

DIRECT ACTION

for a nonviolent world



June 19, 1967

Telephone 203-376-9970

Number 79

JOHN-I-THIN STEPHENS TAKEN

Friends,

On May 31, John Stephens was taken by the federal marshals and state police.

Three days later five of us were in jail.

We have a lot of ex-walkers with us.

We have plans for a slew of summer projects.

If you don't get the connection, this is what is called a heart-rending FUND APPEAL. In order to operate, we need money. Please contribute as much and as quickly as possible so CNVA can keep direct action projects going.

Yours in peace,
Josh Kricker

CAPE COD VS VIET-NAM

Mike Colpitts has become the founder and guiding light behind a summer project that is novel and needed. The "Cape Cod Project" is proposed as a full time, summer long program to bring education on war and draft refusal and draft counseling to the swarms of eligible men at the Cape this summer. Right now, Mike and some of his staff are dynamically making arrangements for support, endorsement, housing, office space, and workers for this ambitious plan. Any help of any kind that anyone can offer the Cape Cod Project is urgently needed because the summer crowd is arriving now. If you can offer any aid and especially if you live in the Cape Cod area (Hyannis will be the headquarters), contact Mike in care of the Cape Cod Project, at the Farm.

Dennis Stavits



A U.S. Marshal goes down as another marshal and state troopers carry John Stephens out of farmhouse, and other pacifists block path. Photo by Bradford Lyttle.

That Wednesday, May 31, almost everyone from the Boston to Pentagon Walk for Peace was in Voluntown. Our reunion, full of flowers, guitar playing, and May in the Connecticut countryside was interrupted by Connecticut's state troopers.

John-i-thin Stephens sat on the couch with his wife, Candy, his wrist handcuffed to hers by their own choice. A marshal stood looking at John i-thin puzzled. How different his mood was from ours. How willingly he forced us out of our fun. How unable he was to understand why we felt we had to obstruct the arrest even though we knew he had the force to execute it.

Four hours later we sat down. The guitar playing was gone and so were most of the flowers we had picked. Twenty-five of us sat in the doorway or in front of John-i-thin. We let the police march in. Ass't Marshal Sullivan had had to call for reinforcements and thirty-five state police marched up Rte. 165, into the farm's drive

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New England Committee for Nonviolent Action
RFD 1, Box 197 B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384

ORDEAL AT HARTFORD

way and into the house. Then they marched out. I felt bodies going over me. A limp man passed over my head in the doorway. It was John-i-thin. I saw his feet disappear around the house. More troopers came over me, and then more. Steve and Michael had been sitting in front of me. Now they were gone and I didn't know whether they had been trampled on or whether they had left by themselves. I got up and ran with the other bodies down the hill. Several troopers ran carrying John-i-thin. Others ran trying to decide what we would do next. We ran to obstruct the exit and the police cars. I lay in front of the police car into which they had shoved John and wondered briefly how they had broken the handcuffs he had put on.

It was very clear that these state troopers weren't as gentle as Pentagon guards. They had one purpose - to arrest John-i-thin. They regarded anything in their way as an inanimate obstacle to be walked over or kicked aside. They dragged us away from the car wheels and threw us off the car hood. Later I was told by Donna that she sailed several feet into the air from the car top. I was dragged a few feet; a trooper twisted my arm around Tally's, who lay limp beside me.

When the police had us all down, the marshal's aide drove John-i-thin away. I got up and saw Candy standing...alone...watching the black car disappear.

The next three minutes revealed the physical wounds: Rebel's mouth and neck were bleeding, Mike's head was cut, Richard was bruised and Steve's sweater was in shreds.

But it only took a few minutes to get ice packs, and an hour to be on the way to vigil at the Montville jail where John-i-thin was being held. We vigiled and sat in at Montville and later picketed at Hartford State Jail for a week.

What about John-i-thin? I don't know him very well, but last night I finished reading Barbara Deming's Prison Notes, which tells of John-i-thin's and others' long jail fast in Albany, Georgia. John's eager and strong. He fasted for over a week after his arrest on June 1. He sends us word that he is prepared to face a prison sentence now. I wonder, however, why he should have to. John wants only to live in peace. He confronts the federal government and the war, as we in Voluntown also did on the day of his arrest. Donna's neck is still stiff. Mike can't open his mouth all the way. I don't feel particularly sorry for us, but a little puzzled. We had a right to our fun that day. We and John have a right to it every day. What is the nature of the state which sends police to violently carry a man from his home for refusing to kill?

--Citti Allsup

June 15...P.S. John-i-thin called tonight to tell us he is released on personal recognition by Judge Berk of San Francisco Federal District Court. John was flown to California 2 days ago. His attorney, Aubrey Grossman, received a continuance until June 29.



