



The importance to the general movement in America of the involvement and leadership of Third World and white working-class youth can not be stated too strongly. It is these men and women and their brothers and sisters already in the unemployment lines that will be the backbone of the movement in the coming years.

GI projects and organizations have been integrating the struggle of enlisted men with the struggles going on in the civilian community. GIs have been active in labor strikes, campaign to free political prisoners, tenant strikes, etc. Women at most projects are working with the wives and dependants of the GIs and there is an organizing project at the major WAC base. GIs have, of course, participated extensively in the anti-war movement. On Armed Forces Day last May 17, there were anti-war demonstrations at over 50 bases, for example the march by more than 1,000 active duty GIs at Ft. Hood Texas.

All of this has not gone unnoticed by the pentagon. Repression in the military has been greatly intensified. Military stockades are designed to be so inhuman that death on the battlefield is preferred to confinement in a brig. In order to deal with the growing political insurrection of GIs, especially Black GIs, the stockades have been turned into concentration camps of unbelievable brutality. These conditions have, over the last 2 years, sparked literally dozens of stockade uprisings many of them resulting in the murder of inmates by the guards. Behind the wall of military secrecy little news of the beatings, gassings, and killings has leaked out. Cut-off from the civilian community and operating under "military justice" the brass is able to frame and jail GIs almost at will. The only defence the GIs have is the solidarity of their brothers and sisters. A case in point is Pvt. Billy Smith who is on trial for his life at Ft. Ord Calif. The brass is trying to execute him for a crime to which they have no witnesses and no evidence, other than the statement by Billy's commander that he is a "troublemaker". Billy's brothers are not going to let the officers murder him, last week over 200 black GIs staged a march through the base to begin a Free Billy campaign.

One thing that the GI movement needs is civilian support. The need for money is critical. Existing projects have been unable to implement desperately necessary programs because of lack of funds. GI organizations at many bases have asked for projects to be set up but there is ~~xxx~~ no money for new projects. Legal costs are skyrocketing. Every week new underground papers are launched, all of them depending to one degree or another on civilian support. The GI also needs political support from the civilian community and involvement by civilians in the defense of military political prisoners.

"It's always been my contention that if we could raise the hard left military and political cadre in fascist America, that cadre would come from either the prisons or the dissident elements within the armed services."--George Jackson.

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