

Anger

New York

Formal pleas for clemency, countrywide petition campaigns and speeches in Congress marked the reaction of many Americans yesterday to the murder conviction of Army Lieutenant William L. Calley Jr. for his part in the 1968 My Lai massacre.

In Georgia, all five members of the Selective Service System's local board 30 in Athens resigned under the lead of chairman George Pugh, who termed the CQA lead of chairman George Pugh, who termed the Calley verdict "unacceptable." 8

"Our conscience will not allow us to continue when our men are treated like that," said Pugh, adding he hoped that other draft boards throughout the country "will follow suit" and resign.

Representative William L. Dickenson (Rep.-Ala.), said in a House speech that he had sent a telegram to President Nixon asking him to pardon Calley, and a resolution backing the petition is up for consideration today in the Alabama Legislature.

A separate resolution asking for clemency was approved by the Democratic Central wcommittee in Ioni

Against the Calley



AP Wirephoto

These are the five members of the Athens, Ga., draft board who resigned en masse yesterday in protest of the Calley conviction

County, Mich., and another was introduced in the Illinois State House in Springfield.

At Fort Benning, Ga., where Calley was convicted Monday of premeditated murder by a six-man court-martial jury, the local Post 35 of the American Legion said it is organizing two campaigns on Calley's behalf — one to

raise \$100,000 for the cost of appeals and another to collect ten million signatures on petitions protesting the verdict.

"We are recommending that everyone write their congressman, governors and the president . . .," said Jack Deese, Post 35 senior vice commander. "We are bitterly opposed to the action tak-

en by the court-martial." Calley's conviction was termed "just" by Dr. Robert M. ww. Kemner, the deputy U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trial, who was contacted in Frankfurt, Germany.

He said the case fell within the Nuremberg precedent, although he argued it should have been tried before an in-

ternational tribunal.

Taking exception to that contention, however, was former Senator Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut, who served as executive U.S. trial counsel during the Nuremberg trials.

"It bother me, this angle of premeditated murder finding," he said. "It would mean to me that Calley and

Conviction

other just sat down and decided to murder a lot of people. I don't believe that."

Meanwhile, support for Calley began to emerge in several cities throughout the country.

In Pecos, Tex., the Enterprise ran a front-page editorial Tuesday condemning Calley's conviction. Radio station WCKI in Greer, S.C., said it was playing "taps" several times an hour on the air to show its disappointment over the verdict.

Radio station WIRY in Albany, N.Y., opened its telephone lines to listeners at noon to get reaction to the verdict. More than 100 calls were received in the first hour and not one supported the Calley conviction, a spokesman said.

The Calley verdict was greeted with angry speeches in Congress.

Representative John R. Rarick (Dem-La.) said parents in his district had called him to say they would never let their sons serve in an Army that had abandoned its fighting men.

"I've had veterans tell me that if they were in Vietnam now, they would lay down their arms and come home," he said.