

17 Oct 72

# Shriver's Target: Nixon

NEW YORK — (AP) — Democratic vice presidential candidate Sargent Shriver said today that if President Nixon knew illegal activities were being permitted or encouraged in behalf of his re-election, he himself "is guilty of immoral and illegal acts."

"If he did not," Shriver said, "President Nixon has proved himself impotent and incompetent. Either conclusion, in my judgment, should disqualify him for re-election."

Shriver compared the present situation in which allegations are flying about alleged Republican espionage

to what might have been the case if similar accusations were made about the administration of his brother-in-law, the late President John F. Kennedy.

Shriver posed this contrast:

"If, during the Kennedy administration, Ted Sorensen and Larry O'Brien had been indicted by a federal grand jury; if the attorney general, Robert Kennedy, had been charged with having a secret fund of three-quarters of a million dollars for political espionage purposes under his control;

"If part of the spy fund was kept in the safe of Sec-

retary of Commerce Luther Hodges and if the thieves and spies hired by the secret fund revealed they were reporting to Kenney O'Donnell, President Kennedy's appointments secretary, then I believe it would have been fair to state one of two conclusions had to be true:

"Either the President knew what was going on and encouraged or condoned the criminal actions committed in his behalf by his trusted high-level appointees or he had no knowledge and therefore no control over what the men closest to him were doing in violation of the law."

Issuing the statement in Passaic, N.J., Shriver also criticized Nixon's statement yesterday that he mined Haiphong Harbor because the nation was faced with "the specter of defeat" in Vietnam.

"After seven years of fighting and scores of thousands killed and wounded the President says we were faced with the specter of defeat," Shriver said and added:

"After all the talk we've heard of progress and victories it is obvious someone has been misleading the American people."