Just before the arrest. Citti Allsup, Chuck Matthei and Josh Kricker picket at Hartford State Jail in support of John-i thin Stephens, as young man in foreground watches.

Photograph by Richard Lema.

On Saturday, June 3, 10 CNVA members vigiled in front of the Hartford State Jail on Seyms Street to protest the arrest of draft refuser John-i-thin Stephens.

Twenty minutes later, three Hartford City Police cars arrived and six policemen got out. They were highly belligerent and told us to start moving in a picket line or they would arrest us. Although it would result in blocking traffic on the sidewalk, we decided to cooperate.

A person with whom we had been conversing Mr. James Byrd, went up to the police, presumably to ask why we were being asked to move. He accidentally brushed up against one of them and was arrested.

I asked why the man had been arrested and was arrested myself. Three other people from CNVA - Citti Allsup, Chris Gifford, and my sister, Candy Stephens - went up one after another, asking the reasons for arrest, and were each arrested in turn. Chuck Matthei, seeing us all being carried into a paddy wagon (all but Mr. Byrd refused to walk), blocked it and was arrested.

We were held until Monday, which was our date for court, all fasting since our arrest (Candy had been fasting since John-i-thin's arrest) and all refusing to walk. Sometime before the trial, the prosecutor dropped the charges.

At this point, I could bring up something about the First Amendment and freedom of speech but I can't help remembering something a friend of mine has told me. When the Quebec-Washington Guantanamo peace walkers went through Georgia, they talked about their rights of free speech and how the Supreme Court protects these rights. The answer the Southern police gave summed up the situation perfectly: "This ain't Supreme Court country, son."

--Josh Kricker

SOMETHING ABOUT OURSELVES (for our friends known and unknown)

The farm headquarters of the New England Committee for Nonviolent Action at Voluntown, Connecticut is a unique center which combines some features of a Ghandian ashram, of an intentional community, a "cause organization" office, and a youth hostel. It is a temporary or permanent home for anywhere from 8 to 35 persons at one time, and a guest house for as many as 25 more at any given moment.

New England CNVA is a pacifist organization which was initiated in the fall of 1960 after the summer-long Polaris Action Project in New London and Groton, Connecticut (sponsored by national CNVA) which vigorously protested the construction of Polaris submarines at Electric Boat Company and the "world's largest submarine base". Centered first in a large house in Norwich and a store front office in New London, New England CNVA moved in June of 1962 to a 40-acre farm in Voluntown.

Today, New England CNVA conducts a region-wide program in the six New England states, in Eastern New York State, and occasionally across the border with Canadians in the peace movement. Many national direct action projects originate with New England CNVA, and often are coordinated, staffed and partially financed by the New England group.

The regional program consists of a wide variety of activities; continuing protest against deterrence and Polaris submarines, numerous and diverse demonstrations, vigils, leafleting, picket lines, and frequent civil disobedience action at military bases, defense plants, federal buildings and other focal points. Longer direct action projects include walks for peace and extended vigils and fasts. Encouragement and assistance is given to local groups and individuals to undertake similar actions. Assistance includes mailings, poster preparations, printing of leaflets, and often participation and leadership by CNVA staff members.

Another major activity can be termed educational, and includes numerous speaking and film - showing engagements, T.V.

and radio appearances, and the "Peace Caravan" to college and high school campuses. In the past two years New England CNVA personnel have visited close to 100 campuses: setting up literature tables in prominent locations and being available all day for discussions and questions. Speaking in classes and department seminars, and in the evening at a public meeting or at the local coffee house, the Caravaners have been able to bring to thousands of college and high school students new information on the draft, the war in Vietnam, non-violence, and related subjects.

The farm at Voluntown is used for conferences and weekend seminars, work-camps, and training programs in nonviolence. The first direct action at the farm itself occurred recently when a staff member was arrested for draft refusal and 25 other staff and visitors engaged in non-violent resistance which took some 30 Connecticut state troopers and U.S. Marshals to overcome. These confrontations are likely to become more frequent as the rate of both conscription and draft refusal are increased.

Staff members of New England CNVA are selected after a 2-month trial period of living and working at the farm and must commit themselves to a minimum of 6 months' full-time participation. They receive no salaries, but do get maintenance and a \$1 per week allowance. The annual budget of between \$16,000 and \$20,000 includes all maintenance and program costs and is raised mostly with contributions. The organization normally carries a \$1,500 - \$2,000 debt.

