



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

827 West Newport, Chicago, Illinois, 60657; (312) 935-2129

No. 7

June 5

General Information

Enlisted POWs Attacked by Military

This week ex-POW Colonel Theodore Guy filed charges against eight enlisted former POWs on various charges. The government is once again trying to make enlisted men the targets of their crackdown on political dissent in the military. The charges are refusal of orders, collaboration with the North Vietnamese, acceptance of 'privileges' from their captors, and of making anti-war statements and broadcasts. It seems unthinkable that the Defense Department would press charges on these men, considering that any trials would bring to public attention the amount of widespread dissent that the POWs engaged in while in prison in Vietnam. But, with Watergate in the news, the government would look for anything to take attention away from it, even by embarrassing themselves again with a three ring circus involving their beloved POWs. The following names and addresses are of the POWs charged. We urge all chapters in or near these cities to make contact with them and offer whatever support is possible. We ask other chapters to send letters of support. It is important that VVAW/WSO do so.

SSG John A. Young
302 E. Belvedere
Grayslake, Ill 60030
(attached at Fitzsimmons)

Sgt Abel L. Kavanaugh
7340 N. Dakin St #B-308
Westminster, Colo 80030
(attached at Pendleton, CA)

Sp4 Michael Branch
2302 Wilson Road
Highland Heights, KY 41076
(attached to Ft, Knox, KY)

SSG King David Rayford, Jr.
c/o Lovie May Rayford
3547 S. Federal
Chicago, Ill 60609
(attached at Fitzsimmons, Denver)

SSG Robert P. Chenoweth
c/o Crown
7227 SE Flavel Street
Portland, Oregon 97206
(attached to Letterman Army
Hospital, San Francisco)

SSG Alphonso Ray Riate
6075 Priory St
Bell Gardens, CA 90201
(attached at Pendleton)

SSG James A. Daly, Jr.
532 Madison Street
Brooklyn, NY 11224
(attached to Ft. Monmouth, NJ)

Pvt. Frederick L. Elbert, Jr.
471 Mayflower
Brentwood, NY 11717
(attached at St. Albans, Queens NY)

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"Amnesty for draft resisters, indeed!
Everyone is always trying to make us look bad!"

Toronto Amnesty Action Conference

On May 26, 27 and 28 an international conference on amnesty was held in Toronto, Ontario for the purpose of developing strategic and tactical plans to implement an amnesty campaign calling for total, universal and unconditional amnesty. The conference was sponsored by AMEX-Canada and was attended by groups from Canada, the United States, England, Sweden and Germany. VVAW/WSO had the largest delegation with approximately 25 members from California, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, New York, Maryland and Massachusetts.

The conference was held in Canada so that representatives of exile groups, barred from entering the US, could attend. As it was, representatives of those categories of people needing amnesty were present. These were GIs, veterans, families of resisters, draft and military resisters and the family of a GI killed in Vietnam.

The conference had a very busy schedule. In many cases, subjects to be discussed were tabled so that various caucuses could discuss topics or problems that arose and were seen as more pertinent. VVAW/WSO held many such caucuses, with the voice of all our members being heard and heeded. The conference had great significance for our organization. After spending a weekend discussing amnesty, all our representatives realized the great importance of the issue and began the process of finding ways of sharing this information with ourselves and others.

In this regard, a midwest conference was planned, to take place in September, (possibly in Dayton, Ohio), in order to carry the message of Toronto

to local midwest groups. Bob Moore of Cincinnati VVAW/WSO was chosen to be one of the two convenors of this conference. All groups interested in attending the conference and in planning campaign tactics for amnesty should contact Bob at VVAW/WSO, PO Box 19302, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

The message of Toronto was simply that a campaign for amnesty should be directed to those people who would most be affected by an amnesty; and that is the working class people of this country, both white and Third World. The large majority of those to be amnestied are the veterans with less-than-honorable discharges. There are approximately 500,000 of these veterans. Taking into account their families, the number affected is in the millions.

