

WINTER★SOLDIER



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VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

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"What treaty that the whites have kept has the red man broken? Not one. What treaty that the white man ever made with us have they kept? Not one. When I was a boy the Sioux owned the world; the sun rose and set on their land; they sent ten thousand men to battle. Where are the warriors today? Who slew them? Where are our lands? Who owns them? What white man can say I ever stole his land or a penny of his money. Yet, they say I am a thief....

"What white man has ever seen me drunk? Who has ever come to me hungry and unfed? What law have I broken? Is it wrong for me to love my own? Is it wicked for me because my skin is red? Because I am a Sioux....because I would die for my people and my country?"

Tatanka Yotanka (Sitting Bull),

"BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?"

PHASING OUT THE DOLLAR

No matter how "perfectly clear" Nixon makes our economic problems, one thing is perfectly clear to the average American: something is drastically wrong with the economy! However perplexing and boring the economy seems to be, it is, nevertheless, becoming impossible to ignore. As food bills, doctor bills and rents skyrocket, and as our schools and cities fall apart, the ability of poor and working people to meet the rising cost of living is actually decreasing. Logically they are having to ask what it all means.

Anyway you look at it, understanding the economy isn't a very easy task. Nixon tries to cloud things even further by having us believe that each new crisis that comes along, Phases I-II-III, the dollar crisis, the rent crisis, the meat crisis, the crisis of the cities and the crisis of the schools is a 'special case,' totally unrelated to everything else that's going on. The truth is that our economy is an integral part of the economy of the entire world. What happens in one place will have very definite effects in another. To get a relatively accurate picture of what's going wrong, we must first look at the various parts of economic life in America today and then put them together to view the entire picture.

RELATIVE ECONOMIC POSITION WEAKENED

The first thing we should realize is that the overall position of the U.S. economy, relative to the rest of the world, has dramatically weakened in the last 25 years. The long range effects of running a permanent wartime

economy, of pouring billions of dollars down the rat-hole of "defense", sooner or later must take their toll. The results being felt today are overwhelming. In 1950 the U.S. held 42% of the world's entire gold and monetary reserves. In 1971 it held only 8%. From 1950 to 1971, U.S. production of the world's steel dropped from 47% to only 19%. From its unquestioned lead as an industrial power



THE OLIVE DRAB LEMON

er in 1950 the U.S. economy now ranks a weak 6th place in terms of its overall rate of industrial growth. Certainly some of this change had to do with the economic recovery many nations made after WW II. The point is, however, that the U.S. never fully reverted to a peacetime economy and thus severely limited its potential for sustained economic growth.

THE DOLLAR CRISIS

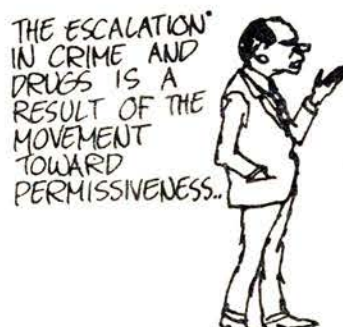
One way that we can see that America isn't the economic powerhouse it once was is through the 'dollar crisis.' Again we see where a quarter of a century of wasteful military spending has clearly taken its price. By pouring billions into war, less and less was available for funneling back into building the economy. The reckoning came after years of costly war in Indochina had dealt crippling body blows to the dollar. Since May 1971, the dollar has been devalued 28% in relation to the Japanese yen, 23% to the German mark, 22% to the Australian dollar, and 19% to the French franc. You can bet that the people and not the American businessman have taken up the slack of the dollar devaluation through higher prices and lower real wages.

Since military expenditure is the primary factor in this situation, it should be briefly examined. Some 60% of our annual Federal budget goes for "defense." This is opposed to the insignificant 18% of the Federal budget spent on the needs of the American people. Anyway you care to view it, the \$80 billion spent on war is wasted money. It certainly doesn't benefit the American people; Vietnam, a strong case in point! If it wasn't out of the scope of this article, we would analyze why the military and business interests rather than the American people run this country. For now, just check out whether or not our "defense" bill was cut after the much heralded 'cease fire' in Vietnam. Not quite! Rather, Nixon is asking for a 4.7 billion dollar increase in it. That is in the same budget that Nixon is trying to axe OEO, Model Cities, Medicare, veterans benefits, urban renewal programs, clean water programs, aid programs for the aged, hospital funding, and vocational rehabilitation programs. Will welfare mothers who are unable to adequately feed their children understand how Nixon can ask for 7.5 billion dollars for 5 new Trident submarines? Not very likely!

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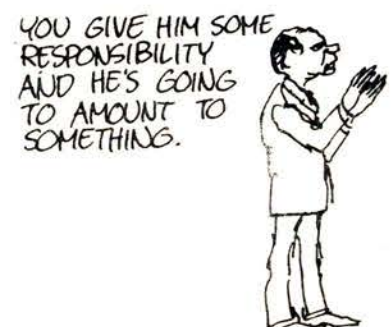
"MANY AMERICANS GOT THE IMPRESSION IN THE SIXTIES THAT THIS WAS AN UGLY COUNTRY RACIST, NOT COMPASSIONATE..."



THE ESCALATION IN CRIME AND DRUGS IS A RESULT OF THE MOVEMENT TOWARD PERMISSIVENESS...



THE AVERAGE AMERICAN IS JUST LIKE THE CHILD IN THE FAMILY.



YOU GIVE HIM SOME RESPONSIBILITY AND HE'S GOING TO AMOUNT TO SOMETHING.

When Johnny Comes Marching Home



In his speeches, President Nixon has time and again said how much respect and admiration he has for the Vietnam veteran. Time and again he has told America how much he intends to help the Vietnam veteran. Employment bills, more benefits, vocational training, and better educational benefits have all passed between his lips in an orgy of rhetoric, all intended to show how grateful America is for the "great sacrifices" of the veteran. With all this praise one would think that the whole country is just looking for a veteran to help. However, what are the real conditions of the Vietnam veterans, all veterans, of this country? Where do they really stand? The following is a small glimpse of the answers to these questions; a glimpse of the truth.

One would think, listening to the government's propaganda, that a vet could just walk off the street and right into a great, fulfilling job. No such luck! First, most men enter the service right after high school, which leaves little room for on-the-job experience. Besides, most poor and minority vets would never have been able to go to college in the first place

because of the chains of poverty around their necks. 60% of the enlisted men in the military have never gone beyond a high school diploma, and these are the men who end up in the combat arms. While in the military, the training that the men receive has little relation to work in the civilian world (would you hire a doorgunner as a TV repairman?). Employers do not consider military job experience when looking at an employment questionnaire because the military does not use machines nor techniques like those in civilian work (except for law enforcement). What they want is civilian job experience, and several years of it. So where do you find the vet? As janitors, or pumping gas, or pushing a wheelbarrow.

