



Joel Smith

'M' Support Lacking

After viewing the activities of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee on Tuesday, I came to one very important conclusion. They have very little support on this campus.

I'm not a math student, but it still wasn't hard to come to this conclusion.

The first scheduled activity by either side was a debate between the hawks and doves sponsored by the Young Americans for Freedom. The debate, which had Dr. Robert McClellan and Mr. John Watanen speaking for withdrawal of troops and Col. James Sessler and Mr. Miodrag Georgevich speaking in favor of the war, drew about 250 spectators.

Not very much for a campus of this size.

It was a good turnout for an activity sponsored by the YAF. But it was only about three percent of the total student body.

Now how many of the 250 were supporters of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee? Fifty percent of the 250? Maybe sixty percent?

Not quite! After conferring with Dr. McClellan shortly after the debate we both concurred that of those in attendance at the debate only about one-third were in support of the moratorium Committee.

That's only a little over one percent of the total student body.

Following the debate was a Memorial Service on the lawn of the University Center in which 74 white crosses were planted in the turf representing the Upper Peninsula soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

This time I made sure I counted every head sitting in front of the Center. How many? There wasn't 250 or even 150 present. After counting twice, I concluded there was only 85 present at the most.

That's right, only 85. Just barely enough to represent the number of soldiers from the Upper Peninsula, who died in the Vietnam War. Again only about one percent of the total student body.

A recent poll released in a number of large daily newspapers across the country revealed that 77 percent of the American people support President Nixon's Vietnam policy. That means only 23 percent have their doubts about our commitment in Southeast Asia.

People do have the right to protest. And the Vietnam Moratorium Committee is no exception. But let them remember, they are a long way from becoming the majority of this country, let alone this campus.

Whether it's one percent or 23 percent, they are a minority in this democracy, where the majority should and does rule.