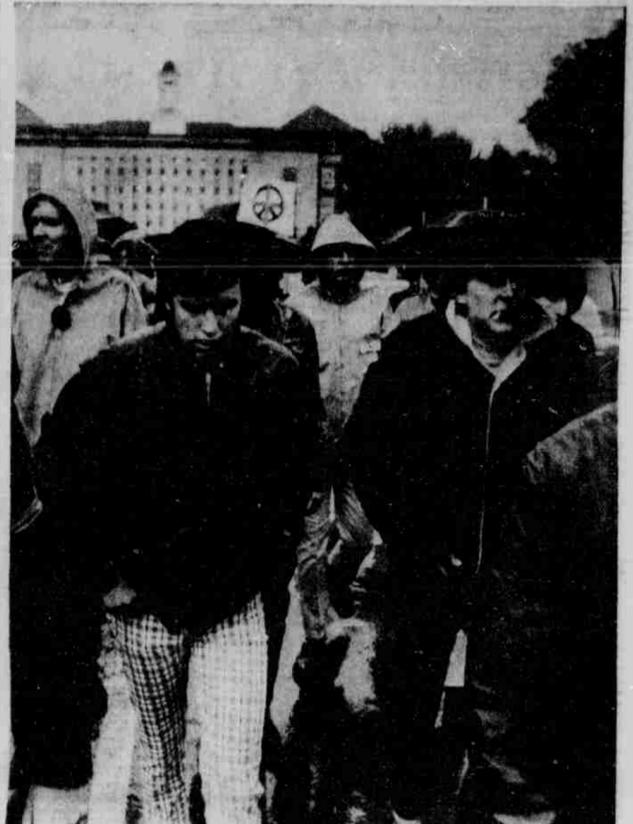




A lone sign protrudes above the umbrellas that moratorium marchers used to defend against the rain.

Nebraska photo by Mike Hayman



The march started slightly ahead of schedule when Union accommodations became overcrowded.



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Fighting for ideals--'poppycock' says Volgyes

by Bill Smitherman
Nebraskan Staff Writer

"Most of us are ready to get out of Vietnam," Alan Siporan of the moratorium steering committee began. "We are here to get the facts so that we can convince others."

More than 2,500 people listened to Siporan, other speakers and music in the Union Centennial Room preceding the march to the capitol during the Vietnam moratorium Wednesday.

Dr. Ivan Volgyes, assistant professor of political science, was the most popular speaker judging from the audience reaction.

"I'd like to tell you of the dream of an immigrant," he said. "Myself, thirteen years ago."

He said that he came to the United States in search of ideals. These were "that all men were created equal, all men have the right to govern themselves and all men have the right to justice."

Cannot believe

"We are told we are fighting for these very ideals in Vietnam," he continued. "I cannot believe this."

"I see over 40,000 Americans killed and ask why," he said.

Nixon says there will be freedom, justice and democracy in Vietnam when the United States has won the war, Volgyes said.

"Poppycock, Mr. Nixon. That is a lie," he added.

There is only one way that American boys will not have died in vain, he continued. "We must take this war as a lesson and learn from it."

"There have been criticisms that the Moratorium members give aid and comfort to the enemy. But really, we give aid and comfort only to what is the best element in America."

Lost at home

"This country was born in revolution and based on the right of dissent," he continued. "If we no longer believe in this right we have lost the war at home, not in Vietnam."

He said that America has always cherished its voices of disagreement and he urged all those present to let the President hear their voices.

"Show the President that you believe in America," Volgyes continued. "As a proud American say not 'my country, right or wrong,' but 'my country — let us make her right.'"

Black Student Alan Buckingham asked those in the crowd if they realized what it was like for a black man fighting in Vietnam.

"They say you're fighting for freedom, but black children in Mississippi can't go to school without having rocks thrown at them," he shouted.

He said that the only thing students seem concerned with is Vietnam. Look at problems right here at home, he continued.

Siporan, one of the student organizers of the meeting, said that one of the worst things about the war is that it takes our attention away from those problems at home.

"When you talk about Vietnam you're talking about America," commented Dr. Robert Keohane. Keohane is a member of the National Moratorium Committee and a professor at Swarthmore College.

