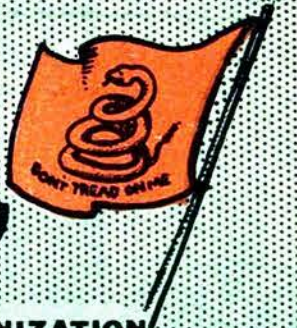


# WINTER★SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8

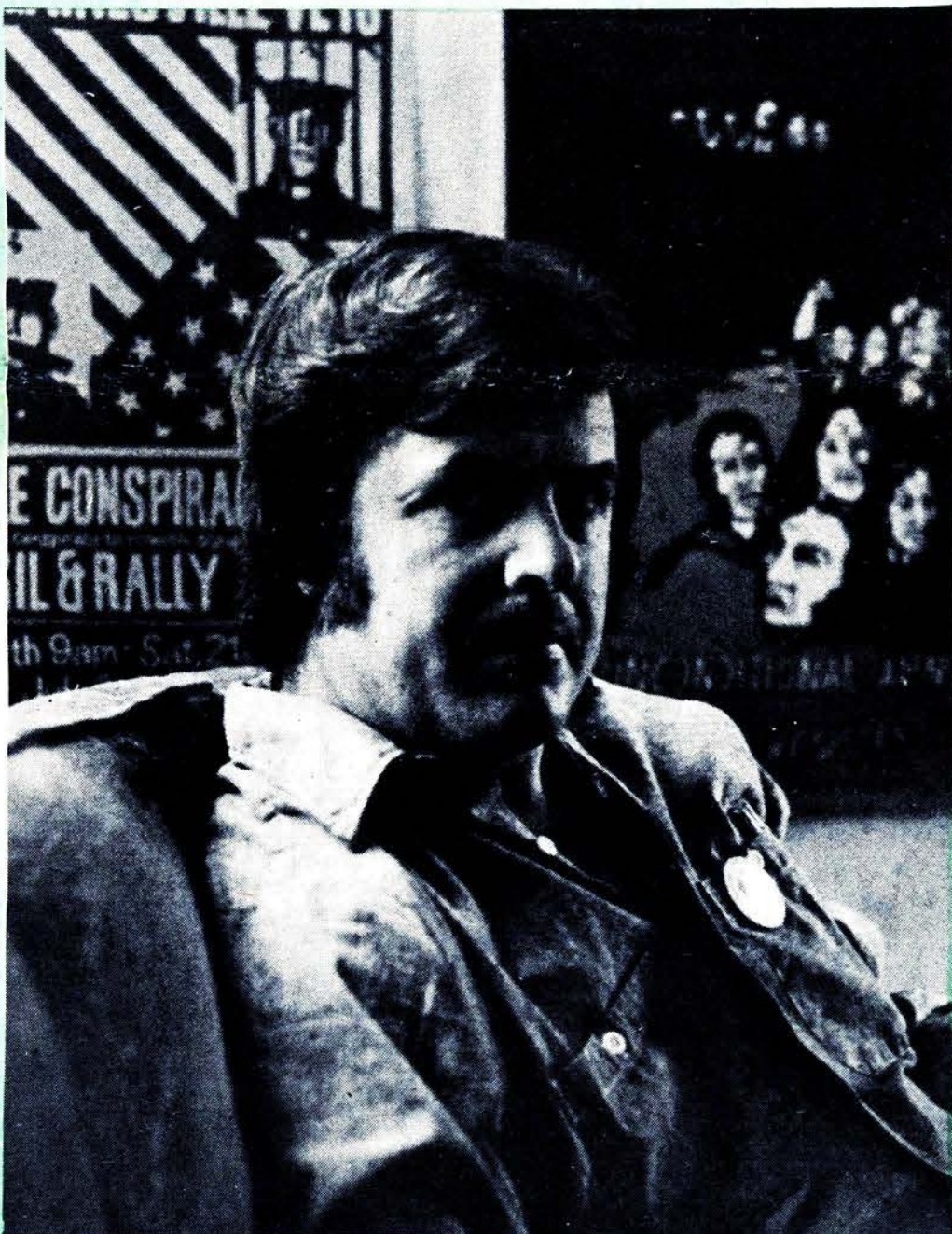
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OCT. 1973

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## Exclusive Interview

# REPORT ON SAIGON



" ONE 14 YEAR OLD GIRL WAS THROWN IN JAIL FOR FIVE MONTHS BECAUSE THE POLICE FOUND A SONG ABOUT PEACE AMONGST HER BELONGINGS

" THE AMERICANS HERE ARE INCREDIBLE. THEY TREAT THE VIETNAMESE LIKE THEY OWN THEM.. IT'S AS IF THE VIETNAMESE WERE THEIR PROPERTY.... "

"THE WAR IS STILL GOING ON AND THE INDOCHINESE ARE STILL DYING AT THE HANDS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT "

- John Naveau, 38 years old, 14 year veteran of the Marine Corps, employee of Lear - Seigler until August of this year, and member of VVAW/WSO for 1 1/2 years.

**See the Centerfold**

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CHRYSLER\_\_\_\_P 4 ATTICA\_\_\_\_P10  
LAWTON TRIAL\_P 5 FARM WORKERS\_P14



# EDITORIAL

With the people's victory won with the acquittal of the Gainesville 8, it is fitting that we should try and place the trial in perspective in terms of its relationship to the larger picture of the United States in 1973.

Primary in this picture is the fact that the war in Indochina is still not over. This issue of W.S. interviews one of our members recently returned from Indochina whose observations forcefully speak to this fact. We also see through the trial of the Gainesville 8, and the attempt by the Nixon Administration to destroy VVAW/WSO, how this continuing war is increasingly being fought right here in the U.S.

Political repression, both for resistance to the war and to the racism that was largely responsible for it, has become a way of life in the U.S. as witnessed by the trials of Gary Lawton or the Attica brothers or the attempt at outright Fascism now being proposed in the new Criminal Reform Bill.

The continuing war is demonstrated in terms of economic repression as well as political repression. Examples of this can be found in the struggles of working people to gain a decent standard of living or the problems Vietnam-era vets have in trying to go to school to get better jobs.

Economic and political repression clearly go hand-in-hand with the continuing war in Indochina. The answer to all these problems lies in the people solving them, through direct action, as has been proven by the Indochinese, the United Farm Workers or the people's campaign to free the Gainesville 8.



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WINTER SOLDIER

# COUP IN CHILE



On September 11, the freely elected government of Salvatore Allende Gossens was overthrown by a violent right-wing military coup. President Allende reportedly committed suicide several hours after the initial bombing of the Presidential palace began. This death was confirmed by Allende's wife who has now obtained political asylum in Mexico. The overthrow of the government culminated three years of unrest in Chile, ever since the Socialist government won the democratic elections in 1970. The aim of the Allende government was to turn Chile into a socialist state in order to provide a better existence for the Chilean people.

Immediately after the elections right-wing opposition, with an assist by the CIA and the US corporations with holdings in Chile, including ITT, continually subverted the attempts of the legitimate government to begin the task of curing the ills of the country. Rich Chileans and middle class people threatened by the advent of Socialism rebelled and began nationwide strikes that crippled the economic policies of the Allende government. These strikes and attempts to topple the government culminated this year in June when 50,000 truckers began a strike to protest the nationalization of the trucking industry. Right-wing doctors and pilots sided with the truckers, causing unrest and food shortages for the working class and peasants who rely on the truckers to deliver food in the 2,600 mile long country.

In the face of food shortages



and a crippled economy, the military took its cue from the business interests and staged the coup. Several hours after the coup, the military began rounding up supporters of Allende and summarily killing scores of people protesting the illegal overthrow.

