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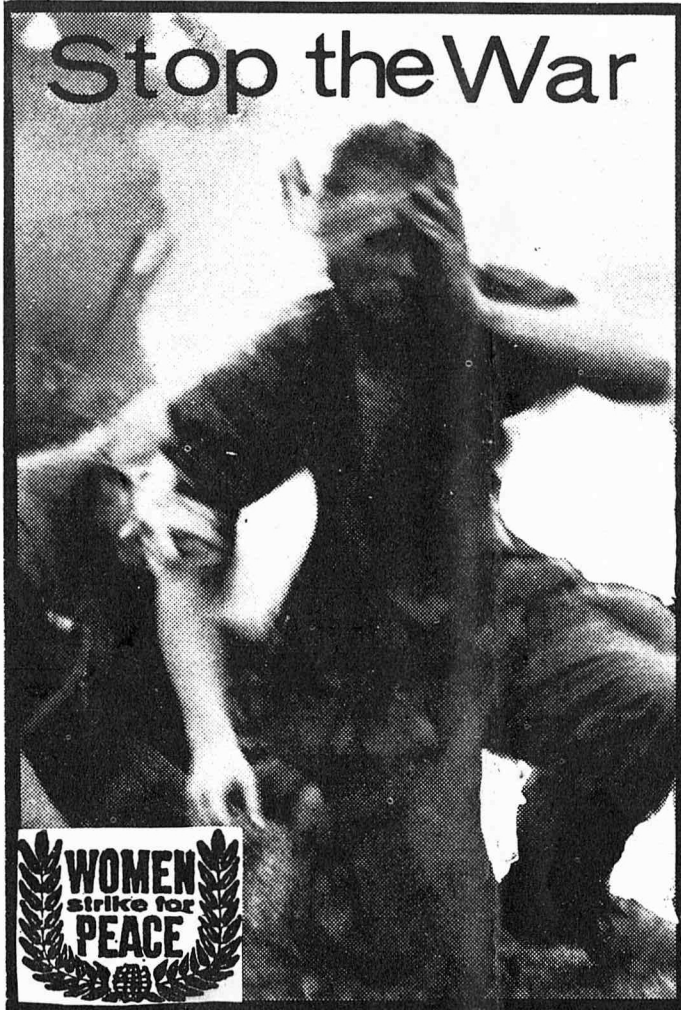
NATIONAL BULLETIN OF WOMEN STRIKE FOR PEACE
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JOIN THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AS WE DEMONSTRATE - - AT SELECTIVE SERVICE OFFICE
AND WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON D.C., SEPTEMBER 20 - - TO SUPPORT YOUNG MEN
WHO REFUSE TO FIGHT THE ILLEGAL AND IMMORAL WAR IN VIETNAM AND TO DEMAND
NO MORE DRAFT CALL-UPS.

Women Strike for Peace calls upon all American women concerned for the lives of their sons, concerned for the suffering of the Vietnamese, and for the strivings of the oppressed poor of our own country to escalate the protest against the war.

GIVE A DAY TO SAY "NO" TO THE WARMAKERS

Join with women from all over the United States Wednesday, September 20 - 12:30 pm, at Selective Service Headquarters, 1724 F St., N.W. Washington, D.C.

Increasing numbers of young Americans are saying "no" to the draft and "no" to the war in Vietnam. Thousands face jail, court martial, or exile because they refuse to participate in a brutal war they consider to be immoral and illegal. These courageous young men are standing up for all Americans who oppose the war, and hastening its end. They are the true defenders of freedom and justice.

WE WOMEN MUST STAND UP FOR THEM

Demonstrate your support for those who resist. Circulate the Statement of Conscience shown below. Get unprecedented numbers of women to sign. Your local WSP office will have Statements or get them from the New York office. We will present those collected by September 20 to General Hershey, National Director of Selective Service, at our demonstration in Washington.

WOMEN'S STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE

Increasing numbers of young Americans are finding that the Vietnam war so outrages their deepest moral and religious sense that they cannot serve in the Armed Forces while it continues.

As Americans they have been taught respect for the rights of others and to stand up for their belief in justice.

They now refuse to violate these principles. They refuse to be sent to Vietnam to kill men, women, and children who have never harmed them and who have never threatened our country.

As mothers, sisters, sweethearts, wives, we feel it is our moral responsibility to stand beside these brave young men who refuse to participate in the Vietnam war because they believe it to be immoral, unjust, and brutal.

Too many men have died. Too many more will die, unless they have the courage to say "No!" We can help give them that courage by giving them our support.

We believe that support of those who resist the war and the draft is both moral and legal. We believe that it is not we but those who send our sons to kill and be killed who are committing crimes. We do, however, recognize that there may be risks involved, but because we believe that these young men are courageous and morally justified in rejecting the war regardless of consequences, we can do no less.

We urge all women to stand with them and with us.

Circulated by Women Strike for Peace, 2140 P Street, N.W., Wash. D.C.
TO BE PRESENTED TO GENERAL HERSHEY, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF SELECTIVE SERVICE AT A NATION-
WIDE DEMONSTRATION OF WOMEN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AT SELECTIVE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS,
1724 F St., N.W., Wash. D.C.

STATEMENT BY DAGMAR WILSON

Women identify with black Americans who through frustration have been forced to rebel in order to draw attention to the denial of their right to participate in the forming of our common human destiny.

