



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

# NEWSLETTER

NO.16

NATIONAL OFFICE  
827 West Newport  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
Tel. (312) 936-2129

Dec. 5 ,1973

## General Information

### Lawton-Gardner Frame-Up Procedures Begin Again

On December 3rd, the wheels began turning again for the third trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner. As most of you should know by now, the second trial ended in a hung jury, as did the first trial. The verdict handed down by the Riverside trial jury was 8-4 for conviction of Lawton and 7-5 for conviction of Gardner. So, On Dec. 3rd, the government announced its plans to take Gary and Zurebu to court for the third time.

You can bet that this third effort on the part of the government is going to be vicious. After going this far and conducting two trials already, the government is going to need a definitive conviction this third time around if they are to save face in the Riverside community. Because the government will be escalating their efforts to finally frame these brothers, it is our responsibility to likewise escalate our efforts to defend Gary and Zurebu. People should again take note of the fact that this trial and the defense of these brothers is a national project, and Gary and Zurebu are now going to need more national support than ever before. The defense committee is in debt, but are having to go into another lengthy and expensive trial. Also, educational and agitational work on a broad national scale will be of primary importance.

The trial date for the new trial has been tentatively set for the first Monday in March. This gives us the advantage of time to do detailed work around the trial and reach as many people in this country as possible. One of the major concerns the defense had before going into the Dec. 3rd hearing was the revocation of bail. The judge made no mention of this, so Gary and Zurebu are still free. However, the prosecution did state that they would like to have a hearing in the near future to discuss the raising of bail. With the lack of funds in the defense fund, this could be a serious problem because it would mean that Gary and Zurebu would once again be back in jail. Money should be raised now so as to ensure that this return to prison does not occur. The next scheduled pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Dec. 14th at which time the subject of attorneys for the defense will be discussed.

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### Trial Date Set for Don Kemp

We reported in the last newsletter that Don Kemp had finally won the right to a new trial. (Don is presently serving a life sentence in Waupun Prison for the murder of his wife which occurred during a nightmare/flashback of Vietnam). Don's trial has been scheduled to begin on December 13th in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The prosecution tried to make a deal with the defense by saying that if Don would plead guilty to second-degree murder, he would be given the minimum sentence of five years (he has already spent over 1-1/2 years in prison). Don refused to be bought off and will continue the procedure of trial-by-jury for the expressed purpose of bringing the issues of the Indochina war and PVS out in the open. We will keep you posted on the events of the trial as they occur.

### Interstate Corrections Compact -- Major Threat to Prisoners

Since several regions are doing work around prisons, you should be aware of some of the government's not-so-nice tricks. The recently enacted Interstate Corrections Compact begins with the words: "The purpose of this compact is to provide for the mutual development and execution of such programs of cooperation for the confinement, treatment and rehabilitation of offenders with the most economical use of human and material resources." This sounds rather harmless, but particular attention must be paid to the words -- mutual development and execution of such programs of cooperation. The cooperation means very simply that the state doing the kidnapping and the state receiving the kidnapped will work as cohorts.

What this "Compact" means for prisoners is that an inmate can be taken from his/her cell in the dead of night and transferred to another prison. The inmates are given no prior notice, nor is their absence explained to other inmates and the whereabouts of the prisoners may even be withheld from the family of the inmate. An example of this is that right now in Waupun Prison, there are two inmates who were formerly in Sandstone, Minnesota. These two inmates were taken from Sandstone one night and since no one knows where they are (except for some Waupun inmates) the state of Minnesota has issued escape warrants for these two brothers. This danger of being moved is one of the major threats hanging over the heads of prisoners.

The following states are members of the Interstate Corrections Compact: Kentucky, Arizona, Missouri, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, Washington, Kansas, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and New Hampshire. The most active members of the Compact are Kentucky, Arizona and Missouri. Under this Compact, the Director of Corrections in each state has absolute power as to who will be transferred and who will not. The Director can delegate his authority to the warden of a specific institution. The major reason that this Compact was developed and inmates are being transferred is because they have begun to exercise their Constitutional right to petition the courts and have refused to accept the repression that is heaped upon them.

People who are doing work with prisoners should inform them of this Compact, just in case they are not aware of what might happen to them. We should also be doing educational work around this Compact and informing the people of this country that this Compact is in existence and that the nature of such an act is playing out in very oppressive and very racist terms. Also, petitioning, demonstrations, etc. can be conducted in the states where this compact is operating. There are times when we on the "outside" are in a better position to demand the rights of prisoners than the inmates themselves.

