

To the Editor:

## WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER

As I listen to the pre-election speeches of the presidential candidates, my heart is pierced when I hear, “I know how to win a war,” or, “We’re not waving the right flag in Iraq.”

Coincidentally I am reading historian Doris Kearns Goodwin’s book, “A Team of Rivals,” describing the candidates prior to the selection of Abraham Lincoln. I read that candidate William Seward said he was eager to unify the nation and find a peaceful solution to the sectional crisis. Historians have discussed the question, “Why was there a civil war? Could it have been avoided?” No other period in American History has been written about more often. Each year dozens of new volumes appear about the War and its aftermath. It was four years of vicious, devastating warfare that claimed thousands of lives on both sides – 360,000 from the North and 260,000 from the Confederacy.

As I ponder man’s inhumanity to man, I focus on how to achieve progress in nuclear weapon disarmament. Every candidate for national office this year should be asked to support the elimination of all nuclear weapons and to commit us to enter treaties curbing their production and use. We need to finance diplomacy and the use of negotiation.

War is not the answer!

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