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RESIST

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TEMPORARY STEERING COMMITTEE

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University of California
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Wesleyan University

MARCUS RASKIN
Institute for Policy
Studies

SONDRA SILVERMAN
Brooklyn College

DAN STERN
Chicago Area Draft Resistance

ROBERT ZEVIN
Columbia University

MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, held at the New York office of Ramparts, 250 Fifth Street East, on Sunday 18 February, 1968. Members present: Sondra Silverman, William Davidon, Noam Chomsky, Robert Zevin, Richard Mumma, Paul Lauter, Richard Ohmann, Dan Stern, Louis Kampf, Grace Paley. Others: Florence Lauter, Robert Rothstein, Robert Rosenthal, Leon Wofsy, Bruce Kirmse, Jamie Kelem and Helen McCormick.

Membership. There will be a list of most interested and committed people and a larger group of less committed people, most of whose names come from the support statements. Eventually we may ask for a small contribution from those who wish to be kept on the mailing list.

Finances. The balance as of February 15 was \$14713.26, including the money in Travellers Checks. \$19,000 has been received since the January 14 meeting, mostly in response to a fund-raising letter and to the indictments. Almost 300 people have pledged a total of \$2300. monthly, to support RESIST.

Grants. Funds totaling \$5300 were granted to the following groups: SNCC Anti-Draft Group, Austin Draft Resistance Union, San Pedro Community Center, Philadelphia Area Vietnam Committee, Boston Draft Resistance Group, Detroit Inner City Organizing Committee, Cleveland Draft Resistance Union, New Bedford (Mass.) Draft Information Center, Washington Area Draft Resistance Project. \$2600 of this amount is to be paid out immediately and \$2700 in succeeding monthly allotments.

Activities for coming months. It was decided that the next major event will be a nationwide Day of Conscience, April 15-16, and that it will be followed in mid-May by a Vietnam Commencement. The Day will fall between The Resistance's April 3 activity and the April 20-30 events planned by SDS and the National Mobilization Committee. RESIST will seek out and help to create local groups to administer the Day, and will provide them with working models, literature and materials. Vietnam Commencement will be worked out on each campus by students and faculty working together, with RESIST coordinating.

THE ACADEMIC DAY OF CONSCIENCE. Paul Lauter read a draft of a letter to be sent to contact people. It was agreed that it should be revised by Monroe Engel (project coordinator) to tie the Day less closely to the trial and to put greater emphasis on the need for faculties to accept their responsibility to students faced with conscription for the war and on the need for concerted opposition to the use of nuclear weapons as a response to the siege of Khesahn and the Korean crisis. In

"We believe . . . that every free man has a legal right and a moral duty to exert every effort to end this war, to avoid collusion with it, and to encourage others to do the same." from *A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority*

attracting large numbers, not heretofore involved, we must guard against making those students who take a strong position on April 3rd appear far-out and isolated. RESIST should prepare papers on : 1) the concept of "conspiracy" being used as an emotional tool of oppression, as in the 50's; 2) faculty responsibility to youth rather than to the administration; 3) political prisoners (how to keep the boys in jail active in the peace movement); 4) principles of Nuremberg (including the Lawyers' Guild paper) 5) ways in which draft Boards can be challenged on illegal induction.

B. VIETNAM COMMENCEMENT. Leon Wofsy and Bruce Kirmse presented Berkeley's already far-advanced plans for their "Real Commencement" which will take place in the Greek Theater on May 17th. It will not try to confront the regular commencement but to overshadow it. There will be a joint student (won't-go)-faculty (supporters) procession, an Invocation by Bishop Meyer (hopefully), honorary degrees (David Harris, Mohammed Ali and possibly an administrator) and a major commencement speaker. The materials Berkeley has developed and used will be attached to these minutes. Leon Wofsy emphasized that the essential and significant ingredient of Vietnam Commencement is the unity between faculty and students in planning to meet the threats of the coming months. Berkeley's ground work is available to all campuses (250 letters have already been sent out). They would like to see us compile a list of perhaps 100 "Commencement speakers" for ceremonies over the country and also provide a structure whereby college anti-war people can keep in contact after the school year ends. Vietnam Commencement should be both a culmination of college-based anti-war activity and the beginning of a long range program.

Legal Defense Fund; (now called Civil Liberties Legal Defense Fund, 94 Prescott St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.) Report by Robert Rosenthal.

A. Purpose.

To provide necessary funds for Boston Five, but also to provide for the many less well known and less solvent resisters.

To coordinate information and research on draft defense.