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#### Two VVAW/WSO Members Attend Conference on Cambodia -

VVAW/WSO recently received an invitation to send representatives to an international conference on Cambodia. This conference will take place in Paris, France from December 8-9. The delegates representing VVAW/WSO are Barry Romo, of the National Office Collective and Peter Zastrow, Regional Coordinator of MOINKWVAWPA.

The purpose of the conference is to allow the Cambodian people to inform an international movement about the present conditions in that country. Cambodia is the only country in Indochina that has not had an agreement signed. Over the past year, Cambodia has been the target of unprecedented bombing by the US military. The regime of Lon Nol has become totally isolated from the Cambodian people. It is evident that the liberation forces of Cambodia are in a position to restore independence and neutrality to the country after years of American government imposition of their puppets to rule this land. The conference in Paris will deal with these developments, and will provide VVAW/WSO with the information necessary to continue our support of the struggle of the people of Cambodia. Pete and Barry will report on this trip at the NSCM.

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#### National Steering Committee Meeting Preparations

The NSCM is just around the corner and there are a few things that regions should be reminded of. First, the host region (MOINKWVAWPA) introduced a proposal asking that the limit of 8 delegates to the NSCMs be abolished. Thus far, only a few regions have voted and as it stands now, the proposal is nowhere near passage (the vote at this date being 16-14 in favor of unlimited delegations). Unless there is an overwhelming surge of votes coming in within the next few days, people should consider that the number of delegates to the NSCM will still be 8 (five delegates and 3 alternates). We seriously doubt that this proposal is going to receive a 2/3 majority since people aren't voting, so continue to consider "8" to be the top limit of people who can attend the meeting from your region.

Second, people should be reminded that Round Robin Reports are to

be written beforehand for handing out at the meeting. If the reports are not written, then it is very probably that the work being done in your region will not be reported on. The only Round Robin "time" that will be at the next NSCM is a time for questions and answers from the other regions -- THERE WILL BE NO 20-30 MINUTE DISCUSSIONS ON ALL OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT YOUR REGION IS DOING. People should be disciplined in this respect and have their regional reports ready for handing out before the meeting begins. There will be no exceptions!

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December 18th - First Anniversary of the Bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong -

On December 18th of last year, the United States Military began the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong. The bombing lasted until the 30th of December and resulted in the heaviest bombing in history. This bombing destroyed hospitals and homes in addition to creating an international outburst of anti-imperialist outrage. On the 18th of December, it would be appropriate for chapters to mark the occasion, with a public display of solidarity with the struggle of the Indochinese peoples.

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N. Illinois - Iowa Proposal on Demonstrations for January 26-27

At the recent regional meeting of the Northern Illinois - Iowa Region the following proposal was passed to be presented to the NSCM in December.

"The region of Illinois-Iowa proposes that VVAW/WSO organize simultaneous demonstrations, involving as many groups as possible, in cities all over the country on or about January 27th, the anniversary of the signing of the Paris Accords on Vietnam. We think that there should be these three major demands for all actions.

1. Universal - Unconditional Amnesty for All War Resisters !!
2. Implement the Terms of the Peace Treaty !!
3. Impeach Nixon !!!

\* \* \*

This proposal should be discussed at regional meetings prior to the NSCM. Whatever the outcome of this proposal in December, it should be noted that having demonstrations on this date would be an important project for VVAW/WSO to work on. As we are dedicated to the struggle of the Indochinese Peoples in their war against US imperialism, this date would mark an excellent opportunity to reaffirm this belief. If chapters are interested in calling an action on this date, they should begin to prepare now to insure its success.

# Regional Reports

## Milwaukee Retakes the VA!!!

Last month the Milwaukee chapter of VVAW/WSO took over the local VA office in an attempt to publicize the fact that the VA is totally unresponsive to the fact that there are thousands of veterans who are not allowed benefits as a result of their opposition to the war in Indochina and to the racism and oppression of the military. The action by the chapter shook up the VA brass, but the results did nothing to impress upon the VA that the chapter was serious and not doing a one-shot deal.

To re-emphasize their displeasure with the VA, the chapter, on November 19th, again took direct action and the following is a description of what they did.

"We did our second VA takeover at 10:30 this morning, and as before it went off without a hitch. We went into the building in twos and threes and pretended to be filling out forms for the Am Legion, VFW, social security, vets benefits, etc. At 10:29 we all put back on our buttons and proceeded from whatever floor we were on to the 4th floor and the regional director's office, leafletting along the way. The pigs expected us to come in en masse 'cause there were two at the door, but we walked right past them to do our 'business'.

