

# sane

February 25, 1966

Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been satisfying ones for SANE as President Johnson's surface consensus on Vietnam collapsed in full view of millions of TV watchers.

The Fulbright hearings brought to the masses what SANE has been saying for years to Congress and to the opinion makers: that the true story of Vietnam is considerably different from the one that the Administration has seen fit to tell the public. Dismayed by rising casualty lists and jolted by the resumption of bombing, the dissident Senators served notice that the President could no longer count on their automatic support in Far Eastern policy matters.

Chicago SANE has done its share to keep this issue before the public.

Over a year ago, when Senatorial voices against Vietnam were rare indeed, SANE brought Senator Morse to Chicago to speak before a large university audience. Last April it was Senator Gruening, Congressman George Brown, and Norman Thomas whom SANE brought before 1600 Chicagoans. In July, SANE's Political Action Director and Dr. Howard Schomer, both just back from Vietnam, addressed a group of over 100 community leaders called together by SANE for a briefing and planning session on Vietnam. And at our November banquet, Professor Robert Browne and Dr. Harold Taylor spoke out against our immoral and self-defeating policies in Southeast Asia. Undergirding the public events sponsored by SANE is the continuing work of providing speakers, literature, and program ideas to churches, synagogues, and community groups.

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[ Feb. 25, 1966 ]

The successful and well-attended events of 1965 were capped by SANE's November 27th March on Washington when nearly six hundred Chicago area residents joined 35,000 others from all over the nation in the largest and most impressive peace demonstration in Washington's history. I am enclosing a montage of clippings from the nation's press, which will review this event for you as the reporters saw it.

I do not think it is overstating the case to say that this massive demonstration was a factor in the administration's decision to suspend the bombing for 37 days. Almost as surely, it encouraged 15 Senators and 77 Congressmen to come out for a continuation of the bombing pause. This first fissure in the President's consensus on Vietnam has now widened into the debate that is so long over-due.

It is unfortunate however that national preoccupation with the Vietnam war has diverted attention from some equally dangerous matters that demand early resolution. Nuclear proliferation, anti-ballistic missiles, a comprehensive test ban treaty, a European settlement with Russia, the injection of the arms race into outer space, the continuing disarmament negotiations, all these matters and others, are being over shadowed by the explosive developments in Vietnam.

As in the past, SANE will continue to bring these issues before the public in every way possible.

This kind of public dialogue takes money and organization. Operating on the slimmest of budgets, Chicago SANE has done wonders in recent years. With more adequate financial support there is no limit to the things that could be done.

At the recent National Conference it was announced that all SANE memberships will henceforth bear the same renewal date: March. If you have renewed in January

[ Feb. 25, 1966 ]

or February your renewal will be effective for the year beginning March 1, 1966. All other memberships will be up for renewal on that date.

Many of you have given generously to Chicago SANE within the past months and for this we are grateful. To those of you who have not given recently, let me say that this would be a good time to renew your membership. Within a few weeks, you may receive an appeal for renewal from the National Office. If you are accustomed to contributing directly to National, feel free to do so. However, from every \$7.50 or more received by the Chicago Office, \$5.00 is sent to the National Office to cover your subscription to SANE World and to help further their part of SANE's important work.

In closing, let me extend the thanks of Chicago SANE to all of you who made the historic trip to Washington last November and to all of you who contributed funds that others might go. You will shortly receive details on our new Voters' Pledge Campaign, and we will be calling on you once again to give your time and energies to the cause of peace in Vietnam. I know you will not fail to respond.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Cleland  
Chairman, Chicago SANE