Life at the Farm is in many ways communitarian, sharing meals, work, and often personal savings and income. Private rooms are usually available for long term staff members; guests stay in dormitories. A Discipline of Nonviolence and the Principles of Conduct are guidelines for both living in the community and participating in New England CNVA activities.

Persons interested in becoming staff members, or in visiting are urged to contact the farm in advance.

New England Committee for Nonviolent Action

RFD 1; Box 197B; Voluntown, Connecticut 06384 - Phone; 203-376-9970

delicate terror
fluttering like new leaves
in the wind,
in the sunlight

A child presses his chin to the fence
I give him a leaflet to take home to read.
"Bombs kill kids
and big people," I say.

People
running through rain filled patties
crouching in huts
with the still air dancing,
air filled with shrill death,
People lying dead in the rain.
Their eyes are still open,
the rain water filling their mouths.

The child runs into the house
and the door slams.

delicate terror
raging quietly
everywhere.

Patsy Richardson

...rocks are waaashed by the swiftly sand
smoothed and molded
molded and smoothed
waaashed waaashed and ground by the pound
ing of the force
ing of the force
waaashed
a grain remains of sand remains
sand waaashed waaashed waaashed
sand by force
is forced to rock
and rock to sand and sand to rock
more sand more rock more sand more rock
sock rand
rock rand
rock and sand
I am the rock you are the sand
sand am the rock I are the you
waaashed waaashed waaashed waaashed
waaashed...

Dennis Stavis

Alternative at Coventry H.S.

The administration at Coventry High School recently felt moved to institute a program of civil defense education for its seniors. However, one social studies teacher, Ray Ducharme, rushed to the students' rescue. Ray approached the officials with an alternative to the civil defense program, that the students might have a program of peaceful alternatives to war.

Surprisingly, Ray was allowed to go ahead with his peace program. I assume that the school officials thought the students would be hostile and give no support. Quite the opposite...when it was announced at the C.D. assembly for the first time that the students would be allowed to leave and attend Ray's meetings, 40 people got up and walked out.

Ray spoke at the first meeting himself. On the second day Chuck Matthei of CNVA went and spoke about nonviolence, noncooperation, and peace. Patsy Richardson, Mike Colpitts, Tom Elm and I came the following day and talked about direct action, our positions on the draft, the Vietnam war, the Boston to Pentagon Walk for Peace, religion, Joan Baez and the Institute she had helped found, and whatever else came to mind. Marj Swann spoke later on. Ray also invited the state director of civil defense for contrast.

The reaction of the students at Coventry High School reaffirmed my belief that the kids of this country are desperately searching for some alternative to the madness of our society. It would be more satisfying if more sympathetic teachers would invite CNVA or other movement people to speak at their schools.

--Bob Talmanson

Please fill out and return to NEW ENGLAND CNVA
RFD #1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384
Telephone: 203-376-9970

I plan to come to the Farm on _____
_____ (dates) to help. (Please give
advance notice; the Farm is very crowded now.)

Send the following items: _____ copies of "We Burned Every Hut!" (reprint of letter from soldier in Vietnam) - single copy free, 40/\$1.00; _____ copies of "Salisbury from Hanoi" (reprint of the N.Y. Times articles) - 25¢; _____ copies of "The Geneva Agreement" (excellent pocket-size booklet with map) - 25¢, 5/\$1.00; _____ copies of "Vietnam: The Logic of Withdrawal" (excellent new book by Howard Zinn, 131 pp. - \$1.25; _____ "Vietnam North: A First-Hand Report" by Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett - \$1.85; _____ copies of "We Won't Go" (reprints of speeches by Lynd, Bevel, Tatum and others at U. of Chicago Conference on Draft Resistance - 25¢; _____ free samples of statements by draft refusers.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for New England CNVA.

I pledge \$ _____ per month.

(Please check your name and address on reverse.)



Connecticut State troopers pull a protester from under police car as other pacifists at Polaris Action Farm sit in front of car in attempt to block arrest of John-i-thin Stephens.

Dr. Gordon "Chris" Christiansen is a former chairman of both National and New England CNVA, a member of the WIN magazine staff, a chemistry professor at Connecticut College, and the father of four children. But now his only task is to recuperate from a severe heart attack at St. Vincent's Hospital, 6th Ave. and West 11th St. in New York City. He'd like to hear from you.

AID and COMFORT

A sinister new plan has come out of the minds of even more sinister female peaceniks. When they pass their eighteenth birthday, they are writing their draft boards that would have power over them had they been men and telling the Selective Service that they will not register or co-operate in any way with the draft process. Then they simply sign their first initial and last name. Although seemingly legal this plan is proposed to throw confusion into the bureaucratic machine which will have to investigate all these letters. So why don't you write a friendly letter to your draft board?

