



## Future Nixon Speech On Viet Predictable

WASHINGTON—Richard Nixon's speechwriters are undoubtedly already at work on early drafts of the post-Cambodia speech which will find its way onto the yellow pad sometime after July 1. The President may find it appropriate to make the speech on the eve of July 4. Recent developments suggest that the pre-speech memorandum will be preserved as well, to be leaked later to favored newsmen. The subject, of course, will be Cambodia—and what a great success it was. First, the President will say that we are now out of Cambodia and that the effectiveness of COSVN, "the central Communist headquarters" for Indochina, whose capture the President announced as the purpose of the invasion, has been smashed.

The President will then itemize the weapons taken, the ammunition destroyed, the pounds of rice captured, the great losses inflicted on the enemy. He will discuss solemnly what will be considered minimal American casualties.

Students of the President's style would expect at this point the famous Nixon soul-search, the listing of alternatives. He could have chosen — he will say — either of two alternatives, and either would have been the easy course, the better political choice.

One would have been to yield to those ("those" never gets identified very closely) who wanted him to let the troops remain in Cambodia. The other would have been to withdraw sooner, a humiliating pell-mell retreat which might have left millions of pounds of rice unprotected and thousands of enemy documents unread.

He did not — the speech will say—choose either of these easy courses. He chose, instead, to withdraw, leaving the Cambodians and their traditional allies,

the South Vietnamese, to protect that infant nation's freedom in accordance with the Nixon doctrine, which encourages Asians to fight other Asians.

Then will come the surprise, the announcement that by Christmas he will have surpassed his own (and incidentally Clark Clifford's) timetable for troop withdrawals from Vietnam. Mr. Nixon will make it perfectly clear that this schedule could not have been kept were it not for the Cambodian campaign.

Of course he anticipated the wave of criticism which greeted his speech of April 30, but he relied, then and now—he will say — on the good sense, patriotism and loyalty of the American people, the real victors in the campaign. The stock market will rally sharply the next day, and by the weekend the Gallup Poll will show that 62 per cent of the people now think the Cambodian campaign was wise.

Only later will we all realize that the Viet Cong will be in control of sizable areas of Cambodia and Laos, and it will not be apparent for some months that the enemy has even returned to the Parrot's Beak and the Fishhook, which by then will either have been forgotten or will have gone through a change of name.