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The Sure Way To Re-Elect Nixon

by James Reston

The antiwar student movement has reached another critical point in its turbulent history. Some of its leaders are advocating violence again, and some are holding back, while the majority of the university students seem apathetic or frustrated; so this may be a good time to look at the problem.

The hope of the campus militants apparently is to influence President Nixon to stop the bombing in Vietnam and maybe even to drive him out of office, but while the tactics of violence undoubtedly contributed to these results with President Johnson in 1968, the situation now is quite different.

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[Nixon] is running well ahead in the polls, with a lot going for him in the foreign field outside of Vietnam, and violent demonstrations against him could easily assure his re-election.

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In any event, Mr. Nixon is not going to be diverted from his present course by campus turmoil, which he regards as a political asset.

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