

WINTER★SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

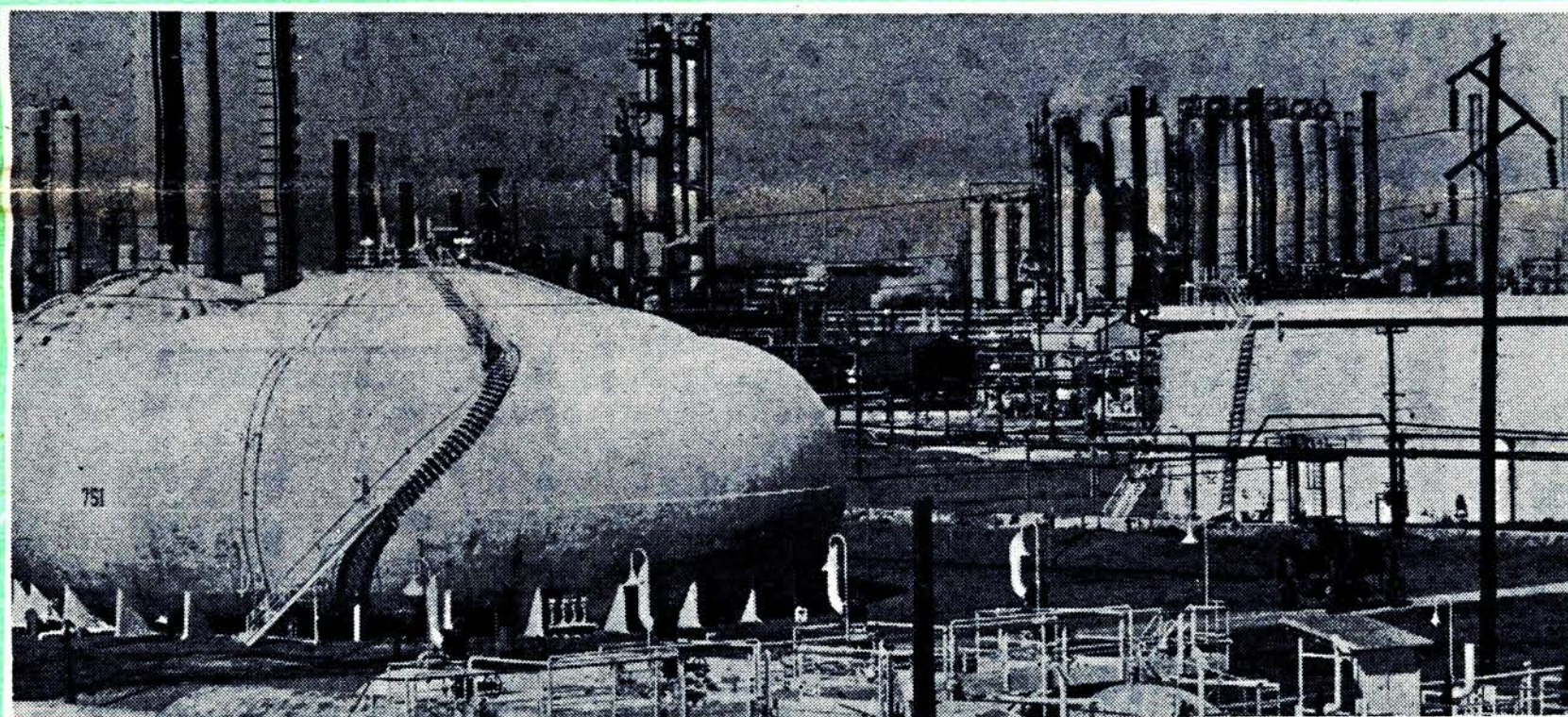
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Jan. 1974

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CRISIS OR PROFITS

FUEL HOAX?



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EDITORIAL

INDOCHINA

Within the next few weeks we can expect that the United States military and the regime of Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon may attack the liberated zones controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG). These attacks will violate the treaty that was signed one year ago on January 27th. These agreements have been violated by the US government and the Saigon regime since the day they were signed. Thieu holds over 200,000 political prisoners in jail; the US military is illegally increasing aid and the Thieu regime has repeatedly violated the territorial integrity of the PRG areas. All of these violations are being blamed on the PRG and the DRV.

We are not fooled by government statements and the bellicose reports of the media. It is the United States government that continues to violate the treaty. On January 27th, demonstrations will occur around the country. It is our duty to make these demonstrations large and loud and demand the implementation of the Vietnam and Laos peace agreements, an end to aid for Lon Nol and Thieu and the recognition of the PRG and the Royal Government of National Union in Cambodia.

LAWTON-GARDNER TRIAL

Last month the second trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner ended in another hung jury. These two men should be freed now. They are innocent of the charges against them and yet must now stand a third trial. The government's case against them is based solely on racism, lies and distortions. We must all continue to support Lawton and Gardner through this third trial and until they are set free.

* * *

The American government is responsible for the continued war in Indochina. It is responsible for the repression which results in frame-up trials. Only the unity of the American people through direct action will throw off the monster that engulfs us all.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

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VIVA LA HUELGA



The United Farm Workers of America has announced an intensified boycott of grapes, lettuce, Gallo wines, and Safeway supermarkets. Cesar Chavez, head of the UFWA made the announcement following a statement of the Teamsters Union to continue to honor contracts with grape growers in California despite an agreement made with the Farm Workers and the AFL-CIO to get out of the vineyards.

The Teamsters Union President, Frank Fitzsimmons, had originally agreed to pull out of the vineyards because public pressure and support for the UFWA overwhelmed the shady deals and 'sweetheart' contracts negotiated by the Teamsters Union officials. In his reversal on the agreement, it is widely believed that Fitzsimmons is reneging in order to help him hold on to the presidency of the union. Former Teamster boss, James Hoffa, is planning to run again for the job in 1976, despite the terms of his release from prison two years ago which forbids this. In an apparent political move to stave off the possible re-emergence of Hoffa, and to save his own neck, Fitzsimmons has now aligned himself with the growers, rather than with the workers.

Cesar Chavez, in a recent interview stated, "We should have known not to negotiate with the Teamsters. They have deceived us every time." Fitzsimmons maintains that no agreement was ever reached, but Chavez explains, "We negotiated towards the end of September this year and when we left the negotiating room in Washington there was an understanding that we had an agreement. It was publicized the following day in the press throughout the country, and now we hear...that Fitzsimmons is repudiating that agreement."

The new boycott will continue with picketing of Safeway stores, and will

rebuild the boycott of lettuce and grapes that had waned during the months when it was believed that the Teamsters would honor their agreement. This boycott will precede a strike that is being called this spring in the Coachella Valley when the grapes begin to come in and then in the San Joaquin Valley this summer. These areas have been the focal point of previous UFWA strikes and victories.

The Farm Workers are now in about 65 cities throughout the US and Canada and there are about 300 Farm Worker committees across the country. The boycott of these products and of Safeway and Gallo wines is already picking up strength and it is the strength of the Farm Workers and the success of the boycotts that will eventually see the renegotiation of the contracts, which will then be given back to the UFWA after having been stolen by the Teamsters Union.

It is important that all Americans join in the boycott again, and continue to support the Farm Workers as in the past. The Farm Workers are organizing the grape and lettuce pickers who suffer brutally at the hands of the rich growers who continue to exploit them. It is in the interest of the growers to have the UFWA destroyed. It is in the interest of the people of this country to support the aims of the UFWA and to make this boycott work.

