

EDG CNVA "Direct action"

# DIRECT ACTION



## for a nonviolent world

New England Committee for Nonviolent Action

Telephone: 203-376-9970

RFD 1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384

Number 57 April 12, 1965



*Vigiling at the Sikorsky helicopter plant in Stratford, March 26.*

photos by Neil Haworth

*SIKORSKY: Brad Lyttle arrested for sitting down with six others at gate of helicopter plant.*

*MONTGOMERY: City Police break up a student sit-down protest near the Capitol building. Note kneeling policeman jabbing with his club.*

*Erica Enzer conducts a briefing session at high school seminar-work camp weekend at Polaris Action Farm.*





I arrived at the Sikorsky helicopter plant in Stratford with my mother and Phil Stiles about 11:00 Thursday night. There were a half a dozen cold-looking people standing next to the entrance to the plant with signs, not the least of which was an enormous "No More Helicopters For War" sign which two people held in full view of passing cars. The tombstone float of the Connecticut Anti-Communists was keeping solitary vigil across the road -- Mr. McCallum and his men had gone home. Mary Christiansen told us that the vigil had begun at noon that day and that we were planning to vigil in shifts during the night -- two hours of stoicism on the line and four hours of rest in rooms 116 and 118 of the Stratford Motel right across the street. We had arrived in the middle of a shift, so we stayed on the vigil until 2:00 a.m. Chris (Christiansen) talked to a young fireman for over an hour, but because of the physical set-up of the plant there was little chance of direct communication with passers-by.

It began to rain about 4:00 a.m. -- not to stop until noon. I was planning to commit civil disobedience on Friday so I stayed in the motel most of the morning to rest. Erica reported that a young man had said he was planning to run over anybody who tried to sit down at the entrance to the plant. After she and Ted talked with him for a long time, he said as he left, "If I listened to you all night, I'd end up picketing with you in the morning." My mother learned from the motel restaurant manager, who was very cordial to us, that old Mr. Sikorsky was upset by our demonstration, since, as he said, he had not originally intended his helicopters to be used for military purposes.

As soon as Dave Dellinger arrived -- about 11:30 on Friday -- those of us who had decided to commit civil disobedience gathered in the motel to plan our strategy. Altogether we made seven: Dave Dellinger, Brad Lyttle, Peter Kiger, Bruce Hicks, myself, and Jill Holden and Susan Williams, two 16-year-old girls from Massachusetts who had their parents' permission to participate. The discussion helped clarify for each of us what we wanted to do -- whether to go limp as we were carried off the road, whether to plead guilty at the arraignment, etc.

We rejoined the vigil line about 1:00. There were about fifty people in the line, five or six anti-Communists across the road, and many state troopers, policemen and newspaper and television reporters and photographers waiting for the civil disobedience to begin. About 1:20 p.m., the seven of us walked across the yellow "no-trespassing" line and sat down at the entrance to the plant. In one continuous motion, the gates to the plant were closed, an official read aloud to us the no-trespassing law, a loud speaker announced that we were all under arrest, and the policemen began to drag us off the road. They were extraordinarily gentle. I told the two policemen who were carrying me that I was sorry to cause them any trouble. They said, "That's o.k.," and one added, "I wish you would walk though, because my arms hurt." I laughed and said, "Mine kind of hurt too!" Thereafter they let me down gently to rest whenever they had to stop.

We were carried on a bus to the Stratford jail, where we waited for the trial that was especially held for us an hour or so later. At the trial we all pleaded nolo contendere to the charge of trespassing and made statements explaining the motivations for what we had done. Judge Williams was sympathetic. He asked us if we were planning to repeat our action. We said no, "on this particular day" we were not planning to repeat our action. He understood. He commended everyone concerned in the action -- the court clerks for working over-time, the policemen for their skill, the demonstrators for their restraint and "highest form of nonviolent civil disobedience." He ended with, "I cannot pass judgement in this case." It was quite an experience.

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#### VACATION AT POLARIS ACTION FARM

We have been making some preparations to have camping sites available for roughing-it type peace people who have a tent or trailer. Electricity will be available, with water nearby. 30 acres of woods, swimming nearby, a challenging program. Let us know if you are interested.



New England CNVA is sponsoring a two-day walk in protest to American military involvement in the war in Vietnam, as an expression of the growing resistance to this futile and cruel war. Our emphasis is on methods to oppose or withdraw support from U.S. military policy in Vietnam -- currently the most dangerous focal point -- and to offer more promising and peaceful alternatives to escalation and retaliation.

