

Witness participants debate war

by Sue English
Staff Writer



Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) speaks to a group of UNC students in Washington, D.C., as part of the Washington Witness II program. The former vice-president emphasized his desire to funnel new funds into domestic programs. (Staff photo by Leslie Todd)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An enthusiastic, intuitive group from Chapel Hill debated, questioned and discussed the Indochina war and other pressing national and international problems as they sharpened their wits against leading Congressmen here Tuesday.

More than 85 University students and faculty members spoke with aides of Senators George McGovern (D-S.D.), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), and listened to Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) speak before Washington Witness II.

The program is the second in a series of programs sponsored by the YMCA at the University and organized for the purpose of persuading U.S. officials that now is the time to withdraw troops from Indochina.

Washington Witness I was held following the strike at the University last spring. The third in the series will take place in approximately six weeks.

Buses left for Washington Tuesday at 4:30 a.m., and returned at 11:30 p.m.

Participants in the program had a full day beginning with a general briefing in the New Senate Office Building at 9:30 a.m.

The group then discussed the Vietnam Disengagement Act of 1971 and the Javits Bill, two prime topics of discussion with the Congressmen.

The Disengagement Act was written by Sen. McGovern and is now sponsored by 19 senators, including Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine). Its main objective is to cut off funds to U.S. armed forces in Vietnam after May 1, 1971.

Sen. Jacob Javits (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Alan Eagleton (D-Mo.) wrote the Javits Bill, which pertains to the definition of war and the limitation of presidential powers.

John Holum, McGovern's chief aide and the second speaker, listed four major developments since last year that pertain to the war:

—Negotiations have been virtually given up in Paris, with the consequences

of an increase in U.S. air raids and the retaining of the POWs.

—The Gulf of Tonkin resolution was repealed.

—According to the latest Gallup Poll, 73 per cent of the American people now endorse the precise terms of the Vietnam Disengagement Act, and 63 per cent of the South Vietnamese want us out.

—The Senate has begun to take steps to curb the President's power to make war.

Holum illustrated the fact that anti-war sentiment is becoming stronger within the government by telling the witness members about a newly formed group consisting of 30 U.S. senators and 75 members of the House of Representatives.

"Members of Congress for Peace through Law is a bi-partisan, bi-cameral group in and of Congress, interested in international cooperation, in strengthening the United Nations and in achieving disarmament in a peaceful world through law," he said.

"New Faces" in the House who talked with the group include Rep. Robert Drinan (D-Mass.), a Catholic priest; Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Ella Grasso (D-Conn.), members of Female Liberation; and Rep. John Dellums (D-Calif.), a black militant.

Rep. Earl Ruth (D-N.D.) spoke with

six students for an hour and a half, showing much concern for ending the war in Vietnam, but emphasizing that the withdrawal has to be a slow process.

"When we ask for immediate withdrawal, we must look at where we are now," he said. "There is universal agreement on getting out of the war. The question is how to do it."

Ruth disagreed with setting a definite date for troop withdrawal, saying we would show all of our strategies to the enemy if we did this.

"Nixon is the first president to try to get us out with respectability," he said. "We have done everything but announce our withdrawal to the world."

Sen. Jackson, a "presidential hopeful," sent an aide to talk to Henry Landsberger, sociology professor at the University, and a group of students.

Jackson's aide said the senator is calling for a standstill cease fire, but favors air support in Vietnam until the cease fire is effective.

He does not support the Disengagement Act, feeling the Congress is not susceptible to making quick decisions, and that such decisions are within the jurisdiction of the executive branch.

Landsberger disputed the land reform proposal by Jackson, saying, "There are too many basic conflicts involved in the war. It has the smell of an unnegotiable situation."

An aide to Sen. Kennedy sided with the group as he charged "the administration refuses to face facts of Indochina."

"If the president assumes such enormous powers as commander-in-chief there is not much we can do about it," he said.

The aide continued to say the "withholding of funds is favored by number of senators," but he "cannot see Congress as a whole approving it."

Kennedy's aide urged students and faculty to communicate with those in the government who have not yet taken a stand on the war.

Sen. Sam Ervin, Jr. (D-N.C.) told Witness participants he is in favor of the Cambodian invasion and the incursion into Laos.

"It was a mistake to send land troops in the first place," he said. "Americans are not willing to put up with this kind of effort in order to win, and therefore the best thing is Vietnamization."

The newly elected senator from Florida, Lawton Chiles, said he would not now accept the Disengagement Act, but is waiting to "find out more about the situation."

Buses returning to Chapel Hill were filled with lively discussions of the day's events, and overall impressions were that the trip was "successful and stimulating."

Speaking to students

Humphrey lauds Senate

by Sue English
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) praised the Senate and commented on its progress since he first entered in 1949, and then answered questions on the war, welfare, seniority and other problems of universal interest as he spoke to a group of students in Washington, D.C. Tuesday.

