

Viet Nam Policies Defended

Johnson Answers Burning Questions

NEW YORK (AP) — President Johnson said last night in a new reply to critics of his Viet Nam policy, that the United States is not caught up in a blind escalation of force leading toward a wider war.

Johnson, in an address prepared for a freedom house dinner, said a number of questions — he listed ten — still are being asked in the wake of public hearings on Viet Nam by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He did not mention the Committee but his reference to it — and "our commitment to free discussion" — was obvious.

First, Johnson said, so me ask if this is a war for unlimited objectives.

Declaring that the answer is "no," he said:

"Our purpose in Viet Nam is to prevent the success of aggression. It is not conquest; it is not empire; it is not domination; it is not domination."

Preventive War

In short, he went on, it is "to prevent the forceful conquest of South Viet Nam by North Viet Nam."

Then, with these words, he dealt with the question of escalation:

"Second, some ask if we are caught in a blind escalation of force that is pulling us headlong into a wider war that no one wants. The answer — again — is no. We are using that force — and only that force — necessary to stop the aggression."

Johnson asserted that, with increased numbers of American troops in Viet Nam, "the high hopes of the aggressor have been dimmed, and the tide of battle has turned."

The President gave this pledge:

"Our measured use of force must be continued. But this is prudent firmness under careful control. There is not, and there will not be, a mindless escalation."

A nother question which some ask, he said, is whether the United States is risking a wider war — perhaps with Communist China.

Peiping Directed

"And again the answer is 'No,'" he said, "never by any act of ours — and not if there is any reason left behind the wild words from Peiping."

Apparently directing his words to Peiping, Johnson said the United States has threatened no one, has sought the end of no regime — and will not in the future.

Johnson discussed, too, the much-debated question of the kind of government South Viet Nam will have in the future. He said:

"Washington will not impose upon the people of South Viet Nam a government not of their choice. Hanoi shall not impose upon the people of South Viet Nam a government not of their choice."

"We will insist for ourselves on what we required from Hanoi: 'Respect for the principle of government by consent of the governed. We stand for self-determination — for free elections — and we will honor their result.'"

Seeking Peace

Johnson said also the United States is not neglecting "any hopeful chance of peace."

He said American peace-seekers will continue their efforts undiminished.

The Chief Executive said he could not answer another question — "How long we must bear this burden." He said:

"If the aggressor persists in Viet Nam, the struggle may be long. Our men in battle know and accept this hard fact. We who are at home can do as much." He said peace will "come only to the steadfast — never to the weak in heart."

HEART CHAIRMAN

Philip P. Ardery, prominent Louisville attorney, is chairman of the board of directors of the American Heart Association. Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower continues as Honorary Chairman of the national heart group's board of directors.



LBJ Makes Speech



McNamara Before Senate

McNamara Paints Dreary Picture

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara told Congress yesterday the United States stands ready to cope with any Communist escalation of the war in Viet Nam.

He said a wider war in Southeast Asia would force a callup of U. S. reserve forces.

And he reported a continuing buildup of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces in the embattled South.

In the Senate, Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois told critics of President Johnson's Vietnamese policy that the war could be lost by delay and dissension in Washington.

Democratic Congressional leaders conferred with Johnson, then said the nation should close ranks behind the administration and American fighting men in Viet Nam.

McNamara, in a book-length report on U. S. military posture around the world, added these words to the war-and-peace debate:

"The issue has been joined and our course has been set. It is my hope that all Americans will throw their full support behind our military forces defending the frontier of freedom in Viet Nam."

McNamara handed his 220-page public report to the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committee, then spent two hours discussing the defense picture behind closed doors.

"In view of the continued buildup of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces in South Viet Nam, we now believe we should be prepared to deploy promptly additional forces to that area if required," McNamara reported. President Johnson has stated categorically that we will give our commanders in Viet Nam all the resources they need to carry out their mission."

Reds Building

Outside the hearing room, McNamara said the Communists are building their troop strength because American and South Vietnamese forces are inflicting heavy casualties upon them.

"That argues against a limit on our forces there," McNamara declared.

