

## Ex-POW's Doubts About the War

### Sacramento

An Air Force pilot held captive by the North Vietnamese for more than six years said yesterday "I don't think we really won the war" and America should not have been fighting it in the first place.

"Many of us came to believe that possibly we had asserted our noses into somebody else's business," said Major Hubert K. Flesher, 40, in an interview.

Asked about amnesty for draft evaders, Flesher replied: "I'm not opposed to it.

Flesher, shot down in December, 1966, expressed a different view from that of many former POWs who have agreed with President Nixon that America gained a "peace with honor."

### TERMS

He said "anyone who has looked at the peace terms" will see that they are "exactly what it (North Vietnam) asked for" as far back as 1969.

He added: "If we expected a South Vietnam that es-

entially belonged to us, that was in our camp, then we certainly lost the war" — a war "that wasn't ours to win in the first place."

"I don't think we really won the war at all," Flesher continued. "But I want to stress this is strictly my opinion. There are some (POWs) who are opposed 180 degrees to what I've said."

### COMPARISON

"I think generally the motivations involved in this conflict were honest. However, we got ourselves involved in a revolutionary war similar to what this country went through in 1776," Flesher said.

He said many people liked to compare the Vietnam war with the war against Hitler's Germany, "but they are entirely different. Adolf Hitler was invading countries with foreign troops. There were no foreign troops in Vietnam except Americans and the people who were in our camp.

"Generally speaking it was a conflict between the Vietnamese people. And whether you like it or not it should have been theirs to

decide."

This fact, he said, made "the days more difficult" in prison.

### AMNESTY

As for amnesty, the major said, "There were lots of young men who were honestly opposed to this war and were not willing to have themselves involved in a situation where possibly they were killing people for a cause they did not believe in.

"I know it would be hard to separate those truly against the war and those looking for an easy out. I think, however, our country would want to separate them if it could."

Flesher plans to stay in the Air Force.

United Press

See also NYTimes  
9 Mar 73.