The appeals of women to abandon the arms race and direct attention to improving the lot of the human race has fallen on deaf ears as have the legitimate demands of our fellow black citizens for the basic rights of human-beings.

Implicit in the rejection of our appeals to humanity and reason is the rejection of us as human and reasonable. By ignoring our needs and our humanity those in power reject their own humanity and thus pursue a course of ultimate self destruction.

So we are saying to those in power, look at our needs and you see your own. If you will not see, we must compel you to see, by whatever means are at our disposal.

This is the reality behind the Black rebellion and behind the women's Peace Movement.

WSP Annual National Meet September 21-23

The site of the annual WSP conference has moved from the mid-west to the far-west and now, finally, to the nation's capitol, Washington D.C. The date and place were chosen to coordinate with the anti-draft demonstration of September 20 and to encourage a widespread participation in both.

That WSP, a non-membership alliance of thousands of women working in autonomous groups, has met in a constructive national conference for six consecutive years is a testimony to non-organization. Because we are committed to peace, to understanding what motivates American women to seek peace, to translating ideas into vital programs, we emerge from a fog of disorganization to that wonderful state of consensus each year.

Planning ahead has never been a strength of WSP. We are stronger on immediate response. But we try. Naomi Komorowski, Mary Clarke and Ruth Meyers were designated at the National Consultative spring meeting to act as a temporary steering committee for conference agenda items. Traditionally (after six years we have traditions) the establishment of a permanent steering committee is the first order of business of the conference.

The purposes of the conference: exchanging ideas for peace actions, formulating programs for the coming year, analyzing current problems and philosophic changes, will best be served with the aid of as much advanced thinking as possible. Send suggestions for agenda items and ideas for discussion, as soon as possible, to Ruth Meyers, 799 Broadway, N.Y. 10003, who will act as secretary for the agenda steering committee. And, if you have thoughts on a particular phase or direction of peace activity or have worked successfully on a project, please consider preparing a paper for the conference and notify the agenda committee.

...Ruth Myers, New York

NOTE: A pre-conference Issues for Discussion will be mimeographed and sent to Steering Committees for local distribution IF enough material is received by WSP national office by August 31.

WSPs attending national conference who will need hospitality, please contact national office.

Communication from New York

WSP AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR NEW POLITICS CONVENTION

WSP has been invited to attend a convention called by the National Conference for New Politics August 29 - September 4, in Chicago.

The NCNP was formed in 1966 by a group of individuals whose stated purpose was to aid local political efforts around the issues of peace, poverty and civil rights by making available funds, volunteers, information to local organizations which sought to run candidates and to build permanent political constituencies at the grass roots level.

The NCNP now proposes "conversion to a membership organization" inviting individuals and organizations to become charter members.

The convention will seek to "debate policy objectives, political strategy and perspectives...and determine responses to the 1968 election ...and determine the structure, program and leadership for the NCNP..." In addition, it will concern itself with political electoral activity, it will address itself to "other kinds of tactics of creative disorder: sit-ins and marches, rent strikes and labor strikes and school boycotts. We plan to invent our own institutions, to found neighborhood governments based on neighborhood power;..."

It proposes three categories of persons to attend the convention: delegates, representatives and observers. A delegate is a person representing a local political or community organizational group, if accredited as much. A representative is an interested individual not affiliated with any organization. An observer is a person from a state, regional or national organization. For full information on voting procedures and application forms, write to NCNP Convention Center, 1517 Howard St., Chicago, Ill. 60626.

The New York Coordinating Committee of WSP - a) taking into consideration the consensus at our last WSP national conference that women should participate in political action in broad coalitions around the issue of peace on a congressional district level, thrusting within the political parties, where possible and outside if necessary, and b) recognizing that WSP is a movement which has never participated as a member in a membership organization, makes the following recommendations:

Question 1: Should WSP participate in the NCNP convention?

Answer: Yes

Explanation: The potential 51% women's vote for peace, if organized politically, can be decisive on Vietnam and related issues in the 1968 Congressional and Presidential elections. WSP has a special responsibility to involve women in political action and to address itself to the special role of women in the 1968 elections. However, WSP participates with others, albeit from its own vantage point, in discussing and influencing the political course which can best bring about a change in politics, parties and candidates.

Question 2: Should we participate as delegates, observers or as representatives?

Answer: As delegates, voting by consensus, after caucus before each vote, subject to approval at our own national conference in September after the convention.

Explanation: WSP makes policy by consensus agreement. WSP has a policy of individual WSPs attending national and international conferences as observers without vote, and as delegates instructed in advance to present previously agreed upon positions. Our participation as delegates is being recommended with the stipulation that we vote as a body of the whole by consensus after caucus at the convention; where there is no consensus that we record the abstention of WSP as a whole. In this way it is possible to participate in a gathering which includes many individuals, small organizations and groups in formation, in a manner reflective of our relative size and influence, and at the same time keep final approval of recommendations open for our own national meeting. We suggest this procedure as an alternative to participation as observers.

Please communicate to the Washington Office the names, addresses, telephone numbers and dates of attendance, of each WSP planning to attend the pre-convention and/or convention, so that there can be further communication with respect to the time and place for the caucus at the pre-convention and the convention.

...Prepared by Bella S. Abzug, New York Political Action and Legislative Chairman, with the assistance of Judy Lerner, Westchester; Shirley Margolin, Queens; Martha Kahn, West Side; Laura Edelman, Bronx; Ruth Myers, Nassau; Bea Friedman, Brooklyn; Miriam Chessman, New York.