The Walk will begin at Walden Pond, Thoreau's beloved habitat, off Route 2, at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, April 14. The route will pass through Concord, where Thoreau was imprisoned, then on to Lexington via Route 2A and Mass. Ave., stopping for the night in Arlington Center. On Thursday morning at 8:30 we will proceed to Boston on Mass. Ave., stopping in front of MIT for leafleting (10:30), and at the IRS office on Ipswich St. (opposite Fenway Park) for presentation of tax refusal and protest statements to the District Director and for leafleting and talking (11:30 - 12:30), then via Boylston St. and the Tremont St. mall to 7 Beacon St., where we will leaflet for the remainder of the afternoon, concluding the demonstration at 9:30.

Since income tax time is here, and so much of the federal budget goes for military purposes -- nearly two million dollars a day for our activities in Vietnam -- it is most appropriate that taxpayers be encouraged to withdraw their support from U.S. military policies, either by refusing to pay part or all of their taxes, or by registering a protest if the tax is paid. As a precedent to tax refusal as a method of protest to war, we have Henry David Thoreau. He was imprisoned in Concord for his refusal to pay taxes to support American participation in the Mexican War, causing him to write his famous essay on civil disobedience.

We hope that as many as can will participate in part or all of the Walk. Bring comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather, sleeping bag for overnight. Food and hospitality for Wednesday night will be provided for those who need them. There will be signs and a special leaflet for the Walk, as well as "Thoreau Money" which was produced by CNVA as "money" which can be sent by individuals to IRS in lieu of or in protest to war taxes.

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JOIN THE SDS SPONSORED MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM APRIL 17

Many of you will want to make your anti-war protest at Easter time in Washington this year. If you find it impossible to go, many communities are sponsoring supporting demonstrations at home. Here are people in New England who are serving as contacts for information on buses to Washington and on local demonstrations:

- In Conn. Hartford - Alice Gurney, MI 9-3296, also 232-9521 and 232-3631; New Haven - Jerome Hamlin, 776-8596; Storrs & Norwich - Brian Cross (contact Hartford Peace Center, 232-3631); Southern Conn. - World Affairs Center, 227-6212.
- In Mass. Boston - David Katz, EL 4-6459; Amherst - Eliot Iserberg, 207 Davis St.; Northampton - Sue Herman, Franklin King House; Waltham - Jane Smith, 893-9629; Worcester - Philip Szenher, 755-5011, Arlene Gordon, 791-4701.
- In R.I. Providence - Stan Davis, Box 489, Brown Univ.; Kingston - Betty Smith, ST 3-8302
- In N.Y. Albany - Gary Delain, 727 Madison Ave.; Briarcliff Manor - Ron Fabor, 32 Stevenson Terrace; NYC - SDS, AL 4-2176; Westbury - Carl Griffler, Long Island Peace Council, 350 Cross St.
- In Maine Auburn-Lewiston - Virginia Chute 225-2238; Waterville - S.E. Johnson, Rt. 2, Oakland; Springvale - Mrs. Irving Kellman, 286 Main St.; Bangor - Lew Lubka, 223 Maple St.; Bar Harbor - Rhoda Snell, 21 Atlantic Ave.

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Since this notice is the only receipt for contributions that we send unless a receipt is requested, we would like to express our thanks for the following contributions: E&PO 5;Meth church 5;MS 20;EB 10;GP 10;1st Meth 6;TC 20;TM 2;BC 20;LRY 10;JS 25;FW 10;BD 100;PB 5;MW 2;BH 2.50;GJC 1;LPS 65;WG 4;PG 1;BD 20;EC 1;RW 5;E&PM 2;GS 10;Anon 1;K&TB 10;W&BS 10;PB 20;MM 5;AJ 2;PI 10;SW&BP 3;MM 20;FL 20;BPG 14;JW 20;MR 1;ES 7;MW.75;AJ 20;NF 5;MO 5;A&TG 25;DA 10;SF 3;JFC 2;LL 1;MM 5;HG 25;LP 1;TJ 1;RA 5;DH 10;VV 20;AS 5;T&PS 20;CM 10;JR 50;LLH 5;Mrs.SG 2;IC 5;I&RB 4;BB 2;CM 15;GP 10;DH 5;CW 1;KK 5;RG 5;PE 100;AS 3;LM 21;R&SC 200; cont. dish 18.39; G&MC printing; Barpali gross inc. 32.50.



Bob Swann was on a speaking tour in Maine recently, talking about his experiences while rebuilding churches in Mississippi, and about the New England CNVA program. A newspaper reporter in Lewiston interviewed him, and listened intently as Bob described the many facets of our work. Then the reporter asked the inevitable questions: "Where does your money come from, and what is your budget?" Bob told him our contributors provide most of our operating budget, which amounts to around \$15,000 a year. The reporter burst out: "Why, that's not even equal to the salary of a junior executive! What you people could do if you really had some money!"