Americans are arrogant in their insistence that they are right, he said. This has been one of the reasons why we are still in Vietnam, he continued.

Keohane said that the demonstration in Nebraska was more important than those on the east and west coasts.

More impact

He explained that Nebraska has been solid "Nixon Country" and that a demonstration here will have more impact than one in traditional non-Nixon areas.

Keohane also said that national policy makers have been deluding themselves. In a great many instances they have believed Vietnam War intelligence reports that are not correct, he said.

He explained that such reports come from bureaucrats cut to prove that they did a good job. Reporters who have seen for themselves usually know more than men who have read the intelligence reports, he added.

"If you have read the newspapers and magazines you probably know more than President Nixon who is held prisoner by his own misinformation agencies," Keohane said.

Edgar Pearlstein, instructor in physics, spelled out a number of facts and presented pro and con arguments to the crowd.

There are many reasons for getting out of Vietnam, he said, and some are idealistic and some are pragmatic.

Over 40,000 Americans have been killed in Vietnam, he continued. Over 250,000 have been wounded.

Vietnamese dead are from 500 to 600 thousand, Pearlstein said. There are also many thousands of dead civilians.

The United States is spending some \$30 billion a year on the war, he said. He broke this down to \$600 per family per year.

"There are about 30 million men, women and children in Vietnam," Pearlstein said. "This means that we are spending \$1,000 on each person in Vietnam to destroy their country."

"This money is being worse than thrown away," he continued. "It is being used to destroy other valuable things including human life."

Blood bath

Considering the prediction of a blood bath of South Vietnamese loyalists if the U.S. withdraws, Pearlstein said he had a number of points to make.

He pointed out that there has already been a blood bath in Vietnam for the past eight years because of

the war.

"If we persist with the present policy it will mean a continued blood bath for many years," he said.

However, he explained a number of ways to avoid the blood bath. The money now being used to fight the war could be used to transfer the supposed victims from the country of some other plan could be devised, he said.

Pearlstein also spoke of the "domino theory." He said that only the most unlettered hawks are still using this argument.

The theory assumes that all Southeast Asian people are alike and this is not true, he said.

No history supports the theory, Pearlstein added and it overlooks the fact that China and the Southeast Asian countries are traditional enemies, he said.

"We have heard a lot of talk about peace with honor," Pearlstein continued. "However, those who use the phrase never define exactly what they are talking about. We may only tell what they mean by 'honor' from context."

Pearlstein said that the first precept in this concept of honor is saving face. The second precept is that America has never lost a war and

shouldn't start now. The third is that 40,000 Americans should not have died in vain.

"These deaths are all tragedies, but I can't see how piling 40,000 more on top of them will help," Pearlstein continued.

Loss of honor

"The U.S. has already lost considerable honor in Vietnam," he added. "Every day that we stay there we are losing more."

He continued that all we can do about gaining honor is stop the dishonor and then regain honor through truly good deeds.

"You are the generation in a militaristic society," Pearlstein said. "I hope your children will not be the third generation in a militaristic society."

"All the present policies can lead to is year after year of war," he continued. "Eventually we will have to get out. Why not now?"

William B. Campbell, assistant professor of physics, urged those at the meeting to take place in the march to the capitol.

"Young Americans are dying in the rain in Vietnam," he said. "You can get your feet wet today."



Dr. Ivan Volgyes

Moratorium march draws 4,000 people

In the cold, Wednesday afternoon rain approximately four thousand people marched to the state capitol in support of the National Vietnam Moratorium.

The demonstrators met at Love Library about 3:30 p.m. and formed the line of march down thirteenth street. Most wore raincoats or carried umbrellas and one carried a gas mask.

It took thirty minutes for the entire line to reach its destination and it stretched the entire distance from the Library to the Capitol for fifteen minutes.

Traffic backed

Traffic was backed for several blocks along streets intersecting the march route. A number of cars began blowing their horns, but the demonstrators remained quiet and orderly.

As the line moved there were several comments from people watching the demonstration. One man exclaimed: "Is the police escorting these sons of bitches?"