In addition to this resolution of carrying the campaign to working class people, several other decisions were made. One was to include the political prisoners of South Vietnam in all statements made on amnesty. Realizing that the war in Southeast Asia is not over and that the United States is violating the January 27th Agreement, talk on amnesty would be incomplete if we did not constantly educate people to these violations.

The National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA) created in Washington DC at the amnesty conference held there at the beginning of May was the topic of discussion also. This council is comprised of groups that are committed to working for total universal and unconditional amnesty. Twelve people comprise the steering committee. Six of these people are from groups or are representatives of people who need amnesty. These six members were elected in Toronto. They are: Walter Collins (Southern Conference Education Fund) representing prisoners, Sandy Rutherford (Vancouver American Exiles Union) representing families of resisters, Dee Knight (AMEX-Canada) representing exiles, Jeanne Friedman (Campaign for Amnesty) representing civilian resisters, Jeff Hayes (Ft. Meade Military Project - VVAW/WSO) representing GIs and Ed Damato (VVAW/WSO) representing veterans. This council will meet periodically to discuss strategy and direction of the amnesty campaign and will report back to the member organizations.

The Toronto Conference was important in that it has begun a concerted effort on the part of many organizations to work together in the fight for amnesty. VVAW/WSO is a very important part of this campaign. It is vital that chapters develop programs in which they can work together locally with groups in NCUUA. Plans for community meetings, rallies, leafleting and materials should be developed. The National Clearinghouse on Amnesty will soon publish the first VVAW/WSO pamphlet on amnesty. It will contain the position paper adopted by the NSC in Placitas. We will also be disseminating for study and discussion the New York City paper on a strategy for an amnesty campaign. Other pamphlets and buttons, etc., are being developed and will be forwarded to you as soon as they are finished.

Winter Soldier

All out of papers and wondering what to do? Just drop a line or call the National Office as we still have a couple of thousand copies of the recent paper.

United We Stand Bookshop Bombed!!

United We Stand Bookshop, a meeting place for Marines from Camp [redacted] was bombed on May 2. The bombing destroyed most [redacted] the materials that were inside. The store is now [redacted]

The local police have arrested a white racist named Leroy Gibson who was the President of the Rights of White People Organization, an extremist group that has in the past been responsible for inciting riots in Wilmington, North Carolina. He has also threatened the lives of two of the civilians who work in the bookshop.

The bookshop has for a long time served as the focal point of the GI movement in Jacksonville. For example, just two nights prior to the bombing approximately twenty Black GIs met with a visiting military counselor from Chicago. The bookshop also serves as the distributing place for the Marine produced paper called RAGE.

They are in need of financial aid to set-up the store again. If anyone has some spare money and can help them out, send it to United We Stand Bookshop, PO Box 1163, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

NOSCAM

NOSCAM has numerous pieces of literature available in a number of areas related to the military. These include counseling material, GI movement literature, GI papers, etc. A copy of the NOSCAM literature list may be obtained by writing to NOSCAM, PO Box 1625, Dayton, OHIO 45401.



Regional

Women Unite and Be at the Women's National Meetings!!



As decided at the Placitas steering committee meeting, the Women's National Meetings will be held on the weekend of June 9-10. This weekend is designed to enable the women of VVAW/WSO to get together in a setting other than a NSCM, and to build solidarity among themselves. All women of the organization are invited to attend one of these meetings for purposes of discussing problems with chauvinism, relating to veterans, women's roles in VVAW/WSO, etc.

Because of the problems often arising around transportation, there will be two meetings. The Eastern meeting will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at 2532 N. Holton. People should come to Milwaukee on I-94 or 141 and take the North Ave. exit. Turn right at this exit and go 12 blocks to Holton. Turn left and go two blocks. The meeting will be held in a big, green house on the right. The phone number in Milwaukee is (414) 562-9371.

