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Recommended Citation

Resist, "Resist Newsletter, Nov. 6, 1970" (1970). *Resist Newsletters*. 23.
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter/23>

RESIST

*a call to resist
illegitimate authority*

6 November 1970 - 763 Massachusetts Avenue, #4, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 - Newsletter #47

DRAFT RESISTANCE STRONG IN PUERTO RICO

1,400 draft cards and induction notices were publicly burned in Lares, Puerto Rico in a September 30 demonstration commemorating an 1868 revolt against Spain. The demonstration, attended by 20,000 people, illustrated Puerto Rico's demand for independence from U.S. imperialism and the growing resistance within the commonwealth.

The Federal District Court decision in the case of Feliciano Grafals, a draft resister, has contributed to the draft resistance movement. Last year Feliciano Grafals was sentenced to one year in prison. In an unusual move his judge, Hiran Cancio, asked the Appeals Board to let him reconsider the case. In January Judge Cancio reduced the sentence to one hour in jail with the sentence considered served while Feliciano Grafals had awaited arraignment. Judge Cancio said he had been moved by compassion for a youth who was charged with violating a law that was passed without regard for the peculiarities of Puerto Rico's political problems.

Since then, the Selective Service office has not brought to trial any pending cases and no additional resisters have been charged. A leader in the Puerto Rican Independence Party tells of one resister who wrote over his induction notice: "Go to hell and stop bothering me." The next letter from his draft board stated that his classification had been changed to 4-F.

FLOWER CITY CONSPIRACY COMING TO TRIAL

The Flower City Conspiracy, the eight people charged with raiding Rochester, New York, Selective Service and FBI offices on September 5, go on trial on November 16. All but Suzi Williams are now out on bail, but they face 38 years in prison if convicted. Communal dinners, entertainment, and political rap sessions are planned for the evenings of the trial. For housing, directions, and information, contact Friends of the Flower City Conspiracy, 41 Westminster Road, Rochester, New York 14605, 716/244-6280.

In the last newsletter we incorrectly reported that contributions would be used to pay the cost of their defense. The Conspiracy has established The Rochester Bail Fund for all inmates of local jails because they believe "bail is an institution discriminating against the poor". Contributions to the fund should be sent to P.O. Box 1802, Rochester, New York 14605.

JOMO: BLACK COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN FLORIDA

JOMO (Junta of Militant Organizations) is a grass-roots organization descended from SNCC. It has been operating in Florida for three years. The repression to which this one relatively small Black group has been subjected may well surpass in volume and intensity of incidents all the repression visited on the entire white movement in one or more years: more jail time, more unattainable bails, more physical injury, more time-consuming harassment, more loss of organizational and individual jobs and income, and so on. It is repression which preceded John Mitchell. It is constant, invisible, and has caused no more alarm than heroin did before white youth started to get addicted.

Joe Waller, a leader of JOMO and editor of its paper, Burning Spear, has been repressed and harassed ever since he was the chairman of Florida SNCC (which later became JOMO). He served 180 days in city jail and eighteen months on the state chain gang (until released on \$2500 appeal bond) for removing from city hall in St. Petersburg a racist mural that depicted Black people as gorillas and sub-humans. While speaking before a rally to protest the assassination of Martin Luther King, he was arrested for inciting a riot - although there was no riot until after he was arrested - and placed on \$25,000 bond. He has been tried twice on this charge with no settlement (the state has no evidence); yet the case is still pending because the state continues to file re-trial motions. Then Waller and his sister were arrested for "verbal abuse of a police officer" and disorderly conduct, at which time he was beaten. Bond was \$1,000, he was sentenced to 290 days in jail, the appeal bond from the mural case was revoked, and he returned to the state prison for six months until another appeal bond, also \$2500, was granted. The state of Florida has plans to re-try Waller on grand larceny charges (for the mural) as a way of starting the whole thing over again - prison sentence and all.

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ARE YOU STILL THERE?

ONCE AGAIN IT'S TIME TO BRING OUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST UP-TO-DATE. BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE COUPON ON PAGE 3 AND RETURN IT TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANKS.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

"Dear RESIST: The August RESIST newsletter communication on "The Political Effectiveness of Sabotage" with its appalling failure to consider adequately the question of the danger of injury or death made me decide to discontinue contributing to RESIST. I think Allen Brick's October newsletter discussion of the moral aspects of sabotage expresses my concern perfectly. I hope many RESIST members agree with Brick's identification of the "actual or potential" violence-against-life in sabotage with the establishment's violence, and cherishing this, hope I've decided to renew my contributions. Perhaps this topic should be discussed more in the newsletter."

"Dear Comrades: Your continuing debate on sabotage must continue. The articles, especially the ones by the anonymous professor and by Allen Brick, have helped focus discussions in our political education class. In the movement we have a tendency to let the establishment media determine our politics: Some people may be destroying draft files or erasing Dow Chemical Company computer tapes. But if the newspapers don't talk about it, neither do we. If the magazines have pictures of mass demonstrations, we think we have to plan one for our own city. The media started talking about terrorism when the establishment started pushing anti-crime bills. We hope your other readers won't be scared of knowing what's happening because we think it's really important that people talk rationally about what's happening and make their own decisions about how they are going to act."

