

Table Talk

News and Views of the Student Body of The Lutheran
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

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VIETNAM--ANOTHER POSITION

by Mark Gruebmeier

Clergymen are continually being urged to take a stand on the war in Vietnam. Recently, eight members of our own faculty expressed their stands. The common opinion among them seems to be that administration efforts, both war and peace efforts, have been unsuccessful. They seem to contend that the administration's policy has been proven wrong, perhaps even that it has totally failed or done more harm than good.

I too am concerned about Vietnam. I have closely followed both war and peace efforts for many months. I disagree that the administration's policy has been so wrong or so unsuccessful.

First, in response to comments that there should be no further escalation, I contend that the recent escalation has advanced the cause of freedom in South Vietnam. As a result of the man-power build up, many areas within South Vietnam that were once Viet-Cong strongholds are now no longer secure areas for the Viet-Cong. Many of these areas, if not now occupied by allied troops, have been mapped and secured to insure that future operations in those areas will be easier. B52 bombers, an escalation of the war, have struck constant fear into the hearts of enemy soldiers, according to many captives. Vast tunnel complexes and supply caches have been destroyed so they no longer can be used by the enemy.

Second, our bombings in North Vietnam, accompanied by leaflet drops, according to informed sources have resulted in more and more North Vietnamese citizens blaming their country for the bombings. Fewer and fewer North Vietnamese citizens now support the war than ever before. I conclude that escalation policies have not been as unsuccessful as many would
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SIGN OF JONAH

When the Chancel Players, fringe and nocturnal, announced their reading selection of The Sign of Jonah, few if any shivers were registered. And Tuesday night, tentative hopefulness rather than eager anticipation tempered the respect of friendship that drew most to the production. The chancel however was far better than the way. Early and abruptly the players created Jonah's internal tempo--and sustained it. The individual performances transformed the reading into a fine dramatic expression, and well-implemented Ruthenborn's abrasive theology. It was a luxury to spend an evening on the edge of my seat.

Fred Aigner

AND ON THE HOME FRONT--

The following letter was received by Table Talk last week:

"Dear Editor:

Allow me to register the fact that there are those of us on campus who do not share the same views regarding Vietnam as the ones thus far expressed in "Table Talk." Please allow us the courtesy of knowing who Stan deCamp of Philadelphia Seminary happens to be and to what factors we might attribute his authority on or knowledge of the Vietnam Situation.

In the interest of journalistic objectivity and of integrity for those of other views than the ones exclusively expressed, may we request that some effort be made to present alternative sides to the question.

Bob Moylan"

In response to the question about
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have us believe, even though they have not forced the enemy to the conference table. Perhaps this hope was too optimistic, and it should never have been stated as the aim of escalation.

The critics of escalation have charged that it will eventually lead to world war, or at least to a more extensive and uncontrollable land war. As some have been too optimistic, I believe such critics are too pessimistic. We have no reliable indication that our continued escalation will mean that Chinese or Russians will send regiments and extensive air power into Vietnam, as well as the supplies they are now sending. As of yet, there is no indication that either Russia or China will send even advisors or token air power into South Vietnam. There is some indication of Chinese advisors within South Vietnam, but not in any great number. It is my belief that if the Russians or Chinese decide to get more directly involved in the war, they will first do so by sending advisors and air power. If they do, or we have reliable indications they will, that is the time to stop escalation, not now when we have no reliable indications except our own fears.

I do not want to see world war. Nor do most citizens of this world, including many Chinese and Russian leaders. If they did, they would not hesitate to force us into escalation, and there would be no questions in their minds whether they should send thousands into Southeast Asia.

I believe that peace efforts which give the impression that Americans do not want to see right prevail in South Vietnam are encouraging the North Vietnamese. Several months ago it was reported that world communists failed to convince the North Vietnamese that the United States is not on the verge of internal collapse because of the war in Vietnam. The North Vietnamese pointed to marches and criticism of Vietnam policy in the United States (for a Communist, this indicates that
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the identity of Stan deCamp, he is a student at the Philadelphia Seminary who has become concerned, as have many, about the current state of affairs regarding Vietnam. His article was originally published in The Seminarian, the student newspaper at Mt. Airy. Several Gettysburg students who read the article in The Seminarian requested that it be reprinted in Table Talk. We did so, hoping to stimulate similar articles by local people, expressing their views. Thus far, Dr. Gritsch has been the only member of our community to respond.