"There were about 35 brothers and sisters involved. The director wasn't there but his assistant lackey was. We stayed in the office for about 20 minutes with minimum harassment from the GSAs. Then chanting "POW get the cake, Viet Vets lick the plate", "Discharge upgrading is a must, look out VA this is a bust", and "we are the people and the people will win", we went down to the front of the building and threw a picket line around it for about 15 minutes. People then went to the Milwaukee Area Tech College and UW-Milwaukee, to leaflet and rap to people about our VA action, the demands and how people generally get fucked by the VA."

The next day they returned to the VA but instead of going inside, they just leafletted and set up a picket line. The police and security guards, smelling a continuance of the take-over refused to allow any seedy looking vets into the building. When their entrance was barred, many of the vets joined the picket line set up by the chapter. As a result of this direct action, in pointing out the contradictions of the VA in their dealings with veterans, the chapter meeting after this was increased by about 30 people. This action by the Milwaukee chapter deserves to be studied carefully by other chapters who are involved with discharge upgrading and amnesty. For more information write to VVAW/WSO, 2439 N. Fratney, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212.

Amnesty and VVAW/WSO -

In California, the chapters have been circulating a petition calling for universal and unconditional amnesty and to date they have collected approximately 30,000 signatures. They see amnesty as a good organizing tool and have been getting a lot of speaking engagements as a result of the work they have been doing. They feel that the petition drive is a good way to introduce people to the question of amnesty. The National Collective has sent out the copy for the national petition and as of yet has received no feedback. In view of the success that the California chapters are having, it may be a good idea to let us know what you think of it so we could get it printed.

In Vermont, the VVAW/WSO chapter of Burlington recently attended a conference on amnesty called by several groups in that city. These groups included American Friends Service Committee. The meeting adopted the VVAW/WSO national position paper on amnesty. This indicates that there are many local groups who would be ready to accept our position if they were approached by us.



The Kansas City chapter of VVAW/WSO is involved in conducting vigils every Saturday afternoon until Christmas in one of the busiest shopping districts in the city. The reason for the vigil is to demand universal and unconditional amnesty and to raise the level of consciousness of the shoppers. Response to the vigil has been quite positive. When the vigils first began, only 4 or 5 people were "manning" each shift. Last Saturday, approximately 25 people participated -- including the parents of an exiled war resister who happened to be shopping at the time and joined the vigil and leafletting activities.

### D. C. VVAW/WSO May Form Exile Defense Committee

The Washington D. C. /Virginia/Maryland region has informed us of another returned exile who has not received the best of treatment since his return to the U. S. The exile's name is Vinson. He is a family man with 5 children in Ohio. Vinson is a black GI who went to Sweden as an act of military resistance. He decided to return to the states and turned himself into the American embassy. Upon arriving at Kennedy Airport, he was immediately arrested by the FBI and MPs and taken to Ft. Meade and tossed into the stockade. There he was beaten and drugged. Then he was shipped to a hospital out west. When he arrived at the hospital, he was still under the influence of drugs and they discovered three burn marks, each the size of a quarter, on his back. He thinks a doctor burned him while he was in the stockade but Vinson can't be sure because he passed out when it happened. Vinson is now supposed to be on his way back to Mt. Meade. If this is an example of the treatment that resisters receive when they return to the U. S., our amnesty work becomes much more pressing. The D. C. /Virginia/Maryland region may be forming a defense committee for this brother. More on this as the info comes in.

### Colorado Doing Anti-ROTC Organizing

Colorado chapters are actively involved in running a petitioning campaign against ROTC on campuses. Chapters are aiming their efforts, both against campus ROTC and mandatory high school ROTC. VVAW/WSO is aiding high school students who are protesting ROTC in their schools and also organizing college students who do not want ROTC programs instituted as a result of an administration mandate. For information on how this project is being conducted, contact the Denver regional office.

### Funding for Veteran's Projects Available in Dayton

It was reported in the last newsletter that the Dayton chapter of VVAW/WSO had received funding (via proposals) for their discharge upgrading project. The Dayton people have made contact with a fund raiser who is willing to help VVAW/WSO chapters with proposals which are asking for money in order to set up veteran's projects. Discharge upgrading qualifies as the type of veteran's project that this person is willing to work on. Chapters who are in need of funding for their projects should contact the Dayton (NOSCAM) office for details and further information.