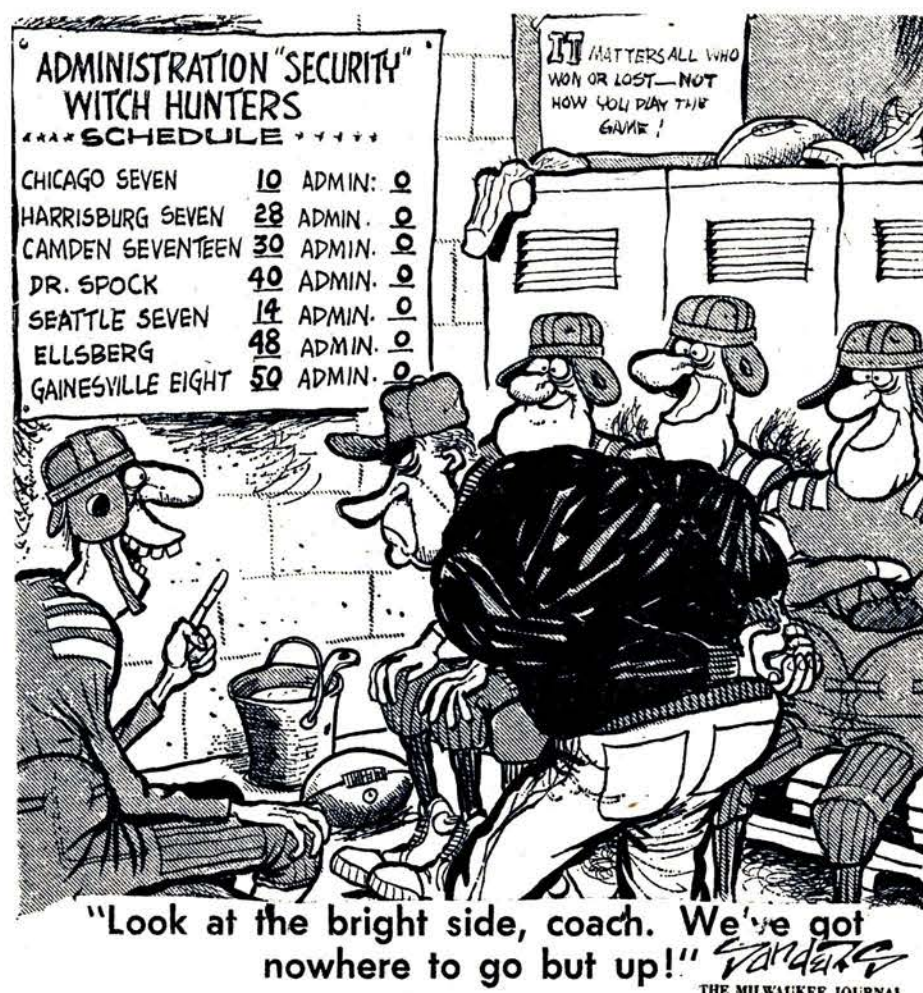
As a result of this coup, there are now only four countries in South America that are not controlled by the military. These governments are installed with the interests of the American businessmen in mind. For example, ITT spent over \$1,000,000 in an effort to prevent the election of Dr. Allende in order to protect its vast holding there, which included ownership of 70% of the country's telephone company. Allende expropriated foreign holdings in Chile that were reaping profits from the country and banking them in the US. Allende's aim was to stop this exploitation of Chile.

Now that the military is in power, the nation will shift to the interests of the wealthy at the expense of the Chilean people. Bishop Henrique Chavez, who was in the US at the time of the coup stated that Allende has left an indelible mark on the Chilean people, in that "the poor have realized that they are important." And the poor and working class people of Chile will learn soon enough that the illegal military junta was installed to return the resources of the country to the wealthy with little or no regard for their welfare. When that time comes the great majority of the Chilean people will fight to restore the continuance of the policies of Socialism instituted by Dr. Allende.



People's Verdict, People's Victory!

# GAINESVILLE 8 INNOCENT



On August 31st, 14 months after they were charged with conspiracy to violently disrupt the 1972 Republican Convention, the Gainesville 8 were unanimously declared innocent of all charges. The jury's verdict has confirmed what VVAW/WSO has maintained from the beginning: namely that the only real conspiracy was the attempt by the Nixon administration to frame the Gainesville 8 and VVAW/WSO on bogus charges in hopes of discrediting or destroying the organization.

What was the government's case that this trial was based on -- a trial that cost the U.S. taxpayer millions of dollars? It certainly wasn't based on anything remotely resembling evidence! Rather, its "substance" consisted of the testimony of paid informants and mentally unbalanced agents provocateurs. It consisted of "bomb" formulas that experts testified might work as well as a kitchen match. While one FBI operative vainly tried to sell the defendants machine guns, others illegally tapped conversations between the defendants and their attorneys in the very court building itself.

The government knew that if the true nature of the trial ever saw the light of day, it would be in real trouble. As a result, Judge Arnow tried to implement one of the most all-encompassing gag rules ever seen in federal courts in hopes of covering the whole thing up. While this was a flagrant violation of our

1st Amendment right of freedom of speech, at no time during the trial was a great concern ever shown for the Bill of Rights anyway -- the government generally ignored it!

Then why did the trial occur if there was no case? The answer is that it was just another case of overt political repression. Watergate testimony has repeatedly shown that CREP viewed the anti-war issue as the swing issue in the 1972 presidential election. It also showed that as early as the spring of 1971, Nixon was acutely aware of VVAW/WSO's leadership role in the anti-war movement. Against a background of a rapidly escalating repression of all political activity in the U.S., this knowledge makes the reasoning behind the trial a lot clearer.

The government needed, first of all, to defuse the anti-war issue in the 1972 presidential campaign. What better way to do this was there than by portraying a leading anti-war group as a bunch of vicious killers? With the public outcry caused by the Watergate scandal, a secondary purpose for the trial can be found: an attempt to partially divert attention away from the Watergate affair by fabricating a phony "threat to national security." James McCord specifically named VVAW/WSO as the chief villain in this "threat to national security" and as a justification for their actions.

In such an atmosphere of repression, it is fitting that the defense ended its case after calling only one witness and then resting on the "evidence" of what "the government calls its case!" The significance of this act is a powerful statement on the sorry state the American judicial system finds itself in, for it has itself become the very instrument of that repression. It is also a realization of the fact that, ultimately, the only safeguard of justice we really have is the American people themselves. It is the American people alone that have consistently refused to buy the government's string of conspiracy trials and seen that a just verdict of innocent was returned -- such was the case with the trials of the Camden 28, the Seattle 7, Harrisburg, and now the Gainesville 8.

As a number of the jurors pointed out after the trial: "What was there to deliberate? They never showed us any evidence. We could have come back with a verdict in 10 minutes." Another Gainesville 8 juror went so far as to say: "I wish I had understood all these things about the government 20 years earlier."

If there is going to be any justice in this country it clearly is going to come from the American people rather than the U.S. government. While we should recognize the victory the people have won in the acquittal of the Gainesville 8, we cannot allow ourselves to believe that our struggle is over. Truthfully, it is only beginning. Even as the Gainesville 8 are freed thousands of others of our brothers and sisters are not so fortunate.

Those suffering under the medieval conditions of prisons throughout the U.S. -- Attica, New York; San Quentin, Cal.; Starke, Fla.; Joliet, Ill.; Michigan City, Ind.; Leavenworth, Kan.; McAlester, Okla. to mention a few -- do not have to be reminded that they haven't received anything even remotely resembling justice from the U.S. government. While the Gainesville 8 are free, Gary Lawton is still fighting for his freedom as are the Attica Brothers, the Wounded Knee defendants, Ruchell Magee, the San Quentin 6 and a whole lot of other brothers and sisters. Freedom has its price and that price is constant struggle. WHILE THERE IS A SOUL IN PRISON, WE ARE NOT FREE!





# CHRYSLER WILDCATS

On September 14, 127,500 United Auto Workers members went on strike against Chrysler because the corporation refused to meet the bargaining demands of the union. The UAW is demanding higher wages, retirement after 30 years service, voluntary overtime and a fully paid dental plan. But the important thing about the Chrysler strike is the fact that the workers have begun taking militant action on their own without the support of the UAW leadership. Since the end of July, Chrysler plant workers have conducted 3 wildcat strikes in response to the medieval safety and health conditions of the plants, the work speed-ups, and the racism among plant management -- all issues which are basic to their existence and should take precedent over dental plans.

The first wildcat action occurred in the Jefferson Chrysler Plant in Detroit when workers' demands that a racist metal shop supervisor, Tom Woosley, be fired were ignored. A petition calling for Woosley's dismissal had been circulated throughout the department and 214 of the 300 workers had signed the petition. The petition was disregarded by the plant management. Because of this unresponsive act, the workers decided to take things into their own hands. On July 24th, Larry Carter and Isaac Shorter locked themselves into a plant power cage and cut off all power to a body shop conveyor, bringing the entire assembly line to a standstill for 13 hours and costing Chrysler nearly \$5,000,000.

This wildcat action had the support of nearly all of the metal department employees. Workers outside the cage gathered chains and equipment to secure the cage and they stood guard, protecting Shorter and Carter from the plant management who were trying to forcibly remove them from their bargaining position. Though 280 of the 300 metal shop employees are black, both black and white, young and old united in support of the cage occupation. After 13 hours, management agreed to fire Woosley, admitting that he had furthered racist practices in his department. But as Shorter and Carter have since stated: "They fired Woosley only because we had control

of that line. If we hadn't had the power they would never have fired him." Shorter and Carter have also stated that Woosley himself was not the problem, but that many department supervisors are guided by racism in their practice and this practice is condoned by the company. The Jefferson wildcat action may be viewed as a victory. Chrysler did bow to the workers who had united and ceased production.

