

Excerpt from hour-long interview of Democratic vice presidential nominee R. Sargent Shriver, 21 Sep 72, New York. Interviewers were National Editor Robert E. Thompson, Washington Bureau Chief William Theis and columnist Marianne Means. Story is written by Theis, datelined Washington.

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Q - Could we talk about the Vietnam situation? Vice-President Agnew said he would not expect North Vietnam to make any peace move until they know that Senator McGovern and you had no likelihood of being elected, and that this might not be known until mid-October. Do you have any comment?

A - I think it's ridiculous, yes . . . George McGovern has been nominated since when, July? . . .

There were three years up till July when the North Vietnamese and we had been making peace moves. So to say the likelihood for peace is dependent upon the fact of whether George McGovern is going to have a particular rating in the polls in October seems ridiculous . . .

Q - The point was that George McGovern is the one that has said he would pull everything out 90 days after his inauguration.

A - I understand that, but that should be the thinking that controls peace . . . we should be seeking peace and not worrying about whether George McGovern has got 48 or 22 points in the Gallup Poll. We should have been doing it before George McGovern was nominated. For three years we should have been doing it.

Q - You are saying that everything Kissinger and Nixon have been doing is not in pursuit of peace?

A - I said publicly, and you don't need to get it from me, you can get it from the fellows who work in the national security office under Kissinger, as to what the approach was when the effort to achieve peace at the negotiating table in Paris was stopped.

Q - But it's still not to say that they are not trying to get a peace settlement before election or any time as soon as possible with everything that is at stake?

A - Well, my own belief is that everything humanly possible will be done. I think everything humanly possible will be done.

Q - Do you think it is being done?

A - I think Kissinger is frantically going around trying to get a peace before election, of course.

Q - Do you think anything is going to happen between now and election?

A - I would . . . let me put it this way: I would not be at all surprised if Kissinger pulled a rabbit out of a hat between now and the middle of - let's say the 20th of October.

I think it's been possible to get it for a long time, you understand, so I wouldn't be surprised if it were obtained now.

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