

## Nixon Predicts Skeptics Will Recall War's Valor

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WASHINGTON, May 14— President Nixon told a group of Medal of Honor winners today that the war in Southeast Asia was often "not understood and not supported in this country" but that eventually the American people would join him in honoring their valor.

The President made his comments at a White House ceremony for the medal winners and their families. He said, "As time goes on, millions more of your countrymen will look back and they will reach the conclusion that you served the cause of the land of the free by being brave—brave beyond the call of duty."

After presenting the medals to each of the five soldiers, three Navy men, two Marines and two Air Force men, the President said that he hoped "those who have responsibilities in Government here can work as courageously and as effectively for the cause of a just and lasting peace as you have served this country in war."

### Romney and V.F.W. Views

During the day Mr. Nixon also heard George Romney, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, express on behalf of young Americans a feeling of concern that they have not been able to influence Government decision-making as much as they wanted. Later the President met with Ramond Gallagher, the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to accept his expression of support for the Nixon Administration's Southeast Asia policies.

Mr. Romney told reporters he had passed on to the President "some of the things I have been picking up in discussions with young people." The President, Mr. Romney said, appeared to be "very conscious of the problems I discussed and the need to take some action."

The attitude of young people, Mr. Romney said, is "one of concern" over such things as "whether they are going to be able to have an adequate impact on the changes they think are necessary in our society."

Mr. Romney was asked whether he shared the concern of Walter J. Hickel, the Secretary of the Interior, over a belief that the Administration was estranged from young Americans. He replied that Mr. Nixon had taken "immediate steps to do whatever he could to increase communication with young people" after Mr. Hickel had made his views known in a letter to the President.

Mr. Gallagher, the V.F.W. head, met with reporters following his conversation with the President and said that he had expressed the support of the six million members of his group and the American Legion for Mr. Nixon's conduct of the war.

He accused the Senate of "considering a declaration of surrender," an apparent reference to a bipartisan move to cut off funds for future United States operations in Cambodia.

### Welcomes 'Any Support'

Mr. Gallagher declined to say what Mr. Nixon's comments were in their private meeting, but he added: "He's happy for any support he's getting, particularly in this day and age."

The Medal of Honor recipients and their families were invited to a reception in the White House after the ceremony. The medals went to: Lieut. Col. Charles C. Rogers,