Twenty University students from Washington Witness II and approximately 50 students from the D.C. area were almost subdued by Humphrey's emphatic speech, but there was an occasional burst of laughter at his quick wit.

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life," Humphrey said as he emphasized the fact that our country needs to move ahead and not dwell on past mistakes.

When a student asked him if he felt guilty over the thousands of lives lost in Vietnam, Humphrey replied he naturally

felt badly, as he would over any lost life, but no one knew the war would escalate to such a high scale, and no one could personally take the blame for it.

Saying he is for setting a time schedule and program for disengagement, Humphrey said the Democratic Caucus met Tuesday morning and voted for withdrawal and releasing all prisoners no later than the end of 1972.

Humphrey's main concern is not the war itself, however, but what will happen after the war ends.

"One of the tragedies of Vietnam is not just the war," he said. "In the meantime, we are forgetting about the environment, city, transportation and other internal problems."

When asked about the amount of power held by the president, Humphrey said, "We have been brought up to overembrace collective security, and in the process the president has been given tremendous authority."

"We are trying to find a new balance,

or see how to put curbs on the power of the president without crippling him."

Another question involving revenue sharing was answered by Humphrey. He supports a degree of general revenue sharing to help inner cities, but he does not want general revenue sharing to be an excuse for cutting off national priority programs.

In praising the Senate during his speech, Humphrey said, "It is a forum for the formulation of issues, discussion and effort towards the solution of problems."

"People listen to what you say in the Senate," he said, "whereas in the House, it depends on how long you have been there and what position you occupy."

"A senator has the chance to make an impact on political, economical and social policy," he said.

Humphrey commented his year and a half of teaching at Macalester University in Minnesota was refreshing, giving him "new perspectives, more tolerance and better understanding."

Frosh Council to meet today

The first meeting of the Freshman Council will be held in the Frank Porter Graham Room of the Carolina Union today at 4 p.m.

The Council was established to provide a mechanism for greater continuity within the leadership of the student community, according to Student Body

President Tom Bello. "It represents an effort to supply interested freshmen seeking involvement within the University with the necessary information to make that involvement most productive," Bello said Wednesday.

The 20 members comprising the council will meet each week with current

student and administration leaders and with various outside speakers.

"The Freshman Council will serve as a brain drain," Bello explained, with speakers informing the members what is happening academically and politically in the University.

DEAR CAROLINA SENIORS

As a service to graduating seniors, THE ORDER OF THE GRAIL will again this year conduct a SALE OF GRADUATION INVITATIONS AND RELATED ITEMS.

The sale will be held MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY (February 22-23-24) from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of the CAROLINA UNION. Profits from the sale of invitations will be donated to the STUDENT AID FUND for scholarship programs.

The following list describes the items that will be available and the prices for these items: (Indicate number desired after each item.)

1. French fold invitations 15, (includes a Commencement Day program insert) — \$.20 each
2. Souvenir invitations (bound booklet containing full three-day Commencement Weekend schedule and five photographs of campus scenes)
 - a) with cardboard cover ————— \$.50 each
 - b) with imitation leather cover ————— \$ 1.00 each
3. Personalized cards
 - a) with printed lettering ————— \$ 2.95 per 100
 - b) with engraved lettering ————— \$ 3.95 per 100
4. Informal notes with name as you wish.
 - Write name ————— \$ 3.95 per 100
5. Thank-you notes ————— \$ 1.95 per 24

Payment for these items should be made by check, payable to the HERFF JONES COMPANY. The packaged orders will be delivered to the campus by May 13 or may be shipped to you direct if you include \$.50 postage.

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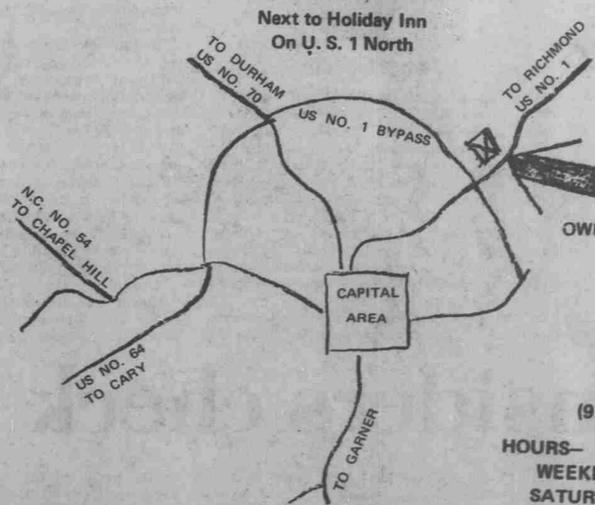
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