

'the vietnam war must end now'

by rob burford
another daily staff writer

**-the vietnam moratorium committee
 calls for a national cessation
 of 'business as usual' on october 15.**

President Nixon's term of office has now passed the eight month mark and with no end to the Vietnam war in sight October promises to bring a revival of student anti-war activities across the country.

Students at several hundred colleges and universities are planning a one-day halt to all research and classroom work next month to work instead at ending the war.

The call for the anti-war action is being circulated to campuses by a group called the Vietnam Moratorium Committee. The protest will take place on October 15 if, by then, there is "no firm commitment to American withdrawal or a negotiated settlement."

The committee plans to expand the protest to two days in November, three days in December and so on until the war is ended. The group's Washington office has attempted to dispel rumors that militant action is part of its plans.

The Moratorium plans differ from those of past demonstrations in that the emphasis lies on the involvement of more than just the academic community. The committee hopes to involve community organizations, churches, professional groups, labor union locals, civil rights groups, politicians and high school students in the action.

Participants are urged to branch out from campuses on October 15, to circulate petitions and leaflets at shopping centers, factories and downtown areas. Students and faculty alike are expected to take part in the action.

The committee issued its call for the Moratorium with a statement last summer which begins, "Ending the war in Vietnam is the most important task facing the American nation. Over the last few years, millions of Americans have campaigned, protested and demonstrated against the war. Few now defend the war, yet it continues."

The statement continues, saying "Death and destruction are unabated; bombs and fire continue to devastate South Vietnam. Billions of dollars are spent on war while the urgent domestic problems of this country remain unattended. Moreover the war has had a corrupting influence on every aspect of American life, and much of the national discontent can be traced to its influence."

The students will reportedly use many of the techniques of Sen. Eugene McCarthy's volunteers in the 1968 primaries.

The planners have said, in a statement signed by more than 100 student body presidents and campus editors, "The strategy has received enthusiastic

response. It is anticipated that by the fall people will be working at nearly every major university and many colleges."

The committee's organizers - Sam Brown, David Hawk and David Mixner were active in both the campus "dump Johnson" movement and the Democratic primaries.

A key student organizer for McCarthy, Mr. Brown, 25, is a former National Student Association activist now at Harvard's Kennedy Institute for Politics. Mr. Hawk, also 25, is a NSA staff member who coordinated a campaign last spring which resulted in 250 campus leaders sending President Nixon a letter declaring their refusal to serve in the armed forces until the Viet Nam war is ended. Mr. Mixner was a member of Sen. McCarthy's staff. He now serves on Sen. George McGovern's Commission for Reform of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Brown explained at the opening of the committee's office in Washington last summer that the word Moratorium was chosen to describe the interruption of classes instead of the word "strike" which was considered to be too inflammatory.

The New York Times reported on July 1, that "Although the committee hopes to work with other forces organized against military training, the antiballistic missile system and racism, its primary focus, Mr. Brown said, will be on the war in Vietnam and any "Korea-type settlement" that could leave American forces in Vietnam indefinitely."

The Times article continued, "Unlike the widespread student efforts during the last year to radicalize campuses on a full range of social issues, the Moratorium Committee hopes to galvanize a more moderate, majority position against the war."

Mr. Brown stressed the fact that "we do not want to cripple the universities or shut them down, but simply to use them as a base for working against the war."

He continued, "We hope to pull together the kind of coalition which existed during the McCarthy campaign. Maybe it can bring students back into the community too."

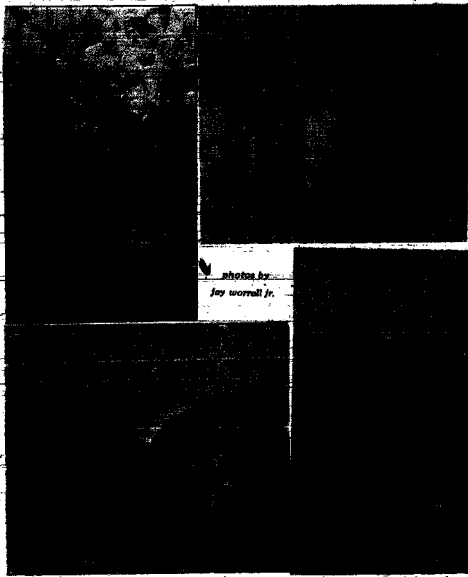
A plan of strategy released by the Moratorium Committee says in part, "It is important that the rhetoric employed emphasizes the work being done in the larger community and that the Moratorium center around the notion of building this base so that others will join the action in ensuing months." It continues, "It is important that our strength be visible."

Plans include a door bell-ringing campaign house to house in the larger community. "People are angry at the kids," said Mr. Hawk. "But still, there really is a youth cult; people want desperately to talk with kids. A big part of our success in New Hampshire was that people were just so happy to have a kid knock on the door and talk to them."

The idea for the Moratorium emerged from a Massachusetts group, Mass.PAX (Political Action for Peace) which was active last spring. The president of that group, Jerome Grossman, a Boston businessman, first proposed a "general strike" against the war for October.

Mr. Grossman was quoted by the New York Times as saying, "The American people clearly want an end of this war. If it is still going on in October, we must show that we are prepared to bring the business of the country to a standstill to stop it."

The Moratorium Committee's early funding has been provided by many of the individuals who contributed to Sen. McCarthy's campaign last year.



photos by
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