



# VIETNAM MORATORIUM COMMITTEE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

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## THE VIETNAM MORATORIUM

The Vietnam Moratorium is an effort to maximize public pressure to end the war by encouraging a broad cross section of Americans to work against the war. The method is a recurring moratorium on "business as usual" to allow concerned citizens to spend that day participating in anti-war programs in their local community. The first day of moratorium is scheduled for October 15, and the work of that day will be directed towards building an enlarged and lengthened moratorium for November.

The Vietnam Moratorium:

- \* will expand by one day per month;
- \* is focused on ending the war with related issues (reordering priorities, the draft, taxes, inflation, etc.) being brought in by participants on the local level;
- \* encourages activities in which those unable to take the entire day off from work or classes can participate.

The Vietnam Moratorium is based on four models:

- \* a labor withdrawal from normal business routines in order to organize locally for peace;
- \* Vietnam Summer, i.e. local initiative and direction (a list of suggested activities is provided; a coalition of participating groups and individuals should determine what activity or activities would be most effective for your local community);
- \* a "new politics" campaign, that is broad-based participation, door-to-door canvassing and small group contact in addition to mass rallies and a media campaign;
- \* the March 4 work stoppage, when a number of universities closed for a day to allow people to direct their attention to the relationship between universities and society.

CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE

"... your aim is constructive and the method suggested for using the time made available by the moratorium is useful."

Senator Edmund S. Muskie

"I think you have a most effective effort in mind, and it should produce an impact in the country to mobilize the forces of opposition to the continuation of the war. If the administration does not yield to the increasing sentiment in the nation before the proposed date of October 15, then such a demonstration of opposition by the university community should have a constructive influence for change."

Senator George McGovern

"At this time, a different tack, such as you have proposed, offers some new hope of efficacy."

Senator Birch Bayh

"As you know, I am eager for an end to the Vietnam conflict and, therefore, favor any reasonable corrective measure. Your committee efforts at the 'grass roots' level are commendable and should have far-reaching good effects."

Senator William B. Saxbe

"It is not neo-isolationism to demand that this war be stopped; it is sanity. It is not unilateral disarmament to ask that we end the slaughter and the bloodshed; it is rationality. It is not weakness to ask that we stop this sacrifice in dubious battle; it is a sign of compassion and understanding that we have made a tragic error and that we must set it right."

"It is time to speak again, to oppose urgently any resumption of the fallacies and illusions that have cost us so much in lives and resources and hope."

"To the extent that the Vietnam Moratorium can help us achieve these ends, in a manner that is responsible and within the framework of our laws and basic principles, I would encourage your effort."

Representative Richard L. Ottinger

"I agree with your assumption that mounting pressure is necessary to bring about a definite timetable for ending the war."

Representative Jonathan B. Bingham

"... your moratorium will give voice to the widespread feeling in favor of an acceleration of the process of disentanglement from Vietnam."

Representative Robert W. Kastenmeier

OCTOBER 15th SHOULD BE ALWAYS BE SEEN AND PRESENTED AS THE BEGINNING OF THE  
WORK WHICH WILL CONTINUE INTO NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

1. The Washington office can provide large quantities of a three-fold Vietnam Moratorium brochure. Begin now to order enough pamphlets to thoroughly inform your group or community.
2. We are also providing, at cost, bumper stickers, decals, posters and buttons to be sold to raise money for local groups and to build support. An order form is enclosed.
3. By the beginning of October we will also provide:
  - a. "Vietnam Moratorium Organizing Manual" which will supply more details on organizing the activities suggested for October 15.
  - b. Publicity and Fund-raising Manual.
  - c. Electrostencils of a variety of leaflets which you can reproduce for distribution on October 15.
4. Contact the active anti-war groups in your area, such as SANE, Concerned Clergy, Business Executives Move for Peace, Women's Strike for Peace, ADA, AFSC, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War, WILP&F, counseling and draft resistance people, and the organizers of the local McCarthy and Kennedy efforts, many of whom are now active in the New Democratic Coalition. Include these groups in planning a broad-based action and find out from them what has been done in your community before. Also try to establish a contact base in the various sectors of your community so that some anti-war activity can surface on October 15 in a way that can be expanded in November.
5. Begin to plan with local college students in your area feasible and effective activities for your community on October 15. In some places only symbolic events such as the reading of the war dead and a vigil in front of draft boards or the planting of a tree of life in honor of war dead will be possible. These should be viewed as actions which will extend support for the November effort during which activities needing more manpower, such as leaflet distribution, thorough canvassing, precinct organizing, and petition gathering can be attempted. October 15 should always be seen and presented as the beginning of a continuing effort.
6. You should immediately begin to make contacts in local high schools to discuss various methods by which they can express their opposition to the war and their support for the Moratorium. If high school students feel they will not be ready to "go out" on October 15, some combination of wearing armbands, a debate in an assembly period or an after school teach-in should be worked out to build support for the Moratorium action in November.
7. In setting up a local committee to organize the Moratorium, one person (if possible) should be assigned to cover each of the following:
  - Businessmen
  - Clergy
  - Professionals
  - Labor
  - Minorities
  - Students
  - Press and publicity
  - Fund raising
  - Speakers' bureau

