

Kennedy Charges Ford Distorted Viet Issue

By George Murphy

President Ford distorted the Vietnam problem in his foreign policy speech Thursday night, U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy said here yesterday.

At an impromptu press conference in City Hall, Kennedy said Mr. Ford's speech "outlined in general language our overall foreign policy.

"But I think there was a serious distortion of the situ-

ation (on the President's part) when he linked humanitarian aid to economic and military aid to Vietnam.

"I think the Congress will act expeditiously on providing humanitarian aid to Indochina, but there will be a long debate on economic and military assistance," he said.

Kennedy also called for humanitarian efforts to be made in Vietnam through the United Nations.

"There are also a lot of orphans in territory held by the PRG (Provisional Revolutionary Government).

"If a child has lost an arm or leg, I don't care where he comes from, I think we ought to help."

Kennedy was here to address the western regional meeting of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors.

Ten mayors met in the Board of Supervisors cham-

ber to hear Kennedy plump for his national health insurance bill.

The bill, he said, "is the only one that makes any kind of sense in meeting health care needs."

His bill would cost \$76 billion a year, he said, but he pointed out that the government is now spending \$134 billion annually on health care problems, and that figure "could rise to \$200 billion by 1980."

The \$76 billion, he said, would come from federal money already being spent. "What we want is to eliminate the inefficiency and waste in the health care system now."

During the conference, one of seven to be held around the nation to put together a plank on urban problems for the 1976 Democratic platform, Milwaukee's Mayor Henry W. Maier addressed his remarks to Kennedy.

Maier, who is chairman of the Democratic Mayors' Caucus, said: "If we look at our problems in terms of an ordinary citizen raising his family in an ordinary city in America, then we would have no question but that the social defense of this nation is every bit as important as the national defense.

"And perhaps, Senator Kennedy, in order to properly dramatize this fact, you and some of your colleagues should consider introducing legislation to create a Joint Chiefs of Staff for our social defense."

Maier said that "wherever presidential candidates travel throughout the country in 1976, we intend to confront them with the problems Americans are concerned with in the places Americans live — and we intend to have them tell us clearly and concisely what they intend to do about those problems."