

HHH, McGovern Fly to D.C.

Examiner News Services

Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern abruptly suspended their presidential campaigns and rushed back to Washington today at the height of the new Vietnam crisis, despite their important head-to-head struggle in the Nebraska primary and a strong challenge to Humphrey from George Wallace in West Virginia.

Humphrey and McGovern denounced President Nixon's decision to mine the harbor at Haiphong and halt any shipping of military goods into North Vietnam.

McGovern and Humphrey watched Nixon's televised speech in Nebraska where they were completing short but arduous campaigns in a primary that could provide the winner with momentum for the contests still to come.

More Dangerous

In Lincoln McGovern described Nixon's new initiatives a "flirtation with World War III."

McGovern, who longer than any other candidate has called for a withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Indochina, added "the President, who promised a generation of peace, has tonight made the world a more dangerous place.

"The escalation is reckless, unnecessary, and unworkable. It will not save more lives. It will claim more American lives. It will not release American prisoners. It only tightens the locks on their cells.

"It won't prevent a blood bath," McGovern said. "The blood bath is on now."

Humphrey Reaction

After watching Nixon's speech in his hotel suite, a somber Humphrey stepped into the corridor to read a brief statement to reporters.

He refused to answer any questions and ducked back into his rooms after he finished.

'Slap at Congress'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield charged today that President Nixon had failed to consult adequately with Congress before ordering his drastic blockade action against North Vietnam.

Mansfield said "it was unfortunate that Congress was not consulted" on the decision.

He was asked if Nixon's meeting with congressional leaders just prior to his announcement constituted "meaningful consultation."

"No," the Montana Democrat replied.

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, shared Mansfield's view.

Long an antiwar critic, Fulbright commented:

"It's a very unusual way for a country that professes to be a democracy to conduct its affairs."

"I cannot and do not support the President's actions," said Humphrey, the former vice president and the 1968 Democratic presidential candidate. "His course is filled with unpredictable danger.

"This is a serious escalation of the war," he added. "It requires an immediate response by Congress.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) charged the President had "failed to learn the lesson that the road to peace is not the road to wider war."

Rep. Robert L. Leggett (D-Vallejo) delivered the strongest of the Democratic dissents, calling the action "criminal insanity."

Rep. Paul McCloskey Jr. (R-San Mateo) who opposed

Nixon as an antiwar candidate in the early Republican presidential primaries, said Nixon's action was "completely outside his constitutional powers."

Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) accused Nixon of "the most reckless act of international

lawlessness than any American president has ever committed."

Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, O'Brien's Republican counterpart, found it "a bold move, a necessary move."

As far as any confrontation with the Soviets may be

threatened, Dole said the option was theirs.

Sen. George Aiken (R-Vt.) said: "There is a battle of brinkmanship going on between the U.S. and Russia and I'm considerably worried that somebody may go too far. It's a threat, and I'm rather apprehensive of what it may lead to, and don't be surprised if the Middle East breaks out again."

Sen. Robert T. Stafford (R-Vt.) said the action puts the U.S.-Russian disarmament talks in jeopardy.

Rep. Herman P. Lloyd (R-Utah) said: "Aggression from the North and the disappointing ground defenses of the South make the President's action the most realistic and perhaps the only sound alternative to a hurried and total evacuation and total surrender."

Sen. Peter Dominick (R-Colo.) applauded the President's plan, saying it "will convince the Communists to look at their hole card and decide to negotiate."

Sen. Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.) found the mining "a step backward." He said it forces a senseless confrontation with Russia and may bring Russian and China into closer cooperation."