

Pastore Promises a Fight in Congress to Obtain a Defense System

By EVERT CLARK
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GROTON, Conn., Sept. 9—Senator John O. Pastore served notice on the Administration today that his powerful Joint Atomic Energy Committee would fight for an antiballistic missile system.

Mr. Pastore said that the committee would pursue the issue "with the sante vigor" it displayed in successful fights for development of the hydrogen bomb and the nuclear submarine. The Rhode Island Democrat is the committee chairman.

Clearly rating the potential threats of the Soviet Union and Communist China higher than the Administration has in its public statements, Mr. Pastore said it was time "to give serious and urgent thought to a reappraisal of our defense posture."

Mr. Pastore is not considered a hawk in military matters and generally goes along with Administration positions on defense matters.

But he said today that "we should move full speed ahead on building an antiballistic missile system." He added that the committee's military applications subcommittee would hold hearings soon on the question. Senator Henry M. Jackson, Washington Democrat, heads the subcommittee.

Nuclear Sub Launched

Mr. Pastore spoke at the launching of the nuclear-powered attack submarine Narwhal (SSN-671) at the General Dynamics Corporation's Electric Boat Division here. The 4,700-ton vessel is named for a whale-like Arctic mammal.

One hundred nuclear submarines have been built since the first, the Nautilus (SSN-571), was completed here 13 years ago.

In the perfect weather of late summer in New England, the ancient and stirring ceremony of ship launchings was repeated today. Mrs. Glynn R. Donaho, wife of Vice Admiral Donaho, retired, wished the submarine's skipper "the fond memory of a good ship." The commanding officer is Comdr. Willis A. Matson 2d.

Mr. Pastore was introduced by Vice Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, who has directed the development of nuclear submarines for the Navy and the Atomic Energy Commission. Admiral Rickover called the Senator a man "dedicated to peace but aware of the awesome responsibilities our nation bears in defense of freedom throughout the world."

Cost Called Too High

The Administration has opposed full-scale deployment of antiballistic missiles to protect both military targets and cities. It argues that such a system would cost too much, escalate the arms race and be ineffective.

Instead it has been seeking agreement with the Soviet Union not to deploy antiballistic missiles. But it has also set aside funds to begin building a limited "screen" of missiles if these talks fail. This system would protect for some time against any Chinese attack and to some degree against accidental attacks.

The joint committee, after secret briefings by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Department, warned recently that China might have intercontinental ballistic missiles as early as 1970 or 1971.

Today Mr. Pastore said that China's rise to a thermonuclear power in less than three years was "a dramatic and upsetting event."

"Add to this new threat the fact that the Soviet Union's offensive striking power is increasing in comparison to our own—while at the same time

they are deploying one and probably two antiballistic missile systems to defend their country—which we are not doing—I repeat—we are not doing," he said.

Old Concern of Panel

The committee has long been more concerned about the increase in the Soviet's offensive power than the Administration has indicated it is.

Mr. Pastore also warned of the possibility that the breach between the Soviet Union and China "could be healed and thereby greatly affect the balance of nuclear power in the world."

The United States has "no effective antiballistic missile system" despite a defense budget of more than \$70-billion, Mr. Pastore said.

Although the cost of such a system would be "staggering," a nation that can spend \$24-billion a year in Vietnam "can certainly spend as much to insure the life and security of our American society," he added.

This remark left no doubt that Mr. Pastore was talking of a full-scale system. The Administration has estimated the cost of a limited defense at \$4-billion to \$5-billion and the cost of a full-scale system at something above \$20-billion.

Calling Polaris submarines "our first line of defense" and "our most formidable deterrent to an all-out war," the Senator said they would not have been possible without "the persistent and aggressive support" of the committee and Vice Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, who has headed nuclear submarine development for the Navy and the Atomic Energy Commission. The Admiral was present at the launching today.

Mr. Pastore then said that serious consideration must be given to expanding the Polaris program—now at the end of its authorization—and to replacing some 60 conventionally-powered subs with nuclear-powered ones.