The Western Meeting will be held in Denver. Women should go to 1377 Ogden, the abode of Mary Ann James and Carol Hansford. You should come in on I-25 and take the East Colfax exit. Ogden is approximately eight blocks east of the Capitol dome, so this will be your landmark to watch for. Turn left on Ogden and there you'll be.

Women should plan to arrive in Milwaukee or Denver on Friday evening of the 8th. Sleeping space will be provided for everyone, but Denver has requested that you bring a \$5 donation to help with the food. We hope that there will be large participation in these meetings. By your attendance, the women of VVAW/WSO can begin to open up the lines of communication, get to know and more fully learn to trust one another.

Alabama-Mississippi-Tennessee

Tom Ashby of the Tuscaloosa chapter has initiated the Alabama Veterans Service Project, a project designed to research the needs of Alabama's veterans and then lobby for and introduce legislation to help alleviate those needs. The project is modeled after a similar project undertaken by Georgia Veterans Service Project. Tom would like to hear from anyone engaged in similar work. Tom Ashby

VVAW/WSO
1317 14th Ave.
Tuscaloosa, Ala 35401

The Birmingham chapter has just received an infusion of new blood and recently sponsored a three day stay for the Mobile Indochina Education Project in Birmingham. They are also planning a bake sale for Operation County Fair. The catalyst for the group, Bill Edwards, played a major role in the National Democratic Party of Alabama's bid for a large number of state offices in Alabama. VVAW/WSO has worked closely with the NDPA in the past. NDPA is the only grass roots, truly democratic party in the state and has placed a number of black individuals in office around the state.

Operation County Fair

Operation County Fair in Tuscaloosa Alabama has submitted preliminary proposals to ten foundations for grants to aid in the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic. The Clinic board of Directors, made up entirely of community members, voted to contribute ten cases of vitamins to the contingent of Native Americans occupying Wounded Knee. The vitamins were delivered to Wounded Knee by two members of the board.

New list of priority items for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. black medical bags | 10. tongue depressors |
| 2. blood pressure apparatus | 11. paper towels |
| 3. Hb meter | 12. soap |
| 4. thermometers (oral and rectal) | 13. disposable lancets |
| 5. stethoscopes | 14. sample ointments |
| 6. cod liver oil capsules | 15. chairs |
| 7. ophthalmoscopes | 16. toys (children's room) |
| 8. examination tables | 17. oxygen tank w/mask |
| 9. bandage scissors | 18. medical scales |

We really need anything we can get, but these are priority items.

Send supplies to Operation County Fair
1317 14th Ave.
Tuscaloosa Ala. 35401

National Report



The Watergate Cover-Up and VVAW/WSO

Watergate testimony arising from the likes of Jeb Magruder, James McCord and Alfred Baldwin of the Nixon-CREEP gang, (Committee to Re-Elect the President) has repeatedly mentioned VVAW/WSO. The point of such testimony, and the basic reason for the indictments against the Gainesville 8, is a desperate attempt by the administration to justify the buggings and break-ins authorized by the White House during the 1972 Presidential campaign. (See the enclosed Jack Anderson column describing how this attempt to justify Watergate is still going on). It was more than mere coincidence that the Gainesville 8 were hauled before the federal grand jury that eventually indicted them only a few days after the CREEP thugs were caught in the Watergate break-ins. CREEP officials realized that sooner or later the dam of the Watergate scandal might break, "plumbers" or no "plumbers," and they had to figure out ways of somehow explaining away their actions.

