JOHNSON DECRIES
DRAFT PROTESTS; PRESSURES INQUIRY

He Fears Enemy Will Doubt
Nation's Resolve and Fight
Harder, Prolonging War

CONGRESS ALSO CRITICAL

Mansfield Asserts Marchers Are Irresponsible and Hurt
Vietnam Peace Efforts

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 — Led by President Johnson, official Washington erupted today with criticism of the nationwide demonstrations last weekend against the war in Vietnam. Bill D. Moyers, White House press secretary, told newsmen at Bethesda Naval Hospital, where Mr. Johnson is convalescing from surgery, that the President was dismayed by the demonstrations and had given his full endorsement to the Justice Department's investigation of possible Communist infiltration of the antidraft movement.

On Capitol Hill, leaders of the Senate were even more outspoken in their denunciation of the demonstrators. The Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said that some of their actions reflected a "sense of utter irresponsibility." He said that the net effect would be to undermine the President in his efforts to end the war in Vietnam.

Deplored by Dirksen

His Republican counterpart, Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, described the spectacle as "enough to make any person loyal to this country sick."

Mr. Johnson was described as being disturbed on two counts. First, he fears that the protests may give the American enemies a misleading picture of its determination. As Mr. Moyers put it:

"The President feels it is possible for our adversaries to misread events in this country and to take and put into these events greater and broader support for a particular position than is justified by the feeling of the American people at large."

According to his aides, Mr. Johnson believes that once the Communists are persuaded that the protesters represent a sizable segment of American opinion they will be encouraged to fight harder. This would result in the prolongation of the war the demonstrators seek to end.

Second, Mr. Johnson is disturbed by preliminary reports

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of Communist infiltration of the peace movement. He is concerned, Mr. Moyer said, by the possibility that even well-meaning demonstrators can become the victims of Communist aggression.

"Some Communists Involved"

The issue of Communist infiltration was raised yesterday in Chicago by Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach. He said there were definitely "some Communists involved" in the antidraft movement, and revealed that his department had begun a study of the organizations involved in the United Students for a Democratic Society.

The society, which claims a membership of 3,000, acknowledged that 50 of its campus chapters took part in demonstrations over the weekend, but denied that it masterminded the nationwide protest. Leadership of the movement is claimed by another group, the National Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam, which has headquarters in Madison, Wis.

Mr. Moyer said that the Justice Department's investigation had been initiated over the weekend by the Attorney General, not the President. However, he said that Mr. Katzenbach called Mr. Johnson at the hospital Saturday night to inform him of his plans, and that the President "concurred in and approved strongly" both the investigation and Mr. Katzenbach's remarks yesterday.

"I am sure," Mr. Moyer said, "that the President feels the concern as strongly as I do when our students are involved in helping to express the views of the Attorney General—that is, the concern that even well-meaning demonstrators can become the victims of Communist exploitation."

"And," he added, "I am sure that he is desirous that the investigation which Mr. Katzenbach has begun be concluded as soon as possible."

According to aides, Mr. Johnson feels no personal bitterness against most of the demonstrators.

He is said to be amazed, however, that anyone would suggest burning draft cards or otherwise "attempt to evade military responsibilities."

And he is described as chagrined that he apparently was unable to persuade some segments of the population of the rightness of his course in Vietnam.

"One of the subjects he touched on this morning," Mr. Moyer said, "was to express surprise that any one citizen would come to Washington in a way that is not consistent with the national interest." He also showed concern, Mr. Moyer said, that there is this lack of understanding by a few of what we are trying to do in South Vietnam, that the people of that country maintain the freedom and independence that is rightfully theirs."

The situation on Capitol Hill was bipartisan. Some of it was directed at the demonstrations in general, largely on grounds that they would tend to undermine United States efforts in South Vietnam. Other criticism centered on possible Communist influence.

One of the most outspoken critics was the liberal Republican Senator from California, Thomas H. Kuchel. He distributed a pamphlet on ways to evade draft, which is circulating on the West Coast, was a "dirty and contemptible little sheet."

He called those responsible for persuading young people to try to evade the draft "vile and venial.

The effect of the demonstrations, he said, would be to "sow the seeds of treason."

Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that he felt nothing but "profound contempt" for those who sought to evade the draft. Senator Leverett B. Saltonstall of Massachusetts, the ranking Republican on Mr. Russell's committee, said the demonstrations "shocked me and shook us all."

Mr. Dirksen said the demonstrations, by giving renewed encouragement to the Communists, could only serve to prolong the war. In this sense, he argued that the demonstrations were self-defeating, and the protesters were merely "digging their own graves."

Mr. Dirksen said the demonstrators had apparently lost their "sense of history." They would not even possess the right to protest had it not been for other young men in America's past who "fired up to the hilt for democracy."

Senator Frank J. Lause, an Ohio Democrat, asserted: "Substantially these demonstra-

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