

Lindsay Assails War Policy; Stresses Peaceful Dissent

By EDWARD C. BURKS

Mayor Lindsay assailed President Nixon's Cambodian policy last night and called for a new "not-so-silent majority" of dissenters to move this country to end the war in Indochina.

He spoke of a "dreadful miscalculation, even misrepresentation" in official policy.

In a major speech obviously keyed to a national audience the Mayor asserted: "The country is virtually on the edge of a spiritual — and perhaps even a physical breakdown."

While invoking a revitalization of the "anti-war legions," particularly among the young, the Mayor cautioned that the process of dissent must be "peaceful, orderly and reasonable."

He urged Congress to "invoke the power of the purse" to reverse the Administration's war policy by holding up appropriations.

Mr. Lindsay took the occasion of the National Magazine Awards dinner, sponsored by the American Society of Magazine Editors, at the Plaza Hotel for the strongest attack he has yet made on the Nixon administration.

Only a relatively small gathering of several hundred was on hand for the announcement of the annual awards made by the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

Aims at National Opinion

But the Mayor, apparently sensing a major shifting of opinion across the country, had worked intensely at City Hall with his closest advisers during the afternoon on the speech. His aides left no doubt that Mr. Lindsay was seeking to rally a vast body of national opinion.

The Mayor said the "tragedies" in Cambodia and at Kent State University in Ohio, where National Guardsmen killed four students on Monday, "make this a stark moment in our history."

At City Hall he was visited by two Kent State students. One of them, Jack Corliss, 18 years old, of Spring Valley, N. Y., told him that "Vietnam was a dying issue" until the President ordered troops into Cambodia.

In the later afternoon the Mayor made an impulsive visit to an antiwar rally at New York University Law School on Washington Square and used some of the phrases that he had prepared for the magazine editors.

The Mayor's prepared remarks referred to "the Orwellian logic of escalation and Vietnamization."

He accused the Administration of spawning a polarization and hostility so fundamental that "for the first time in a century, we are not sure there is a future for America."

'Our Only Hope'

Then he spoke of nonviolent but not-so-silent dissent as "our only hope."

"The same kind of political energy, peacefully directed, that helped to reverse escalation of the war in March, 1968, can move this country toward an end to the war," the Mayor said. "A new majority can influence policy-making at the highest levels. It can elect antiwar Congressmen and Senators."

The Mayor in his speech made no direct answer to Vice President Agnew, who had described him a few days ago as a "well-born elitist" more dangerous than campus "paranoids" because he espoused "philosophical violence."

Nor did he refer to President Nixon's reference to some campus "bums" causing disturbances. The Mayor did say:

"Our hold on the future is very frail. That future — all that we are and all that we can be — dies a little bit each day the war goes on, and it dies whenever we succumb to the easy conclusion that the contestants there or here are

gooks or devils, bums or pigs. We must not forget that we all bleed."

The Mayor said that it was "a time for civility" and for "binding up America." Even while sympathizing with students, whose restraint was "broken by rage or overreaction," he warned: "A turn to violence by youth would further embitter the nation."