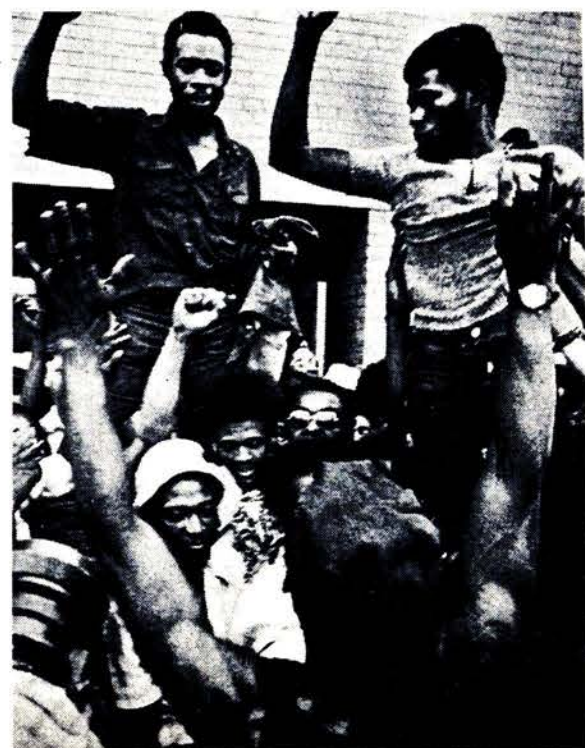
Less than two weeks later, on August 8th, workers led a six day walkout at the Dodge Forge plant in Detroit. This action was taken to protest the firing of 16 fellow workers who had been vocal in exposing the plant's health and safety conditions. Workers stated that in one week alone, the plant's working conditions had resulting in the crippling of two workers -- one had an arm torn off and one had a finger crushed. Also, 60% of the work force had been working a seven-day week for six months with no time off. The walkout ended when the UAW finally agreed to inspect the health and safety conditions in all of the 22 Detroit Chrysler plants.

A week later, August 14th, workers held a 30-hour sit-down strike to protest the working conditions at the Mack Avenue Frame plant. This action was sparked by the firing of William Gilbreth, a white worker who had been vocal in protesting the plant safety conditions. After his firing, Gilbreth returned to work and took his place on the assembly line. A guard tried to remove him but the 200 workers in his department protested and occupied a conveyor belt, halting all production. The plant was ordered to close, but these 200 people remained, saying they would stay until working conditions were improved and six workers reinstated who were recently fired. Support for this wildcat strike was widespread. Workers from the plant's different shifts began picketing outside and the people involved in the strike actions at the Jefferson and Dodge Forge plants brought food and blankets to the Mack Avenue strikers. The sit-down ended when Detroit police moved in on the plant with tear gas and arrested 15 wildcatters. Workers tried to continue

the picket line on August 16th, but were dispersed by guards and UAW officials. As one of the strikers stated: "We have had three people killed in this plant since the first of the year. There isn't a week goes by that someone isn't injured, loses fingers. No one does anything about it so we chose this way of dramatizing our problems."

All of these wildcat actions have been condemned by the UAW leadership who labeled the strikers as "radicals and extremists." But the workers have come to realize that the UAW, as it is now run, will not be responsive to their basic needs nor concerned with their safety. All of these strikes are examples of the increased militancy among American workers who have been forced to take action on their own. Plant seizures will surely continue until the unsafe working conditions are improved, forced overtime and speed-ups are stopped, and the workers are given an effective means of airing their complaints. The major corporations are bleeding increased profits from their employees while the workers receive less than life-sustaining wages. The only option which is then left to the workers is to unite, organize and struggle until they finally have some control over their lives.

## UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY





# LAWTON-GARDNER TRIAL

## FRAME-UP IN RIVERSIDE



Gary Lawton, Chukia Lawton, and Zurebu Gardner

The situation in the Riverside courtroom where the trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu (Larrie) Gardner is being conducted is becoming increasingly blatant in its racism and legal gymnastics. Lawton, Gardner and Nehemiah Jackson were previously tried in Indio, Cal. on charges of murdering two policemen. The first trial ended in a hung jury. As the second trial was about to begin, Jackson was severed from the case. He is a young college student and the DA felt that Jackson's presence and image in the case would make it more difficult to get a conviction on Lawton and Gardner. So, an agreement was made between Jackson's attorney and the DA that if this second trial of Lawton ended in acquittal or a hung jury, Jackson would not be tried. It is becoming clear that Jackson's charges will never see the inside of a courtroom. There was only one witness to testify against Jackson in the original trial, Sgt. Nash, a voice print expert from the Michigan State Police Dept. This single witness was recently charged with perjury in another California trial, so Jackson is as good as free.

Judging from the goings-on in the courtroom, we may begin to hope that Gary and Zurebu will also soon be free. The prosecution rested its case with the testimony of a young man named Inman. Inman testified that Sally Harris (a friend of Gary and Zurebu who had earlier testified that she knew nothing about the shootings) had told him that she was going to lie in court and say that she didn't know anything about the murders. Following Inman's testimony, the witness went into the hallway where he met Officer Lund (the new assistant to the chief investigator, Nelson). A defense supporter overheard Inman tell Lund that he wouldn't do anything like he had done on the stand again, suggesting that he had lied under oath.

The defense began their case on Sept. 12th, and the first witness cal-

led was Officer Lund. He admitted that Inman had lied on the stand, so the testimony of Inman was impeached. Then, Detective Nelson was put on the stand and he admitted that the investigators had conducted 6-8 interviews with Inman and that two of these interviews were taped.

Keller, Gary's attorney, requested these tapes and was allowed to hear them. On Thursday, the 13th, the jury was dismissed because the issue of introducing the tapes was to be discussed. Keller requested that the DA, Lee Porst, be charged with contempt for withholding evidence, and accused Porst of being a racist and trying to frame his client and Gardner. Porst jumped up and began moaning about how he was tired of always being referred to as the bad guy in this trial. The judge then retired to his chambers, listened to the tapes, and returned to tell the court that Keller could put the defense supporter who had overheard Inman and Lund on the stand, that Inman could be put back on the stand, and he warned the DA that he was walking a very thin line with regards to contempt charges.

Following this minor defense victory, Keller requested that Porst turn over a list of the rebuttal witnesses so that he could prepare for cross-examination. The DA admitted having the witnesses lined up, which is unusual since the defense has only begun to present its case, but that he would not give Keller the names unless Keller would give the DA a list of alibi witnesses. At this point, Lawton stood up and told Keller not to give in to Porst. The judge intervened and told Gary to be quiet or he would be found in contempt. Gary asked the judge why he didn't find Porst in contempt instead, so the judge ordered that Lawton be taken to jail. With this order, Zurebu got into the action and began accusing the DA of being a racist. Gard-

ner told Porst to either shut up or get up and began walking toward the DA. With this act, Henry Nelson, Gardner's attorney jumped between Zurebu and Porst and told Porst to "quit baing my defendant, BOY!"

The scene became more hectic when Chukia Lawton jumped up and began yelling at Porst, calling him a racist and telling him to leave Zurebu alone. Judge Hews looked at the DA and Chukia and yelled "Court dismissed!" Hews then ran out of the court, only to run into Gary in the hall. Hews blurted out: "Mr. Lawton, you are getting a fair trial" and ran into his chambers.

While Gary was in the judge's chambers waiting for his contempt hearing, 35 policemen dressed in full riot gear charged into the courtroom. They were led by Officer Blas who went to find the judge and told him that all the doors were covered and order had been restored. The judge asked who had sent for him and told Blas to get himself and his cohorts out of his courtroom.

Back in chambers, Hews rescinded the contempt order on Gary and told him to go back and sit down. Then the judge met with Keller, Nelson and Porst. Porst and Keller began arguing again and Keller called the DA a racist. Porst objected and told Keller to give him one example of his racism. At this point, Keller made it known to the judge that Porst is not only a racist with regard to black and brown people, and he cited the courtroom occurrence in which Porst became angered at Keller, shoved his chair into Lawton's attorney (who is Jewish) and called him a "dirty little bastard kike and I'm going to get you when this trial is over." With this example, Hews told Porst that he was the poorest excuse for an attorney that he had ever seen and warned Porst that when the trial is over, he is planning to hold a contempt hearing and investigate the DA for misconduct.

