

Senator Brooke Discusses Vietnam

(The writer is the first Negro to serve in the United States Senate since Reconstruction Days and the first to serve from a northern state, Massachusetts.)

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my views with the students of Winston-Salem State College. I congratulate the staff of *The News Argus* on their initiative in providing this type of opinion column, and commend the student body for the interest which sustains it.

I prefer to confine my remarks to one topic which is of great concern to me and, I trust, of serious concern to you: the question of our role in Vietnam.

Seldom in our history has this Nation been so divided on a question of foreign policy as it is with respect to our participation in this war. I have recently returned from Vietnam, where I sought to learn more about the nature of American involvement there, and the progress of our efforts. I returned with a number of beliefs unchanged: we are involved in a situation which challenges the traditional American demand for prompt and clearcut solutions. We are not fighting a purely military war; rather, we are trying to provide the shield behind which economic and political development can take place. We are not fighting a war which we can "win" in the military sense until we have also achieved the conditions for

stability and political progress in the area we are seeking to defend.

I went to Vietnam hoping to find that the conditions existing there would permit a military cease fire or negotiated settlement in the near future. I returned convinced that the enemy is not yet ready to negotiate, and that in the meantime we have little choice but to continue our present military efforts.

I would not support this course of action if I did not believe that the people of South Vietnam wanted us to remain there, and that they were conscientiously trying to build a better society. The political and economic advances which have been made in recent months are indeed encouraging. The government in Saigon has taken serious steps to stabilize the currency. They are trying to curb inflation, punish corruption, and eliminate the operations of the black market. Efforts have also been made to institute land reform throughout the area under South Vietnamese control, and land has been given to refugees and Viet Cong defectors as well.

Politically, South Vietnam seems to be making great progress. I was in Saigon when South Vietnam's new constitution was adopted, and met with many members of Constituent Assembly which drafted that document. I was impressed with



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Saigon; now the people are being given the opportunity to select their own leaders and to take a hand in determining their own future.

I believe that as long as the people of South Vietnam continue to show such keen interest and sincerity in improving the condition of their own lives, we have a responsibility to continue to provide assistance. How much longer the war will last is of course a matter of conjecture. I cannot agree with those who say "win" the war and withdraw, for this is not a political achievement. Nor do I believe that we should withdraw now and leave the final settlement to the Vietnamese people. The record of terrorism and death which has been written by both the North Vietnamese government and the Viet Cong gives little cause for confidence that the free choice of the people would prevail.

Yet somehow a negotiated settlement must be achieved. Little can be gained by a mere recitation of the opportunities which have been missed or purposely rejected by both sides. Both the United States and the North Vietnamese have frequently misread each others signals; poorly timed responses and lack of clarity in diplomatic exchange have further complicated the matter. The result is that attitudes and suspicions
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their obvious sincerity, integrity, and skill. Surely if democratic government is to come to South Vietnam, it will be through the efforts of men such as these.

The progress of local elections has been encouraging. Under the Diem regime, local officials were appointed by the government in

The News Argus.

SENIOR CLASS WEEK IS PLANNED

During the course of senior week many activities are scheduled for senior participation. Senior vesper will head the activities and festivities for graduating seniors beginning May 21.

Perhaps the most spectacular activity is Senior Class Day. The seniors will present a play

bringing to the spotlight the class will, prophesy and gift to the college. To top off the day, that evening, the seniors will present a "Tonight Show." It is known that the senior class is bursting with undiscovered Hollywood talent. The graduating class will demonstrate talent

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Frankie Smith Is Elected May Queen



Miss Frankie Smith

Miss Frankie Smith, a 22-year-old senior, was elected May Queen of Winston-Salem State. She is the daughter of Mrs. Mary S. Roberts of Newark, N. J. and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Solomon of 1205 N. Jackson Avenue in the city.

She is an elementary education major and music minor. Miss Smith is secretary of the college choir, vice president of the senior class and member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

In the city she is assistant director of the junior choir of Alpha and Omega Metaphysics Church.

She will begin work in the federal service with the Social Security of Baltimore, Md., beginning June 19.

Miss Smith said: "To my fellow students: I thank all of you who participated in this democratic election which resulted in my being voted May Queen. This is an honor I shall long and deeply treasure."



Roscoe Lee Browne talks with students (left to right) T. Peter Davis, Carol Leoboldt, and Janet Beckett.

Actor Roscoe Lee Browne Reads Poetry

Students and faculty of our campus were recently privileged with the charm and talents of Mr. Roscoe Lee Browne. Mr. Browne presented a program of poetry reading on April 27 in Fries Auditorium.

He began his reading with a

work of Sir Rabindranath Tagore, an Indian author, and concluded with one by Edna St. Vincent Millay. During the evening he read from a wide variety of authors, including the American Negro poet, Richard Wright; the Welsh poet, Dylan

Thomas; E. E. Cummings, Julian Bond, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, his own work "Song," and many others. Mr. Browne is a man of many talents. He is first and foremost an actor of the stage. His stage
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