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RESIST

A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority No. 1 Nov.

Temporary Address RESIST, c/o Louis Kampf, 8 Plympton St.,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

"A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority" now has nearly 1500 signers in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries. Reprints of the "Call" may be obtained from RESIST. A similar statement is being circulated in the San Francisco area by the Committee for Draft Resistance, 1191 Stanyan St., San Francisco, California 94117. The Committee reports approximately 1000 signers.

On Oct. 2, at a press conference held at the New York Hilton, the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., announced "A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority." Statements were made by Paul Goodman, Noam Chomsky, Dwight Macdonald, and several others. The conference was attended by many signers of the "Call." It was followed by a meeting, attended by about 60 signers, at Columbia University. The meeting resolved to form RESIST, and appointed the following temporary steering committee:

Prof. Noam Chomsky, M.I.T.
Prof. William Davidson, Haverford
Paul Goodman, New York
Hans Koningsberger, New York
Prof. Paul Lauter, Antioch
Rev. Richard Mumma, Harvard
Prof. Richard Ohmann, Wesleyan

Marcus Raskin, Institute for Policy Studies
Prof. Richard Flacks, U. of Chicago

Dan Stern, Chicago
Prof. Donald Kahish, U.C.L.A.
Prof. Robert Zevin, Columbia

We would appreciate suggestions for a procedure to select members of the Committee.

On Oct. 20, the day before the march on the Pentagon, approximately 600 signers of the "Call" and a number of draft resisters marched to the Department of Justice. While a rally was held in front of the Department, a delegation entered the building and attempted to turn over nearly 1000 draft cards to the Attorney General's representative. The cards were refused, and the delegation left them behind. Since then, most of the holders of the cards have been visited by the F.B.I.

That evening the Steering Committee met with representatives of various Resistance groups, and made a number of grants.

On Nov. 18, the Steering Committee met in Cambridge. After an additional number of grants were made, it was resolved to move most of RESIST's operations to Cambridge.

Paul Lauter was asked

to become temporary national director. He has since moved to Cambridge, and is setting up a permanent office. Its address and phone number will be announced in the next Newsletter.

* * *

The National Steering Committee of RESIST has made several grants of seed and support money. The money will be used to aid in the counselling of men eligible for the draft and in draft resistance. The grants are as follows:

The West Side Project, NYC-	\$300
The Resistance (NY area)	500
CADRE (Chicago Area Draft Resistance)	300
Boston Area Draft Resistance Group	250
The Resistance, Philadelphia	200
John Wilson, SNCC Anti-Draft Program	400
(with a commitment of \$300 a month for the next 3 mos.)	
John Fuerst, SDS anti-draft organizing in Wisc., Iowa, Nebr.	200
Draft Resistance-Seattle	200
Russell Wills Defense Fund, Seattle	100
Colorado Resistance	100
Union Theological Seminary Anti-Draft Project	300
TOTAL	#2,850

* * *

New York City: Mitchell Goodman reports from NYC that a Resistance Defense Fund has been established there. The address is: 36 East 10 Street. A theatrical event will be staged by the group, probably in January, to raise money.. Future mailings will give details..

Ohio Resistance: Dan Bromley, 18-year-old high school student, appeared in federal court November 9, 1967 in answer to a charge of violation of the Selective Service law. On November 7 two FBI agents appeared at Bromley's home without legal paper. They handcuffed him and took him away. The surprise arrest prevented a conference with school board officials which had been scheduled for later that day, concerning Bromley's expulsion from Lakota High School. The expulsion, on the action of the principal, George Estes, occurred because Bromley refused to remove a "Resistance" button and agree to stop discussing draft resistance with other students.

Colorado Resistance: Three university students who returned their draft cards on October 16, 1967 have been arrested. Michael Cooper of Denver University, and Allen Haifley and Tom Harris of Colorado University have been charged with "refusal to possess" and "mutilation of" their draft cards. The students were arraigned Nov. 3. Separate preliminary hearings on the charges began Nov. 9.

