

Calley Had Fear Of Suicide Label

Associated Press

Lt. William L. Calley Jr. says that during the months he was awaiting trial he developed a fear of dying accidentally because the world might think he was a coward who took his own life, Time magazine reports.

"If I got killed in my car on the way to Atlanta, everyone would think Calley copped out," he was quoted as saying just before he was convicted last Monday of murdering 22 civilians at My Lai.

Calley recalled staying at Delmonico's Hotel in New York City once, in a room with a floor-to-ceiling window, Time said.

"I was afraid to go to sleep at night because I thought I might sleepwalk through one of those 18th-floor windows and everybody would think Calley committed suicide," he was quoted as saying.

Calley was quoted as saying of My Lai: "I'm sorry anybody had to die there."

"In My Lai, I made one of a thousand mistakes I made in Vietnam. I was just as wrong going to Vietnam as to My Lai."

A rally in support of Calley was held yesterday at Columbus, Ga., adjacent to Ft. Benning. Since the verdict, there has been a groundswell of public support for clemency.

President Nixon has announced he will review the case after military appeals are exhausted.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), called on the President last night not to "drag out" his decision. He said, however, that if the President's han-

dling of the case is "patently political, I think it will backfire on him."

Equivocal

"The weak point of Richard Nixon is Richard Nixon," Bayh said in a speech in Memphis. "He has tried to equivocate on many issues and determine what the political impact is going to be in each case."

Sen. William B. Saxbe (R-Ohio), said in Cleveland yesterday that America's military "should be more circumspect" in the caliber of men it selects to lead its soldiers in war.

"As long as we send men like the Calleys and Medinas to lead our men in war we can expect tragedies such as occurred at My Lai," he said.

Capt. Ernest L. Medina, Calley's superior at My Lai, also faces trial.

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), said in a TV interview that the case brought the nation close to a nervous breakdown over the war. He said Calley should be treated neither as a scapegoat nor a hero.

Disaster

Appearing with Church was Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.), who commented that it did not look good that charges were dropped against higher ranking officers while Calley was convicted. Nonetheless, he said, Calley must be subject to the final judgment of the law.

Retired Brig. Gen. Telford Taylor, one of the prosecutors at the Nuremberg war

Michener Sees 'Grave Trouble'

CANBERRA — (UPI) — Author James Michener, commenting on the Calley case, said "when a democracy decides to make a confessed murderer of women and old men a national hero, we are in grave trouble."

Michener said he was very upset by the reaction to Calley's conviction.

"We are getting a very one-sided picture of the American reaction — there is a whole body of opinion in the other direction and I represent part of it . . .

"The very people calling for law and order are the people fomenting this confusion of principle . . .

"If this is part of a general movement, it could be the start of a sickening slide to ascism."

The pleas for clemency, he added, come from people who "are confused about where justice lies and about where precedents lie."

crimes trials after World War II, said in Life magazine that the verdict was too harsh, though acquittal would have been "a disaster."

"Did the jurors disbelieve or choose to disregard the voluminous testimony that Calley's platoon had been ordered or encouraged by what they observed in Vietnam to behave as it did?" Taylor asked.

"Or did they hold the lieutenant responsible for the sins and shortcomings of his superiors? The first conclusion is unsupportable, the second ignominious."