

Vietnam Veterans Against the War-Winter Soldier Organization

NEWSLETTER

number 24



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Build the Demo!

Organizations Endorse July Demonstration -

Many national organizations have expressed a desire to help build and participate in the July Demonstration. While many of these groups cannot attend the entire four days of actions, there is a great interest in the march and rally on July 4th. It is hoped that chapters will contact the local affiliates of these national organizations for support in building and participating in the demonstration.

The National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA) has formally endorsed the demonstration. Groups represented by the council include: ACLU, American Friends Service Committee, AMEX, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Gold Star Parents for Amnesty, Southern Conference Educational Fund, War Resisters League, War Tax Resistance, Women Strike for Peace and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Other organizations that have expressed interest are: Attica Brigade, Indochina Peace Campaign, the Guardian, National Lawyers Guild, the October League and the Revolutionary Union.

Other organizations are being asked and we will report on the outcome of these conversations. If local chapters ask for support from local organizations, we ask that these groups be asked for support on the basis of the five demands. Organizations participating in the march and rally on July 4th are encouraged to bring organizational banners.

Washington Update -

The Demonstration Logistical Committee will be setting up shop in DC on approximately June 1. At this time the DC chapter is securing an office and when that office is obtained we will let you know about it.

Permits have been given for the march and rally sight and for the demonstration at the Capitol Building. The July 4th march will begin at the Lincoln Memorial and will

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end at the Ellipse, (the expanse of grass between the White House and the Washington Monument). Other permits for the VA, Justice Department, Court of Military Appeal, are still being negotiated. Campsite negotiations are still in progress. A lawsuit has been filed with the District Court for the mall area used by us during DCHH. The outcome of this suit won't be known for at least two weeks.

A lot of interest has been shown by a number of groups (as listed above) and individuals in the demonstration. Many chapters have reported to us that they have been working with various community and veteran campus groups, in building for the demonstration. It has all the makings of being a really successful demonstration and we are all reminded that the demonstration will be as big as we make it. Chapters have been renting busses and arranging for car caravans. We have received reports from California that they expect at least three busloads of people. We believe if that much interest is being shown for a demonstration 3,000 miles away that chapters closer to Washington can do as well or better.

BUILD THE DEMONSTRATION



Demonstration Materials -

The National Collective has already prepared and distributed a number of materials for use in building the demonstration. In addition to the June-July issue of WINTER SOLDIER, which should be used in building for the demonstration also, we have distributed over 50,000 copies of the newsprint poster and over 100,000 of the orange stickies. Also, there will be a copy of the demonstration brochure we have just produced enclosed with this mailing. Unfortunately, we only have a few thousand copies of the brochure on hand at the moment and can only send them out in

VERY limited numbers. It is suggested that chapters immediately needing quantities of the brochure, (and it is hoped that most will!!), can have them reproduced locally in small quantities until we can get a larger run printed here in Chicago. The brochure is to be used as a handout for people interested in finding out more information or merely as a leaflet.

While we will not be printing more copies of the poster unless there is a strong demand for them, (let us know ASAP) we will be reprinting the stickies in the next few days. There have been some complaints about the quality of the glue on the back and thus we are trying to find a better brand of glued paper. In the meantime, the stickers will work if a sufficient amount of water is put on them and also if the surface is clean where putting them up. We will send stickies out to all regional offices that request them. Please advise us ASAP. It is also hoped that chapters will be able to send us some money as the cost of producing these materials is sky high and it is really hurting the wallet!!!!

We are still in the process of arranging for speakers and entertainers for the demonstration. As soon as we have them confirmed we will notify all regions and chapters and hopefully begin getting out some sort of materials advertizing the fact. If people have ideas or contacts for good people's entertainers, singers, musicians, theater groups, etc. please notify the National Office as soon as possible. We are particularly hoping to draw the entertainment from the East Coast and thus cut down what might otherwise be a very formidable transportation budget.

