

Mondale, on West Coast, Predicts a Close Victory

By JUAN de ONIS

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 26 — Vice President Mondale, surveying the results of a coast-to-coast campaign trip, said today that the Presidential contest was "tight, but a gainer" for President Carter.

In California, where Ronald Reagan, the Republican Presidential candidate and former Governor, got off to a big early lead in public-opinion polls, Democratic campaign organizers now say they have a chance to win.

"Reagan peaked in the polls six weeks ago with 39 percent, and hasn't moved," Mickey Kantor, organizer of the Carter campaign in southern California, said. "Carter is coming up fast and can win here if John Anderson gets less than 10 percent."

Mr. Kantor set up Mr. Mondale's one-day schedule — rallies with labor union officials at the Palladium Auditorium, breakfast with leaders of Jewish organizations, a neighborhood rally in the Mexican-American section of east Los Angeles.

'Right at Our Strength'

"Our strategy here is simple, we're going right at our strength — the moderates, the blacks, the Hispanics and the Jewish vote," he said.

Evidence that the Democrats think they can win in California, which Mr. Carter lost narrowly to President Ford in 1976, was seen in plans for a three-day tour here by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, starting Tuesday, and a visit by President Carter next weekend in a campaign finale.

At stake are California's 45 electoral votes, the most in the nation.

Mr. Mondale, who campaigned in Florida, Texas and California since leaving Washington Friday, told audiences that the Carter-Mondale team represented "solid, effective leadership" on domestic and foreign policy issues — areas in which he says Mr. Reagan is weak or dangerous.

Mr. Mondale said at every stop that Mr. Reagan opposed the embargo im-

posed by President Carter on grain shipments to the Soviet Union after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He then said that Soviet cities were suffering milk and meat shortages: "The Russians today are feeling the sting of food shortages because the President had the courage to embargo grain and punish the Russians for invading Afghanistan."

In an appearance, filmed here, on CBS News's "Face the Nation" program, Mr. Mondale said today that world peace would be threatened if the Senate failed to approve the new treaty on limitation of strategic arms that the Carter Administration negotiated with the Russians. He said voters would have to decide whether Mr. Reagan's opposition to the treaty made him a "warmonger." In Moscow, senior Soviet officials appear to have concluded that they would be better off if President Carter defeated Mr. Reagan. [Page A19.]

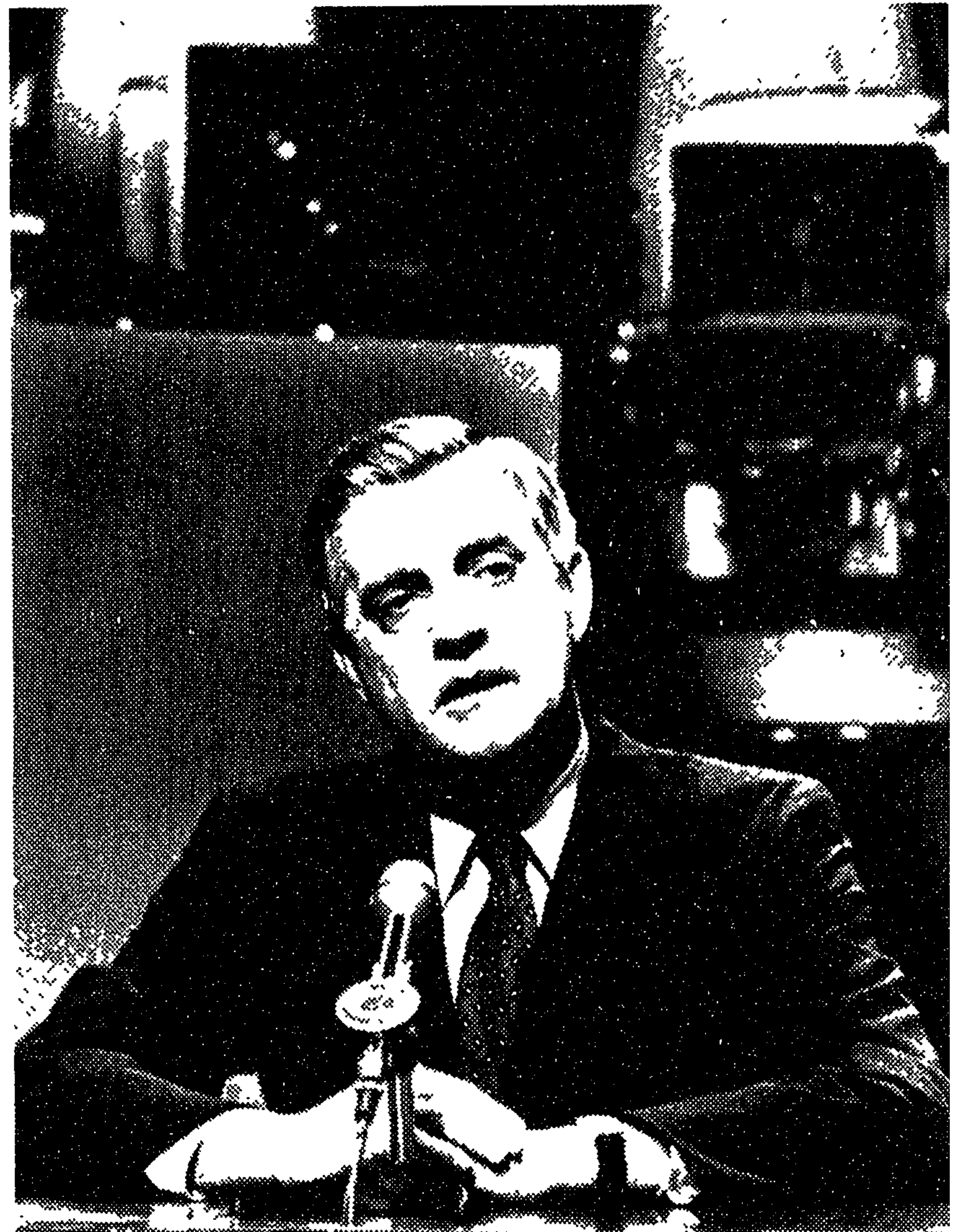
Mr. Mondale's most telling attacks against the Republican candidate during this trip were aimed at special interest groups to which the Democrats traditionally look for votes.

Brown and Chavez Campaign

At series of rallies in Southern California with labor, Jewish and Hispanic groups, Mr. Mondale attacked Reagan as a foe of working people. He told Jewish supporters that despite Mr. Reagan's promises of support for Israel, he had no track record while "we've delivered on the things that really count."

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., who ran against Mr. Carter for the Democratic nomination in the early primaries, and Cesar Chavez, the farm labor leader who first supported Governor Brown and then Senator Kennedy, campaigned with Mr. Mondale.

"When the Democrats are together, they can't lose, and we're all back together again," Mr. Mondale told a union rally at the Hollywood Palladium.



United Press International

Vice President Mondale at the Los Angeles studios of CBS-TV yesterday

At Sunrise, Fla., a retirement and recreation community near Fort Lauderdale, Mr. Mondale drew cheers from a crowd of 1,500 people when he attacked Mr. Reagan's record on Social Security and Medicaid.

At Laredo, Tex., in the heart of the Rio Grande valley, which has 800,000 registered Mexican-American voters, Mr.

Mondale drew a large crowd outside Our Lady of Guadeloupe Church. High school cheerleaders chanted, "Go Carter," and a Mexican-style mariachi band enlivened the rally.

Mr. Mondale had the crowd cheering after he said that Mr. Reagan was a lifelong opponent of bilingual education and an enemy of farm workers' unions.

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