To supplement work of liaison of lawyers, civil rights leaders, and law firms now being done by the Lawyers' Guild.

To analyze and map out legal offensives against the draft law. (challenge the injustice and illegality by making gov't show cause)

Other function:

coordination of offensive campaign against illegalities which can tie up the courts and impede induction.

construction of legal panels in local areas (80 already exist)

provision of help in cases where real issue is draft, but indictment on another charge (harassment)

B. Finances:

Debt of \$4060 from Times advertisement.
(return already \$3000+)

Requests from RESIST.

1) \$3000 loan to make possible the repayment of short term loan and the undertaking of future fund raising activities. (which will not compete with RESIST fund raising)

2) \$120 loan for fund raising letter of Legal Research on the Draft people.

C. Relationship to RESIST. Independent (no identical Steering Committee members) but cooperative (some of RESIST's present chores may be transferable to CLDF.) All publications should be independent.

Future Programs:

A. Paul is looking into churches to which we can give seed money to start serious draft counseling.

B. It is possible to take advantage of McCarthy rallies and the McCarthy organizations being formed to give speeches on draft resistance. Both Rev. Mumma and Dick Ohmann have found McCarthy audiences receptive to this.

C. Public relations--we should work for more talkshows, TV shows and long articles. Sondra Silverman and Grace Paley will talk to media people in NYC.

D. Norm Fruchter has made two movies, one about RESIST and Resistance for general audiences and one which gives people instruction on how to do draft organizing. They will be for sale soon, the longer, instructional movie for \$80, the shorter one for less. They will be available from the National office.

E. Summer Institutes. We hope to set up summer institutes in fairly big cities for people from smaller places to gather during the summer to: 1) do organizing in the city around the draft issue and learn techniques through doing, 2) take part in a political institute. Vernon Grizzard and others are setting up model curricula. RESIST should give these institutes publicity and seed money.

F. RESIST as an organization will not participate in the demonstrations planned for Chicago at the time of the Democratic Convention this summer. This is not meant to discourage individuals from doing so if they wish.

G. RESIST will support Tax Resistance Action to be organized for March 15 in Washington.

Europe

A. RESIST will be an affiliate of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace and will publicize the existence of ICDP's publication, Vietnam International.

B. There is a list of European contacts which RESIST can send to our contact people. These contacts might be helpful to men stationed in Europe.

C. There is much support for us in Europe and we must figure out the best way to take advantage of it. Newspaper ads signed by famous foreigners are not very effective. Maybe some well known supporters should fly here for the Spock trial instead. There could be press coverage of their presence. They can also write articles for American journals on the war and the draft. They can make statements saying they are welcoming American resisters.

D. Bill Davidon is going to London, Paris and Stockholm in March and will speak to our friends there.

Newsletter. It will give more information about what goes on at steering committee meetings, and more information about the projects which are receiving funds. There should be an article or series of articles with differing points of view on the value of turning in draft cards and similar demonstrations.

Changes in Steering committee membership.

A. Hans Koningsberger has asked to be taken off since he will be in Europe.

B. People will be invited to come to one steering committee meeting to participate, a kind of rotating chair.

C. The area men will be asked if they feel their areas are underrepresented.

The next meeting will be on March 10 at 11am at the Ramparts Office.

(Berkeley announcement)
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Vietnam Commencement:

In May, the Campus Draft Opposition plans to hold a "commencement" ceremony in which graduating seniors and others who have pledged to refuse induction will be honored and given support by their university colleagues, both students and faculty. The details of the commencement remain to be worked out. It will aim at dignity and gravity. CDO will try to avoid conflict with other events and with campus authorities over scheduling or other matters of possible dispute. The event should be one in which the entire campus community, or at least all those who recognize the dilemma faced by students, will be eager to join. The ultimate disposition of the pledges also has yet to be decided. The signers themselves will decide during the coming months the manner in which the pledges will be made public and the person or agency to whom they will be sent.

The commencement will resemble, in its general outlines, the traditional formal university graduation. We hope to attract nationally-known speakers and to present our own honorary degrees to men and women who have taken noteworthy public stands in the cause of ending American involvement in Vietnam. In choosing such a ceremony, with its attendant academic symbolism, the CDO intends to stress the intellectual and moral integrity of the act of refusing to serve. Like the traditional graduation, this ceremony will focus the attention of the surrounding community on the students' world of ideas and needs. Thus we will encourage students to invite parents, relatives, friends, etc. to this convocation as they would to a traditional graduation. Plans are underway to hold similar programs at a number of major universities throughout the nation.