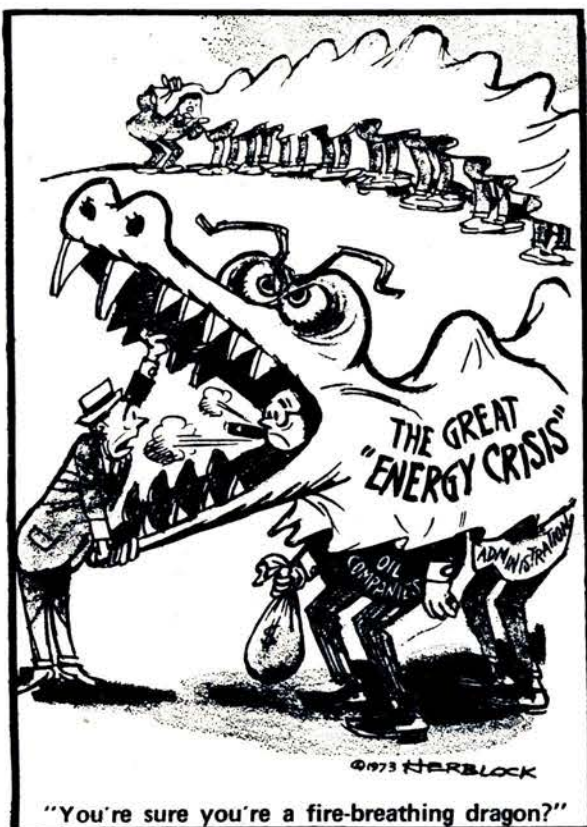
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BOYCOTT all grapes that do not carry the UFWA eagle. BOYCOTT all iceberg lettuce. Romaine and others are o.k. BOYCOTT all Gallo wines. Some Gallo wines, such as Boone's Farm and Ripple do not carry the Gallo label but they come from Modesto, California where Gallo wine is the only distillery. Boycott all wines that come from Modesto. BOYCOTT all Safeway Stores.

VIVA LA HUELGA !!!!!

IS THERE A SHORTAGE?

FUEL HOAX



Figures for the week ending Nov. 16, 1973, show that our reserves of heating oil, jet fuel and diesel fuel were only 8% lower than in 1971. Hardly enough to produce a crisis! And production of these fuels has steadily increased during the past 3 years to where production is now 11% higher than last year.

Currently, the U.S. imports 6% of its oil from the Middle East and 11% from other countries. But part of this 11% includes Arab oil routed through other countries. So, let's assume that all of our imported oil was cut off. That would be 17% less oil. (Oil supplies 45.5% of the total U.S. energy needs, with 70% of this energy being used by business and industry and 30% by consumers.) Based on these figures, the U.S. would have to cut back only 8% of its energy use if it were cut off from all outside oil; and if business and industry reduced their use of energy by 11%, the consumers would not have to cut back at all! That could be a relatively easy task, according to former Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, who said recently, "At least one-third of the energy we use is wasted."

Neither is the U.S. short of unextracted oil and gas. In 1972, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that there were 450 billion barrels of oil and 2,100 trillion cubic feet of natural gas under the surface of this country. At current consumption rates, this would last us more than 60 years. And in addition to this, the Green River form-

ation of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming contains the world's largest known shale oil deposit, estimated at 1.8 trillion barrels of oil by the U.S. Geological Survey. (Shale is a mineral which can be converted to oil through a heating process.)

SO, WHO'S TO BLAME?

Many people feel that the Arabs are to blame, but actually the Middle East war and the oil boycott were just convenient events for the oil companies. During the past decades, U.S. oil companies have relied increasingly on foreign oil because it is cheaper. That is why only one major refinery has been built here in the last decade, despite the plentiful deposits. But faced with increased nationalization of their foreign holdings, U.S. oil companies are now attempting to increase their profits in other phases of the oil industry, as well as in other parts of the world, in addition to raising crude oil prices.

The government, too, must share the responsibility for the current situation, considering that: The United States is the only major country in the world that does not have a national fuel policy; the government does not have an agency to independently investigate fuel production and reserves in this country; nor has it given itself the power to examine the records of the fuel companies; and it has ignored its own research which predicted a shortage as far back as 1971, according to the now-defunct Office of Emergency Planning.

Let's look at some of the people who are responsible for getting us out of this "crisis":

Richard Milhous Nixon, President - Millionaire who received \$2 million in 1972 campaign funds from oil executives.

Rogers Morton, Secretary of the Interior - who said on December 7th that

the answer to the energy shortage is to give private industry a strong profit motive by allowing large price increases.

Emergency Petroleum Supply Committee, Interior Department - Thirty four members, 32 of which represent 20 major U.S. oil companies.

William Simon, Chairman, Federal Energy Administration - formerly with Salomon Brothers investment-banking firm; estimated personal income: As high as 3 million dollars. Claude Brinegar, Secretary of Transportation - past director of Union Oil Company and former director of the American Petroleum Institute. William Clements, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Defense - helps direct oil policy in the Pentagon; holds 90 million dollars worth of stock in SEDCO, Inc., a Dallas oil drilling company.

As the oil companies began facing nationalization of their low-cost Middle East oil, they devised a plan to maintain their current profit rate, and if possible increase it. By withholding oil, refusing to drill for more oil in the U.S., withholding data and, with the help of the government, creating a "crisis," the oil companies hope to accomplish the following:

- 1) Increased prices.
- 2) Squeeze out independent oil companies and increase monopoly.
- 3) Build the Alaska pipeline.
- 4) Win the rights to drill for shale oil, 72% of which is on public land.
- 5) Renew offshore drilling.
- 6) End environmental restrictions.
- 7) Increase oil depletion allowances, which already deprive the public of over \$1 billion in revenue.
- 8) Receive billions of dollars in research money so they can develop new energy sources and then sell it back

CONTINUED ON P. 7

THIRD QUARTER PROFITS

In millions of dollars

	1971	1972	1973
Atlantic Richfield	50.6	51.6	59.8
Exxon	357.0	353.0	638.0
Gulf Oil	141.0	110.0	210.0
Mobil Oil	134.1	140.9	231.2
Phillips Petroleum	32.4	37.6	53.9
Standard Oil of California	135.0	150.0	226.0
Standard Oil of Indiana	93.3	107.3	147.3
Texaco	218.2	207.4	307.4

Source: Newsweek Magazine

ONE YEAR AFTER THE AGREEMENT

WAR CONTINUES

The Nixon administration may be planning a major resumption of bombing in Indochina. A year after the Jan. 27th signing of the Paris peace agreement things couldn't look bleaker for its implementation. Saigon now ignores it, intensifying its land-grabbing operations of PRG territory and bombing PRG population centers. In many areas of the south the bombing is more intensive than during the US bombing. This November, Paris PRG representative Ly Van Sau, noted that since Jan. 27th there has been over 32,000 military operations aimed at grabbing PRG lands, (34 of which were division-sized.) He also said that an average of 200-600 air sorties were flown daily by Saigon pilots.

This past month has seen the heaviest fighting since the peace agreement was signed. On Nov. 11th, Lo Go village in Tay Ninh Province was hit by "extermination bombings" that caused great damage. On Nov. 21st, in the Mekong Delta, the bloodiest fighting since June left over 100 dead and wounded. On Nov. 24th, Saigon launched large air strikes against PRG airfields at Katum and Thien Ngon in Tay Ninh Province that even a Saigon official termed, "among the heaviest since the January ceasefire." And since Dec 5th, there has been very heavy fighting at Kien Duc, a district capital of Quang Duc Province.

These violations of the Paris agreement are the responsibility of the US and Saigon. As recently as Nov. Thieu was pledging to wipe out the PRG infrastructure in the south. The PRG's position on the peace agreement remains as Ly Van Sau recently stated: "We were the parents of the peace accord... the child is growing and as parents we obviously don't want to see our child killed." In reply to the repeated Saigon charges that the PRG was preparing to launch an 'offensive', Paris PRG spokesman, Nguyen Van Hieu termed the charge "slander" and that the PRG "energetically rejects" such talk. Saigon's charges are meant to cover up its own crimes. If an offensive comes it will be ordered by the US and Saigon; not the PRG.

The PRG cannot take this aggression passively. Thus, actions such as the Nov. 6th attack on Bien Hoa airbase with four F-5s being blown up, are to prevent Saigon from bombing PRG territory. With some 22,000 US 'civilian advisors' in south Vietnam, 40,000 US military types in Thailand, fifty B-52s in Thailand, 25 on Guam, and the 7th Fleet off the coast of Vietnam and Cam-



bodia, the PRG has a lot to defend itself from!

