

Plea for Amnesty Measure

Washington

Former Army Secretary Robert F. Froehlke urged Congress yesterday to legislate amnesty for Vietnam war draft evaders and deserters.

"Not because there is a wrong to be righted," Froehlke testified at a House judiciary subcommittee hearing on legislating amnesty, "but because amnesty is the opportunity to begin healing the hurt that goes far beyond Vietnam itself."

Froehlke said both he and former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird disagree with President Nixon's stand against amnesty but respect it.

Representative Robert F. Drinan (Dem-Mass.) suggested that the subcommittee travel to Toronto, Canada, to hear from self-exiled American draft resisters.

"I feel it more and more intensely," Drinan said, "that the intended beneficiaries are not here to testify."

After consulting his notebook, Drinan said. "I think Good Friday, April 12, would be a good day to be in Toronto."

Subcommittee Chairman Bob Kastenmeier (Dem-Wis.) had no immediate response to Drinan's proposal.

Froehlke said earlier on CBS' "Morning News" that the President's stand against granting amnesty is the reason he has concluded Congress should legislate it.

"The President said long ago 'We need a renewal of the spirit to meet the crisis of the spirit in our country,'" Froehlke said.

"Is not forgiveness a vital function of the spirit?"

Froehlke was Mr. Nixon's Army secretary from 1971 until last spring.

He urged Congress to legislate blanket amnesty for all draft evaders, including those who fled the country, who agree to serve a period to be specified by Congress in public service.

Calling deserters "a far more complicated prob-



AP Wirephoto

ROBERT FROEHLKE
'Healing the hurt'

lem," he proposed creation of a review board to consider amnesty for them on a case-by-case basis "in a non-vindictive, generous manner."

Froehlke's proposal was opposed by national organizations campaigning for amnesty. They said it was unwarranted punishment for men who followed their conscience and refused to fight.

"It's a very cleverly perceived plan to very sharply limit the scope of the debate about amnesty," said Tod Ensign, counsel for Project Safe Return. "It excludes the moral argument. We can't understand what motivated them (draft evaders) without going into the policies of that war."

W. Sterling Cary, president of the National Council of Churches of Christ, said any requirement for public service "is still punishment — punishment which serves no useful purpose."

A.P. & U.P.

Army Plea on Calley Bail

Columbus, Ga.

The Army has asked U.S. District Judge J. Robert Elliott to reverse his decision granting bail to First Lieutenant William Calley Jr., the only soldier convicted in the My Lai massacre.

The suit, filed Friday, said Calley was "convicted of one of the most serious crimes in the annals of military justice" and that Elliott did not state proper justification for releasing Calley.

United Press