

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

This is to respectfully advise you, Mr. President, that as of this date we Democrats who helped elect you in 1964 are dissociating ourselves from your policies in the conduct of the war in Vietnam.

We voted for you because you gave us hope of peace when in your election campaign you said: "We are not about to send American boys 9 or 10 thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys should be doing for themselves." (Akron, Ohio, October 21, 1964) This was a pledge, Mr. President; since then over 13,000 Americans and countless Vietnamese have been killed in the war.

Your administration threatens us daily with the prospect of an all-out confrontation with China and inevitably with the Soviet Union. This is leading us inexorably toward a thermonuclear holocaust.

Mr. President, we Dissenting Democrats want a cessation to our bombing and an end to escalation. We want an immediate beginning of meaningful negotiations with all forces involved in this conflict. We want out of the war in Vietnam!

We echo the observation of Democratic Senator George McGovern who said: "We seem bent on saving the Vietnam people even if we have to kill and demolish their country to do so. I do not intend to remain silent in the face of a policy of madness."

We will also no longer commit the crime of silence. We endorse the statement of Republican Senator Mark Hatfield who said of this war: "The freedom to stand opposed to the Government's policy is not a privilege that can be withdrawn when the boat begins to rock. That freedom is the inherent right of a people in a democracy.

We have taken pride in the domestic accomplishments of the Democratic party, but today our concern for our country and for humanity compels us to speak out against your leadership of the party.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ADVISE YOU AND THOSE ON EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT THAT FROM THIS DAY ON OUR CAMPAIGN FUNDS, OUR ENERGY, AND OUR VOTES GO TO THOSE AND ONLY THOSE WHO WORK FOR AN END TO THE WAR IN VIETNAM.

I, the undersigned, want to join with other Dissenting Democrats across the country speaking out against the administration policy on the war in Vietnam. You may use my name on the advertisement you will run in the near future to advise President Johnson of our dissent.

(These ads will be paid for entirely by the signers. Your contribution of at least three dollars as well as your signature is of the utmost importance.)