8. The activities included in the Moratorium should be as diverse as you have the energy and manpower to organize. Some projects, like canvassing and door-to-door work require a large number of people to be done effectively. Other activities require a smaller number of participants--like reading of the war dead which is a dramatic way to focus public attention on the war.
9. Contact the influential businessmen and the "opinion-makers" in your town. They can help you set up programs with the local civic associations, Kiwanis or Rotary clubs. It might be good to meet with several of the club or association members before the day of the Moratorium--then schedule a speech or meeting for the day itself. If a one-sided approach is unacceptable, propose a debate if they can find someone to publicly defend the war.
10. Contact editors and publishers. They should be approached directly, not through their staff or reporters. In addition to providing free publicity, they are an important influence in community opinion. Try to convince them that editorial comment on the Moratorium is needed. If they are anti-war, ask them to participate in any of the speaking programs you've arranged for the day. A friendly editor who sees the day as a well-planned and executed means of protest will be more helpful than almost any number of brochures or press releases.
11. Call the local talk shows. Try to set up interviews both before the Moratorium and on the day itself. Some localities are planning local newspaper ads for October 14 or 15. Thirty-second radio spots are an inexpensive way to announce events or use for political messages.
12. Get in touch with local churchmen and school officials. Set up a committee of interested community people to do any or all of the following:
  - a. Co-ordinate a series of seminars and study groups, using church and school facilities.
  - b. Organize a telegram and letter writing campaign directed at borderline congressmen.
  - c. Gather signatures, pledging to vote against Congressmen and Senators who support the war.
  - d. In most large towns and small cities, it takes from only five hundred to 2,000 signatures to bring an issue before the city council. If you organize, you should be able to pick up the signatures easily and can then work for passage of a city council resolution against the war.
13. If you organize a town meeting, make a big deal about inviting local officials. A well-attended town meeting will be attended by any official who has to face re-election. Local officials should be pressured into speaking as the directly elected representatives of the community.
14. One of the most dramatic ways of bringing attention to the war is having an inter-denominational memorial service for the Vietnam dead. The service need not be at all political or expressly anti-war, but to remind people that the dying continues. Masses and services for the dead should be arranged the week before so that they appear in the Saturday and Sunday church bulletins on October 11 and 12.
15. Reading the entire list of Vietnam war dead takes about 36 hours. The list should be read by clergymen, prominent townsmen, mothers and city officials in addition to students. Have the schedule for who will be reading (and the names of at least a half-dozen people to stand by with posters and literature) ready ahead of time. Be sure to hold the reading in the most "public" place in town--the town square, the steps of the courthouse, the draft-boards, etc.

16. Either as a separate action or in combination with the reading of the war dead, vigils can be held as a supportive or major action. The effectiveness of any vigil is usually rated by the numbers attending. If you plan a vigil, a good deal of advance publicity will be needed. It is an effective way to include political moderates in the day.
17. Anti-war films, speakers, and related events sponsored by community groups, are effective ways to increase momentum for the October 15 action.
18. Be sure to explain to the general public just what you're doing. Mass media cannot be counted on to carry the correct message. Leaflet bowling alleys, markets, factories, shopping centers, and on main street. Saturate the campus near you. Make sure your leaflets cover every portion of the city. If you have a canvassing project going on, that does not eliminate leafleting in the area.
19. There are a number of things which the business and labor community can do:
  - a. Set up lunch-time discussions. Most plants and offices have cafeterias.
  - b. Observe a one-minute silence for peace. This can be co-ordinated by either an announcement over the p.a. systems, or by posting leaflets.
  - c. Arm bands are an unusually good way to show both solidarity with others in your plants and your own anti-war beliefs. The organizer of the arm band action should have plenty on hand. Those participating should take a handful on their breaks, and go around and talk to other workers--talk about the war, about inflation, about taxes--about the Moratorium as a peaceful way to bring public attention to the war.

\* WORK FOR PEACE ON OCTOBER 15. \*

NEW ORDER FORM FOR BUTTONS, BUMPER STICKERS, DECALS, POSTERS AND BROCHURES

Vietnam Moratorium Committee  
1029 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 806  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Please send me the following items in the quantities I have indicated. I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ covering my total order (postage is included in the prices).  
CASH  CHECK  MONEY ORDER . Make check or money order payable to Vietnam Moratorium Committee.