# National Reports

## VVAW/WSO Indicted in Leavenworth Penitentiary

Most people should be aware that we have a chapter in the Leavenworth Federal Prison (as well as the Ft. Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks). People should also be aware that the prison experienced the first major "uprising" in a Federal Prison on last July 31st. Since the uprising, several brothers have been held in administrative segregation with no sign of being released back into the population. Out of the events at Leavenworth, two Grand Juries have been selected. One of the Juries will be indicting people involved in the July 31st uprising. This Jury is now sitting somewhere in Kansas, though no one knows exactly where. The second Grand Jury has just completed its job and handed down indictments on three of the Leavenworth brothers (all of whom are VVAW/WSO members). Alf Hill and Odell Benette have been indicted on charges of assaulting a federal officer and inciting a mutiny. Alfred Jasper has been indicted on assaulting a federal officer and carrying a dangerous weapon. These charges are incredibly absurd. The reason these brothers were indicted is because of an incident which occurred on October 11th. On that day, all three of these men were to appear before what is known as a "good time" hearing. The purpose of this hearing was to determine whether or not the time for good behavior (which brings parole dates early) should be revoked. On the day that the prisoners were to appear before the hearing, guards entered their cells and badly beat all three inmates. Even though Alf Hill appeared before his hearing with a broken nose and broken ribs, they are now being charged with assaulting a federal officer!

These indictments have been handed down for pure harassment purposes. Many of the Leavenworth inmates are facing the possibility of being indicted on charges of murder, arson, kidnapping, etc., so it seems curious that the government has chosen to fool around with these lesser charges before the more serious indictments are handed down. The purpose of this harassment may be to test out the response that these indictments receive and to see what sort of defense these brothers will put together. We can expect a great deal more illegality to be directed at these brothers before the government is satisfied. A defense committee should be forming shortly, so chapters across the country should be preparing to do some publicizing of this case. The brothers in Leavenworth have put their lives on the line rather than cease their organizing efforts inside the prison. For their courage, they deserve all the support possible from their organization.

### KELLY





### VVAW/WSO Chapter in London, England !!!

On November, 14th, the Union of American Exiles in Britain formally voted to become VVAW/WSO London Chapter. During the past year, members of UAEB and VVAW/WSO have met on several occasions and exchanged information about what was going on in both Britain and the United States. Solidarity between the two groups was established and recently, UAEB discussed the reasons why they felt becoming a VVAW/WSO chapter was to their benefit. They felt that organizing progressive Americans in Britain would be easier under the banner of VVAW/WSO; second that they were losing their identity as exiles and were more becoming a community of Americans opposed to US imperialism and third, their membership was not solely that of exiles. UAEB and VVAW/WSO have had similar experiences in the progression of their development in terms of political work and membership.

We welcome our new chapter and look forward to the growth of VVAW/WSO and the new input that we will have from these new members. VVAW/WSO now has chapters in Britain, Japan and aboard the USS JFK. These chapters are doing work with GIs stationed there and as such, are an important part of our organization. The address of the London Chapter is: VVAW/WSO, Two Turquand Street, London SE 17, England. Please put this chapter on your mailing list so that they may better understand the work that we are doing here in the States.

### Prison Christmas Fast

In the last newsletter we gave a run-down on the Christmas-day action that will be occurring in prisons around the country. Enclosed you will find the "call" for the boycott which the Walpole Prisoners Union and the National Lawyers Guild are trying to get out around the country. Members are encouraged to support this action in any way possible. This leaflet should be reproduced and sent to all of the prisoners in your region, as well as leafletting in your communities. We feel that this action is a very significant way of showing support for the Attica Brothers and that chapters should make every effort to ensure that the word on this boycott is spread throughout your area.

### At Last! "Soldiers and Strikers" Hits the Mail

After much anxious awaiting, "Soldiers and Strikers" (the pamphlet we have been talking about for the past two newsletters) is being sent to you. We are sorry if cardiac arrest set in while you were expecting this booklet, but gripes will have to be taken up with the proper bureaucrat in charge of postage rates. So, folks, enclosed is your chapters copy of this excellent little book.

### VVAW/WSO - What's in a Name?

At the Steering Committee Meeting held in Placitas, New Mexico last April, the body voted to change the name of the organization from VVAW to VVAW/WSO. The addition of Winter Soldier Organization was made so as to include as full members all those who were non-veterans. Because of this change many new members have joined the organization in various parts of the country, and we have now opened the organization so that these non-veterans can begin to hold leadership positions. The change came about because of the conditions that existed within the organization. To remain VVAW would have meant that those non-veterans who worked with us would become second-class members in a de facto situation. The changing of the name was a progressive step, recognizing the progressive development of the organization.