With this example of a day in the life of the Lawton/Gardner trial, it should be clear that what we have is not a trial, but a zoo. If scenes like this continue, there should be no doubt in the juror's minds that this trial does not contain even a semblance of justice, but a blatant frame up of a highly respected community organizer. The defense expects to rest its case at the end of this month, so we hope that Gary and Zurebu will soon be free. However, their freedom is an expensive item. The defense committee is still in need of funds, so all contributions should be sent to: The Riverside Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5154, San Bernardino, California 92412.



# Veterans' Benefits?

Any vet that has tried to get through school on the GI Bill knows that it is, at best, barely enough for survival, let alone sufficient to pay the tuition costs of going to the school of his or her choice. What most of us don't realize, however, is how drastically reduced present GI Bill benefits are from the original Bill passed after World War II. Last year, Congress ordered the Veterans Administration to conduct a study of veteran's benefits and services. The VA, in turn, commissioned a private firm, the Educational Testing Service, (ETS) to do the study for them. The results certainly weren't what the VA wanted to hear as the study clearly pointed out the fact that the Vietnam-era veteran was getting pretty shoddy treatment under the 1972 GI Bill.

The ETS study found that "when educational allowances for the Vietnam-era veteran are adjusted for the average tuition, fees, books and supplies at a four-year public institution, the benefits remaining are insufficient to meet the veteran's estimated living expenses." Further, the study continued taking into account the greatly increased cost of living and education since the late-1940's, the "World War II veteran was generally better off."

"It is apparent that inflation and a rising standard of living have taken their toll on the Vietnam veteran's benefits and that his 'real' ability to purchase post-secondary education has diminished with respect to his WWII counterpart."

Statements such as this are in direct contradiction with the official VA line which has consistently maintained that the 1972 GI Bill is as good as, and in some ways surpasses, the WWII Bill. Donald Johnson head of the VA and the former veteran's affairs advisor to the 1968 Nixon campaign, has continually painted a rosy picture of veteran's benefits under the Nixon administration, saying that the "present single veteran allowance of \$1,980 for a school year is nearly three times the WWII allowance and gives most veterans more monetary assistance than after WWII, even allowing for inflation and increased school costs!"

To wade through such a stream of lies, we should first look at the actual facts in the matter. After WWII a vet (1) received free tuition and fees up to \$500 a year, (2) had all books and lab fees paid for, (3)

could receive the Bill for a total of 48 months or 5-1/3 school years, and (4) was given a living allowance of \$75 a month, which with inflation and the rising cost of living would be roughly worth \$165 in 1973. In 1973, by contrast, a vet (1) receives no tuition or fees, (2) no books or lab fees, (3) can only collect the Bill for 36 months or 4 school years and (4) only receives a total living allowance of \$220 per month if unmarried (for a maximum 9 month total of \$1,980 a year), \$261 a month if married, or \$298 a month with one child and an additional \$18 a month for each additional child.

Marking friendly Mr. Johnson's statement about how great things are, we might suggest that he read the same ETS study his administration ordered. It said that: "the five-fold increase in the average tuition of four-year private institutions by 1973, (since WWII) coupled with the cost of books and supplies, requires the Vietnam Veteran with current benefits of \$1,980 to raise an additional \$136 just to meet educational costs -- leaving literally nothing for subsistence." Maybe Don and the VA feel that, unlike the WWII vets, Vietnam-era vets don't have any need for food and housing?

When you find out that in many states you can collect unemployment compensation up to nearly \$400 per month, you really begin to wonder what's going on. In many ways, the government is providing a stronger financial incentive to stay out of school and unemployed rather than to go to school and be trained for a good job.



"Gee, it must be nice to be a hero and have a friend in the White House." *POW'S*

The logical question is WHY is the GI Bill so low? The immediate answer is simple: the Nixon administration has consistently opposed any proposed increases in the Bill since it took office in 1968. By the end of the LBJ administration, the GI Bill was up to \$130 a month. A Senate Labor subcommittee found that in 1969, only 19% of eligible Vietnam-era veterans used the bill. It thus wanted to raise the bill from \$130 to \$190 a month. Both Nixon and his stooge in the VA, Donald Johnson, opposed this raise saying that any raise higher than \$147 would be "inflationary!" While the Senate wanted to raise the Bill by \$60, the VA wanted to limit the raise to \$17. When a compromise figure of \$175 was worked out, both Nixon and Johnson then took credit publically for the raise.

In October, 1971, VA Study #2131 was made (compiled and printed at a cost of \$183,000 by Lewis Harris and Assoc.) that contained a poll of 20,000 Vietnam-era vets who had not used the GI Bill. This poll (Table #86) asked whether the vets would use the Bill if it was raised. Of those polled, 53% said they would definitely use it, 30% said they would probably use it, 7% said they would definitely not use it, and 10% were unsure. While Donald Johnson frequently quoted from this study, he never seemed to mention Table #86. Rather, he continued to oppose any bills that would be similar to the WWII Bill saying: "There is no need to revise the structure... the Bill is sufficient."

In 1972, the Senate wanted to



raise the Bill to \$250 per month for a single veteran, and this time the Nixon-Johnson team voted for a meager \$190 a month increase. After the GI Bill was raised to its present \$220 a month over their objections, Nixon campaigned on the fact that the raise had occurred under his administration!

The VA says that 43% of all Vietnam-era veterans have used the GI Bill. What this figure really means is that 43% of them tried to go to school on the GI Bill only to find that they couldn't live on it. Since all those that went to school on the Bill for a month or longer are included in the 43% figure, what we really aren't told is that most of them quit shortly after starting, simply because they couldn't make it financially. The Senate's figure of 19% of all Vietnam-era vets using the Bill is a lot closer to the truth.

The reasoning behind Nixon's repeated opposition to any increase in GI Bill benefits is very significant and far reaching. With some 50% of the U.S. tax dollar going down the rat-hole of the war in Indochina for over a decade, the effects on the economy have been clearly disastrous. Anybody buying hamburger at \$1.30 a pound can see that. Obviously the cost of a real GI Bill, or other veteran's benefits are very great -- when measured against Nixon's determination to wage war, the benefits clearly have to go!

As opposed to WWII, Vietnam was a very unpopular war; public opinion did its best to forget it. The public has also tended to forget the Vietnam-era vet. The government knew this, and it also knew that, as opposed to WW II vets, an incredibly large percentage of Vietnam-era vets needing a GI Bill are poor and third world. The government needs a sector of the work force permanently unemployed so that wages can be kept down. As poor and third world vets come from this "reserve labor pool" anyway, why should the government bother providing a GI Bill that would get them a good job? So long as the economy is in the death grip of the military/industrial complex, all Americans, vets and working people alike, are going to be made to suffer the consequences. When it comes to a decision between the needs of the American people and the needs of the military/industrial complex, take a guess as to who has to go without?



# INDOCHINA

## SOLIDARITY with the People of INDOCHINA

The fact that the war in Indochina continues is graphically brought home to us, both in the daily reports from Vietnam and Cambodia and in the centerfold of this issue of W. S.

The National Steering Committee (the policy making body of VVAW/WSO) voted unanimously to declare Oct. 1-8, 1973 as Indochina Solidarity Week. The purpose being to bring the realities of the continuing role of the U.S. government in Indochina home to the American people. This will be done through postering, house-to-house canvassing, leafletting, speeches, political education through media displays, guerilla theater and direct action wherever possible.

The movement to end U.S. involvement in Indochina developed over many years of hard struggle. People were arrested, beat and shot trying to stop the War Machine. We must complete our job. We, the American people, must force the government to completely end U.S. aid to Thieu and Lon Nol. We must force the CIA to stop its subversion of independent governments. We must unite.

Contact the local chapter, regional or national office of VVAW/WSO and WORK.

### UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

## LAOS



On September 14, 1973 an agreement was signed in Laos making way for a new coalition government. This will be the third coalition in Laos in twenty years. Hopefully, the Laotian people will be able to settle their own problems without outside interference by the U.S. government. The past makes this extremely unlikely.

In December of 1956, Souphanouvong, (head of the Pathet Lao), and Souvanna Phouma ended the civil war and formed a coalition government. In April of 1957 the United States, along with Britain and France issued a joint statement

condemning the coalition government. Within a year the Pathet Lao were expelled from the government in a right-wing CIA backed operation. Souphanouvong and other leftist officials were jailed and their supporters attacked.

Souphanouvong later escaped and led the Pathet Lao until 1962 when again as a result of the Geneva accords, joined in a coalition government. In February of 1963 again at CIA instigation fighting broke out. The head of the neutralist party was assassinated and Thai, Chiang Kai Shek and Saigon mercenaries were hired with U.S. funds to fight for the right-wing. The neutralists joined with the Pathet Lao and together fought until now when they control over 2/3 of Laos.

