

Stern Look at Freed POWs

Washington

American party presidential candidate John G. Schmitz said yesterday the administration has no choice but to consider court-martial proceedings against the three U.S. airmen freed by the North Vietnamese from prisoner

of war camps.

He said, however, a preliminary investigation might clear the men of allegations that they signed propaganda statements favoring the enemy and that one took part in a propaganda film.

Schmitz, a Republican congressman from Califor-

nia, said such activity would be a violation of the code of military conduct and could give the 1600 prisoners of war still held the idea that this kind of cooperation with captors is the way to win freedom.

Schmitz appeared on the ABC television "Issues and

Answers."

He defended Major General John D. Lavelle, who was relieved of command over U.S. Air Force units in Vietnam on grounds he had ordered unauthorized air attacks.

Associated Press