

BUNKER DRAWS HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE

ALTON KASTNER

The Ambassador was breathing room only on the second floor of the OPC when Ellsworth Bunker, US Ambassador to Saigon, delivered a "Report on Viet Nam" last week.

Members, their guests, public dignitaries and media representatives jammed the dining room following a reception for Amb. Bunker for the Nov. 18 Edward R. Murrow World Affairs Forum. This was the OPC's third Forum in a series supported by the Murrow Memorial Fund of the OPC Foundation — the first to be held on club premises, and Bunker's only personal public appearance during his official US trip to confer with Administration leaders.

All media were present in force, giving the event what OPC President Hal Lehrman called "the most massive coverage of a Club event. TV cameras and sound equipment recorded the Forum for television and radio networks as well as the major local stations. The wire services daily press and news-

magazines were represented by reporters and photographers. The USIA filmed the proceedings for its global services, and Radio Free Europe reporters covered the event for Eastern Europe.

Bunker's talk dealt with what he termed "four interrelated aspects of the struggle in Viet Nam: the military situation, the pacification program, political development within South Viet Nam and the economic situation." He concluded that "steady but not spectacular progress is being made" in these areas.

US information policies relating to the war were strongly defended by Bunker. "It cannot be said that the American people suffer from want of information," Bunker declared. "If anything, information pours forth in such abundance that it is frequently conflicting and seldom digested into an integrated assessment of the whole range of problems we face."

"Our own mission in Saigon spares no effort to obtain and provide as complete a picture as possible. Like our offices in Washington, a vast amount of information is made available to the public through briefings and appearances of leading public figures."

BUNKER SPEECH

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Following his address, Bunker responded fully to questions from the floor — 18 of them in all — by media representatives and Club members.

Lehrman, who chaired the Forum, introduced Bunker as "the nation's number one diplomatic troubleshooter" who has served his country under Republican and Democratic administrations alike. He praised Bunker's historic missions to Indonesia, the Middle East and the Dominican Republic in times of crisis, as well as his contributions as Ambassador to Argentina, India, Nepal and India.

The special dais guest of honor was Carol Laise, US Ambassador to Nepal, alias Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker. Also on the dais were Mary Hornaday, OPC secretary; Matthew Huttner, chairman of the OPC Foundation; Whit Burnett, chairman of the OPC Program Council.



At the conclusion of the evening, an OPC member expressed surprise that that no "peace pickets" had demonstrated outside the Club premises. His

companion was heard to reply, "I think it's because they figure that OPC stands for the Overseas Peace Club."

OPPENHEIMER EDITS JEWISH REFERENCE

John F. Oppenheimer of Wallenberg & Wallenberg, *The Bulletin* printers, is editor-in-chief of a Jewish encyclopedia in the German language, just published by C. Bertelsmann in Guetersloh. His co-editors on the *Lexikon des Judentums* are Hanns G. Reissner in New York, Emanuel bin Gorion in Tel Aviv and E.G. Lowenthal in London/Frankfurt. They were supported by 40 Jewish and non-Jewish scholars all over the world.

The 465-page volume with approx. 6000 entries, illustrations, charts etc. was recently presented to the public at a press conference during the Frankfurt Book Fair attended by more than 200 members of the press and of public life. It is interesting that this work — the first of its kind in Germany after 33 years — appears independent of the backing by any foundation or partisan organization. Its content centers around four main topics: history, religion, achievement of the Jewish people and the influence of the non-Jewish world on Judaism and Jewry and vice versa. This "Encyclopedia of Judaism" should be useful to any library, to high school and university students, in short wherever German is spoken, taught or understood.



BUNKER: Ambassador for Viet Nam was object of heavy press attention. (Photo courtesy Associated Press.)