

GALLEY

This winter the Johnson administration has gone through a series of token attempts to shorten or end the war. More so than at any other point during the Vietnam crisis, has the administration been the target of criticism. This questioning has come from a broad spectrum ranging from the Republican Party to civil rights groups. A characteristic of the Administration policy seems to be indecision. Therefore, the changing face of public opinion is now most crucial in influencing the policy-makers.

Any public opinion can be public pressure if effectively timed and organized. The opposition to the war in the past has been mainly from liberal factions; marches and other forms of protest have been reflective of the feelings of a small group. Now more people are becoming aware of how the war effects them every day. Because of the current political atmosphere, demonstration of sentiment could now be more effective in influencing Johnson's determination of policy. This expression should not be the protest of one organization involved in its own political maneuverings. Rather a coalition of individuals asking for a re-evaluation of our aims is necessary.

Reverend James Bevel is the National Director of a Spring Mobilization, a two-pronged demonstration in New York and San Francisco on Saturday, April 15. Spring Mobilization is an opportunity for Bennington students, faculty, and townspeople, regardless of political affiliation, to respond as a community to a community crisis.

Vietnam Committee

[1967]