



direct action

for a nonviolent world

NEW ENGLAND COMMITTEE FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION
RFD # 1, Box 197 B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384

Tel. 203-376-9970

August 1, 1965

Number 60

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE THREATENS NEW ENGLAND CNVA

Low-pitched but persistent harrassment of New England CNVA by the Internal Revenue Service has turned into definite threats and action. An official of the Norwich office, Mr. Bileski, of the IRS has informed Bob and Marj Swann, Co-coordinators of New England CNVA, that he is filing "substitute returns" for the organization and for each of them personally for the years 1960, 1961, and 1962. These returns will be used as a basis for collecting any taxes IRS may consider due. The reason for the "substitute returns" for the Swanns is that they have been open conscientious tax refusers for some 13 or 14 years and have refused to cooperate with Internal Revenue by filing returns or providing information about their income and expenses. They feel that to afford such cooperation would be to assist the government in its preparations for war and prosecution of war in Korea, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, etc.

With regard to New England CNVA, upon the advise of a prominent local attorney and in view of the confusion which seemed to exist within Internal Revenue as to just what they did want New England CNVA to file and why, the Committee has not filed any returns for its general income and expenses, but has provided information on its sales of Barpali cloth, and some monthly financial statements. Such information has not satisfied IRS, which is now demanding to see all financial records of the Committee for the three years mentioned.

The background of the IRS story is, briefly: Not too long after the federal arrests of the Polaris Actionists who tried to board and succeeded in boarding the Polaris submarine Ethan Allen, and of Bob Swann for "aiding and abetting," Bob and Marj Swann and Ken Meister received summonses from the Willimantic office or IRS to bring in their personal financial records for inspection. We were given to understand that this action was taken at the request of or upon pressure from the Navy. Ken Meister did go to the IRS office; Bob and Marj invited the official to come to New England CNVA to talk with them.

There was no further word from IRS until about January of 1964, when Mr. Bileski demanded personal returns from Bob and Marj, and summoned Ken Meister and Gordon Christiansen to his office. At that time he stated that he had obtained records of checking account from the bank and that he considered every check that Bob and Marj had signed for the organization as personal income to them. (In actuality, no staff

member of New England CNVA or resident of the farm receives an income from the organization except for a \$1.00 per week personal allowance if they wish to take it to buy cigarettes, candy, etc. All checks signed by Bob, Marj, Ken, or Gordon are for expenses of the organization.)

Amidst repeated demands for Committee financial records to determine the personal income of Bob and Marj, the Executive Committee decided it would provide copies of some monthly statements, and that it would not under any circumstances provide the names of contributors or supporters. Early this year, 1965, Mr. Bileski made clear that he was now demanding a corporation return from the Committee. Upon the advise of an attorney, the Committee has taken the position that it would provide the information on Barpali, which can be called a business operation, but that no return need be filed on the balance of the Committee's income, which is almost entirely made up of gifts and contributions, which are not reportable under the law. Furthermore, the attorney and the Committee agree that New England CNVA does not meet the specifications for what IRS defines as a "corporation." Just recently the Committee has taken the position that it will not give names and present addresses of former residents and staff members.

The Committee had taken this position with regard to revealing names because we are all aware of the blacklisting, harrassment, and even persecution which has often been the lot of those associated with or

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ganizations variously advocating peace, civil rights, civil liberties, abolition of HUAC, open immigration, etc. Our attorney advisor considers this possibly to be a civil liberties case of considerable precedent.

The staff, meeting with Gordon Christiansen of the Executive Committee, have made tentative plans for certain kinds of action with regard to the IRS threat to disrupt the financial affairs and the program of New England CNVA. A leaflet will be made up, giving the background of the connection between federal taxes and the war in Vietnam. As soon as further overt action is taken by the IRS, picketing will begin at the Norwich IRS office, continuing at regular intervals. Nonviolent resistance action will be planned in case there is attempted seizure of records. Other action is being considered.

We ask your support on two grounds:

(1) On purely technical grounds, it is the considered opinion of our attorney advisor that we are not required to file an income tax return on our general income, and that sufficient information is available to IRS to reach this conclusion; and it is both his opinion and ours that the action on the part of IRS is intentional harrassment and perhaps even an attempt to close down New England CNVA; and (2) regardless of the technical grounds for filing or not filing, the major part of the federal budget is going to carry on the Vietnam war and other war preparations, including the development and construction of nuclear weapons, and we have a responsibility, an obligation, to actively oppose such activities by refusing to help pay for them.

