

PRESIDENT

Mon Tues. Sept. 17 68

6/2
Just in case there remained any doubt -
President Johnson made it official today ^{that} He's a
Humphrey man - all the way. The President issuing
his first public endorsement - of Hubert Humphrey
for President. This in a ringing telegram - to the
Texas Democratic Convention.

L B J saying of his Vice President "I stood
beside him in the battles of twenty years - I have watched
him give his courage, commonsense and compassion to
the cause of America." Coming to the conclusion - said
he - that "Hubert Humphrey is a fighter and a patriot."

47
The President ~~no~~ further asserting that a
Humphrey victory - might "mean the difference ~~is~~ between
world order and world chaos." Therefore, asking "every
hand" to "win this one for America - all America."

BUFFALO

At the same time

~~After two days back in Washington - Hubert~~

himself - after a brief rest.
Humphrey, was off and running again ~~today~~ At Canisius

College, in Buffalo, New York -- the Vice President

asserting that he is "a free man"; that as President he

will do - "whatever needs to be done" to end the war in

Vietnam. "But I want to make it clear" -- said he!

"I have no control over the events - between now and

January."

DISNEYLAND

As for Richard Nixon - the Republican
contender held a news conference today at Disneyland.
There suggesting the possibility of a ~~secret~~ secret
alliance - between Humphrey and Wallace supporters in
the South. Their goal? - ^{Could it be to} ~~apparently that of throwing~~
the election into the House of Representatives?

In reality - though - such a move would
have the effect of "supporting Wallace - not Mr.
Humphrey" - said Nixon. Adding ~~that~~ it is therefore
"vitally important" - ~~that~~ the choice of a President
not be left up to the House.

~~As expected~~ President Johnson came out swinging today ~~in~~ in an effort to head off industrywide new car price increases. The President asserting there was "absolutely no excuse for the Chrysler action"

48
~~yesterday - raising prices an average eighty-four dollars a car. Adding that the price hike was clearly "excessive" - "a sharp blow to the nation's effort to fight inflation" -- and it "should not stand," said he.~~

~~The President's message~~ ^{His message} obviously intended ~~not~~ only for Chrysler ~~but~~ also for Ford and General Motors; which are expected to set their own new car price schedules -- ~~within the next ten days.~~

SENATE FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

On another front -- the President scored at least a preliminary victory. ~~With~~ With the Senate Judiciary Committee voting eleven-to-six to approve the nomination of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. ^{Thus} Passing the matter along to the full Senate -- for consideration probably beginning early next week.

In a way though -- today's vote was merely a moral victory. The Fortas nomination ^{now} ~~faces~~ _^ ~~the~~ _^ threat of a full-scale filibuster // when it reaches the Senate floor.

~~Senator Griffin of Michigan -- leader of the opposition -- saying he is still "convinced Fortas will not be confirmed."~~

TREATY FOLLOW SENATE

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill -- the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was also voting today on a controversial issue. Approving at last -- by a margin of thirteen-to-three -- that treaty ^{to} ~~of~~ ban the spread of nuclear weapons. A measure ^{that} ~~against~~ heading ^S ~~ing~~ for an uncertain fate -- on the Senate floor.

~~As you know~~ → President Johnson and Hubert Humphrey ~~both~~ have urged speedy ratification, ~~of the treaty~~. 49 While Richard Nixon has urged a delay -- to rebuke Russia for its invasion of Czechoslovakia. ^{There are} ~~Raising~~ grave doubts -- ~~whether the treaty can~~ ^{it will} clear the Senate this year.

CLIFFORD FOLLOW TREATY

Be that as it may - shock waves from the Czech crisis continue to reverberate across Washington.

~~Indeed~~ Defense Secretary Clark Clifford announcing today - that an additional twenty thousand to forty thousand American troops may be sent soon to Europe.

~~"This would only be a temporary increase" we are told. However, the additional men would take part in Nato maneuvers originally set for the middle of Nineteen Sixty-Nine; now moved up to the first of year -- in the wake of that Russian invasion.~~

PRAGUE FOLLOW PENTAGON

Meanwhile, Czechoslovakia continues to strain at its Communist bonds. In Prague -- the Czech Communist Party newspaper announcing today -- that Czechoslovakia will soon reopen its borders to tourists; also, to Czech travelers -- heading for the West.

What about Soviet occupation troops -- still guarding the Czech frontier? "They have pulled back into the woods" -- said Prague -- "and they have been told not to interfere."

VIETNAM

In Vietnam - a surprise attack and a ~~stinging~~
stinging defeat today - for a crack battalion of South
Vietnamese Rangers. ^{They were} Moving to a new position near Da
Nang under cover of darkness -- when they found them-
selves smack in the middle of an enemy ambush. First
reports setting South Vietnamese losses at twenty-seven
dead -- another two hundred missing; ~~although~~ some of
~~the missing~~ ^{whom} are now reported filtering back to camp.

A U.S. marine outpost near ~~the~~ demilitarized
zone ^{was} also the target of a ~~deadly~~ surprise rocket
attack. Enemy gunners ~~from across the D M Z~~
killing twenty-five and wounding more than a hundred.

FORT WORTH

50/2
One of the perils of political campaigning --
circa Sixty-Eight - ~~was~~ readily apparent in this next
from Fort Worth, Texas, where police and secret
servicemen -- were clearing out the lobby of a local
hotel late at night - awaiting the arrival of Republican
Vice Presidential candidate Spiro Agnew; when a car
pulled ~~up~~ up at the curb -- and a man stepped out to
find himself immediately surrounded by burly guards.

51
"Please^r I'm tired" said the man; "Just
want to go to my room - and go to bed." And ~~sure~~
~~enough~~ He was telling the truth. A check of the
man's credentials - ^{Warren -} confirming his identity as Paul
Eggers; ~~just~~ ⁱⁿ returned from a ~~hard~~ day of campaigning --
51/4 as ~~the~~ Republican candidate for Governor of Texas.

CABINET

~~Turning again to politics a published report~~

Have you heard

~~today~~ that Richard Nixon is ~~already~~ "giving serious

~~thought~~ thought" to possible cabinet appointments. ~~on~~ The

list of "probables" -- as of now, [?] ~~we are told~~ Governor

Rockefeller of New York - for Secretary of Defense;

former Governor Scranton of Pennsylvania - for Secretary

of State; Senator Brooke of Massachusetts - for Attorney

General; Governor Volpe of Massachusetts - for Secretary

of Labor; Governor Romney of Michigan - for Secretary

of Commerce; Senator Thurston Morton of Kentucky -

for Postmaster General.

The one remaining vacancy - said to be

Secretary of Agriculture. Nixon aides quoted as saying -

he is still "far from finding the man he wants."