"Sisters and Brothers: As a regular reader of the RESIST newsletter, I would like to strongly object to several of the statements made by Allen Brick in his recent article on the morality of sabotage.

"Firstly, the author of the earlier article on the political effectiveness of sabotage, while he did make some basic assumptions about morality, did not try to defend or even explain these assumptions. When Brick says, at the beginning of his article, "I am going to raise the old question about the relationship between morality and politics", he in effect suggests that the author of the political effectiveness article did not have any moral criteria for the actions he would approve. Perhaps political effectiveness cannot be discussed without also discussing morality, but this is not the assumption of the other author, who did not attempt to explain or defend what I felt was an obvious moral decision about certain tactics.

"Brick's statement that the action of the "Catonville 9 is a political action archetypal in its purity and, therefore, effectiveness in regard to public understanding" is true only for certain "enlightened" portions of the middle class, usually intellectually oriented, community. Black, Third World, and white working class people often also approve of these actions, but do so not because they were nonviolent or life-affirming but because they removed part of the burden of an oppressive system and hampered its ability to operate.

"Finally, and most importantly, I felt that
Cont'd on p. 4.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR ON THE SABOTAGE DISCUSSION

A lot has happened in this country since March 5, when an article in the newsletter noted that acts of sabotage were increasing, that they were getting little publicity outside of the area in which each occurred, and that people must be aware of them in order to accurately evaluate the state of the movement and of the nation. Since then the government and the media have given these actions considerable publicity and have used them as a major part of the rationale for the necessity for "law and order" legislation and other repressive "law enforcement" procedures. All of this has only increased the importance of the discussion we have carried on with our readers since March 5 about the various arguments for and against sabotage, whether some types are permissible and others are not, and what criteria should be used in deciding this.

We have carried this discussion forward on two levels: In spite of increased national publicity, we have continued to report on various sabotage actions, particularly draft board actions. We have also printed part or all of statements issued by groups committing other types of actions, such as the bombing of the offices of three giant corporations in New York City. This we did not because we agreed that the action was commendable but because we felt the statement had not been accurately relayed by the establishment media and that it said something people should consider in judging the rationale and effectiveness of the action. The second level of our discussion has been the debate about sabotage as a strategy and a tactic. The contributors to this debate have included people who work directly with RESIST and those who read the newsletter. We originated and continued this debate not because we all agreed that any or all forms of sabotage were good but because we felt that they must be discussed and debated thoroughly before we and our readers could make principled decisions about what kinds of actions to support and encourage.

Cont'd on p. 3.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR CONT'D, . . .

While we have clearly stated RESIST's support for certain types of actions - RESIST was one of the earliest supporters of sanctuaries for draft and military resisters and has supported the destruction of draft files ever since the action of the Catonsville 9 in May, 1968 - we have failed to convey clearly our motivation for this debate on the strategy and tactics of sabotage. We have had many letters from readers of the newsletter objecting to what they have seen as our apparent acceptance of most types of sabotage, and the discussion has cost us much support - particularly financial. We feel, however, that in spite of this we must continue to provide a forum for the discussion of new forms of resistance in order to arm all of us with the information we need to make decisions about the activities each of us will support with our money and our personal efforts.

In a time when violence from the left is distorted and exploited but never put into perspective by the establishment, when the fact of and questions raised by violence from the right are totally ignored, we feel it is essential that such a forum exist and we hope our readers will continue to contribute to it and to consider the ideas presented in the spirit in which they are put forward - not as something RESIST is supporting as a policy but as ideas we feel it is important for everyone to know about and to evaluate for themselves.

KNOW, INC.

KNOW, Inc. is a "research, lending, corresponding, and selling library of women's literature". It reprints articles on women's liberation and has compiled bibliographies. It also will provide lists of reporters who can be trusted. For their catalogue, write to 726 St. James St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232.

JOMO CONT'D, . . .

JOMO has spent around \$11,000 in bond and legal expenses, endured more than 300 arrests, had numerous members brutalized, and seen needed equipment stolen or destroyed by the police.

Six members of JOMO are now serving life sentences on Florida chain gangs. The main obstacle to their freedom is the lack of money to start court proceedings. One of those serving a life sentence is 16 years old.

This is by no means a detailed account of the repression that JOMO, and for that matter the whole Black colony, has endured. But it does concretely show the difference between Black and White repression and the need for ever-increasing support for the self-determination struggle by Black people being waged in this country.

Unlike the Black Panther Party, whose resistance to police attack has been somewhat more visible through the media, JOMO does not define itself as a vanguard party. Like countless other groups throughout the nation, it is doing grass-roots organizing around the realities of its communities. Its present transitional program includes seven points: control of Black schools, a police review board, an end to exploitation by white merchants, control of all Black public housing, re-possession and rehabilitation of the property of slumlords, political districts which reflect the strength of the Black community, and complete control of the Black colony.

