

# McGovern Accuses Nixon Of a 'Low Road' Campaign

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 13—Senator George McGovern accused President Nixon today of directing subordinates to question the loyalty of Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General of the United States, as part of a "low road" campaign for re-election.

Referring to statements made about Mr. Clark by the President's former campaign manager, John N. Mitchell, and others connected with the Administration, Senator McGovern said: "Yes, I'm accusing the President of taking the low road by remote control."

Senator McGovern told a panel on the American Broadcasting Company's "Issues and Answers" that he would neither defend nor denounce that fact that Mr. Clark had criticized American bombing policies in a program over the Hanoi radio.

"What he said, if there was anything wrong with it," Senator McGovern said, pales into insignificance compared to the fact that President Nixon is ordering American bombers out to slaughter, kill and destroy all across the face of Indochina."

### Joins With Shriver

In the toughest attack yet on the Nixon Administration, Senator McGovern joined his running mate, Sargent Shriver, in the charge that President Nixon "blew" an opportunity to end the war in Vietnam when he took office. Mr. Shriver elaborated on the charge, which he made earlier in the week, when he appeared a half hour before Mr. McGovern in a television interview on the National Broadcasting Company's "Meet the Press."

Both Senator McGovern and Mr. Shriver offered the view that the North Vietnamese had signaled a desire to negotiate

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# McGovern Scores Nixon on Campaign

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when Mr. Nixon took office by withdrawing 90 per cent of their fighting forces from South Vietnam. Instead of moving to negotiate, Senator McGovern charged, President Nixon increased the bombing, closing the door to negotiations.

"What the American people have to ask," Senator McGovern suggested, "is what have we gained by the sacrifice of another 20,000 American lives these past three and one-half years, the sacrifice of 50 to 60 billions of dollars. We're in no better position now to negotiate an end to this war than we were three and one-half years ago."

### Nixon Campaign Scored

Although Senator McGovern returned several times to the war issue during the half hour interview, he used particularly harsh terms to describe President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Among other things, Senator McGovern charged that President Nixon had done the following:

¶ "Returned to his favorite technique of questioning the loyalty and patriotism of Americans who disagreed with him," in the attack on Mr. Clark.

¶ "Refused to disclose the source of \$10-million in campaign contributions because 'it might come from groups that have received special favors from his Administration.'"

¶ "Refused to appoint a special body to investigate an attempt to eavesdrop electronically on the Democratic National Committee offices because 'every day some new evidence develops that points right directly at the White House itself and its involvement' in the matter.

The charges were contained in a renewed call by Senator McGovern for a debate between himself and President Nixon.

Although Mr. Shriver insisted that the possibilities for peace were clear to him when President Nixon took office and he remained on as Ambassador to France in Paris, he could offer no documented evidence that he had communicated his views to the President.

### Vance and Harriman

It would not have been proper, he said, for an Ambassador to communicate directly with the President on such a matter. His views, he said, were contained in reports filed by the negotiators in Paris at the time—Cyrus Vance and W. Averill Harriman, both of whom have supported his statement. The Administration, however, has denounced Mr. Shriver's statement as "bunk" and political rhetoric.

In a related development, Henry Cabot Lodge, who succeeded Mr. Harriman and Mr. Vance at the negotiating table in Paris, issued a statement today saying that he knew of

no opportunity for successful negotiations.

Mr. Lodge, who ran for Vice President in 1960 on a ticket with Mr. Nixon, said, "I can state categorically and unequivocally that I neither was informed of any such peace opportunity nor had any reason to believe one existed."