Resorting to Nixon's time-honored bogey man of a "threat to national security" they hit on the idea of setting up VVAW as the villain in the affair, thus creating a justification for Watergate. As implausible as this seems, we see James McCord testifying before the Senate Select Committee as to why he bugged the Watergate and saying that it was because he was concerned about 'potential violence at the conven-

tion planned by several radical organizations, (~~specimens~~) operating within the McGovern campaign.' The need to discover the extent of these plans formed the justification for bugging Democratic headquarters at the Watergate, McCord said. Should any further evidence be needed to prove the transparency of his lies, one need only hear the statements of Alfred Baldwin, one of the "plumbers" in the CREEP cover-up attempt directed by Liddy. Baldwin was quoted as saying that he had initially been hired by McCord to act as a wire tap monitor at the Watergate, and to infiltrate VVAW for purposes of embarrassing the Democrats if the vote demonstrated at the Republican Convention. A succession of other such agents provocateurs have periodically cropped up in the Gainesville 8 case with successive Watergate revelations. (See enclosed clipping regarding Pablo Fernandez, one of Nixon's private 'Cuban mafiosi' who tried to sell machineguns to VVAW members). All of these hired thugs had one job: manufacturing a conspiracy to back CREEP's hand. The Nixon administration will clearly have to bolster its claim that a threat to national security, in the form of VVAW, did in fact exist-viz. the Anderson column. They can only do this by getting a conviction on the Gainesville 8 this summer, and that's one thing we aren't going to let them do.

(Ultimate Goal: Repression of Political Dissent!)

Over and above the spectacle of Watergate and the putrefaction of our democratic process it reveals, the Gainesville 8 trial is symbolic of a much larger and more generalized issue: that of a rapidly increasing repression of political dissent. The attempt to frame the Gainesville 8 is just another in a series of politically motivated grand jury witch hunts and conspiracy trials. The crooks running the U.S. can't stay in power and allow political freedom at the same time. There are far too many people challenging the basic assumptions of our "democratic process" and beginning to fight against the exploitation and oppression by which it is actually characterized. Just as the trials of the San Quentin 6 or the Attica brothers represents the challenge of the state's right to maintain its policy of institutionalized racism, the trial of the Gainesville 8 challenges the right of the state to maintain a system of imperialistic foreign wars.

The logical question to be asked is: why was VVAW/WSO fingered as this insidious threat to 'national security', rather than the several other radical groups that McCord and others have alluded to? The choice was not made at random. Rather, CREEP sought out what it undoubtedly saw as the primary threat among the various groups represented at the conventions, and they wound up with VVAW. Undoubtedly, a primary consideration was the threat represented to the continuation of Nixon's policy in Indochina by a group of anti-war veterans who could speak against the war with much greater moral authority than Nixon would care to permit.

More concretely, however, was the threat foreseen by the administration in the development and strengthening of VVAW/WSO as an organization. Moving rapidly away from merely a loose, anti-war grouping, we have clearly been developing organizational cohesion and a more radical, anti-imperialist, political outlook. With such a change came a much deeper understanding of the why's and wherefore's of the U.S. that would inevitably lead to an increasingly greater challenge to the system itself. The development of our program's, such as in Bogue Chitto, or with the Cairo United Front, represented the building of a grass roots base of support that the White House did not want to see occur. The development of strong, mass-based organizations with a coherent understanding of the true nature of our system was clearly the last thing they wanted to see.

(Looking Ahead)

Where should this all lead us? Initially, it should lead to the understanding that we have no alternative but to fight back against the not-so-crypto fascism the leaders of our government clearly have in mind for us. . . . we really have no choice but to resist. More importantly, however, Gainesville should teach us how best to fight back. The lesson being, that the best defense is an organized defense; our strength is in unity! For VVAW/WSO members this initially means building support for the defense of the Gainesville 8 and building for the July demonstrations there this summer. Over-and-above that it means building VVAW/WSO as an on-going organization. The trial of the Gainesville 8 still requires an incredible amount of struggle upon our part - but even after it is all over, we know that the "Eight" won't be the last VVAW / WSO members to be framed-up on phoney charges by the government. The tighter we get as an organization, the stronger we will become and the more able we will be to resist such repression.

FBI Still White House Handyman

By JACK ANDERSON
United Feature Syndicate

THE FBI has been badly burned by the revelations that it has been misused by White House aides. Yet believe it or not, the FBI is still doing political chores for the White House.

