

"Blind zeal" characterizes Moratorium advocates

It is amusing to note the blind zeal with which the student advocates of the Moratorium support THE CAUSE. What is not so amusing is their complete lack of rationality and consideration of the political facts of life. If the Moratorium were in reality what it was meant to be in theory, namely a protest against the war and the way it is currently being waged, for once Monmouth College might be united on a single issue. But unfortunately and unusually, the reality is much more impractical than the theory, for in actuality what the SMC is demanding is an immediate unilateral withdrawal of American forces. If these students were not serious, their disregard for the slaughter of the South Vietnamese people which would follow such action would be appalling. While emphasizing the "American Atrocities" are the supporters of an immediate withdrawal so blissfully unaware that in a period of less than eight months (January 1 - August 21, 1969) the VC murdered 5,030 civilians, wounded 12,935 and kidnaped 5,464? Do these students forget Hue, the only major city of South Vietnam which the VC ever held, where over 3,000 innocent civilians were deliberately executed, and not killed accidentally by an overprojected bomb? There is no doubt about the calculation behind these deaths, for over half of the bodies were found to have been buried alive, with their hands tied behind their back. Is it not logical to assume that similar massacres will follow if the South Vietnamese are suddenly left unaided by allied troops?

If there is any doubt as to the damage done by student anti-war protests, one has only to look at the greetings sent by the late Ho Chi Minh, together with his gratitude to the vociferous American "peace at any price" groups. His successor has similarly congratulated the American people on their protests of US intervention in the war. Further damage was remarked on in an AP release of September 24, 1969, quoting Major James N. Rowe, a Viet Cong prisoner for 62 months. "An American soldier, chained in a six by three foot cage, can resist the blandishments of Communism, but it gets tough when the VC start quoting American wire services and national magazines. "having to do with the anti-war movement and deserters."

Other hazards which the SMC is ignoring are the effect on the economy which ending the war prematurely will have, as well as

the unsettling effect such a breach of our work would have on our Asian allies.

I do not criticize the students participating in the Moratorium, for it is their right and obligation to follow their conscience. I simply ask them to review and re-evaluate the facts and the consequences of what they ask. The war must be ended, no American will dispute this belief, for no American wants war, no American pretends war is moral, no American wants his countrymen to die thousands of miles from home. But the answer lies in winning the war, and thereby living up to our commitments, not in pulling out before we have won, an action which would condemn to meaninglessness the thousands of American lives lost in the rice paddies of a foreign land. Our victory in Viet Nam will mean a land safe and free for the South Vietnamese people, a land without fear of Communist aggression.

Michael Thompson, Chairman of the National Student Committee for Victory in Viet Nam, best sums up my case

"If the 'concerned' students were truly concerned about human life, they would protest the atrocities by the communists against the innocent people of South Vietnam. Indeed, they would march in support of the United States' goal in Vietnam-the right of the South Vietnamese people to live in dignity and to determine their own destiny.

If the 'concerned' students were truly concerned about the fate of young Americans fighting in South Vietnam, they would not hand the Viet-Cong the gift of a new press release with which to torture those unfortunate Americans who are POW's.

If the 'concerned' students were truly concerned about the direction the US is taking in foreign affairs, they should read statements recently made by Asian leaders, who are concerned not about American involvement in Asia, but about the validity of an American commitment.

If the 'concerned' students were truly concerned about bringing the Vietnam War to an end, they would protest loudly against American trade with those nations which are supplying North Vietnam with the means with which to wage war against the South. If North Vietnam were to be deprived of the tools of war, the war could end tomorrow."

Mary Fisk
Vice - Chairman
Monmouth College YAF