needs House approval if it is to take effect.

Rather than abandon the war issue, Senator Mansfield said,

"the Senate will pursue a cooperative effort between the Congress and the Administration under the Constitution in order to do what it can to sustain the President's desire to curtail the spread of the war and to bring about a negotiated settlement of this tragic involvement."

Hails Bruce Appointment

Mr. Mansfield said the President should be commended for the appointment of David K. E. Bruce as head of the United States delegation at the Paris peace talks, as did Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the Republican leader, who called it "a fresh move in the direction of peace."

Mr. Ford was sharply critical of a request by Senator George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, for equal television and radio time to respond to the President. In a statement, Mr. Ford called the request "ridiculous on the face of it."

"If the television networks are to respond to such demands every time the President makes a TV appearance," Mr. Ford said, "we soon will have government by equal time, a constant squaring off of the President and certain members of the Senate."

"That does not make sense to me. It is simply divisive. The President has every right to make periodic reports to the

American people without being subjected to political sniping immediately thereafter."

Senator McGovern is a co-sponsor of a pending amendment that would set a timetable for withdrawal of United States forces from Southeast Asia. He said Mr. Nixon demonstrated that he did not understand the proposal.

Late today, Senator McGovern had not received any reply from the three television networks on his request.

In the wake of the President's discussion of the Cambodian incursion, Representative F. Bradford Morse, Republican of Massachusetts, proposed today the creation of a "council of mediators" representing five medium and small nations to draft a "neutralist settlement" of the conflict in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Morse proposed, as examples, that the council be made up of representatives of Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Sweden and Yugoslavia, who would consult with the major powers directly or indirectly involved and try to arrange a cease-fire.

He said he had not sought the approval of the Administration for his plan, but that he had discussed it with a high-ranking State Department official "and I was not discouraged."