A dialogue between two old men standing in a doorway was:

"Whose army were you in?"

"The United States Army in World War I."

At the capitol, the crowd stood quietly in the rain until all the protesters had arrived. They completely filled the north steps and spilled to the area across K street.

Shortly after 4 p.m. Dr. Clarence J. Forsberg, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Church, began the peace vigil with an invocation.

Then 350 names of Nebraska war dead were read to the silent crowd.

The rain began to fall harder, but very few demonstrators left.

After twenty minutes of reading, the crowd dispersed as silently as it had come.

During the demonstration, about 25 anti-demonstrators from Lincoln Southeast High School held pro-war and anti demonstration signs. Some of the signs read "Better Dead Than Red," "Don't Abandon Our War Dead" and "Moratorium Day — Day of Shame."

Ron Anderson, spokesman for the Southeast students, said that his group was trying to show that there is another side to the war issue.

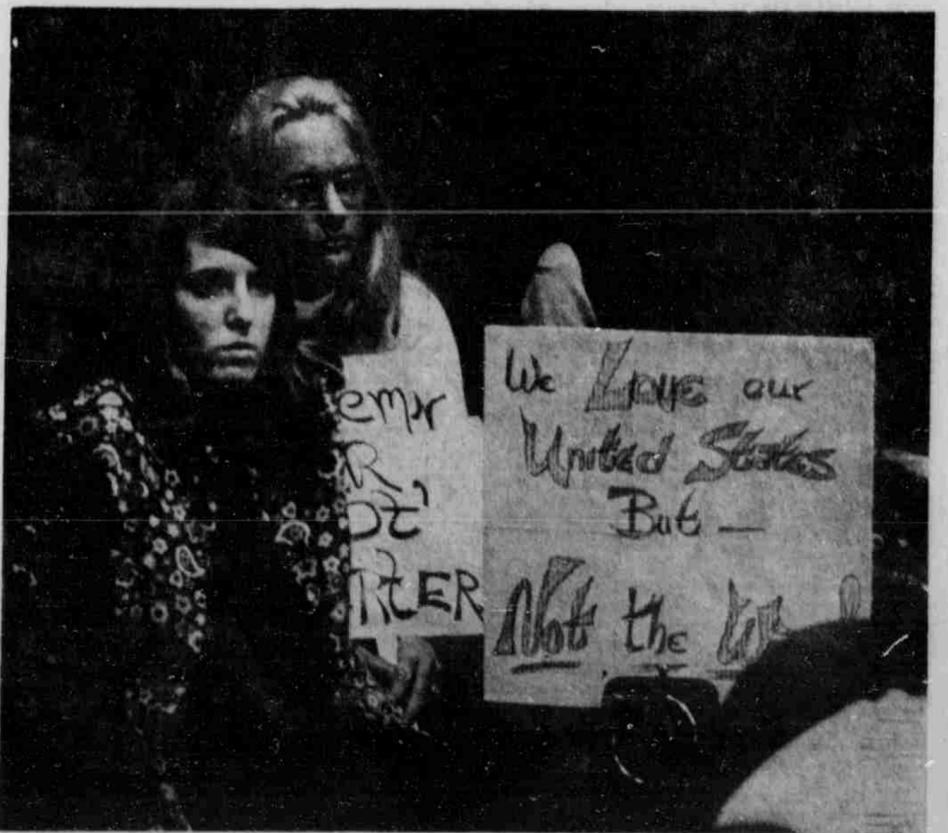
Equal time

He said that the anti-demonstration group was formed after school Monday. The Southeast High School moratorium committee called the group together because they needed someone to take equal time against the moratorium, he explained.

The moratorium group at Southeast wore black arm bands, he said. His group wore red, white and blue ones.

He added that the school administration had given individual teachers the option to dismiss their classes so group members could attend the anti-war demonstration. However, the group chose to remain in class as a further protest against the moratorium, he said.

Mike Shonsey, chairman of the University moratorium steering committee, commented that the "turnout and attitude of the people have been great."



Two marchers patiently wait for the march to begin. When the Union crowd moved outside, much of the handout literature and other debris was left behind.