

The Revolving Door

Editor—When campaigning for the Presidency in 1968, Mr. Nixon said he had a plan for peace in Vietnam. He added, "I want to make one thing clear: Those who have had a chance for four years and could not produce peace should not be given another chance. We will take that chance."

President Nixon was given his chance and here we are four years later with B52s bombing the North, with 5000 U.S. troops taken out of Vietnam and in the same week 16,000 U.S. Naval and Air Force personnel put in.

Reading the news the past weeks has been a dizzying, sickening experience. It is as if we are trapped in a revolving door from which there is no escape. Round and round we go to the same tune: South Vietnam is a sovereign state; it has been invaded; we must put down aggression; there will be a bloodbath if we don't, etc. etc. The only new refrain is we are compelled to do what we are doing because the Russians are doing what they are doing. The tune has been repeated too often and the die-hard anti-Communists still urge us on to a victory which is not

ours to give. It takes an extraordinary depth of moral arrogance to still believe that it would be catastrophic were the Vietnamese themselves allowed to settle their conflict.

President Nixon flubbed his chance and there is little hope for a return to sanity until he is replaced. Furthermore, the Congress seems powerless or unwilling to stand up to the power of the executive branch. Consequently, I believe that we, the people, must assert our power at the ballot box in November through defeat of the pro-war factions in both parties.

Then, perhaps, we can choose leaders who will turn away from the fiction of Vietnamization and toward the pacification of America.

MARY BROOKS.

San Francisco.

No Honor

Editor—The Vietnam blockade is a vain and reckless invitation to major power war. It debases the word honor until it means no more than petulance, until the consequences of honor are measured only in the amount of blood it can provide, and keep providing. That definition of honor is not made in my name nor in the name of many who wish to believe in an effectively moral United States.

WILLIAM DICKEY.

San Francisco.