

McNamara's Brand--XX

In the days when the west was wild other than with what has developed into Gingle-
lerism and cattle range free they were marked with identifications of owners branded into
them.

In the wake of Robert McNamara's published admission that he and we were wrong
in Viet Nam he was branded, by the major media most of all, by a double X with a bar.
He was to, then a double crosses. For him "better late than never" was not the case.

Those who were most virulent in their attacks on him and their characterization
were those who have to a large degree escaped their responsibility for what Mc
Nara apologized for. Their responsibility for not reporting the truth, for not filling
their responsibilities in a society like ours, for condemning those who tried to,
that who instead of encouraging our international brigandage made it the most pressing
of national needs - those who made it close to politically impossible for the wrong-
headed President to do other than he did and berated all who tried. Major media, ~~politicians~~
politicians, special interests, the military hierarchy - many.

~~Still~~ Still not facing the realities of both the international situation and of how wrong
what we did was under international law and our own laws, still refusing to face what
really, cause that greatest of our military failures and the reasons for it, they have
branded McNamara as a double-crosser for belatedly telling the truth and accepting the
responsibility they still refuse to accept.

Whether in attempted self-justification or as a threat to others now and in the
future or both it is the fact that the attacks on him are without precedent that I can
recall.

(Pun on "McNamara's Band")