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SF Chronicle McCloskey-- 'U.S. Killing For Pride'

The United States could be out of Vietnam within 30 days if the public supported Congressional efforts to cut off funds for military spending, Congressman Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey (Rep-Portola Valley) said here last night.

Speaking at a press conference, before his address to the annual banquet of Zero Population Growth at the St. Francis Hotel, he sharply criticized the saturation B-52 bombing of North Vietnam, calling it an "act of horror."

"What kind of country have we become?" the former Republican presidential hopeful asked. "We have killed and maimed thousands of non-combatant old people and children in the current bombing raids, not in the war in which we defend human liberty, national sovereignty or any principle of law or peace."

"Our sole purpose is to prevent our humiliation. . . . We kill only for pride."

He declined to endorse today's peace rally and march in San Francisco, but asked people to write the president and Congress urging an end to the bombing and a cut-off of funds.

McCloskey also said that since Stanford University is in the new congressional district in which he is running for re-election, he would go there and urge demonstrators to "cool it."

Stanford professor and population biologist Dr. Paul Ehrlich also criticized yesterday's demonstration at Stanford.

He said he failed to see how breaking windows at Stanford could "deflect" the president and administration "from the course they're on in Vietnam. In fact, they like it. It's not only silly, it's counter-productive."

Ehrlich endorsed the report of the president's commission on population growth -- which will be formally presented within the next few weeks -- which says there are no benefits to continued growth but many disadvantages.

He was pessimistic about how the White House would receive the report, however, since it differs from the president's idea that population should be redistributed, not controlled.

Congressman Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey, Jr. has called upon Bay Area residents for "a massive expression of opinion" protesting the B-52 saturation bombings in North Vietnam.

"We have 150 B-52s attacking population centers in the middle of the night, killing children, women and the elderly," McCloskey said, "The devastation is almost too terrible for us in peaceful surroundings to understand."

Saving Face

The San Mateo Republican said congress had the power to stop the bombing in 30 days by cutting off funds "if the public will speak out."

He urged citizens to write President Nixon and their

congressmen to urge cessation of the B-52 raids on North Vietnam.

"We are bombing the north, killing God knows how many civilians, solely for the sake of pride, to prop up Saigon so that the United States does not suffer a diplomatic defeat, so our prestige is not hurt."

McCloskey, a combat Marine who won a Navy Cross in Korea, said there was no military advantage in bombing Hanoi and Haiphong.

My Lai

"What kind of country have we become? We have killed and maimed thousands of non-combatant old people and children . . . in a war we are no longer willing

to fight ourselves, where our sole purpose is to prevent humiliation."

McCloskey said that to stand back and acquiesce in the killing by B-52s "is as evil as the conduct of those who stood by without voicing their protest when an American officer ordered his men to 'waste' the lives of helpless civilians at My Lai."

He said the one remaining U.S. obligation in Southeast Asia is to offer protection to those South Vietnamese who might be imperiled by American withdrawal.

McCloskey made his remarks at a news conference preceding a scheduled speech to a dinner meeting of Zero Population Growth here last night.