We ask your support in several ways:

(A) continuing moral support by participation in New England CNVA and other non-violent peace action; (B) continuing financial support, which may be more seriously needed than ever before; (C) letters to IRS in Washington asking why vast amounts of time and money should be spent by the government to harrass an organization which obviously operates on a minimum budget and from which no one could or does gain any profit, to say nothing of a salary or income; (D) comments and suggestions for further action.

We in turn pledge to do everything possible to put our time, energy, and resources into opposing the war in Vietnam and all war preparations, and into proposing non-violent alternatives to bring about peace.

---Marj Swann

NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL by Fred Moore

Seven of us stood at various points on the hill where the fans flowed into the festival area. For three hectic days we gave out leaflets. A total of five thousand Washington August 6-9 Calls were handed out; several thousand leaflets against the war in Vietnam, plus other CNVA leaflets and bulletins were distributed. We could have passed out more as crowds continually arrived on thru Sunday.

The Folk Festival at Newport provided a special opportunity for New England CNVA to reach a restless, but generally receptive group of young people. We had hoped to solicit contributions and gather signatures to the Declaration of Conscience, as well as leaflet. The Newport City Council denied our application for a solicitors licence at their regular Wednesday night meeting. Due to the constant movement of people, the time necessary for calm consideration of the Declaration was often lacking and as a result few persons signed the document. Therefore we focused our efforts mainly on leafleting. Ideally, we should have had a "peace booth" inside the Festival grounds. Maybe next year.

* * *

"THIS IS REALLY WAR," PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Last week President Johnson ordered an increase in US troops in Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 almost immediately. He said, "This will make it necessary to increase our active fighting forces by raising the monthly draft call from 17,000 over a period of time to 35,000 per month and for us to step up our campaign for voluntary enlistments."

Johnson does not need the agreement of the American people to carry on the war. All he needs is their apathy---their lack of concern one way or the other. For as long as the people go along, paying their taxes, submitting to the draft, and daily abdicating their responsibility for the suffering and death in Vietnam, this war and other wars will continue. The government knows that by increasing the war effort a little at a time over the months, the public will begin to accept the war as a habit or a drug. Already a feeling of no other choice, of resignation, or of leave it to the experts, is widespread.

How do we halt and reverse this trend? How do we awaken people so that they see what is happening and will stand against the war machine?

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RONALD MOOSE SEPTEMBER 30, 1945 - JULY 1, 1965

When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd,
And the great star early droop'd in the western
sky in the night,
I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with
ever-returning spring.

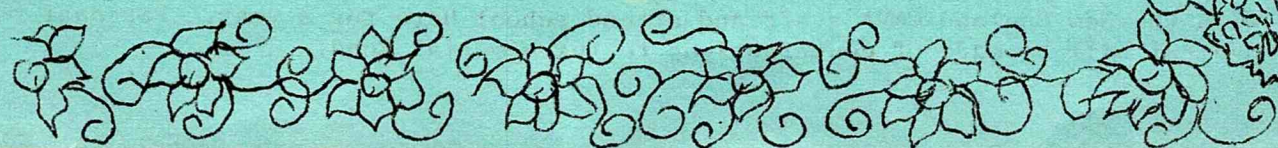
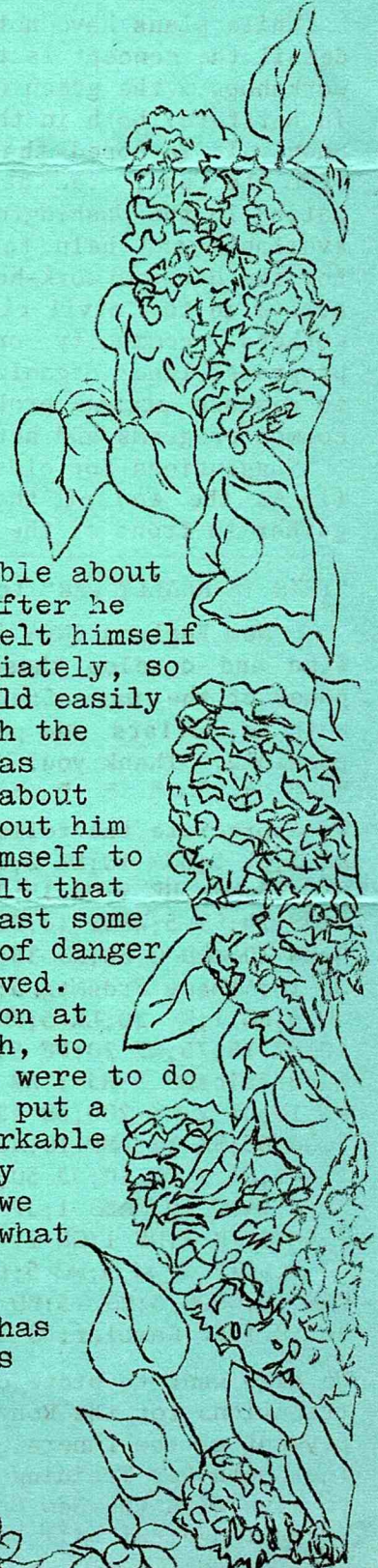
Ever-returning spring, trinity sure
to me you bring,
Lilacs blooming perennial and
drooping star in the west,
And thought of him I love.