During the past months since this change was voted, various interpretations and discrepancies have developed. There are those who feel that the change was a mistake or others who feel that the Winter Soldier concept is the wave of the future and that the change should be made now. As a result of these individual, unilateral decisions to adjust the name of the organization, we have seen the emergence of VVAW/wso, VVAW, WSO, vvaw/WSO, VVAW/Winter Soldier, and Vietnam Veterans Against the War/WSO.

We are a national organization that is guided by ten objectives and that is governed by a National Steering Committee. The Steering Committee represents the membership of the various regions. These regions discuss policy changes and in turn, the National Steering Committee adopts or rejects them. When the Winter Soldier concept was adopted it was discussed in the regions for six months. When the National Steering Committee adopted the addition of WSO to VVAW, we became VVAW/WSO. Those chapters and individuals who do not abide by the decision of the National Steering Committee have circumvented the democratic procedures by which the organization is run. To do this is to suppose that they are more correct and more politically astute than the rest of the organization. This tendency is counter-productive to the building of a unified national organization.

To continue this individualism is to sanction others to not abide by the decisions of the rest of the organization. In building a mass national organization, this individualism only weakens us. For all those chapters who persist in adopting only that which they deem fit, we can only say, that you should begin to consider the repercussions of your actions. Hopefully, at the December Steering Committee Meeting those who unilaterally decide to circumvent the decisions of that representative body will explain their justification for doing so.

### 1974 African Liberation Calendar

This calendar is illustrated with 13 original drawings; it highlights dates from contemporary events like the Sharpville Massacre and the assassination of Amilcar Cabral; and it includes African poetry selections and quotations. Available for \$3.00 from: Liberation Support Movement Information Center, Box 94338, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada. Bulk orders available.



### United Farmworkers Need Doctors

The Farm Workers Health Group, with clinics in Delano, Calexico, Fresno County and Salinas, is a vital part of the organization that is radically changing the lives of farmworkers. The Farm Workers Health Group Program is the fruit of a long organizing struggle. Likewise, the health benefits of the Farm Workers Union members are an incentive for non-members to begin to control their destiny.

At this time the Farm Workers face a shortage of medical personnel, especially doctors. Along with the call for people across the nation to boycott lettuce and grapes, the Farm Workers Union sends a plea for dedicated medical personnel. For further information, contact:

Sister Pearl McGivney  
 National Farm Workers Health Group  
 Box 131  
 Keene, California 93531  
 (805) 822-5571

### Fundraising Ideas

Showing films like Marx Brothers, W. C. Fields and Flash Gordon films can be an easy way of making some bread. An "Oldtime Film Festival" could draw a lot of people on any campus, especially now that politics is "out" and nostalgia is "in". The Columbus Chapter recently made \$800 showing Catch 22 on a campus. For a complete list of over 25 film

distributors, write or call the National Office (ask for Rich).

If you have the bread to finance a "Superstar Concert", we've got the names of all the booking agents. Don't try asking for any 'freebees' because we've just finished trying that and it produced no results. If you've got \$5.00 and would like to have a catalogue with all the names of the 'stars' and their agents, send your \$5.00 to:

Ask for the latest issue of  
Campus Attractions.  
(It also contains the list of film  
distributors.)

Billboard Publications  
9000 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California  
90069  
(213) 273-7040

### Impeachment Resources

The ACLU is pushing impeachment, and they can provide you with some basic information about the subject. You can obtain an impeachment package from one of their local offices or from:

American Civil Liberties Union  
84 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10011

You can obtain more information about impeachment by writing the following also:

People's Bicentennial Commission  
1346 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Room 1025  
Washington, D. C. 20036  
(202) 234-7187

Undergraduate Student Assoc.  
University of Illinois  
297 Illini Union  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

## Information Requests

### Information Requests

Not too long ago, we published a leaflet advising chapters of the resource material that we have available at this office. We would like to make up another leaflet, but this time listing the resources that are available from the chapters. We are aware of some items that various chapters have to offer, but if we could compile a list of all these items, it would help you in getting the word out to the other chapters. We would like all this information by January 1st.