Then there is the problem of finding a job. The general unemployment rate of American workers is roughly 5.5%. The rate for Vietnam veterans is about 10%. For minority vets, the figure is an incredible 14%. These figures are taken from the Department of Labor, so they are conservative. They show the blatant disregard of employers for the supposed "great sacrifice". What the figures also show is the economic reality of workers in America. Unemployment is essential to big business because it forces working people to compete with each other and against vets for the few good jobs and the many bad ones, thus allowing businessmen to hire at unbelievably low wages. By forcing a split amongst working people, big business can keep the pressure off their backs, pressure to improve the wage, the conditions of the work place and increase workers benefits.

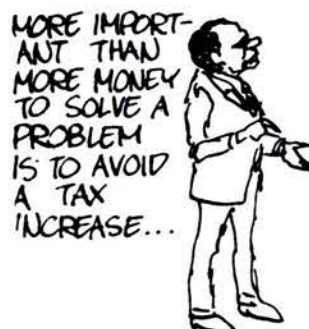
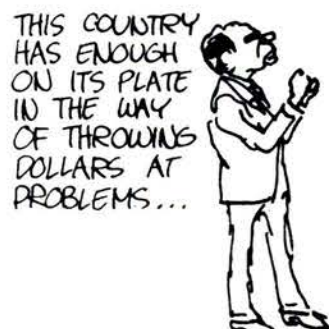
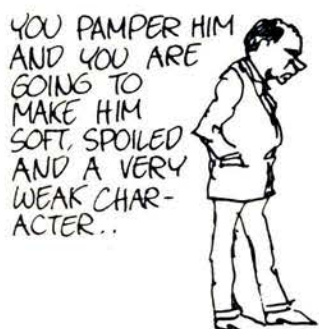
What about the fantastic GI Bill? Again we find a sham. Try going to college full-time, eat a couple of meals a day, pay rent, pay tuition, and buy school books all on a flat \$225 a month. Impossible for most people. The GI Bill after WWII was paradise compared to today's. Then they got \$75 per month spending money, books

paid for and tuition paid for. The GI Bill for vets today is an ugly joke.

The oppression of minority vets is incredible. Words are a poor medium for describing the everyday hassles of these people who also laid their ass on the line. Drug addiction is rampant amongst them. Unemployment is triple for them. They are shuffled right back into the ghetto and barrio of filth that has dragged them down since birth. 80% of all combat deaths were minority peoples, yet they are the last to benefit from their service.

What does all this mean? The answer can be found in our own back yards. Its the same reason the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. Its the same reason that the economy is so screwed up. Its the same reason America got into Vietnam. The oppression of the Vietnam veteran is only a magnified picture of the same oppression that all poor working Americans are facing. The huge corporations, owned by a small minority of incredibly rich ogres, do not care about people, only profits. These ogres own or control the top 200 corporations, which control 50% of this country's wealth; but they want more. As big business grabs for more wealth as they move into other countries to grab new resources as they are doing in Indochina, the American people will lose more.

VVAW will not demand more for the veteran without demanding more for all American. The same good health care that veterans should get should also be given to all Americans. The same right to full employment that veterans want VVAW believes should be accorded all Americans. As VVAW demands a complete education for vets, we also demand it for all Americans. We must fight together with all our brothers and sisters to not only better the lives of veterans, but also to better the lives of the people we live and work with.



THE WAR CONTINUES

CAMBODIA



On January 27, 1973, the Agreement on Ending the War in Vietnam was signed, and on February 21st, a cease-fire agreement was signed in Laos. To date, no agreement has been signed in Cambodia, leading to a more intensified war in that country. Almost daily, the United States has been unleashing their B-52's on Cambodia in raids described by Hanoi as being more devastating than the unprecedented bombing of Vietnam in December, 1972. As a direct result of this continued American aggression, the patriotic forces for a free and independent Cambodia have won the unqualified support of the people of that nation.

The present US-supported puppet regime of Lon Nol has never had the support of the people of Cambodia. At the time of the coup d'etat in which the United States backed the overthrow of Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the leader of the neutral, independent government, an attempt was made to mount an anti-Sihanouk demonstration. On March 16, 1970, thousands were gathered to denounce the legitimate government. But instead of denouncing Sihanouk, they began to chant "Long live Sihanouk!" Two days later, realizing that there was little support for Lon Nol, the US-led coup deposed the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC) sending it into exile. The support of the Lon Nol regime has waned steadily since then.

Foreign intervention in Cambodia has plagued the nation for over a century. In 1863, the French began colonizing Cambodia, declaring it a protectorate, and began exploiting both the people and the resources. This exploitation

by the French prevailed until 1945, when the Vichy government collapsed during World War II. The Japanese took control of Cambodia and remained there until the war's end, at which time the French army under the leadership of General Le Clerc parachuted into Phnom Penh, the capital city, under the pretense of liberating Cambodia from Japanese domination. This marked the second entry of France into Cambodia, and again the resistance to this colonialism was established, this time as the National United Front of Cambodia (FUNC), being comprised of all patriotic forces within the country dedicated to freeing their country from foreign domination.

Through the concerted efforts of the Cambodians, under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk, the country was finally granted independence on November 9, 1953. At that time, Prince Sihanouk declared that Cambodia would remain neutral and non-aligned. This declaration was denounced by US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles as being "immoral". Following the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu, the Geneva Accords internationally guaranteed the independence, sovereignty and neutrality of Cambodia. These accords were not signed by the United States, in part because this neutrality did not fit into its foreign policy schemes. From the time of the signing of the Geneva Accords, the Cambodian efforts to remain non-aligned have been constantly undermined by a series of US-backed attacks by the Saigon puppet troops.

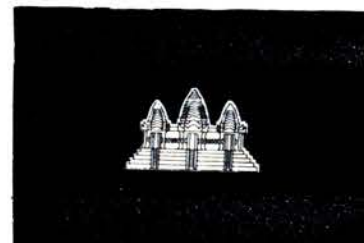
Following the coup in March of 1970, the United States, at the "request" of Lon Nol, invaded Cambodia

with the pretense of finding the imaginary headquarters of the NLF. This invasion led to the most massive anti-war demonstrations in the United States, and resulted in the deaths of students at Kent and Jackson State Universities. The operation ended in utter defeat for the American and Saigon troops. With restrictions placed on Nixon by the US Congress, future attempts to subvert the anti-Lon Nol, pro-Cambodian forces were handed over to Saigon, with air support to be provided by the United States. Time and time again, these efforts were repelled by the liberation armies.

As support for GRUNC increased, Lon Nol, in desperate attempts to remain in power, declared himself President, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of his regime. In March of 1973, after his official residence was bombed, he declared a "state of siege", and suspended all civil liberties. As he further separates himself from the people of Cambodia, the pro-Sihanouk forces have liberated all but Phnom Penh and have won the support of 5.5 million of the nation's 7 million people. In addition GRUNC, in exile, has been recognized by 36 countries.

Recently, all five major supply roads into the capital have been cut by the liberation forces. The only other supply route into Phnom Penh is the Mekong River. On April 7, nineteen supply ships attempted to enter Phnom Penh with the support of US air cover. Only five of these ships were able to get through. The supplies will last for approximately two weeks.

