

The following is a copy of a telegram sent to Webster student Michael Calkins, former Student Body President on May 6th

WE SHARE THE SENSE OF OUTRAGE WHICH YOU AND OTHER AMERICANS FEEL OVER THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE RECENT INVASION OF CAMBODIA AND THE RESUMPTION OF BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM ARE ONLY THE LATEST IN A LONG SERIES OF ACTIONS THAT MEAN MORE ANGUISH AND DESTRUCTION ON ALL SIDES.

WE ALSO SHARE YOUR SENSE OF FRUSTRATION IN SEEKING TO HALT THIS ENDLESS WAR AND SENSELESS POLICY. WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME CONGRESS PLAY THE ROLE ASSIGNED IT BY THE CONSTITUTION IN DETERMINING OUR INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY ADVENTURES ABROAD. THIS LEADERSHIP ROLE IS ADMITTEDLY LONG OVERDUE.

THIS ABSENCE OF LEADERSHIP HAS HAD TRAGIC RESULTS. WE ARE SHOCKED AND GRIEVED BY THE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED AT KENT STATE ON MONDAY. WE SHARE A SENSE OF GUILT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ALTERNATIVES PROVIDED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES THUS FAR. WE HOPE OUR PRESENT EFFORT WILL PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE.

WE URGE YOU TO DIRECT YOUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO CUT OFF FURTHER FUNDS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF WITHDRAWING TROOPS SAFELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY, THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS, AND ASYLUM FOR VIETNAMESE WHO MIGHT FEEL THREATENED BY OUR WITHDRAWAL.

THIS WILL COME TO A VOTE, PROBABLY WITHIN 30 DAYS, WHEN THERE WILL BE AN OFFICIAL ROLL CALL ON THIS AMENDMENT REQUIRING EVERY SENATOR TO GO ON RECORD FOR OR AGAINST CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE WAR. SIMILAR EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WILL YOU DO ALL IN YOUR POWER TO GENERATE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR A VICTORIOUS ROLL CALL TO END THE WAR? YOUR LETTERS, PHONE CALLS, PETITIONS AND PERSONAL VISITS TO YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ARE URGENTLY NEEDED NOW AND DURING THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR CRUCIAL WEEKS.

ABOVE ALL, PLEASE MAKE IT KNOWN THAT ACTS OF VIOLENCE WILL BE MANIPULATED TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR CAUSE AND WILL SABOTAGE THIS INITIATIVE FOR PEACE.

SINCERELY,

GEORGE MCGOVERN MARK O HARFIELD CHARLES GOODELL  
ALAN CRANSTON AND HAROLD HUGHES