Despite the new War Powers Resolution which restricts all US military operations in Indochina, the Nixon administration is seeking a legal loophole to allow it to bomb Indochina for sixty days without congressional approval. For some time it has been quietly alerting members of Congress to an impending Communist 'attack' in hopes of lining up their support. Robert Ingersol, the proposed Asst. Sec. of State for Asia and Pacific Affairs, testified in November that "we're considering and discussing" whether or not to resume bombing. When Senator Fulbright asked him if the administration might feel free despite congressional restrictions to resume bombings, he replied that he "was not clear on the legal points."

On November 30th, Sec. of State, Henry Kissinger and Sec. of Defense, James Schlesinger said that the State Department was studying the War Powers Resolution with a view to "interpreting legislation" on the Indochina situation. What this double-talk means is that they want to see if they can bomb Indochina for 60 days without going to jail for breaking the law.

General John Vogt, Commander of the 7th Air Force in Thailand recently called for a bombing campaign similar to the Christmas bombing of Hanoi. Such a campaign, "shortens things and brings them to the conference table," he said, and "that the whole reason we are here is to resume bombing." Further evidence of a US-Saigon offensive are the plans of the US to give Saigon 71 new F-5E jets, a violation of the accords' prohibition against introducing

new types of weapons.

Perhaps the most ominous is the recently released 1974 Pentagon budget, which indicated that on Aug. 1, the Pentagon set aside \$275 million for US airpower in Indochina, including B-52s, through June, 1974. As of the Aug. 15 bombing 'cutoff' in Cambodia they had officially used \$50 million, saving the rest to "keep the area established." The remaining \$225 million will buy about 120,000 bombs which is more than was used in Indochina in 1965. The Pentagon has also budgeted the 7th Fleet to keep 77 ships and 331 aircraft in Southeast Asia as part of the "less than 250,000 men" in the East Asia area.

Nixon is testing the winds to see if he can resume large scale bombing. Both Nixon and Thieu need a larger war to save their positions in Indochina. For the US-Saigon partnership to get over on the public and Congress they must 'cry wolf' about a PRG offensive. US media is helping them by using jingoistic rhetoric such as "Why Hanoi Expands the War." A Saigon commander said, "we need arms, fuel... air support, tactical and strategic. We need support like the support you gave Israel."

Unless we put the brakes on, it all adds up to a resumption of bombing. But as Ly Van Sau said, "The US thinks it is saving face by not ceasing this aid... if it does not withdraw its support from Thieu, then the Vietnamese people will chase Thieu out and the American face will be uglier than before... We don't want another US intervention, but if it comes it will be the last."

IMPLEMENT THE TREATY

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

SOLIDARITY WITH CAMBODIA



Mr. Thiounn Prasith addressing the conference.

Over 300 delegates from 53 countries met in Paris on December 8th and 9th for the International Conference of Solidarity with the Cambodian People to express support for Cambodia's continuing struggle against U.S. imperialism.

The U.S. government, after stopping B-52 raids over Cambodia, has tried to tell the people of the world that only a civil war now goes on in Cambodia, a civil war between the puppet government of Lon Nol and the F. U. N. K. "If that were so," Secretary Prasith said, "it is a war between the armies of the people and \$1 billion U.S. dollars per year." (Mr. Thiounn Prasith is Secretary of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Cambodia - FUNK - and Minister of the Government of National Union of Cambodia - GRUNK.

Only U.S. aid keeps the Lon Nol government alive; the economy in the areas controlled by the Lon Nol government is so bad that the people have to eat American rice grown in California. At the same time, the economy of the liberated zones supports its people, plus the people leaving the cities under Lon Nol control; and they still can export food to their brothers and sisters in South Vietnam. But U.S. aid -- which continues to pour into Cambodia -- does not always help the Lon Nol government: the Armed Forces of National Liberation have captured sufficient American arms to outfit 100 battalions, according to Secretary Prasith.

Delegates from other Asian countries, including the PRG from South Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Lao Patriotic Front, the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Kor-

ea, and Japan supported Cambodia against continued American aggression. Though the U.S. government no longer uses B-52's, the remainder of sophisticated U.S. airpower -- planes which no Cambodian pilot has yet been trained to operate -- continue strafing and bombing over the liberated zones. The complete destruction of the town of Kompong Cham on September 16, 1973, is the most glaring example of the results of U.S. imperialism, unchecked even by the Congressional ban on further U.S. bombing. Moreover, American "advisors" still personally lead units of the Lon Nol puppet forces.

For some delegations, just their presence in Paris was a moving expression of solidarity. The Spanish delegates, for instance, even though they must live underground in fascist Spain, came to Paris to speak in support of the Cambodian brothers and sisters.

In its statement of support and solidarity, VVAW/WSO said: "We draw hope and inspiration from your victories. The end of U.S. support to the puppet government of Lon Nol has long been one of our objectives. As an organization with mass membership, we express the affection and admiration of the American people for the Cambodian people. Knowing that in unity there is strength, we look forward with confidence to the day of final liberation for Cambodia and all of Indochina."

Other delegations expressed special interest in VVAW/WSO and our activities. The Japanese delegates wished to continue their work with us through VVAW/WSO chapters in Japan. And the Korean delegation asked for our support in getting U.S. troops out of Korea and stopping U.S. aid to the

puppet government in South Korea, the remnants of earlier U.S. aggression against the people of Asia.

Again and again there was a clear distinction between the U.S. government and its policies of imperialism, and the American people. This was most strongly stated in the speech of Secretary Prasith which opened the conference.

"The Cambodian people know and appreciate fully the valiant struggle of the American people. They have never forgotten that from the very first days of the invasion launched on Cambodia by the Nixon administration, young American boys and girls fell under the bullets of the police at Kent State University and Jackson State College. They gave their young and precious life and blood so that the fighting solidarity between the Cambodian and the American peoples against Nixon's war of aggression may live forever.

"We are proud and happy to have the American people by our side in the same struggle. We convey to you our sincere wishes for the success of your struggle to compel the Nixon administration to stop its aggression in Cambodia, for the happiness, democracy, and prosperity of the American people, for the friendship between the Cambodian people and the American people. Your victories are also our victories."

To our Cambodian friends we say: "Your victories are also our victories."

END SUPPORT TO LON NOL

WITHDRAW ALL U.S. TROOPS --
MILITARY OR CIVILIAN

RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTFUL GOVERNMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE

CAMBODIA FOR THE CAMBODIANS



KEEP ON TRUCKIN' ???

The massive road blockades and work stoppages by long-haul truck drivers throughout December has brought much comment by government officials (read big business) and the mass media. In editorials, news comments and government statements the thousands of blockading truckers have been called "childish" and said to be just having "temper tantrums". They have attacked the strikers in an all out campaign to isolate them from the rest of the American people by saying that the truckers have no right to block roads as opposed to other citizens, and that the burden of the "fuel crisis" falls on all the peoples' shoulders. The truckers know this, but what has caused these people to put their life savings, a \$35,000.00 truck, on the line and to violate the law?

The majority of trucking is done by company-owned trucks with hired drivers. These are the people who mostly make up the members of the Teamsters Union, and the largest part of their yearly road fees are paid by the company. The rest of the trucking industry is made up of independent owners who hire their rigs out for hauling, and taking the routes the companies find too expensive. They must pay all the highway taxes, fees, and fuel costs themselves. So they are the hardest hit by the fuel shortages and the lowered speed limits. Besides paying for all these costs, the independents pay anywhere from \$500 to \$900 per month in mortgage on their trucks. Then they must pay their own maintenance costs, such as \$120 for a tire (18 to a truck).

A deisel truck is not like your car. The slower you run your car engine, the better gas milage you get with little loss of engine pulling power. A deisel, however, must run at high RPMs to get good pulling power for their heavy shipments. So, a lower speed limit means that a truck will still use the same amount of fuel as at higher speeds since the engine will be going just as fast. Thus, a deisel will use more fuel at a slower speed for an equal distance. With deisel fuel running as high as 60¢ a gallon, the trip from New York to Chicago and back has risen from \$200 to over \$300 in just four weeks.

Each driver is required to rest 8 hours a day while driving, and with reduced speed limits, the amount of time to make a run has increased 25%. Since truckers make their money by the number of loads they haul, the quicker they get to one destination, the sooner they can start another haul. With all these increased burdens, the independents



are being forced out of work, something that any person would fight against.

So what started as a spontaneous struggle by a few men has mushroomed into a fullscale struggle by workers to save their jobs.

