

Ellsberg's New Charges

Nixon's Secret 'Peace Plan'

Miami Beach

Right up to the end, California Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. was arguing yesterday that Republican national convention delegates ought not give President Nixon another "blank check" on the Vietnam war.

Four years ago, the Portola Valley, Calif., GOP lawmaker said, Mr. Nixon told the party's convention and the electorate that he had a "secret plan" to end the war.

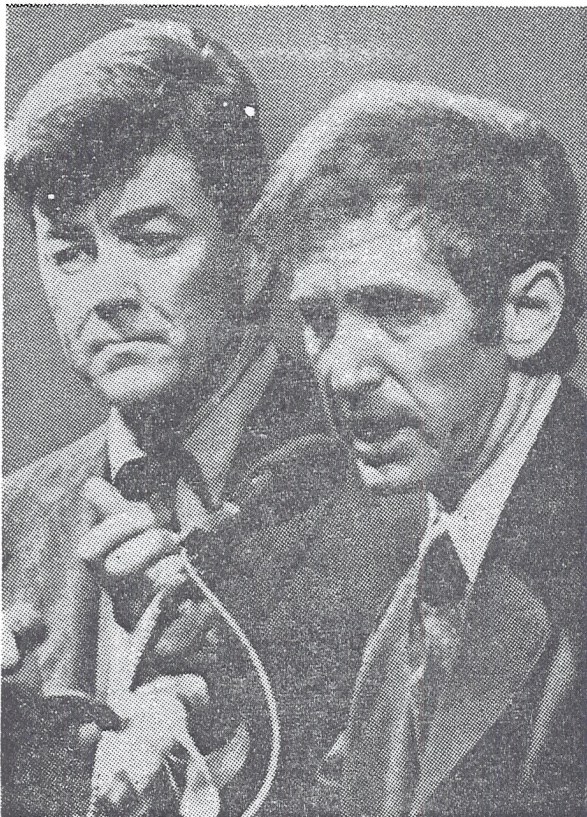
The war is still going on, McCloskey told a news conference shortly before delegates roared their approval of the party platform and the President should not be renominated without knowledge by the delegates what he has done secretly in the past and what he will do in the future.

ELLSBERG

McCloskey was joined at the news conference by Daniel Ellsberg, former Defense Department consultant whose Los Angeles trial on charges of conspiracy to steal government property, theft of government property and violation of the espionage act has been stayed pending a Supreme Court ruling on an alleged wiretapping incident.

Ellsberg said he coordinated a Rand Corp. study for the incoming Nixon administration in December, 1968, listing seven options the new chief executive had for handling the Vietnam war.

Unilateral withdrawal of U.S. forces, one of the seven, was summarily dismissed as a option by Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security affairs ad-



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CONGRESSMAN McCLOSKEY, DANIEL ELLSBERG
They assailed the President at a news conference

viser, Ellsberg said.

What emerged almost immediately from the study, Ellsberg said, was what was then Mr. Nixon's "secret plan" for the war — and what it is today.

PLAN

The plan, he said, was "to hold off American public opinion by withdrawing troops at a rate acceptable to the American people, yet ultimately the acceleration of American bombing and the mining of Haiphong when the troop level reached a point where the South Vietnamese could not survive without the heavy bombing of North Vietnam."

Mr. Nixon signaled his

policy to other nations, Ellsberg said, by sending Navy frogmen into Haiphong harbor — deliberately intending that their presence would be detected by the enemy — by sending a battalion-sized U.S. Marine force into Laos and by sending B-52 bombers on raids into neutral Cambodia.

The purpose of all this, Ellsberg said, was to show North Vietnam that he would escalate the war if necessary.

Ellsberg said the moves were clear to North Vietnam and the Soviet Union and that Mr. Nixon and Kissinger believed the Russians could thus be pressured into convincing the North Viet-

namese to end the war.

All this happened within ten weeks after Mr. Nixon took office, Ellsberg said, although the frogman raids have never been disclosed before.

McCLOSKEY

McCloskey, who mounted a presidential campaign of his own earlier this year as a protest against the President's conduct of the war, said "it is wrong to nominate Mr. Nixon for a second time without ever having been told the details of his secret plan to end the war."

Unlike McCloskey, Ellsberg said he was not passing judgment on the Nixon plan. "Maybe if he had disclosed that policy," he said. "The American people may have supported it, knowing it meant indefinitely maintaining the war at a low level."

The congressman said he considers it "incredible that the issue of whether it is immoral or unconscionable to carry on this devastation is not even going to be debated" prior to the renomination.

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