

Royce Brier

Ky Calls Off The Big Pitch

GEORGE WASHINGTON believed in free speech, and risked his neck for it. When he was President, though he was a conservative farmer who had accidentally become a world figure, he kept fully abreast of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in his devotion to a new kind of individual liberty on this continent.

But he would surely gag at the thought that a little Asiatic puppet could stand at the base of the Washington Monument, and plug for a victory in Indochina.

For the General also had a passionate hatred for casual and futile wars, and said so thousands of times in his letters, public papers and his talks among the Founding Fathers.



So Vice President Ky of South Vietnam is not going to harangue a right-wing crowd at the base of the Monument this weekend, or any other time. It was the most hare-brained scheme for spreading propaganda on American soil one can readily remember. Washington was also against hare-brained schemes. He countered hundreds of them with eminent success during the quarter-century he was launching the American people on their journey.

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IT IS DOUBTFUL if Ky is even now aware of the absurdity of the thing. He has exhibited scant perception of Asian affairs, let alone world affairs.

Here was this razzle-dazzle pastor who had a few thousand followers for his theme that President Nixon is selling out America by his plan to end the Indochina war. Thinking he could use Ky, the pastor took a quick trip to Saigon and invited him to a rally. Ky is the victory shouter in his own country, a fascist type who let slip some admiration for Adolf Hitler a couple of years ago. He was going to the peace talks in Paris, and his appearance in Washington was set up for next Saturday.

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IT WAS AN ASININE PLAY into the hands of every militant in the country, delighted to find such a sitting duck. Ordinary American dissenters, who in tens of millions only want to get the hell out of Vietnam when humanly possible, were appalled.

Soon the rumble in the White House could be heard across the land. Mr. Nixon sent his personal envoy, Henry Kissinger, to Paris to suggest an appearance would be "Inadvisable," as those things are put in diplomatic circles.

So Ky announced on a television program he was cancelling. He said it wasn't because of White House pressure, but because "peace groups — hippies" might show up. The use of the term "hippies" is an eloquent measure of Ky's understanding of the mood in the United States touching his war.

Pastor's New Blast in Ky Furor

Washington

The Rev. Carl McIntire, chairman of the "March for Victory" scheduled here next Saturday, accused the Nixon Administration yesterday of violating freedom of speech by dissuading Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam from appearing at the rally.

McIntire, who met with Ky in Paris Monday, also told newsmen that "It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Ky will bare his heart and soul and yet come to the rally."

Ky said he decided in Paris not to attend the march because he feared that it might lead to violence between the marchers and antiwar demonstrators. He said that it would not be a propitious time to present the Vietnamese point of view to the American people.

McIntire, who is pastor of the Bible Presbyterian church in Collingwood, N.J., said yesterday that "the Nixon Administration brought the necessary influences upon the government of Vietnam to keep the vice president from speaking at the march for victory rally October 3. This is a violation of freedom of speech."

The conservative minister charged that "the Nixon Administration has also interfered with an assembly of United States citizens called to redress grievances by eliminating the featured speaker already on his way to appear before the rally."

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