The truckers have also learned a few things about the police, the same way anti-war demonstrators found themselves at the other end of a nightstick. As one trucker, who had trained in the military for riot duty against demonstrators, put it, "Now I know why they call them pigs. I fought 18 months in Viet-

nam. For What? To get harassed? To get a little justice?" The strikers were just protesting an intolerable situation, but that did not deter the highway patrol from macing the drivers and smashing the windows of their rigs.

The press would have us believe that the truckers have no right to fight this destruction of their livelihood, that they are hurting the other average guys in their blockades. If the fuel "crisis" was due to a real lack of oil resources, that may be true. However, as explained in the article on the fuel situation in another part of this paper, this crisis is almost solely due to the wheelings and dealings of the major oil companies in their efforts to maximize their profits. They are not in the business of making fuel, they are in the business of making profits. Even though the companies knew well ahead of time of the impending lack of fuel from the Arab States, they cut back production of oil in this country. Only 6% of US oil is directly sent from the Mid-East, yet the government and oil companies spend thousands trying to convince the people that the Arabs caused this crisis.

The demands of the truckers are just. Many other workers are being laid off because of the crisis and many more will be out of work. Should the average worker be forced (as is happening) to bear all the burden of this well-orchestrated crisis? The truckers have shown that they and the rest of working Americans have real power against this blatant attempt to rip them off...the shutting down of production, the cessation of work.

VVAW/WSO members in Ohio have been supporting the truckers. They have met them at the truck stops and have helped to organize defense funds for those people arrested from the blockades. Because we feel that the American people should not shoulder the terrible weight of this crisis, that it must fall on the profits of the oil companies, we support the truckers demands. Everyone who has had to pay exorbitant gas prices, has had to freeze at night and has listened to the oil companies report huge profit margins, should stand firmly behind the truckers. As the drivers said, "We're doing this for every American, not just the truckers. The average guy is feeling the pinch too."

RAISE THE SPEED LIMIT!

FREEZE DEISEL PRICES!

COMPLETE FUEL FILLUPS!

MILWAUKEE TAKES V.A. OFFICE AGAIN!



Last month the Milwaukee chapter of VVAW/WSO took over the local VA office to publicize that the VA is totally unresponsive to the needs of veterans. They again took over the regional office of the VA on Nov. 19. One of the vets described the action: "We went into the building in 2s and 3s and pretended to fill out forms for the AL, VFW, etc. At 10:29 we proceeded to the regional director's office, leafletting along the way.

"There were about 35 of us involved. The director wasn't in but his assistant was. We stayed for about 20 minutes. Then chanting, 'discharge upgrading is a must, lookout VA this is a bust', we went to the front of the building and set up a picket line. We then went to (two universities) to leaflet and rap about the demands and how people get mistreated by the VA."

The demands were the same as before: Full benefits for the 560,000 badly discharged vets; resignation of Donald Johnson, the VA National Director; restoration of all cutbacks in the VA budget; and a GI Bill equivalent to the one right after World War II.

The next day they returned, leafletted and picketed. The guards outsmarted themselves by refusing to allow 'militant' looking vets to enter the building. Those refused entry went to the street, talked to VVAW/WSO and after hearing what they had to say, joined in the picket line. The next meeting of the chapter had an additional 30 people!

If the VA is ever really going to serve the needs of veterans it will only be after vets force it to. As the Milwaukee take-overs show, there's a lot of vets ready to do just that!

CONT. FROM P.3

...FUEL



to the people who financed its development in the first place - the public.

In the meantime, oil companies have been increasing control over "downstream operations" such as storage, refining, shipping, marketing and direct sales, as well as buying in to other fuel sources like coal, uranium and natural gas.

So now we have the same people who are responsible for this "crisis," the oil companies and the government, in charge of remedying the situation. And when it's all over, the American people will come out on the short end of the stick again. The people must KICK NIXON AND HIS BAND OF THIEVES OUT OF WASHINGTON AND TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN RESOURCES! Then we can begin to ensure that our needs are met on our terms and not the terms of the big corporations.

The country is governed for the richest, for the corporations, the bankers, the land speculators, and for the exploiters of labor.

Helen Keller, 1911

NEWS BRIEFS

ATTICA BROS. SPEAKERS BUREAU

The formation of the Attica Brothers Speakers Bureau has been announced, and will serve as a means of educating the public as to what happened at Attica, why it happened and what has been happening since. Organizations, community groups and schools can arrange for an indicted Attica Brother, observer to the rebellion or lawyers working on the defense to speak. The Bureau also has a color film, "Attica", which vividly portrays the conditions at Attica and the 1971 massacre. For information, contact Ann Clark, Attica Brothers Speakers Bureau, 1370 Main, Buffalo, New York 14209 (716) 884-4423.

FARAH STRIKE AND BOYCOTT

(San Antonio, Texas) On Dec. 6th, the Farah Manufacturing Company announced the closing of both its San Antonio plants, the third and fourth Farah factories to be shut down. Over 3,000 Farah workers, mostly Chicanos, have been on strike for union recognition and improvement of working conditions since May, 1972. The boycott has been on for over a year. The boycott and strike has cost the company over \$14,000,000.

NEW NERVE GAS

(Pine Bluff, Arkansas) The Army plans to spend at least \$200 million producing a new type of nerve gas at the Pine Bluff Arsenal beginning in 1977. The gas will consist of two non-lethal chemicals that form the deadly gas when mixed. This system will be employed in mortars and land mines. (The U.S. never signed the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning chemical and biological warfare.)

BUCKLIN GETS TRIAL DATE

Richard Bucklin (military resister who recently returned to the U.S. from exile) has finally received a trial date. His court-martial will begin on Jan. 7, 1974, at Ft. Carson, Colorado. The trial is expected to last about two days and judging from what the judge has said, the politics of the war and of amnesty will not be allowed in the courtroom. The defense just completed preliminary hearings (Article 39A hearings) and the judge refused the majority of motions filed by the defense. The hearings were to determine the issues which are allowed to be raised at the trial in January. A demonstration is being planned at Ft. Carson for the day prior to the trial's start. For more information regarding this case, contact: Dick Bucklin Defense Committee, 1460 Pennsylvania, Denver, Colorado 80203.



FREE LAWTON

The absurdity of the Gary Lawton (VVAW/WSO member) and Zurebu Gardner frame-up has become full-blown with the second trial ending in a hung jury. Gary and Zurebu are black men accused of the shootings of 2 white policemen. In this trial in Riverside, Cal., the jury failed to reach a verdict and declared they were hopelessly "hung" with an 8-4 vote for conviction of Gary and a 7-5 vote for conviction of Zurebu. This is almost a reversal of the verdict of the first trial in Indio where the jury reached a 9-3 decision for acquittal of all defendants. In light of the fact that both murder trials have ended in a mistrial, the government has decided to try it one more time, tentatively scheduling a third trial to begin in March.

VVAW/WSO feels that the government's attempts to convict two men of a crime which they obviously did not commit has gotten grossly out of hand. In order to understand why this process of injustice is continuing, it is necessary to look at the history of the 2 trials and the atmosphere of racism and repression which has permeated them both.

The event which set this entire phenomena in motion occurred on April 2, 1971, when police received notification of a burglary. The investigating officers arrived at the scene and were killed by shotguns fired by unknown assailants. Eyewitness reports said that 4 men had been seen escaping from the scene of the ambush and described them as being 3 white teenagers and one short teenage black with an Afro haircut. (It should be noted that Gary is 33, 6'3", of heavy build and partially bald.) Riverside had a reputation of being "trouble free," so in order to protect this reputation, someone had to pay for the crime. Having absolutely no evidence leading to the identification of the killers, the Riverside police decided to get the next best thing - and that "thing" was the person of Gary Lawton.