2 Chicago WSPs Arrested at Draft Center

Two Chicago WSPs were arrested August 7 at an Army induction center and trial began the next day. Jayne Switzer and Faith Bissell were among about a dozen women passing out leaflets to draft inductees as part of a regular WSP program that has gone on for the entire summer. An officer inside ordered the young men entering to throw the leaflets into a trash container. When the WSP leaflets were used up, 2 women went inside the center and retrieved leaflets from the trash box. The incensed officer then demanded that all leaflets brought in by the men be crumpled and thrown away. Whereupon, Jayne and Faith re-entered the building and explained to the men their legal right to read and keep material. Police were called by the officer and both women were arrested.

21 year old Faith refused to cooperate with what she felt to be an illegal arrest and was carried by the arresting officers. She also caused a minor sensation when she demanded to be allowed to nurse her infant, brought down to the jail by her husband. Police matrons were completely uncooperative. But Jayne and Faith were both released that evening on \$25 bail. The next morning Jayne told the Judge she needed the \$25 for groceries--and the money was returned. Women and children crowded into the court for the first day of the trial.

Ann Arbor Reports In

It's high time you had a communication from Ann Arbor. Everytime the MEMO comes we read it eagerly and every month it's the same thing - news from everywhere but here - because once again we forgot to send any to you.

Ann Arbor Women for Peace have been frantically busy with Vietnam Summer - there are five cooperating organizations plus many previously "unattached" people. We have a full-time office and many projects. The most exciting, I think, is the peacemobile. We bought an old bookmobile, painted it bright yellow with orange trim and letters and take it everywhere - fully stocked with books, leaflets, papers, posters and coffee and, as of today, the Philadelphia WSP records. We have had marvelous success with it. We go to whatever local "do" there is - from church suppers to the annual art show - throughout the county. We were in the 4th of July parade (sponsored by the American Legion) in Ypsilanti (the local newspaper criticized the "large yellow vehicle" but the American Legion thought we had a right to be there.) We visit the parks and playgrounds, the Farmers' Market, any place where people come in bunches. We sell and give away literature (\$75. worth last Sunday morning). We talk and listen. We supply coffee and/or tea and some sympathy. And every week about a thousand people come through the peacemobile.

Vietnam Summer and Women for Peace have also undertaken canvassing throughout the city of Ann Arbor - door-to-door stuff - with varying success. Several neighborhood "coffee hours with discussion leader" have come from this.

There is also a "letter writers" committee - which isn't a kaffeeklatch sort of things where people meet and write letters but rather a group of very diverse people who can't, for whatever reason, do more public things. Each week the chairman makes up a page or so on some news story of interest about the war or some related topic, gathers background material and pertinent facts, mails it out to his committee (which is quite large - some 50 or so) so that they may write intelligent letters to either government people or newspapers here and around the country.

Also one of the cooperating groups has been sponsoring weekly lecture programs on Vietnam. These include panel discussions and straight lectures and the whole series has been very well attended - never less than 200. This Sunday we will participate in a silent vigil on Hiroshima Day outside several of the largest churches in town.

Of course WFP continues our weekly radio programs. The programs vary widely - from historical analyses of the War and specific ideas for ending it, to a discussion of the Detroit riot of last week.

I know we've mentioned these weekly programs before, but we'd like to tell you a little about them again. WFP have 10-15 minutes every Monday morning (re-broadcasting in the evening) on a daily program called "Public Forum." This program offers time to any "responsible" group in the community. The spectrum of opinion is very broad (The

John Birch Society has a regular slot, too.)

I know many WSP-WFP groups have found it difficult to get radio time and perhaps urging this kind of program on a local station would help break the ice. Any interest group or person can get our scripts for \$1 each. Recently we have gained more confidence and don't use scripts so much. Still, if anyone is interested in sample scripts or in our procedure, address: A.A. WFP, 1546 Barrington Pl., Ann Arbor, Mich.

We are still prepared to send teams of women out for "toy" talks. We had some success with this last winter and spring and expect to have several speaking engagements this Fall as nursery schools get underway again. We also have a list of make-it-yourself toy kits which we made up and distributed widely, by request, to several nursery schools. These are on the peacemobile along with a small toy display and a set of large lego for children to play with while their mothers "shop" for peace literature.

Several of our projects have been taken over by community groups, which is the best of all possible goals, as we see it. The Committee For Responsibility, for example, is now totally a community group with wide support and an imposing list of sponsors. If only we could work ourselves out of every job that way. If only there were no longer a need for us. How glorious it would be to close the kitchen door on the mimeograph machine; if only I could think of nothing but how big everyone's feet have grown and worry about nothing but the high cost of shoe leather.

Before I end, let me give you a few figures about our Vietnam Summer Project. We have more than 200 people working actively and hard. All of the women active regularly in WFP are working in Vietnam Summer. It is hard to tell where WFP leaves off and Vietnam Summer begins. We help in the office, in the peacemobile, in canvassing, etc. Vietnam Summer works in such a way that if we - as WFP - wish to prepare a leaflet or speak from a certain point of view about a specific issue - we can do it thus: "This leaflet (or this talk) prepared by AA WFP in cooperation with Vietnam Summer," and any other group can do the same thing.

