

President's Viet Offer Gets Cold Shoulder From Reds

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon and his advisers went over details of his eight-point Vietnam offer today and prepared to send it to the Paris talks despite an initial cold shoulder from enemy negotiators there.

The President outlined the offer, including a plan for a mutual pullout of major forces over a 12-month span, in a nationwide address last night.

In the follow-up of the chief of the U.S. mission to the Paris parley, Henry Cabot

Lodge, conferred with the administration leadership at a special joint meeting of the Cabinet and the National Security Council at the White House before heading back to the French capital later in the day.

The speech drew a generally favorable response from U.S. political figures, but what U.S. officials said was a not unexpected negative response initially from representatives of the Vietcong's National Liberation Front in Paris.

The NLF statement said the United

States "still clings to its old formula of a mutual withdrawal of troops, a formula which we have repeatedly rejected."

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But from Hanoi, the Communist-aligned Japanese news agency Nihon Denpa News quoted "observers" in the North Vietnamese capital as predicting

Hanoi will "make some kind of favorable reaction to the American proposal after thoroughly examining it."

U.S. diplomats anticipate that Hanoi and Vietcong negotiators will be using some long language as they examine the latest Washington proposal. What the final enemy posture on it will be remains to be seen, they said.

White House sources said Nixon timed his offer which had been ready for some weeks, for delivery now because this

seems to be the best moment for a U.S. move to thaw the Paris deadlock.

Elements of virtually all of Nixon's eight points appeared in proposals made from time to time during the Johnson administration, but White House sources portrayed the package overall as fresh in its impact in revisions coming from the new administration.

Reactions in the U.S. were quick in coming.

In Texas, an aide said former President Johnson "wholeheartedly supports

President Nixon in his efforts at bringing peace to Southeast Asia."

In Washington, Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., the antiwar Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, termed Nixon's offer reasonable while making plain he still thinks the United States should get out of South Vietnam.

House Republican leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan said the President made plain he seeks an honorable peace and Hanoi has nothing to gain by delay.

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Fortas Quits Supreme Court

From Our News Wires
WASHINGTON — Justice Abe Fortas, under mounting pressure and the threat of impeachment proceedings, announced today his resignation from the Supreme Court and President Nixon accepted it, effective immediately.

Reaction from Congress, the center of often severe criticism, generally was

favorable although some members continued to call for an investigation of Fortas's relationship with now-jailed financier Louis E. Wolfson.

In resigning, Fortas denied any "default" in performance of his judicial duties.

White House press secretary Ronald

L. Ziegler said Fortas's letter of resignation was received about 5:30 p.m. yesterday, a short time after Chief Justice Earl Warren telephoned "to advise the President that a letter of resignation was forthcoming."

WARREN LETTER

Fortas also sent Warren—the man he once was nominated by Lyndon Johnson to succeed—a letter of explanation of his actions in accepting and then returning 11 months later a \$20,000 fee from the Wolfson family foundation.

and returned after the financier was indicted.

Sen. Robert P. Griffin, R-Mich., who led the fight that blocked Fortas's nomination last year as chief justice, said in a statement today: "Again, the infinite

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wisdom and foresight of our founding fathers in establishing a system of checks and balances has been confirmed."

Michigan Gov. William G. Milliken said today it would be "great" if President Nixon tapped Sen. Robert P. Griffin to succeed Fortas on the Supreme Court.

Milliken and Griffin are long-time friends and confidants.

PROBE CALLED FOR

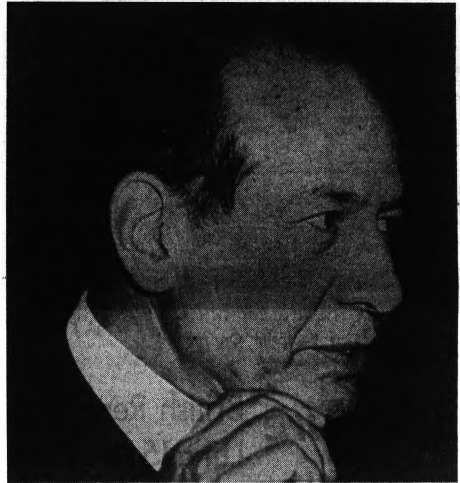
Other congressmen — including Rep. Clark MacGregor, R-Minn., who called yesterday for a preimpeachment proceedings investigation, and Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., and Paul Fannin, R-Ariz., said today the incident would not be closed until all details are revealed fully.

The exchange between Fortas and Nixon was not disclosed, but the Court made public the Fortas letter to Warren.

In the four-page letter, Fortas told Warren his resignation was prompted by "the welfare and maximum effectiveness of the court to perform its critical role in our system of government."



AP Wirephoto
LODGE ARRIVES FOR TALKS—Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, who heads the U.S. delegation of negotiators at the Paris peace talks, leaves his plane after arriving yesterday at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C., for conferences with President Nixon.



Abe Fortas . . . Resignation Breaks Silence

8 Pontiac Teachers Fired for Dues Lack

By MARY SUNDSTROM
Eight Pontiac tenure teachers were discharged by the board of education last night because of their failure to comply with a "financial responsibility" clause in their contract with the school district.

