

I would like to express my deep pleasure at Dr. Henry Kissinger's selection to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his Vietnam negotiating efforts. His skillful negotiation over the years did much to bring about an end to the longest war in our history.

The Peace Prize is a tribute to his patient efforts with a frequently recalcitrant adversary. But more importantly, peace was finally achieved because of perseverance and skill.

I regret, however, that this prize is attributed by so many to the personal efforts of Dr. Kissinger alone. In fact, the foundation for Dr. Kissinger's efforts were laid by a President who has been without peer in the art of foreign policy.

While congratulations are in order for the Secretary of State, let us not forget the fundamental policy which made the award possible. Let us not forget that the burden of our foreign policy fell upon the President. While the negotiation was done by Dr. Kissinger, he acted as the agent of a courageous President.

I join my colleagues in congratulating the Secretary of State for receiving this most treasured prize. America has been fortunate to have at its highest councils men of such skill and intelligence as Dr. Kissinger. It is fitting that this honor has come in the very wake of the criticism by those who either questioned the peace or the process that led to it.

When Dr. Kissinger receives his award next month, all American citizens should be proud of his achievement.

We must also remember, as the Secretary of State himself has stated, that the Peace Prize award is a recognition of the President's quest for lasting peace in the world.

It was not long ago that the negotiations which brought the peace became the subject of the most intense criticism and attack. That attack was directed at a President who decided that his policy would survive the depredations of those who yelled the loudest.

Again, congratulations to Dr. Kissinger. But more fundamentally, congratulations to President Nixon for following a policy which made the award possible.

Few people would have been more qualified to receive the Nobel Peace Prize than Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. It is he who daily engaged in difficult and arduous negotiation with an implacable foe. Awarding the prize to him for his efforts is a proper recognition of his role in bringing the Vietnam war to an end.

For a period those negotiations were kept secret from the public eye. Later, the negotiations were subject to the scrutiny of a curious world. Settlement was achieved under the most difficult of conditions.

As we Americans savor this honor to one of the Nation's most distinguished public servants, I would hope we would credit the architect as well as the carpenter. Men who make policies are too often forgotten in our rush to honor those who skillfully implement those policies.

President Nixon braved four difficult years when the only consolation he had was the rectitude of his policy. We must be thankful that his strategy succeeded just as we are thankful that Dr. Kissinger is properly recognized for carrying that strategy out.

Only the most bitter and diehard critics would deny to the distinguished Secretary of State the merit of his most recent honor. I will not join those critics. I would like to think that no one could be more pleased than I that the Nobel panel has made such a wise selection this year.

As President Nixon put it so well, this award is a tribute to the art of negotiating as well as to the more important end results of negotiation. No one can deny the sheer energy and creativity that Secretary Kissinger brought to the negotiating process as he worked with Le Duc Tho in gaining a ceasefire agreement in Vietnam.

I cannot refrain, however, from observing a most ironic condition of this award to Secretary Kissinger. It was only a year ago when the negotiations appeared finally to have borne fruit. It turned out that those hopes were premature, and I can only recall that it was the President of the United States who was the recipient of vitriolic criticism at the time.

Let us not forget that when the policy seemed to be under stress, it was the President of the United States who was flayed on the editorial pages and on the evening news shows. In the same spirit, we should not lose sight of where credit must go for success.

I rise to associate myself with the gentlemen who so rightly congratulate Dr. Kissinger's co-receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize. Those of us who are beneficiaries of peace have only the greatest admiration for those who help bring it about.

Those negotiations took place under trying conditions. Propaganda often was the keynote even as substance was being sought. Fiery rhetoric frequently clouded the progress which only a few men knew was being made. And throughout this process, Dr. Kissinger conducted himself with dignity.

I know, too, that Dr. Kissinger would be the first -- as indeed he was the first -- to recognize that his receipt of the Nobel Prize was really a recognition of the peace-seeking policies of the President he has so well served. I hope that this important factor is not forgotten by those who seem to think that foreign policy is made by the National Security Council.

Let us congratulate the Secretary of State. But let us also congratulate the President for guiding his actions with the deft hand of statesmanship. I have read much lately of the lack of foresight and even the outright misfeasance that the President has allegedly displayed in the selection of his lieutenants. I wonder of the same people who criticized the President's staff choices so eagerly will now be the first to make comment upon his selection of Dr. Kissinger to conduct the Paris peace negotiations.