

UNITED STATES



OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 91st CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

VOLUME 115—PART 27

NOVEMBER 26, 1969, TO DECEMBER 4, 1969

(PAGES 35895 TO 37182)

sional level and as an aspect of general education.

Foundations have long been engaged in furthering adult education and in supporting programs to enable citizens to extend their knowledge of public affairs, including international relations.

Noncommercial television has developed as a new cultural resource largely through foundation support.

In social welfare, foundations have made a special impact by stressing ways to prevent social breakdown rather than merely alleviating its consequences. Through social research, social work education, and experiments to test out new ideas and approaches, they have helped public and private agencies to deal more effectively with the acute human problems of deprived urban and rural areas. Much recent state and national legislation concerned with delinquency, job training and counseling, and the attack on poverty at its source has taken account of foundation-supported experiments. Another area of social action spurred by foundation funds is the search for better ways to meet the needs of the nation's growing number of older citizens.

Foundations have pioneered in the advancement of legal rights for both the indigent and the consumer.

They have assisted major national and local civil-rights organizations and sympathetic religious, business, labor, and community groups in the effort to enable racial minorities to acquire social and economic opportunity and dignity in the mainstream of American life.

Finally, foundations have extended the American philanthropic tradition to other countries by helping their peoples develop the knowledge and skills to combat sickness, hunger, and ignorance. They are assisting the world's poorer countries in agriculture, medicine, health, public administration, technical training, family planning, and training in economics, business, and law. At the same time, particularly through grants to American colleges and universities for area studies of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, foundations are helping the United States obtain the knowledge of world affairs essential to its own international responsibilities.

ALLEGED ATROCITIES BY AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN VIETNAM

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, a shocked, dismayed, and confused public has been told of an incident at Song My Village in South Vietnam where American soldiers may have deliberately slaughtered innocent civilians—including women, children, and infants.

In the wake of such a revelation, filled with rumors and contradictory statements, we must be extraordinarily careful lest the accused be denied their rights of a firm and impartial trial. We cannot allow American soldiers to become a scapegoat for general rage and frustration over the war itself.

We must also be careful that we do not wrongfully implicate the vast majority of American servicemen for the criminal acts of a relative few. Although I strongly oppose this war and our current policies, I still maintain a great respect for the decency and morality of the American serviceman.

Having stated these warnings, however, I must add my voice to those who are calling for the fullest possible investigation into this and any other similar incident.

It would be easy and not without some truth to blame these acts upon the senseless and horrible war. But responsibility for acts during wartime must still lie with individuals.

Whatever justification we may have for this war—and I happen to believe that very little remains—must be based on principles of justice, morality, decency, and respect for the worth of individuals. Without such principles there can be absolutely no basis for our involvement in any nation at any time. Only a full investigation and just disposition of the charges now being made can affirm these principles and restore some credibility to American policy both at home and abroad.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a most timely and forthright editorial published in the Minneapolis Tribune, commenting upon this shocking incident.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE MASSACRE IN SONG MY VILLAGE

Although much remains to be learned about the massacre in Song My village in South Vietnam by American soldiers, the evidence so far indicates that a horrible atrocity did occur on March 16, 1968. The latest evidence was the chilling statement of an ex-GI who told of firing into mothers hugging their children and begging to be spared.

Today, as we Americans celebrate another great feat in space and prepare for a traditional holiday in honor of America's bounties and goodness, we must also ponder the meaning of an event little different from the Communist atrocities at Hue. We ask ourselves how could we generous, peace-loving, God-fearing Americans—who recoiled in horror when the Nazis, on June 10, 1942, wiped out the Czech village of Lidice—commit an atrocity of similar proportions? Perhaps some of the answers can be found in the column by Anthony Lewis on today's editorial page.

The events in Song My—if published accounts are accurate—are a betrayal of what America stands for, betrayal of the good works so many thousands of Americans have undertaken in Vietnam. The events, if true, are a violation of the Geneva war conventions, as well as being a war crime under the Charter of the International Military Tribunal by which Nazi war criminals were brought to trial at Nuremberg.

Painful as the disclosures may be to all of us, the investigation of Song My must be pushed through to a conclusion, so that guilt or innocence of Song My participants may be determined, and so that, if guilty is the verdict, all Americans may learn how some Americans have acted in Vietnam. Many journalists and other observers have cited other atrocities by Americans in Vietnam, but never on the scale approaching Song My.

The killing of civilians long has been suspected as a prime cause for the high enemy body count reported weekly by the U.S. command in Vietnam. In any given period, say six months or a year, body count figures have always been much greater than changes in official estimates of enemy troop strength (even allowing for infiltration of fresh troops).

A review of our files shows this Associated Press account of the Song My action on the day it occurred: "SAIGON (AP)—U.S. Infantrymen, in a hide-and-seek fight through the rice paddies and sand dunes along the central coast, killed 128 Viet Cong guerrillas

today, the U.S. command said. A spokesman said a company of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, sweeping into an area that had been bombarded minutes earlier, tangled with guerrillas this morning. . . . A U.S. spokesman reported American casualties as two men killed and 10 wounded."

If the recent accounts of Americans present at Song My are correct, the account of the U.S. command was false. The dead at Song My were women, children and old men who were herded together—not guerrillas running through the rice paddies.

A few days later, the U.S. command reported 3,070 enemy deaths for the week that included Song My, then shortly thereafter "updated" the total to 3,642. How much of this total was made up of old men, women and children? How honest are U.S. military reports of lopsided victories in one-sided battles? Are some of them really more Song Mys?

Some of the public's reaction to Song My may turn into additional criticism of President Nixon's efforts to wind down the war. It should be noted, however, that Song My occurred under President Johnson and Gen. Westmoreland, then commander in Vietnam. His successor, Gen. Abrams, appears to have changed strategy and emphasis away from the kind of policies that may have caused Song My. We hope he has.

We believe America's combat involvement in Vietnam was a mistake. Song My is a tragic and shameful consequence of that mistake. The job is to extricate ourselves from that mistake, a job which now is in the hands of President Nixon. We believe most Americans will support a more rapid withdrawal from Vietnam, and we hope our President makes the decision to do this.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH

Mr. FULBRIGHT. Mr. President, section 203 of the recently passed Military Procurement Authorization Act states:

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be used to carry out any research project or study unless such project or study has a direct and apparent relationship to a specific military function.

This provision was initiated by the distinguished majority leader and adopted by the Senate as a part of my amendment to cut back on several categories of Defense research. Subsequently, the amendment was adopted by the House Committee on Armed Services, so the item was not in dispute in conference.

Both the majority leader and I felt that the enactment of this provision would have a significant impact on the Department of Defense policies in support of non-mission-oriented research, for which some \$400 million was spent last year. The purpose of the amendment was to get the Department of Defense out of the business of supporting academic research that is not directly related to military requirements, and break the trend toward greater reliance by university scientists on the largesse of the military. The increasing reliance by scientists for financial aid from the Defense Department is not healthy for the scientists, their universities, or our society. The Senator from Montana has suggested that a reasonable goal for carrying out section 203 would be to reduce Defense funding of academic research to "no more than 25 percent of that funded