

Of the POW Families

Washington

An organization of families of American prisoners of war charged yesterday that now the election is over, President Nixon is "sacrificing" the lives of American POWs through his intensified bombardment of North Vietnam.

A spokesman for another POW organization said it was in favor of Mr. Nixon "doing whatever is necessary" to secure the release of the prisoners, and would make no judgment about his actions.

"President Nixon has unleashed bombs on American prisoners of war," said Sheila Cronin of Washington in a statement on behalf of Prisoners of War-Missing in Action families.

"He has abandoned these men and is sacrificing their lives right before the eyes of the American public," she said.

"For the past four years Mr. Nixon verbally expressed deep concern for our prisoners and missing," she said. "So why are we now praying for the very lives of the men we expected to be welcoming home?"

"Because the election is over, President Nixon is safe in the White House and

can do as he pleases for four more years."

"We are in favor of Mr. Nixon doing whatever is necessary to get our prisoners home," said Elzene Estes of Washington, on behalf of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

"We're not making any judgment whether the methods are satisfactory."

Miss Cronin said her organization is about one year old and represents about one-third of the 1800 American prisoners and missing. Her brother, Lieutenant Commander Michael Cronin of Pittsburgh, is a prisoner.

The National League is about three years ago with a membership of 3000. Miss Estes' brother, Captain Laurent Gourley, of Villisca, Iowa, is a prisoner.

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