

New Orleans States-Item 20 Jan 72

Nixon hikes arms spending; domestic funds come second

WASHINGTON — President Nixon has called an abrupt halt to military cutbacks and will grant the armed forces a bigger bite out of the next budget.

He has decided to use military spending rather than domestic increases to stimulate the economy. Indeed, the brass hats will get more money, if the President has his way, than they requested.

The question of matching Soviet military expansion has come up at secret National Security Council meetings on the defense

Jack Anderson

budget. Showing grim determination to meet the Soviet threat, the President has decreed:

The Army will maintain 13 divisions, two more than the generals expected. Combat readiness will also be improved.

The Navy will get 55 more ships than the admirals finally requested. This will bring the fleet up to 600 ships. The emphasis will be upon smaller, less costly ships.

The Air Force will get extra crews and spare parts not in the budget proposals that came out of the Pentagon. Air sorties in Southeast Asia will also be stepped up by 50 per cent. The 463 giant B-52 bombers will be improved. A sophisticated new bomber, known as the B-1, is under development. SRAM missiles, capable of striking targets from the air hundreds of miles away, will also be installed aboard bombers.

Multiple warheads will be installed on many of our 1,054 land-based intercontinental missiles and 656 sea-based missiles. By 1978, the number of deliverable warheads will be doubled from 4,100 to 8,200. These pack a smaller nuclear wallop, however, than do the big Soviet warheads. For this reason, our land-based missile sites are being hardened by a factor of three to withstand a Soviet near miss.

\$82 billion budget

The President's military budget request for the fiscal year starting in July is expected to be over \$82 billion.

Footnote: In contrast, the Soviets have about 1,500 intercontinental missiles which are scheduled to go in submarines now under construction. The Soviets are believed to be behind the United States in the development of multiple warheads.

WHALLEY'S FLAG WAVING

Representative Irving Whalley, R-Pa., is a reputed millionaire who boasts of giving

\$75,000 to colleges, fire houses, Boy Scout troops, churches and athletic clubs.

As part of this charitable outpouring, the former United Nations delegate tells his constituents that he has "donated about 6,000 flags . . . at a cost of \$20,000" to various civic groups.

But what the philanthropist fails to tell the voters of his district is that many of these 6,000 flags were bought with the taxpayers' funds.

The money Whalley used to wrap himself in the flags comes from his stationery allowance which House rules say are "for stationery and other supplies," not for personal use.

And Whalley, the fourth-ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, has had his fingers in the stationery till for more than flags. Each Christmas, the Windber, Pa., church elder chisels the fund for gifts for his friends.

Reached at his home, Whalley promised to find out whether he had a right to use the funds as he had. Asked if he were, indeed, a millionaire, he said, "I don't know."

FBI investigates

The FBI is now investigating our charges that Whalley has required payroll kickbacks from his staffers. The Windber wheeler-dealer has also been reported to the House Ethics Committee for alleged kickbacks by an ex-staffer.

Whalley need have no fear from the Ethics Committee, which has a better supply of whitewash than of righteous zeal. Nevertheless, he has called in two top lawyers. One, former Rep. Bill Cramer, R-Fla., is a close Nixon ally. The other is Benton Becker, a tough young ex-Justice Department lawyer who, ironically, once fought to indict Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, D-NY, on kickbacks and related charges.

WASHINGTON WHIRL

Frugal flood—The Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee is considering a bill that would let members of Congress collect their full retirement benefits even if they have a break in their membership. All the congressmen would have to do is pay the retirement and related deductions for the period they were not in Congress. The man putting in the bill is Rep. Dan Flood, D-Pa., who has had two such breaks in his own service.