

ROGERS HEARS 175 AT COLGATE REJECT ROLE IN ASIAN WAR

by Peter Kihss  
Special to The New York Times

Hamilton, N.Y., May 30 - More than a third of Colgate University's graduates - 175 out of 479 - stood up quietly this afternoon to confront Secretary of State William P. Rogers with a pledge, "If drafted, we will not accept a combat role in Indochina."

Hundreds of parents, faculty members and visitors arose after them in a sympathy demonstration at the call of the class valedictorian, Thomas W. O'Brien, a 22-year-old Rhodes Scholar-designate from the Bronx. Thirty-one hundred persons filled the Reid Athletic Center.

.....

Mr. Rogers, a 1934 graduate of Colgate who is now on leave as a trustee of the university, had been forewarned of the demonstration at the exercises ...

.....

Among those standing to support the graduates' pledge against going to fight in Vietnam was Episcopal Bishop J. Brooke Mosley, president of Union Theological Seminary, one of three recipients of honorary degrees. His son, Peter, was one of the seniors who had signed the pledge.

.....

Before the commencement, Mr. Rogers had walked around the campus lake, recalling conversationally that he once led a demonstration here himself. It was as an undergraduate in Depression days, protesting successfully against a 5-cent rise in movie admission prices.

.....