Here, coffin that slowly passes,
I give you my sprig of lilac.

—Walt Whitman

When I heard how Ron had died, I was struck again by something that had always seemed to me remarkable about him. I'm told that the doctor who examined him after he drowned, said that he probably panicked when he felt himself going down, and filled his lungs with water immediately, so that there was no hope for him after that. I could easily imagine this happening. I was on the Walk through the South with Ron and he seemed to me a person who was terribly easily frightened. What was remarkable about him was that, given this fact -- if I am right about him and it was a fact -- he nevertheless committed himself to the kind of action that he did. I have always felt that most people on projects like that walk find at least some degree of positive satisfaction in the challenge of danger and of the kind of daily discomfort that is involved. But Ron never seemed to me to take any satisfaction at all in either danger or discomfort; they were both, to him, just something that had to be endured if he were to do what seemed to him necessary to do. I think they put a great deal of stress upon him. But this was remarkable about him, too: under stress, I never saw his very special sweetness and good humour evaporate. As we remember him, as we try to share with each other what he has left to us, my own prayer would be that we could take from him precisely this: in some extra measure the ability to feel so simply about what has to be done that our own fears and our own weakness come to seem to us irrelevant.

---Barbara Deming



Growing out of the plans for the Powder Hill rally on Vietnam August 1st, a representative group from the various sponsoring organizations (NECNVA, Yale - New Haven Committee for Peace in Vietnam, SANE, etc.) decided to hold a program on August 7th & 8th around the Washington Monument.

While plans have not been worked out in detail the concept is to hold open visible workshops on the green near the State Capitol in Hartford, both in the morning and afternoon. It is hoped that all those persons from the Conn. area attending and participating in the Washington workshops would be available and help to promote leadership for the Hartford workshops--bringing persons active in the civil rights movement, peace workers, community organizers in poverty programs, labor organizations, etc. together to discuss common problems and help forge common programs and actions.

Suggestions for closing around 4:00 pm.:
(1) At the end of the day everyone would gather in front of the State Capitol.

(2) All would join in singing civil rights and anti-war folk songs.

(3) One person from each workshop would come forward and make a brief statement or proposal (which that workshop had agreed on)

(4) Participants would walk in silence two at a time to the steps and put their gifts (clothes, blankets, medicine, money, etc.), large or small, in boxes on the steps as a visible token of identification and friendship with the victims of the Vietnam war. The government would be requested to send these gifts to Vietnam (however some other alternative may be necessary).

(5) The Declaration of Peace and the Declaration of Conscience would be read.

(6) Some or all would walk in an orderly manner from the State Capitol to the downtown local draft board office. There those who desire would openly declare their opposition and non-cooperation with the draft. Some persons may proceed to tear up their draft cards or burn them at that time. Only some of these suggestions may be used. Any suggestions and comments are welcome.

"THIS IS REALLY WAR" (continued)