Again in the hope of peace and for national reconciliation the Pathet Lao are entering into a coalition government. Hopefully it will work this time, but it can only become a reality if we continue to watch the activities of the U.S. government and the Central Intelligence Agency.

LAO PEN LAO !!!!

### CORRECTION !!

OOPS! In the August issue of Winter Soldier we ran an article on discharge upgrading which incorrectly stated that the San Francisco Discharge Upgrading Project was initiated by VVAW/WSO. The SF DUP is in actuality an independent project in which several members of VVAW/WSO work. We regret if this error caused any serious repercussions.

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# "The War Is Still Going On" Indochinese Are

(John Naveau, 38, is an ex-Marine staff sergeant who was in the corps for 14 years. He left the service in 1967 to go into a VA hospital for tuberculosis and was discharged in 1969. While in the Marines, "Gunny," as he is called, went to Indochina 3 times; the first in 1954 to supply the French troops at Dien Bien Phu, then two more times between 1964 and 1967. Gunny joined VVAW/WSO in the spring of 1972, participated in local demonstrations and also demonstrated at the Republican National Convention of last summer. In February 1973, Gunny decided to go back to Vietnam and he got a job with Lear Seigler, one of the big war contractors. He spent six months in Indochina, returning late in August, 1973).

**Winter Soldier:** We have heard a lot here in the States about the situation of the political prisoners in Saigon jails. Did you have any direct experiences in this area?

**John:** Yes. At a coffee house in Saigon, I met some people who had been prisoners. The situation is really incredible when you consider that Saigon is supposed to be the "democratic" government. People get thrown in jail for just about anything that Thieu thinks is against him. One 14 year old girl was thrown in jail for 5 months because the police found a song about peace amongst her belongings. You can also go to jail for saying "Saigon government" or "Thieu regime" because this is considered anti-Thieu. People are paid 300 piastres for turning others in to the police. Plus it's a national law that you have to show the Saigon flag or go to jail.

**W.S.:** What about the POWs held by Thieu?

**John:** I saw a bunch of NLF POWs being returned. They put

them out on an airstrip for 9 hours in the direct sun in 100 degree heat and they had to squat there without moving or they were beaten. But the Saigon government could not intimidate them and they were always chanting or singing songs. The people who saw them showed respect for them -- no animosity.

**W.S.:** The American people are pouring billions of dollars into the Saigon government. Has the corruption of the past years changed any?

**John:** Yes, it's changed alright. Now everybody in Saigon is corrupt. You can't do anything without paying every little official or hustler. Just taking a walk costs because on every block a policeman will stop you and ask for identification. Even if you have all your ID (you have to have six different IDs) he'll tell you that he must check with his headquarters. So, you slip him 300 piastres and you can go. I wouldn't recommend long walks.

**W.S.:** We've also heard a lot about the "refugee" camps run by the Saigon government with U.S. aid. Did you visit any?

**John:** I wouldn't call those camps "refugee" camps. I would call them camps for committing genocide. I visited a camp near Bear Cat, just outside Saigon. There were 28,000 people crammed into this barbed wire trap, which had no shade or trees or any kind of vegetation. This means being directly exposed to the sun in 100 degree weather. There was no running water there for these people. The Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) would truck in water in rusty 50 gallon drums which would be half empty. Plus, the people only get 5 piastres a day for food, not enough to even buy rice for two

meals. It was incredible, considering that American tax money paid for these camps. I'm not that young and I can remember the concentration camps of Nazi Germany.

I discovered that an average of 20 people a day die at this camp from starvation and thirst. These are the people Thieu is supposedly saving from the "communist" bloodbath. I was really shocked to find an 8 year old girl who had starved to death in one of the huts. She had been lying there for hours because no one knew what to do. It's almost become normal at these camps to find dead people lying around. And I think, "Jesus Christ, the American people are paying for this but they think they're not involved."

On top of these problems, the people at the camps face two other dangers. If they try to return to their farms, they are afraid of being blown to bits from all the leftover ordinance that we dropped there. I saw a couple of Vietnamese who had been snuffed by unexploded mines or bombs when they tried to plow their rice fields. Plus, the kids here don't know what mines look like and start playing around with them only to go up in smoke. If people's farms are in Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) territory, Thieu accuses them of being "Viet Cong" sympathizers for wanting to return home. That's Thieu's Catch-22. If you don't do what he wants, then you are automatically a "VC" sympathizer.

**W.S.:** What are the living conditions like in the Thieu controlled areas?

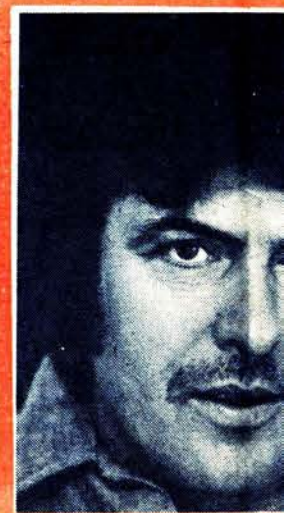
**John:** Well, the real differences can be seen in Saigon. There are three general levels of living. There are those in the government, like Thieu and his generals. Then there are the businessmen in the Cholon district who are mostly Chi-



Refugee camp in Bearcat



Typical refugee housing



John Naveau



# Going On and the Still Dying...."



nese or Indian. And then there are the masses of street people. Thieu and his cohorts live like kings -- with maids, villas, and big Mercedes limousines. The same for the businessmen since they own almost all the businesses in Vietnam other than those which are foreign owned. The common people live like dirt. There are beggars everywhere and also prostitutes. You can't walk down a street without a flock of beggars or street kids hounding you. It's really sad because when I was in Vietnam in 1964, the people at least lived in their traditional ways with few beggars. The streets were clean and people had work and enough to eat. Now, I hardly can recognize the difference between these people and the filth that surrounds them.

The Americans here are incredible. They treat the Vietnamese like they own them. It's as if the Vietnamese were their property and the Americans can do anything they want to them -- kick 'em around, beat them, steal their food. It's like a bad movie, only it's for real.

**W.S.:** One of the most important aspects of the war in Indochina is the role that large corporations played in conducting the fighting. Since the removal of U.S. ground troops and planes from Vietnam, the American people have assumed that we are no longer directly involved in that conflict. You worked for Lear Siegler, a large war contractor. Can you tell us what role they are playing now?

**John:** Well, I guess the best way to describe their work is to call them mercenaries, plain and simple. The large companies, using American personnel, have replaced the American military. But all they are doing is hiring military men as civilians to do exactly the same job as before. The only thing they don't do is ground fighting. For

example, if I was a flight mechanic in the Air Force, I would get a discharge upon showing the Air Force my contract with a company. Then I would go put on civilian clothes and go back to my job. Same job, different clothing. There is still a lot of brass in Saigon doing military advising and direct war work, but they are there on Temporary Duty so they are not counted as being stationed in Vietnam. They get incredible pay for being there, plus villas and personal maids.

Lear Siegler is cleaning up on the money by filling contracts for the Air Force. For example, the Air Force pays Lear Siegler \$12-\$14 an hour for a mechanic, but Lear Siegler only pays \$2.10 an hour to the mechanic. All the ordinance, all the weapons, and all the planes are American and most of the ground support crews and many of the pilots are American. All the U.S. government does is give the money to Thieu so that they can say that these people are working for the Vietnamese, not the U.S.

**W.S.:** What about the CIA?

**John:** I can give one good example of their work. For four days there were ads in the papers for chopper pilots and chopper mechanics. Then there were four days of interviews for the jobs. I went to the place listed and there were about 300 to 400 Americans there from all over. Then this guy got up (he was from the CIA) and gave this rap. They were offering to pay \$2400 per week for pilots and door gunners and \$1800 per week for ground crew. They would work for the Cambodian government in name, but everything was American. Then he said: "This is your chance to kill all the gooks you want!" I got that quote on tape. In just those four days, over 1,000 Americans were hired.

**W.S.:** What about the rest of Indochina? Did you find out anything concerning Laos and Cambodia?

**John:** It's real easy to get to those countries by plane, which I did. You can bet your bottom nickel that the U.S. is still fighting all over the place. I met GIs who had gone out on ground patrols. You know, Green Berets. I got to drinking with them and learned about ground missions being conducted in Cambodia and Thailand and Laos. They had been in fire-fights. There are lots of ground-pounders in Thailand who go into Cambodia to fight so that the military can say that they are not in those countries. Plus, there are the guys who fly FACs, or observation planes, who lead air strikes by marking targets. It all adds up to Americans fighting the war.

