

P.O.W. SCORES ROLE OF U.S. IN VIETNAM

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Says Nation Intruded Into
'Somebody Else's Business'

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SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 8 (UPI)—A career Air Force officer who was a North Vietnamese prisoner says the United States butted its "nose into somebody else's business" and that President Nixon could have settled the war for the same terms four years ago.

Maj. Hubert K. Flesher, 40 years old, a fighter pilot who spent more than six years in Communist prison camps, expressed a different view from that of many former P.O.W.'s who have agreed with Mr. Nixon that the United States won a "peace with honor."

"I don't think we really won the war at all," Major Flesher said. "If we expected a South Vietnam that essentially belonged to us, that was in our camp, then we certainly lost the war."

Major Flesher, a 20-year Air Force veteran who intends to remain in the military, said the prisoners were generally "split" into two factions about the war.

'Superpatriots' vs. Others

"There were the superpatriots who felt we should be in there killing them by the thousands, as opposed to another faction which felt the bombing and that sort of thing was not doing any good," he said in an interview yesterday.

Major Flesher said that he "personally didn't think there was any attempt at brainwashing" by the Communists but "a lot of people came to the realization that we were not truly there to defend the rights of the South Vietnamese people."

Major Flesher, who was shot down in December, 1966, compared the war to America's Revolutionary War of 1776, de-

claring, "It was a conflict between the Vietnamese people, and whether you like it or not, it should have been theirs to decide."

"I think more and more people came to realize this," he said. "Many of us came to believe that possibly we had asserted our noses into somebody else's business."

"It's my personal opinion that the 14 points that they offered in 1969 were what were agreed to in 1972," he said.

"They asked for complete total withdrawal of United States forces, a complete halt of air activity over all of Vietnam, the stopping of support of the Government of South Vietnam and for elections. Christ almighty, in looking at the peace terms and everything, that's exactly what they got."

Asked about amnesty, Major Flesher said: "I'm not opposed to it."

"There were a lot of young men who were honestly opposed to this war and were not able or willing to have themselves involved in a situation where possibly they would be killing other people for a cause they didn't believe in."

"It certainly would not make me angry to see these people back home and fitted back into American society," he added.