FBI agents are quietly investigating those "Vietnam Veterans Against the War" who worked in the Presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern. This is part of a desperate search, apparently, for evidence that would somehow justify the bugging and break-ins authorized by the White House during the 1972 campaign.

As we reported May 23, trusted Presidential aides are trying to put together evidence that subversives were conspiring in 1972 to defeat President Nixon and to undermine the political system. To assist in this research, the White House apparently has enlisted the FBI.



Anderson

FBI agent David Rarity, for example, has questioned Vietnam veterans who worked in McGovern's Watergate "veteran's affairs" office. His appearance coincided with White House interest in this sort of research. Rarity asked them about any possible subversive activities within the group.

"HE ASKED me if any planning was done out of the Watergate for demonstrations at the Republican national convention," one veteran told us. "He also asked a lot about the Socialist Worker's Party — if there were any people associated with them around the office."

Other veterans interviewed by Rarity said he asked them the same questions

He also asked them to identify any "troublemakers" in the organization.

Watergate conspirator James McCord testified last week that he was concerned about potential violence at the Republican national convention

because he believed several radical organizations were operating within the McGovern campaign. The need to discover the extent of these operations, McCord said, formed the justification for bugging Democratic headquarters at the Watergate.

Many of the scare stories came from Robert Mardian, then the Justice Department's internal security chief, who worked himself into a state of political paranoia. He deluged his superiors with warnings of civil disorders and political disruptions.

We have obtained access to some of these hush-hush Justice Department reports and close examination disclosed that Mardian's dire warnings were highly inflated.

THE VETS have told us that some who were recently questioned by the FBI had been attached to Army intelligence during their Vietnam duty.

"None of us were very high up in the McGovern operation," a vet told my associate Jack Cloherty. "We mostly stuffed envelopes and organized block parties."

Rarity told those he interviewed his investigation was prompted by a recent American Serviceman's Union demonstration.

The FBI refused to comment.

MAY 29, 1973

Clippings Needed on Gainesville 8 and Watergate!

With the press saying as much about us as it currently is, it is important that we try and keep up with all the various stories and articles dealing with the Gainesville 8 or with the relationship of VVAW/WSO to the Watergate affair. We need this information to get as complete an idea as possible about what the government is possibly planning for us or what other people are saying about what the government is doing in our regard. Since we can only follow the local press here in Chicago, we need the various regions and chapters to try and follow the local press in their respective regions and try to send whatever clippings may appear to the national office. We realize that many regions have been doing this on their own for some time now. The problem is that there has been no centralized collection point for this information and why we are now proposing that these clippings or copies of them are sent to this office. With the information here, we will be able to keep the entire organization much better informed as to what's going on by copying the clippings and sending them out in the newsletters as we have recently begun to do. This idea will only work, obviously, with the support of the local and regional organizations, so we'll really need everybody to try and make an effort to get the information in to us.

Chenoweth Trial Begins: Moved From the Philippines to Treasure Island!

The trial of Pat Chenoweth will begin Thursday, May 31st - and in the U.S., not the Philippines! On May 9th, the Navy withdrew its motion to transfer the trial to the Philippines, bringing to a victorious end the 4 month struggle to keep the trial here in the U.S.

Chenoweth, 21, is a Navy sailor charged with wartime sabotage in connection with damage to the aircraft carrier USS Ranger last July. A paint scraper and two large bolts were placed in the main reduction gears of the ship's number four main engine, resulting in over \$800,000 damage and delaying its departure for combat duty in Vietnam by three months.

Since January 5th Pat's lawyers and defense supporters have made appeals to the Court of Military Appeals, Federal District Court, Federal Court of Appeals and finally to the Supreme Court. The defense didn't get anywhere with these appeals, but the case was tied up long enough for the Ranger to be on its way home. Since the Navy's rationale for moving the trial was to be closer to the witnesses aboard the carrier, they had little choice but to withdraw the motion.