Three Denver lawyers (unidentified) have offered legal aid without remuneration. They plan to challenge the constitutionality of the Universal Military Training and Service Act without a formal declaration of war, and the legality of the present United States action in Vietnam.

The Colorado Resistance will need funds for transportation of witnesses to testify against the war and the draft. To offer personal or financial assistance, please contact: Colorado Resistance, 160 Arnett, Boulder, Colorado, 80302. Phone: 303-444-4682.

Professors Resist James Marvin Shea: assistant professor of philosophy, George Mason College, Richmond, Va., is 29 and the father of three. He returned his draft card to his local board in Henrico County, Va. and was reclassified 1-A and ordered to report for induction. He refused induction and brought suit against Selective Service, asking the courts to void the regulations under which boards reclassify men as delinquent and therefore inductible. The suit contends that the delinquency process uses Selective Service to punish men for alleged violations of the law for which they have been neither prosecuted nor convicted. The government has not yet brought suit against Shea for refusing induction.

College authorities, so far as we know, have not yet taken action against him either.

HENRY BRAUN, 37, and the father of two children, teaches at Temple University. He had been active in organizing draft resistance and was subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in New York on Nov. 15. He did not answer questions and was released after ten minutes. His draft board in Buffalo, New York, declared him delinquent for nonpossession of draft card.

KENNETH HALE, assistant professor of linguistics at M.I.T., is 33, and the father of two children. After turning in his draft card, he was reclassified 1A, delinquent by his board in Arizona.

These are only a few instances of what is happening. For example, SNCC workers active in draft resistance are being systematically picked off all over the country.

Resistance is trying to keep a central file on all draft reclassifications. If you have been reclassified, please send information to RESIST.

FUTURE PROGRAM

The first need is to develop local Resist groups which will encourage and support the organizing of draft resistance. National programs and the national office will be directed toward maintaining such groups and keeping them in close touch with one another.

The national office will issue a regular series of newsletters, of which this is the first, designed to inform people about developments elsewhere, pass on suggestions for programs, and generally maintain a sense of unity in our work. We will arrange for a number of people to travel within areas where Resist groups are operating, primarily to bring people together and to set up a network that can respond to emergencies and provide a means for mutual support.

We are mounting two fund-raising programs, one for general support of draft resistance (the pledge cards are an integral part of that), the other to follow up on the January event described elsewhere for establishing a Resistance Defense Fund.

Finally, the national office will devise whatever means we can to put talent and reputations of Resist members to work in shaping a more favorable public climate for draft resistance. We hope people will take every chance they find to place articles and make speeches and media appearances.

Though local programs will be shaped by local conditions, we expect that most will have some common features like fund-raising, draft counseling, legal aid, and seeking new signatories to the "Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority." Most will provide active support for, or initiate, direct-action projects, and means to support resisters. We would emphasize the importance of a good speakers' program. If a local group can get their people onto nearby campuses, they can raise money, spread the gospel, and help initiate groups.

Draft counseling is also a very valuable organizing tool. Besides providing a needed personal service, it enables resisters to come in contact with young men who are often beginning to question the war and the government's demands on them. It provides an opportunity to bring such men together so that they can talk with each other and with resisters. Just advertising that a counseling service exists raises the level of awareness on a campus or in a community. And preparing to counsel--even when such services are not yet in demand--forces counselors to think through more fully their own positions and deepens political consciousness. In short, organizing a draft counseling program helps create the climate and the interest that will insure its being used and its becoming a basis for organizing resistance. Incidentally, people who are not prepared to sign the Call, may well be ready to take an active role in counseling as well as in fund-raising.

Finally, we cannot emphasize too strongly the need to stay together. The American Revolutionary slogan is appropriate: Hang together or hang separately. The government's tactic right now is to threaten people, especially those isolated from the movement, and to pick off leaders. On occasion when we have mobilized strength, we have made them back off or over-react, as in Hershey's recent pronouncements, and thereby jeopardize their legal power. Their greatest weapon is to make us feel weak; we need not be. We have more strength than we realize. Our problem is to organize that potential. And what we are here for is to help people do that.