

On Viet Nam

To the Editor:

In last week's issue of the **Outlook** there was considerable comment on the Vietnamese war. I would like to say something on the Viet war. My subject is the opinion of the American people on the undeclared war in Vietnam. We see in newspapers that according to the latest Harris or Nielsen poll that 70 per cent of the American people favor the administration's policy in Vietnam. When I see these popular opinion polls (popular with LBJ, that is) I ask: In the United States there are 68 plus million adults (the number of people who voted in the 1960 Presidential election) of this huge number Harris or Nielsen takes only a minute sampling and calls the results the national opinion. My question is - how can a true national opinion be derived from a minute sampling? Frankly, I cannot see how it is done. I strongly believe the **only** way that a true and accurate survey of American opinion can be taken is at the voting booth. That's right, the voting booth! We have all had experience in voting Yes or No to questions on ballots in local and state elections. Why not ask a question in a national election (such as the upcoming Congressional elections) which would give a more accurate opinion of Americans on the Vietnamese War. After all, the government has an opportunity to obtain 68 plus million answers instead of a few thousand. The question would not involve whether we should be in Vietnam or not - this is a foregone conclusion. The question should involve the policy of the administration. I think an acceptable question would be as follows:

Questions Johnson Policy

"Do you believe the policy of restraint President Johnson is following - a policy the President and his top men have publicly stated will keep us at war against North Vietnam for years to come - when you are well aware that all President Johnson has to do is push The Red Button and North Vietnam would be bought to her knees in weeks, instead of years?"

It is apparent that our great country is going to divert some of its finest human and material resources to be policeman of the world for many years to come. Almost since the day the Second World War ended we have been playing policeman. This question of restraint verses military power has come up before - most notably in Korea. President Truman, in my opinion, was afraid to answer this question **directly** to the American people. Sooner or later, in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and other trouble spots, the Johnson and future administrations are going to have to answer this question, once and for all, **directly** to the American people.

Before closing this letter I would like to reply to the Open Letter in last week's Outlook written by the two members of the Honor Society. I have repeatedly stated, all on-campus surveys I have seen have said the same thing, that communications between the student body and the administration are virtually non-existent at Monmouth College. I would go on but I think the Open Letter speaks very adequately for itself. The administration, by communicating with the students on cheating, which is a misfortune to all the students, the college would be more cautious with examinations. As Benjamin Franklin said: "Felix quem faciunt aliena Pericula cautum- (He is fortunate who is made cautious by the misfortunes of another)."

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