

Rogers Assails

Shriver 'Fantasy'

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Washington

Secretary of State William P. Rogers said yesterday that Sargent Shriver, the Democratic party's vice presidential nominee, was talking "bunk" and engaging in "political fantasy" when he said that President Nixon had blown a unique chance to end the Vietnam war in 1969.

In a news conference, heavily colored by the election campaign, Rogers also

attacked Ramsey Clark, a prominent liberal Democrat, who, like Rogers, was a former attorney general.

Clark, in North Vietnam on a fact-finding trip, has made broadcasts over Radio Hanoi that Rogers said were "contemptible."

"It's beyond belief, frankly, and I can't remember anytime in our history when

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DOUBTS

Shriver also said he had private doubts about the Vietnam war, but since he was not engaged in foreign policy matters, he thought it inappropriate during the Johnson administration to sound off on matters not in his field.

"I did not get into a fight with President Nixon," he said. "The time had come (to resign). I'd spent a year there under the Nixon administration. The move toward peace was not significant; I did not want a public fight with them and they did not want a public fight with me. I saw nothing was going to be improved; I did not believe in making a stink about it; I'm not that sort of guy."

Rogers, asked about Shriver's remarks, replied that he had checked with officials who worked on Vietnam affairs, including Henry Cabot Lodge, the Paris negotiator in 1969, and had read all Shriver's messages to the State Department, and "I really don't have any idea what he is talking about."

"Certainly if the President of the United States is sitting with peace in his lap, as Mr. Shriver says, and Mr. Shriver knows that peace is in his lap, he could pick up the phone and call me, or call the President, or talk to Cabot Lodge, or the other negotiators and say, 'My God, peace is in the President's lap.' He didn't mention anything of that kind," Rogers said with undisguised sarcasm in his voice.

LAUGHTER

A few minutes later, Rogers caused newsmen to break into laughter when he put his hand to his ear as if holding a telephone receiver and said, "He could pick up the phone anytime and say, 'Bill, this is Sarge Shriver. The President has a historic

opportunity for peace. Peace is in his lap. Why don't you something about it?' And I would have said, 'Sarge, what is it? Please tell me, quick.'"

Rogers made it clear that as the President's spokesman on foreign affairs, he would feel free during the campaign to rebut attacks from the McGovern camp, although he said he would not give speeches at outright political meetings. His attitude seems similar to that of Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird who Thursday defended his budget policies against Democratic criticism.

Rogers appeared to relish tearing into Shriver's remarks, and time and again he came back to the fact that at no time while he was ambassador had Shriver made any recommendations or uttered any criticism of Mr. Nixon's policies.

TENT

The State Department, following the news conference, even released the text of Shriver's letter of resignation to Mr. Nixon dated Jan. 27, 1970, in which he said "I have accomplished the objectives I went to Paris to achieve — the beginnings at least of peace in Vietnam and the reawakening of friendship between the U.S.A. and France."

Shriver ended his letter by saying he hoped "your efforts for peace are successful."

On Clark, Rogers said that there were two types of Americans who went to Hanoi — "one is the Jane Fonda type, and I think people understand the Jane Fonda types."

"Ramsey Clark is different," he went on. "I listened to him on a broadcast that was repeated here and that was alleged to be a broadcast that he made from Hanoi on Radio Hanoi."

He said that "having been in the government as attorney general myself, I am frank to say that I was shocked."

Clark, a frequent critic of the bombing of North Vietnam, went to Hanoi along with a group of European anti-war advocates. According to broadcasts monitored here, he has made statements critical of the bombing, but he has added that he would only describe scenes he had witnessed, because "I can't reach a conclusion until we have all the evidence, because it is important that we know all the facts that are right."

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anything that is comparable has happened," Rogers said. "And I would think that the American people would be shocked to hear his voice on Radio Hanoi while the war is in progress, while American lives are being lost, particularly a man who was involved in the very decision that made the whole thing come about (as a Johnson administration cabinet officer)."

OPPORTUNITY

Shriver, who served in the last months of the Johnson administration and the first year of the Nixon administration as Ambassador to France, told newsmen Thursday that he had not resigned when Mr. Nixon was elected because "I thought he had an historic opportunity to do what Eisenhower did in Korea — to stop the war."

"It would not have been difficult," Shriver said.

When Averell Harriman and Cy Vance (the American negotiators) were there (in Paris) in the summer of 1968, they felt peace was within their grasp then. Certainly Nixon had peace in his lap."

Shriver said he resigned when it became clear to him that Mr. Nixon "did not want to pursue peace through negotiations alone, but believed that it was necessary for the country to have a different way towards peace which he called Vietnamization."