



More Moratorium People.

Dead GI In Viet-Nam Jungle

By THANH HAI
(South Vietnamese poet)
Translated from Vietnamese

Green are Viet-Nam's forests,
And red is Viet-Nam's soil.
Who lies there, dead,
In deep jungle forlorn?
An American G.I., dead,
His home state, who knows?
Fair hair tinged with red,
Eyes closed forever,
Lonely in jungle remote.
Back home across the ocean,
His wife goes out for a stroll,
And his little boy writes to Dad.
As in days gone by, his mother, so old
Sits lost in prayers, sad:
—Oh, Virgin Mary, have pity on us!
Home may he soon return!
In the Viet-Nam jungle, this summer,
Dead leaves come fluttering down,
Oh, G.I. hugging the earth,
Do you hear your mother's prayer?
Green are Viet-Nam's forests,
And red is Viet-Nam's soil.
G.I. who lies there, dead,
Did you know at home the streets are in turmoil.
In days and days of protest
Marches your silver-haired mother,
your wife and little toddler,
In front of troop trains they lie fearless!
How magnificent, that gold-starred banner
In Americans hands clasped tight!
In the jungle, eternal night
Has descended upon your eyes.
May I ask: how many of America's youth,
Can look straight at the clear sky,
And see the truth?
—No, your foe is not in Viet-Nam,
But right there,
In America.



Demonstrators catch some sleep between marches at a Movement Center in Washington, D.C.

Loyalty and Protest

By MARK DAUGHERTY

While down in Washington, D.C., on November 14 and 15, watching thousands of people express their political and/or emotional feelings toward the policies of Richard M. Nixon, I was constantly hearing from onlookers that this show of disapproval of government policies was disloyal and could only serve to hurt the country. This is not true, and it occurred to me that these people who disapproved of the demonstration should have gone into the National Archives and read a particular passage from one of the great legal foundations of our country, ". . . that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends (Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness) it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it." I am not concerned with abolishing it—it is one of the best in existence at the present—but, I am concerned with altering (improving) certain parts of the government because it is obviously far from being a perfect or complete system.

As to loyalty to this country, what is loyalty? Is it: waving a flag, conforming to the present administration, adhering to the ideals of the constitution and subsequent laws, or working toward the betterment of all mankind? Hopefully people will realize it is the last two, and not the first two which determines loyalty. I feel I am loyal to this country, and I don't prove it by going around waving the American flag—this is no more the meaning of loyalty than signing an oath or saying the pledge to that flag; it's not only the action that dictates loyalty, but the thought and reasons behind the action. I would like to compare present day flag wavers with the Tories of the 1776 Revolution. Most of the protestors have ideals of an even better and greater country, while the flag wavers are hiding their fear of social and political change behind the facade of loyalty, as did the Tories hide behind their loyalty to George III to oppose change for the betterment of man. As to conforming to the wishes of this present administration, this I will not do unless they start concerning themselves more with the needs of the people of this country and the world, and stop playing god (which they have not the power, intelligence, talent, or RIGHT to do) on the international political scene. If being loyal to the ideals of our government and the betterment of man means that I have to be disloyal to R.M.N., then so be it, because R.M.N. certainly does not represent the better of the two choices.

Unfortunately, too many people confuse loyalty with conformity. Because I don't wear a suit and tie and aspire to the great business success-orientated world, people have actually called me a "rotten commie traitor". These are the same people who discriminate against Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Italians, . . . ! will people ever learn not to judge people by the color of their skin, the length of their hair, or the style of their clothes?

People tell me that dissent against R.M.N. is bad. How can they say that? This very country was born of and became great through dissent, and this democracy would become stagnant if there was no dissent; when there is no opposition on controversial issues there will be no progress, abuses will go unremedied, and the people

of this country will be ready for a dictatorship to lead them like sheep where ever the dictatorship wants them to go. This brings to my mind that favorite saying of the flag wavers, "America, love it or leave it." What if all the men who loved their country, but did not approve of the present state of affairs, had left this country? Where would we be without some of these men like Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt, Henry Thoeau, Jacob Riis, . . . ? Sometimes the present isn't good enough, and in order to insure a better future, change is needed! Richard Nixon should be glad people spent their time, money, and energy to march in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. These true patriots are trying to eradicate what they feel is wrong with their country, they realize democracy needs involvement to stay a democracy.

Many people have criticized me for protesting. They have said that the protest won't accomplish anything. But does a little idealism ever rust? Myself and lots of other protestors felt nothing would be accomplished by our protests, but still we had to protest, even if just for our own conscience. Peo-

ple is wrong—this should go for countries too. People have also said that I should not say anything about Vietnam because I have not been there. This is pure foolishness. This is like saying that I shouldn't be outraged at murder because I've never been murdered. Often times a person can see more from a distance (where he can see the whole picture with all its consequences) then can be seen from right in the middle of things.

People have also said it's terrible that all the young do these days is protest. Well, don't they realize that the young of this country are in a terrible dilemma. They can not vote on these policies or the men who make them, yet the young are the ones who are asked (sometimes told) to fight and die for these same causes, and live in a system of laws that they feel are unjust and way behind the times. Eventually whenever anyone talks about protestors, they mention the violence that has arisen out of protest. Well, violence (very unfortunately) is sometimes the only course of action that works, and it does work. Violence is not the fault of those protesting, it is the fault of administrations (schools, state, gov-



Typical Tolerant Americans.

ple have said that (my) protesting is only dividing the country—that's what I want. This country is presently on the wrong track and division is needed to get it headed back toward the true ideals of our democracy; it also reminds people that there is a better direction then the way we are going now. Also people say I have no reasonable alternative. The definition of reasonable is at point because I feel that a reasonable alternative is to admit we were wrong to be there in the first place, and that we should just leave and let the Vietnamese (North, South, and Viet Cong) decide their own domestic troubles. It this means admitting that we lost, then we must do it. I am sure our national security is not menaced by the loss of that part of the world. As to the scholical impact of being wrong, I've been told often that it is the sign of a strong man who can admit

ernment), who for so long have ignored legitimate protest so that protestors have found that the only way to get what they wanted was to burn a few ghettos, throw a few rocks, and occupy a few buildings. But this the administrations brought upon themselves because of their blindness and stubbornness to reform.

So, don't be swayed by flag wavers and so-called patriots who offer nothing to this country but blind support of those in office. Look instead to the really loyal Americans, the hard working men and women who are fighting racism, apathy, poverty, and illiteracy in the people and fighting injustice, callusness, and corruptness in the government; these are the people in the long run whose loyalty to the cause of reform—whether through dissent in the streets or an appropriate job—will make this country the great country it is capable of being.