

FUND APPEAL

"The democratic man assumes the existence of a public, and in his rhetoric asserts that this public is the very seat of sovereignty. . . . (There are) two things needed in a democracy: articulate and knowledgeable publics, and political leaders who if not men of reason are at least reasonably responsible to such knowledgeable publics as exist. Only where publics and leaders are responsive and responsible, are human affairs in democratic order, and only where knowledge has public relevance is this order possible. Only when mind has an autonomous basis, independent of power, but powerfully related to it, can it exert its force in the shaping of human affairs. Such a position is democratically possible only when there exists a free and knowledgeable public to which men of knowledge may address themselves, and to which men of power are truly responsible. Such a public and such men—either of power or of knowledge—do not now prevail, and accordingly, knowledge does not now have democratic relevance in America."

These words, written by the late C. Wright Mills, ten years ago, are prophetically and painfully apt today. This National Teach-In is an effort to reestablish the relevance of knowledge and open public debate in the determination of government action.

This confrontation has already been described as the largest meeting between the government and its supporters on the one hand, and its critics and opponents on the other, in the history of our country. It is perhaps the most significant political gathering of American intellectuals since the Constitutional Convention.

It is, however, only a beginning. Funds are needed to continue, enlarge and energize public debate. The single most important task now before the Inter-university Committee for Public Hearings on Vietnam is to edit, print and distribute the proceedings of the confrontation, speeches and seminars. This is an expensive job, but a necessary and important one. Please contribute.

Inter-university Committee for Public Hearings on Vietnam.
Post Office Box 1383, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48106

I enclose \$ _____ to help defray the follow-up costs of the National Teach-in.

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