



THE AXON

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SPECIAL EDITION

From its very beginning the Stanford Medical Community for Peace has devoted much of its efforts to reaching out into the community with programs designed to change the opinions of the voters. In keeping with this idea representatives from the SMCFP met with about twenty civic, religious, and industrial groups during the past weeks to discuss the war in Southeast Asia and how it relates specifically to health care needs in this country. These representatives have had many opportunities to survey the opinions of the citizenry and how they react to our efforts. In this special edition of THE AXON they report what they have found.

What do people say about continuing the war?

RANDY CHASE (Year II medical student): "Few people are actually for continuation of the war. In disengaging, they are worried about a blood bath, loss of prestige, and the domino theory."

JUDY STERN (Postdoctoral fellow in psychiatry): "The majority of the people are against continuation of the war and want a quick peace. Some are willing to accept Nixon's peace plan. They often argue that 'the President knows best' and believe that the only difference between Nixon's plan and McGovern-Hatfield is a few months in the timing of things. I had hoped that by raising issues we could provoke them to take a stand, but that didn't work. They feel that it is inappropriate for local members of a national organization to take a political stand."

IFV WEISSMAN (Assistant professor of pathology): "These people just don't read their newspapers. They are usually shocked by the facts. If we could just get them to pick up the morning newspaper! Their attitude is 'Alright, we both want out of Vietnam, and Nixon is getting us out. Right?'" "

JERRY ARNOLD (Vietnam veteran and graduate student in engineering): "Most people believe the war is wrong - either because it is bad for their business, or it is morally wrong, or something else. They usually want to argue tactics. In discussions we cause people to express their prejudices and beliefs. These often elicit arguments from their fellow businessmen and club members. This is very effective. They ask 'What can I do to get rid of the stereotype which we have? What can we do?' Sometimes they want to find out about what I saw in Vietnam as compared to what they have heard."

LARRY CRAPO (Year III medical student): "Most people support phased withdrawal. They are very nationalistic. Traditional Americanism--nonviolent dissent, free enterprise, democracy--are things they will pick up a gun and fight for."

What do they say about medical care?

CHASE: "Many were very concerned about the cost of medical care. They were as interested in talking about it as about the war. They feel it is extremely high priced; they are dismayed, but they don't know what to do about it."

CRAPO: "Doctors to whom I have talked reflect typical American philosophy. They are strongly against socialized medicine and want no government interference."

Campus violence - what is the reaction?

CRAPO: "People are very upset about campus violence. You hear about it over and over again. The professed goals of the radical students infuriate the people. The alumni I have talked to condemned the violence and rock throwing; some are withdrawing financial support from the university. I doubt that campus violence has done the good that some insist that it has."

SCOTT SATTLER (Year III medical student): "Most of the people are completely taken in by attempts to equate students with violence with drugs with communism. They are so

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