The economy of the Lon Nol regime is collapsing, as is the puppet military forces and the political organization of his illegitimate government. The United States is now faced with the decision of whether it will airlift supplies or withdraw support. Government analysts predict that without this aid, the Lon Nol regime would collapse within two months. As was the case in Vietnam, it is difficult to predict what desperate measures the United States will adopt in order to continue its presence in Southeast Asia. But it is clear that the forces for a free and independent Cambodia are repelling the US-led intervention, and it is just a matter of time until Cambodia will finally be a free and independent nation.





CIVILIANIZATION

Over 20,000 U.S. civilians, experts in military and "pacification" technology, have quietly replaced the military advisors in South Vietnam in conducting U.S. clandestine, paramilitary operations in support of the Saigon regime. Most of the new advisors have been recruited straight from the U.S. military and are performing the exact same duties that they did while in the military, except that they are now employees of such corporations as ITT, Sperry-Rand, NHA, Lear-Siegler, etc. Some advisors have even remained on the Pentagon payroll. Civilian support of military operations falls into two basic categories: aircraft maintenance and operations, and civilian pacification.

Thanks to the massive build-up of last November and December, South Vietnam's air force is now the third largest in the world, with over 2,000 aircraft. However, their maintenance force for the sophisticated U.S.-supplied aircraft and equipment is the worst in the world. Throughout the entire war, almost all aircraft maintenance was done by Department of Defense-contracted U.S. firms, who did little or no training of VNAF personnel. The reasons for this were two-fold: to insure continued U.S. presence in South Vietnam by making them extremely dependent upon the U.S. for maintenance of their aircraft and equipment; and to continue the increasingly large contracts for the

DOD-affiliated corporations who had already received huge profits through "sweetheart" deals with their cronies in the Pentagon. According to critical U.S. officials, the contractors are being given cost-plus contracts, which fix the corporations' profits as a percentage of the total cost. So the higher the cost of a project, the higher the company profits. Such contracts lead contractors to bring in excess personnel, since the more workers they have, the higher their cost and their profit. Of the \$78.1 million requested by the Pentagon for the

support of the SVNAF, \$53.4 million is for "contract assistance".

With the recent beefing-up of their air force, the Saigon regime is woefully lacking in pilots capable of flying their own warplanes. However, Pentagon spokesman Jerry Friedheim stated at a Washington press conference that "the Vietnamese could bridge the pilot gap by hiring contract personnel which could either be active-duty U.S. pilots loaned to them or recently retired USAF fliers. The CIA's Air America airline uses some active duty personnel who merely shed their uniforms for the duty." Outfits like Air America make the distinction between civilian advisors to military programs and civilian employees of U.S. war contractors negligible. A recent Air America recruiting brochure clearly states that civilian flying is merely a cover for covert military activity: "Although flights mainly serve U.S. official personnel movement and native officials and civilians, you sometimes engage in the movement of friendly troops, or of enemy captives, or in the transport of cargo more potent than beans. There's a war going on. Use your imagination!"

While the American corporations are being contracted by the Pentagon to carry out its war effort, the U.S. pacification (Vietnamization) program is also being civilianized. Directing programs from refugee management to support for Saigon's rural militia and advice to the ARVN's before the cease-fire, the pacification staff was composed of both U.S. military men and retired military men. With the cease-fire came a new name for the program: "Directorate for Resettlement and Reconstruction", but the staff has remained essentially the same. The true nature of the pacification program is evident from the fact that between 1968 and 1970, 80% of the \$4 billion budget was for "territorial security or related military programs."

The most popular was the infamous Phoenix program, which

was designed to "neutralize the Viet Cong infrastructure." Under supervision of the CIA, Operation Phoenix assassinated 40,000 South Vietnamese between 1968 and 1971, and thousands more were imprisoned on suspicion of advocating peace, opposing the Thieu regime, or other "procommunist neutralist activities." Operation Phoenix has now been replaced, in name only, by "F-6", according to Deputy Ho Ngoc Nhuan of Saigon's National Assembly. It appears that F-6 is being secretly run under the cover of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID is already responsible for the training, equipping and advising of Thieu's National Police force, and seems to be the main tool of U.S. civilianization. USAID Office of Public Safety (OPS) had over 100 advisors assisting the police in F-6 operations, fighting small guerrilla units and maintaining Thieu's prisons. OPS funding is now being projected through 1978, even though the cease-fire agreement specifically prohibits all U.S. police advisors after March 1973. But the U.S. is fully aware that civilianization of South Vietnam may not be enough for Thieu to remain in power and for the U.S. to preserve its military and economic domination of Southeast Asia. Secret U.S. military operations such as SLAM (search, locate and annihilate missions), led by civilian-clad Special Forces with mercenaries into North Vietnam and liberated areas of Indochina, will probably continue with secret American funding.

A few Americans and foreign diplomats have expressed doubts about the wisdom of the post-war policy of civilianization. "It's like 1961 or 1965 all over again," said one Western official who served seven years in Indochina. "The Americans are full of optimism again, and once more they are proceeding as if the Vietnamese aren't even around."

INTERVIEW WITH A VETERAN 'NOBODY BUYS MEAT ANYMORE'

Bill and Sue Wyman and their seven month old daughter, Mona, have moved to Placitas, New Mexico to enjoy a more quiet life than they had in New York City. But the problems of Vietnam veterans have followed them even there. "Nobody buys meat anymore," says Bill. They are finding that no matter where you live you can't escape the fact that living on veteran's disability payments is becoming increasingly difficult. They have taken to eating simple meals of vegetables and often share cassarole dishes with friends.

Life hasn't always been so quiet or simple as it is now. Bill was born in Boston and was raised in a Navy family. His step-father was in the Navy for 32 years, which meant that Bill moved quite often. He lived in Italy for 3 years, moved to Rhode Island and then to Key West Florida. There he quit high school to enlist in the Army, to make it on his own.

He took Basic Training, Advanced Infantry Training, volunteered for jump school, and was then stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for seven months, prior to his being sent to the First Division in Vietnam. Once in Vietnam, he spent month after month in the field without a break, precipitating his going AWOL to Saigon for two weeks. Upon his return, he was busted from SP/4 to Pvt. E-1 and fined six months pay. This experience made Bill begin to understand that the army wasn't the answer, and, more importantly, that the war in Vietnam was wrong. But he extended his tour in order to get an early discharge from the army. He was transferred to the 101st Airborne Division. After spending sixteen months in Vietnam, Bill stepped on a land mine. As a result, both of his legs were amputated.

He was medivaced to the USS Sanctuary, then to Japan for treatment and then to Chelsea Naval Hospital in Boston. During this time he was treated for a fractured femur. Due to improper treatment of this fracture, Bill still feels the pain in that remaining section of his leg. From Boston, he was given a discharge so he could obtain artificial limbs. He waited in the New York City VA Hospital on 23rd Street for four long months for the operation that would result in his finally getting the artificial legs.

It was during this time that Bill joined VVAW. He participated in

Dewey Canyon III, VVAW's week-long protest in Washington D. C., in spite of hospital administration pressure to keep him away from it. Within ten days after returning to NYC and after a letter was received from Washington ordering that he be given the operation and gotten rid of, Bill began the long road of learning to walk again. Once discharged, Bill had to receive outpatient care. He was subjected to waiting from 9 AM to 3 PM for the doctors to look at his legs and to prescribe medicine that inadequately relieved the pain of his shattered limbs.



