

# Senators Protest Amchitka A-Blast

By RICHARD D. LYONS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 — Protests against the Amchitka nuclear test, set for Saturday mounted here today fanned by outbursts of Congressional criticism and appeals to President Nixon and the Supreme Court to halt the blast.

The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, denounced the scheduled blast as "an outrage," while dozens of other Congressmen issued statements, dispatched telegrams and made speeches condemning the planned detonation of a 5 megaton hydrogen bomb on Amchitka Island in the Aleutians.

Senator Edward W. Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, solicited the signatures of colleagues for a telegram that is to be sent to Mr. Nixon tomorrow that states that "to proceed with the test is to endanger national security and world peace, not further it." Mr. Brooke's staff said w5 Senators had already agreed to sign the petition.

## Supreme Court Appeal

Eight environmental and peace groups, which were rebuffed yesterday in attempts to have the United States Court of Appeals here enjoin the test, asked the Supreme Court today to stay the scheduled blast.

Attorneys for the group filed their application for an injunction with Chief Justice Warren E. Burger. The application may be considered when the Court sits tomorrow. But it was generally felt that the Court would not stop the test.

The protest groups base their case on the contention that the Cannikin papers, so called because of the test's code name, prove that the Atomic Energy Commission violated the terms of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 by not being forthright in explaining the hazards of the scheduled blast.

The papers, some of which were released yesterday by the A.E.C., are a series of evaluations of the possible and probable consequences of the blast.

Local Western Union offices

were flooded with telegrams protesting the test. Company officials said one telegram addressed to the White House had been received from Toronto, bearing the names of 170,000 people.

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, relayed a telegram to the White House signed by 5,000 persons in Eugene, Ore., urging that the test be stopped.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, acknowledged that the President had received "some calls and some letters" asking for a halt to the test. But Mr. Ziegler noted that protesters should "keep carefully in mind" that the risks had been considered before the test was authorized last week by Mr. Nixon.

"A most careful study was given to all aspects of the test, including the potential environmental risks," Mr. Ziegler said. "It was decided to proceed with the test for overriding reasons of national security."

## Largest Underground Test

The explosion, which will be the largest underground nuclear test ever conducted by the United States, is scheduled to be detonated Saturday at 5 P.M. Eastern standard time at the bottom of a shaft that is nearly 6,000 feet deep. The blast is designed to test a nuclear warhead that is used in the Spartan antiballistic missile, which is scheduled to be operational in 1974.

The blast will be equivalent to five million tons of TNT, and its force will be 250 times more powerful than the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

The A.E.C. has set up seismic listening posts and tsunami watches along the Alaskan coast. Opponents of the test fear that the explosion might trigger earthquakes, release radioactive debris and generate tsunamis, which are giant sea waves.

Senator Mansfield told reporters that the test constituted "the possibility of great danger to the sea life in the Aleutians

because of released radiation." The Montana Democrat also said he believed that the test "doesn't sit well with our allies, Canada and Japan.

Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, sought the backing of other Democratic Presidential hopefuls in petitioning Mr. Nixon to call off the explosion.

Several other Democratic Senators also came out against the test, including Harold E. Hughes of Iowa and Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. Mr. Muskie asked that the President to explain "why he overruled most of his advisers" in approving the test.

Representative Ogden R. Reid, Republican of Westchester, said he was "appalled at the lack of judgment displayed by the Administration."

## A.E.C. Head at Amchitka

Special to The New York Times

AMCHITKA, Alaska, Nov. 4 — James R. Schlesinger, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, arrived here tonight with members of the House, his wife and two daughters in what he said was a demonstration of confidence bomb test could be conducted safely here Saturday.

"I was invited by the Governor [William A. Egan] to bring my family if I thought this test would be so safe," Mr. Schlesinger said before he left Anchorage. "I left six children in Virginia because I did not want to interrupt their schooling. But I brought two of our daughters and my wife."

He also introduced Representatives Craig Hosmer of California and Orval Hansen of Idaho, both Republicans and both members of the A.E.C.

Mr. Schlesinger said that if the Cannikin test was successful, it was the commission's intention "to close down Amchitka." He defended the test as required by Congressional instructions to the defense establishment for deployment of a missile system based on the warhead that is to be tested on the island.