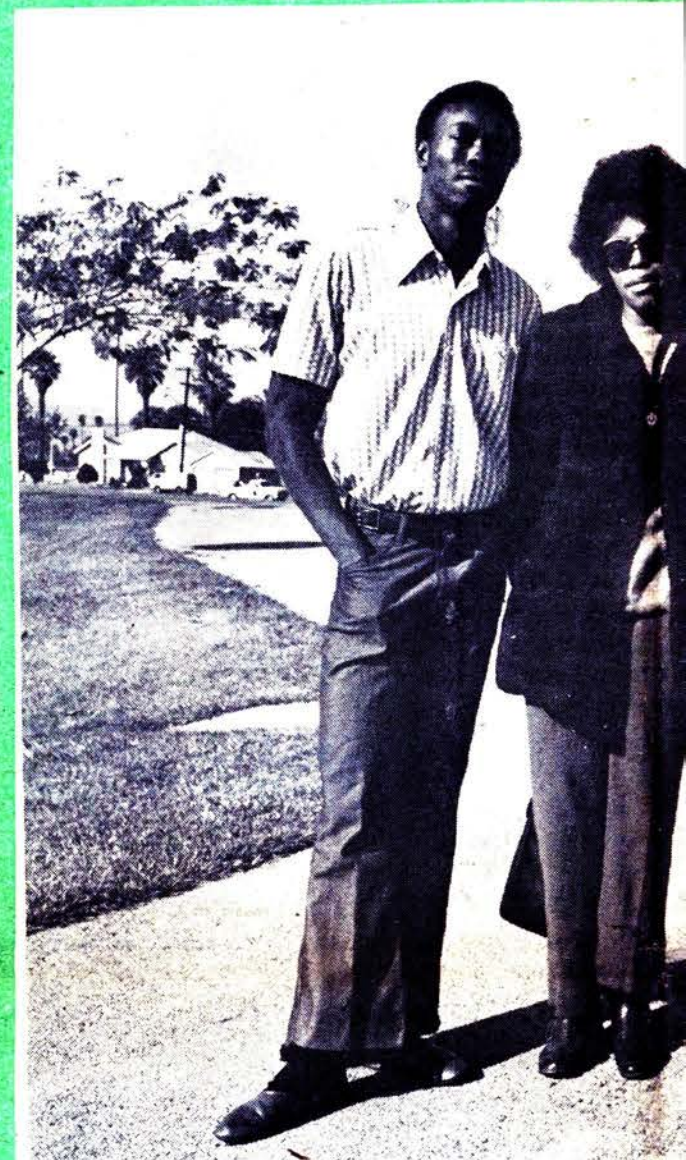
The reasons for this outrageous harassment of Gary go back several years, and this is a clear-cut case of political repression. Gary had been active in organizing among black, poor and third world communities of Riverside since 1968. He was unanimously elected to head the city's Black Congress, an organization which worked for the rights of all oppressed people in the community. As Chukia Lawton puts it: "Gary Lawton spoke out because situations of unemployment, poor housing, segregation, and brutality by the police de-

partment on the minority communities existed." It is not hard to understand why Gary was not a popular man among the white businessmen, police and officials ruling the town of Riverside.

Even though none of the eyewitness reports even slightly resembled Gary, the police immediately began "suspecting" him as the killer. He was questioned by police several times and given a total of 3 lie-detector tests - all proved him to be completely innocent. Gary believed he had nothing to fear, until 6 weeks after the ambush when he was arrested for murder. He was arraigned without bail, shackled in chains and continually guarded by 6 armed police officers. Shortly after Lawton's arrest, Nehemiah Jackson and Zurebu Gardner were arrested for the purpose of bolstering the prosecution's case. All were indicted for murder and conspiracy to commit murder, even though none of the defendants had ever seen each other before.

Since these brothers were denied bail, they sat in a jail cell until September of 1972 when the first trial in Indio, Cal. began. The defense had tried to get the trial moved out of Riverside county because of the racist media coverage and Gary's history of political activism. Instead, the judge moved the trial to Indio (a predominantly white, desert community east of Riverside) and this greatly disadvantaged the defense. Not only was Indio served by the same newspapers, but it also isolated Gary's community from being at the trial and offering visible support (as well as increasing defense costs).

The Indio trial began. Out of all the prosecution's witnesses, over 2/3 were law enforcement officers. The major police witness in this (and the subsequent) trial was Officer Ronald Lund. Lund was the first officer on the scene following the shotgun ambush. He claimed that he saw Lawton near the scene of the crime, but did not detain him because he mistook Gary for being white and he figured that the killers were black men. He did not file a report about seeing Lawton until 50 days after the shootings and 1 day after Gary's arrest. On the witness stand, Lund admitted: "That's what I want to kill is a nigger right now. I want to kill him worse than anything I ever wanted to do in my whole life." Thus, it is not difficult to determine what was motivating Officer Lund as he sat on the witness stand during 2 trials and lied about seeing Gary on the night of the killings.



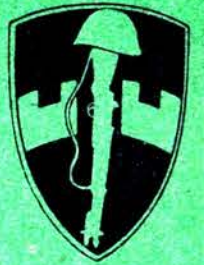
Zurebu Gardner, Chukia Lawton

The most important testimony offered at the Indio trial and again in Riverside is that of the eyewitnesses. There were 5 witnesses to the shootings and 3 of them knew Gary Lawton. Two of them stated that they were "more than positive" that they had not seen Gary near the scene of the crime. The third witness who had known Gary was Sgt. Carpenter of the Riverside police force. Carpenter admitted that he couldn't say one way or the other whether or not the man he saw was Lawton. The final 2 eyewitnesses testified that Lawton looked nothing like the people they saw at the ambush. Throughout the entire trial, the prosecution could only conjure up one witness to implicate Gardner in the shootings.

Other important testimony offered at both trials includes that of the alibi witnesses. Zurebu Gardner had been at a birthday party for a friend and several people from the party testified in his be-

FREEDOM FOR ONE IS NOT EN

AND GARDNER



Lawton, Gary Lawton

half. Mrs. Faye Nelson, a neighbor of the Lawtons, stated that on the night of the shootings she heard shots. She immediately looked out her window and saw Lawton standing on his front porch. This testimony proved without a doubt that neither Gardner nor Lawton were anywhere near the scene when the officers were shot. Despite this evidence, the Indio jury could not make a definitive decision as to the innocence of the brothers, and the trial ended with a hung jury in February, 1973.

The second trial was moved back to Riverside and began in June, 1973. During the time between the 2 trials, the defendants were finally granted bail and released from nearly 2 years in jail. Also, Nehemiah Jackson was severed from the case. He was a well-liked college student and the prosecution felt that his appearance and reputation would make it much more difficult to get a conviction -- which they were most definitely determined to

get this time around. At this time, a future trial for Jackson is still uncertain, though it is probable that all charges will be dropped since the only witness against him (a voice print expert) was recently convicted of perjury in a California trial.

The Riverside trial contained much the same testimony as did the Indio trial. There were the many police officers proclaiming the defendants' guilt; there were the same eyewitnesses; there were the same alibi witnesses. The most astonishing new testimony was presented by 4 inmates of the Blythe Correctional Institute who were in jail with a prosecution witness, Jonathan Cameron. Cameron testified that Gardner and Lawton had "confessed" their guilt to him while in the Riverside jail. However, the 4 Blythe brothers testified that Cameron told them he had been offered a new identity, \$5,000 and a ticket to anywhere by a Riverside detective if he would lie on the witness stand. Apparently, this evidence of police bribery of witnesses did not impress the jury because, as with the Indio jury, they were unable to reach a decision and a mistrial was declared on November 25th.

Now with a third trial of Lawton and Gardner approaching, the question we must ask is "Why?" The prosecution has thus far intimidated witnesses, exploited professional police informants, dragged a series of highly unbelievable characters onto the witness stand, and spent a couple of million dollars; yet they have failed to get a conviction - the reason being that these brothers are simply not guilty. So, why does the government continue to try? Because they must somehow justify their own policies of racism and repression. The trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner is a symbol of the corruptness within our society. It is a symbol of the lack of justice within our courts; it is a symbol of the racism practiced by our rulers as they frame black and third world people for the crimes committed by unknowns; and it is a symbol of the growing political repression within this country.

It is no coincidence that Gary and Zurebu have been denied the right to a fair trial in an unprejudiced community by a jury of their peers. It is no coincidence that 2 black men are being tried on murder charges for which the police have no evidence, or even clues as to the identity of the real killers. And it is no coincidence that a conviction of Gary Lawton will effectively silence him. Gary Lawton is a man who is a much too effective community organizer who continues to speak

out for the rights of all oppressed people, and for this alone, his silencing is a necessity on the part of a government which must stifle political dissent in order to retain its control.