**W.S.:** What does all this mean to you, John?

**John:** The war is still going on and the Indochinese are still dying at the hands of the American government. The thing that saddens government all those righteous people who opposed the war are now kicking back and resting on their laurels. I spent 14 years in the Marines and know that they won't give up the fight unless the people force them to. And the Vietnamese are counting on us. They think people are out in the street every day fighting against the war. I'd be ashamed to tell them that people don't give a damn anymore. I'm not really articulate. I just want the people to know that we can't give up our fight for peace. We have to stop the war in Indochina. If the Vietnamese can suffer so much and still resist the U.S. military and Thieu, we can get off our asses and help them.



Naveau



Kids sharing rice in the camp



Water delivered in rusty drums



# ATTICA: "WE ARE MEN. WE ARE NOT BEASTS AND WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE BEATEN OR DRIVEN AS SUCH!"



On September 9, 1971, the prisoners of Attica revolted against the racist and oppressive prison system. They held the prison and 38 guards as hostages for three days as they negotiated with the State. During that time they ran their own lives; they cared for the hostages whom they did not harm. No one was attacked or killed.

They negotiated for twenty-eight demands with the authorities. The demands included: "freedom of religion," "an effective narcotics treatment program," "a healthy diet" and "that inmates shall be permitted to return to their cells or to other suitable accommodations or shelter under their own power. The observer committee shall monitor the implementation of this operation." These demands were all agreed to by the Commissioner of Corrections, Oswald.

But on the fourth day, September 13th, the State attacked. Chanting "white power" the police entered the prison armed with shotguns loaded with buckshot and hunting rifles with dum-dum bullets. Within five minutes, thirty-nine men, including ten hostages, were killed and hundreds more wounded. No one was hurt by the prisoners; all the acts were committed by the police and state troopers. Prison leaders were systematically singled out and tortured with beatings, burned with cigarettes, and electrical shocks. For those prisoners who

were murdered, next of kin were notified about the dead through a telegram reading: "Your son is dead. Do you want the body?"

Rockefeller, the man who ordered the massacre, also ordered a "Commission on Attica." The commission published its report one year to the day of the uprising and to the dismay of the New York governor, found the prison system to be at fault. The summary stated: "For inmates correction meant daily degradation and humiliation.... Visits from family and friends took place through a mesh screen and were preceded and followed by strip searches probing every orifice of the inmate's body. Above all, for both inmates and officers meant an atmosphere charged with racism. In the end the promise of rehabilitation had become a cruel joke."

Despite this report, sixty Attica Brothers were indicted by a special Grand Jury. Not one government official, not one state trooper, not one guard was indicted for even one violation. The charges against the Brothers range from murder to promoting prison contraband to possession of a prison key. Some of the defendants face as many as 34 life terms, plus 265 years. The only evidence the Grand Jury has heard was presented by Deputy Attorney General, Robert Fisher, a man appointed by Rockefeller. Over three million dollars has already been spent by the prosecution and the trial should not begin for over a year.

Faced with impossible odds, the Attica Brothers are strong and united and are preparing to give the State of New York a political battle within the courts. However, to wage this battle, the Brothers are in desperate need of financial assistance. Send contributions to: Attica Defense Committee, 1370 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14209. The telephone number is (716) 884-4423.

"The same sickness that caroused the wholesale slaughter of unarmed men, inmates and guards alike still prevails. Efforts to punish and justify these acts of murder is now the business of the day; and with one-sided law and appointed judges they are doing a good job of indicting inmates. THEY STILL WANT BLOOD. After all, somebody has got to pay for Attica and the inmates are to be the sacrificial lambs."

-- Mrs. Laverne Barkley  
mother of L.D. Barkley

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# Vietnam Veterans Against the War

## Winter Soldier Organization

### 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 Indo-Chinese 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 service-women 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/WSO 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.

**Vietnam Veterans Against The War/ Winter Soldier Organization**  
**827 W Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657, tel.(312)935-2129**

☐ I would like to Join VVAW/WSO

☐ I am an active-duty GI

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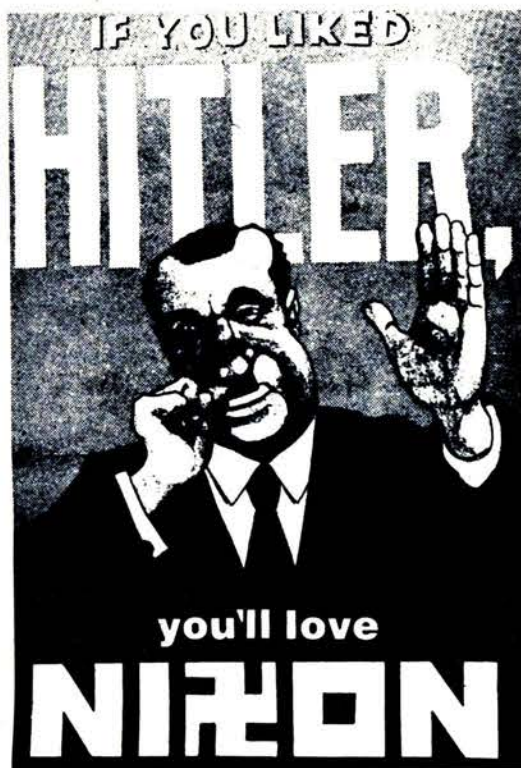
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# " IF FASCISM CAME TO AMERICA IT WOULD BE ON A PROGRAM OF AMERICANISM "

-- Huey P. Long, Governor and Senator from Louisiana



The Criminal Code Reform Bill of 1973 was introduced into the House of Representatives (HR6046) and the Senate (S 1400) on March 27th. This piece of legislation, if enacted, would usher in an unprecedented era of repression in the United States designed to eliminate all challenges to governmental authority. You may recall President Nixon pointing out in his television address of March 27th that this Bill would allow for the reinstitution of the death penalty. He also pointed out that this legislation was essential to the Administration's program for "law and order." The following are some of the more serious provisions of this Bill which Nixon failed to mention to the public.

Section 1103 is a witch-hunt mandate which provides for up to 15 years in prison and a fine of \$100,000 for anyone belonging to an organization that allegedly calls for revolutionary change "at some future time." That, by the way, would include any organization which included the Declaration of Independence in its creed or objectives.

Section 3126 permits wiretaps in any situation involving "national security" -- with the President defining the term.

Section 3127 authorizes the Attorney General or someone design-

nated by him to obtain court sanction to wiretap where there is "probable cause" to believe a felony is being committed, and 48-hour "emergency" taps would be permitted without court approval. Landlords and telephone company workers would be compelled to cooperate 'forthwith' and 'unobtrusively' with government wiretappers.

Section 1801 provides for three years in jail and a \$25,000 fine for transporting a person across a state line or using mail or telephone "in the course of the planning" of a "riot." A "riot" is defined as "an assemblage of five" which "creates a grave danger" to "property." No riot or violence need occur; the "threat" is sufficient for prosecution. Another section prohibits demonstrations within sight and sound of the President if the Secretary of the Treasury terms the area off limits; and another section prohibits demonstrating (even silently carrying signs) within 200 ft. of a court house where a trial is in session.

Section 1333 provides for a three-year prison sentence and a \$25,000 fine for persons refusing to cooperate with congressional committees such as the House Internal Security Committee.

Entrapment is virtually legalized in Section 531.

Section 521 authorizes police officers to use deadly force to prevent the escape of a person arrested for any crime, however petty, and without regard for the lives of innocent bystanders.

Section 502 limits an insanity plea to cases in which it can be proven that the defendant was unaware of what he/she was doing.

Anyone who produces or disseminates material describing sexual intercourse or depicting nudity would be subject to prosecution under Section 1851.

There are nine sections which would seriously restrict public access to government information, including military, non-military "intelligence of the United States"

(an undefined term which is open to just about any interpretation) and material pertaining to "the conduct of foreign relations affecting the national defense." Severe penalties are authorized for past or present federal employees who leak information, newsmen who use it and publishers who print it. But the most frightening of these nine sections is Section 1121. This section carries a maximum penalty of death for anyone who releases information which "may" be used "to the injury of the U. S. or to the advantage of a foreign power." Under this section, it is not inconceivable that the publisher of the New York Times and Daniel Ellsberg could have been executed for releasing the Pentagon Papers.

As the contradictions within our society become greater and more evident, so too does the government increase its efforts to repress the will of the people to overcome these contradictions. If the Criminal Code Reform Bill becomes law, the Bill of Rights will become a forgotten document, and the true patriots of this country who challenge government authority will become forgotten numbers in some Federal Penitentiary. The people who write this piece of legislation are the real criminals: John Mitchell and his aides in the Justice Department. Defeat H. R. 6046 and S. 1400.

