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Hottelet predicts cooling of violence

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IMMEDIATELY

HOTTELET PREDICTS
COOLING OF VIOLENCE

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MISSOULA--

Richard C. Hottelet, CBS news correspondent expressed hope for a summer "not so long and hot" in American cities, during an interview at the University of Montana recently.

"The violence of the spring has, in a sense, purged people of much of the passion that might have arisen this summer," he said. "It has shocked them into awareness."

Hottelet said he is optimistic about America's racial problems, indicating that "nothing short of full opportunity" is recognized as the answer to racial problems by Negroes and whites alike.

"I think the white community is now of a mind to give it full opportunity to them," he said.

Asked to comment on the upcoming elections, Hottelet replied that he doesn't think Sen. Eugene McCarthy is "going to get off the ground."

"Electing a man because he is a nice guy and doesn't like the war in Vietnam is something the American people won't do," he said. "There's a lot of noise for McCarthy, but the votes are for Hubert Humphrey."

"People who want a liberal man could not go wrong in voting for Humphrey," Hottelet said.

The correspondent said he doubts the appearance of a dark horse candidate at either of the major party conventions. "People aren't in the mood for wild experiments. We are in a time of serious trouble," he said.

The CBS newsman, who spent the summer of 1966 in Vietnam, called expectation of a settlement of the war in the immediate future "unrealistic." Hottelet termed "fantastic," columnist Drew Pearson's predication that the Vietnam conflict would end by next fall. Pearson made the prediction recently in a speech at UM.

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When asked his opinion of the job the American press is doing in its coverage of the Vietnam war, Hottelet offered reserved praise. "My criticism of reporting in Vietnam would really be directed to its concentration on the spectacular," he said.

"I would like to see more background presented to the public. But on balance people have a pretty good view of what's going on in Vietnam."

Hottelet, a CBS news reporter since 1944, said U.S. news media are not to blame for the recent upsurge of violence in this country. "Television doesn't bring trouble, but it has to keep an eye on itself," he said.

Hottelet called for acceptance of responsibility by the American public. He termed "escapism" the American people's claim that they are not being given sufficient information to draw conclusions on major issues.

Americans, who make up what Hottelet termed "the best-informed body politic the world has ever seen," must use information available in the media to the fullest, he said.

"Foreign policy in this country begins at home," Hottelet concluded.

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