There now, Mrs. Editor, cut and slice as you see fit, but let this long letter make up for our non-letters all these months.

...Nancy Gendell, Ann Arbor Mich.



MRS. JOHNSON CAME TO NEW YORK TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL BOUQUETS . . . AND SHE GOT THEM FROM THE OFFICIAL SOURCES . . . BUT FROM THE PEOPLE SHE GOT SOMETHING ELSE.

demonstration sponsored by the Women's Strike for Peace and R.I.D. (Republicans, Independents, and Democrats). About 200 women, included playwrights, painters and socialites, passionately voiced their feelings about the First Lady.

"I am not against her personally—but her husband's policies."

"She is interested in beautifying America, when U. S. troops are defoliating Vietnam.

"She is here tonight for the sake of children . . . isn't she interested in the children in Vietnam."



Ten women, mostly members of "Women Strike for Peace," protested the lack of white people who are sympathetic to Negro demands

Mrs. Jo Ann Collier

said she feared that violence in Newark and Plainfield would spark an anti-Negro violence through white backlash.

"We support what the black people are demanding," she stated and noted that "the white people should not interpret what the Negroes are doing as an attack against white people in general. The white people shouldn't let their race feelings get stirred up," she added.

Compared With War

"White people have been afraid to support the black peoples' struggles against the National Guard and police," she said, and emphasized her point by comparing recent racial violence with the war in Vietnam.

Members of the group mostly housewives from the Twin-County Area, also are opposed to the Vietnam war. Mrs. Collier said

Despite the fact that the Mayor of Detroit had a network of citizen sentries, including spies planted among groups of hostile angry Negroes, his warning system failed to detect the rumbles of a revolt. Five days later the result was 37 dead, 3,500 jailed, 2,000 in the hospital and over \$200 million of property damage.

One thing the revolt was not. It was not a massive Negro uprising against white people. Instead it was a demonstration of a slum community overrun with rats, unemployment, poor education - and no way out.

The revolt raged rampant after approximately 8,000 of Michigan's 9,998 national guardsmen had been called into the area and lost control of the situation.

Many of our women are working around the clock in helping to relocate families without homes. Food is being collected and a fight is on to stamp out the black market and high cost of food. (milk \$1 a quart). The curfew is still on and probably will continue all week end. It is impossible to continue our work with Vietnam Summer.

In viewing the scene it hits one that had the money, that was found in a hurry to supply troops and extra police, been used to help the people, it would have begun to alleviate some of the problems causing the rebellion. It's revolting that money can be found quickly to quell people in Revolt - whether at home or in Vietnam. It is never there when it is needed to help people in Peace. Something don't add up!

...Olga Penn, Detroit

THE BLACK REBELLIONS

her group has picketed the draft board at 108 Church St., every Saturday since February.

The members of the group handed out leaflets bearing a newspaper account of 16 persons listed "as among those killed during the last four days of racial violence in Newark." It lists 14 Negroes killed and one white detective.

Mrs. Butler expressed a similar opinion to that of Mrs. Collier when she said, "It isn't right for Negro demands to be put down by the police and National Guard."

At one point, the demonstration was interrupted by plainclothes Patrolman Donald Bowling who told the women he didn't think it was a good time to be demonstrating.

Bowling did not demand that the protestors disperse, he suggested it. The demonstrators refused explaining that they were helping the situation.

Bowling said they could stay at the corner until 6 p.m. but had to leave at that time.

Tom Hayden: The Occupation of Newark

The New York Review of Books, August 24, 1967. 250 West 57th Street, N.Y. 10019

• • •
We will never know the full story of how these troops and the police hurt the black people of Newark. But there is now sufficient evidence to establish the main features of their behavior.

Trigger-happiness because of fear, confusion, and exhaustion: • • •

General and deliberate violence employed against the whole community:
On Friday night ten Negroes were killed, 100 suffered gunshot wounds, 500 were "treated" at City Hospital, and at least as many were arrested or held. By Sunday night another ten were dead, at least fifty more had gunshot wounds, and another 500 were in jail. People were stopped indiscriminately in the streets, shoved, cursed, and beaten and shot. • • •

Cold-blooded murder: An evaluation of the deaths so far reported suggests that the military forces killed people for the purposes of terror and intimi-

• • •
dation. Nearly all the dead were killed by police, troopers, and Guardsmen. The "crimes" of the victims were petty, vague, or unproven. None were accused by police of being snipers; only one so far is alleged to have been carrying a gun. Several of the dead were engaged in small-scale looting at most. The majority were observers; ten, in fact, were killed inside or just outside their homes. Seven of the dead were women, two were young boys. • • •

THE EVIDENCE points to a military massacre in Newark rather than to a two-sided war. This was not only the conclusion of the Negroes in the ghetto but of private Newark lawyers, professors of constitutional law, and representatives of the state American Civil Liberties Union. They charge that the police were the instrument of a criminal conspiracy "to engage in a pattern of systematic violence, terror, abuse, intimidation, and humiliation" to keep Negroes as second-class citizens. The police, according to the complaint, "seized on the initial disorders as an opportunity and pretext to perpetrate the most horrendous and widespread killing, violence, torture, and intimidation, not in response to any crime or civilian disorder, but as a violent demonstration of the powerlessness of the plaintiffs" • • •

To the conservative mind the riot is essentially anarchy. To the liberal mind it is an expression of helpless frustration. • • • both assume that the riot is a form of less-than-civilized behavior. • • •

• • • similar concepts, a third one must be asserted, the concept that a riot represents people making history.

