

file - Vietnam

October 21, 1965

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO PRESS AND WIRE SERVICES

TO BACK U. S. TROOPS
MORALE CAMPAIGN BEGUN BY JAYCEES

Muncie JAYCEES, incensed at what they termed the "unpatriotic, morale-dimming" aspects of recent protest marches against U. S. Viet Nam policies, today launched OPERATION BIG LIFT. The goal is to flood American troops in the Asian area with morale-building letters showing all-out support from the home front.

In an appeal to "all patriotic citizens", the young men's organization called for thousands of letters, and expressed hope that "BIG LIFT" will develop into a nation-wide crusade.

The JAYCEES will collect these letters and forward them to the estimated 200,000 members of the armed forces who will be serving in Viet Nam by Christmas.

Letters should be addressed to the MUNCIE JAYCEES, c/o OPERATION BIG LIFT, POST OFFICE BOX 1050, MUNCIE, INDIANA. Kent Sanders, local chairman of the project, said the letters should express appreciation of freedom-loving peoples everywhere.

The organization has gone on record nationally as supporting the policy as set forth by President Johnson and is concerned that word of draft card burning and protest marches reaching our troops will lead them to believe that this vocal minority speaks for the majority opinion.

For governmental affairs, the MUNCIE JAYCEES were named one of the top ten clubs in the nation in 1964.

Contact: Kent Sanders
for P. O. Box 1050
further Muncie, Indiana
details Area 317 759-7325

"UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL"

TO THE EDITOR:

It is pretty sickening to me to read and hear about the demonstrations that are taking place nationwide against our government's policy in Viet Nam.

It is easy to sit back and be an armchair military strategist and pick apart the present day operations in Viet Nam or be a very passive individual and remark, "I don't care" or "It's a long way from here, so I'm not worried." But even worse than this is to say, "I don't believe in my government." My personal feeling is, all the qualified military personnel over in Viet Nam are much better informed than myself, and for that matter, most American citizens. I would rather back my government here and let qualified personnel direct the actual operations over there.

Recently while talking to Jim Skidmore, U.S. Jaycee president, I heard a pretty sobering story. This concerned a seventeen-year-old boy he visited in Walter Reed Hospital in Washington just a couple of weeks ago. The young man had just been sent home from Viet Nam badly maimed. He told President Skidmore the worst thing a U.S. soldier in Viet Nam could do today was open up an American newspaper. He was referring, of course, to the constant articles publicizing the pacifists, draft card burners, and demonstrators.

I can visualize, Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, YOUR son seated in a hospital tent in sweltering heat; ravaged by jungle sickness; a part of his body blown off by a shell or grenade; with a feeling of loyalty to his fellow Americans and his country; anxiously awaiting a word from his home or about his home; finally receiving this word in the form of a newspaper with an article on the front

page headed, Demonstrators Against American Soldiers in Viet Nam. Not enough could be said about the utter frustration and demoralizing effect this would have on any soldier. This could be your son, your neighbor's son, and always an American son.

The very fact we have the wonderful things we have today and still enjoy our constitutional freedoms should be a reminder of all the men that so valiantly gave their lives during World War II. People were not passive twenty years ago--everyone cared because everyone thought we might lose everything. Make no mistake about it; our very existence hangs on the outcome of the whole Southeast Asia situation. As was stated in the October Readers' Digest in an article about our stand in Asia, "---the war concerns the future of the whole Pacific and the security of the Western hemisphere, especially the United States.

All members attending the last general membership meeting unanimously, without anyone dissenting, gave their wholehearted support to the board of directors to investigate the possibilities in initiating positive action to show our support of the U.S. Government and show appreciation to our fellow Americans fighting so that we may retain our heritage. I am proud to say a hard-working group of Muncie Jaycees have come up with a wonderful project showing our appreciation to the soldiers and supporting our Government. By the time you read this letter, publicity may have already started on the project. It can involve anyone that can write; and when you hear the idea, I urge you to take the fifteen or twenty minutes it would take to involve you in this worthwhile cause.

PLEASE STAND UNITED--Be concerned so that your children or grandchildren are able to have the same opportunities that gave us all the wonderful things we enjoy today.

WALT SAUER, President
Muncie Junior
Chamber of Commerce