At this time, Bill experienced the first hold-up of his disability payments. When he went to the VA to explain this, he was told that the money was somewhere and that they would put a tracer on it. This did not pay his rent, so he was forced to borrow the money from his friends in the VA hospital.

This period of his life was most depressing. The treatment and the lack of understanding of Vietnam-era veterans in the VA had frustrated Bill to the point where he could no longer tolerate the unresponsive care given to him. After having two good friends die—one in the hospital and the other of an overdose of drugs caused by this lack of care, Bill left New York for Florida rather than get hooked on drugs himself. It was there that he met Sue. They married and returned to New York for a while, soured of it, and moved to Placitas where they began a new life.

But the VA hassles followed them, as they follow anyone who must depend on the government. Jobs in New Mexico are scarce, and Bill and Sue must depend on the disability payments to live. Trying to make the best of it has been difficult. They are now using this money to pay for food, medical care for the baby, rent, and building their own home. Disabled vets are allotted \$12,500 for refurbishing apartments or homes in order to accommodate a wheelchair. Twice, Bill and Sue found homes that they wanted to buy, and twice the VA investigators turned them down. Once it was because the well was too close to an arroyo, and once because the VA believes that adobe homes are not permanent structures, although they have lasted for hundreds of years. The VA told Bill that he should buy a house in Albuquerque on a 1/4 acre plot. They refuse to accept that Bill and Sue would like to live where they want. So without the help of the VA, the Wymans must build their own home, on the money from disability payments.

Bill feels that the VA is incapable of ever responding to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans. He feels that much of the drug addiction of the Vietnam-era veterans is due to improper care and lack of understanding by the VA. And the situation is getting worse. The proposed cuts in the VA will make it harder for vets to get by. "Instead of cutting funds from the VA budget, they should cut the funds from the Defense Department, the FBI and the CIA. The government should begin responding to the needs of all the people, rather than spy on them," Bill maintains.

Although he can surely use more help, Bill feels that the present trend of the government to give preference to Vietnam veterans is wrong. He feels that all the people in this country should be getting help, and that to separate vets from the rest of the people is a device the government uses to pit one group of people against another. "My own personal conscience wouldn't allow me to put myself in front of anyone else."

A Navy brat, a GI in Vietnam, a hospital patient, a double-amputee, a married man, a father, and a veteran, Bill Wyman has experienced a long life. It is a tribute to his determination that he has survived so well. And yet, Bill is only one Vietnam-era veteran. There are millions more.

WOUNDED KNEE BUST

Since the take-over at Wounded Knee began over a month and a half ago, the government has been using every devious method possible in trying to destroy any and all support for the people inside, and also to distort and bury the reasons which led to the take-over in the first place. In the general vicinity of Wounded Knee itself, the feds have been able to force many people out of the area by arresting them, keeping them in jail for a few days, and then letting them out on bond with the stipulation that they leave the area immediately upon release. Over 175 arrests have been made so far, most of which are for 'interfering and impeding with federal law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties during a civil disorder.' Anyone looking like a 'supporter' has been subject to arrest on these charges.

Bart Savage and Bill Branson of the VVAW National Collective were arrested on these same charges March 13th at a federal roadblock while attempting to bring medical supplies in to Wounded Knee. What really made arrests on these charges so illegal is that the 'official duties' of the feds were to stop and search every car attempting entry into Wounded Knee. By having to perform their 'official duties' of stopping and searching the car, they were 'interfered and impeded with' by Bart and Bill from carrying out their 'official duties.' Sound crazy? Bart and Bill thought so too, until they were taken to the jail at Pine Ridge and found that everyone else there had been arrested on the same charges and under very similar circumstances. This pattern is so wide-spread and so illegal that it is very clear that the only purpose of it is to 'put people on ice' for awhile and then remove them from the area, thus breaking up support from the outside.

Everyone arrested is taken to the BIA jail in Pine Ridge for a couple of days to await transportation to the county jail in Rapid City for arraignment and bond hearings. The Pine Ridge Jail is a throw-back to medieval times. People are stuffed into cells like cattle and sanitary facilities are almost non-existent. People are not formally charged until reaching Rapid City nor are they allowed phone calls until the second or third day of incarceration, both of which are in direct violation of basic constitutional rights. The BIA police are extremely resentful towards the feds for having to keep federal prisoners in their jail, thus they take out their anger on the prisoners. But because of their unity and their strength, the 'POW's' are able to stand up to, and resist, the oppressive conditions of the jail.

On Friday March 16th, Bill and Bart were transported, along with four Indian brothers, to Rapid City. The arraignments and bond hearings were held in the afternoon with everyone having bail set at \$5,000 each with the exception of Bill and Bart, who, for some unknown reason, had bail set at \$50,000 each. Re-hearings for bond were then scheduled for the following Monday.

The cells in Rapid City were even more crowded than in Pine Ridge. People were packed in nine to a cell. As more POW's were brought in, the unity and spirit which was so prevalent in Pine Ridge became stronger and stronger. The jail became organized! Communication was established between floors via the air vents. Demands for better sanitary conditions were agreed upon and chants were organized throughout the jail for these demands.

Never having prisoners before who had the 'nerve' to voice demands on them, the jailers at first ignored

the chanting, assured that it would soon die out. But it continued; over and over again. Finally realizing the determination of the prisoners, the jailers had no choice but to give in to their demands. Many fingers make a big fist.

Monday morning brought the second round of bond hearings. As the jail in Pine Ridge was still full, and the county jail was forced to transfer many people to Deadwood because it was so crowded, the magistrate had to start letting people out on personal recognizance on, of course, the condition that they leave the area immediately. Bart and Bill, who three days before had bail set at the incredibly high figure of \$50,000 each, were among those released.

But the story does not end here. The systematic and illegal arrests continue. People are still being held in dungeon-like jails. Their rights are still being abused. And the reasoning and objectives behind it all are still the same; put people away for awhile, try to make them afraid to continue their support, and then get them out of the area. But they are forgetting something. Putting many different people from many different backgrounds together under common oppressive conditions is creating bonds that will never be broken. The people are learning, both from each other, and from their experience in jail. They are learning that the poor and oppressed people of this country have many things in common; impoverished living conditions, lack of opportunities, lack of basic human rights such as health and education, AND, the very same oppressor! They are learning the meaning of unity. They are learning the power of that unity and what it can do. And finally, they know that they are right and that their cause is just!





WOUNDED

The Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, stands in support of our brothers at Wounded Knee. We find it deplorable that the Native Americans have to risk their very lives to focus attention on the terrible conditions of our people in this country. We cite the poor health conditions, education, welfare, illegal drafting of our people, and the utter disregard for the treaties that we have paid for with our lives as examples of these conditions.

The issues are national and international, the honor and credibility of the United States is at stake. You should be concerned, all of the people of the United States should be concerned, the President of the United States should be concerned. And further, he should make a statement to that effect. Native Americans should be the top priority of this nation. We number less than one percent of this country's population: now why is it so hard to take care of the obligations to our people that have been promised and promised and promised.

