

Maryland Politicos React To Blockade

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maryland political leaders from both sides of the aisle expressed satisfaction Monday night with President Kennedy's announcement of a naval blockade around Cuba.

Gov. J. Millard Tawes, a Democrat seeking reelection in November, called for bi-partisan backing of the President's plan.

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emergency, the American people always bury petty differences and rally to the support of their leader. President Kennedy has told us tonight that we are now faced with such a crisis and I know that all Marylanders as well as all Americans will respond by offering him their undivided allegiance and support."

On the Republican side, former congressman Edward T. Miller, presently seeking a U. S. Senate seat from Maryland, endorsed the President's proclamation, but at the same time criticized him for not making it sooner.

"Having urged for months that positive action be taken on the Cuban situation, I am naturally relieved that the President has finally recognized the danger besetting us," Miller said.

"However, I regret that the pressures on him to act did not have any effect until the eve of an important election. Mr. Dulles' former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles used to be criticized for his so-called "brinksmanship," but it seems to me that it was a lot better to be sitting on the brink with a full understanding of the problem than it is to rush frantically up to the brink and then try to slip without falling over," Miller said.

Speaking for Rep. Thomas F. Johnson, D-Md., was his aide, Emanuel Buarque. Johnson, under

federal indictment for conspiracy and conflict-of-interest charges, was due to address a meeting of the Federalsburg, Md., Rotary Club Monday night. He cancelled his appearance at the last minute and Buarque spoke in his place. Buarque told the audience that Johnson, who is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had known of the President's pending move for nearly a week. He told the club "We may be on the very short edge of invading Cuba."

Rep. Daniel B. Brewster, D-Md., opposing Miller in the senatorial race, said he was proud of the President's position. "Our position is now clear," he said. "The next move is up to Premier Khrushchev."

Oliver S. Watkins, commander of the Maryland American Legion said the President's speech "makes clear that the government will take the necessary steps to bring to life the dormant Monroe Doctrine."

Atty. Gen. Thomas B. Finan, also seeking re-election on Tawes' ticket, said Kennedy was to be commended for his action. He said that short of an act of war, the President has done everything he could have under the circumstances.

Religious leaders in Maryland were unanimous in their support of the President's blockade.

Msgr. George L. Hopkins, acting vicar general and chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, said "The message of our President leaves no doubt as to the gravity of the crisis with which we are now faced. I feel that I can speak for Archbishop Sheehan in urging all of his flock to give prayerful support to our President in the hazardous days ahead," Hopkins said. Archbishop Lawrence J. Sheehan is attending the council in Rome.

"This is the time for steady courage and for confidence in our cause and the leaders who pursue it. It is a time for deep personal prayer and a readiness for sacrifice," Hopkins said.

"For this reason I ask the priests of the Archdiocese of Baltimore to offer devout mass for peace whenever the rubrics permit. I direct also that Archbishop Carroll's prayer for our country be recited after mass until further notice.

"Our people are urged to make a personal sacrifice by assisting at daily mass during the present crisis and to pray that, God willing, an honorable and peaceful solution to it will be speedily achieved," Hopkins said.

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