\* BUTTONS may be ordered in multiples of 100 only; the minimum order is 100.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 2.00/100 for quantities between 100 and 1000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 18.00/1000 for quantities between 1000 and 5000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 17.00/1000 for quantities over 5000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* BUMPER STICKERS may be ordered in multiples of 10 only; minimum order is 10.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50/10 for quantities between 10 and 100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4.50/100 for quantities between 100 and 500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 4.25/100 for quantities over 500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* DECALS may be ordered in multiples of 10 only; the minimum order is 10.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ .75/10 for quantities between 10 and 100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 7.00/100 for quantities between 100 and 500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 6.50/100 for quantities over 500 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* POSTERS

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ .50/1 for quantities between 1 and 25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 8.75/25 for quantities of 25 and over (35¢ apiece) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* BROCHURES

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00/1000 for quantities of 1000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(prices will be adjusted for smaller orders.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print or type)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO THE ATTENTION OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Watch Out, The Chinese Are Coming! Philip Ben

# THE NEW REPUBLIC

A Journal of Politics and the Arts — September 20, 1969, 40 cents

## Into the Breach

*Richard Nixon has had eight months in which to pry us loose from the trap in Vietnam and has not done it. He has promised withdrawals and ordered some, but over a half million US troops remain. He has said that "the greatest honor history can bestow is the title of 'peacemaker,'" but he marches to the drums of the generals in Saigon and on his Asian trip described Vietnam as America's "finest hour." The only force that can assuredly move him to get us out is public opinion, fed up finally with the killing of 39,000 Americans and the wounding of a quarter of a million more. It is the mobilization of that political power that now has highest priority, and it is the college and university communities that can help do it. They mean to. "Ending the war in Vietnam is the most important task facing the American people." So begins the call for an October 15 Moratorium signed by 500 student leaders, student body presidents and college editors at over 200 colleges, in which they ask for a cessation of "business as usual" on the campuses that day. In past decades, American students have, by and large, stood aside from politics. A lively* (Continued on page 5)

## Into the Breach

student movement emerged out of the depression in the thirties, but it was short-lived, and insofar as it was a peace movement, it was caught between its pacifist origins, the intrigue of the Communist Party, and the anti-Fascist exigencies of the time. It had little faculty support and was lost in the vortex of World War II. Efforts to revive it in the immediate post-war period fell victim to McCarthyism and the blandishments of an affluent society. It was the war in Vietnam more than anything else which fired a resurgence of student activism. For Vietnam has never been an extracurricular question - and not only because it is the young who fight wars. Even if graduate student deferments had not been disallowed, the American university could not remain apathetic just because millions of students are preoccupied with the question of how *not* to serve in the military, but because this war is offensive to their deepest moral and intellectual standards.

Students have given a sound lesson in political courage and social responsibility to their teachers. And the teachers have responded. Strong forces have emerged in recent months within the teaching profession, capable of commanding the attention of their colleagues and of persuading them that the war and all the constructive work at home which it blocks is of vital concern. This awakening was much in evidence this summer in meetings of mathematicians, psychologists, political scientists, sociologists, microbiologists and at the conventions of the Modern Language Association and the American Physical Society. As with the student protesters of the preceding academic year, the dissenting academy this summer was addressing itself to urban decay, racism, the electoral process, pollution, violence, the militarization of our society. But underlying all else was a revulsion against the war. The October 15 Moratorium will provide the first major test of an emerging student-faculty consensus.

The Moratorium has the support of the National Student Association, and as of last week, plans were being laid on 400 campuses for college convocations to discuss the war and related issues. In most places the students will also be messengers to adjacent communities, moving into shopping centers, bowling alleys, factories, and homes, endorsing US withdrawal.

We reported last spring on the all-college convocation at Amherst,

and its resolution that as long as Vietnam goes on, the campus cannot, will not, and should not carry on as usual. Student unrest, the president of the College then said in a letter to President Nixon, "will continue until you and the other political leaders of our country address more effectively, massively and persistently the major social and foreign problems of our society." Vietnam comes first. To say that is not at all to say that the war is the root cause of all our disabilities. It is to say that without an end to the war we cannot begin to take hold of our other problems. Because the Amherst statement helped to set a true perspective for the society and identify the source of campus turmoil, we hailed it and urged other colleges and universities to "start planning a reproduction [in the fall], each in his own way, of the Amherst convocation."

The war drags on. But the October 15 Moratorium is an occasion for renewed resistance. The decision of the Moratorium leaders not to restrict their evangelizing to the academy is sound. Nothing but a broadly based movement has much chance of pushing the Nixon Administration to get us out, and to put aside the illusion that public opinion can be tranquilized by token withdrawals or hands placed on hearts. Although it would be impressive were a majority of American colleges and universities to act as one on October 15, each institution will inevitably proceed in its own manner. The particular ways students, faculty, administrators (and trustees) spend that day matter less than that the time is used to dramatize the most solemn will of the academy for peace.

The university is not normally organized - and in our opinion should not normally be organized - to function as a political institution. But the times are abnormal. It is the principal custodians of the public interest - the politicians - who are most responsible for that, not the custodians of enlightenment. The academy has been left no choice but to engage itself in the democratic process, to demonstrate the power of knowledge, to provide a model of rational discourse and persuasion. We hope that every member of the academic community, from the youngest freshmen to the most august college president and trustee, will move into the breach. The planned, one-day national convocation of the community of scholars on October 15 is their opportunity. Seize it.