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MPI-56

(LBJ)

CHICAGO --SEN. RALPH W. YARBOROUGH OF TEXAS SAID TODAY THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD BRING PRESIDENT JOHNSON BACK INTO THE RACE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

*Rostow*  
Seen by *Rostow*

YARBOROUGH CALLED THIS A "VERY DEFINITE POSSIBILITY" WHICH WOULD ESCALATE INTO A "STRONG POSSIBILITY" IF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FAILS TO WIN FIRST-BALLOT VICTORY NEXT WEEK.

THE TEXAS SENATOR SAID THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA "POINTS UP THE RISK OF TYING DOWN ALL OUR USABLE FORCES" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE VIETNAM WAR, HE SAID, HAD "WEAKENED OUR FORCES IN EUROPE."

"WITH THE HARD LINERS TAKING OVER IN THE KREMLIN, WE'LL FIND STIFFENED RESISTANCE IN VIETNAM" HE PREDICTED.

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