

Nixon Risks Big War---McGovern



SENATOR MCGOVERN
Red China danger

Washington

Democratic Senator George S. McGovern accused President Nixon yesterday of "flirting with World War III."

This was the harshest reaction on Capitol Hill to the President's hard-line news conference Wednesday on the U.S.-supported South Vietnamese drive into southern Laos to try to cut the Ho Chi Minh trail.

McGovern, sn. announced candidate for his party's presidential nomination, told a news conference that Mr. Nixon's statement invited Chinese Communist intervention.

DECISION

"I think he has given up on a political decision," McGovern said. "He's flirting with World War III in Asia."

At another point, the long-time opponent of the Vietnam war said:

"He's setting the stage very possibly for World War III in Asia, and if that happens we will face the loss of tens of thousands of Americans."

McGovern rejected Mr. Nixon's declaration that the United States would remain in Indochina until all its prisoners of war are released. The only way to rescue the prisoners, McGovern said, is to set a definite date for withdrawal of all U.S. troops.

A few hours later, Representative Paul N. McCloskey,

a liberal Republican from San Mateo, Calif., reiterated his position that a national dialogue should be started to discuss impeaching the President.

He told his colleagues in a speech on the House floor that a national debate would "bring home to the President the depth of despair many of us feel over his recent moves without prior consent of the Congress."

CUE

McCloskey, possibly taking a cue from former Democratic representative Allard Lowenstein who began the movement to dump President Johnson in 1967, urged that GOP candidates oppose Mr. Nixon in the presidential primaries early next year.

He said possible GOP candidates are John W. Gardner, former HEW secretary and now head of Common CAUSE, Senator Charles H. Percy (Rep.-Ill.) and Senator Mark Hatfield (Rep.-Ore.).

Senator Frank Church (Dem.-Idaho) joined McGovern in expressing fears about what Communist China might do if it felt threatened by U.S. moves in Indochina.

CRITIC

"They warned us in Korea," Church said. "We chose not to accept the warning. I think there have been warnings out of China this time. They haven't taken precisely the same form, but there have been rumblings."

On of the most persistent war critics, Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem.-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, told a reporter: "The President has taken the bit in his teeth. His remarks don't surprise me. It appears the President intends to do whatever he wants to in Southeast Asia and there's little we can do about it."

Assistant Senate Republican leader Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, told of McGovern's statement, called it "very irresponsible."

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield rejected the possibility of an allied invasion of North Vietnam, commenting, "We have three fronts there now and that's three too many."

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