

JOHNSON DECRIES DRAFT PROTESTS; PRESSES 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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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 weep."

Mr. Johnson was described as being disturbed on two counts. First, he fears that the protests may give 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. Moyers 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, among them the Students for a Democratic Society.

The society, which claims a

membership of 3,000, acknowledges that 50 of its campus chapters took part in demonstrations over the weekend, but denies 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. Moyers 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. Moyers said, "that the President feels the concern as strongly as it was expressed by the Attorney General—that is, the concern that even well-meaning demonstra-

tors 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 has apparently been 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. Moyers said, "was to express surprise that any one citizen would feel toward his country in a way that is not consistent with the national interest."

He also showed concern, Mr.

Moyers said, "that there is this lack of understanding by a few of what we are trying to do in South Vietnam in helping the people of that country maintain the freedom and independence that is rightfully theirs."

The reaction 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 said 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 venomous." The effect of these 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 "shock me and shock us all."

Mr. Russell said that 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 protestors 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 "firmed up to their duty," he said.

Senator Frank J. Lausche, an Ohio Democrat, asserted:

"Substantially these demon-

strations are the product of Communist leadership and countless youth are in them not knowing they are following the flags of the Reds."

He called the demonstrators "yellow in color and lacking in courage."