General Information

Ruchell Magee Pleads Guilty

Ruchell Magee pleaded guilty on May 10th to a charge of aggravated kidnaping. The charge stems from the "Courthouse Slave Rebellion" which took place on August 7, 1970 at the Marin County Courthouse. On this day in August, Ruchell appeared in court to testify on behalf of a fellow prisoner. Jonathan Jackson rose from his seat in the court and said, "All right gentlemen, this is it." The prisoners then made their bid for freedom and attempted to escape in a van, taking with them the court's presiding judge. Marin County Sheriffs opened fire on the van and indiscriminately murdered Jackson, William Christmas, James McClain and the court's judge, Harold Haley. Ruchell was the only surviving prisoner and he was later charged with murder, conspiracy to free the Soledad Brothers, and kidnaping. These charges came to trial in 1972, but because Ruchell's involvement in the murder of Judge Haley was disproved, the jury remained hopelessly hung. Following this first trial, the murder charge against Ruchell was dropped, and he was awaiting his second trial on the kidnaping charge which was to begin on May 27th.

This second trial will not happen because of Ruchell's guilty plea. The reason behind this plea is not clear at this point, but we will try to keep people posted. The maximum sentence under the charge is life imprisonment, and we may expect that Ruchell will receive this maximum penalty. As more information is learned, we will get it out to people.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota - American Indians on Trial

The current trial under way in Sioux Falls involving American Indians stems from incidents which took place in Buffalo Gap and Custer, South Dakota, early last year. On January 21, 1973, Darrell Schmitz, a filling station manager from Custer, stabbed and killed Wesley Bad Heart Bull in Buffalo Gap, S. D. There were a number of eye-witnesses, and although it would have been easy to stop the murderer, no attempt was made to catch Schmitz. It had been common knowledge in Buffalo Gap that a white bar owner had offered a reward to the person who killed Wesley, and before the stabbing, Schmitz told a number of people he was going to kill Wesley. Apparently confident of avoiding conviction, Schmitz turned himself in the next day and was scheduled for trial February 6th.

On February 6th, about 100 Indians came to Custer, in the heart of the Black Hills which are sacred to the Indians. They planned to hold a meeting with States' Attorney Hobart Gates to discuss the prejudice shown in the lack of an investigation and the fact that Schmitz was charged with only manslaughter rather than first degree murder. The Indians were instead met with riot police when they entered Custer. The police attacked them with riot sticks, baseball bats, mace, tear gas and other weapons. Many Indians were injured. Thirty were arrested and later 19 were indicted, including Sarah Bad Heart Bull, Wesley's mother. In May of 1973, an all-white jury acquitted Schmitz.

Harassment and intimidation continued throughout 1973 for the Custer defendants, and on February 18, 1974, Butch Bad Heart Bull, Wesley's brother, was murdered by a white man. Butch's murderer is now free on bond with no trial date set.

One of the main points of friction between the Indians and the judicial system in Custer is the Indians' refusal to stand when the judge enters the courtroom. Standing for a judge in a courtroom is only a courtesy, not a law; and the Indians feel that Judge Joseph Bottum deserves no courtesy. As a result, on April 26, 1974, more than 50 women, children and men were carried out of the courtroom and dumped in the hall. Judge Bottum's anger reached a high point on April 30th when he ordered riot police to clear the courtroom. As the bus load of riot police arrived at the courthouse, the judge cleared the news media from the courtroom. The police then marched up to the courtroom and entered with their visors down, clubs in hand, flack vests on, and armed with mace, tear gas and guns. The police literally assaulted the 14 spectators who were there to support the defendants and who refused to stand for the judge. All but five Indian spectators were thrown out of the courtroom after the 10-minute attack. The five were arrested and taken to jail where they were denied adequate medical attention for their injuries. All Indian spectators were injured, eight requiring hospital care. However, the most serious injury was to defendant David Hill, who had been ordered to remain in the courtroom. The first person attacked, he received severe eye and head wounds, and doctors think that the chances are slim that he will regain full use of his right eye, if at all.

The situation in Sioux Falls has reached a crisis stage with regular knifings and assaults on Indians by local white people. Vigilante squads have been formed

by local whites and the tension has reached a stage reminiscent of the situation in Cairo, Illinois, several years ago.

The Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee is working on the cases and has asked VVAW/WSO if they can assist them in the following ways: 1) Contact your local media and insist that they cover the events in Sioux Falls; and 2) Send telegrams and letters to Judge Bottum demanding that he remove himself from the case and requesting that all Custer cases be moved out of the State of South Dakota. Address all messages to: Judge Joseph Bottum, Circuit Court, Minnehaha County Courthouse, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101. Please send a copy of any message to the defense office. The defense committee is also faced with a severe financial crisis and are about to lose their phone. There are also faced with the fact that a number of the 19 Custer defendants will soon begin their trials in Pierre, South Dakota, and it will be difficult to transport supporters to Pierre for the trials. More information is available from: Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee, PO Box 255, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101; Phone (605) 339-9805 - ask for Candy Hamilton.



SPN Numbers

As pointed out in this issue of WINTER SOLDIER, some form of classification system will still remain in effect. The difference is that now the veteran won't even be aware of it. The classifications will be used in the veteran's 201 File, the permanent military service record that all servicepeople have.

We have found that the SPN issue is a very gut level issue that can easily be organized around. We have a copy of all the SPN numbers and will send a copy to any chapter requesting a copy. (The list is about 10 pages long and we could not afford to send one to each chapter.) If vets are interested in getting a new DD214, here are the addresses of the branches of service that vets should write to: Army - Commander, Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132; Navy - Chief BUPERS(Pers. - 38), Dept. of the Navy, Washington, DC 20370; Air Force - Military Personnel Center, DPMDR, Randolph AFB, Texas 78148; Marines - Commandant, U.S.M.C., MSRB-10, HQ U.S.M.C., Washington, DC 20380. Name, service, Social Security number, dates of service and a copy of your old DD 214 should be included in the request for a new DD 214. The Columbus Chapter has been doing public service announcements on the radio and has been getting a tremendous response.

Be sure to remind anyone getting a new DD 214 that their 201 File still has the reason for discharge and that employers will continue to have access to this information. This also offers a good chance to discuss what the role of the military is in our society and why they have such close ties with corporations.

Supreme Court Bars Arbitrary Censorship of Prisoners Mail

Early in May, the U. S. Supreme Court upheld a district court order ending the practice of certain kinds of censoring and suppressing of the personal mail of California prison inmates. Correctional authorities had appealed the lower court ruling to the Supreme Court after the state corrections director, Raymond Proconier, claimed that mail is a "privilege" and not a legal right. The Supreme Court unanimously disagreed with Proconier's opinion.

The Court's opinion states: "Prison officials may not censor inmate correspondence simply to eliminate unflattering or unwelcome opinions... Rather, they must show that a regulation authorizing mail censorship furthers (the) interests of security, order and rehabilitation."

Though the censorship will still be up to the individual California prisons, this Court ruling does set the basis for ensuring prisoner's legal rights to send and receive uncensored mail. This ruling on California prisons also sets a precedent which may be used in other states filing "mail-tampering" suits. This one Court decision may be seen as a small victory in the prison struggle, and it will be interesting to see just how this ruling will be applied, enforced and assuredly ignored.

New System Established for Handling Prisoner Grievances

The U. S. Bureau of Prisons has established a new redress system for the grievances of federal prisoners. The policy will bar the inmates of federal prisons from filing suits in courts until they have completed a new complaint procedure. This nationwide plan seriously threatens the Constitutional rights of all federal prisoners around the country.

A prisoner who feels he has been victimized by some prison rule, custom, guard, condition or practice must first file a complaint with the prison warden. The warden is obligated to reply in writing to the grievance within 15 business days. If the prison is not satisfied with the warden's ruling, he may appeal to the Bureau of Prisons. The Bureau must reply to the grievance within thirty business days (or about 6 weeks). Then, if the prisoner has still not received justice, he may take his complaint to the courts. The intent and result of all this red-tape will be that prisoners will become discouraged from pursuing their legal and guaranteed rights by official "kangaroo courts" before the matter of controversy gets to the "legitimate court."