Even though this was a major victory for Pat, he still faces 30 years in prison for sabotage if convicted. While the Navy is not transferring the trial overseas, the initial injustice of Pat's prosecution still remains. There is no physical evidence pointing to him, and no indication of when the sabotage actually took place.

In support of Pat, the Pat Chenoweth Defense Committee is asking everyone to come to the trial beginning on May 31st to pick the jury, and on June 14th for the beginning of the testimony by prosecution witnesses. They are asking this, not only because Pat is innocent and being used as a scapegoat, but also because it is necessary to show GIs and civilians that the Navy can be beaten when it tries to bend the law and people's rights to suit its political purposes. THE TRIAL BEGINS MAY 31st, AT 9:30, TREASURE ISLAND, CALIF. BUILDING 450. FREE PAT CHENOWETH!

For more information contact: Pat Chenoweth Defense Committee, 3325 Kempton Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94611, (415) 763-6347.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Resource Pamphlet

We are currently in the process of making up a resource pamphlet. Any chapters or regions that have for sale bumper stickers, buttons, slide shows, tee-shirts, etc., that you would like to have listed in this pamphlet, please send in all details, including prices, addresses, sizes, etc.

Armed Farces Day - What happened?

At the last National Steering Committee Meeting in New Mexico we voted to have demonstrations on Armed Farces Day, May 19th in all the regions. Except for one or two chapters we haven't heard a thing about what chapters did. If your chapter or region did hold an anti-war action, please let us know about it.

Winter Soldier Order Blanks

Included in the last mailing were order forms for the next three months of the Winter Soldier. To date we have received only one order form back. This was sent by the Philadelphia office. We really need these forms in order to figure out how many copies to have printed for each issue and also to end the mass confusion when we ship the paper out. Please send these forms in.

Missing Back Newsletters or NSCM Minutes?

We have on hand extra copies of the back newsletters (1-6) and past copies of National Steering Committee minutes from Palo Alto, Chicago and Placitas. If your chapter or regional office is missing any of these newsletters or minutes please let us know and we'll get them to you right away.

A Reminder From NOSCAM

NOSCAM is VVAW/WSO's GI office. In this capacity we try to serve the active-duty membership of VVAW/WSO by providing support for the GI movement, providing literature, counseling information, etc. We have several requests that we would like to make of the chapters and regional coordinators. When we have sent membership applications to coordinators in the past, there has been a notable lack of response to these letters. We generally ask that the coordinators contact the people we have sent the names of to inform them of what is happening within the region, give them a local chapter address, etc. Please remember, that when you receive a name and application from us that it is vitally important that you fulfill your role and relate to these people. If anyone has the name and address of an active-duty person who you feel may be interested in joining VVAW/WSO and you would like to have us contact them with information, please send their name to us. The NOSCAM address is: NOSCAM, PO Box 1625, Dayton, Ohio 45401.

Change in Amnesty Position Paper

At the Toronto Amnesty Conference the VVAW/WSO caucus proposed a change in the position paper in the part dealing with Amnesty and Domestic Organizing. The original wording and the proposed changes follow:

Change One - Original - Most importantly, it points out the ways in which working people have paid a high price to oppose the war, and the penalties that they face as a consequence.

Proposed Change - ... it points out the ways in which working class people, particularly Third World, have paid a high price to

Change Two - Original - It will perhaps be the first time that the working class can have a direct and visible means of participation in the anti-war movement, ...

Proposed Change - It will perhaps be the first time that the working class, both white and Third World can have a direct and....

In order to make these changes we need the votes of the Steering committee members. If these changes are to be made we need a majority of these votes. Please let us know ASAP what your region votes as we are waiting to publish the pamphlet and cannot do so until you respond.

Again and Again

In the past few newsletters we have requested certain information. The lack of response is incredible. Again and again we talk of communicating and yet when it comes to practice we sadly lack the discipline to do so. We are interested in knowing why you cannot respond to any of these requests. If there is a certain problem involved, we would like to know as it is possible that we are making an error. If there is not any problem, we look forward to a bundle of mail within the next week or so.