

MAY 4 1972

SFChronicle

Spock Calls War 'One Of Dirtiest'

Dr. Benjamin Spock accused President Nixon and his Democratic and Republican predecessors yesterday of waging "one of the dirtiest wars ever fought" and called it "absurd" to protest against the invasion of South Vietnam by North Vietnamese troops.

"Vietnam should belong to the Vietnamese," the retired pediatrician and presidential candidate of the People's party told the Commonwealth Club at a luncheon at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel.

"It's not two separate countries. The northerners are repelling foreign invaders (American troops), and they are going to fight until the death of the last man."

FIRST

Spock, the first in a series of presidential candidates to address the Commonwealth Club, said he or another member of the People's party would stay in the race no matter who wins the Democratic nomination.

"Naturally we're not out to try to defeat George McGovern," Spock told reporters at a press conference preceding his speech.

"I personally would much rather have McGovern get the nomination instead of Hubert Humphrey or that a Democrat be elected instead of President Nixon, but that has nothing with what we're trying to do.

"We believe the only chance to save America is by building a third party because we think the American people kid themselves

by choosing between the lesser of two evils. That is why we keep getting evil."

CHANCE

It would be unfortunate, Spock said if he or a substitute candidate representing his party won enough votes in a key to state to throw the election from McGovern to Mr. Nixon.

"But that is the chance we take," Spock added.

The candidate elaborated on the hostile remarks he made Tuesday, his 69th birthday, on learning of the death of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

"I think he had no understanding of the democratic process," said Spock, who was convicted of anti-draft activities in 1968. He was sentenced to prison, but the conviction was overturned on appeal.

"I think he (Hoover) thought it was up to him to decide what politicians represented the American aspirations and which were intolerable . . . I think he was a poisonous influence . . ."

Spock received a polite reception from the unusually small audience of about 125.