

McGOVERN ASSERTS NIXON PRETENDED TO BE NEAR PEACE

NOV 4 1972

Charges That Talk of Pact Was Re-election Strategy and a 'Cruel Deception'

NYTimes

RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT

Discerns 'Fatal Breakdown' of Agreement Worked Out by Kissinger and Hanoi

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Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Nov. 3—Senator George McGovern charged tonight that President Nixon had only "pretended" to be near a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war. He said the President's actions were part of a re-election strategy based on "cruel political deception."

The Democratic Presidential nominee, using blunt and at times bitter language, declared in a nationally televised address that Mr. Nixon had "closed the door to peace once again" by refusing to accept without refinement the settlement that his own Administration had negotiated with North Vietnam.

In a hastily arranged response to the President's campaign telecast last night, Senator McGovern took issue with Mr. Nixon's statement that further negotiations were necessary to clear up "details" of the agreement that Hanoi had proposed signing on Tuesday.

'A Fatal Breakdown'

"That was no arbitrary deadline, as Mr. Nixon pretended last night," Mr. McGovern asserted. "It was an agreed upon deadline, set by both sides together. And now it has passed. 'And there has been no major breakthrough' for peace, as Mr. Nixon also pretended last night. Instead, there has been a fatal breakdown on the central issues and now this chance for an agreement is gone."

Mr. McGovern said that Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser and the principal United States negotiator, had agreed with North Vietnam on a "coalition" to set up free elections in South Vietnam and on a military withdrawal by the United States without a mutual pullout by the North Vietnamese.

"Dr. Kissinger took the agreement to President [Nguyen Van] Thieu of South Vietnam," the Senator said. "And General Thieu said, 'No.'"

"Dr. Kissinger took the agreement to President Nixon.

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And President Nixon said, 'No.'"

Thus, Mr. McGovern said, "We must draw the painful conclusion that the events of recent weeks were not a path to peace, but a detour around Election Day."

The Senate canceled two scheduled appearances today, a rally at Michigan State University and a news conference in East Chicago, Ind., to create a block of time to videotape the address here for telecast on the Columbia Broadcasting System at 10:30 P.M. Eastern standard time. Mr. McGovern decided on the television appearance after having watched the President last night make a televised speech, costly about his hopes for peace and subsequent national prosperity and reconciliation.

Mr. McGovern's taped speech was not affected by a strike today by C.B.S. cameramen, technicians and electrical engineers.

Mr. McGovern particularly challenged Mr. Nixon's contention that a settlement awaited only the rephrasing of some of the "details" of the pending agreement.

"The President may say peace, peace—but there is no peace and there never was," Mr. McGovern charged. "For it is not the details, but the central issues, that are still in dispute."

Mr. Nixon and Dr. Kissinger have said that a tripartite arrangement under which the South Vietnamese, the Vietcong and neutrals would seek elections under the supervision of an international group did not amount to a "coalition" government. The English and Vietnamese language descriptions of the tripartite group constitute one of the "details" that the United States is seeking to clarify.

Assertion Challenged

But Mr. McGovern said that, in his view, the President's assertion last night that the draft settlement would be held up until all pending issues were resolved was tantamount to conceding that "he has rejected the settlement his own negotiators accepted nearly a month ago."

Recalling that Dr. Kissinger had said last week that peace was at hand, Mr. McGovern said that "the hand that could have signed that peace"—Mr. Nixon's—"pushed it aside."

Tonight's speech was unquestionably McGovern's harshest attack to date on the President and the Republican campaign effort.

In a campaign marked by falsehood, sabotage, secret funds, special interest deals

and criminal activity," the Senator said, "this is the worst deceit of all."

"They have played politics with the Justice Department, F.B.I., the Supreme Court and even the Constitution. Now they play politics with our prisoners and our soldiers and life itself. It is they who treat our men like toy soldiers, to be knocked over by the hand that should protect them."

This was an apparent allusion to a Republican television commercial in which a hand, presumably Mr. McGovern's, takes away toy soldiers in a depiction of the Senator's proposed defense budget cuts.

"What we are seeing in this campaign," Mr. McGovern went on, "is the manipulation of our hope by men who know how to get power and want to keep it, but do not know what it is for. In politics, there are some things more precious than victory. One of them is truth."

"But these men will say anything to win."

'The Same Old Lies'

The Democratic challenger, whose campaign has been consistently on the defensive, charged that the President had misstated the Senator's views on tax reform and welfare reform and added: "I am tired of answering the same old lies."

The Republicans, he asserted, "will say that there is peace even in the midst of war. They will say that inflation is cut in half when in fact it is as high as it was before. They will say that the tide has been turned against crime when crime is at the highest tide in history."

Mr. McGovern said, "The truth is all around us. Ask the families of our prisoners if the fighting has ended. Ask the housewife if the cost of living is under control. Ask yourself if you feel safe on a city street at night."

"And ask yourselves if you really believe the incredible attacks on the Democratic party in 1972," he urged. "They are part of the same technique of fear and innuendo Mr. Nixon has used so often before."

The South Dakotan said that he had received a telephone call as he campaigned in Michigan last night from Charles Stewart of Gladstone, Mich. He said that Mr. Stewart had told him that his son, Charles Jr., an Army enlisted man, had been killed in Vietnam on the day the peace agreement was to have been signed.

"Charles Stewart Jr. died for those 'details,'" Mr. McGovern said. "And he was not alone. This week, 22 other Americans died for those same 'details.' For the sake of those 'details' the bombs still fall, the guns still fire and the terrible pain goes on."

his harsh rhetoric twice in the

30-minute speech. He said that he was "sorry" to use it but believed it was true.

"I do not honestly know whether the blunt words I have said tonight will help me or hurt me in this election," he said later. "I do not really care."

'Judgment Day' Ahead

Earlier today, in Grand Rapids, Mich., Mr. McGovern told 400 clergymen that his campaign adopted Biblical and moralistic themes because next Tuesday would be "Judgment Day for this country—not so much of two candidates, but of ourselves and of the values and priorities that we most want to put forward."

The minister's son, who once studied at Garrett Seminary in Illinois, said that he had been "charged with injecting moralism into this campaign, almost as though morality and politics—like oil and water—don't mix."

"But I would like to say to those who question the marriage of politics and morality," he said, "that it is the divorce that ought to trouble us, not the marriage."

The Senator's evangelistic remarks included a familiar reference to the Scriptural admonition to choose between "life and death, blessing and cursing."

Confrontation Recounted

The clergymen laughed when Mr. McGovern recalled a confrontation with a heckler yesterday in Battle Creek, Mich., in which he responded to a detractor with a vulgarism. The Senator told the clergymen that because of his exchange with the heckler he had "fully disqualified myself for any further service with the clergy."

Mr. Mankiewicz joked with reporters today about the Senator's use of the vulgarism by explaining that, "as the Democratic nominee, he couldn't very well say, 'Kiss my elephant.'"

Mr. McGovern told one journalist at the Mr. President Motor Inn in Grand Rapids—where he spent the night in the Robert F. Kennedy Suite—that he thought "we need a little more courtesy in this country and I am going to practice a little more myself."
