

Behind the Facade

by William V. Shannon

..... Here is Whalen's* background on Mr. Nixon's famous pledge during the New Hampshire primary in 1968 to end the Vietnam war: "If in November this war is not over," he declared, "I say the American people will be justified in electing new leadership, and I pledge to you that new leadership will end the war and win the peace in the Pacific."

"This promise," Whalen writes, "implying a plan to fulfill it, splashed across the front pages and brought the reporters and TV crews rushing back to the Republican side of the New Hampshire campaign, eager for details. There weren't any. Nothing lay behind the 'pledge' except Nixon's instinct for an extra effort of salesmanship when the customers started drifting away."

*Richard J. Whalen, "Catch the Falling Flag."