The Bureau of Prisons will now have the opportunity to selectively grant a right here and there and prevent any meaningful victories in the courts. It will mean that the repression of the prison system might not ever be brought to light or questioned before a real judicial body. Also, the danger exists that this plan may very well spread from the federal prisons to the state and local prisons as well. The inevitable result will be to keep prisoner grievances and protests from public view and scrutiny, and the repression now facing prisoners across the country will be on the rise -- putting the brothers and sisters in prisons in a situation where they can do little or nothing about it.

Cairo Organizer Bobby Williams Faces Prison

Enclosed is a brochure about the case of Bob Williams. Bob has been one of the leading figures in the struggle in Cairo, Illinois, and deserves all the support that we can give. He has already been tried and convicted three times for the same charge; twice he has had the conviction overturned on appeal; the latest conviction is now on appeal.

We suggest that you contact Bob's Defense Committee in St. Louis and offer your support, even if it's only moral support; and also request additional copies of the brochure to hand out to chapter members and your community. Contact: National Committee to Free Bobby Williams, 27 Windemore Place, St. Louis, MO 63112 (314) 725-1082.

Criminal Code Reform Bill

In the October issue of WINTER SOLDIER we covered the provisions of the Criminal Code Reform Bill, variously known as S 1400 and HR 6046. In late March we received a letter from the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation in response to our questions about the status of this bill. The following is a portion from their letter: "Status on S 1400: the subcommittee on Criminal Laws and Procedures of the Senate Judiciary Committee seems to be in the process of coalescing S 1400 with S 1 in order to report out one bill to the Senate Judiciary; one probable motivation is more assurity of broader support. Note, however, that the death penalty bill which passed the Senate on March 13th, S 1401, is that section from S 1400, separated and dealt with independently. There is the possibility that this is the procedure to be followed with the rest of the bill.

"The subcommittee on Criminal Justice of the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Mr. William Hungate (Missouri) seems to be intent on beginning hearings within the next few months."

We encourage chapters to stay on top of this piece of repressive legislation. If the whole bill eventually passes, we could all be either underground or in jail. In addition to writing to appropriate Congresspeople and Committees, you can also get some straight answers from the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, 1750 Columbia Road, NW, Washington, DC 20009 (202) 234-5287. Their national office can be contacted at: PO Box 74757, Los Angeles, CA 90004 (213) 462-1329.

Requests for Sociological Data on VVAW/WSO and VVAW/WSO Members

We've been getting a steady flow of information requests from universities sociology professors, etc for information on the organization and the political beliefs of its membership. Given the fact that in 9 out of 10 cases, the organization can gain nothing from complying with these requests, and the fact that the info gained may go to sources we would rather not see it go to (!), the N. O. would highly recommend that regions, chapters, and individual members approach these requests with a great deal of caution. As a rule of thumb we would suggest that they be summarily discarded.

Bucklin / Johnson Campaign Initiated by NCUUA -

As part of its national program for amnesty, the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty has initiated a campaign that focuses on two cases. These cases are those of Richard Bucklin, a military resister; and Robert Johnson, a civilian resister. Bucklin received a military courtmartial, a 15 month sentence and a Bad Conduct Discharge. Johnson is serving his five year term for resisting the war. Enclosed with this mailing is a brochure that explains in more detail both these cases and why they are being singled out from among the hundreds of thousands of war resisters. For more information on the case and for more petitions, write to: NCUUA, 339 Lafayette, NYC, NY 10012.

Films for Fundraising and Education

MILLHOUSE: A WHITE COMEDY is a revealing film about Richard Nixon - Nixon the candidate, congressman, senator, vice-president and president. Judging from public sentiment, **MILLHOUSE** should be an excellent fundraising film. It is available for a rental fee of \$85 from: New Yorker Films, 43 West 61st Street, New York, NY 10023 (212) 247-6110. It's 93 minutes, 16mm, black and white.

Impact Films has a catalog offering quite a number of important political films that chapters could use for education and fundraising. They have films on prisoners, woodcutters in the deep South, Appalachia, the black struggle, women, Africa, China, Latin America and other issues. They also distribute "Operation Last Patrol" about our convoy to the 72 Convention in Florida. The film is in color and 54 minutes long. They also distribute "Dhofar: Guerilla War on the Arabian Gulf," a 40-minute color film about the struggle in Dhofar (see April WS). We urge chapters to write for their catalog. Their catalog can be obtained by writing to: Impact Films, 144 Bleecker Street, New York, NY 10012 (212) 674-3375.

