

# Concerned Students Speak Up

SF CHRONICLE 22 MAY 70

## Congress 'Listening' on the War

### Washington

Russell Wise Jr. is a Vietnam veteran who sports an American flag in his lapel. Lon Williams comes from a long line of conservative Texas Republicans.

Both are college students. Both are opposed to the widening war in Indochina.

They came to Capitol Hill yesterday to join a polite but plain-spoken stream of young Americans anxious to tell all about it through what was billed as "the time-honored means of a congressional hearing."

### FORUM

Representative Paul Findley (Rep - Ill.) scraped together the forum — an unofficial, ad hoc committee of House Republicans and Democrats who volunteered to listen.

Some came thousands of miles for a strictly enforced 20 minutes, a bit of praise and a bit of congressional pique.

"Where will it all stop? When will we learn?" asked Wise, now a history major at Central Connecticut State College and president of the student senate there.

"If Cambodia has done nothing else," he told the congressmen in a quiet voice, "it has established the concerned but moderate student in the forefront of the peace movement."

### REPLY

Representative John H. Dent (Dem - Pa.) looked straight at the mustachioed veteran and suggested that he should have come to Congress with his anti-war complaints "at the beginning of the dissent" instead of now.

"But it's not too late,"

Dent assured him. "What now do you recommend?"

The ex-airman resisted the temptation to point out where he was several years ago (Tansohut Air Force Base outside Saigon) and instead softly urged a more "serious effort at seeking a peace."

Williams, 23-year-old son of a Republican real estate broker from Arlington, Tex., was just as blunt in his assessments.

As a child, he recalled, he was constantly reminded of the evils of Nazi Germany and the failure of its people to put their own convictions above "loyalty and pride in the fatherland."

"All I can say is that we learned our lesson well," said Williams, who is president of Southern Methodist University's student association. "We have been programmed entirely too thoroughly to be silent . . . (and disregard human lives.)"

Not all the witnesses were opposed to President Nixon's policies. Greg Rambo, a student from Kent State University, called the decision to send troops into Cambodia "wise . . . imperative for the safety of our American forces in Vietnam . . ."

### REACTION

The congressional reaction was just as varied. Representative Vernon W. Thomson (Rep-Wis.) bristled at the latest report from little Principia College in Elsah, Ill.

Jack Berger, a 20-year-old junior there, said that a poll of 250 of the 750 students there — all that could be queried on short notice — showed that 65 per cent consider President Nixon "unresponsive" and nearly 50 per cent think the division in

American society could result in revolution.

With a trace of annoyance, Thomson asked whether Principia had a chapter of the radical Students for a

Democratic Society.

"No sir," Berger said.

Berger later added that all the students at Principia are Christian Scientists.

*Times-Post Service*