What the government does not seem to realize, however, is the fact that the dissent which is continually growing within this country can not be easily "convicted away." There is a struggle going on in America, and though individuals are being singled out to suffer more intensely what is the repression of us all, the dissent will not be ceased. Gary Lawton is a symbol of our repression, yet he himself realizes that the struggle does not end with the silencing of a few. As Gary says: "To those who have placed their trust in me, I say this: that I will continue to Say On and with whatever tools left at my disposal I will continue to struggle against the principles of evil and against the traditional misuse of black people. And if my enemies should succeed in ripping me off, I am more than confident that another will come to take my place."

It should be clear by now that the "Outrage in the Desert" will continue until either the people of this country or their oppressors can claim the victory. If the trial of Gary and Zurebu is to be a victory for the people, it will also have to be a victory by the people. This means that if we are to deliver a blow at those attempting to silence political unrest, this blow must be delivered in unity. Gary and Zurebu are going to need more nation-wide support than ever before as they approach their third trial. The case of this frame-up must be taken to the American people because the fight for freedom going on in Riverside, California is the fight of us all. As the defense has said: "There are those men and women who feel such a deep and abiding commitment to the dignity of all working people, that they will brave the most despicable outrages of repression and retribution in their attempt to expose the injustices of the American social and economic system. These individuals are rare, indeed, for they pay a high price for their commitment to those silenced by poverty and the discipline of the work place." Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner are such men.

The Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee is in desperate need of funds if Gary and Zurebu are to be defended. Send contributions to: RPPDC, P.O. Box 5154, San Bernardino, California 92412.

ENOUGH, FREE US ALL, SAY ON!

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AMNESTY CLEARINGHOUSE

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POST VIETNAM SYNDROME

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NOSCAM (National GI Office)

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(513) 274-3171

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.

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 communi-

ties 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.



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 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/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.

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GIS CONTINUE

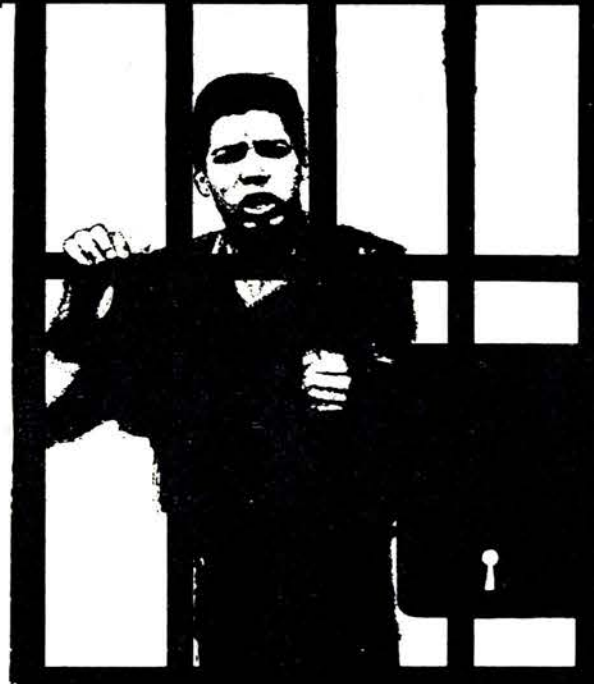
MELVIN X. SMITH FACES HEARING

(Fort Leavenworth, Kan.) Melvin X. Smith, the black GI charged with killing a white sergeant in Quang Tri, Vietnam, in 1971, faced a sanity board hearing at Fort Leavenworth on Monday, December 10. Smith has contended ever since the shooting that he was insane at the time of the incident as a result of a serious fall he took shortly before the killing. A sanity board in Vietnam held after the shooting found Smith "sane" under highly dubious circumstances. After his trial and conviction in 1972, he was sent to Leavenworth for life. He won a re-trial in September 1973, and as part of his struggle he asked for and got a new sanity board hearing.

It was at first feared that Smith would not be able to be represented by his lawyer at the hearing; there was no money to get the attorney, Ed Kopanski of Philadelphia, out to Kansas for the trial. At the last minute, financing was arranged. But the Army had announced that Kopanski would not be allowed to attend, since the hearing was (according to the Army) a "medical procedure" and not a legal one. After a good deal of fighting, Kopanski was at Leavenworth for the hearing and was able to talk with the hearing board.

The board consisted of three Army officer-psychiatrists, including a black woman full-bird colonel who is the highest-ranking black woman in the Army. They talked with Smith for about an hour and a half, during which time they discussed the shooting and subsequent events. Melvin Smith was still unable to recall any details about the incident and was confused about the vague memories he did have; his inability to provide any information should have been evidence that he was not in any kind of normal mental health at the time of the shooting.

After the examination, the board members talked with Kopanski. They told him that there was no question but



that Melvin was sane at the present time. But the major question was whether he was sane at the time of the killing. Not surprisingly, the board hedged on this all-important question. The colonel said that she felt Melvin would not be any danger to society if he was freed; but she was not willing to go one step further and say she felt he was not sane at the time of the shooting. The other board members cited the removal of the board from the time and place of the incident. After much discussion, it was evident that the board was not going to render a decision.

This development is not all good or all bad; but it seems inevitable now that Melvin Smith will face a second court-martial. If the board fails to make a decision in their report--and all indications are that they won't--then the decision of whether or not to prosecute reverts back to the convening authority on the case. It is a foregone conclusion that after two and a half years of merciless repression against Melvin Smith, the brass isn't going to stop now; it can be assumed that they will press for a new trial.

On the other hand, the board could have declared absolutely that Smith was sane at the time of the killing. They did not do this, so the defense of insanity is still valid and can be used at the trial with the hope of success.

The board's report will not be out for 10 days or so; once it is out, then the brass will make their decision. It is a sure guess that they will decide to prosecute. Among other indications of this, a projected trial date has been set for March 5 at Leavenworth.

In the meantime, VVAW/WSO and the other groups working for Smith's defense are going on the assumption that Smith is going to trial. Petitions are being circulated, publicity is being sent

out, and recruiting of defense workers is going on. WE NEED YOUR HELP!! If you can circulate a petition, get a story printed, or do defense work, contact NOSCAM-Chicago, the VVAW/WSO National GI Project, at 2743 N. Wilton, Chicago, 60614, (312) 929-1958 (evenings only).

Melvin Smith's freedom will hinge on whether it can be proved that the fall he suffered affected his mental health and personality. It can only be proved by witnesses' testimony. WE ARE THEREFORE ISSUING A GENERAL CALL FOR HELP FROM ALL VIETNAM VETS: PLEASE READ ON AND SPREAD THE WORD. We must contact any vets who were stationed at Quang Tri, South Vietnam, in April and May of 1971 with the 54th Ordnance Co., 26th General Support Group. We have to find Melvin's friends and fellow GIs who were at Quang Tri at the time of this incident. Melvin cannot help us; he does not remember very much of that period, and what he does recall is clouded and very confused. IF YOU WERE THERE, CONTACT NOSCAM-CHICAGO IMMEDIATELY! Melvin Smith's future and health will depend on finding brothers who can help.

Melvin's health is pretty good, given that he has osteomyelitis; there is some itching in his wounds but he is in reasonably good spirits considering that he is facing another general court-martial. He is in the general prison population and there is no indication that he will be put back into maximum security.

We want to thank the VVAW/WSO chapters that have returned signed petitions; we hope other brothers and sisters will do the same. Groups in Chicago who are now actively working on the case include VVAW/WSO, the October League, the GUARDIAN Chicago Bureau, Medical Committee for Human Rights, and others. Join the fight to free Melvin X. Smith; fight Army racism!

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!!

