



Wayne Morse Speaks on Asia Condemns "Bad" Draft Law

Former U.S. Senator Wayne Morse addressed an audience consisting of students and faculty December 11, 1969, in Hawkins Hall Auditorium.

Morse, who was recently defeated in his bid for a fourth term in the Senate, dedicated most of his speech to South East Asian foreign policy. The former Senator lashed out at U.S. foreign policy, declaring that we are the foremost world-wide violator of international law.

According to Morse, "every soldier, every gun, every bomber, every helicopter, and every piece of war material in Viet Nam is a literal violation of the accords of the Geneva Convention." Morse said that the United States ought to submit the entire Viet Nam question to the United Nations, and that we should agree to abide by any decision which it should reach.

Our actions were illegal because we pledged to support the government which we ourselves had set up in South Viet Nam. The seventeenth parallel, which was set up to serve until the French could withdraw their troops, was transformed by us into a permanent international boundary.

Another example which Morse cited of the illegality of our actions in Viet Nam is the manner in which the puppet South Vietnamese government prevent-

ed the free elections of July 1956 to be held, elections which had been guaranteed by the Geneva agreement. "Unfortunately we (the United States) are for self-determination, many times only when the expected results are to our liking."

Because we had not declared war in Viet Nam, said Morse, it was illegal for us to ever to have sent troops. Declarations of war are based on Article I, Section Eight of the United States Constitution; this Article was placed in the Constitution by the founding fathers because they did not want the President to have the power which the British had had of sending hundreds of troops into battle without the consent of the people.

And, finally, Sen. Morse cited the way in which the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution of August 4, 1964 was passed. He demonstrates how irregular the procedure involved in passing the resolution were by describing how, the night before the hearings, he received a call from a high Pentagon official who told him to ask the witness if he could produce the log of the Maddox and tell what its mission was. During the hearing it was testified that the Maddox was on a routine mission; several weeks before the Tonkin incident this ship was at Tiwan being set

See MORSE SPEAKS page 7