The riot is certainly an awkward, even primitive, form of history-making. But if people are barred from using the sophisticated instruments of the established order for their ends, they will find another way.

Roots of Rioting

To the Editor:

In describing looting, assaults and arson alone, the crimes of economic and social policy, which Negroes do not make, are unjustly omitted. To do too little to relieve the agony of Negro life is as inflammatory as inciting to riot. To put an Asian war of dubious national interest far above domestic needs in the order of priorities and to pit it against reforms that were delayed a century is worse than a blind policy; it is a provocative policy.

There is blood on the hands of some Negroes who will, and should, pay the price society exacts. What of the blood on the hands of a Congress that sneered at a modest bill to control the rats that daily bite babies in the ghettos; that emas-

culated a Model Cities program; that killed rent subsidies; that with Administration cooperation is more than halving desperately needed anti-poverty programs?

Should not all the culprits be put in the dock together, white and Negro? Negroes have awakened to their rights and dignity and to the unutterable wretchedness of their lives simultaneously.

It will take more statesmanship and more sacrifice by the white society to solve this problem than is presently manifest. Without it, harmony will continue to elude us because the day is past when the violence of the white majority can serve to quell the stirrings of a people deprived and rebuked for 350 years.

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.
Atlanta, July 28, 1967

Same Proposal Evokes Opposite Response In 2 Areas - -Montgomery County, Md.

By Norman Solomon

A group of county citizens, many of them parents, has asked the county school system to inform high school students of the legal alternatives to the draft.

The Montgomery County Section of the Washington Area Committee on the Draft says it specifically objects to the little-known fact that only the United States military has access to the otherwise closely-

guarded lists of graduating seniors.

the group requested in a letter to Board of Education President Clifford K. Beck that "some similar arrangement for the distribution of information on conscientious objection be made with some responsible local group."

The military is said to use the lists to send graduates information on opportunities in the armed forces.

Pointing out that the Selective Service Act is a complicated document of several volumes, the group wrote, "We

feel that you should recognize an educational, legal and moral obligation to these young men so that they may know and consider all the legal alternatives provided under the Selective Service System."

The draft committee has requested that a condensation of the Selective Service Act and its alternatives be made available to high school students through the school system guidance departments.

The group has also asked that equal time be given for conscientious objector viewpoints when military recruiters visit

Draft Alternatives

Draft requirements and military service opportunities are explained fully to county high school students. Guidance counselors work closely with students who are at or near draft age and military recruiters visit the schools to explain their particular branch of the service and the advantages it offers.

There is little or no dialogue, however, on the alternatives to the draft. Many students are unsure or altogether ignorant of them. And yet the alternatives are clearly spelled out under the Selective Service Act--all perfectly legal and proper, formally enacted by Congress and part of our system of laws.

Now a group of countians has asked, according to a story appearing elsewhere in this issue, that this situation be changed. Their proposal makes sense.

The group wants experts on the subject of draft alternatives to be allowed to speak at schools as military recruiters do. It asks that guidance counselors make information available about draft alternatives. And, in addition it wants lists of graduates to be open, as they are to the military, to groups seeking to make high school students more knowledgeable about the legal draft alternatives.

The request seems altogether reasonable and proper. We hope it is considered favorably.

Thursday, July 13, 1967

Montgomery
County, Md. SENTINEL

School Superintendent Homer O. Elseroad has ordered that "a concise synthesized review" of military draft regulations and alternatives be drawn up by the county school system for distribution to all high school seniors as part of the current counseling program.

"We are, indeed, interested in giving the best possible information to our students regarding this Act," the superintendent wrote recently to the group, "and are also interested in presenting this information in a complete and objective way.

"Since there is a possibility that we have not been doing this, we will analyze and review our procedures, revising them as appropriate."

Information will be included about conscientious objection,

he noted.

In another major move, the county school head launched an investigation into the present policy of giving the military sole access to otherwise closely-guarded names and addresses of graduating male students.

"Since our practice of releasing this information to the armed forces has been in existence for a number of years," he said, "I have asked that a review be made of this policy."

-- Columbus, Ohio

Since February, Columbus Women for Peace has been in correspondence & discussion with the Board of Education over the failure of the schools to present the legal position of C.O.'s in their assembly programs at which military responsibilities of young men are made clear.

Feb. 8 -- to: Inter-Church Board from WFP: ...at a school assembly an Army Colonel informed the senior high students of their responsibility of registering for the draft and ...opportunities available in the armed services. No mention was made of a C.O. alternative. A student (son of WFP'er) stood up and simply stated that any of his fellow students who hold such objections are within their legal rights...

During the day many teachers delivered classroom lectures on the need to support our country...the colonel called the principle to ask whether the student...was a "trouble maker".

...request the Inter-Church Board to address a letter to the Board of Education requesting assurance that at all such assemblies the complete law (including the legal provisions for C.O.'s be explained.

April 11 -- to: Superintendent of Schools; from: Executive Director, Inter-Church Board... assume all facts about selective service and its alternatives are explained as part of the educational process...pleased to know precisely what the policy of the Board is so we may reply (to WFP)

April 18 -- To Executive Director, Inter-Church Board; from: Superintendent of Schools ...Historically, the Columbus Public Schools has cooperated with armed forces...in making clear to each senior boy that he is required to register...basic step in meeting his military obligation...