News on these pages was compiled by NOSCAM, the VVAW/WSO National Office GI Project. This office coordinates active-duty chapters, new VVAW/WSO members and chapters, GI Movement news, and all other GI Movement activities. Contact one of the NOSCAM offices for more information:

NOSCAM-Dayton, PO Box 1625, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (513) 274-3171

NOSCAM-Chicago, 2743 N. Wilton, Chicago, Ill. 60614 (312) 929-1958 (evenings only)

THE STRUGGLE

ARMY 'RACE RELATIONS' RUNS INTO REALITY

(Tongduckon, South Korea) Although reports are still vague and have come from the notoriously unreliable straight press, it seems that the Second Infantry Division, stationed in Korea, has been the center of some militant black struggles of late. It is an ironic situation, since the Second Div. has long liked to think of itself as a nice, happy multi-racial division; 43% of its officers are non-whites, and they have had a long string of race relations programs of one kind or another.

But on October 7, three incidents occurred in which black GIs rebelled: a black liberation flag was flown from a barracks and the brass ordered it removed; that caused a protest by the brothers who had flown the flag. The same day, there was a major incident at a civilian bar near the post, which was probably caused by racism on the part of the bar's owner. Many bars in countries where U.S. troops are stationed will not serve blacks, no matter what the Army tries to do to keep the situation quiet. Lastly, there was a fist fight between blacks and whites on the base itself.

Several brothers are in trouble as a result of the incidents. The brass is spreading stories of "a conspiracy to foment racial trouble in the division" (we call it fighting for our rights!), led by a group called the Black Socialist Club.

About 38 men, the majority of whom are black, were identified as having participated in the protests and other incidents. First reports were that 4 had charges dropped; 27 were discharged in lieu of court-martial or for unfitness due to past protests and political activity; 2 are awaiting court-martial, one was given minor punishment, 2 were given bad conduct discharges, and 2 were sent to military prisons.

The Army later claimed that no one was facing charges and that the incidents only resulted in minor damages,

although some 50 GIs were injured. The ACLU and the Workers Defense League, who checked out the story, learned that a single JAG captain was supposed to defend 22 different GIs--at trials that the brass said weren't going on! The ACLU sent an attorney from their Hawaii branch to Korea to aid in the defense work, and he has returned to the U.S. but has not yet reported back on what happened. It has been learned definitely that of the GIs, all the blacks apparently faced punishment while charges were dropped against all the whites involved (as was done on the USS KITTY HAWK in a previous incident).

In the meantime, Maj. Gen. Henry Emerson, Division Commander, just can't figure out what's wrong, since he has instituted such swell racial harmony programs as making "Brian's Song" (a soapy movie about the friendship between a black and a white football player!) required viewing for all personnel. And there are all those non-white officers, too. Maybe it will occur to him that EMs are the ones who do what the brass orders them to do, and that an officer who makes a career out of oppressing enlisted people and then yakking about "racial harmony" ain't gonna be too popular, no matter what his color.

We'd like to know the truth of what has happened at Tongduckon--it sounds like a lot of brothers have been ripped off. Anyone with information about it should contact one of the NOSCAM offices.



G.I. RESISTER FIGHTS BACK

(Baumhalder, West Germany) Last month WINTER SOLDIER reported the story of Tom Steinhilber, a GI in Germany, who decided he had had enough of the U.S. Army and 'resigned' in October. His latest letter talks about the charges as well as his plans for organizing the base.

"I am very interested in VVAW/WSO. I think that your organization sets pretty much the same goals as myself. I am involved in many things right now, the most important of which is my court-martial. I need support now worse than anything. I have about a month left before the court-martial, which has been set for December 13--the charges are two counts of disobeying direct orders and two counts of being AWOL. The first count of AWOL was when I went to a demonstration in Heidelberg. Somehow they found out I was AWOL and some full bird pig gave me a direct order to be back here by 12:00 that night. Well, I didn't make it, so that's the second count of disobeying orders. I am pretty sure that I will have more charges by the time I go to court, though, because I am on post restriction but I don't pay any attention to it. I come and go as I please and when I see a pig I call him only by his last name and I don't use military terms such as "sir" or "sarge." They get kinda uptight, but they are trying to stay off my shit because they think I'm crazy!

"Mobilizing people is a very hard task. There are only three of us here who are interested in really doing something. I have talked to some very progressive people in other companies, but they are all in the field now. Baumhalder is one of the biggest posts in Germany, but most of it is infantry and artillery and most of the people spend a lot of time in the field. It's really a drag to talk to someone who is progressive and get to thinking we can get it together and then the person has to dash to the field!

"We have been thinking about opening a GI bookstore and counseling center, but we need a room. I have already been involved in one demonstration that proved that numbers is the key to our struggle. We see the need for organization--there are so many tactics that can be used. Struggle to Win!!"

Tom could use letters of support in his fight against the brass; he may be headed for stockade time. He can be contacted c/o Fight Back, D69 Heidelberg, Marstallstrasse 11a, Germany.

LEAVENWORTH PRISONERS CONTINUE

STRUGGLE

On July 31, 1973, Leavenworth Penitentiary (Kansas) became the first federal prison to experience a mass rebellion by inmates in which political awareness and blatant oppression were the motivating forces. During the rebellion four guards were taken hostage, with one of the guards killed. At least ten other guards were injured when they attacked prisoners with baseball bats; parts of the prison shoe factory were set on fire; and the dining room was taken over by inmates.

As a result of the July 31 action, at least 40 prisoners are now in segregation units (the hole) facing charges of riot, murder, kidnapping, assault and arson. These 40 men have been in lock-up since July, after Warden Daggett had promised there would be no reprisals if the inmates would relinquish their hold on the penitentiary. A grand jury is now sitting somewhere in Kansas deliberating the state's "evidence" and indictments for the 31st rebellion. are expected to be handed down in the near future.

While everyone was awaiting the decision of this grand jury, the government slipped another grand jury into existence and has indicted three brothers for activities which occurred after the 31st, but these first indictments cannot be separated from the context of what took place in July. Odell Bennett and Alf Hill have been indicted for assaulting a federal officer and inciting a mutiny; Alfred Jasper has been charged with assaulting a federal officer and possessing a deadly weapon. All of these brothers are members of VVAW/WSO, and all have been deeply involved in prison organizing and speaking out for their rights (as have the remainder of the 40 men now awaiting indictment).

When examining the incidents which led to these 3 indictments, it should not be difficult to see that these indictments are pure harassment and

continued political repression against those people in prison who have the courage to say "No." In August, Bennett was being taken to court where a judge was to hear one of his petitions against the prison. Guards attempted to give Odell a "finger wave" (rectal search for weapons and contraband) and Bennett resisted. He was then beaten, his clothes torn off and was forcefully searched. Guards sat on him in the back of the car all the way to the courtroom and managed to get in another beating before Bennett entered the courtroom where he was bound and gagged. When the judge requested that the gag be removed so that he could speak, a guard claimed that Bennett bit his finger (thus the assault on a federal officer).

Later in October, Alf Hill was to appear at a "good time" hearing (a hearing to determine if the amount of time earned in good behavior should be revoked). Guards entered his cell and severely beat him, breaking his nose and cracking some ribs. While Hill was being beaten, other prisoners in the segregation building began protesting by banging on their doors, beating on the pipes in the ceiling, etc. Guards came to stop this "mutiny" and singled Alfred Jasper out of the group. Jasper was taken into the hall by guards, slapped around and searched. Guards claim that they found a sock with broken glass in his pocket.

Judging from the events of these two days, it is clear that what we have in Leavenworth is a repressive attempt at framing these three brothers, simply because they resisted being treated as something less-than-human by prison officials. However, the treatment received by Bennett, Hill and Jasper on these two days is actually nothing unique to routine prison policy and this is the reason that the July 31 rebellion oc-

cured in the first place. The situation inside Leavenworth is extremely tense. Leavenworth is the largest and highest maximum security federal prison in the country. It is also the most overcrowded federal prison. Added to this is an incredible amount of racial tension in the prison which is almost solely fostered by the prison bureaucracy itself. Prior to the uprising, four inmates were murdered with no explanations for the deaths offered by the prison. All four were either black or Chicano. Since the July rebellion, the murders have continued, without an explanation in sight. Added too all this is the fact that prisoners confined in the segregation building have recently been discovering razor blades in their food. Taking this, plus the routine beatings and general inhuman brutality, it is no wonder that the Leavenworth prisoners felt they had no alternative left other than outright revolt.

