5-20-1968

Resist Newsletter, May 1968

Resist

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter

Recommended Citation
https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/resistnewsletter/125
SUPPORT THE BOSTON FIVE

The Steering Committee of RESIST requests that supporters of the Resistance organize vigils and demonstrations to make visible our support of Spock, Coffin, Raskin, Ferber and Goodman during their trial. Radio talk shows should be used regularly; ministers should consider making the trial the subject of sermons; peace groups should rally about this trial. Now is a good time to fund your local group. Tie your appeal in with the Spock trial. As we all realize, this is in fact the trial of every supporter of the Resistance.

HOW TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT PAMPHLETS

If you are getting tired of waiting for the Government Printing Office to send copies of the Selective Service Regulations, Local Board Memoranda, and Medical Fitness Standards, you can write to your Congressman to obtain copies quickly.

Also, you can buy copies of the necessary materials from the G.P.O. in person, so any friend or acquaintance in the D.C. area can be requested to pick up copies for you.

The Medical Fitness Standards AR 40-501 are now issued with changes 1 - 21 included for $1.25. If you sent for copies with changes 1 - 17, you may have to reorder to get the newest changes.

- Glenn Hoffman -

PLANS FOR THE SUMMER

Representatives from RESIST, The Resistance, SDS and various community-based draft resistance groups met in Chicago to discuss summer plans and programs. People at the Chicago conference agreed on one main point: that local and regional groups must take initiative in planning summer programs for their own areas. "There was no inclination to form one big national project again," Paul Lauter reported, "but to provide a minimum of necessary coordination, placement of volunteers and exchange of information."

RESIST was given the task of doing the minimal coordination needed, and will try to meet the needs of summer projects for materials, information and models. There is now ready a brochure prepared on the basis of the Chicago conference, which outlines the various programs people are planning to carry out, and RESIST is preparing a contact list of people available to work in various areas. The RESIST office will also be providing materials like films and literature, and will make available new information, and give tactical advice as needed by people on projects. Groups should let us know what their needs are. Who is the official contact on your project? Do you need volunteers?
The Reverend Philip H. Berrigan and three other Christian anti-war leaders have been indicted, tried, and duly convicted of destroying United States Government property by pouring blood into the files of a downtown Baltimore draft board office last October 27th. Their sentence for that offense is pending, and they are not hopeful about the likely success of an appeal. Nonetheless, Reverend Berrigan has decided not to wait until after serving his sentence to continue action against the military apparatus of the United States.

Reverend Berrigan feels that the action of his group last October effected a "major disruption" of the Selective Service System in the Baltimore area. Four or five local Baltimore boards were affected because the SSS, for "reasons of economy," does not keep duplicate records, and since they did not want to classify people out of order, local boards apparently stopped all induction procedures. Some blocks of files were immobilized by court order during the trial, because the blood-stained files were needed as evidence. Moreover, the blood acted as glue, often requiring painstaking care to remove without damage to the records, and at the trial it came out that the SSS secretaries "viewed handling the files with abhorrence."

Because he "wants "to make it more difficult for men to kill one another," Reverend Berrigan and eight others entered a draft board office in the Baltimore suburb of Catonsville on May 17th and liberated 600 individual draft files. They carried them to an adjacent parking lot, covered them with napalm and ignited them. At prayer, the group awaited arrest. The nine have been indicted for destroying Government property, mutilation of records, and hindering operation of the SSS.

Among those indicted with Reverend Berrigan were his brother, Father Daniel Berrigan, Thomas Melville, the former Maryknoll priest recently expelled from Guatemala and his Order for revolutionary activity, and Mrs. Marjorie B. Melville, his wife, the former Sister Marian Peter, similarly expelled.

The group issued a statement which said,

"We are Catholic Christians who take our faith seriously. We use napalm because it has burned people to death in Vietnam, Guatemala, and Peru and because it may be used in America's ghettos. "We destroyed these records because they exploit our young men and represent misplaced power concentrated in the ruling class of America. We believe some property has no right to exist."

Much-needed contributions toward court costs may be sent c/o the RESIST office, or directly to Rev. Philip Berrigan, 1546 North Fremont Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21217.

INDIVIDUALS' SUMMER PLANS

If you are not already in touch with the RESIST office about your summer plans, write us giving this information. We will try to get individuals in contact with groups organizing in the same areas. See form, bottom of page 5.
DRAFT BOARD RESEARCH

The Boston Draft Resistance Group has prepared a 7-page brochure on Draft Board research. As they point out, research is "absolutely necessary, first as an invaluable aid to counseling, and second as a means of understanding the bureaucracy against which you are fighting."