Winter Soldier Distribution -

At the St. Louis SCM, we brought down thousands of copies of Winter Soldier for distribution to the regions. Very few took the papers back with them and we had to mail the papers once back at the office. This month we would like to be able to save the regions some money by bringing the papers to Ohio and having you take them back with you so that there is no cost for shipping. But we will only bring the papers of those regions who specifically ask us to do this. We ask that you let us know by December 15th if you want the papers brought to Ohio or not. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you want them shipped. It could save you some money, so please let us know by the 15th.

Free Literature from NARMIC

We recently received a free shipment of literature from NARMIC. For the cost of postage, we will send you any of the following:

After the Signing of the Paris Agreements

Documents on South Vietnam's Political Prisoners  
NARMIC/VRC June 1973

Components and Contractors of the Automated Air War

Compiled by John Strauss  
NARMIC December 1972

The Simple Art of Murder

Antipersonnel Weapons and Their Developers  
Eric Prokosch  
NARMIC 1972

Top Producers of the Automated Battlefield Who Make Things  
for the Home

Another Mother for Peace Newsletter 1972

The New Opium War

by Frank Browning and Banning Garrett  
Reprinted from Ramparts May 1971

America's Chemical and Biological Warfare Program

by Richard Fineberg  
NARMIC Reprint 1972

## PRISONERS' CHRISTMAS FAST

We call on all prisoners to join in a nationwide prisoners boycott of the traditional Christmas dinner.

We prisoners are expected to pause at xmas-time with Middle America to eat and be merry and feel thankful. But all across America, hidden behind the myths and the dollar signs and fancy tinsel, there is hunger of body and spirit. The system-enforcers are everywhere; repressing people, violating the Bill of Rights, protecting and enforcing the priorities and life styles of the profit-makers. Forty million people live in poverty. Millions more can barely make ends meet. There is massive inflation, unemployment, broken-down neighborhoods, outrageous price-tags on everything from the basic necessities of life to civil rights. And for the millions of Third World and poor white people, the injustice of poverty, institutionalized racism, inequality or opportunity, exploitation and oppression, is what life is all about. We prisoners know this. These injustices are what prison is all about.

Attica is to the prison system what the American police-court-prison business is to capitalism. Attica is the reverse side of the American dollar. Attica is poverty is inequality is injustice is racism. Attica is My Lai is ITT is Watergate is abuse of power is Behavior Modification. Attica was no mistake. The machine-gune butchery carried out by the self-righteous mercenaries is officially sanctioned. Nixon, Rockefeller, Oswald, those in power, clearly understood the effect that widely publicized negotiated settlement in Attica would have on other contained ghettos. Attica is Law and Order is Stat- us Quo is every person is every ghetto is Attica. There will be no pause for xmas inside Attica.

Many of us have always refused to take any holiday dinners -- as a silent personal protest. Let them keep their turkeys and stuffing, even though it is the only decent meal most of us would have all year.

WE NOW CALL ON ALL PRISONERS TO JOIN IN A BOYCOTT OF THE XMAS DINNER. We will not mourn the dead nor sing praises to the survivors. Too many of us are still dying, thousands of us are buried alive. We refuse to take the xmas meal as a gesture of solidarity with the 60 Attica Brothers who are taking the weight. We are protesting everything Attica represents.

Two years ago, after months of being lied to, harassed, ignored in trying to negotiate their grievances, 1200 men risked whatever they had -- and revolted. That New York list of 28 grievances has been echoed for many years all over the country, in every prison and city uprising from Walpole and Wounded Knee to San Quentin and Newark. They were the same demands shouted for in the Tombs, in Alderson and Leavenworth, in Baltimore and

McAlister, in Rhode Island and Georgia, in New Hampshire and Illinois -- demands for those human and civil rights that have long been denied to people held under the iron heel of the system, whether we be in ghettos or reservations, in sweat shops or mindless schools, or in prison.

Three million dollars and all the fantastic resources of the state of New York have been geared to convict the 60 defendants to justify the state's barbarity. They have been indicted on 1300 separate counts, calling for thousands of years, plus the death penalty. Their lawyers are all volunteering services, as are many people, but the defense expenses will cost over \$500,000.

And so we call on people everywhere to join in solidarity with the Attica Brothers. We ask our people who are not in prison to buy one less xmas gift for each other: and to donate the price of that gift to the Attica Brothers Defense Fund, c/o the National Lawyers Guild, 23 Cornelia Street, New York, New York 10014.

From the Walpole Chapter  
National Prisoners Reform Assoc.  
Prisoners Against Poverty, Racism  
and War