

# Families of War Prisoners Denounce Nixon's Policies

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WASHINGTON, May 7—A national convention of wives and relatives of American prisoners of war adopted a strongly worded resolution today expressing the members' "extreme distress" at the failure of the Nixon Administration to obtain the release of the prisoners.

The resolution, adopted by a voice vote at a meeting here of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, also charged that President Nixon's Vietnamization policy had "thus far failed to provide any results" toward freeing the 1,573 men currently listed as captured or missing.

It called on the Administration to adopt "immediately" a policy that will "insure an accounting of the missing men and the release of the prisoners of war, not just the withdrawal of combat troops."

The resolution was the sharpest and most critical statement ever adopted by the league, which has in the past consistently supported the President and his war policy.

The meeting also selected three women, including two critics of the Administration, to request a face-to-face meeting with President Nixon within 10 days to question him as to "what arrangements he has made and is making" to gain the release of the men.

Mrs. SStephen Hanson, the chairman of the league's board of directors, said she thought

the changed attitude was a reflection of "our growing frustration, and our awareness that this is an election year."

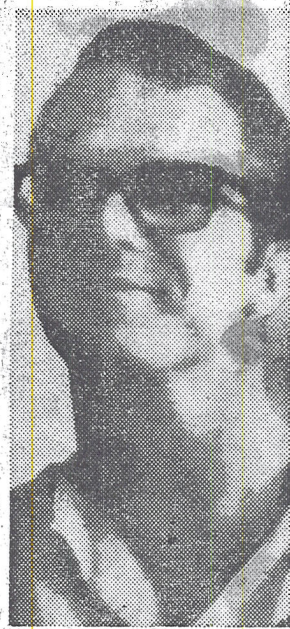
Other wives put it more strongly. Mr. James A. Mulligan Jr., the wife of a Navy captain shot down over North Vietnam six years ago, said she thought "disgust" was a better description of the wives' mood than "frustration."

"I think it has become obvious to most of the wives of the known prisoners that we must either compel Nixon on end this war by negotiation or go out and actively support another candidate who will," she

A group of about 50 of the more militant wives and relatives tried to take their message directly to the White House this morning. The group, conservatively dressed by contrast with most of the demonstrators who normally picket the White House, arrived at the East Gate at 11 A.M. with a letter for Mr. Nixon.

The letter requested a meeting with the President to discuss "the recent developments in Southeast Asia as citizens whose lives will be so directly affected by the decisions you make in the next few weeks and months."

The group got little encouragement that any of its members would be able to see Mr. Nixon. The highest official they saw was a uniformed guide who directed them around the corner to a basement entrance of the Executive Office Building, where the letter was deposited in the White House mailroom.



Capt. John B. Keller Jr.



Specialist 4 Charles M. Lea