

CR

July 30, 1970

CONGRESS

MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN—HOW LONG?

HON. WILLIAM J. SCHERLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1970

Mr. SCHERLE. Mr. Speaker, a child asks: "Where is daddy?" A mother asks:

"How is my son?" A wife asks: "Is my husband alive or dead?"

Communist North Vietnam is sadistically practicing spiritual and mental genocide on over 1,500 American prisoners of war and their families.

How long?

CON SON—SMALL ASPECT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA CONFLICT

HON. AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1970

Mr. HAWKINS. Mr. Speaker, much publicity has resulted from our recent exposure of the horrible conditions at Con Son Prison in South Vietnam. But Con Son constituted only one small aspect of the many findings we reported which while less dramatic were even more significant.

Some forces, more concerned with continuing the war than achieving peace, have used the wide publicity given Con Son to imply that we were interested in humiliating America and conversely not concerned with barbaric actions of other countries.

In order to lay to rest such baseless "mongering," I have compiled a few of the various statements and articles on this subject inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Let me, however, at this time make even more clear, if necessary, these points:

I condemn torture and atrocities committed by either side of the present conflict in Southeast Asia. In demanding better treatment for American prisoners in Communist hands, we cannot, at the same time, make the mistake of covering up and excusing torture committed by our own allies in Southeast Asia. Humanitarianism not revenge, should govern both sides.

Likewise, our criticism of the Government of South Vietnam has apparently irritated certain persons who claim we are embarrassing our country by telling the truth. The embarrassment results not from what I have said but from the United States' association as an ally with the corrupt and unpopular regime in South Vietnam, a government which is in power only because of United States dollars and military power.

Apparently there are some people who do not want the truth to be told. They are willing to condemn our enemy—and justly—for many faults, but then, with hypocrisy, they want us to whitewash our own sins.

Lastly, it should be reported those who would suppress the facts and continue an absurd war have resorted to personal attacks as their means of defense. To these misguided souls I can only say in the words of a black artist, Bernie Casey:

In little ways,  
On certain days,  
They will ask you  
To be a man.  
In bigger ways,  
On other days,  
They will stop you  
If they can.

