

21 October 1969

FOR THE DEAN

Briefing on proposed service to be held in the cathedral at 8 pm Friday,
14 November 1969 -- sponsored by Clergy and Laymen Concerned for Vietnam. . .
(CALCAV)

A. Item: two letters attached give "genesis" story. . .

B. Summary of planning to date:

1. Three early morning meetings have been held resulting in the following decisions, and/or actions, or pending discussion:

a. An order of service, attached: worked out by Mr. Collianni and myself. . .

b. 425 invitations to a Tea and Rice agape meal in Hearst Hall at 6:00 pm November 14th.

180 to church leaders

156 to government officials

80 to large donors

Speakers at dinner -- probably Coretta King, Coffin,

E. Carson Blake, John Bennett, etc. (not definite yet)

(Mrs. Johnson will make arrangements for Hearst Hall.)

Purpose of supper:

1. To raise money for CALCAV. (probably will ask \$5.00 or \$10.00 per head)

2. To gather principals of movement together before service.

c. Physical arrangements of service to be my responsibility -- preparation for large crowd will include outside amplification, special amplification inside. An offering taken for work of CALCAV or perhaps COR -- The Committee of Responsibility -- an organization aiding war victims and orphans. . . also to meet expenses of arrangements and our staff.

d. Ushering assistance to be provided through Phil Wheaton in contact with seminaries -- 60 bodies on hand at 6:30 pm.

e. Fernandez to: Invite principal speaker Eugene Carson Blake, or alternate such as Jesse Jackson (?):
The Rev. William Coffin (will be present, it is hoped)
The Rev. John Bennett, (Honorary Chairman of COR.)

November 14 planning

C. Summary:

The following statements were made in meetings concerning a definition of what this service is about:

1. ". . . No more war, ever-anywhere. . . "
2. ". . . priorities - from death to life. . . from frustration to fulfillment. . . "
3. ". . . must politics forever be over and above conscience and morality. . . "
4. ". . . what service says must complement marches and rallies. . . "
5. ". . . Cancer of war is intolerable, patience is at an end. . . "

It is my personal feeling that in what we plan, Christian, Jew, agnostic, protestant, catholic, radical, liberal, moderate and conservatives of conscience might be brought together in witness to the abhorrence all feel for WAR.

At the meeting October 21, and for the first time, I raised this point; In view of public report of possible take-over of plans for the Nov. 13-15 demonstration by groups or individuals of threatening violent tactics: should the peace be severely disturbed or strenuous official anxiety aroused through overt threat, that the cathedral, in rightful course, reserved right of late decision to withdraw cooperation for so large a public gathering as this service might represent.

Finally, it is apparent to all that winds of change are now approaching storm conditions, and blowing (as is often the case) in several directions at once -- within the peace movement, the government, among people of widely varying political persuasion. The November stage of demonstration may well assume a different dimension and a different emphasis than October 13 -- stronger or weaker, in agency, broader or more narrow in political spectrum, and larger or smaller in overall numbers or combinations of groups. Whatever the new dimension, given an orderly opportunity for a witness to "peace on earth, goodwill to men", an ancient and, especially today, an agonized cry of millions, a cathedral ought to serve that end. In so doing we who hold it in our charge must humbly and in daring depend upon God's grace to unify, purify and enlighten all who would sustain such witness, that their means be always more ennobled and in His righteous truth, justified.

Wayne Dirksen
Precentor