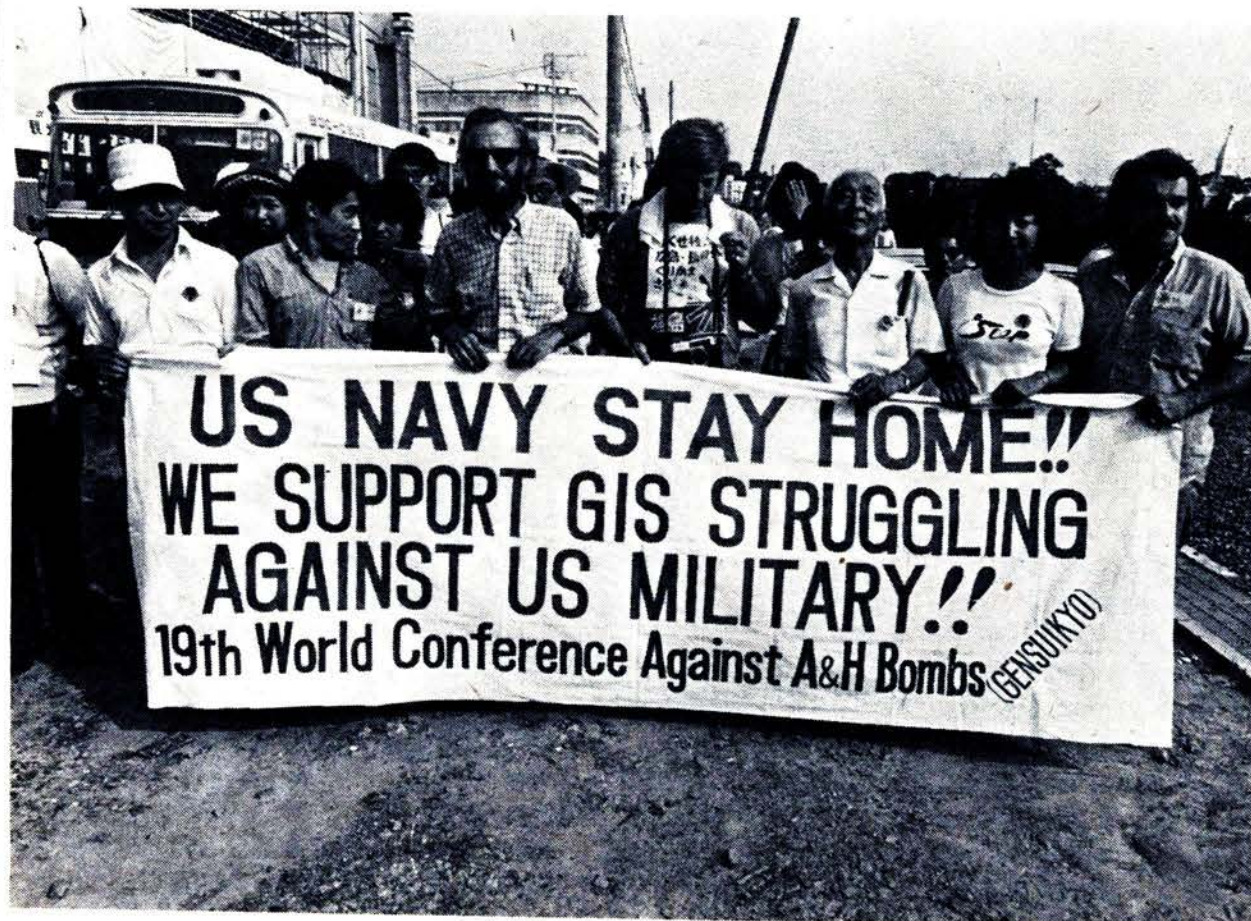
## UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY



STICK 'EM UPI



# SOLIDARITY IN JAPAN



The 19th World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs was held in three Japanese cities (Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki) from August 4th to 10th, 1973.

There were 6,000 Japanese delegates along with 34 overseas delegations including the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Cuba, German Federal Republic and the United States.

For the third consecutive year, VVAW/WSO was invited to attend the conference by Gensuikyo, the main organizing group for the annual meetings. In the past we have worked with the people of Gensuikyo in the struggle to end US imperialism, and have supported their work in helping to bring an end to US military involvement in Japan. Working together in this way has helped both of our organizations grow stronger. This joint work has enabled the people of Japan to learn that it is not the GI or the American people who are to blame for U.S. foreign policy, but rather the military-industrial complex.

VVAW/WSO was asked to speak at the preliminary session in Tokyo and also at a large rally held in Tokyo that emphasized the solidarity between the people of Japan and the progressive peoples of the world in their common struggle to end U.S. domination of Third World nations.

The preliminary session in Tokyo was highlighted by a donation

from the American delegation to the DRV, which was to be given to the PRG representative in Hanoi, for the political prisoners held by the Saigon regime. The presentation was received with great appreciation by the entire conference. There were also presentations and telegrams from the PRG, the Cambodians and the Laotians. However, these were read by other delegates as the Japanese government would not grant visas to the delegates from the three liberation struggles in Indochina.

The plenary session of the conference was held in Nagasaki, the site of the August 9th atomic bombing of Japan. At this session we visited an atomic bomb hospital and met with bomb sufferers. The director of the hospital told us they were presently receiving 3rd generation victims of the bombings; victims through heredity. We also visited the Nagasaki museum which contains pictures and displays of that tragic bombing. According to the 1950 Japanese census, 120,000 people were killed at Nagasaki, and 150-170,000 in Hiroshima. Also, there were 297,051 survivors left in the two cities, suffering from the effects of radiation. Almost all the casualties were civilians rather than military personnel.

We learned that the U.S. government set up the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, with its first goal to cover up the extent of the damage and destruction wreaked by

the bombings. The second goal of the commission was not to give medical treatment to the bomb victims but rather to test the effect of radiation on the human body. The U.S. government offers no assistance to these atomic bomb sufferers, and the Japanese government offers very little. The hospital we visited was built entirely by donation; no money was given either by the U.S. or Japanese governments.

Also in Nagasaki, a special meeting was called where delegates from each of Japan's 47 prefectures met with the representative of VVAW/WSO to discuss the military aspect of U.S. imperialism. All the delegates gave reports on the work they are doing around the five key bases in Japan: Sasebo, Yokota, Iwakuni, Yokosuka and Yamato. These bases are used in the overall policy of nuclear blackmail and as forward base operations in Indochina.

Overall, the 19th World Conference Against A&H Bombs was very successful. There were three main documents to come out of the conference. These resolutions included an appeal for an international agreement for complete prohibition of nuclear weapons; a resolution condemning U.S. policy in Indochina; and a general resolution which contained six points calling for an end to the U.S. aims of turning the Pacific and Asian countries into a bastion for American business interests and a storehouse for nuclear weapons.

While in Japan, it was possible to meet with two of the local chapters of VVAW/WSO. GI projects in Iwakuni and Yokosuka. The meetings held were very informative and helped strengthen the ties between the local chapters and the national organization. Unfortunately the chance to meet with the chapter in Okinawa was cancelled because the port of Kagoshima was closed due to a typhoon.

This international conference and the visit to the GI chapters represented another step for VVAW/WSO in strengthening ties with all progressive peoples throughout the world.

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS  
NO MORE NAGASAKIS

-Jim Thompson  
California regional  
office VVAW/WSO



# VIVA LA HUELGA!



"Before the Union, farmworkers slaved for 12-13 years without a day's vacation. The foreman had complete control. The foreman would approach a worker saying, 'You have one hour to prune 30 plants. If in that hour you don't, hit the road...' Those were the days when a farmworker with a family of 13 had to settle for an hourly rate of \$1.15.

"But the Union has improved our working and living conditions 100%. The work isn't killing us any more. Workers aren't harrassed and fired as they were before. Workers no longer have to jump when the grower comes, nor take off their hats in homage to him.

"When the Union came, out went the crooked foreman, the despots and the labor contractors who earned up to \$35,000 a year by robbing the crew they hired."

These statements were made by farmworkers who have experienced years of struggle in order for them to get where they are today. The United Farm Workers Union began in 1965 shortly after workers walked off the job after the growers tried to lessen the \$1.40 an hour wage that had been part of their contract. This marked the beginning of the successful five year strike and boycott aimed at grape growers in Southern California who had criminally treated the migrant farm workers; mainly Chicanos.

The nationwide boycott of grapes and the will of the striking farm workers forced the growers to recognize the Farm Workers Union, under the leadership of Cesar Chavez, as the legitimate representative of migrant farmworkers. In 1970 grape growers representing 85% of the industry signed contracts with UFWU.

Within the next year, the UFWU expanded and won recognition for farmworkers all across the country.

