

Fell Moderates —

Professors Debate Viet Nam Issue

by Lillian Frantin

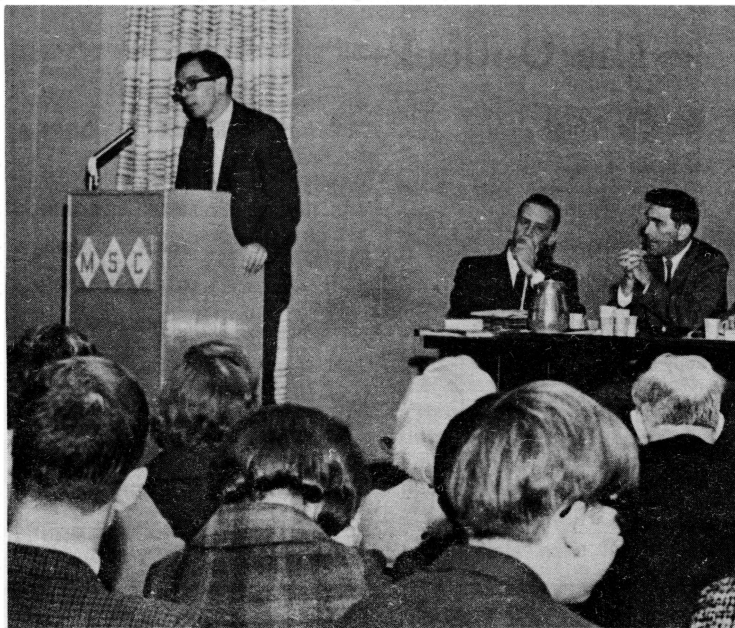
To hear a forum on Viet Nam is, of course, a good and stimulating thing; to see 500 people interested in doing something about the war is so much more than that. In an age when most of us have felt the rise and fall of Nazi-ists, militarists, McCarthy-ites and Goldwaterites, it is significant to note the rise of democratic dissent to day, even in this "moderate" county of Monmouth. What was said at the forum takes on real importance when seen in the context of its reception and the persuasions of the audience, which tended to be either mildly or strongly critical of the American policy towards Viet Nam.

The speakers were educators, laymen and religious figures. Rev. Hutchinson, who visited Viet Nam, moralized on the killings there of civilian and military-people. Mr. Gray, pro-American policy, felt that leaving Viet Nam would open up Asia to the threat of the "Domino Theory". Mr. Donahue, against our American policy, justified some kinds of violence (revolution, the N.L.F.) but could not justify this violence which might lead to all-out Nuclear destruction. Mr. Heymen,

group, called for good conditions from the Friends of Viet Nam to promote free elections, and contended the N.L.F. was a front organization for the North Vietnamese. The last speaker was Dr. Frost, Rutgers, who questioned the sincerity of our government in negotiations when it will not recognize the N.F.L., which his 'side' contends has popular support. Mr. Frost also added that President Johnson will not be able to keep his promise, and

that Butter (first to go will be the meager "Anti-Poverty Program") will be cut out to provide Guns for Viet Nam.

Questions amongst the panel members brought out certain facts: Diem, before his assassination was a dictator- Manderin, and that the government was and is corrupt and filled with militarists; that the National Liberation Front, the guerilla forces, has allegedly 80 per cent popular support.



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A question and answer period followed. Some of the questions asked brought to light more facts and ideas: Dr. Frost contended the "Domino Theory" was a naive, simplistic view in which every country is of the same shape, size, etc. and as such was part of a "bankrupt policy"; that America is in Viet Nam to contain Communism and for economic reasons; that the U.N. should be allowed to settle the matter fairly; that this and all wars bring about a neurotic de-personalization of the "enemy"; that unlike Nazi-ism, Mr. Donahue said, Communism of the '60's is a nationalistic reform movement that the people evidently want; that there is no legal reason to be in Viet Nam—according to the Geneva Accord of '54, which America recognizes in negotiations, North and South Viet Nam is legally, technically and geographically one entity — and as such we are interfering in a civil war; that non-involvement and ignorance, likened to the Germany of the thirties, is immoral. Dr. Frost reminded us "By ourselves is Evil done . . . By ourselves we pure become . . ."