

YU Instructor Keller Protests Viet War

By MIKE MATIS

Approximately 15 marchers picketed the draft board in the main Post Office two weeks ago, demanding the U. S. Government put an end to the war in Vietnam.

Among the demonstrators was Mr. Walter Keller, an instructor at the University. Interviewed regarding his opinion on the controversial issues of the draft

and the war in Vietnam, these were his comments.

Are demonstrators only after publicity?

I think this comment came from a person who has never

demonstrated. If he had, he would realize that demonstrators would demonstrate even if there were no one around. Most of them are deeply committed, well-informed people.

Are most of the demonstrators "draft dodgers"?

I feel that the U. S. Government in its recruiting of young men for the service is distort-

ing the picture when it says that a young man has only two alternatives—enlist or be drafted. He has another alternative, and that is to be a conscientious objector. There are various kinds of conscientious objectors. I feel the government should make this information available without having to be asked for it.

Being a teacher, do you think your activities reduce your effectiveness as a teacher?

I think, if anything, it makes me a more effective teacher. Some of the best discussions and debates have taken place in my Communication classes this semester. The students have no reluctance to verbally

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criticize me. They now can extend an argument to a substantial conclusion. They don't argue merely on emotion. I helped them to learn to reason more accurately, more fairly, and therefore I think that a substantial portion of my students could argue on many sides of an issue better than most students around the University.

On a radio program you came out against the use of guns and bombs, but you didn't offer an alternative plan. Is there an alternative plan?

Unfortunately my alternative solution which I wanted to offer was more or less lost. I think I would indicate that the U. N. could be a possible solution to the problem in Vietnam; also, a possible reconvention of the Geneva Conference.

Have you ever served in the Army?

No I haven't. When I became 1-A I was not officially a conscientious objector. I was philosophically bordering on it at that time. After examinations I was found to be 4-F and subsequent to that I gradually became a conscientious objector.

To re-cap the interview, Mr. Keller stated:

"I think the majority of the people are inadequately informed about the Vietnam situation. This inadequate information brings about a state of affairs whereby people view this as the 'good guys' vs. the 'bad guys'. That is: 'we have to stop communism before it goes any further'. It's not that simple. This is a civil war. A civil war is a war staged by a people against their brothers and neighbors.

"Also, the "Viet Cong" is really the National Liberation Front. Let's call them what most of the world's press calls them" Mr. Keller concluded.