Reischauer: Support, Don't Lead, in Asia

By JEREMIAH V. MURPHY
Staff Reporter

WALTHAM — Former U.S. Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer called Tuesday night for a basic change in U.S. policy towards Asian countries.

He urged the United States to back Asian nations "that we can stand behind and support but not take the leadership role ourselves."

Speaking before 500 persons at Brandeis University, Reischauer said the concept of "Asian solutions to Asian problems" is gradually beginning to mean something.

He urged the U.S. to step back from forceful leadership and "all the problems it produces" and return to a supporting role.

He said the individual Asian countries should decide what is feasible and what is not. "It will help us to avoid overcommitting ourselves," he said.

Reischauer served 5½ years as ambassador to Japan until he resigned earlier this year. He was the fifth speaker here in the six-part Helmsley lecture series.

On Viet Nam, Reischauer said the U.S. made a serious mistake there in 1945 and has been paying for it since. He said the U.S. should have supported self-determination in Viet Nam rather than the return of French colonialism.

Since then, he said, mistakes in Viet Nam have risen sharply and withdrawal would be a major mistake, for it would damage U.S. credibility in Asia.

Equally dangerous, he said, is that withdrawal might prompt a traumatic experience here at home that could bring about the return of U.S. isolationism.

He said this country's best hope for ending the war in Viet Nam may be in the clearing and holding of small areas, thus discouraging the Viet Cong and making them believe continuation of the war would be unprofitable. He said such tactics would require many years.

Reischauer had little hope for successful negotiations between the Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese. "Our blackballing of Red China in the United Nations has cost us heavily among Asian nations because of the feeling that race has been a factor," he said.

He said he could not imagine this country blackballing a Caucasian nation. Reischauer urged the U.S. to remove its restrictions from Red China's admission to the U.N.

Poverty War Seen Boost to Business

By RAY RICHARD
Staff Reporter

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Private business has a stake in President Johnson's war on poverty because it could enable 31 million persons to buy consumer goods they can't buy now, Boston business leaders were told Tuesday.

The fifth of the country now living in poverty, Edgar May of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity declared at a Boston College seminar, constitute an untapped source of purchasing power.

"Few of them buy refrigerators. Few buy vinyl flooring. Few buy new auto," he said, because they don't have the money.

The war on poverty, by providing these people with the education, job training, legal advice and other services to help them earn more money, "is helping to make for the businessman a new mark," he added.

He, Daniel P. Moynihan, former assistant secretary of labor, director of the Joint Center for Urban Studies at Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. John Morsell, assistant executive director of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in New York, found faults with the War on Poverty.

"We've made mistakes in choosing Job Corps site locations, in selecting some of the men to run our programs," in letting some ineligibles into some of our prohrams—including some in Boston," May who won a Pulitzer Prize as a newspaper reporter before he joined OEO, admitted.

"We are experimenting in the unknown of the outer space of man's social problems," and such ventures invite to the unknown produce some error, he added.

On the other hand, the gains have been significant, he declared.

These he listed as an awareness by the remainder of the country that a fifth of the country is poor, the shifting of OEO programs from testing projects into programs now producing action and measurable results and giving the poor of the country a voice in their own rehabilitation.

They and George Bennett, executive director of Action for Boston Community Development, addressed the season's first Citizens Seminar sponsored by Boston College.

The subject was scheduled as "The Stake of Labor and Management in the Poverty Program." Fulton Hall was nearly filled, but many of the city's business and labor leaders who frequent similar seminars on urban renewal, a civic sports stadium and problems of transportation were noticeable by their absence.

Somerville Aldermen Oppose Inner Belt

The Somerville Board of Aldermen voted unanimously Tuesday night to oppose the Inner Belt highway through that city.

The vote came after a heated two-hour public hearing attended by 300 in Somerville High School auditorium. It was the first such hearing on the Inner Belt in at least two years, and the resolution was the first formal expression of aldermanic opinion.

Several members said they would submit motions at their next meeting to appropriate funds to study alternate routes and to support a moratorium on the highway by the Legislature.