

they are being treated and to permit them to have correspondence with their families and to receive packages from home. ~~This~~ North Vietnam refuses in many cases even to tell whether a person is a prisoner or not. They have utterly disregarded these rules (bw?) that are accepted by all nations regarding the ~~xxx~~ treatment of prisoners of war. Strong propaganda on these matters would easily have aroused the American people to the ~~pi~~ point where they would have been happy to have put in sufficient force to have brought a complete end to North Vietnam's power to make trouble for South Vietnam. Even without such propaganda a strong effort ~~would~~ could easily have done this within two or three years while Johnson was president. President. Johnson did not do this. The war has dragged on. The Viet Cong power has been tremendously cut down. North ~~Vx~~ Vietnam's power has been tremendously cut down. Another five years and there's probably no question but that ~~So~~ Vietnam ~~xxxxxx~~ Vietnam would be completely safe from aggression from North Vietnam or from the Viet Cong. The ~~Amer~~ Amer° people, however, will not stand for such a thing. They ~~are~~ have not been strongly ~~propagandized~~ propagandized, and even if they had been strongly propagandized the nature of a ~~democracy~~ democracy is to get the thing over with and be done with it, not to drag it on for years.

Nixon inherited a situation where the nation was already tired of the long protracted struggle. He is anxious to finish it up effectively and yet he has a hostile congress Congress and ~~has~~, if he is not reelected, his power to accomplish anything worth while will be cut down, and the nation~~s~~ will be greatly injured. Under the circum° he impresses me as doing an excellent job. I become more and more disgusted, however, with the attitude of those demagogues who seek to get power by saying, "Let's just get out." One said on the TV this ~~xxxxxxx~~ morning that if the US° had given in last summer and withdrawn its troops the war would all be over now. Instead of that we allowed ~~Thieu~~ Thieu (?) to be reelected. What about Ho Chi Ming (?) and his successors in No° Vietnam? None of the people have any voice whatever in who they are going to be. They are aggressors, determined to ~~conquer~~ conquer not only ~~So~~ So° Vietnam, but also ~~Cambodia~~ Cambodia and Laos, but these men do not criticize them; they criticize a duly elected president of So° V°, and say that we should withdraw support from him and allow the Communists to establish a dictatorship.