



# Time For Nixon To Unveil Plan

By C. K. McClatchy, Executive Editor

**PLAN?** — President Richard Nixon successfully stilled a considerable part of the discontent and anguish over the Vietnam war by his campaign promise that he had a "plan" which would bring peace to that troubled land.

This promise of peace won him a respite from the angry protests which forcibly retired his predecessor, but the public has waited in vain for nearly a year and a half for Nixon to unfold his plan. Now the casualty lists are increasing and the war is spreading to Cambodia and Laos. The rising tide of discontent once again threatens the nation.

It is in this context that Louis B. Lundborg, board chairman of the Bank of America, said the Vietnam war is a "tragic national mistake." He said the only way out of this dilemma is "the elimination of the war."

Testifying Wednesday before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Lundborg, chief executive of the world's largest bank, said the war is "morally indefensible and practically unsustainable."

**BLAME** — Lundborg said attempting to fix the blame for the war is futile but blamed himself for not speaking out sooner in protest. The turning point for Lundborg came recently when he read the President is under pressure to expand our military role in Asia.

"It seemed to me," Lundborg said, "the time had come to speak up and speak out, and to say 'our meddling has gone far enough'."

He said if a private business exhibited such bad judgment as the government has shown in Vietnam, the management of the company would be under attack by the directors and the stockholders.

"In my judgment it is time the shareholders of America — the people — begin to call for an end to the squandering of American blood, morale and resources on what is in essence an Asian war of nationalism."

**ECONOMY BLOCK** — Lundborg took

direct aim at the oft-repeated thesis the Vietnam war has become a major and necessary source of support for the American economy. He said:

"The escalation of the war in Vietnam has seriously distorted the American economy, has inflamed inflationary pressures, has drained resources that are desperately needed to overcome serious domestic problems confronting our country and has dampened the growth in profits on both a before and after tax basis," he said.

This is a very persuasive statement coming from a man whose position might be considered the most establishment-oriented in the so-called establishment.

Yet the agony of the Vietnam war seems to have as firm a grip on the administration of President Nixon as it did on that of former President Lyndon Johnson. The Nixon policy of Vietnamization of the war has brought a reduction in the total American troops in South Vietnam but it has done little to slow the pace of the killing and misery.

**NEW INITIATIVE URGED** — US Sen. Edmund S. Muskie of Maine has urged a new diplomatic initiative for peace, charging the Vietnamization policy is basically a strategy for continuing the fighting.

Muskie noted that more than four months have passed since Henry Cabot Lodge resigned as the chief negotiator and the US is now represented by a career foreign service officer who was the number three man in the delegation. The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong delegates have made it clear time and again their top people will not engage in major discussions with Americans who lack top credentials. The war can only be ended by negotiation and yet the Nixon administration adamantly has maintained a position at Paris which it knows must block any hope of negotiation.

**TOUGH** — Muskie takes the position

the administration should attempt the tough negotiating needed to achieve an end to the war. We certainly would refuse to have serious negotiations if the North Vietnamese pulled out their delegation leaders and left us to deal with a third string representation. Nixon should appoint a top-level chief negotiator and get on with the task of seeking peace.

A dangerous development has taken place with a new government in Cambodia joining in the fighting against the North Vietnamese at the same time a massacre of Vietnam civilians is permitted.

Is this new regime in Cambodia which so casually practices genocide going to be a new ally? As the war spreads into Laos and Cambodia will the US find itself drawn even further into the morass of nationalistic and racial rivalries in Southeast Asia?

Now is the time for President Nixon to unveil his "plan" for peace. If he still is unable to do that, at least he should make a serious, full scale effort in Paris to achieve a negotiated peace.

## Fresno's Past

### 25 Years Ago—1945

Authorization for a \$53 million Pine Flat Dam project on the Kings River, and construction of the Friant-Kern Canal, the Delta-Mendota Canal and other San Joaquin Valley projects were included in a program for postwar federal spending in California.

### 40 Years Ago—1930

Machinery was set in motion at a mass meeting in Tranquillity which it is hoped will give the community a new national bank or bring about the reorganization of the now defunct First National Bank of Tranquillity which suspended business Feb. 27.