Firm in our belief that this is a part of good citizenship training. It is the law of our great nation and we can do no less.

April 25 -- to: all Columbus High School Principals and School Guidance councilors; from: WFP... In the next few weeks, many of the young men must make a moral decision which may mean life or death to them in spiritual as well as physical terms. They should make this decision with full information on their legal rights under the present draft law and with competent advice from counselors...

Please confirm a date and time at which we can make a full presentation to your students...

May 1 -- To WFP; from: Principal West High School... request...not accepted. As a veteran of World War II, I am certainly not in favor of this action and feel that patriotism is still in style.

May 2 -- To: WFP; from: Principal, East High School... your request to explain to the students how they can avoid conscription...not approved...

May 16 -- Statement to Board of Education by WFP... request that Board...insure that legal provision for C.O.'s be included in all assemblies and classrooms in which military responsibilities are presented. ...request that staff and counselors be informed of provisions of law.

June 20 -- Statement of Columbus Public Schools for Board Meeting... We firmly believe our program of informing the youth about the Military Training Service act is educationally sound...Our plan is to continue the assembly programs...

We distributed C.O. information at 6 of the 12 city high schools as the students entered in the morning. Because we did not have the cooperation of the principals or Board of Education the leaflets were distributed from the side walks surrounding the schools. The response of the students was excellent and we are now getting inquiries for C.O. counselling.

Our plans for the Fall, at this moment, are to follow up with distributing C.O. information at the high schools.

...Doreen Wohl, Columbus, Ohio

Congressional Threats to Dissent

THREAT #1: H.R. 421 - The "Anti-riot" bill.

This bill passed the House on July 19 by 347-70. Possibly it can be stopped in the Senate. It could apply to any of us, civil rights or peace workers.

For example, under its provisions, any peace demonstration at which there occurs a "riot" (defined in the law as: "a public disturbance, involving acts of violence by assemblages of three or more persons, which poses an immediate danger of damage or injury to property or persons") would make liable to arrest as having incited the "riot" those who crossed state lines or used the U.S. mails "with intent to incite a riot, or to organize, promote, encourage, or carry on a riot.

Sounds far-fetched? If this bill had been law on June 23, the "public disturbance" in Los Angeles could have brought the arrest of the speakers who had crossed state lines to speak as having intended to incite the "riot." Or it could apply to the sponsors of the demonstration who used the U.S. mails.

It does not matter how the violence gets started. It could even be caused by the police or by counter-demonstrators. Yet the speakers, or the sponsors, could be charged with having intended to incite the violence in their speeches or literature. We would then have to go to Court to prove that the charge was false. Instead of being used for peace work, precious money for bail and legal expenses, and valuable energies and time, would be tied up in fighting criminal charges under this bill against peace movement leaders. If convicted, the penalty is five years in jail, \$10,000 fine, or both.

The bill also states: "Inciting a riot shall mean urging or instigating other persons to riot, but shall not mean the mere advocacy of ideas or the mere expression of belief" but this is what would have to be proved in Court. This language would not prevent the initial arrest where the Government chose to interpret a speech or literature sent through the mails as intending to incite the "public disturbance."

Where does this bill stand now? On August 2, the Senate Judiciary Committee began public hearings. Several Senators on the Committee opposed the bill but said that as long as it was being considered, everyone should be heard, not just those whom Chairman Eastland had asked to testify. But Eastland said he would not let the hearings drag on too long. Ask the national office of the various organizations you are affiliated with to give testimony on the dangers of this bill.

What to do about it? Write your Senators, the Judiciary Committee, and your local newspapers. Getting on record publicly against this bill now (all the public education you can do) will also help to create a public climate against enforcement of the law if it is passed. Unpopular laws are difficult to enforce. WRITE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL emphasizing his duty to protect the right of dissent. Ask him to testify against it in the current Senate hearings.

THREAT #2: H.R. 8 - The Pool Bill.

H.R. 8 has been reported out of HUAC and could be placed on the House calendar at any time. The bill provides a heavy fine and jail sentence for anyone 1) who obstructs the movement of military equipment or personnel, or 2) who gives anything of value to any person or group from a government with whom we are "in armed conflict." The first part of this bill could conceivably be applied to some of our draft resistance activities.

What to do about it? One good way of fighting this bill is to join the Quakers and others sending medical aid to the North Vietnamese war victims! As their numbers grow, it becomes more and more difficult for Congress to pass a law that would put hundreds of Quakers (and WSPers?) in jail for 20 years (and/or fine them each \$20,000), as the Pool bill would do. Be sure to give anything you do plenty of publicity.

Of course, write your Congressmen, but also your Senators. Last August, Sen. Dirksen (R-Ill.) said the bill would be passed in the Senate over his dead body. It passed the House but did not reach the Senate before adjournment. Mention the fact in your letters that five Departments of the Government testified against it last year: Justice, Defense, State, Commerce and Treasury. Attorney General Ramsay Clark said it was unconstitutional. Ask your Representative to request that H.R. 8 be kept off the House calendar.

