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McGovern Denounces Influence Of 'Military-Industrial Complex'

Senator George S. McGovern declared Sunday night that the "mounting influence of the military-industrial complex" was "the most serious internal threat facing the United States on the eve of the Nixon Administration."

"A central question facing the new Administration and the American people," the South Dakota Democrat said in a speech at the Waldorf-Astoria, "will be whether we use the \$30-billion now being squandered in Vietnam to improve the quality of our society or permit it to be gobbled up by the military for a new string of gadgets and adventures such as the ill-advised antiballistic missile system."

Senator McGovern quoted generously from former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's speech on the military-industrial complex at the end of his Administration eight years ago.

The Senator said that defense and war-related expenditures now account for \$107-billion, 72 per cent of the Federal budget, and are likely to climb higher even if the Vietnam war is ended.

"By comparison," he said, "all of our expenditures for health, education and welfare come to only \$17.2-billion—11 per cent of the total budget."

"The big military-aerospace contractors and their allies in the Pentagon and the Congress are already preparing to divert the billions now going to Vietnam into the production of sophisticated new planes, missiles and other armaments," he said.

The Senator, who made an unsuccessful late bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination but then won re-election

while Richard M. Nixon carried his state, said he hoped that the President-elect would not carry out his campaign proposals to increase military spending.

Mr. McGovern delivered the speech, titled "The Military-Industrial Complex Eight Years Later," at the annual Hanukkah Dinner of Yeshiva University.

The dinner marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of Yeshiva College, the first college of arts and sciences established in this country under Jewish auspices.

About 600 persons attended the dinner & a fund-raising affair in the Waldorf's Sert Room that featured a smorgasbord, roast beef and the announcement of \$1.5-million in gifts to the University.

Senator McGovern, a vigorous critic of the war in Vietnam and an ally of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was warmly received. His speech was interrupted several times by applause and was followed by a standing ovation.

Tracing the growth of the military's share of the budget dollar, Senator McGovern said that the Administration of John F. Kennedy had increased the last Eisenhower defense budget by \$10-billion, and that during President Johnson's time in office the defense budget had grown by \$30-billion more.

The current budget, he said, allocates \$82-billion to military items, 56 per cent of the total, with \$25-billion more going to war-related expenditures such as veterans' affairs and the interest on our war debts.

Senator McGovern warned, in conclusion, that "we will lose the American dream if we continue to pursue the illusion of security through arms."