--Dennis Stavis

THANK YOU

Thank you for the contributions we have received between May 16 and June 11: Concord Area 75 JR 15; SG 20; MB 5; LC 3.65; RM 1; SS 10; MH 10; LB 5; IJ 1.25; JJ 50; DI 25; DW 5; JO 20; RW 20; WL 5; JA 15 RC 2; BW 2; PC 5; MT 25; Anon .45; BB 35; RF 50; MS 10 FW 3; BM 5; DC 1; D VanH 2; RG 20; BS 10; DW 5; KB 10 JS 25; HF 10; TT 5; FW 10; MC 9.54; ST 20; R&DW 5; JS 20; RB 2; GH 1; EW 15; RS 10; LS 100; MM 5; JG 10; BQ 3; AFM 10; AS 50; BH 30; AS 2; RD 20; M&JG 5; GL 2; C&MP 25; BS 10; FHC 254.10; TE 5; JV 25; BW 1; JA 5; RM 10; JY 10; HR 5; WM 40; BD 100; Princeton FOR 40; Bennington Coll. 100; FK 30; EB 5; T McC 5; L&FT 5; SS 10; S&BS 2; Contribution dish 74.96; JA can of maple syrup; AS office furniture and equip.; BW shampoo and bed; ET apples from New Hamp.

Marriage Celebration

Suzanne Williams and Fred Moore declare a celebration at 3:00 p.m., June 20. The festive occasion, both joyous and solemn, will begin with a time of quiet in the field at the New England CNVA Farm. Dinner and partying will follow.

Fred Moore
Suzanne Williams

(Two dedicated young people, both New England CNVA staff members, will become united on this happy occasion. Fred has recently completed serving his two year prison sentence for draft refusal. In the past year, Suzi's exploits, both in and out of jail, have kept the peace movement on the edge of its seat as she courageously witnessed for peace and freedom.)

C.O.s IN & OUT OF PRISON

On June 6, ROBERT A. TALMANSON was tried in the Federal District Court in Boston for refusing to take a physical and for refusing to report for induction. Tally's trial was unusually long, because every letter that he had sent to his draft board was introduced, as well as leaflets he had sent or passed out there. Judge Murray was very reasonable and kept everything going smoothly. Even Assistant U.S. Attorney John Wall said, "Mr. Talmanson is not on trial for being a pacifist - that is an admirable quality." On June 7, a jury found Tally guilty on both charges; he will be sentenced on June 21.

--Richard Lema

Our family recently visited DAVID BENSON and TOM RODD at the federal prison in Petersburg, Virginia. Both are well and in good spirits. Tom will be released on parole on June 26, and will work at the Tatums' conference center in New Jersey.....Dave does not expect that his parole request will be granted, so he plans to continue learning carpentry and auto mechanic skills.

--Marj Swann

We farmers over here in Eastern Connecticut are always needing something or other to help us in our work, so here's a list of "appreciables".

- 35mm camera that works well
- 8 mm or 16 mm motion picture camera that works better
- Heavy duty truck (we even have a lightweight '61 Corvair truck we'll trade for it!)
- Wringer washing machine
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Arts and crafts supplies
- Big pots and pans
- Light meter
- Large tents
- Tarpaulins of all sizes
- Freezer (for all that garden produce)
- Beach umbrellas, picnic tables and benches for our newly-cleared outdoor meeting area
- Canning jars with screw tops
- We always need good cars

PENTAGON POSTSCRIPT



DeCourcy Squire arrested by Pentagon guards.

Photo by The Washington Post.

Suzi Williams, Chuck Matthei, Lou Waronker, and Peter Kiger remained in jail in Washington, D.C. awaiting trial for their "crimes" at the Pentagon after others had been tried by the U.S. Commissioner in Alexandria, Virginia, found guilty, given 30-day suspended sentences, and released on 6-month's probation. Suzi and Chuck were refusing to drink water as well as fasting; Lou was fasting but taking water. Anxiety mounted in those on the outside as we realized that Chuck had gone 8 days with no food or liquid, and Suzi had only 2 intravenous feedings in that period. We initiated a vigorous campaign to acquaint top officials in Washington with the situation, and to get them either to drop charges or at least to give proper medical examination and treatment.

For several days, the story was the usual one of bureaucratic rigidity and seemingly deliberate psychological cruelty. Finally, however, the determination of the 4 prisoners, plus outside support and the fact that they had already been in jail for 2 weeks, proved sufficient to get the charges dropped. We thank all those who sent letters and telegrams, or who made phone calls.

--Marjorie Swann

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FIRST CLASS