

Tri-City Herald

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Pasco, Kennewick, Richland, Washington

Limited ABM Plan Approved By Nixon

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon approved today a compromise antimissile system to safeguard "against any attack by the Chinese Communists that we can foresee over the next 10 years," and to protect the U.S. missile-bomber force from knockout.

He told a nationally broadcast news conference he believes his decision for a modified ABM system "is vital for the security and defense of the United States and also in the interest of peace throughout the world."

Nixon denied his plan, which he said will cost between \$6 billion and \$7 billion, will escalate the arms race. This has been a major point of attack by senators and scientists opposing deployment.

DEFENSIVE WEAPON

He said the Soviets, a tradi-

tionally defense-minded people, understand the Sentinel is a defensive weapon.

The net effect of Nixon's actions, coming after a five-week Pentagon and White House review, will be to shift the emphasis of the antimissile from protecting cities to insuring that this country's deterrent power is better shielded from knockout in a surprise attack.

"I believe this system is the best we can provide for our nation's security," he added.

Nixon indicated strongly he is inclined against expanding the system later to a "thick" defense against a possible massive Soviet attack.

He said a massive city defense system would have to be near-perfect to be credible—that is, effective in cutting civilian losses significantly.

"Although every instinct motivates me to provide the American people with complete protection against a major nuclear attack," Nixon said, "it is not now within our power to do so."

But he added: The safety of our country requires that we should proceed now with the development and construction of

In this connection, he indicated that safeguarding this country's 1,054 long-range, land-based missiles and its 600 bombers would pay off to a greater extent than a city-saver system, because it would make an enemy pause before trying to hit this country.

Nixon said he does not believe the Soviets would interpret his move today as escalation of the arms race.

"I think the Soviet Union recognizes very clearly the difference between a defensive posture and an offensive posture," the President explained.

NUCLEAR TREATY

Nixon countered one oft-cited criticism of the ABM deployment, saying he feels that his decision is compatible with the nuclear nonproliferation treaty ratified Thursday by the Senate. (Story on page 11).

If other nations believe the U.S. deterrent is credible, he said, they will be less likely to want to develop a nuclear capability of their own.

Asked whether he would be

willing to abandon the ABM program if the Soviet Union did likewise, he said "I am prepared to consider if we go into arms talks both offensive and defensive weapons."

An administration official said the first two sites will be in North Dakota and Montana to protect Minutemen missile bases.

SITES

House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford identified the facilities as Malstrom Air Force Base, Mont., and Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

Administration officials said the program they are proposing will require a budget of about \$800 million originally, compared with \$1.8 billion the Johnson administration proposed.

VIETNAM

Nixon also declared today that the Communists in Vietnam have received their only warning, that "action will take place" if their offensive produces an intolerable rate of U.S. casualties.

At the same time, Nixon said the nature of any U.S. response

to attacks in Vietnam "must be measured" in terms of its effect on the peace negotiations in Paris.

The President also said "there is no foreseeable prospect" of a reduction in U.S. troop levels in Vietnam.

MIDEAST

On the question of Israeli-Arab troubles, Nixon was asked to define the U.S. position on the Middle East and to say whether there had been any change.

He replied that American officials had talked with Soviet, British and French officials, and said: "I would not like to leave the impression we are completely together at this point . . . we still have a lot of yardage to cover."

SURCHARGE

A reporter asked whether the income tax surcharge could be reduced. Nixon said that question would be answered "when we see the entire budget."

The upcoming defense budget, he said, will be about \$2.5 billion less than that submitted by the previous administration.

Back-To-Africa Bill Pushed

Solons' Junkets Costly

Fletcher Named To \$38,750 Post

OLYMPIA (AP) — Art Fletcher, special assistant to Gov. Dan Evans and former Pasco councilman, was named assistant secretary of labor by President Richard Nixon Friday.

Fletcher, 43, once a shoeshine boy, 6-foot-4 former professional football player and currently an urban affairs aide to Washington Gov. Dan Evans, is to be responsible for wage and labor standards.

Announcement of Fletcher's appointment to the \$38,750-a-year post—making Fletcher one of the highest ranking Negroes in the Republican administration—was made by Evans here and by the President at an afternoon news conference in Washington.

Fletcher, defeated Republican candidate for lieutenant governor last fall, became Evans' assistant last month in the area of urban affairs and economic development.

The son of a \$50 a month Army enlisted man, Fletcher—calling himself a "product of the ghetto"—rose to state prominence when he formed the East Pasco Self Help Cooperative, an effort by residents to build a shopping center, credit union, and a supermarket in the predominantly Negro area.

"I am pleased at the recognition for a fine man, but sorry we will lose his efforts here," Evans said.

Fletcher will also be the secretary of labor's representative on the Urban Affairs Council, the governor said.



ART FLETCHER
... assistant secretary of labor

"He will be able at the national level to continue the fine work he has done in Washington. I hope he will be able to work closely with this state," Evans said.

Fletcher said he will begin his new post April 1. The position incorporates what the president calls "extra dimension," he said.

"In addition to the responsibilities of the job, I will establish and maintain contact with mayors and local government," he said, with a prime responsibility being on manpower development projects.

Fletcher said his presentation of the self-help concept to the Republican national platform committee last summer "certainly had a bearing" on his selection.

"One of the things I have liked about the job I was doing here was that I could go right to the people and sit down and

talk with them," Fletcher said.

He will join James Farmer, assistant secretary of health, education, and welfare as the highest ranking Negroes in the administration.

The appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

Of Fletcher's job here, Evans said that while it is "impossible to find someone to fill his shoes, it is the kind of job that needs doing." He said the position will be filled by someone else, but that the job classification may have to be altered.

Evans also told newsmen "two or three others" in his state GOP administration are still "under consideration for pending jobs" in the federal government.

Secretary of State Lud Kramer is one that has been mentioned in the past as possibly moving to the federal level, but Evans mentioned no names.

Fletcher, who once played end for the Los Angeles Rams and Baltimore Colts, gained President Nixon's attention when he went before the Republican National Convention's Platform Committee to promote "new action politics for whites, blacks, Indians and pinks."

"My new politics calls for applying foreign aid program to our own depressed neighborhoods, which are nothing but underdeveloped countries within our country," Fletcher said at that time.

Following his narrow defeat in the race for lieutenant governor by incumbent Democrat John A. Cherberg last November, Fletcher proposed that Nixon establish a "hotline from the White House to the ghetto" to expedite neighborhood development.

He said the time had come to "bridge this whole gap" between legislation, the ghetto and getting things done.

Fletcher refused one job offer for a staff position with the House of Representatives late in 1968, saying he feared it would take him out of circulation.

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Medicaid Makes Pharmacist Rich

NEON, Ky. (AP) — The sign on a narrow storefront in this mountain town of 750 says "Clarke's Pharmacy." A curious visitor might wonder how co-owner William S. Clarke Jr. scratches out a living.

But Clarke needs no condolences. That tiny store in the farthest reaches of poverty-saturated Appalachia received



Rioters

Hit IWW

Solons' Junkets Costly

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the House spent nearly three-quarters of a million dollars roaming around the world last year including one whose last fling before leaving office cost taxpayers \$8,453.

That tab was run up by Democrat Porter Hardy Jr. of Virginia, who toured 19 countries in

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