Mr. Moylan's second paragraph is indeed interesting. Your editor has literally had to pull articles out of this community for publication in Table Talk. Everyone knows that Table Talk is always "in the market" for articles of local origin--after all, this is the official publication of our student body. And the editor has refrained from creating articles himself lest there be accusations of undue editorializing by a single member of the community.

Therefore, Mr. Moylan (and the rest of this community), I can but dump the responsibility for the presentation of "alternative sides to the question" squarely upon you. Your attention is directed to the article in this issue by Mark Gruebmeier. I would also venture the opinion that, based on experience thus far, hell will freeze over before my mailbox brims to overflowing with articles for Table Talk.

F.K.

VIETNAM (cont'd from page 2)

revolution is imminent), as their support. We have no indication that they now believe otherwise.

I suggest that all letters and telegrams to our government state not only concern over our not being able to end the war by present administration efforts, but also a determination that we will see right prevail in South Vietnam, that we will support efforts toward this end both at the conference table and on the battlefield, that we will not forsake a country who cried out for help.

If we forsake South Vietnam and the efforts of our men fighting over there and do not use discriminately every available resource we have, to insure that South Vietnam will someday have the right to choose their government, we will not only lose the respect of others in our world, but also will not be living up to American conceptions of right. We must be firm in our beliefs and actions, as well as watchful and concerned about how our efforts are being understood and reacted to by the rest of the world.

MEETING ON VIETNAM

Senator Wayne L. Morse, of Eugene, Oregon, will address a central Pennsylvania area meeting on Viet Nam to be held in the Forum of the Education Building, Harrisburg, Sunday, February 20, at 3:00 P.M. on the subject: Viet Nam.

Senator Wayne Morse holds a Ph.D. degree, an M.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin; an LL.B. degree from the University of Minnesota, and a J.D. from Columbia University.

In 1929, Morse was appointed assistant professor of law at the University of Oregon Law School. In less than two years, at the age of 30, he was named Dean. He frequently acted as an arbitrator in labor-management disputes. In 1941, Dean Morse was named by President Roosevelt as Chairman of the National Railroad Emergency Board, and shortly thereafter to the National War Labor

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MEETING (cont'd from col. 1)

Board, where he wrote many of the key opinions of the Board's decisions during the war.

At the opening of the 89th Congress, Senator Morse was a member of the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Labor and Public Welfare, Small Business, and the District of Columbia. He is Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on Latin American Affairs, and of the Education subcommittee of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

The purpose of the meeting is to stimulate interest and discussion on the war in Vietnam. After the address by Senator Morse there will be an opportunity for questions from the floor.

Various members of the seminary and college communities have been involved in the planning and have promised to bring a large group of students and local residents to Harrisburg to hear Morse. To help pay for expenses we are asking for \$1.00 donations though no one will be turned away from the door if he does not have a ticket.

If you are interested in attending the meeting please contact the undersigned.

Robert L. Wilken

FROM THE SUNNY SOUTH--

--comes word that a certain intern, whose initials are M.Y., has gotten pinned. In a recent discussion of the matter here on campus, Table Talk overheard one student remark: "Nailed would be more like it!" Poor Marty.

FACULTY MEMBERS ARE BUSY

Several of our faculty members are keeping busy these days with extensive writing projects. Dr. Fred Wentz has been named the new editor of the Lutheran Quarterly. The February, 1966, issue will be the first under his editorial hand. That issue of LQ, incidentally, centers around various reactions to Harvey Cox's book, The Secular City.

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FACULTY MEMBERS (cont'd from page 3)

Dr. Hefner has been busy with the final work on his new book, Faith and the Vitalities of History, to be published in May by Harper and Row. He has also contributed one of the articles to the February LQ issue.

Drs. Wilken and Jordahl have contributed articles to the latest issue of Una Sancta.

Dr. Myers, whose third volume in the Anchor Bible series has just been published, is busy with final work on his forthcoming book, Invitation to the Old Testament, to be published by Doubleday. He also has articles in coming issues of Interpretation.

Dr. Heim has served as a consultant on Christian Education for the new Lutheran Cyclopedia, and authored ten articles appearing in the work.

Dr. Gritsch is completing work on the Luther translations for the American edition of Luther's Works. Mrs. Gritsch has served as a capable co-worker in this task.

Other faculty members are at work on various projects, of which we shall be hearing in coming months.