Regional Reports

Regional Demos

To build for the DC Demo, the NSCM called for regional demonstrations on the weekend of 17-18 May. Here are the results as far as we know them--the rest will be included in the next newsletter.

Milwaukee : After a series of takeovers of the VA in Milwaukee (see back issues of the newsletter and Winter Soldier), people finally got busted--16 people were arrested for "demonstrating on government property" during a May 17th action at the VA (they were all out again within hours and continued the demonstration). Included in the 16 were two people with press passes. Trial is set for the 23rd--the "crime" is a misdemeanor. A car caravan through Milwaukee publicized the 5 demands on the following day. There are already 70 confirmed reservations for the DC Demo, with more to follow.

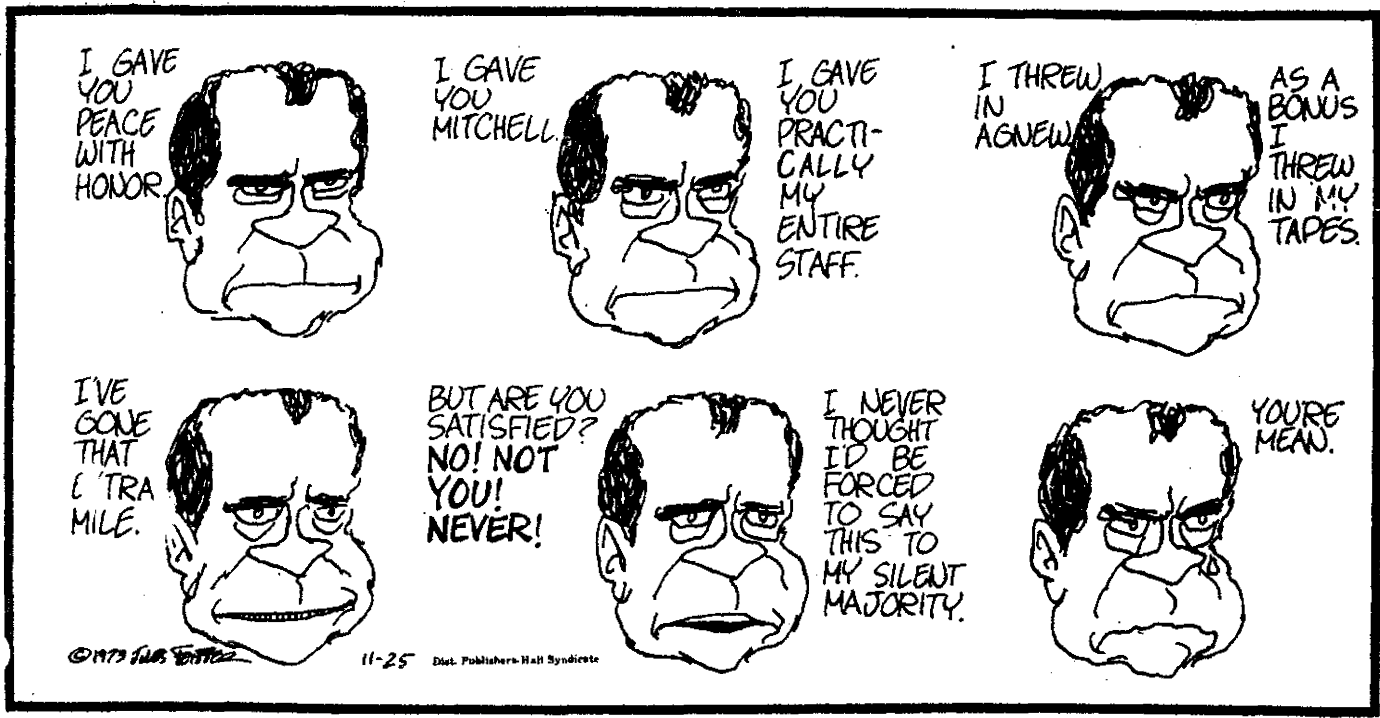
Cincinnati: The regional action for the Ohio etc region started at the Cincinnati VA hospital with a picket-line and talk about the misuse of the federal bureaucracy in the veterans administration. This was followed by a three-mile march through the city with banners outlining the five demands and chants around each of these demands. Although a mailman burned the leaflet which was being passed out, response was generally excellent with some of the onlookers joining in the march. A rally in Cincinnati's Fountain Square completed the action with speakers on the five demands and guerrilla theatre by the Columbus VVAW/WSO.

