

ROGERS CRITICIZES SHRIVER WAR VIEW

Says Nominee Talks 'Bunk'
in Asserting Nixon Could
Have Ended War in '69

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 11— Secretary of State William P. Rogers said today that Sargent Shriver, the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee, was talking "bunk" and engaging in "political fantasy" when he asserted yesterday that President Nixon "blew" a chance to end the Vietnam war in 1969.

In a news conference heavily colored by the election campaign, Mr. Rogers made the second Nixon Administration attack on the Democratic Presidential ticket in two days. Yesterday, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird defended his budget policies against Democratic criticism.

Mr. 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 Democrats, although he said he would not give speeches at outright political meetings.

He also criticized Ramsey

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Clark, a prominent liberal Democrat who, like Mr. Rogers, is a former Attorney General. Mr. Clark, in North Vietnam on a fact-finding trip, has made broadcasts over the Hanoi radio that Mr. Rogers said were "contemptible."

"It's beyond belief, frankly, and I can't remember any time in our history when anything that is comparable has happened," the secretary 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 Cabinet officer]."

Chance to 'Stop the War'

Mr. Shriver, who served in the last months of the Johnson Administration and the first year of the Nixon Administration as Ambassador to France, told a group of newsmen yesterday 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," he 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," he said.

Mr. 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."

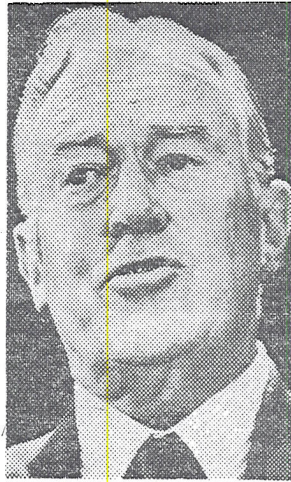
Mr. Rogers, asked about Mr. Shriver's remarks, replied that he had checked with officials who worked on Vietnam affairs, including Henry Cabot Lodge, the Paris negotiator in 1969, and had read all Mr. Shriver's messages to the State Department, and "I really don't have any idea what he is talking about."

Could Have Phoned

"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," Mr. Rogers said with undisguised sarcasm.

A few minutes later, he evoked laughter from newsmen when he put his hand to his ear as if holding a telephone receiver and said, "He could pick up the phone any time and say, 'Bill, this is Sarge Shriver. The President has a historic opportunity for peace. Peace is in his lap. Why don't you do something about it?' And I would have said, 'Sarge, what is it? Please tell me, quick.'"

The Secretary opened the



Associated Press

William P. Rogers, Secretary of State, at his Washington news session.

news conference, held at the State Department, with a statement praising the House for rejecting an end-the-war amendment yesterday by a 228-to-178 vote.

As a result of that vote, Mr. Rogers said, "the prospects for peace by the negotiating route remain hopeful."

Potential Damage

"I think if the House had voted the other way, that our prospects for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam would have been damaged," he said.

President Nixon has said that such amendments, if passed, provided incentives to Hanoi not to negotiate seriously.

Mr. Rogers refused to supply details on how the negotiations in Paris were progressing, but in answer to a question, he said that he thought Hanoi and its allies believed "that the President is going to win [the election] again."

"And if that is the case, they may decide that they would be in a better position to negotiate on favorable terms if they did it now, than to wait until after President Nixon wins again," he said.

Asked if that meant Mr. Nixon would be "tougher" in his terms after election, Mr. Rogers said "I couldn't answer that. He certainly isn't going to be any easier."

Mr. Rogers, who has been a close political adviser of Mr. Nixon's since 1952, seemed more relaxed today during this heavily political news conference than he has been at other, more routine, conferences where he has had to watch every word for fear of making some diplomatic indiscretion.

Finds Lack of Criticism

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

The State Department, following the news conference, released the text of Mr. 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."

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

On other foreign policy matters, Mr. Rogers said:

"The United States was pleased with the exchange of messages between Mr. Nixon and President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt on the 20th anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, but he declined to predict future actions in the Middle East as the result of the Soviet withdrawal from Egypt. He repeated American proposals for the start of a dialogue between Egypt and Israel."

"The Administration was pleased that talks between North and South Korea "have been going well." On another Asian matter, said that Japan's desire to improve relations with China should not conflict with American policy. He said that Mr. Nixon looked forward to his meeting at the end of the month with Premier Kakuei Tanaka of Japan "to avoid any possible differences that might cause any trouble in our relations."

Two Types in Hanoi

On Mr. Clark, Mr. 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."

Mr. Clark, a frequent critic of the bombing of North Vietnam, went to Hanoi along with a group of European antiwar 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."