

SF Examiner

War Main Issue With Students

NEW YORK (N.Y.) — The Vietnam war has escalated as the main issue in the 1972 presidential campaign with the nation's 8 million college students according to the College Poll. In fact, student attitudes toward the war alone, intensified since the resumption of the bombing in April of this year, may well decide how the potentially critical collegiate vote may go this fall.

A comparison of surveys taken last fall and now indicates how the Vietnam war issue has grown in importance. In the fall of 1971 students were asked:

"What do you think will be the major issue in the 1972 campaign?"

Fall 1971

Vietnam war	44.0%
Economy	36.0
Ecology	4.0
Civil Rights	2.4
Law and Order	1.2
Welfare	1.0
Others	11.4

Recently, a cross-section of the nation's students were asked the same question.

Summer 1972

Vietnam war	71.0%
Economy	14.5
Guaranteed Income & Welfare	5.5
Civil Rights	1.8
Others	7.2

In 1968, the College Poll indicated 61 percent of the students then would have

College Poll

voted for Richard Nixon over Hubert Humphrey, principally because of the Republican promise to end the war.

Four years later, the mere statistics alone do not reflect the intensity of student frustration over the current posture of the war, and in particular with the President's decision to continue bombing.

Student frustrations about Vietnam appear to play an important part in the voter registration drives which, thus far, have encouraged seven out of ten students to register to vote.

To many students, the presidential vote will be a protest vote against the war. A student leader at Fairleigh-Dickinson University (N.J.) stated he believed the opportunity for students to vote this fall is the main reason campus demonstrations would be avoided this year.

Nor is it clear that a dramatic ending to the war would create a substantial change in student attitudes toward the present administration.

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