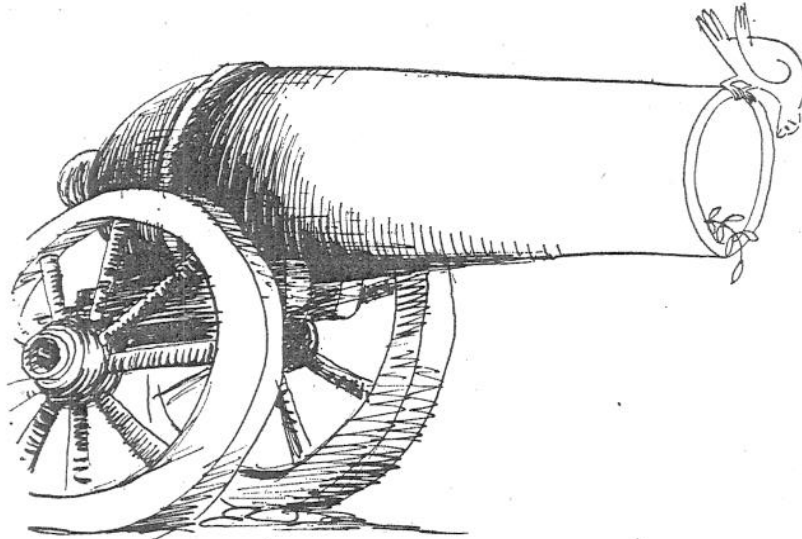


Let All Americans Vote on the War



Arnoldo Franchioni

To the Editor:

The United States has now been engaged in the Vietnam war for a decade, and for six years the American people have been involved in a shooting war. Although President Nixon keeps stating that he is winding down the war, the fighting, the killings and the bombings still go on and as yet there is no end in sight.

In the last two Presidential elections the Vietnam war was definitely an issue in determining the outcome. In 1964 President Johnson was returned to the White House because he had promised not to ask American boys to do what Asian boys ought to be doing. In 1968 Richard Nixon was elected as the present occupant of the White House primarily because he promised to get us out of this Vietnam war.

Now, as another election year has arrived, the status of the Indochina war is ambiguous. On the one hand, the war is no longer regarded as an issue, and on the other, it is still very much alive as an issue. It is about time that the matter be clarified once and for all so that we can know definitely where the American people stand on this issue in the coming Presidential election.

Being the skillful politician that he is, it may be that President Nixon has something up his sleeve and will actually get us out of the Indochina war by Election Day. This is only a hope and certainly there was nothing in his January speech that justifies

such hope. As Tom Wicker so aptly put it, it is quite apparent that he is still unwilling to go the last mile, the only thing that will actually do the trick and get us out.

Several of the candidates for the Democratic nomination have been both vocal and articulate in their opposition to the war and have declared in no uncertain terms that they will get us out of this mess if nominated and elected to the Presidency this November.

This is all to the good, but they need to have a definite mandate from the American people that the next occupant of the White House actually go the last mile, and the sooner the better.

To this end it is here proposed that there be a national referendum on the Indochina war and that the question be placed on the official ballots of all states in this Presidential election of 1972. In all these years the American people have never had an opportunity to express themselves directly on this issue. It is now time that they be granted this opportunity.

Let every Representative and Senator know that from now on his seat is in jeopardy if he votes for any more appropriations for continuing the American involvement in this hideous war. Then, and then only, will this election of 1972 actually mean something to the American people.

NORMAN BOARDMAN

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