Behind the scenes

The October Vietnam Moratorium has come and gone. Where do we stand?

The Moratorium turnout exceeded even the organizers' wildest dreams. It has demonstrated that the anti-war movement is on the verge of becoming (or perhaps has already become) a broadly-based, majority movement.

The Moratorium also demonstrated that many segments of the nation besides the academic community have come to realize that it has been taken seriously all along, not the government.

In the months ahead, we must capitalize on the momentum of October 15 to continue to build a movement more broadly based than any which has gone before. In doing so, we must recognize that most of our new support will come from that vast group of Americans who are confused and frustrated by the war, but have not yet come to see that withdrawal is the only solution. In seeking the support of these people, we must frankly admit that there are no perfect solutions to Vietnam, but that withdrawal is the least painful of the alternatives we have.

We believe that most Americans need a small nudge to induce them to join our movement. We must not shout at them; talking softly will be successful. The momentum of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee and the Student Mobilization Committee must not alienate potential supporters just when it is on the verge of enormous success.

People are beginning to realize that the true American patriot should support withdrawal. We should carry American flags, not NLF flags. We are in the process of rescuing our country from the false patriotism of the warlords.

We wholeheartedly agree with those who say that the Moratorium movement does not focus on the real issue—American imperialism. However, it is a major movement which can educate people about the mistakes of our policy is the best vehicle for educating the public to see the same mistakes we are making elsewhere in the world.

We do not expect the events of Wednesday past to be the blow which will force the government to withdraw from Vietnam. Based upon the success of October, however, we feel that this potential exists for November activities. The momentum, support, and organizational strength which we have built for October must be put to work immediately to build for a two-day Moratorium on November 13 and 14, followed by the March to Washington. Vietnam's future has never been so close.

Nixon could ignore the chants on the Common. He could not afford to ignore a million persons in the capitol. We must keep Nixon peace until he gives us peace.

The Moratorium Committee should be encouraged; it is a tremendous success. However, the heading of "outdated" or "obsolete". And although I had done the equivalent of (for me) normal summer reading and spent the entire month, I was sure that I was up on everything.

But now I realize that even a "mama's store of knowledge is invaluable". Which means that even if you try constantly to keep abreast of all current events, you are inevitably going to become more ignorant relative to that total mass of knowledge. However, if one also considers all the information you are supposed to need to be an "informed citizen", the laws of the United States, the effects on Vietnam, your local school board, and so on, further, that this information is constantly being added to and phased out, one is forced to the obvious conclusion that one really doesn't have a prayer of trying to keep abreast of all this changing world. What with withdrawal is the only solution. In seeking the support of these people, we must frankly admit that there are no perfect solutions to Vietnam, but that withdrawal is the least painful of the alternatives we have.

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On ignorance

By Bruce Schwartz

In a true spirit of scientific adventurousness, I conducted an informal survey. I decided to catch "up on things". I started with the Times, then read "Time", then read "Newsweek", then read "The New Yorker". Of late, I've been reading "The New Republic".

The problems were caused by two riders which were tacked onto the bill in the House of Representatives by L. B. Johnson and the Democratic Service Committee.

Section 401 of the bill apparently outlawed any Defense Department research which did not have "a direct and apparent relationship to a specific military role". In other words, any war-related funded under the bill had been dramed well better with rational and political. George Drummy, Associate Director of the Institute for Defense Analysis, which did not stand firm on military Procurement Authorization Act of 1970. The problems caused by two riders which were tacked onto the bill in the House of Representatives by L. B. Johnson and the Democratic Service Committee.

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Heresy

By Harvey Baker

Do you remember when President Johnson called the student "toadies"? Well, after he removed the word "toadies" from the bill, he went down, outspoken protest dimmed and remained at a low level. During the subsequent six months of Mr. Nixon's presidency, I observed him a number of times. I asked myself if he had been somewhat at a loss. Also, I had a towering resentment because he was using an informal, arbitrary measure to stop the Vietnam War.

I was so weak that, came to the conclusion that the section was aimed at DOD and ROTC. In principle, it implied that the idea was to require that each proposal be accompanied by a "financial, order processing". In other words, you would be required to file a proposal with the section.

The bill in question was the Military Procurement Authorization Act of 1970. The problems were caused by two riders which were tacked onto the bill in the House of Representatives by L. B. Johnson and the Democratic Service Committee.

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