

10,000 Gather at Rhode Island's Capitol

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PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 18—More than 10,000 advocates of peace in Indochina gathered today on the steps and lawns of Rhode Island's Capitol for the kickoff of a national "Dump Nixon" campaign.

Senators Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and Birch Bayh of Indiana, both potential Democratic Presidential candidates, and Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of California, a potential Republican challenger of President Nixon, spoke at the two-hour bipartisan rally. It was organized by former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein, Democrat of Nassau County, L. I., who originated the 1969 "Dump Johnson" movement.

'A Straight Line Out'

Nearly everyone at the rally was young; from the balcony of the Capitol, the crowd looked like a sea of blue denim. Despite raw, 45-degree weather and an intermittent drizzle, the turnout surpassed Mr. Lowenstein's stated target of 10,000.

Except for Peter Yarrow, the folk singer, Senator Bayh, who was the opening speaker, drew the best reception.

"If the new isolationism," he said, "refers to one who be-

lieves that the shortest distance between war and peace is a straight line out of Vietnam, count me in. If it refers to one who doesn't think you need to bomb four countries and invade two to get out of one, you count me in on that, too."

In a more moderate speech, which included a warning against violence, Mr. Muskie said he wanted "to challenge policies, not personalities." He praised the "brave men" killed in Indochina, but added:

"We cannot add to the honor we do them by risking other lives in their names. We cannot give their deaths greater meaning by increasing the tonnage bombs we drop on Vietnam, or by widening the war into other countries."

Mr. McCloskey, who returned this weekend from a trip to Vietnam and Laos, argued that by registering as Republicans and reporting him or another antiwar challenger in the Republican primaries next year, young people could help defeat the President "a few months earlier than otherwise possible."

He said the Administration had concealed the fact that it had doubled the bombing of Laos since 1968 and that more than 700,000 Laotians had been

driven from their villages.

The crowd was orderly and quiet throughout the rally, except for one small group that sporadically chanted "Dump the whole bunch" and held up a banner that said "The Nixons and Muskies are all alike." One member of the group shouted "Generalities!" during the Maine Senator's 10-minute speech.

Mr. Lowenstein said in an interview before the rally that he hoped to generate grass-roots support for the McGovern-Hatfield amendment to end the war, overcome the "dispair" of the antiwar movement and counter "the radicals who are flanking us to the left and screaming that nothing works."

"This is designed to show the strength of the peace constituency," the former Representative commented, "and to give that constituency a renewed sense of its own power."

Turning Point for Muskie

For Senator Muskie, the decision to participate in the rally constituted a major turning point in his unannounced Presidential campaign.

His central political problem is avoiding exclusive identification either with the Democratic left, as represented by the die-hard antiwar forces and the young, or with the old guard,

for Start of 'Dump Nixon' Campaign

as represented by labor, ethnic groups and Southerners. The Democrats' defeat in 1968 resulted largely from a split between the two elements.

"We may not get the support of the new left," said one of the Senator's staff members this week, "but unless we can at least earn their trust, the nomination won't be worth anything to us, any more than it was to Hubert Humphrey in 1968."

Three weeks ago, the Muskie staff decided to accept the invitation to Providence, but the Senator then countermanded their decision. He was not sure, informants said, that he wanted to identify himself with Mr. Lowenstein at this early stage.

Nor was he eager to offend the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Gov. Frank Licht of Rhode Island or Mayor Joseph A. Doorley Jr. of Providence—all of whom think Mr. Lowenstein helped to sabotage Mr. Humphrey and therefore dislike him.

Finally, however, younger members of the Muskie staff persuaded the Senator that he must come here or write off any possibility of support from the young. They were particularly worried that Mr. Lowen-

stein, who travels widely on college campuses, would "bad-mouth" Mr. Muskie if he failed to appear.

No major labor leader attended the rally. Nor did Mr. Licht, Mr. Doorley or either of Rhode Island's two Senators, Claiborne Pell and John O. Pastore, both Democrats. Several of the party leaders held a reception for Mr. Muskie—described by one source as a "peace-making" session with the Maine Senator.

An aide to Mr. Doorley said the rally was "a bit too radical for us." John J. Hogan, the state Democratic chairman, said he had not been asked to attend, but implied that he would not have done so if asked, because he did not like "negative goals."

Among the other speakers at the rally, the first in a nationwide series, were Dr. George Wiley of the National Welfare Rights Organization; Representative Donald W. Riegle Jr., an antiwar Republican from Michigan, and John Haynes, a vice president of the International Union of Electrical Workers.

Providence was chosen, Mr. Lowenstein said, because it is close to many college campuses; because Rhode Island will have an early Presidential primary, probably in April; and because it has a heavily ethnic, somewhat conservative, working-class electorate—not unlike Queens—of the sort that the former Representative believes could be converted to antiwar views.