

Letters

The March 31 debate between Professor Burkhart and Fulton Lewis, III, on American foreign policy should be referred to by its true title: the phony debate, for neither debator offered substantial alternatives to the present policy.

Professor Burkhart's support of the MacNamara-Rusk-Johnson foreign policy is support for a policy which violates the 1954 Geneva Agreement. Our policy is one which offers to the South Vietnamese a military dictatorship, headed, for the moment, by General Ky, an admitted admirer of Adolph Hitler. Our government offers death to hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese of the south as well as of the north and napalm-bombing destruction of their land and homes. Our government offers to the American soldiers at least 12,500 deaths annually at the rate currently admitted by the Pentagon as well as crippling wounds to approximately 100,000 other American soldiers annually. To the American public it offers higher taxes, a lowered standard of living, an end to the war on poverty, and an end to the promises of the "Great Society." At the same time, however, it offers unprecedented profits to the armaments makers. The present policy of our government is that which was espoused by Senator Goldwater at the last election and which was soundly defeated by the American public. It deserves the same treatment now: a resounding defeat!

On the other hand, the view of Mr. Fulton Lewis, III, representing the conservative "opposition," is that we should take an even stronger stand. The suggestion is clear that we should "take on" China and the Soviet Union now, both at the same time, preferably in a nuclear war. Shades of Hitler's Nazism!

The conservatives would have us believe that the alternative to the "destroy-kill-and be destroyed" war policy of MacNamara, Rusk, and Johnson is a "destroy-more" war policy of nuclear dimensions.

There is a real alternative to the policies of the phony debaters, of the Johnson administration, and of the conservatives. That alternative is peace now!

Americans should demand today, now, that our federal government abide by the provisions of the Geneva Agreement of 1954 and get out of Vietnam. We don't belong there. In support of our professed policy of self determination of peoples, we should insist that the Vietnamese be allowed to determine the type of government they want, in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement rather than impose upon them a military dictatorship.

I would hope that we will bring the American soldiers home to their girl friends, to their wives, and to their parents on their feet rather on crutches or in boxes. Let us then get on with the only war worth fighting: the war on poverty, the war against discrimination, the war against ignorance, so that we can within our lifetime realize the American dream.

The alternative to the "death and destruction" policy of MacNamara, Rusk, and Johnson and the "more death and more destruction" policy of the conservatives is that which was clearly stated by Pope Paul VI: "no more war; never again war."

"Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the children of God," said Christ. He never blessed the war makers.

Let us demand even now from our federal government a policy of peace before we are pushed into nuclear World War III, from which no one will emerge as victors, from which few will emerge alive.

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