To investigate the make-up of your local board, the brochures suggests working with the following sources:

1. A MAP OF YOUR CITY (Black and white -- color in board jurisdictions)
2. STREET DIRECTORY usually lists 1) all residents by address, 2) all streets, buildings, by number and occupant, 3) annotated census information.
3. TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, YELLOW PAGES
4. REGIONAL WHO'S WHO
5. POOR'S REGISTER OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVES (only listed if the individual's business sells stock to the public and he's a director)
6. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DATA lists of the top 14 merchandising, reality, and law firms, as well as managers, major figures, community organizations like JayCees and Community Chest. If they are uncooperative say you are a student of sociology writing a paper on town's growth.
7. CITY DIRECTORY generally lists businesses, businessmen who work independently.
8. NEWSPAPER MORGUE: once you've located an individual who appears to warrant investigation, check him out in the local press, or consult a local news editor or reporter.
9. LISTS OF TRUSTEES of community agencies, hospitals, and universities
10. PROFESSIONAL CATALOGUES: lists of state boards of dentists, medical men, accountants, real estate brokers. A LAW DIRECTORY lists attorneys and firms, other connections, bar ratings. Check university law library and business school library for more catalogues
11. RAND MC NALLY'S BANKER'S REGISTER: to find out where major economic decisions in your town are made. Consult MOODY'S BANKS for histories of individual banks (mergers, present conditions, etc.). See if finances are locally controlled.
12. JACK KINNIS: THE CARE AND FEEDING OF POWER STRUCTURES (order from SDS)
13. JIM JACOBS: POWER IN AMERICAN SOCIETY (order from SDS)
14. ROBERT LAMB: GUIDE TO RESEARCHING YOUR TOWN (order from SDS)

The brochure gives these instructions for using these materials: "Use your street directory to locate the prestige income neighborhoods, by comparing bank director's addresses with your map -- and locate the ghettos as well. Then be sure to note carefully the jurisdiction of the local boards, the home address of members, and their proximity to ghetto draft boards. This will prove useful, conceptually and strategically.

"Keep a card file; one card per board member. Write down all you can about the man" including military service, family (children's and relatives' draft status), career, education, connections, assets (house, neighborhood, cars, holdings, etc.).

The BDRG brochure also explains how to find out about registrants at the draft boards, and ways of contacting 1-A's. For copies write BDRG, 102 Columbia Street, Cambridge, Mass.
CALIFORNIA Repression Backfires:
According to UPI (May 17) "six thousand University of California students and faculty members dared the wrath of Gov. Ronald Reagan by attending a solemn anti-draft "VIETNAM COMMENCEMENT." Reagan had urged the Berkeley administration and the University Regents to forbid the program, and last month the Regents did ban it on grounds it would violate Federal statutes. But the Commencement was a brilliant success. Robert Hutchins, the educator, and Sterling Hayden, the actor, were among those speaking in honor of 866 young men who signed a pledge to refuse induction. The rally, on the steps of Sproul Hall, opened with prayer. At one point, hundreds of young men stood and chanted: "While we are involved in this war I will not serve in the Armed Forces." And an even larger number -- those ineligible for the draft -- the arose and pledged their support." Hundreds of similar Vietnam Commencements are planned at campuses around the country, including M.I.T., Brooklyn College and the University of Pennsylvania.

At HARVARD, where a Vietnam Commencement will take place in early June, 400 students signed "We Won't Go" pledges in a Harvard Crimson ad. And at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO a Student Government poll finds that 60% of graduating seniors and first year graduate students will refuse to participate in the war in Vietnam. STATE UNIVERSITIES IN NEW YORK -- at Albany and Buffalo in particular -- have been extraordinarily active. Buffalo's 3-day strike and Albany's strike and teach-ins attracted large crowds and good publicity in a traditionally conservative region.

The editors stand with the Strike Coordinating Committee of COLUMBIA in its determination to democratize the university, to end Columbia's tyranny over the neighborhood, and to end its complicity with the Institute for Defense Analysis: A free university in a free society.

Currently Available:

FILMS: Six excellent short documentaries are available from RESIST: Life Under the Bombs, a powerful French film on North Vietnam (Roger Pic, 30 min., $40). Resist and Resistance, a good introduction to draft resistance (8 min., $14), especially when coupled with BDRG, on the work of the Boston Draft Resistance Group, covering canvassing, counselling, organizing at pre-induction physicals -- particularly useful as a training film for draft projects (Fruchter, 20 min., $25). Troublemakers, on community organizing in a black section of Newark (Fruchter, 55 min., $40). No Game, on the October 21st demonstration at the Pentagon (20 min.). Jeannette Rankin Brigade, on the women's Washington peace march (10 min.). Allow at least a week for mailing, and specify an alternate date if possible. Special arrangements sometimes available if fees are prohibitive.
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Correspondence with resisters to the war and the draft in Sweden, France, and Japan, inquiries concerning conditions there, and financial contributions can all be sent to the following addresses:

Hans Goren Franck
Kungsgatan 24
Stockholm C, Sweden
Phone: 20-05-50

M. Zucker
1, rue Tiron
Paris IV, France

Beheiren
Japan Peace for Vietnam
Sankyu Bldg, 2-1-4 Sotokanda
Chiyodaku, Tokyo, Japan
Phone: 255-2886
Cable: Japaxviet

HELP NEEDED

John Wells, now in the Army Stockade in San Francisco, needs support. He struggled through his two years in the Army, serving time in the stockade for refusing to cooperate with "undemocratic" and "discriminatory" regulations. When he was separated from active service, he was ordered into the reserves. As John says, "There's no such thing as a two-year draft." The Army wrote him: "Under present law, each male who becomes a member of the Armed Forces prior to his twenty-sixth birthday incurs a statutory obligation to serve in the Armed Forces for a period of six years unless sooner discharged." John was fed up with military slavery. He wouldn't capitulate and he wouldn't run. (continued on page 6)

SUMMER INFORMATION FORM

NAME:
ADDRESS:
Will you be working on a summer program?
What kind of work do you want to do?
Can you travel?
Will you be at home or elsewhere?
Are you trained as a draft counselor?
What kind of movement experience have you had?

ALSO AVAILABLE

For a pamphlet describing a 1-A program in detail, send 35¢ to the Delaware County Peace Action Group, Box 151, Media, Penna. 19063.

A new play by Morsar Gibson (Dep't of English, University of Wisconsin, at Milwaukee) appears in Kaleidoscope, I, no. 13 (May 16-23): MADAME CIA. For a wild one-hour play on induction refusal, write Lester Cole, 109 Alpine Terrace, San Francisco, Calif.

WHERE IT'S AT: A RESEARCH GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING. This is an excellent 89-page handbook which explains how to do action-oriented research in many areas, including housing, government, poverty, community services, health, welfare, police, courts, consumer problems, education, business and unions. available from Radical Education Project, 510 East William St., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108.
PLIGHT OF JOHN WELLS, cont.

John has been charged with desertion -- a charge which, as one reporter noted, "they don't even charge deserters with." He is up for a dishonorable discharge and eight years in military prison. Continuing to refuse service in prison, he is in solitary confinement in a cell 5' by 6½'. Since he refused to wear a uniform, he is living in underclothes. He has lost cigarette and newspaper privileges for attempting to share with a prisoner in the next cell.

John's lawyer, Lloyd McMurray, is trying to get him released on bail or at least permitted ordinary stockade privileges. The ACLU has agreed to help in John's defense.

Will you: WRITE Lieut. General C. P. Harrell, Commander, 6th Army, Presidio, San Francisco, Calif., send carbon copies to Secretary of the Army, Washington, D. C. and to John's attorney, Lloyd McMurray, 228 McAllister St., San Francisco. Also, letters should be sent to the following Congressmen: Jeffrey Cohelan, U.S. House of Representatives, and Thomas Kuchel, U.S. Senate, Washington, D. C. You might stress the fact that John has already served stockade time for non-cooperation, that he has always notified the Army of his whereabouts and made no attempt to evade custody, yet is being held without trial or bail. He is being charged with desertion although he had finished active service and made no attempt to hide, that he should at least be permitted to wear his own clothes and not lose all prison privileges.

Will you: CONTRIBUTE to the cost of John's defense. Send funds to Judith Wells, 1684 Scenic Avenue, # 8, Berkeley, California.

In Los Angeles anyone who can offer time, money, or office supplies can call Supporters of the Resistance, 1355 Westwood Blvd., Los Angeles. 473-6410 or 879-9440.

MORE HELP NEEDED

Help is needed for Gary Hicks, a 20-year old draft refuser from Roxbury, Mass. Currently serving a 4½ year prison sentence in Lewisburg, Pa., Gary cannot obtain parole until he gets a job, a sponsor, and a place to live in the Boston area. Contact either: Mrs. Schafer Williams, Teewaddle Hill Road, Amherst, Mass. 1602, or Prisoners' Information and Support Service, Box 387 B. U. Station, Boston, Mass. 02215.

EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENT OF CALIFORNIA MINISTER

My protest is not simply against the war in Vietnam... as cruel and as mad as that may be. My protest is against our national stance, our national and international posture. I protest police state tactics at home and abroad! I protest the reliance on armed force alone! I protest the use of our wealth and resources to kill and destroy and suppress! I protest our paranoid preoccupation with communism and our blindness to the sugerging and injustice of this world! I protest our national arrogance!

I stand for a radical rediscovery of that revolutionary spirit in our national... life. I stand for an about-face in this country to join the right side of the world revolution... Stopping the present madness in Vietnam is only one thing... But... the least I can do is to join the present protest, to support the young men who register their protest in a dramatic way. - Rev. Richard P. Ridenour, Oakland, 3 April 1968 -