New England CNVA is working constantly to publicly oppose war. It is our job to find and develop those nonviolent means and actions which are commensurate with the power of the war effort. Now we must increase our anti-war efforts. Your support, both in dollars and participation, is needed. Each donation makes more direct action possible. Thank you. ---F.M.
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We appreciate the following contributions received since the last Bulletin: DR 2;JS 10; AF 2;GL 5;ECA 10;DL 2;IH 25;MM 200;C&AT 10;FF 5;TS 40;AJ 5;JPS 40;TT-B 3;DP 5;SC 17;H&J O'C 15;Mrs.HE 5;DL 35;J&CS 1;CS 3;PW 25;BD 152;A&TU 30;MD 2;JR 10;MG 5;R&VC 15;JF 2;R&S C&JS 24;SS 5;W&BS 10;B&RB 50;MP 4;PB 20;JR 2;TE 20;BW 1.40;HK 1;WS 1;FW 10;RGM 10;VER 5; L&MN 10;M&D C 85;RS 36;N&HC 2;S&CK 5;K&PC 25;D&IW 25;LA 3;PK 37;R&SC 10;PC 1.40;W&DC 5; NF 10;Albany FrdsMtg. 5;FW 10;CG 10;LA 2;BD 100;R,V,&DC 25;DM 10;S&BS 2;SF 36;AG 1;JL 20; JW 5;RC 1;KS 20;LR 5;MM 75;B&FM 5;JK 20;R&VC 10;L&RS 5;HH 15;LG 5;HL 3;RCC 2;SB 8;WBW - 10;MK 18.75;MF 20;PF 5;AC 10;DK 2;HJ 5;VFO'D 1;WBD 1;MN 1;JS 2;CVP 3;PD 3;HW 1;J&RW 5;J C-BuffalosDS 5;HJ 2;HB 10;K&TB 5;LLeR 1;LR 1;DS 2;AP 5;LPS 50;JR 1;MC 1;MD 2.50;G&EB 10; FW 10;JS 2;MK 200;DB 12;PS 20;N&BG 25;AS 1;DM 1;JW 5;RDH 5;SA 5;CA 3;JF 2;DA 5;AJ 1;RWK 5;AC 65;SK 12;LMF 10;AJ 1;R&RH 10;AS 5;KP 10;R&DA 10;HNS 3;SM 2;HL 1;H&FP 5;MC 1;JG 5;L &EB 3;EG 2;DL 10;JJ 50;MG 10;SS 2;G.J.&ER 1;HL 5;GS-S 5;HC 20;DC 1;JEP 1;EEJ 1;RN 2;PC 1; MM 1;W&DC 10;M&BS 1;JP 2;W&AD 30;FB 1;RH&group 10;BR 20;DM 50;T&PT 10;MTC 3;IRJ 1.25;BF 1;IM 5;SB 2;DF 1;GL 2;WA 5;VG 15;GM 6;GLP 10;DE 7;SS 1;NKB 2;VS 5;EB 5;Mrs.JLC 2;GF 100; CG 5;W&TF 5;WG 5;MC 5;DE 5;MF 10;JP 5;MBR 5;WF&GL 20;MM 10;MAA 12;AP 1;JE 1;NF 10;MR 2; RAC 10;W&DC 5;BS 15;BD 100;B&FM food;AK fruit trees;MM books of poetry;TJ photo enlarger;SR 1960 Rambler;JS 100lbs. raw sugar; Mrs.S drapes; Anon. total contrbtns. 25.

We also want to state our appreciation for all the expressions of sympathy and the contributions for the Ronald Moose Memorial Fund. The Committee has decided that after payment of the funeral expenses, the Fund will be used to bring young people up from the South for Training Programs in Nonviolence, or in the case of two from Mississippi, to live with the New England CNVA staff and attend school here for a year. Personal acknowledgement will be made of contributions to the Memorial Fund.

I have been asked to give my impressions of the training session to the readers of the Bulletin. My living and working here at the Farm has given me many wonderful experiences to remember. I've seen and felt the sun and sky in a total way I can't get in the city. I've relished the smell of freshly cut grass, and the heavy, sweet odor of milkweed blossoms. Sand under feet is an important part of living at the Farm; you can't escape it. There's the whole wheat bread that's so good for you, and crisp vegetables at every meal. And in the special world of the training session, we will remember Ted Clark's bushy beard and the raucous, powerful voice of Bob Dylan.

The trainees have some other good things to take away. We have developed here, among ourselves, a rich feeling of harmony and unity. Drawn to this place and united by similar attitudes, we have often been searching for similar experiences. We came here with a concern for people that we wanted to express in a personal and immediate way. We've found ourselves working to see the idea of non-violence in practice in our lives from day to day. We've all tried to listen, grow, and change because of what we see and hear. A heightened insight into people's behavior has resulted for all of us from Ted's discussions and our personal friendships.

We've learned the value of tolerance and patience with others. Generally we are critical of authority and of established ways of doing things. Despite the variety of ages, from 12 to 22, the group has some pretty sharp and cynical perceptions of the modern world. We've shared these, and also reaffirmed our hope for a better and non-violent world.

