

NIXON EXPLAINS CAMBODIA POLICY TO 45 GOVERNORS

Campuses Also Discussed
—Formal Support on Asia
Is Reportedly Not Asked

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WASHINGTON, May 11 —

President Nixon conferred today with 45 state and territorial governors to press his search for ways to improve communication with the academic community and to explain his decision on Cambodia.

After the session, Gov. John A. Love of Colorado, a Republican, said that Mr. Nixon had not solicited a formal resolution approving the action in Cambodia, and that the Governors had not offered one.

Governor Love, Gov. John N. Dempsey of Connecticut, a Democrat, and Gov. Raymond P. Shafer of Pennsylvania, a Republican, said the meeting had been "most constructive." At the end, they said, the Governors gave Mr. Nixon a "standing ovation."

Governor Love and Governor Dempsey agreed that the standing ovation did not necessarily reflect support of the Cambodian policy but was simply a gesture of appreciation to Mr. Nixon for "giving us the opportunity to be heard."

Role of Agnew

Various Governors offered widely different assessments of the role played in the three-hour meeting by Vice President Agnew.

Gov. David Cargo of New Mexico, a Republican, told newsmen that Mr. Agnew and Gov. Frank Licht of Rhode Island, a Democrat, had engaged in a sharp exchange over the role of campus radicals.

Mr. Cargo reported that Mr. Agnew had said that the Administration's first priority was to restore authority on the campuses. The Vice President, Mr. Cargo said, complained that "the anti-intellectual forces are now in control of the campuses."

However, Governors Love, Dempsey and Shafer said they could not recall any such statements by the Vice President or any subsequent exchange between Mr. Agnew and Mr. Licht.

Although the Governors as a whole seemed favorably impressed by Mr. Nixon's presentation, there was further evidence of unrest within Mr. Nixon's own official family.

Informed sources disclosed that Morton H. Halpern had resigned as a consultant to the National Security Council in protest against the President's decision to expand the war into Cambodia and to mount new bombing raids against anti-aircraft installations in North Vietnam.

Mr. Halperin, 31 years old, served for much of last year as a senior assistant to Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs. He resigned last year for

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largely personal reasons to take a job as senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a non-profit research organization here, but agreed to continue on a consulting basis.

Mr. Halperin confirmed late today that he sent a letter to Mr. Kissinger last Wednesday protesting the President's decision and expressing his fears that it would lead to a disastrous escalation of the conflict.

Mr. Halperin was reportedly willing to remain as a consultant so long as he felt certain that Mr. Nixon was prepared to disengage from the war by gradually withdrawing American troops. The Cambodian decision, however, apparently persuaded him that Mr. Nixon still hoped to force Hanoi to negotiate by means of escalating military pressure.

The Cambodian question reportedly occupied two hours of the three-hour session. The President, key Administration officials and the state executives sat around the huge table that formed an open square around the edges of the state dining room.

In one corner was a color map of the Southeast Asia area —presumably the same one Mr. Nixon used in his nationally televised report to the people on his decision to move American combat troops into Cambodia.

Several Governors, including Kenneth M. Curtis of Maine, a Democrat, agreed that Mr. Ag-

new had taken his familiar hard line toward campus radicals. A White House press spokesman said, however, that the Vice President had merely made the point that an anti-intellectual attitude prevented Government officials from visiting campuses, and denied that the Vice President had argued with Governor Licht.

Mr. Licht himself said he could not remember any sharp exchange with the Vice President. He said he had stood up at one point and given the President his own summary of the views of college students, faculty members and college presidents in Rhode Island with whom he had conferred since the death of four students at Kent State University in Ohio.

Governor Licht reported that many moderate students in Rhode Island had told him that they had not been fully radicalized by the Kent State incident or the Cambodian decision but that they would be "lost to the system" if the Administration failed to open lines of communication to the campuses.

On this point, most of the Governors seemed to be in agreement. Governor Love, for instance, reported to newsmen that "whether we agree or disagree with the President on Cambodia, we all agree with him in defense of the system." Mr. Love went on to say that not only the President but the Governors as well could do much to restore student faith in democratic institutions.



Associated Press

Henry A. Kissinger, an advisor, speaking to President Nixon at yesterday's meeting with Governors.