The people at Wounded Knee are making a statement. The question is not what damage or destruction of property has occurred, but why it becomes necessary for our people to have to resort to such extremes to gain some recognition of our desperate situation.

We are a free people. The very dust of our ancestors is steep in our tradition. This is the greatest gift we gave you, the concept of freedom. You did not have this... now that you have taken it and built a constitution and country around it, you deny freedom to us. There must be some one among you who is concerned for us and if not for us, at least for the honor of your country. In 1976, you are going to have a birthday party proclaiming 200 years of democracy, a hypocritical action. The people of the world would find this laughable.

The solution is simple: be honest, be fair, honor the commitments made by the founding fathers of your country. We are an honorable people: can you say the same? You are concerned for the destruction of property at the BIA building and at Wounded Knee. Where is your concern for the destruction of our people, for human lives? Thousands of Pequots, Narragansetts, Mohicans, thousands of Cherokees of the Trail of Tears, Black Hawk's people, Chief Joseph's people, Captain Jack's people, the Navajos, the Apaches, Sand Creek massacre, huddled under an American flag seeking the protection of a promise, Big Foot's people at Wounded Knee. When will you cease your violence against our people. Where is your concern for us?

What about the destruction of our properties? The thousands of square acres of land, inundated by dams built upon our properties, the raping of the Hopi and Navajo territories by the Peabody strip mining operations, timber cutting, power companies, water pollution and so on. Where is your concern for these properties?

The balance of the ledger is up to you. Compare the property damage of the BIA and Wounded Knee against the terrible record and tell us we are wrong for wanting redress. We ask for justice, and not from the muzzle of an M-16 rifle. Now what is to occur?

Put your energies and money now being used for the suppression of Indian people at Wounded Knee into a real effort to understand why they are there. And begin here in the Capitol through an investigation of the BIA, and of government's policies dealing with our most urgent needs.

Reaffirm and respect the treaties entered into between our two peoples.

Put your house in order with respect to our people, so that we may continue to coexist in peace and friendship as our grandfathers and their grandfathers before them tried so hard to do.

Show us you are sincere and remember the Creator loves all his people and favors none above the other.

We have not asked you to give up your religions and beliefs for ours.

We have not asked you to give up your language for ours.

We have not asked you to give up your ways of life for ours.

We have not asked you to give up your government for ours.

We have not asked you to give up your territories to us.

Why can you not afford us the same respect? For your children learn from watching their elders, and if you want your children to do what is right, then it is up to you to set up the example.

This is all we have to say at this moment.

Oneh,

The Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy



ED KNEE



Whether or not an agreement has been or will be reached at Wounded Knee, the American people again may find themselves with a battle resolved but a war not over. VVAW thinks it is important for all of America to seek the reasons behind Wounded Knee, as America must seek out the reasons behind the Vietnam War. VVAW takes special interest because we can see the roots of the Vietnam war in the way the United States has treated the oldest civilized people in this country - the American Indian. The same acts of terror and murder we committed against the Indochinese people were first carried out against the Indian people over one hundred years ago. How do we see it?

For over three hundred years the 'white man' has been engaged in separating the American Indians from their land and their freedom. There have been a few dissenting voices calling on the larger public to stop this genocide, but the forces of institutionalized racism and economic exploitation have nearly won out.

The Indian's plight is the result of official government policy documented in papers taken from the Bureau of Indian Affairs by militant Indians last November. However, these papers had about as much policy changing impact as the Pentagon Papers. The Indians didn't always resist the white man's encroachment and when they did it was too late. They fought bravely and died honorably but they were always forced into submission. And finally, after three hundred years of broken treaties, and false promises, and three hundred years of trying to break the Indian's spirit, dismantle their culture, steal their land and integrate them into 'our' society; the country has come to Wounded Knee.

The residents of Wounded Knee were forced to make a decision. That is, to continue to live in increasing poverty, while watching more and more of their land lost to the rich white ranchers; more and more of their children leave the reservation for the army or the cities, looking for dignity and means of support; more and more of their heritage disappears with the death of each elder; more and more of their men imprisoned by the whites or by alcohol; or else they could make a stand. The choice was clearly simple - fight for their human rights, their dignity, their freedom, and not to be overlooked, their legal rights, and quite possibly die fighting, or lay back and let the destruction of their cultures and their people be completed. Thus the decision by the local Oglala Sioux to invite AIM to their reservation and have a showdown.

The Indians don't want words; they've had plenty of those. They want what the treaties say is theirs: control over their own lives, their own culture, their own land, and their own future.

The government on the other hand, wants control. Control over people, and profits at home and abroad. When power and profit are a system's values and motivating forces, there can be no room for conflicting, sentimental, spiritual, or other human values. To increase the GNP, industry needs resources, and they will go to any lengths to obtain them, be it stealing from the Indians or murdering the Vietnamese.

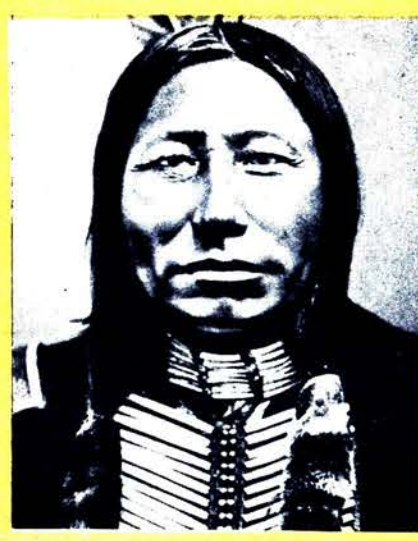
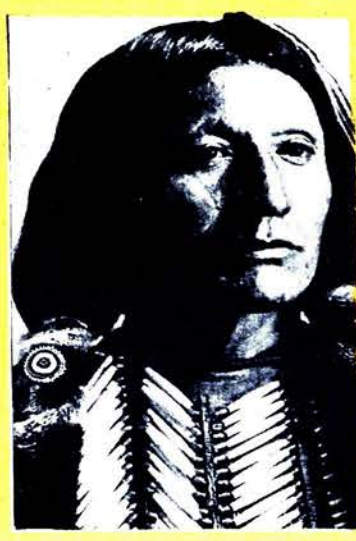
Now, America may want to quietly forget the month-long siege at Wounded Knee; but Indians everywhere have clearly given notice to the United States; they will no longer

wait for benevolent words from the 'Great White Father'. They will act again and again until they obtain true self-determination and freedom; or they will die. VVAW stands ready to support them where ever they struggle, for that is what they have asked; no paternalism, no words, but support.

The people at Wounded Knee are sending us a message. They are telling us that there comes a time when people - men and women - must stand and fight to create the kind of life that is worth living as human beings. There are certain basic human rights which when denied cannot be negotiated but must be taken. They need our help. There is still a long legal battle ahead. By sending food and money, by educating others about Wounded Knee, and by thinking about what was done as it relates to our own lives, that is how we can support the American Indian. We must, like them, develop the strength to respect our lives and what is necessary to resist becoming slaves of the state or of industry; to resist the rape of our land; and to think seriously about what are the qualities of human life and social community that are important, and fight to create a situation where they can be achieved.