With the advent of an organized union, the grape and lettuce growers and agri-business recognized a threat to their immense profits. This led the growers to try to push through anti-union laws to outlaw strikes and boycotts by agricultural unions. The laws were passed in several states, but in California, Oregon and Florida the united forces of the farmworkers defeated these attempts to destroy the UFWU.

This led agri-business to try another way to break up UFWU, by introducing the Teamster's Union into the California farm areas. In 1970 the Teamster's Union contracts allowed for no workers' benefits as compared to the contracts signed by UFWU. The UFWU negotiated a union hiring hall, seniority system, pesticide control, nine hour limit, overtime pay, grievance procedure, medical benefits, control on layoffs, collective bargaining and a pension plan, while the Teamsters offered none of these that would benefit the workers.

In April of 1973, when the UFWU contracts expired, the growers in league with the bosses of the Teamsters Union signed the contracts the Teamsters in an outright attempt to destroy the rights the workers had fought for and won under the UFWU. Those represented by UFWU dropped from 40,000 to approximately 6,000. The workers realizing immediately what was in store for them, struck the fields of

Coachella, California; the first harvest area. Workers from Salinas volunteered to support the Coachella strike realizing that this battle was necessary to save the union. Within one week after the 'sweetheart' deals between the growers and the Teamsters, hundreds were arrested as the growers learned quickly that the farmworkers were determined to remain represented by UFWU. As the workers struck, Teamster 'organizers', in actuality goon squads, were called in to keep the workers down.

In July, a group of 50 goons armed with pipes, clubs and chains attacked the nonviolent farmworkers in order to bust up their strike. In August Naji Daifullah, an Arab farm worker was killed after being beaten by a cop and two days later Juan De LaCruz, a striker was shot to death.

After the two murders, the Teamster's Union voided their signed contracts with the growers in an attempt to placate the outraged farm workers. This action by the Teamsters has successfully covered up the fact that the killing of DeLaCruz was done by one of their goons. But the aim of the Teamsters Union is still to destroy the UFWU. The day after the announcement was made about voiding the contracts, they announced that they would attempt to organize workers in San Diego County.

The Farm Workers Union has a long hard struggle ahead to finally represent the farmworkers. The workers are becoming very impatient with the tactics of the big unions; the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO. But as their force and pressure continue to topple the attempts to subvert their union, they are picking up the support of millions of workers around the country, who view the struggle of the farmworkers as their own.

The Farmworkers ask that all people continue to boycott grapes and head lettuce during these crucial months.

VIVA LA HUELGA !!!!

**Si Se Puede!** (It Can Be Done) is the story of the struggle of farmworkers for their union, the UFWU, and their fight against the grower-Teamster official alliance.

It contains an on-the-scene report on the big Coachella walkouts, as well as the strikes and mass arrests that spread north up to Delano and Fresno.

Also covered is the history of the UFWU since 1965 and the earlier struggles of farmworkers of all nationalities in the fields of Calif.

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# VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION



## REGIONAL OFFICES:

### ALASKA - WASHINGTON

VVAW/WSO  
215 Viking Union WWSO  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
(206) 676-3460 X 22

### ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI- TENNESSEE

VVAW/WSO  
1317 14th Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401  
(205) 345-9919

### NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA

VVAW/WSO  
PO Box 461  
Placitas, New Mexico 87043  
(505) 843-6719

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VVAW/WSO  
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VVAW/WSO  
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### IDAHO-MONTANA

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(208) 344-3232

### N. ILLINOIS-IOWA

VVAW/WSO  
618 1/2 E. Lincoln Highway  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
(815) 758-8410

### S. ILLINOIS-E. MISSOURI-

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VIRGINIA  
VVAW/WSO  
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Odenton, Maryland 21113  
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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212  
(414) 562-9371

### NEW ENGLAND

VVAW/WSO  
550 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
(617) 354-9772

### NEW YORK-N. NEW JERSEY

Ray Winters  
135 Fayette Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14223  
(716) 837-8687

### NATIONAL OFFICE

VVAW/WSO  
827 W. Newport  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
(312) 935-2129

## Project Offices

### GARY LAWTON DEFENSE COMM

c/o RPPDC  
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## WHAT IS VVAW-WSO

Vietnam Veterans Against the War began in 1967 in New York City when six anti-war veterans marched in a demonstration under the banner "Vietnam Veterans Against the War." This first public action was followed by many more in the years to come.

Operation Rapid American Withdrawal (RAW) was a forced march by 150 vets from Trenton, N.J. to Valley Forge. This march, in the fall of 1970, was one of the earliest national VVAW actions. Along the march route vets conducted mock "search and destroy" missions, interrogation of prisoners, and other lessons well learned in Vietnam. During Operation RAW the original objectives of VVAW were formulated.

The trial of Lt. Calley was a major force behind convening the Winter Soldier Investigation into American War Crimes committed in Southeast Asia. This investigation, held in Detroit in January 1971, saw over 150 veterans testifying about war crimes they had committed. The message to the American people was clear: My Lai was not an aberration but the calculated result of American imperialistic policy in Vietnam. Several congressional inquiries, a book, and 3 documentary movies came out of the WSI.

With the spring of 1971 came Dewey Canyon III, a limited incursion into the halls of Congress. Dewey Canyon I and II had taken place in Southeast Asia without the knowledge or consent of the American people; VVAW was now determined to be heard. For a week, members of VVAW lobbied with Congressmen, testified in hearings, performed guerilla theater, and engaged the people of Washington, D.C. in a continuing dialogue. On Friday, 1100 vets returned the medals they had been awarded by the government for military service. This was the final break, and the return of the medals signified the ultimate act of revulsion for what these medals stood for.

The summer of 1971 saw a general lull in anti-war activity the country over. VVAW began to move in a new direction -- into our communities. We began the process of learning

that the war was only a symptom, that as long as the American economic structure could profit from the exploitation of working and third people at home and around the world, wars like Vietnam would continue. During all of this, however, we did not forget about the war. Christmas, 1971, found 16 members of VVAW holding the Statue of Liberty captive. The war was again front page news.

As VVAW's community ties grew stronger VVAW grew in size; first into a truly national organization, then into an international one. With this increase in size came certain problems -- we became too much of a threat for the government to ignore. Governmental attempts to silence the work of VVAW/WSO is clearly seen when viewing the Gainesville 8 trial -- a trial of 8 of our members who were indicted on charges to violently disrupt the Republican National Convention. As an organization, we were victorious in Gainesville and have proved to the government that we are not about to be stopped.

VVAW took part in actions at both the Democratic and Republican conventions. Our demonstrations there were both legal and peaceful. We went to Miami Beach with the people's most dangerous weapon, the truth -- and to prevent the people from hearing that truth, the government had to use spies, infiltrators, and agents to provoke violence.

When Coronation (Inauguration) Day 1973 arrived, VVAW again returned to Washington. Over 5,000 people strong, we marched, signed the 9-point peace agreement with the Vietnamese people, and returned to our communities.

The signing of the peace treaty by our government has left us with no illusions about the future. We were the sailors in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, and there are brothers and sisters in the military today who may well be participants in a future Gulf of Tonkin incident. We have learned that only a radical change in the system of this country can possibly prevent the wars of the future.

As we learned what was behind the Vietnam War, and as we went into our communities to work, we found people who agreed with our objectives but who were not veterans (though all Americans are in fact Vietnam veterans). To broaden our base of membership, we added "Winter Soldier Organization" to our name to become the present Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization.

### WHAT IS VVAW/WSO DOING TODAY?

National projects of VVAW/WSO include work in military counseling, securing unconditional amnesty for the American victims of the Indochina War (exiles, draft and military resisters, people with less-than-honorable discharges), volunteer work in VA hospitals, setting up rap groups to help our brothers and sisters with Post-Vietnam Struggle (PVS), building and staffing a medical clinic in Bogue Chitto, Alabama, and supporting the United Front of Cairo, Illinois. Local chapters work on various community projects and almost every chapter is involved in work around political prisoners and repression in the community.

### HOW IS VVAW/WSO OPERATED?

The most basic and important participant in the operation of VVAW/WSO is the individual member. The members elect chapter coordinators or representatives who are responsible for the local operation. Each chapter is represented at Regional meetings which are held at least four times a year. Each region is the responsibility of a regional coordinator or regional collective. Regions are represented on the National Steering Committee, a group that meets three times a year to formulate policy for the organization. The regional representatives elect the national collective. This collective operates the VVAW/WSO national office and serves as the functional head of the organization between national steering committee meetings.

### HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

There is one basic requirement for membership in VVAW/WSO: agreement with the ten objectives and a willingness to work toward their implementation. To join, contact the national office or your regional address as listed above.



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