

..... will remain in Vietnam by late '72. As a result the Democrats have re-evaluated the war as a campaign issue, and they believe the President may be highly vulnerable. As Democratic chairman, Larry O'Brien, puts it, "If all American troops are not withdrawn by 1972 the war unquestionably will be a major political issue." The Democrats will have several Presidential promises to cite.

On May 15th, 1969, for example, Mr. Nixon restated his pledge to end the war and added, "I am determined to keep that pledge. If I fail to do so, I expect the American people to hold me accountable for that failure."

And later that year, in September 1969, the President predicted an early end to the war. Quote, "Once the enemy recognizes that it won't pay to wait us out, then the enemy will negotiate and we will end this war before the end of 1970."

A little over a month later, in November 1969, the President was back, this time emphasizing Vietnamization, describing it as, quote, "A plan which will bring the war to an end regardless of what happens on the negotiating front." And on and on.

After the Cambodian invasion last spring, the familiar words, "We have a plan that will end this war."

But suddenly last month, a shift in tone. First, talk of unlimited use of American air power over Indochina, and then the President's State of the World message, his warning that American soldiers will remain in Vietnam until the last U.S. prisoner is released. And his confession, "If winding down the war is my greatest satisfaction in foreign affairs, the failure to end it is my deepest disappointment."

Larry O'Brien and the Democrats have stashed away all those Presidential statements, and if the war isn't over by the next campaign, we'll be hearing them again.