Virtually no community is without one or more organizations struggling around the day-to-day needs of the people. Some of these groups, including the Panthers, the League of Revolutionary Workers in Detroit, JOMO, and El Grito del Norte, have been funded by RESIST. The viciousness of White power manifested by the attacks on the

Cont'd on p. 4.

TIME TO RE-SUBSCRIBE!

It's been a year-and-a-half since we last asked people on the newsletter mailing list to let us know if they wanted to continue to receive it, and so we'd like to ask you to tell us again. If you are a RESIST pledge, we will re-subscribe you automatically. If not, please send back the coupon. Only pledges and people we hear from will stay on the mailing list.

It costs approximately \$3/year/person to print and mail the newsletter. If you aren't a pledge and haven't recently paid for a year's subscription (or if you have but can afford to pay for someone else), please send \$3 with the coupon. If you can't afford the \$3, we'll keep you on the list anyway; just return the coupon.

Please continue to send me the RESIST newsletter!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____



Return to: RESIST, Room 4
763 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

NEW BOOKS BY RESIST PEOPLE

NOAM CHOMSKY, At War with Asia: Pantheon, hardcover, \$7.95, paperback, \$1.95. Explores the results of the war in Indochina and tries to answer the underlying dilemmas.

MITCHELL GOODMAN, The Movement Toward a New America - the Beginnings of a Long Revolution: Knopf, \$5.95. "(A collage) A what? 1. a comprehension 2. a compendium 3. a handbook 4. a guide 5. a history 6. a revolutionary kit 7. a work-in-progress"

PAUL LAUTER and FLORENCE HOWE, The Conspiracy of the Young: The World Publishing Company, \$8.50. This description of what it's like to be young in America examines the questions of what does this country owe its young and what do they owe it?

POLICE RIOT IN PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

One young black man was murdered and eight others were shot in the back by Portsmouth, Virginia, policemen on September 19. Without warning or provocation, the police had opened fire on hundreds of black spectators as they were leaving a football game.

According to eyewitness accounts, John Bellamy was shot in the back and fell to the ground. He was then shot twice more, at point-blank range, by policeman Jerry Ennis. After killing Bellamy, Ennis resumed firing indiscriminately into the crowd.

Portsmouth's Chief of Police claims that the shootings were justified. The police maintain that they had been fired upon by "a group of black youths" and were acting in self-defense. No weapons were found other than those of the police. Over two hundred witnesses say that the police began firing without provocation; the only witnesses who support the police story are the policemen themselves.

Angry blacks marched on the city courthouse the day after Bellamy's murder. They were met by policemen with shotguns and dogs. The police later forcibly dispersed a meeting of black citizens trying to decide on a response to the shootings. The City Council of Portsmouth has commended the Police Department for its actions.

JOMO CONT'D, . . .

Black Panther Party are only the most obvious manifestations of the day-to-day racism which the Kerner Report did nothing to end. In fact, too often the attacks on the Panthers are used to obscure rather than illustrate the daily Black reality.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS CONT'D, . . .

Brick consciously or unconsciously distorted the reaction to the bombing of the Army Math Research Center in Madison, Wisconsin. He refers to only one statement in the article from the August 30 New York Times. He does not acknowledge its comment that "The bombing last Monday and subsequent and anonymous threats of future attacks have been met with mixed reactions, ranging from outrage to understanding if not approval". (There are two ways "if not approval" could be interpreted.) He quoted the first part of a statement from one student: "I understand the reason for the bombing and I am mildly sympathetic to it, but I guess I don't condone it." But he didn't acknowledge the ambiguity of the second part of what the student said: "You look at the university administration, you look at the board of regents, the state administration, the White House -- how can you condone what they are doing to us?" What the student actually meant by this statement is perhaps clarified by a very similar statement in an editorial in the University of Wisconsin Daily Cardinal. Quoted in The Milwaukee Journal, September 17, 1970, the editorial said: "However, we distrust those who would have us mourn Fasnacht in a vacuum. The very organs used to sell the death culture that is America have been making capital out of Fasnacht's death for days. There is something perverse about the majority of opinion makers in this country who have endorsed mass murder in Vietnam and then manipulate the death of an individual in an effort to silence those who would stop them."

"Nonviolence can be effective in certain circumstances, and it certainly is a desirable strategy and tactic. But restricting ourselves to such actions is wrong if it prevents us from responding effectively to the slaughter of our sisters and brothers in the ghettos, factories, the military, and prisons of America and in the countries around the world America has occupied and tried to possess militarily and/or economically. For the Vietnamese to fight back with bombs and sabotage against the American invader and its puppet governments, for Black and Third World people to arm themselves to fight against racism and economic exploitation rather than allow themselves to be exploited and killed, for students to burn down ROTC buildings and other agents of capitalist oppression - all of these are life-affirming actions that are violent. I feel they are also necessary and desirable."

Racism indicates the absence of or defeat of anti-racist struggle. RESIST believes that we must continue to support many forms of resistance within the Black, Chicano, and Puerto Rican colonies, communities, and nations. But that is always insufficient; the White-against-White struggle around explicitly anti-racist programs and objectives must continue as well.