

# McCarthy: U.S. 'guilt' about Vietnam lingers

By Donald Murphy  
News-Press Staff Writer

The Vietnam War has not faded from the American consciousness because "people have a guilt feeling about it," former U.S. Senator Eugene McCarthy told several hundred UCSB students Tuesday.

"I think there's a lot of residual guilt about it," McCarthy said. "To say the Persian Gulf War was going to erase the memory of Vietnam ... was just silly talk," he added.

McCarthy, whose grassroots,

anti-war campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination helped knock Lyndon Johnson out of the White House in 1968, spoke to the class via satellite transmission from a television studio in Washington, D.C.

The former Minnesota senator,



McCarthy

whose face is fuller and hair whiter than in '68, answered questions posed by UCSB religious studies professor Walter Capps, who was in the studio with him. McCarthy and Capps appeared as talking heads on a gigantic screen in UCSB'S Campbell Hall, where students also asked questions through a telephone link to Washington.

McCarthy traced his decision to run against Johnson to Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on the war in 1965-66.

"I concluded, with others, that

the people running the war didn't know what they were trying to do," he said. Or, if they knew, they weren't telling the American people, McCarthy added.

After the senate voted in 1967 not to debate the war, McCarthy said, he decided that a Democratic primary race was the only way to challenge Johnson's determination to continue the military conflict.

McCarthy ran a strong campaign in New Hampshire, where he finished second to Johnson with a surprising 42 percent of the Demo-

cratic vote. Johnson announced weeks later he would not run for re-election.

"In New Hampshire, you don't have to win, you just have to beat the spread," McCarthy said.

Students helped his effort in New Hampshire by working on the campaign and attracting press attention, McCarthy said. He praised the students' "moral and physical courage."

"We didn't anticipate winning,"

See MCCARTHY, Page B 2