Any money or supplies should go to:

WOUNDED KNEE
Legal Defense/Offense Committee
1563 Kellogg Road.,
Star Village,
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
(605) 348-3326

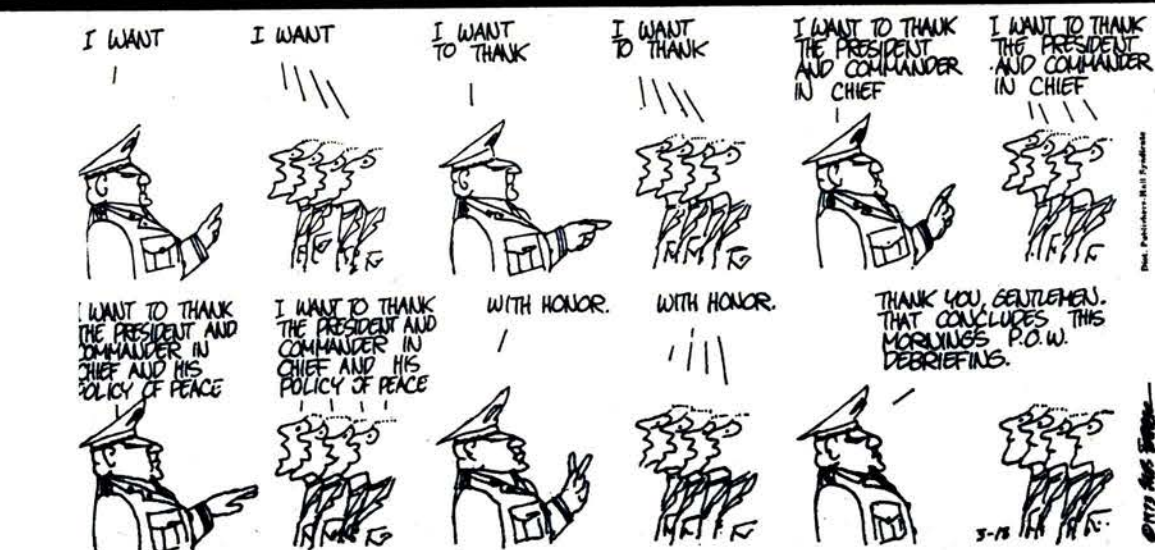


POW's

The Nixon Administration has become expert in the technique of attacking its opponents for its own crimes. Now, after years of imprisonment, the POWs are being manipulated into accusing Hanoi of war crimes and blaming the peace movement for their detention by the liberation forces of Vietnam and Laos.

To begin with, the peace movement did not send hundreds of thousands of GIs into Indochina, nor did we bomb cities, harbors or dikes. On the contrary, we opposed the Johnson and Nixon administrations for their policies in Southeast Asia. If the peace movement had had its way, no one would have been killed or captured neither American servicemen nor Vietnamese civilians.

The so-called 'mistreatment' of the POWs has been contradicted by statements from the POWs themselves. Navy Captain Walter Wilbur, shot down in June of 1968, stated "I never heard anybody scream out, either from nightmares or injury or being threatened. They sounded convincing (talking of POW torture), but no one had any evidence to show." Wilbur said he was threatened 'just orally' during the 20 months he spent in solitary confinement



at the 'Hanoi Hilton'. He also stated that he made anti-war broadcasts while in solitary, but that it was voluntary. These statements of non-torture have been confirmed by other POWs, but they have not gotten the headlines.

Most of the POWs making statements about torture are career officers, shot down prior to 1969, and are still living in a time period of 5 to 9 years ago. The tenor of the nation then was a lot more hawkish; more pro-war. The military was not in revolt. They do not know or understand the changes that had taken place in the nation during those years. They are also the POWs who made the anti-war statements.

They would have to put a lot on the line to admit to making voluntary anti-war statements--their

careers; their friends; and possibly their lives, through court-martial for treason.

If the POWs were not tortured, then why are they now making statements condemning the Vietnamese for inhumane treatment? A look at the POWs making these allegations and a look at history answers this. After the Korean War, those former POWs who made anti-war statements were tried for treason.

There is one statement made by a released POW that bears some contemplation. Former Air Force Captain Chambers asked, "Had a North Vietnamese bomber bailed out over Pittsburgh, Pa., and had just gotten through bombing some of the steel plants..what do you think those steel workers would do to him...?"

EDITORIAL:

Do you know who this country's farmers of today are? You say they're those nice guys in coveralls who own small white farmhouses and forty acres of land? Not any more. They are rapidly being swallowed up by huge conglomerates or "agri-businesses," who form the nucleus of one of the richest and largest industries in the world: food. These robber barons are using every trick in the book to squeeze and force the small farmers off their farms. As these monopolistic monoliths become larger, the small farmers are finding it harder and harder to compete, and thus are forced to sell it to them.

The interlocking corporate structure of these agri-businesses covers the entire spectrum of food production: farm equipment companies, fertilizer manufacturers, the farms themselves, and processing and packing plants. The picture may be better illustrated by looking at the background of one of the chief proponents and profiteers of agri-business—Earl L. Butz.

Butz, now the Secretary of Agriculture, was also the former Asst. Sec. of Agric. under the in-

famous Ezra Taft Benson in the mid-1950's. Before his appointment to his present post, Butz was on the board of directors of such corporations as Ralston Purina, Case Tractors, a leading fertilizer company and Stokely Van Camp. He also has served on the board of directors of the Farm Foundation and the Foundation for American Agriculture, both of which were set up exclusively to push propaganda for agri-business. Apparently Butz has forgotten that he no longer serves on the boards of these two foundations as he is still extolling the virtues and benefits of agri-business.

However, Butz hasn't forgotten all his friends and former (?) business partners. Remember the Russian wheat scandal? Agri-business kingpins, having advance notice on the sale from their old friend Butz, bought tons and tons of wheat at unbelievably low prices from the small farmers and then made a killing selling it to the government. One of the chief beneficiaries of this windfall was one of Butz' oldest cronies, a guy by the name of Palmby. Palmby just happened to be the Undersec. of Agric. under Benson at the same time Butz was the Asst. Sec. (If you think that's a coincidence, when Butz left Ralston Purina to take his present post, the

man he replaced as Secretary, Clifford Hardin, hired on at Ralston Purina as a vice-president). One thing is certain, the small farmers will never forget what happened on the wheat deal. They won't forget Butz either. As Reuben Johnson of the National Farmers Union put it, "Butz is the main enemy today of the small farmer."

Butz and his sidekicks in the food industry won't be forgotten by consumers either. Since food prices increased \$109 in the last year per family and \$70 of that came in the months of January and February of this year, it's kind of hard not to forget. And we must never forget who controls America's farm and food industry, or who is responsible for the incredible rise in food prices. It isn't the small farmer.

