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With our POWs coming home and our troop strength in Southeast Asia being drastically reduced daily, our thoughts regarding Vietnam have turned to post-war problems. Two such problems seem most prominent the question of amnesty and the question of rebuilding both Vietnams.

There are strong feelings on both sides of the amnesty question Ingeneral, I have taken the attitude that some form of conditional amnesty should be provided for those who fled the country to avoid the draft. On the other hand, military deserters should be forced to face the court action against them. By conditional amnesty I mean some form of alternative service that takes note of the fact that the draft dodger broke the law and should be required to do something meaninful on behalf of his country in order to return to his country.

Many Americans have grave reservations about sending our dollars to either of the Vietnams to help them rebuild. I admit to some real questions about such a program, too. We are all too familiar with the situation in Vietnam where graft is a way of life, and there are no guarantees that the money we send would end up doing much good.

However, it does occur to me that these two serious post-war questions - amnesty and rebuilding - might have a common solution. The solution that comes to mind is something I'll call, for want of a better title, the Vietnam Reconstruction Corps.

The VRC would be a group of Americans whose talents and muscle would be used to help rebuild Vietnam Basically it would be an organization with the prime goal of helping the Vietnamese to help themselves - not unlike the Peace Corps concept

The difference would be that most of the manpower for the VRC would come from those who evaded the draft during the Vietnam conflict

Amnesty for the draft dodger would be conditioned on a twoyear period of acceptable service in Vietnam as a part of the VRC That two-year hitch would be equal to twice the time of service that was required of a draftee who was sent to Vietnam as a

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 3, 1973—31 part of the military.

The VRC recruit would be paid at the same base rate that a military enlisted man made for Vietnam duty - less, of course, combat pay. Thus, the cost of the operation would be considerabley less than the billions of dollars being talked about for reconstruction and

In addition to using draft evaders to staff the VRC, it should also be open to any person who wants to volunteer for such duty There are many persons in this country who expressed concern about the ravages of war in Vietnam, and service in the VRC would give them an opportunity to put their actions where their concerns lie