West Point: 200-250 people from the New York etc region gathered at West Point for their regional action. There was a spirited march through the town of Highlands Falls, followed by a rally at which Irma Zigas of the War Resisters' League, Bob Macfarlane, a local draft resister, and Al Hubbard of VVAW/WSO spoke. Although the march through the town got only a mediocre reception, around half of the people involved were local people rather than VVAW/WSO members.

Baltimore: The DC etc regional action was held at the VA in Baltimore where over 100 people turned out for a picket line at the VA. There was music and speakers emphasizing the VVAW/WSO five demands and building for the action on the 1st through the 4th of July in Washington.

Denver: The Colorado etc region is sponsoring a 41 mile march from Boulder to Denver on the 31st of May and the 1st of June in order to make known to local people the five demands and build for the DC action. The march will end with a rally at the State Capital on June 1st. People in the communities through which the march will go are being invited to join the marchers for 45 minutes-1 hour in order to discuss the march, the demands, and the DC demo. The region is also asking people and groups to sponsor marchers at 25¢ per mile. BUILD THE DEMO**BUILD THE DEMO**BUILD THE DEMO**BUILD THE DEMO

Feiffer



VVAW/WSO Coordinator Hospitalized with Leukemia

Dave Buntten, from Junction City, Kansas, was recently hospitalized in St. Louis and diagnosed as having a serious case of leukemia. He has been undergoing chemical therapy and blood transfusions. With a case such as his, it is not likely that he will live very much longer, although there are many cases that become recessive for periods of up to a year. When we talked to Dave over the phone recently he was in good spirits and said that he may be released on out-patient status soon. We encourage all chapters to write Dave and offer your support. He can be reached through his parents home at: 503 Tompkins, St. Charles, Missouri 63301.

Borden's Boycott

Columbus VVAW/WSO has joined in a local coalition, Justice for Borden Workers Committee, working around the Columbus Coated Fabrics, a Borden subsidiary (see the last newsletter and the May Winter Soldier). The company still refuses to bargain around health and safety issues.

In support of the workers, Columbus is asking chapters around the country to participate in publicizing the situation by news conferences, press releases, and support for the boycott of the many Borden's products (including Aunt Janes, Cracker Jacks, Campfire, Wylers, Elmer's glue, Cremora, Realemon, Mystic tapes, and on and on). You can also write to Borden's (Augustine Marusi, 277 Park Ave, New York, New York 10017) to tell them you support the Columbus Coated Fabrics workers; contributions are also needed and may be sent to, Columbus Coated Fabrics Emergency Relief Fund--Textile Workers Union of America, Local #487, 1441 N. Grant St, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

St. Louis Bluegrass Benefit a Success

On April 14th (Easter Sunday) the St. Louis chapter held a benefit "Bluegrass and Boogie" to raise money for their Chestnut Tree Coffeehouse. The benefit was a success, with 400-450 people attending. Seven local musicians donated their time and the quality of music was excellent. According to the St. Louis people, the musicians already were aware of many of the problems in the country, and after talking with them about VVAW/WSO projects and work, they agreed to offer their services free. The total amount of money made on the benefit was over \$525, and approximately \$150 of the profit went toward the benefit expenses (ads, posters, rent for the hall, etc.).

The St. Louis chapter suggests that this type of fund-raising activity could be easily used by other chapters. The key to the success was the musicians, so if chapters have contacts with people, a similar idea might be tried. The total amount of time spent on getting the benefit together was only 60 hours or so, making the concert no big drain on chapter members. For more information on this Bluegrass benefit, contact: VVAW/WSO, 1023 Allen Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104.

