

# Political Lies: An Acceptable Level?

by Richard M. Nixon, President, U.S.A., the White House, Washington, D.C. — and 'The New York Times', General David M. Shoup, Senator J. William Fulbright, Senator Gaylord Nelson, the American Friends Service Committee, 'The San Francisco Chronicle', and others

"A responsible government has a duty to be prudent when it spends the people's money."

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#### 1. The F-111 Plane

The F-111 in a Nixon Administration will be made into one of the foundations of our air supremacy.  
 Richard M. Nixon  
 El Paso, Texas  
 November 2, 1968

MISSING F-111A IS HUNTED  
 IN UTAH AND NEVADA WILDS  
*New York Times*  
 February 14, 1969

F-111 ENCOUNTERS ANOTHER "WING BOX" PROBLEM  
 AS CRACK DEVELOPES  
*New York Times*  
 February 18, 1969

NELLE AFB, Nev. March 4 (UPI)—An F-111A fighter-bomber crashed today. . . . The plane was the 2nd F-111A to crash in less than three weeks and the 13th to crash since the flight test program began.  
*New York Times*  
 March 5, 1969

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The Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations issued a report in Washington yesterday calling the multibillion-dollar F-111 fighter-bomber program a "fiscal blunder of the worst magnitude."

Of the 500 [planes] to be built, the subcommittee said, fewer than 100 will "come reasonably close" to performing as originally intended.

Among the contentions the report made were the following: Roswell E. Gilpatrick, Deputy Secretary of Defense under Mr. McNamara, "was guilty of a flagrant conflict of interest" in the awarding of the F-111 airframe contract to the General Dynamics Corporation. He was "top level policy counselor" to the company for two and a half years before going to the Pentagon.

Testimony given by [Secretary of Defense] McNamara was termed at various points "obviously intentionally deceptive," and "an obvious and artful attempt to avoid telling the truth."

Richard Witkin  
*New York Times*  
 December 19, 1970

#### 2. The Department of Defense

I consider the Department of Defense to be a Department of Peace.  
 President Nixon  
 Washington, D.C.  
 February 6, 1969

America has become a militaristic and aggressive nation. . . . We maintain more than 1,517,000 Americans in uniform overseas in 119 countries. . . . We have an immense and expensive military establishment fueled by a gigantic defense industry. . . . Today the active armed forces contain over 3.4 million men and women.

For far too many senior professional officers, war and combat are an exciting adventure. . . . It is this influential nucleus of aggressive, ambitious professional military leaders who are at the root of America's evolving militarism.

. . . Standing closely behind these leaders, encouraging and prompting them, are the rich and powerful defense industries. . . .

Militarism in America is in full bloom . . .  
 General David M. Shoup  
 Former Commandant U.S. Marine Corps  
 Article in *The Atlantic*  
 April 1969

... Since World War II we have spent roughly 10 times as much on warfare and its attendant requirements as we have on the welfare of our people.

Senator Fulbright  
Washington, D.C.  
June 4, 1969

### 3. How to be Prudent with Defense Budgets

A responsible government has a duty to be prudent when it spends the people's money. There is no more justification for wasting money on unnecessary military hardware than there is for wasting it on unwarranted social programs.

President Nixon  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
June 4, 1969

According to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, the U.S. has spent \$23 billion on missile systems that either were never developed or were abandoned. In a paranoid system, waste is a way of life.

... If one rationale for building a new weapons system is exposed as nonsense, others spring up to take its place.

Virtually the only people making decisions as to whether new weapons systems are needed, whether they cost too much, and who should make them, are men who directly and personally stand to benefit from big defense budgets.

Richard J. Barnett  
*The Economy of Death*, 1969

Quite simply, the MIC [Military-Industrial Complex] consists of the sprawling Pentagon and its network of defense suppliers and research facilities that together produce America's armed might. During the course of the cold war it has grown into a \$80 billion-a-year juggernaut consuming a tenth of the nation's giant-sized gross national product.

Sen. Cleveland Nelson of Wisconsin says, "The whole economy is infiltrated. We are a warfare state."

*New York*  
June 9, 1969

### 4. The End of the War in Vietnam

I pledge you tonight that the first priority foreign policy objective of our next Administration will be to bring an honorable end to the war in Vietnam. ... My fellow Americans, the dark long night for America is about to end.

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon  
Presidential Nomination acceptance speech  
Republican National Convention  
Miami, Florida  
August 8, 1968

### 5. American Combat Forces in Laos

QUESTION: Mr. President, there's been growing concern, sir, about deepening U.S. involvement in Laos. If you could confirm that, would you also say whether this runs counter to your new Asian policy?

PRESIDENT NIXON: There are no American combat forces in Laos.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you say there are no combat forces in Laos. How do you regard the airmen who bomb the Ho Chi Minh trail from bases in Thailand and Vietnam? Would you regard those as combat forces?

PRESIDENT NIXON: ... we do have aerial reconnaissance, we do have, perhaps, some other activities.

News Conference  
Washington, D.C.  
September 26, 1969

There are no American combat troops in Laos.

President Richard M. Nixon  
Washington, D.C.  
March 7, 1970

WASHINGTON (CDN)—Tens of thousands of Americans have engaged in combat activities in the secret war in Laos. ...

The United States has spent more than a billion dollars on the war—almost all of it in secret.

These are some of the key facts to emerge with the publication of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony taken at closed hearings on Laos. ...

