

Thursday, March 31, 1965

Letters to the Editor

Uninvited spokesman

REGARDING TON THAT THIEN'S article "In all Fairness" in the Saturday, 26 March issue of your paper, I cannot let it pass without commenting on it. Why is it always necessary for him to approach these type subjects as though the Americans owed him something – always to put the Americans on the defensive – always trying to make it appear as though an American is a money grubbing individual? It would have been so much better if he had simply asked for generous American individuals or firms to consider establishment of funds to assist education. His methods simply defeat his purposes. RMK-BJR would be well within their rights to completely ignore him because, after all, why should they be put on the defensive for doing a job? As for the little innuendoes regarding U.S. rather than Vietnamese construction firms getting all the contracts. Make up! There's no secret why U.S. firms are used – they get the job done, they meet contract dates, they use modern methods they don't employ young boys to do a man's job and when completed, their buildings don't look like they had been standing for ten years – all full of cracks, rough edges, patches everywhere.

And a little about putting money back into the economy. Wasn't it Mr. Ton That Thien who kept up a turning discussion several months ago with "An American" because the Americans were spending too much here and ruining the economy? Now he doesn't want it spent – he wants it given away! Get around Mr. Thien – check into how many orphanages, schools, hospitals etc. the American are supporting – individually and as a group. We can be generous – we like to help people – we recognize the needs of the Vietnamese people, but we can do without being put in a position of being the rascal who owes something simply because we earn a good living – simply because we are blessed by being born Americans. Clean up your own house first.

ED LOUIS

I am in no way associated with RMK-BJR

Reply:

- 1) Since you say you are an uninvited spokesman of RMK-RBJ, I take it that your views are not those of that combine, and I hope they were more receptive to my suggestion than you, and will do something here that put them on par with Rockefeller, Ford and Asia Foundation.
- 2) You attributed to me intentions I did not have, and power I do not have either, in fact, a power equal to the control over 220,000 of the best trained and best equipped armed forces in the world, and over 13 billion dollars! If I had such power, President Johnson would be delighted to have me alone as ally of the US and dismiss all the rest. Anyway, why should other Americans be on the defensive? You are (you said so). That is your perfect privilege. But I am not quite sure that you speak for ALL the Americans in Vietnam, in particular those who have read my last two pieces: "A moving story" (SDN, March 21) and "Undeserved Blames" (SDN March 29). And now, I suggest you read the piece which follows these lines.

TON THAT THIEN