Drew Pearson evaluates Johnson administration

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indignant approach, but Pearson pointed out that Johnson has often held press conferences before any recent president. Also, unlike his predecessor, he prefers direct quotes at these conferences. Concerning the "credibility gap," Pearson accused such persons as Westmoreland rather than the President, for obtaining the public confidence. He cited the time the General said the picture was "exaggerating" during the Tet offensive.

Turning to the topic of war, Pearson noted that Johnson was never very qualified in foreign affairs, and that his Senate experience in that regard was always on the military committees. Johnson's excellent domestic record, which Pearson finds better than Roosevelt's, was simply underlined by his failures in Vietnam. Pearson was particularly caustic in his criticism of Walt Hosome, former MIT professor, whom he said thinks only in terms of war and is the "worst influence we have in the White House." He called upon MIT to serve the country by recalcitrant him, but one member of the audience pointed out that MIT would probably not take him.

Relations with Raset have worsened, said Pearson, ever since Johnson began the bombing of North Vietnam at precisely the time Kissinger was in Hanoi urging Ho Chi Minh to seek peace.

Turning to some political predictions, Pearson concluded that Nixon would become the Republican nominee and would defeat Kennedy (the Democratic nominee) in November. He called Kennedy ruthless, citing a few examples of which will appear in his Globe column.

On Vietnam, Pearson predicted extended talks similar to the two-year talks in Korea, with a general tapering off of the War. Regarding World War III, Pearson echoed the opinions of his "old friend" Harry Truman that increased friendship between the populations of the major powers would reduce the likelihood of such a catastrophe.

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proposes an in-school education program at the high school level to teach youths about the ill effects of harmful drugs.

For his own future, Prof. Lettvin plans to "withdraw completely from the public life that he considered he did not court. Reflecting on the past nine months of "public brouhaha" since his widely-acclaimed debate with Timothy Leary, he concludes that he had his "belly full."

Anxious to resume his laboratory work and teaching duties, he will make his final public appearance next week at a formal dinner. Having already refused more than one hundred invitations, he promises not to appear "in any public organs year and a half." Promising to "always remain outspoken," Lettvin will nevertheless attempt to forestall the pursuit of his opinions upon the concerned members of the MIT community.