I'm not sure just what we would do if we "really had some money", but here is a partial list of what we have been doing lately on that less-than-a-junior-executive's salary:

- 1) Planned, encouraged, assisted, and/or supported more than 40 demonstrations all over the region which have protested United States military action in Vietnam, including co-sponsorship with national CNVA of the major demonstration at the Sikorsky plant in Stratford.
- 2) Sent Bob Swann to Mississippi for 2½ months to rebuild burned churches. Bob and Ron Moose have just returned from a 1-month trip in the south with 6 students on their intersession period from The Meeting School of Rindge, New Hampshire -- an experiment with which the school entrusted us.
- 3) Preparing for 7-week Freedom and Peace Leadership Training Program to be held at the farm from April 12-May 29 -- Bradford Lyttie, Director.
- 4) Rebuilt and repaired several autos, so necessary to our program; remodeled facilities at the farm to handle seminars and training programs.
- 5) Continued demonstrations at every launching and commissioning of Polaris submarines at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut.
- 6) Held several weekend seminars in nonviolence and workcamps at the farm for high school and college students; three more planned for this spring.
- 7) Sent four people to Selma to join nonviolent demonstrations there.
- 8) Helping Providence peace actionists to start an on-going study-and-action program.

I could go on with a longer list, but I must also give you the other side of the picture. We have a "bills payable" folder totaling over \$2000, with barely enough money in the bank to send out this bulletin and buy groceries for next week. In addition, we just had a letter from COFO in Mississippi asking how many scholarships for the spring Training Program here at the farm we can provide for native Mississippians. Need I say more? We have to ask you, our loyal supporters, old and new, to provide the money for these expenses. Can you send some now? Thank you. Marjorie Swann

P.S. If you want to see our financial reports, just write and ask.  
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**LBJ RANCH VIGIL -- EASTER WEEKEND**

On April 17-18 people from Texas and Oklahoma will conduct a round-the-clock vigil at the President's ranch, Johnson City, Texas, asking for a cease-fire and negotiated settlement of the war in Vietnam. People from other states are invited to join. Contact Chet Briggs, American Friends Service Committee, 4717 Crawford Street, Houston, Texas.

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**NO TAXES FOR VIETNAM WAR** In addition to previous suggestions of ways in which you can refuse or protest federal tax money which supports the war in Vietnam, there is the statement being circulated by the No Tax For War In Vietnam Committee which you may wish to sign along with a large number of others. This statement is for those who refuse to pay part or all of their income taxes, or who keep their income below taxable level. Sign and send immediately to the Reverend Maurice McCrackin, 932 Dayton Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214.

Because so much of the tax paid the federal government goes for killing and torture, as in Vietnam, and for the development of even more horrible war methods to use in the future, I am not going to pay taxes on 1964 income.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



Plans are still tentative about our summer program. We have been so busy with present activities that not much thought has as yet been given to the summer, but we plan to have several short training programs during the summer. We expect Paul Salstrom to be back from his return trip to federal prison (Paul is a draft refuser) and several of the QWG walkers will be here and Bob Swann will be around, returned from rebuilding churches in Mississippi. Some of our people have been to Selma. All in all the staff will have rich experiences to draw upon. There will also be guest speakers to add variety and spice to the program. Tentatively we are dividing the summer into two sections: June 28 - July 31 and August 2 - Sept. 4. More details in next bulletin.

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GENERAL KHANH IN NEWPORT. WE ARE THERE.

When we arrived in Newport, R.I., on March 17th, the day General Nguyen Khanh was to speak at the Naval War College, we requested permission to hear the general and to give him a letter. Permission was denied, and we sensed -- four of us from New England CNVA farm who had been alerted the night before about General Khanh's visit -- that we were regarded as dangerous characters. We were told Security was terribly busy preparing for some expected demonstrators; we learned later that radio reports were coming thick and fast about us; newspaper people were looking for us. We went outside the Naval Base to set up our vigil, and were greeted by helmeted military police with a truckload of road barriers, several security police cars, and city police. Our quiet vigil and leafleting calmed the authorities, and we spent several hours handing out hundreds of leaflets to sight-seers who, hearing about us on the radio, drove by with their hands outstretched to take literature. As General Khanh was leaving with his escort of several noisy helicopters, we turned our signs upward and hoped that he and his military hosts would get the message -- there are Americans who want the slaughter in Vietnam to stop now.

M.S.

