

WILLIAM LOEB, President and Publisher, 1946-1981  
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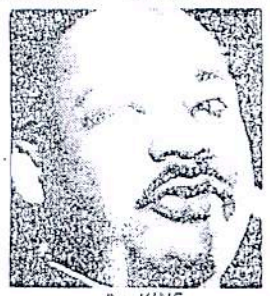
When the Spirit of the Lord Is There, Liberty

**There is nothing so powerful as truth**  
DANIEL WEBSTER

# Re-Fighting Vietnam

"And you know he was right?"  
With those words, Manchester realtor Tom Christie, testifying in Concord Wednesday before the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee in support of a state holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., crystallized what this debate is actually all about.

It is important to note the context of Christie's statement, which was



DR. KING

loudly applauded by supporters of state Representative Linda Long's bill (HB 169) assembled in Representatives Hall.

In context, he said that King was "right" in being "against the Vietnam War."

But what does that mean? And who is criticized King for simply being "against the Vietnam War"?

It is a historical fact that the conduct of the war was unpopular with a large number of Americans. They ranged from those who felt, as did the editors of this newspaper, that it was immoral to send America's youth to fight a war of attrition under rules that allowed them to die but not to win, to those whose all-out support for the enemy would have constituted legal grounds for the charge of treason had this been an officially declared war.

The reason why King's radical speeches and actions allying the civil rights movement with the cause of the Viet Cong were so controversial at the time, and so roundly condemned by prominent whites and blacks, liberals and conservatives (see editorial below), is not because he was "against the Vietnam War."

It is because he not only portrayed America as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world" but also vilified Americans sent to fight that war.

What are we to believe? That Christie and those who applauded him are unaware of that fact, even though it was clearly set forth, and thoroughly documented, in Wednesday's testimony by state Representative and Manchester School Board member Jacquelyn Domaingue?

Or are we to believe that, unknown to Christie, those who applauded him agreed then, and agree now, with King's viciously false characterizations of those brave men sent to fight a no-win war half-way around the world while treason masqueraded as "dissent" at home?

Is that what some proponents of the King holiday, determined to re-fight the Vietnam War, are seeking to accomplish?

To have New Hampshire, the Live Free Or Die state, inferentially legitimize King's role in public burnings of the American flag and his contemptible wartime charge that American GIs in Vietnam were killers of "mostly children," sadists who degraded young people as they begged for food, rapists who turned young girls' mothers into prostitutes?

To have New Hampshire blindly ratify King's portrayal of those GIs as the moral equivalent of the Nazis who "tested out our latest weapons . . . just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe"?

It is an appalling display of intellectual dishonesty when not even one King holiday proponent addressed these historical facts.

Not one confirmed them.  
Not one denied them.

Not one was forthright enough to say whether he or she agrees or disagrees with King's characterization of America and her fighting men.

And they have the gall to insist, in the Orwellian "newspeak" of one proponent of HB 169, lawyer Nancy Richards-Stower of Merrimack, that in refusing to honor King, "you dishonor your country!"

Sorry, Christie, Richards-Stower et al., but we — and we're sure most veterans of Vietnam and other wars — know that Martin Luther King was wrong, and that, in refusing to honor King, New Hampshire honors the truth.

—Jim Finnegan

*Nancy worked hard to enact Dr. Martin Luther King Day in New Hampshire --*

*---and the Union Leader didn't like it a bit, as noted in this February 10, 1989 editorial.*