Amnesty for Jim Christopher

The Eastern Pa/Delaware/S. NJ Regional Office in Harrisburg, Pa is still working around the case of Jim Christopher, a VVAW/WSO member whom the Army considers AWOL since 1971. Because of the complications of the situation-- Christopher was medically discharged in 1971, but the Army refuses to recognize that discharge--and because of VVAW/WSO enlisting the aid of various Congressional offices to put pressure on the case, Jim will be given an Undesirable Discharge rather than the court martial and prison term asked for by the arresting FBI officer (whose pants were torn during the scuffle around the arrest). Now being held in the Stockade at Fort Meade, Jim should soon be out--to begin serving under the sentence of a less-than-honorable discharge.

SINGLE TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS!!!

Chicago Chapter Plans Forum

With the demonstration in Washington drawing near, the Chicago Chapter found that money would be needed to make building for the action more effective. Thus, they are planning a Forum to be held on May 30th. The topic of the Forum will be "On How & Why To Get Rid of Nixon & Co." The groups participating in the forum will be: VVAW/WSO, Revolutionary Union, October League, and the Chicago Peace Council. All proceeds from the Forum (\$1 admission is being charged) will go toward helping build the July demo. Chapters interested in how this idea is being carried out should contact: VVAW/WSO, 2952 N. Milwaukee, #215, Chicago 60618.

National Office Reports

Association of Vietnamese Patriots in Canada to Hold Conference on Vietnam June 7-9 in Montreal

A Conference on Vietnam organized by the Association of Vietnamese Patriots in Canada will be held from June 7-9 in Montreal, Canada. AVPC has asked for and received VVAW/WSO's endorsement of the Conference. They are also asking for our actual participation in the Conference. We are requesting that any region capable of sending qualified delegates to represent their region, contact the N. O. for further details concerning the Conference. The N. O. should be informed of any VVAW/WSO members planning on attending the Conference as soon as possible.

A summary of the Conference on Vietnam is as follows:

1. Friday Night, June 7th - Opening session, speakers from antiwar organizations and members of AVPC. Time and place to be determined.

2. Saturday, June 8th - Workshops on Vietnam focusing on the following topics; The Paris Agreement on Vietnam, the present strategy of the US in Vietnam, the third force in South Vietnam and the question of political prisoners, the present situation in Vietnam, and the People's National Democratic Revolution and the building of the liberated zones in South Vietnam. On Saturday night, a cultural night in Solidarity with the participation of North American artists together with the artistic troupes of the AVPC.

3. Sunday, June 9th - Closing sessions, resolutions, discussions and friendship meetings.



No Winter Soldier for July

Because of the energy and money which will be going in to the D C Demonstration, there will be no Winter Soldier in July; we hope that every one of the 25,000 readers of the paper will be in Washington instead. The August issue will be in the mail in late July--chapter and/or regional offices should let the National Office know if they anticipate any changes in the number of copies needed for the August issue.

VVAW/WSO G.I. News

Enclosed is the April issue of G.I. News. We would like to remind people again that it would be very helpful to the National G.I. Project (formerly NOSCAM) if chapters could subscribe to this newsletter (subs are \$3.00 per year). We know that all chapters will receive the newsletter via this newsletter, at least for as long as money holds out, but it would help the G.I. Office a great deal if people could find the subscription money. People should also take note that the Chicago office of the National G.I. Project has recently moved into the National Office and the newsletter and G.I. work is now being conducted from 827 W. Newport. All information and requests regarding G.I.'s should in the future be sent to this office or of course, to the main G.I. Office in Dayton.

National Defense Committee Workshop: St. Louis, June 7-9!