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VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR



OBJECTIVES

1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the People of Southeast Asia or such future plans as they develop based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.
2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States Government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries. The United States should make reparations in a program acceptable to the Indochinese for all of the damage done by the United States.
3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women, Reservists and National Guardsmen be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GIs are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.
4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation of those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.
5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank, or length of service.
6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive, open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. In its war in Indochina, the principles of Nuremberg have been violated. As active-duty and former GIs, we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.
7. Resolved to fight racism, to show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the US military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.
8. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.
9. To support the democratic right of Americans to unionize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We consider all legislation designed to suppress these rights, including mandatory arbitration, to be illegal, and not in the interests of the American working people. We also demand full employment for all Americans, including free educational and vocational training for all who need or want it. We refuse to participate in the efforts being made to separate us from other working people, making veterans enemies by giving us the charade of employment priority. We condemn this as a method of encouraging enlistment by the false promise of employment after service. We also condemn the use of active-duty GIs, Reservists, and National Guardsmen as strikebreakers.
10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.



SOLIDARITY IN JAPAN



On March 1, 1954, the US detonated a hydrogen bomb on the Bikini Atoll in a last ditch effort to rescue the French at Dien Bien Phu by intimidating the Vietnamese liberation forces. Radiation from this "test" caused the death of Mr. Kuboyama--a crewmember of the Japanese fishing boat in the vicinity. The Japanese peace movement views this as the third attack against them by the US with nuclear weapons. In a spirit of international solidarity VVAW has cooperated with the Japanese movement to help rid Asia of the constant threat of US nuclear attack. A major obstacle to our goal is the Japan-US security agreement signed in 1950. To this end, several VVAW members have gone to Japan, including Al Hubbard, who testified he brought nuclear weapons into Japan in 1965. This was the first time an American had verified the peace movement claims there, and consequently caused a great deal of public dissent.

It is a violation of the agreement to store, use or transport nuclear weapons on Japanese soil, through Japanese water right-of-ways, or ports, or through Japanese airspace. It is also a violation to conduct direct sorties from Japanese territory against other countries--ie, Vietnam. In 1971, Okinawa was reverted from US control to Japan, placing it under the same restrictions in regard to the US-Japan security agreements as Japan itself.

There are three basic reasons why we are in Japan today and why maintaining the military alliance is crucial to the US. Japan, like Great Britain, is an immovable aircraft carrier, capable of serving as an indestructible base for air operations throughout Asia. Second, it is an arsenal of military and strategic supplies. Third, Japan has a big ship-building industry and is a potential source for allied troops to be used against liberation struggles. A

few minutes reflection on the Nixon Doctrine of using foreign people to fight each other rapidly points out the importance of the latter. This accomplishes both maintaining our control of these areas and reducing the visibility of our intervention. US military control of Japan is central to global US military strategy and is of special importance in Indochina and Asia. Japan was the main link between PACAF HQ in Hawaii and 7th AF HQ in Saigon and is a central location for intelligence coordination. Okinawa has a big SAC B-52 base used against Indochina, SR-71 photo-reconnaissance KC 135 refueling for B-52s from Guam, fighter squadron communications, and intelligence units.

This year's Bikini Day, I and Gary Staiger went to represent VVAW. I went to testify about the nuclear weapons I saw in Kadena Airbase, Okinawa, when I was stationed there. I also testified about the antipersonnel, chemical, incendiary, and electronic weapons I used in Vietnam. Gary met with the GI projects, VVAW chapters, and Pacific Counseling Service (PCS) folks. Joint actions were conducted with VVAW, PCS, and several Japanese groups in support of the GI Movement in Japan. I had in-depth meetings with the Japanese Diet (parliament) in both Tokyo and Okinawa, convening special sessions to investigate my allegations.

The influence of our presence will be felt for some time to come, as evidenced by the Japanese government granting permission for some bases to be inspected for nuclear weapons. Access had consistently been denied in the past. A statement from Prime Minister Tanaka and the director-general of his cabinet's Defense Agency said "Nuclear warheads to be e-

quipped for 155 MM atomic cannon, nuclear landmines, and anti-aircraft artillery are defensive arms and the possession and introduction of such weapons into Japan is constitutional." This statement corresponds to what DOD Secretary Richardson said in a closed meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee in connection with the Japan-US military alliance on March 28 and what Nixon said in a televised speech March 29, proclaiming US policy of maintaining military and nuclear superiority. Tanaka's statement is a complete reversal of his previous position and in direct violation of the treaty.

The Okinawa Reversion Act stemmed directly from the Nixon Doctrine and had a primary goal of reviving Japanese militarism. According to Kiich Aichi, former Japanese Foreign Minister, the Japanese Self Defense Force (SDF) has a "conventional firepower greater than that of the Imperial force at their wartime peak." Recently, the US has turned over control of several nuclear-capable Nike missile sites to the SDF. Obviously the US wants the SDF to play a more equal role in military strategy for Asia.

That the US has detailed contingency plans for the use of nuclear weapons in Indochina was pointed out in an April 7, 1972 column of Jack Anderson in the Washington Post. Jim Walkley, a former USAF intelligence analyst, revealed that he worked on target planning at Hickam Field, Hawaii where the US command has developed and continually updates contingency plans for local nuclear warfare in Indochina. It is the aim of VVAW in cooperation with all progressive forces to do its utmost to prevent the tragic consequences of another nuclear attack.

- Steve Hawkins

THE ECONOMY

CONT. FROM P. 2

TAX THE POOR/BENEFIT THE RICH

Who is paying for all this in the first place? Of the entire Federal budget, 63% is paid for from personal income taxes but only 21% from corporate taxes. During Nixon's term in office, Federal taxes on wages will increase by 20 billion dollars, while corporations will be given a 25 billion dollar cut. Nixon calls it "tax reform" but if you want to know why real wages have gone down \$500 a year since Nixon took office, you have a good idea right here. Check it out people----- one tenth of all Americans earn 29% of all annual income and own 56% of all wealth in this country. Two hundred individuals and 26 corporations control over 50% of the nation's entire wealth! Contrast that with the poorer one half of the entire U. S. population that earns only 23% of all annual income and owns only 3% of all wealth.

INFLATION AND THE COST OF LIVING

We've briefly shown how a permanently large military budget has caused dislocations in the economy that have dramatically weakened the strength of the dollar. Incredible inequities in the distribution of wealth and a very regressive tax system point out who is benefiting from all this in the first place - and it's not the general public! The last part of the picture is how it affects the general quality of life in America, 1973. As the dollar devalues, it causes a process of inflation where prices must spiral up and up to keep pace with the diminishing value of the dollar. However complicated this inflationary process may seem, there

is always one cardinal truth about it that people cannot escape from: as wholesale prices go up, the price increase is always passed on to the public. Even if wages do increase somewhat, they will NEVER keep pace with inflation. Business profits are never cut - wages always are. Inflation is one bill the public always ends up paying.