Pat Keen, age 22

Please return to New England CNVA
PFD# 1 Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn.
Telephone: (203) 376-9970

_____ I can offer rides for _____ to
Washington, D.C., August 6 - 9.

_____ I need a ride to Wash., Aug. 6 - 9.

_____ Send me more information on the
six-week Autumn Program.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the work of New
England CNVA. I pledge \$ _____ a month.

The training session in non-violence starts August 1st and goes through the 21st. All trainees are asked to come by July 31, as we plan to go to Powder Hill for the State-wide rally on August 1st.

Resource people include Arthur Harvey (August 2 - 5), Gordon Christiansen (after August 10), Bill Davidon, Robert Gore, Brad Lyttle (after August 10), Michael Kirby, James Lieberman (August 21), Dave McReynolds, Ralph Templin (August 10 - 14), Sumner Rosen (August 15) and maybe Paul Goodman for a day. Trainees will probably wish to participate in statewide workshops on August 14 or 15, take a field trip to New Haven during the week of August 15 to observe the poverty program, and will undoubtedly desire to go to Washington August 6 - 9.

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— Trainees Visit Bruderhof —

I remember liking especially the pigeons at the Bruderhof; they flew. I asked one Brother whether they had bought the farm because of the real physical beauty and peacefulness. He answered that they had taken the cheapest land in price that they could get. Still, most pigeons don't act like birds in normal surroundings, flowers aren't usually either so abundant or so cared for, and the surroundings aren't usually so healthy even in a summer resort area like the "ice box" of Connecticut. Although it wasn't apparent, because it seemed so natural, it was the Bruderhof which created an emotion to itself, and filled the landscape unconsciously, with the same emotion.

Danny Cohen, age 14

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TRIP TO HIROSHIMA

Honey Knopp of the New England CNVA Committee, Farley Wheelwrite of National CNVA Executive Committee, and Leona Grant of Womens Strike left on July 30 for Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan to join in the 20th anniversary observance of the A-bombings and to meet with various groups of hibakusha. Marj Swann and Honey received personal invitations, following up their work last year with the World Peace Study Mission group of 25 survivors who visited 100 communities in this country. Marj was unable to go due to money and fatigue problems; Honey will however have joyful reunions with all our friends in the two cities, and will urge them to continue the work they have already been doing to bring the war in Vietnam to a halt. Particularly Honey hopes to talk with the women to encourage them to initiate a non-violent womens peace movement.

New England CNVA Announces a 6-week Autumn Program:
ON THE CREATION OF A NONVIOLENT PEACEKEEPING CORPS---
WORKSHOPS AND EXPERIMENTS IN TRAINING

Dates: From October 17, 1965 (Sunday) to November 27, 1965 (Saturday).

Co-directors of the Program: Bob Swann and Paul Salstrom.

Schedule and Subject Matter: Weekdays shall be used for reading, physical training, (also training in first aid, firefighting, and emergency relief work) and work within the New England CNVA program. Each weekend (Friday - Sunday) will be centered around two or more resource persons, chosen for special knowledge of one aspect of the overall subject. For instance, one weekend will host theoreticians of nonviolent resistance; a second will host individuals close to UN peacekeeping operations; a third will concern the UN's special agencies, voluntary organizations doing similar work (IVS-SCI, VISA), and some of the lessons learned by Peace Corps volunteers in the Dominican Republic; a fourth weekend will study in depth community development and power structures, with an eye to learning from SNCC and SDS activists how overseas constructive programs can take on political cutting edges.

Nonviolent Conflict Resolution: In the tradition of Gandhi and the Shanti Sena, an attempt will be made to integrate direct action with constructive program. The three remaining weekends shall be devoted to concrete proposals, such as (1) that the ground-work of the World Peace Brigade be used in developing new freedom projects in southern Africa; (2) that Canada, Ireland, Sweden, India, Ghana and Nigeria, as countries which contribute Special Forces to the UN be urged to consider the experimental formation of corps for that function which would receive training in nonviolence and would not carry arms; (3) that some of the program's participants take the initiative of declaring themselves an independent action or research unit, ready to relate to moderate-sized conflict situations in, say Latin America. It is expected that other proposals will arise from participants and resource persons.

For further information, write NECNVA. Applicants will be sent a packet of preparatory reading and a questionnaire about their special areas of interest. Suggestions and criticism welcomed.

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DIRECT ACTION BULLETIN
New England Committee
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RFD # 1 Voluntown,
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Return Requested

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