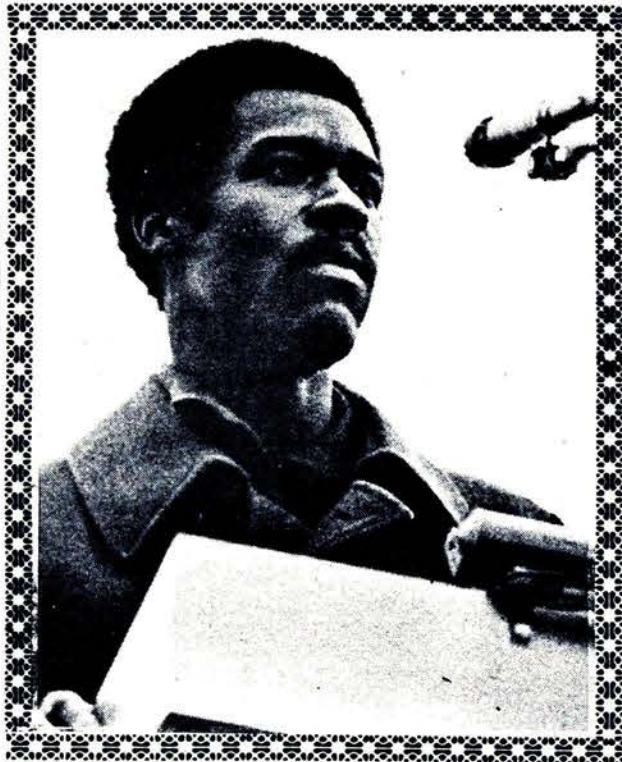
Though the indictments for the 31st rebellion are not yet public, the defense is already preparing for these major indictments and the indictments already received by Bennett, Hill and Jasper. However, because of the physical locality of the prison, the defense of these brothers will be extremely difficult. The lawyers have termed the state of Kansas as having "the most reactionary federal district in the U.S." On top of this, the state is suffering from a severe case of political isolation; there is no Lawyers Guild, Legal Aid, ACLU or any other legal organization with a political perspective. The lawyers that are sympathetic to prison struggles are consistently over-worked because of the fact that within a 200 mile radius of Kansas City, there are two federal prisons and several major state penitentiaries.

The Kansas City chapter of VVAW/WSO is in the process of getting the defense committee together and functioning. It will be necessary for people all across the country to support the struggle of the Leavenworth brothers, both in speaking out against the repressive policies they have been subjected to, and with financial assistance. Contributions for the defense of these brothers should be sent c/o VVAW/WSO at P.O. Box 8695, Wornall Station, Kansas City, Missouri. (Contributions should be marked for the defense).

free all
political
prisoners!



DAVID HILLIARD



George and Jonathan Jackson were killed. Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were murdered. Others are free or in exile. But, David Hilliard remains imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit. Hilliard was the Black Panther Party Chief of Staff and administrator of their survival programs. Hilliard, a leader of the party once gave stern warning to any one "...who stands in the way of our freedom."

On June 12, 1971, Hilliard was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon. The case of the prosecution was based on no evidence, other than that Hilliard was a leader of the Panther Party and had made remarks about President Nixon two years prior. There was no evidence that he was even present at the time of the alleged crime and there was no weapon introduced as evidence that he had supposedly used in the assault. On the contrary, the state's case was total fabrication. It was the police that attacked the Panthers, resulting in the death of L'il Bobby Hutton, one of the founders of the Panther Party.

This frame-up was not the first time that Hilliard was accused of crimes he did not commit. In April of 1968, Hilliard and Eldridge Cleaver were accused by the Oakland police of having attempted murder. These charges proved so false that they were dropped. During the ensuing years, the Panther leadership spent much of their time in jail or in prison awaiting trial. Many members of the party were killed. The conviction of Hilliard was based solely on the repression of the Black Panther Party. It represented another attempt by the police to wipe them out.

Today, David Hilliard remains in jail. He has suffered unmercifully at the hands of his captors. Hilliard has a bad

ulcer and needs special care or else the pain of the ulcer becomes unbearable. Only recently have the police put him in the hospital section of the prison and only after thousands of signatures were obtained demanding his immediate release. Hilliard has been repeatedly abused and harassed while in jail. He was refused a special ulcer diet; he was deprived of visitation rights in the hospital and he has had mail and packages confiscated by prison guards.

Steps are being taken to challenge the jury selection at his trial. At the time the various prosecuting attorneys fixed juries so that the jury of Hilliard's trial was composed of all-whites. This attempt to fix the jury added to the criminality of his trial. But more must be done to have him freed. The attack on Hilliard is but another attempt by the government to suppress the rights of American people. Just as Hilliard is a victim of repression so are the countless thousands who have been prosecuted for questioning the aims of the American system. As the Black Panther Party demanded the freedom of the Gainesville 8, so too must we demand the freedom of David Hilliard. For there is no difference between the attempts of the government to silence us. We will not be silenced and the freedom of David Hilliard will prove this.

For more information on the case of David Hilliard, write to the Black Panther Party, 8501 E. 14th Street, Oakland, California 94261

LONDON: Chapter Formed



On November 14th, the Union of American Exiles in Britain (UAEB), formally voted to become VVAW/WSO London chapter. The formation of this new chapter in England marks the first established chapter of VVAW/WSO in Europe.

During the past year, members of UAEB and VVAW/WSO have met on several occasions and exchanged information about the work being done in both Great Britain and the United States by the two organizations. Close ties between the groups were established and recently UAEB discussed their reasons for wanting to become a chapter of VVAW/WSO.

As Britain has thousands of Americans living there, the UAEB felt that it could facilitate establishing a progres-

sive American organization in Great Britain under the banner of VVAW/WSO. They also realized that their identity solely as exiles was declining and that they were becoming more of a community of Americans opposed to United States foreign policy as a whole: one that exploits millions of people and countless nations. Another factor in their decision to join VVAW/WSO was that UAEB's membership was not solely that of exiles, as other Americans interested in working with the group had joined.

UAEB and VVAW/WSO have had similar experiences along these lines. The stages of development of both organizations follow the same patterns. When VVAW became VVAW/WSO it was in recognition of the fact that many non-veterans wanted to join and work in an anti-imperialist organization, and were in fact, doing so. The growth of VVAW/WSO to its present size and strength is parallel to the growth of the awareness of Americans who are fast realizing that the government's foreign and domestic policies are not in their interests. This is recognized by UAEB which agrees that VVAW/WSO is the kind of organization that can successfully build a mass anti-imperialist consciousness.

The chapter in London will con-

tinue the same work that they have been doing in the past. There are thousands of American GIs in Britain, and the new chapter will work with them. They will continue to work around the issue of amnesty for all war resisters, and they will continue to educate around United States military intervention in Indochina.

Fritz Efaw, of the London chapter wrote in a recent letter, "Politically, we have moved from issues and positions related to the welfare of the exile community to issues and positions of importance to a broader community, especially the community of GIs and veterans and their families. We have found that our political thinking is closer to that of VVAW/WSO than to that of most other organizations... We feel that we could reach these men and women more easily by changing... from a group for resisters only, to a group of Vietnam-era anti-imperialist Americans."

With the establishment of VVAW/WSO in London, England the organization now has chapters in three continents. The chapters in Japan and the London chapter are an integral part of the organization. For wherever American troops are stationed, or wherever American business interests are located, there is a dire need to have Americans involved in educating other Americans and supporting the struggles of those who are fighting to rid themselves from the yoke of imperialism.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

FREE GARDNER & LAWTON



RIVERSIDE COURTHOUSE

Footsteps echo--

while

- 2,000 years of slave stained chains
rattle--

through baroque halls

and

gothic arched

stained glass

insanity witnesses perversions of reality

by badge wearing Bobsey twins

who lie in stereo hi-fidelity monotones

Paneled rooms of neon

glow with red-white-and blue shades of injustice

reflecting frag-ment-ed truths

on contradictions of

racist fear-ridden hypocrisy-----

Say on---Brothers-----Say on

freedom is never free

(to Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner) G.K.

**“FREEDOM FOR ONE IS NOT ENOUGH,
FREE US ALL, SAY ON!”** Gary Lawton

VVAW-WSO, 827w Newport, CHICAGO ILL. 60657