

GALLEY

"It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them."

--Mark Twain

900 OF FOE KILLED IN A DAY; WESTMORELAND HAILS G.I.'S

Saigon, South Viet Nam, March 22 -- Nearly 900 enemy soldiers died in fighting that raged through-out South Viet Nam yesterday. At least 60 American soldiers were killed and more than 250 wounded.

(From the New York Times, Thursday, March 22.)

Americans in Viet Nam are killing and being killed to defend "the American way of life". At Bennington, the sound of bombs dropping does not reach us even as an echo; but there is a war here too. The enemy is moral lassitude; the victims, our consciences. The fate of the American way of life will not be determined in Viet Nam; it will be determined right here in the United States. The difference between a republic whose people is silent and a dictatorship is one of name only.

In Viet Nam, freedom rings with the sound of a bullet; at Bennington, let it ring with the sound of protest.

S.F.

[1967]