The defense Secretary said the United States does not want to widen the conflict in Southeast Asia — but he added:

"We cannot preclude the possibility that our opponents will nevertheless choose to do so. Such a contingency would necessitate at least a partial mobilization, including the call-up of some or all of our reserve forces and the extension of active duty tours."

Senate Debates

While the Senate debated a \$4.8 billion spending bill to help pay the cost of war, McNamara added his chapter to the administration case for the course Johnson is following.

"If we and our free world allies fail to meet the Chinese Communist challenge in Southeast Asia," he said, "we will inevitably have to confront it later under even more disadvantageous circumstances."

He said the United States is determined to fight as long and as hard as it must to turn back the Communists.

Help Vietnamese

"As for our own commitment to the people of South Viet Nam," McNamara said, "we have made it clear from the very beginning that we would do everything necessary to help them defend their freedom and independence as long as they were willing to carry on the struggle."

"We are prepared to continue our military collaboration with the South Vietnamese forces as long as the Communists insist on fighting," he said, "and we are ready to cope with any further escalation of the conflict on their part."

Interest Increase Aids Bondholders

United States Savings Bonds are now a more attractive investment than ever before, J. T. Gobbel, Volunteer Chairman of the Savings Bonds Program in Orange County, said in commenting on the increase in interest paid on Series E and H Bonds.

Mr. Gobbel pointed out that the new rate of 4.15 per cent applies from December 1, 1965, to all Savings Bonds, old and new, and will automatically increase their earnings.

British Make Peace Move; Contact North Viet Nam

MOSCOW (AP) — Prime Minister Harold Wilson's government made direct contact with Communist North Viet Nam yesterday after Soviet leaders refused to join Britain in promoting a parley.

On Wilson's orders, Lord Chalfont called on Lee Chang, acting head of Hanoi's diplomatic mission here, for a talk on possible moves to end the Viet Nam war. Chalfont is Britain's disarmament minister. He accompanied Wilson on his trip to Moscow.

British sources reported Chalfont and Lee spent much of the afternoon together. It was the first time a British minister had engaged in direct exchanges with an accredited representative of President Ho Chi Minh's government since large scale fighting flared in Viet Nam one year ago.

Few details emerged beyond the fact that both Lee and Chalfont described at length the conflicting east-west approaches to peacemaking.

Wilson was portrayed as detecting a glimmer of light in the situation. He was encouraged that Lee had been authorized by Hanoi to meet Chalfont at all.

He has hope the meeting, which had the foreknowledge of Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, may be the start of a dialogue that could lead to better things. Doubtless Wilson feels the British public, and left wingers within his own Labor party, will appreciate his quest for peace.

To some extent Lee's reception of Chalfont was a welcome development for Wilson, for he had got just about nowhere in his attempts to persuade Kosygin and his top colleagues to join with Britain in reconvening parties to the Geneva conference of 1954 to act as a forum for peace.

Kosygin, President Nikolai V. Podgorny and Communist Party Chief Leonid I. Brezhnev met Wilson's repeated pleas for cooperation with the argument that the Soviet Union has neither a direct standing in the crisis nor the right to intervene.

When Wilson sought to assure them of President Johnson's sincere wish for peace in Viet Nam, the Soviet leaders suggested the Americans should prove this by halting air raids against the North.

Labor Truce Is Uneasy

MIAMI BEACH (AP) — A grumpy truce of silence settled over AFL-CIO president George Meany's political fight with President Johnson yesterday. But maritime unions gave the White House new worries by threatening at any moment to boycott ships of U. S. allies dealing with North Viet Nam.

Meany curtly refused comment on statements of Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz that AFL-CIO "antagonism" could hurt labor's own goals in Congress, and that Johnson won't bargain politically with union leaders.

"We're not begging anybody," said a source close to Meany, but Meany and Wirtz ducked newsmen's questions after Tuesday's clash.

AFL-CIO political strategists said they would step up their political action in this year's Congressional and state elections "independent of any party."

In Washington, White House spokesman Bill D. Moyers said:

"I think the President and Mr. Meany get along very well together," and "I'm sure the President will meet again with Meany at the first opportunity."

