

Nixon will have no answer for critics

KWEILIN, China (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon "definitely will not respond to the criticism" of his China trip that has come from the United States, an aide said Friday. Feb 27

The aide, John Brennan, would not elaborate on Nixon's stand regarding domestic criticism and declined to discuss specific critical statements, which have come from longtime Nixon supporter Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona and from President Ford among others.

On Thursday, Feb 26, Ford told a Washington interviewer who asked about the effect of the Nixon trip on the New Hampshire primary, where the President took 51 per cent of the vote over GOP challenger Ronald Reagan:

"I think the weight of the evidence we have so far — we don't have all the evidence in — that it probably was harmful, but I wouldn't want to make that comment at this time."

On Friday, Feb 27, Nixon cruised 50 miles down the Li River past spectacular mountains that he repeatedly compared to pyramids. In the evening he attended a recital of songs, dances and acrobatics in Kweilin.

Saturday, Feb 28, the Nixons fly to Canton, where they will visit a commune and the hot springs. They depart Sunday for home. Feb 29

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who recently said Nixon would report to the White House on his China trip after his return, told reporters in Washington: "Former President Nixon will definitely be debriefed when he comes back, but it will not be by me."

Kissinger also said he did not expect to see Nixon in California.

One of the things Nixon is expected to tell the U.S. officials in his debriefing is his impression of the current split in the Peking hierarchy between leftist radicals

and the moderates they are attacking.

In Peking, a poster campaign describing Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping as China's "foremost capitalist roader" began Thursday. Feb 26

Teng, groomed for the premiership by Chou En-lai in the last two years of his life, had been the No. 1 target in the leftists' campaign against "capitalist roaders" but had not previously been publicly named.

The campaign against "capitalist roaders" pits radical leftists rigidly committed to Maoist ideology against moderates favoring alternative approaches to China's problems. China's acting premier, Hua Kuo-feng, is associated with the radicals.