THREAT #3: New HUAC Hearings. (date and place not announced as of Aug. 3)

On August 2, HUAC voted to conduct public hearings to expose "Communists" in the civil rights movement as a cause of the "riots." With Congressional immunity from libel suits, HUAC can call anyone a "Communist" -- and usually does! As we know, HUAC especially thinks that peace activities are subversive. It would be delighted to find that civil rights workers in the "riot" areas are working with peace workers. This could intimidate many people otherwise ready to oppose the war. Both white and black people oppose the Vietnam war; we must protect each other and do everything we can to frustrate this phony HUAC "hearing" aimed at our black friends.

How can we do that? Use the weapon of ridicule; many Congressmen are sick of HUAC's foolish "hearings" and feel it should stay out of the delicate "riot" situations. Write your Congressmen that, as a WSPer, you know how ridiculous HUAC is. (The WSP hearings were very embarrassing to Congressmen.) Make fun of HUAC in Letters to the Editor. This hearing can have serious effects on both the civil rights and the peace movement, but our best weapon against it is ridicule. Use it however and wherever you can.

...Donna Allen, Washington, D.C.

Appeal From Greece

LETTER FROM YIOURA (This letter, written on a scrap of paper, was smuggled out of the prison-island of Yioura, Greece, and reached London in June, 1967.)

On the morning of April 21, Athens was not awakened by the milkman but by the rumble of tanks. Those few shops which had time to open, quickly shut down again. Streets were deserted. Noisy Athens appeared a strange city - inhabited only by the army and police.

People were asleep as police rushed into their houses and got them out of bed. Tanks and armored cars stood outside your door. Telephones were cut and the big city turned into many small isolated houses. Those who had time to turn on the radio heard the decree declaring martial law signed by an anonymous Prime Minister and anonymous cabinet members! Police hastily arrested men and women giving no answers to their protests, not allowing them to take even blankets with them. Everyone was told "the Chief of the local police wants you for a few seconds."

Thus, in a few hours 1500 people were brutally torn away from society; 1500 households overwhelmed by anxiety over the fate of relatives. The city's life seemed to have stopped, nobody conversed with the arrested people. Only the Piraeus General Security gave a strong warning of what was to come by barbarously beating those arrested. After a while soldiers with bayonets fixed and machine guns ready squeezed the human freight into jeeps and transported it to 3 camps set up in Athens...at the race course, the football grounds of A.E.K. and Karaiskaki. Thus began the operation "persecution" which ended in so many people being thrown on to the strange uninhabited island of Yioura which has no port, no water, no vegetation.

Democrats, resistance fighters, communists, socialists, liberals from the cities and countryside, workers and intellectuals, fathers and mothers, old, ill, crippled...all found themselves in Yioura. Not even the seventy year old Vlassis, nearly bent double; not even the crutches of the crippled, not even the pregnant woman, or four year old Makis who was with his mother, moved the law of the military fascism. The country's leading intellectuals like 80-year old Vasilis, Rotas, the engraver Vaso Katraki, the poet John Ritsos, were thrown into Yioura. Ilias Iliou, the parliamentary leader of E.D.A. was sent to Yioura to demonstrate that the May 28 elections were off.

A CAMP ON THE RACE COURSE: The race course camp went through 5 days and nights of horror. 470 people were squeezed under the stands. There were no toilets and when people had to relieve themselves they were escorted by soldiers with fixed bayonets. In front of the door soldiers in tanks aimed their guns day and night from 2 tanks. Machine guns pointed at the prisoners continuously...On Sunday afternoon, people were not allowed out for their natural needs and the door was closed. Silent anxiety spread through the room. At about 11:45 a major of the guards entered and called the M.P. Ilias Iliou to come out. He was pulled to the left side of the door as he went out...and with sticks hit on his hands, legs and head, then bloodied his face with punches. A doctor among the arrested gave him first aid when he was returned 20 minutes later. Terror reigned in the room.

On Monday morning the major in charge pretended that he did not know anything, and assured the prisoners about the safety of their lives. The same evening they beat up 2 others.

On Tuesday morning they brought in the Cypriot Ilio Ioannides and the Mayor of Kalithea. That afternoon, while Resistance hero Panayiotis Ellis was returned from the toilet, the black-beretted captain shot him twice at point blank range, suddenly and with no reason. Ellis died instantly, his lung pierced. The prisoners began shouting and protesting. The director was forced to meet a delegation who demanded assurances for our lives...For 5 days the prisoners in the race-course lived lives of doom. Everyone was psychologically ready, calm and determined, sending his last thoughts to relatives and waiting helplessly. At 2 a.m. of Wednesday morning, they were awakened to start their journey to Yioura.

A.E.K. FOOTBALL GROUNDS CAMP: 2 dressing rooms were used for the prisoners. 180 people lived in the larger room for five days and were not allowed out at all. A tunnel used by the football players to go to the playing field was used as a toilet by these 180 people. About 100 people were squeezed into the other room. The prisoners slept on the bare floor in shifts because there was not enough room for all of them to lie down. There was no fresh air at all. The guard consisted of army units, under the charge of a

black-beretted major who ordered the soldiers to keep up continuous shooting into the air. The camp gave the impression of being a battle ground. Shots followed every demand by prisoners to be allowed to go for water or to the toilet.

KARAIKAKI CAMP: The Karaiskaki football grounds were used for prisoners from Piraeus. There were two toilets and two water taps for the 600 people. None were allowed to go out at all. Very few were properly clothed, and here, too, they slept in shifts on the floor.