Tuesday's squabble was over how much of a minimum wage increase Johnson will propose to Congress.

North Carolina News Roundup

Bugs In Auto Inspection

RALEIGH (AP) — Gov. Dan Moore said yesterday he expects "some bugs" in the new auto inspection program but, "Those inspection stations that start chiseling will be removed."

"We're going to follow up on complaints in the program," Moore told the Associated Press in an interview. "I think we'll have some bugs in the program for awhile, but these will work out in time."

The governor was commenting on reports from Charlotte of careless, faulty or incomplete auto inspections.

The alleged irregularities by some inspection stations were brought to light by the Charlotte Observer.

R. B. Parker, administrator of the inspection program for the North Carolina Motor Vehicles Department, went to Charlotte and launched an investigation into the charges.

Motor vehicle inspection was strongly advocated by Moore as a means of "making the public more highway safety conscious."

The inspection program, he said, "fits in with our entire safety program. I can't think of anything more important than saving lives on highways."

Moore was reminded that the late Gov. W. Kerr Scott is remembered for his work in behalf of secondary roads. Former Gov. Luther Hodge was identified with industrial development expansion and former Gov. Terry Sanford worked diligently to improve education.

"I would like to be identified as having done a lot for highway safety," Moore said.

In the coming months, the governor added, "We hope to create a serious climate designed to get down to the driver and make him more aware of the need for highway safety."

The former Superior Court judge pointed out that through the auto inspection program the state hopes to correct unsafe motor vehicles.

Noting that much stress had been put so far on inspection of auto headlights, Moore indicated this could be an important factor in curbing nighttime accidents.

Pearsall Plan Criticized

CHARLOTTE (AP) — William Medford, who 10 years ago helped formulate North Carolina's Pearsall Plan to prevent integration, appeared before a three-judge federal court yesterday and said the school law package is unconstitutional.

The court took the suit under advisement and did not indicate when it would rule.

Medford, now U. S. district attorney for Western North Carolina, was a state senator in 1956 when a legislative committee led by Thomas Pearsall of Rocky Mount wrote a group of laws designed to allow individuals, or whole communities, to escape mandatory school desegregation.

The suit, filed last December by three Charlotte Negro families, initially challenged the state's tuition grants law, under which payments are made to private school pupils who wish to avoid desegregation.

When the Justice Department entered the case it sought to have other provisions of the Pearsall Plan. They are:

- A local option plan which would allow local school boards or voters to close their schools to avoid desegregation.
- A pupil would be exempt from compulsory attendance laws if his parents withdrew him from school to avoid desegregation, provided he could not be reassigned to a segregated school.
- A provision allowing the Pearsall Plan to be added to the State Constitution.

Man Charged With Robbery

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Police have charged an 18-year-old youth with four armed robberies in Charlotte during the past two weeks.

Frank Lee McClure was accused of taking \$215 from a grocery store, \$5 from a customer who was in the store, between \$100 and \$150 from a sundries shop and \$10 from a salesman in a street holdup.

Police said they also had charged Doris Jean Jackson, 25, with conspiracy. Police said she drove the getaway car for McClure.

Charlotte police have reported more than 20 armed robberies during the past two weeks. They said McClure was picked from a lineup by four of the victims.



Humphrey Returns

Humphrey Reports On Asian Tour

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey arrived last night to report to President Johnson on a 43,000-mile trip designed to mend fences against Communist expansion in Southeast Asia.

His big jet was due at Andrews Air Force Base shortly after 5 p.m. on his immediate schedule were: a helicopter hop to the White House, an exchange of greetings with Johnson on the south lawn, then a private talk in the President's office.

On his nine-nation tour Humphrey stressed the necessity for Southeast Asian nations to build a better life for their people, with U. S. aid. He also emphasized U. S. efforts toward a negotiated settlement of the Viet Nam war.

But, as in a speech he made at Canberra, Australia, he also sounded a no-retreat theme.

"The first time you retreat," he said, "The first time you fold up your tents, on that day no one will ever believe in free men again."


During Humphrey's tour, officials in South Korea and the Philippines made fresh commitments of troop support for the South Viet Nam war effort.

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