

# Nixon Defends The Vietnam War

## Washington

President Nixon predicted yesterday that history would render a different verdict on America's involvement in Vietnam than "the instant analysis we hear today."

Mr. Nixon, speaking at ceremonies commemorating the first Vietnam Veterans Day, declared that "history will record that the American effort in Vietnam was a good cause, honorably undertaken and honorably ended."

Because the U.S. persevered, he said, respect for America was maintained throughout the world.

"The verdict of history, I am sure, will be quite different from the instant analysis that we presently see and sometimes hear," Mr. Nixon said.

The President, hatless and without an umbrella in a steady, cold drizzle, spoke to an audience of 300-400 Army officers and their wives in front of the imposing war college at Ft. McNair.

Mr. Nixon paid tribute to the Americans who served in Vietnam, particularly

those who sacrificed their lives, and renewed his commitment to obtain a full accounting for all of those who are still missing in action.

He said, "the highest tribute we can pay to them is that they served honorably and they served well."

Without saying so, Mr. Nixon reiterated his opposition to amnesty for those who refused to serve during the Vietnam war by saying:

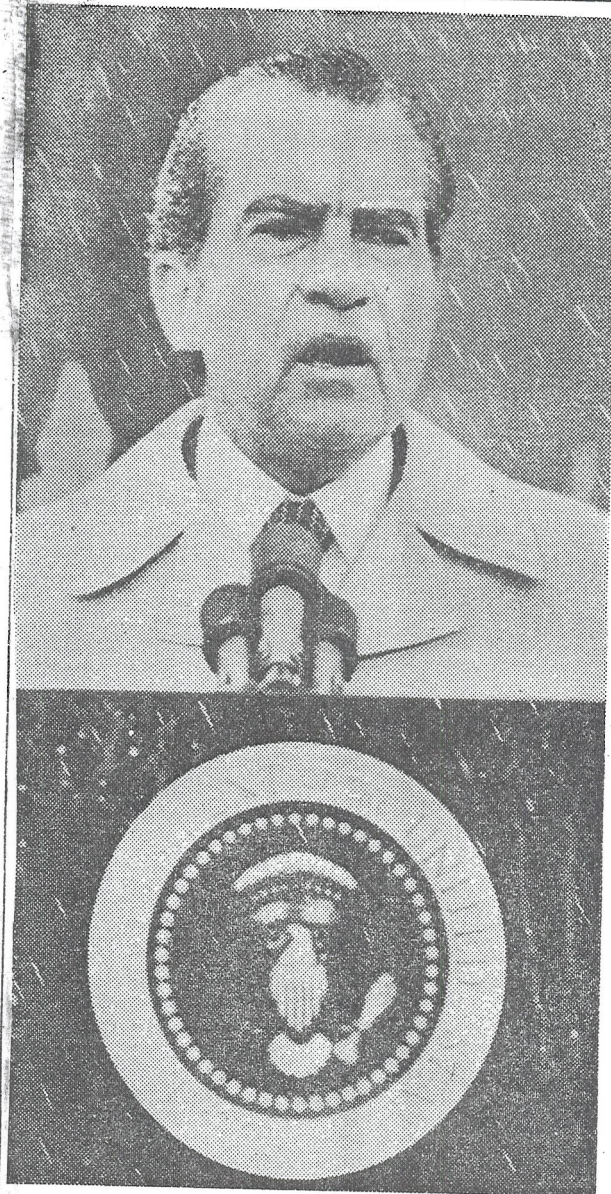
"It sometimes seems that more attention is directed to those who deserted America than those who chose to serve America."

Mr. Nixon also urged that America be kept "strong militarily."

Though the cost may be high, he said, "the cost of war is still higher and it is paid in a different coin, the lives of our young men and the destruction of our cities."

After returning to the White House, the President took a helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base and flew to Key Biscayne, Fla., for the weekend.

United Press



UPI Telephoto

PRESIDENT NIXON SPOKE IN THE RAIN  
It was the first annual Vietnam Veterans Day