The Piraeus prisoners arrived at the camp after being brutally beaten in the Security Building. Arriving in such horrifying condition were the Mayor of Peristeri; Trade Union leaders were especially brutally beaten; resistance fighter Diakrousis was beaten till he was unconscious and the same thing happened to Venieri, an old woman and mother; The dentist Elli Ioanidou had all her ribs broken and was beaten over the liver. The military doctor, when he saw these people, said, "Were they beaten by cannibals?" And the Army told the police: "We will not accept them in the condition in which you are bringing them to us."

TRANSFER: For 5 days those arrested were completely cut off from their relatives. Nor did the arrested know what was going to happen to them. We lived in fear. ...until we were awakened for the journey to Yioura, the hell haunted by human bodies and condemned by the world, that was being reopened by 1,350 Athenian and Piraeus citizens.

By May 15, 6,299 people inhabited the rock island. The climate is such that it kills even the natural vegetation. Strong winds sweep it every day. The weather changes from hour to hour; south winds, north winds, dampness, cold and heat. 1,742 have been put in the only "building" on the island; a dungeon used by the ancient emperors and described by Court of Appeals Judge Bizimis in his report as "hellish." Here the new city of fascism is being built.

FOOD: It is supposed that 17 drachmas is spent on the food of each prisoner daily. This, however, is impossible. Transport to and from Syros is difficult and is done rarely because of the weather. Thus, the prisoners are being given the remnants of the army food supplies which have gone bad. For days we ate only bread. The parcels and money sent us by relatives are being held in Syros. The Ministry's announcement about meat, eggs, etc. as being food for the prisoners could be a joke if one could laugh with the hunger of 6,500 people.

The water must be transported from Piraeus and stored. There is barely enough for drinking and is just bearable for that. We cannot keep ourselves clean and the situation is made worse by the lack of a sewage system. The uninhabited island, suddenly occupied by 6,500 people is becoming a source of infection. Initially, open space was the only toilet. After old sewers (trenches) were repaired by us, leading to small gullies, the sea in these places has become foul. Thus, even the sea cannot help us keep clean.

HEALTH AND FAMILY CONDITIONS OF PRISONERS: Of the 1171 prisoners in Sector C, 425 (35%) are gravely ill. Whole families were brought to Yioura, mothers with babies, 58 husbands with their wives. 21 mothers have been separated from infants of one month to 3 years of age. 11 of these women are here with their husbands (so the infants are not even with their fathers.) 16 mothers are here with children under 6 years old. 43 mothers are here with children up to teen age...

Yioura, 5/15/67

Helena Bena was arrested on the night of the coup. She is a prisoner on the island of Youira. Helen is one of thousands; but she is also one of us. She was the representative of the Greek women at the Hague Conference and Demonstration organized by WSP against the NATO proposal for a Multilateral Force. Helena has a four-month old baby, born prematurely - she had been trying to have a baby for some years - and the baby was barely three months old when the police forcibly separated the infant from its mother. Because we know Helena Bena we can make a special appeal on her behalf; Ask your Congressmen to make inquiries about her and urge her release. Also as a matter of humanity, urge humane treatment of prisoners. Ask Congressmen to inquire about the prisoners. Pressure for their release.

People who escaped the coup and thousands shocked by the repressive measures of the junta are organizing a resistance movement. They need money desperately. If you can raise or send any, it should go to: League for Democracy in Greece, 376 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C. 1, England. Money is also needed to send blankets, soap, food, medicines, etc. to the prisoners (probably through the International Red Cross) and perhaps you may find it easier to raise money for such specifics. Please...these are people who have been fighting with us for peace.

...Norma Spector, N.Y.

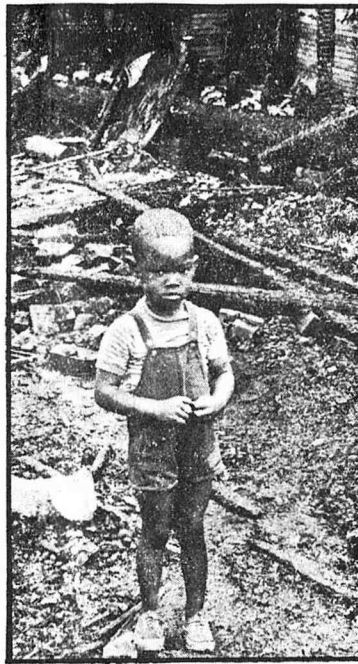


HONOLULU, Aug. 8—Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) said today that “the Great Society has become a sick society” by trying to cope with Vietnam and Detroit at the same time.

“Each war feeds on the other,” said Fulbright.

“At home, largely because of neglect resulting from 25 years of preoccupation with foreign involvements, our cities are exploding in violent protest against generations of social injustice.”

He said war-anxious citizens are not likely to show compassion for their neighbors, adding, “The war in Vietnam is poisoning and brutalizing our domestic life.”



Detroit's superintendent of schools presented a bleak picture to a Senate subcommittee yesterday a result of last month's riot's.

No school buildings were destroyed, Drachler said, but the schools must face problems ranging from emotionally disturbed youngsters who were “traumatized” by the violence.

“I visited six schools in the ghetto areas the day we resumed,” Drachler said. “The stunned look of fear on the faces of the little children was far worse to me than the burned-out buildings. Can you imagine what it must be like to live through something like that at the age of five or six? We need money for counselors and psychologists to help these children when our schools open in the fall.”

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