The teachers had refused to pay \$85 dues to the Pontiac Education Association, in an agency shop agreement specified in this year's contract between the school board and the PEA, and were given a hearing April 29 to discuss the case.

they would remain on their present jobs in Pontiac until the appeal is settled, according to the contractual agreement between the school board and the PEA. Further appeals may also be made beyond the tenure commission to circuit court, appellate court and finally the supreme court.

County Government Claim on Tax Funds Downgraded

By JEAN SAILE
Despite the prediction that their actions might come back to haunt them, members of the Oakland County Allocation Board yesterday downgraded county government claims on the 15-mill tax allocation.

By setting an unofficial levy rate of 5.16 mills for the county, the board, in effect, would drop \$3.5 million off of the county's record \$31.1-million tentative budget for next year.

The levy is 0.12 mill less than this year, and 0.63 mill less than that requested. It still raises \$2 million more than that raised on property taxes this year, due to a substantial increase in county equalized valuation.

Daniel T. Murphy, a member of the allocation board and county auditor chairman, warned members, "One day you're going to have to take from the schools to finance the county."

BIGGEST INCREASE

The unit getting the biggest increase from within the 15-mill limit was Oakland Intermediate Schools — allotted 0.21 mills. Last year the Intermediate School District was financed almost entirely from nonvoted taxes outside the limit, but an attorney general's opinion has held that financing illegal.

Murphy also asked the board to con-

sider a fixed millage, permissible under the constitution and requiring a vote of the people. He said such action would "do away with the gymnastics of financing when we haven't got enough funds to go around anyway."

He received support from new board member Louis Schimmel and Chairman Henry Schiffer. Setting a fixed millage rate for each government unit would do away with the function of the allocation board and it would also do away with the need for preparing tentative budgets.

All allocations recommended by the board, which met yesterday as a committee of the whole, are within the 15-mill limit.

TO BE SET MONDAY

The preliminary allocation will not be officially set until Monday and the final rate will not be set until June 2.

Action yesterday followed two days of budget presentations by schools, townships and the county.

While township allocations remain substantially the same as last year, schools learned they probably will be pared to help finance the intermediate school district. The millage allotted to them and townships was downgraded

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News in Brief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House reportedly is studying a plan to revamp the supersonic transport program to open new means of financing and ease fears about sonic booms.

The proposal would put the program directly under the secretary of transportation. The project to develop a 300-passenger, 1,800-mile-an-hour jetliner has been run since its inception by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an independent regulatory agency administered by the Transportation Department.

Support has developed for establishment of a business-government agency under which funding would come from sale to the public of government-guaranteed shares. Such an agency could not conveniently be a part of the FAA.

2 Stars 'to Wed Soon'

CORFU, Greece (AP) — British actor Albert Finney and French star Anouk Aimée left for Italy today, saying they would be back in two months to get married.

The couple arrived in Corfu a week ago and have been staying at a rented three-room villa at Ipsos, on the island's picturesque northwest coast facing Albania.

Prosecutor Bill Stalls

LANSING (AP) — The Senate yesterday debated, then put off action, on a controversial bill that would mandate counties to pay prosecutors as much as probate or circuit court judges. In 11 counties last year, no one filed for the office of prosecuting attorney, said Sen. James Fleming, R-Jackson, sponsor of the bill.

Army Tank Tempest

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hitherto confidential government report says the Army pushed its problem-ridden Sheridan tank into production to avoid criticism and possible budget cutbacks, then repeated the mistake with a refitted version of the M60 tank.

As a result, of rushing production before the bugs were ironed out, the General Accounting Office, says, many of the tanks have been stored to await modifications before they can become operational.

Canada Sex Bills Gain

OTTAWA (AP) — Criminal code amendments to legalize therapeutic abortions and homosexual acts in private between consenting adults cleared the House of Commons Wednesday night. The vote was 149-55.

The bill was sent to the Senate for priority consideration.

Trouble Ahead for Nixon Surtax

From Our News Wires
WASHINGTON — President Nixon's proposed extension of the income surtax, a key part of the administration's fiscal plans, is facing problems both in and out of Congress.

Rep. Charles A. Vanik, D-Ohio, a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, said Nixon's urban policy had alienated some congressmen who might have supported the surtax extension past the June 30 expiration date.

Nixon has asked for an extension until Jan. 1, at 10 per cent, and a 5 per cent rate between Jan. 1 and June 30, 1970, when it would expire.

New threats came yesterday when two powerful groups declared any such bill must be coupled with sweeping reforms of the entire federal tax structure.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council said it will not support the extension unless it is combined with "immediate, substantial and equitable reform."

The liberal Democratic Study Group of the liberal Democratic Study Group signed a letter calling on the committee to act on tax reforms first, even if it delays the surtax extension past the June 30 deadline.

Sun's Warm Smile Lifts Temperature

Today's brilliant sunshine is expected to send temperatures soaring into the mid-70s by late afternoon. Tonight will continue fair and warm, with a low of 50 to 55.

Increasing cloudiness and warm with a chance of showers or thundershowers by evening is the forecast for tomorrow. Tomorrow's expected high is 75 to 82. There's a chance of showers Saturday.

The low prior to 8 a.m. in downtown Pontiac was 44. The reading at 2 p.m. was 70.

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LITTLE NIP'LO DO IT—A little antelope gets a midday snack in the special care section of the Columbus, Ohio, Zoo. The antelope was born April 19. Holding the bottle is Mrs. Georgia Bolin. The antelope is of the black buck variety from India.