

moratorium committee solidifies plans

The steering committee of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee, under the direction of Gary Stasse, has been quickly coordinating the events to be held on October 15 in protest of the Vietnam war.

Members of the Moratorium Committee have been circulating a petition that will be sent to Washington, expressing the students' dissatisfaction with the course of the war in Vietnam. A table has been set up in Woodrow Wilson Hall and petitions will be available for all persons interested in supporting the cause.

According to a spokesman for the committee, the day's events will begin with a rally on the steps of the Student Union at 11:00. At noon, participants of the rally will move to Pollak Auditorium where members of the faculty and administration will speak on the war.

Following this teach-in, there will be a memorial for the men of New Jersey who have died in Vietnam. It will consist of a procession from Woodrow Wilson Hall, across the Great Lawn and the creek on the south side of the campus, to the lawn adjacent to the Teacher Education building.

Here a casket containing a list of the names of the New Jersey men killed in the war will be placed in a grave. An eulogy will be given by a rabbi and a priest from the Long Branch area as the casket is lowered into the grave and covered.

Following the memorial service, workshops will be held in which members of the faculty will lead discussions on the problems and effects of the Vietnam war.

A dance will be held in the cafeteria from 8:00

p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Fate.

In addition to trying to reach the students of the college, the Moratorium Committee has also asked the members of the faculty to participate. In order to make the Moratorium successful, the committee has asked the faculty to limit the amount of material covered in the classroom on October 15, to postpone any important tests or examinations, and to not take attendance on that day.

The committee has also asked that all faculty members who feel personally committed to the anti-war movement feel welcome to participate in the day's activities.

Nationally, the Vietnam War Moratorium has gained much momentum and started considerable controversy. On Wednesday, Sept. 24 Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein (D-N.Y.) announced his support for an immediate withdrawal from Vietnam. The following day, Senator Charles Goodell (R-N.Y.), former moderate on Vietnam, announced the introduction of a bill that would give the administration 12 months to withdraw all troops. This bill provides that all military appropriations to maintain our forces in Vietnam would be terminated by December, 1970. This is the hardest "peace position" yet to be introduced into Congress.

At President Nixon's first news conference in three months, held on Friday Sept. 26, he was asked his views concerning the student moratorium and other campus demonstrations being planned for this fall against the Vietnam war.

He replied, "Now, I understand that there has been and continues to be opposition to the war in Vietnam on the campuses, and also in the nation. As far as this kind of activity is concerned, we expect it. However, under no circumstances will I be affected whatever by it."

National coordinators of the moratorium reacted to Mr. Nixon's statement with amazement. Sam Brown, a former divinity student and McCarthy organizer said at a news conference, "President Nixon cannot mean that he will not be affected by opposition to the war. The other aspect of this statement which is distressing is the degree of isolation which it reflects. It is the kind of rigid stance which contributed so much to the bitterness of debate during the last days of the Johnson administration."

Many members of Congress have shown interest in the moratorium and have given it their support.

Senator Charles Goodell said, "Once again the students of this nation will go door-to-door to call for peace in Vietnam. This constructive effort to work for an end to this senseless war is truly a high form of patriotism."

Senator Mark O. Hatfield feels that "The type of non-violent action which the moratorium asserts is not only highly commendable but also sorely needed."

Senator George S. McGovern said, "I hope that the Moratorium observance will make clear to the administration that in the continuance of this senseless bloodshed lies the seed of national tragedy. It is an effort which merits the responsible participation of all Americans who are anxious to reverse a policy of military attrition and moral disaster."