Essentially, testimony shows, the Nixon administration has concealed the dimensions of the aerial war by emphasizing the relatively small number of U.S. personnel actually based in Laos. This figure is no more than 2000. Yet this 2000 represents only a tiny fraction of those involved in combat activities in Laos, because most of those engaged in combat haven't been stationed in the country.

James McCartney  
*San Francisco Sunday Examiner & Chronicle*  
April 26, 1970

### LAIRD ADMITS GI'S DO GO INTO LAOS

*San Francisco Chronicle*  
May 19, 1970

### 6. American Combat Forces in Cambodia

Officials in the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department ... strongly reaffirmed the United States policy of not widening the war in Vietnam. They said the rules of engagement had not been changed to allow American forces to penetrate Cambodia.

*New York Times*  
March 28, 1970

We finally have in sight the just peace we are seeking.

President Nixon  
San Clemente, California  
April 20, 1970

This is not an invasion of Cambodia. ... We take this action not for the purpose of expanding the war into Cambodia but for the purpose of ending the war in Vietnam, and winning the just peace we all desire.

President Nixon  
Washington, D.C.  
April 30, 1970

### NIXON SENDS COMBAT UNITS INTO CAMBODIA TO ATTACK COMMUNIST STAGING AREA

*New York Times*  
May 1, 1970

In terms of military objectives, the main points made by the President in his speech of April 30 announcing the action were two: that the enemy was "concentrating his main forces in the sanctuaries where they are building up to launch massive attacks on our forces," and that in the eastern border areas of Cambodia there was "the headquarters for the entire Communist military operation in South Vietnam."

The headquarters has not been found; hardly anyone believes any more that it existed. Nor did our invading armies find the slightest evidence of Communist troop concentrations prepared for a "massive" attack on South Vietnam; virtually no enemy troops were in the border areas.

Anthony Lewis  
*New York Times*  
June 6, 1970

(please turn to page 50)

7. The Army of South Vietnam

The morale and self-confidence of the Army of South Vietnam is higher than ever before.

President Nixon  
Washington, D.C.  
June 30, 1970

... tonight I can report that Vietnamization has succeeded.

President Nixon  
Washington, D.C.  
April 7, 1971

SAIGON DESERTIONS UP NEARLY 50% IN SPRING\*

New York Times  
July 27, 1970

\* The average monthly desertion rate from the South Vietnamese Army, reported this September, rose to about 5,000 in 1969; the number of deserters had risen to more than 12,000 in May 1970 and to nearly 13,000 in June.

The Central Intelligence Agency has told President Nixon that the Vietnamese Communists have infiltrated more than 30,000 agents into the South Vietnamese Government in an apparatus that has been virtually impossible to destroy.

Neil Sheehan  
New York Times  
October 19, 1970

B. Peace vs. Destruction

The peace we seek is not victory over any other people but the peace that comes with healing and its wings with compassion for those who have suffered, with understanding for those who have oppressed.

President Nixon  
Washington, D.C.  
January 29, 1969

It has been more than a year since the rhetoric of peace began in Vietnam. During this time scores of thousands of men, women and children have died in the fighting. . . .

The human situation today in Vietnam is worse than it has ever been. An entire nation is being destroyed and the tempo of destruction has increased. One third of the rural people of this rural nation have become refugees. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been defoliated, countless villages have been razed. . . . The American Friends Service Committee, which has been involved in the relief of war suffering for more than half a century, has rarely encountered such misery as in Vietnam today.

From a White Paper on Vietnam  
issued by the American Friends Service Committee,  
inserted in the Congressional Record  
May 7, 1969

There were about forty or forty-five people that we gathered in the center of the village . . . men, women, children . . . babies . . . Lieutenant Calley . . . started shooting them. And he told me to start shooting. I poured about four clips into the group . . . I fired them on automatic . . . I might have killed ten or fifteen of them. . . . So we started to gather them up, more people . . . we put them in the hootch, and we dropped a hand grenade in there with them . . . they had about seventy or seventy-five people all gathered up. So we threw ours in with them and Lieutenant Calley . . . started pushing them off . . . into the ravine . . . and just started using automatics on them . . . men, women, children . . . and babies. . . . It just seemed like it was the natural thing to do at the time.

Paul Meadlo,  
Former U.S. Army private, American Division,  
describing the massacre at My Lai, South Vietnam  
Interview on CBS-TV  
November 24, 1969

In his book Militarism, U.S.A., Colonel James A. Donovan writes: ". . . at the end of October, 1968, when bombing of the North halted, the total bomb tonnage dropped in both North and South Vietnam was given as 2,343,057 tons. (Total tonnage dropped by U.S. aircraft in World War II, in both European and Asiatic theaters, was 2,057,244.) So we dropped almost 50 percent more bombs on Vietnam than in both Europe and the Pacific."

WOULD YOU BELIEVE

- Richard M. Nixon
- Spiro T. Agnew
- Lyndon B. Johnson
- Hubert H. Humphrey
- Robert S. McNamara
- Melvin R. Laird
- Dean Rusk
- William F. Rogers
- Maxwell Taylor
- William C. Westmoreland
- John N. Mitchell
- J. Edgar Hoover

YOU WOULD! THEN READ

The Unholy Hymnal

Falsities and Delusions  
Rendered by the Foregoing  
and

Other Choir Boys of the Credibility Gap

Compiled by  
Albert E. Kahn

Simon and Schuster Cloth: \$4.95  
630 Fifth Ave. Paper: \$2.95, a Touchstone Book  
New York, N.Y.

