

Upstate Village Backs Nixon Policies

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GLEN AUBREY, N.Y., May 7—Mrs. Betty Welch, whose son, Leon, is serving in the Army along the Vietnam-Cambodian border, was talking today in the local post office about fears for her son's life and the violence on college campuses in behalf of the withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam.

"Should my son get killed there," she said, "I'd be more proud of him than if he gets killed on a campus here."

In the slow, careful speech of this community outside to capture the basic sentiments of the area. In this strongly Republican hamlet, the men and women are vehement in their criticism of campus rioters and hopeful that the invasion of Cambodia may speed the return of American troops to their homes.

Yet for probably the first time since the beginning of American involvement in the war in Vietnam, there is evidence that some residents here are worried that the war is continuing too long and, expanding too far.

Four years ago and, in another visit, about 18 months ago, little doubt could be found that the President was right. The first time was when Lyndon B. Johnson was in office.

Mrs. Kathleen Greenmun, the wife of the local justice of the peace, with a son in Vietnam, was one of few who spoke today against the sweep into Cambodia.

Campus Disruption Opposed

"I don't understand where our Congress is," said Mrs. Greenmun, who concedes she is regarded as "an oddball." "I was always brought up to believe that Congress declares war. We'd be better off if we listened to our forefathers."

But Mrs. Greenmun is also opposed to violence on the campuses. "I'm sympathetic with the kids, but I think they're going about it the wrong way," she said.

In this serene community, where cows dot the hillsides overlooking the roads that men and women use to drive to jobs and businesses in Binghamton, the turbulence in schools in New York City might be in another nation.

At Whitney Point High School, which serves this and nearby communities, the major concerns among students seemed to be the art exhibit, the concert and the approaching prom. There was no question about any interruption of class as school buses came and went on schedule. Corridors and classrooms were orderly. Mrs. Tressa Corcoran, prin-



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Mrs. Kathleen Greenmun wonders why Congress had so little to say about Cam-



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Mrs. Betty Welch has a son in the Army in Indochina; dislikes antiwar protests.

incipal, pointed to an office. "That's where the boys go when they're 18," she said. "They just go in there and register for the draft. That's all there is to it."

In history classes there were discussions on the invasion of Cambodia and the college disruptions. Keith Reester, a teacher, asked students if they thought the National Guardsmen were justified in firing into demonstrating students at Kent State University, killing four of them.

Veterans Support U. S. Action

One student said: "It was stupid to shoot into a crowd."

Another said: "They should have picked out the troublemakers and shot at them."

A third said: "I think they acted on impulse. Out of fear."

The prevailing sentiment was

that the guardsmen should not have fired.

Vietnam veterans from the village spoke strongly in favor of the action in Cambodia.

Jimmy Dean, who walks with a cane because of a spinal wound received in Vietnam, said

"I think going into Cambodia is the smartest move they made. If these kids in the colleges stopped to think, they'd know it should have been done a long time ago."

However, he had doubts about the wisdom of firing at the students at Kent State. "I don't think it was right if the students didn't fire on them."

Bob Brady, who has opened a successful gasoline station since his return from Vietnam, said:

"I can see why they

are in Cambodia. There was no choice. I can also see why people are skeptical. If I had it to do all over again, I'd do it. I'd go to Vietnam because I think there's a purpose."

Mrs. Catherine Holden, the postmaster here, is one of those who, while continuing to support President Nixon, is beginning to worry.

Another Vietnam Feared

"I'd like to see this mess cleaned up soon—very soon," she said. "If going to Cambodia is going to accomplish these goals, very good. But if it's another Vietnam, no, no. Nixon is doing the best he knows. But if it fails, it's going to be a mighty disappointment."

The spread of antagonism in this area to college demonstrators was indicated by Harold Spoor, a traveling salesman who covers this county — Broome — and adjacent counties.

"Wherever I go," he said, "I hear people saying it's about time they started teaching subjects the kids were sent to college to study. They say, 'We're paying taxes and they're running around burning down the buildings we pay for.'"

At the white-steepled Glen Aubrey Baptist Church, the Rev. Richard Slater told of a prayer given the other day.

"We prayed for the President, for the leaders, for the servicemen, for the young people," he said. "We prayed for the unity of the nation."