While Nixon's 'wage-price' freeze may have sounded reasonable, it was in reality a wage freeze. Even as wages remained static, corporate profits showed an increase during the same period of time. Similarly, the cost of living did not remain the same but increased. This cost of living index basically reflects the inflationary spiral of prices. It is currently rising at about 9.6% per year. Nixon's ceiling on meat prices may have currently captured the headlines, (they are up 5.4% since this Feb.), but they are only one of many basic items that have suddenly shot up in price. Gas prices are up an average of 11% in most major cities since last year, private and public education is up over 25% in the past four years, lumber prices are way up, building materials, rents, bus fares, and now Ma Bell tells us to expect the 20¢ phone call.

As long as the Congress and the President continue to put the interests of the military industrial complex above the interests of the American people, things aren't going to get any better. Inevitably the public's lot is going to get even harder as the economy continues to falter: the costs of this in terms of the quality of human life are frightening. VVAW has and will continue to fight for a reordering of our national priorities and to see that government is put back where it belongs: in the hands of the people!

REPRESSION & RESISTANCE

GARY LAWTON FREE ON BAIL!

After two long years in jail, Gary Lawton is free on \$50,000 bail. Since his arrest and lengthy trial, Gary has been repeatedly denied bail by the presiding judge. When his 1st trial ended in a hung jury of 9-3 for acquittal, the court was forced to set a bail that should have been set two years before. Within a week of the setting of the bail, it had been raised. Gary's trial is currently scheduled for May 19th in Riverside, CA. No lawyer has yet agreed to take the case, but one is expected to do so shortly. Gary's release is an eloquent testimony to the power of the community's unified resistance to racist political repression.

VVAW COORDINATOR JAILED!

Another VVAW leader has been singled out by the 'law' for harassment. Don Pennington, Regional Coordinator for N & S Carolina, was sentenced to 3 months at hard labor for disorderly conduct. The charge stemmed from an incident involving Don and 2 MP's from Camp Lejune. The MP's had verbally abused Don, and tried to order him about. Although Don is a civilian, the USMC generally does as it pleases in Jacksonville. Don exchanged some righteous words with these people only to find himself jailed for using 'vile and vulgar' language. Although one of the MP's testified that he did not hear Don say anything obscene, the kangaroo court nonetheless sentenced him to 3 months at hard labor. Don is now out on bond awaiting an April 19th appeal where we'll see if the state intends to actually carry out this 'obscene' miscarriage of justice.

FREE DON PENNINGTON!

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY!
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

FREE FIRE ZONE

Short Stories by
Vietnam Veterans

Short Stories by Vietnam Veterans is the second volume in a series of veterans' writings coming out of the Indochina experience. Free Fire Zone, like Winning Hearts and Minds and the third volume, Postmortem, is a collection which examines America's policies and attitudes towards Asia through the eyes of the men who implemented them.

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De Mau Mau

Black Vietnam veterans have been coming back from Vietnam angry and disillusioned with the American system. They were told they were fighting to safeguard freedoms in the United States--freedoms they, as Black people, don't have. They know they were used: sent to fight Asian people, with a disproportionate number of Black soldiers in combat roles, coming home to unemployment, segregated cities, unfair courts, and poor education and health care facilities. These vets have come home to America, and many of them have begun to organize and fight for the rights that are being denied to them.

One of these organizations is called the De Mau Mau. The De Mau Mau was organized in the US military by Black GI's, who, suffering from racism and lack of opportunity in the armed services in Vietnam, found it necessary to unite against the oppression of the military. These vets, once home, united with other Black sisters and brothers, and focused attention on the problem of unemployment of Black veterans.

Those in power recognize the powerful influence veterans have. The people of America will listen to vets. It's obvious that the local and federal governments are afraid of veterans voicing their opinions too loudly, as seen in the attack on the Gainesville 8 or the trial of Gary Lawton.

In October, more veterans were put on the chopping block in Chicago. Nine members of the De Mau Mau Organization were charged with murdering nine people in Illinois. The arrests were announced by Sheriff Richard Elrod, Chicago Police Superintendent James Conlisk, and Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan at a special press conference for nine white, hand-picked newspeople on a Sunday morning. Hanrahan described the nine Blacks as being part of a "nationwide conspiracy to kill whites," and that this conspiracy was formulated by the De Mau Mau Organization. He said they murdered a family of 5, in an all white suburb of Chicago, and 4 other people in Illinois. The evidence against them cannot honestly

be called evidence. All the murders were done by the same guns, but none of these guns have been found. And the main part of the case against the De Mau Mau is the testimony of one of those originally arrested. His testimony consists of things he has heard about the murders, nothing that he actually witnessed!



At the same time as this press conference, Hanrahan was trying to get re-elected to the State's Attorney's office. As you probably remember, he was the person who ordered the murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, Black Panther Party members. Although he was cleared of the charges in a rigged court, the evidence clearly showed that he was guilty of murder. The Black people of Chicago all knew this, so Hanrahan couldn't count on their votes. A lot of election judges had been indicted for vote fraud around that time, so stuffing the ballot boxes wasn't the safest thing to do, either.

What he did instead was to try to create a hysteria among whites about a black organization's plot to slaughter them, to try to trick the white people of Chicago into thinking he was their hero. The newspapers, radio and TV worked hand-in-hand with Hanrahan. Headlines such as "Racists Tied to Killings--Anti-White Group Blamed," and "Murder Gang 3000 Strong--Nine Slayings in Illinois Alone," appeared in Chicago newspapers. The radio and TV talked about how the De Mau Mau roamed Illinois looking for white people to kill. The guilt of the defendants was assumed; they were charged, tried and convicted by the media, even before preliminary hearings were held. For two weeks, the people of Chicago were bombarded with this racist garbage, called "objective" newscasting. But the white people of Chicago didn't completely swallow this, and Blacks came out to vote in record numbers, causing Hanrahan to lose the election.

But the De Mau Mau brothers are still in jail, with no bond set, facing a life sentence or possibly the death penalty. They are victims of a politician's tactic of trying to spread racial hatred, to divide Black people from white people in order to get elected. They are also in jail because of the city of Chicago's rulers' fear of the influence veterans can have on the people of Chicago, and as a scare tactic to discourage vets from organizing around common needs.

The hysteria caused by Hanrahan and the mass media has created a situation in which the De Mau Mau brothers are in danger of being locked away without an adequate defense. A fair trial is being demanded, but support is necessary and a real defense will cost a lot of money. We have to stand together and demand a fair trial for the De Mau Mau brothers, as well as for Gary Lawton, the Gainesville 8, Pat Chenowith, . . . ! Justice for all!

If you want more information, or want to contribute for defense costs, contact:

De Mau Mau Defense Committee
c/o Chicago Chapter VVAW
827 West Newport
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312/935-2129



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VVAW
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Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213
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Buffalo, N.Y. 14223
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203-453-3312

NEW ENGLAND

VVAW
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Cambridge, Mass 02139
617-354-9772

NATIONAL OFFICE

827 W. Newport
Chicago, Ill 60657
312-935-2129

NOSCAM (GI OFFICE)

See Ohio-Indiana-Kentucky

GAINESVILLE DEFENSE COMM.

See Florida

GARY LAWTON DEFENSE COMM.

c/o RPPDC
P.O. Box 5154
San Bernardino, Calif 92412

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