

Ex-Sen. Morse Fears China War

By George Murphy

Former U.S. Senator Wayne Morse, his once-bushy eyebrows trimmed, but his fabled feistiness unchanged, said here yesterday President Nixon's foreign policy, if unchanged, will lead to "all-out war with China."

The Oregon maverick, who addressed a Golden Gate Democratic Club reception last night, told a press conference at the Press Club:

"We are not getting out of Southeast Asia — we're getting in deeper and deeper."

The American people, Morse said, "are not being told the truth about this country's Asian commitments."

ALONE

Morse said that "the end result of the 'Nixon Doctrine' will be an all-out war with China, and the United States having to stand alone in that war is a definite probability.

"And this nation simply does not have the manpower for such a war. (Former Defense Secretary Robert) McNamara told us several years ago that we cannot defeat China with bombing, conventional or nuclear, and that it would take at least three million soldiers on the mainland of China from within 30 to 36 months after the outbreak of war.

"The young people of America, 99 per cent of them, will rise to the defense of their country, but they recognize the road we're traveling, and don't intend to turn themselves into military fodder — why should they?"



WAYNE MORSE
'We're getting in deeper'

SMART

On political matters, Morse said Mr. Nixon "of course will be vulnerable in 1972 — the question is whether the Democrats will be smart enough to take advantage of his vulnerability."

Morse had little good to say about Maine Senator Edmund Muskie, the front-runner for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

"Where was he on Vietnam from 1962 to 1968? "... I wouldn't vote for him. I'm not interested in platitudinous candidates."

As to South Dakota Senator George McGovern, the only announced candidate for President:

"I notice his people said he was the first Senator to speak out against the war — in 1963! I was speaking against it ten years earlier."

LEAD

But at least, Morse said, McGovern has opposed the war, "and even though he's a latecomer, I liked what he replied to (Mississippi Senator John) Stennis, when he said those in Congress who support the war should lead the charges."

Asked about his own political future, Morse said, "There are some people in Oregon who would love to know what my plans are, so I'm not going to satisfy them by giving you a straight answer.

"But I've never taken off my political boots."