

McGovern Bars Briefings By Kissinger as Unhelpful

NYTimes By JAMES M. NAUGHTON AUG 16 1972

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Aug. 15—Senator George McGovern declined a Presidential invitation to be briefed on the Vietnam situation by Henry A. Kissinger because, he said here today, official White House briefings customarily "go wide of the mark."

The Democratic Presidential nominee, campaigning for labor support in Ohio, disclosed that he had met officially or socially about a dozen times in the last four years with Mr. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs.

"They've been interesting, but they haven't shed any new light on the Vietnam problem," the South Dakotan said of the meetings. "I've frankly learned more about the realities of Vietnam from following the dispatches of good newspapermen than I have from official briefings in the White House."

He told reporters at a news conference in the Voyager Inn here that he did not mean to "denigrate" President Nixon's "generous" offer, made public after Mr. McGovern was nominated last month.

But he said that he had designated Paul C. Warnke, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense, to receive information "that the White House thinks would be useful" and that the White House had named Brig. Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Mr. Kissinger's deputy, to do the briefing.

The practice of briefing Presidential nominees by Administration officials dates to 1944, when it was reported that the Republican nominee,

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Thomas E. Dewey, was briefed secretly by President Roosevelt on at least one occasion. In 1948, John Foster Dulles was briefed by Truman administration officials.

In August, 1952, General Eisenhower refused an offer of White House briefings by President Truman.

According to press reports in 1964, the Republican nominee, Barry Goldwater, turned down President Johnson's offer of briefings.

Senator McGovern said that he had encountered Mr. Kissinger socially—he would not say where—within the last several months and that he had met with the adviser at least three times since announcing his Presidential candidacy some 18 months ago. An aide to the Senator said that Mr. McGovern met with Mr. Kissinger in the White House last September, after the Senator completed a trip to South Vietnam.

Asked if the Presidential adviser had cautioned against counting on any political benefit from the war issue in the campaign against Mr. Nixon, Senator McGovern replied:

"It seems to me he did say something along those lines but it was a private conversation, so I'd better not go into it."

He recalled, however, that the President warned publicly in January that he would "yank the rug out" from under any political opponent planning to capitalize on the Vietnam issue.

"I've been waiting patiently and hopefully to have that rug jerked," Mr. McGovern added. But he said that even if the American role in Vietnam were to end on the eve of the election, the voters would want to know why it had taken Mr. Nixon four years to accomplish a 1968 campaign pledge.

Mr. Kissinger, who held the latest in a series of private talks with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris yesterday, was on the way to Saigon for

what the White House termed a general reassessment of the situation. Senator McGovern said he was doubtful anything would come of it.

"I hope with all my heart the war issue will die the only way it can die—and that's to end the war," he said. "But I think they [the Nixon Administration] are still hanging onto support of the Thieu regime in Saigon. That's of course what the war is all about."

As he campaigned here and in nearby Lordstown before traveling on to Springfield, Ill.,

Senator McGovern wore a memorial prisoner-of-war bracelet given to him as he walked through a friendly crowd on Youngstown's Market Street. The bracelet bore the name of Lieut. Col. Robert Barnett and the date, Oct. 3, 1967, when the pilot was captured.

Mr. McGovern continued to suggest that the President was responsible "at least indirectly" for the invasion of the Democratic National Committee's offices in Washington by five men in June.

Referring to reports that a \$25,000 Republican campaign contribution wound up in the Miami bank account of one of those arrested in the incident, Mr. McGovern said the press and public should have been "in an uproar."

In Lordstown, at the headquarters of Local 1112 of the United Automobile Workers, Senator McGovern told union members that the committee incident was "the kind of thing you expect under a person like Hitler" and said that he intended to "ask brother Nixon [about it] if I can ever get him on a debate."

Some 200 young workers, many of them bearded and long-haired, applauded Mr. McGovern at length on what was a return visit to the Lordstown area. He spoke last spring, during the Ohio primary campaign, with workers who had gone on a wildcat strike at the modern General Motors Vega plant in protest against what they termed "dehumanizing" jobs on the assembly line.

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