At the Milwaukee NSCM, (April '74), it was decided that a working session would be held on the National Defense Committee working paper presented there. This session will be held in St. Louis, Mo. from June 7-9. Each region is to send those individuals they feel can contribute to the formation of this paper. Since this is to be a working session, it is requested that regions only send people that have had direct experience in defense committee work or that have specific skills that would be of aid in further developing the working paper originally presented in Milwaukee this past April. As directed by the Milwaukee NSCM, different reports are to be made by certain individuals, (see below), or regions and are to be sent by that individual or region to each region represented at the Milwaukee NSCM no later than May 24th. The entire paper will be compiled June 7-9 and will then be taken back to the regions for them to read and be ready to discuss at the next NSCM NDC workshop.

Areas which need to be dealt with in more depth and the people/regions assigned to prepare the draft papers on these areas are:

1. Internal Defense Committee Organizing -- all.
2. GI Defense Work -- Bill Davis, Gary Staiger, National GI Project.
3. Political Criteria for Defense Work -- all.
4. Prisons -- Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee.
5. Governmental Strategy -- all to report on local, Tim Butz on Federal.
6. Legal (Relationships to Lawyers) -- Jeanne Friedman and the RPPDC.
7. Jury Selection -- Mary Jo Cook and Buffalo VVAW/WSO.
8. Politics of Defense Committees -- all.
9. Propaganda -- Ann Bailey and Milwaukee VVAW/WSO.
10. Fundraising -- Sam Schorr and the National Office.
11. Security -- Brian Adams and the National Office.

St. Louis VVAW/WSO has indicated that the logistical support they can provide is as follows: 1.) Crash space will be available, probably in the chapter's coffee house, the Chestnut tree. People should have their own sleeping bags, bedding etc. 2.) People will have to be able to pay for their own meals. There should be kitchen facilities available on a limited basis, however, to help keep the cost of meals to a minimum. 3.) It is very important that all regions sending people to the NDC workshop notify the National Office as soon as possible as to how many people they will be sending. The National Office will in turn see that St. Louis is advised as to how many people they can expect to attend.

There is very little time left to prepare for this workshop. All regions/individuals planning on either preparing draft papers for the workshop and/or attending it are urged to get moving on it ASAP. Draft papers on the various subject areas assigned in Milwaukee are just about done as of this writing. Those regions/individuals listed above responsible for writing them should hopefully have them mailed to those regions represented at the Milwaukee NSCM by May 24th. If for whatever reason anybody should have problems making their sections of the working paper available in time, please contact the NO and we will try to work something out that will get the papers distributed in time. Needless to say, there is very little time left to make arrangements for transportation to and from St. Louis. Again, if people have trouble finding rides, contact the NO and we will try and work out something.

Operation County Fair Slide Show Available

The OCF color slide show is completed. A copy of the slide show along with the narration is available from either Bogue Chitto or the National Office. A \$25 rental fee should be suggested to any groups to which you are going to show the slides.

The OCF fundraising/outreach/background brochure will be printed by the time you are reading this newsletter. If you would like to use the brochure, contact us at the National Office. A copy of the brochure will be included in the next mailing to chapters. Also enclosed is an up-dated OCF donation list. All chapters should be receiving a mailing soon from Bogue Chitto which will discuss the politics of health care.

Amnesty Pamphlet Second Printing Completed

The VVAW/WSO Position Paper on Amnesty has recently been re-printed. We ran out of the "first edition," and knowing that chapters and regions are wildly clamoring for this hot item, the pamphlet has been re-printed (with different colors this time!) The price of the pamphlet is still 10¢ each, so get your orders in soon, before this edition is also sold out.

Information Requests

Chapter Lists

The advertised chapter list updates are not included in this newsletter; so far, five regions have sent in new lists (Ohio, Colorado, DC, Eastern Pa, and New England). To make the list useful, we need the information from all the regions; if there has been no change in your region, please let us know that.

Security Forms

With the last newsletter, we enclosed a form which is to be used for filing security reports with this office. Apparently, people found these forms to be helpful because we have had several filled-out forms returned to us. It is very important that we receive information on all contacts made by various police agencies to VVAW/WSO chapters and members. This security form was designed to help, though if you find it easier to just write down what happened, the form can serve as a guideline to the type of information that we need. We have more copies of the forms available, so if more are needed, just let us know and we'll get them off to you. Remember, the government knows who they are contacting; we should have that same information.