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LITERATURE

UNITED STATES vs. THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM -- Bradford Lyttle has written a vivid account of the experiences of the Q-W-G walk with the government and the attempt to go to Cuba in the SPIRIT OF FREEDOM last October. 15¢

MACHINE vs. MAN -- a general purpose leaflet for distribution at factories manufacturing weapons for war in Vietnam. \$1. per 100

THOREAU MONEY -- A unique leaflet in the form of money emphasizing opposition to paying taxes for war. Send with or instead of your income tax. Distribute as a leaflet. 1¢

AN EXPERIMENT IN THE SCIENCE OF NONVIOLENCE IN ALBANY, GEORGIA -- Brad Lyttle's story of the way the Q-W-G walk met the problem of challenging a totalitarian government to permit elementary civil liberties. 10¢

THOUGHT, TALK, ACTION -- Our new speaker and film brochure. free

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Mail to New England CNVA, RFD #1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384 Tel. 203-376-9970.

Please send me the following:

\_\_\_ UNITED STATES vs THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM @ 15¢. \_\_\_ MACHINE vs. MAN @\$1. per 100.

\_\_\_ THOREAU MONEY 1¢ each. \_\_\_ THOUGHT, TALK, ACTION - speaker and film brochure - free

\_\_\_ AN EXPERIMENT IN THE SCIENCE OF NONVIOLENCE IN ALBANY, GEORGIA @ 10¢.

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the work of New England CNVA. I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

My name and address on the reverse are correct.



VISIT TO SELMA  
 by Brad Lyttle Erica Enzer, Bruce Hicks, Peter Kellman and I are residents of Polaris Action Farm who visited Selma this past Month. This was my first participation in mass civil rights demonstrations. After a week in Selma, I was depressed by the violence and brutality in Alabama. During my stay, James Reeb died. Demonstrators were shot at with an air pellet gun; one Negro girl lost a tooth when a pellet hit her in the mouth. Hundreds of billy club armed state troopers, city policemen and sheriff's possemen surrounded and blocked off the Negro area where demonstrations were being organized. A group of demonstrators who ventured into Selma were threatened by a teen-aged gang. Jabbing with their clubs, policemen roughed up a student demonstration in Montgomery. A second demonstration was scattered by rope and club swinging possemen. And at a federal court hearing in Montgomery, State Trooper Director Al Lingo and other witnesses pieced together a picture of planned ambush, repression, misunderstanding and insensitivity. In years of demonstrating for peace throughout the United States, in western Europe, and in East Germany, Poland and Russia I had never seen totalitarianism as raw as that in Alabama.

The reaction of the Negroes and other demonstrators was magnificent, by and large. Never were the freedom songs sung with more spirit. New ones were composed while I was there. Stirring speeches by James Bevel, Hosea Williams, C.K. Vivian, Ralph Abernathy and Martin Luther King kept us informed of developments and roused us for each new protest action. SNCC students demonstrated seemingly without any concern or fear about the hostility of the authorities.

Nonviolence played a part in the movement's strategy. All participants were required to be nonviolent. Violent self-defense and retaliation were discouraged. However, the obvious gains were achieved by federal court orders and almost all of the movement's leaders appealed for police and federal protection.

Selma was a "crossroads of the world." I met dozens of old friends there, Unitarians I had not seen for years, members of other direct action peace projects, peace organization officers, people from San Francisco and Long Island. Their presence showed how modern communication and transportation can fit into a strategy of nonviolence.

I recommend that everyone acquire some experience in massive civil rights activities. They are helping to change the country for the better and advancing as well the cause of nonviolence.

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IF WISHES WERE HORSES

Our wish list is short this month. We are fixing up one of the chicken coops for a dormitory and lecture-study room. Red, orange or yellow denim or burlap curtains for the 7 windows (3½' long) would cheer the place up. With spring at hand, we are starting our garden. Vegetable, flower and grass seeds are needed.

CALENDAR

		NEW ENGLAND CNVA	BULK RATE
April 9-11	New Haven Youth CORE weekend at the farm.	RFD #1, Box 197B	US POSTAGE
April 12	7 week spring training program at the farm begins.	Voluntown, Conn. 06384	2 7/8¢ PAID
April 14-15	Thoreau Walk from Walden Pond to Boston.	April 12, 1965	Voluntown Connecticut Permit No.1
April 17	SDS sponsored March on Washington to End the War in Vietnam.	<u>RETURN REQUESTED</u>	
April 30 - May 2	Weekend for Hartford area work-campers at the farm.		
May 14-16	Weekend for Boston area work-campers at the farm.	Swarthmore Peace Collection Swarthmore College Swarthmore, Pa	