Vietnam View—II

The following was written by Richard Cunningham for the MIT Committee for Viet-
nam (CIV) and reprinted with permission from the views and opinions of The Tech or its Board of Directors.

Rarely has any nation given so much for the freedom of others as has the United States. Our support there is one we may all be proud of.

We have set out to prevent the success of aggression and the subjugation of men everywhere in Southeast Asia; and if aggression is allowed to succeed in one place it will rapidly spread, like a cancerous growth, around the world.

We are fighting a war in which heroes are quiet-spoken and brave men determined men, fight and die with little publicity, but with as much greatness and necessity as those who fought at Lexington and Concord.

We are fighting a war which is misunderstood and misrepresented to many around the world and even here in the United States. Unknowingly, many are siding the enemies of freedom, the enemies dedicated to the subjugation of Vietnam and part of Asia. These propagandists are told by their leaders that we are fighting an unjust war and committing atrocities. Such could hardly be further from the truth. They know that our intentions are to preserve human life.

Perhaps the protesters should read the late Dr. Tom Dooley's book, Deliver Us From Vietnam, and make the marchers take time out from their activism and think about who is committing the atrocities in Vietnam.

Yet, in a faraway country been as concerned with preventing civilian casualties and caring for the poor, the hungry, and the diseased as has the United States. Our leaders are concerned about people and life. They are deeply pained when innocents are killed by accident or because they are in the midst of battle. We have avoided attacks on populated centers even at the cost of American lives which have been lost because of our humanitarian sentiments. Never has a nation been as concerned such an "army" of doctors to care the ill and diseased, of agriculturists to help the farmers, of teachers to slake the thirst for learning, of agriculturists to help the farmers, of teachers to slake the thirst for learning, of professors to teach, of scientists to thieve for learning, of scientists to thieve for learning, of scientists to thieve for learning, of scientists to thieve for learning, of scientists to thieve for learning, of scientists to thieve for learning, of scientists to thieve for learning.

And we would certainly appear that the LSC profits must be considerable. Allowing that the Sunday night "Classic Series" is co-sponsoring to just break even, Friday and Saturday night showings must average 900 viewers each. Combined, the two nights net LSC $900. Last Friday night over 3500 filled the Student Union. "Then Johnson (LSC members and their dates are admitted free.) We realize that such a turnover is exceptional, but it did bring in $900 for one night.

We also realize that LSC has no power for the movies it shows. It pays high wages to Union projectionists (in 26-100), and must buy tickets and pay for insurance, including a somewhat high fifty dollar a month phone bill. But even if we assume a profit of only $500 (out of $900) each weekend, LSC must have a profit of $2000 in the first term of this year. The same can be expected this term.

Has the profit been devoted to the lecturers? Hardly. Only two (Marve and Loomis) have spoken here this year. Only six have spoken here since February, 1967, and during the entire term of last year LSC did such a good business that it often pushed me to capacity and then had to give up some shows. Average attendance over three showings in 1967. An audience of 130 was cut to 80, $200 was charged per show, and the average number each night was over 1000.

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We welcome being able to give the people of the MIT community the right to express its belief. What I would not suggest that the MIT faculty is free to express opinions contrary to those taken by the student organization. With the profit made on the films, LSC has sponsored, in the past, many lectures who spoke on a great variety of topics. Recently, however, it is to us that something other than lectures has been making its living in the LSC tradition. The LSC is supposed to be a non-profit organization. That is because, for tax reasons, it is called an educational organization, under which the profits must go to the LSC itself.

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