

AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

[illegible]

APRIL 1974

25

**KICK
NIXON
OUT!**

Pgs.10-11

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BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION CENTERFOLD

EDITORIAL

No jobs, a disgraceful GI education bill, understaffed VA hospitals, methadone, no compensation or help for war-induced psychological problems, prison; and for over 400,000 Vietnam-era veterans a less-than-honorable discharge - that is what awaits today's servicemen and women.

Through the amnesty campaign of VVAW/WSO we will eliminate the multiple choice discharge system and replace it with a single-type discharge (retroactive). (Veterans with bad discharges represent the single largest group of people in need of amnesty, amnesty for resisting the lies.) While we are working toward that goal, we will continue to expose the Veterans Administration (VA) for what it is. But before the VA can become effective though, reactionaries like VA Director Donald Johnson, who opposes increases in VA benefits, must go. It's bad enough to have to rely on the VA for anything if you have an honorable discharge. But if you are one of the more than 177,000 Vietnam-era vets with an Undesirable Discharge (UD) you are at the mercy of the VA. (If you have a Bad Conduct or Dishonorable Discharge, you get nothing.) For all vets with UD's, the VA can use its own discretion as to whether it grants any benefits. That includes education, medical, dental, disability, vocational rehab - everything. We believe that all Americans should have access to a good education, quality health care and decent jobs. But we also believe that the government has a responsibility to take care of the casualties of its war machine.

During the months of April, May and June, VVAW/WSO chapters will conduct militant demonstrations and educational activity around the VA to expose what the VA means to millions of vets - the self-serving bureaucracy, the endless red tape, the benefits that never arrive, the pitiful care and disgraceful benefits - the utter frustration and downright fury over the outrageous treatment afforded veterans. These activities will culminate on July 1st - 4th, in Washington, DC, when the VA National Headquarters will be confronted by thousands of angry veterans and supporters during VVAW/WSO's national amnesty actions. JOIN US!

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

WINTER SOLDIER
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Winter Soldier Organization
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WINTER SOLDIER

LETTERS

Dear People,

Although I have been receiving the Winter Soldier for a couple of months now, that you were so kind as to give me a subscription, I have not attempted to join VVAW/WSO. It was to my understanding that one had to be a veteran to do so, but reading closely the pages 10-11 of the March, 1974 issue, I think that I may have been wrong.

I have read the ten objectives and am in complete agreement with such and will do what I can towards their implementation.

For a point, I am in complete agreement with the National Office Comment: Terrorism, that appeared on page 13 (comment re. SLA and Hearst kidnapping - Ed.).

Please send me any documents, papers, etc. that I may need to sign. And also, I would be honored to have my name and number placed on your mailing list to receive your materials.

Unite to Fight,

Folsom State Prison
Repressa, California

Dear VVAW/WSO,

Greetings on International Women's Day! We saw your beautiful back-page dedicated to International Women's Day. Thanks!

Women's Progressive
Organization
Freedom House
41 Robb Street
Georgetown, Guyana

Dear Comrades,

I'm incarcerated here at Attica and would like a subscription of your paper, Winter Soldier. Also, I would like this years back issues of the paper. I came across one of your papers today for the first time and found it to be very informative. That's why I want this years back issues. I don't want to miss out on the knowledge that you comrades have been putting down.

In Power and Struggle
and Victory,

A Brother from Attica

P.S. I was in Vietnam in 1968.

To: National Collective of VVAW/WSO,

We have the understanding that the national newspaper of VVAW/WSO is in financial jeopardy. We, the workers at Automated Packaging in Twinsburg, Ohio, and friends send you an enclosed money order for \$20.00. We read, learn from, and appreciate the Winter Soldier. We hope that our donation might further the future of this fine publication. By signing our names and giving what little we can afford, we want you to know you're doing a dynamite job. We want to be recognized as one of those who support you.

Amnesty for All!
Free Gary Lawton!
Unity - Struggle - Victory!

Signed by 16 workers from
Automated Packaging

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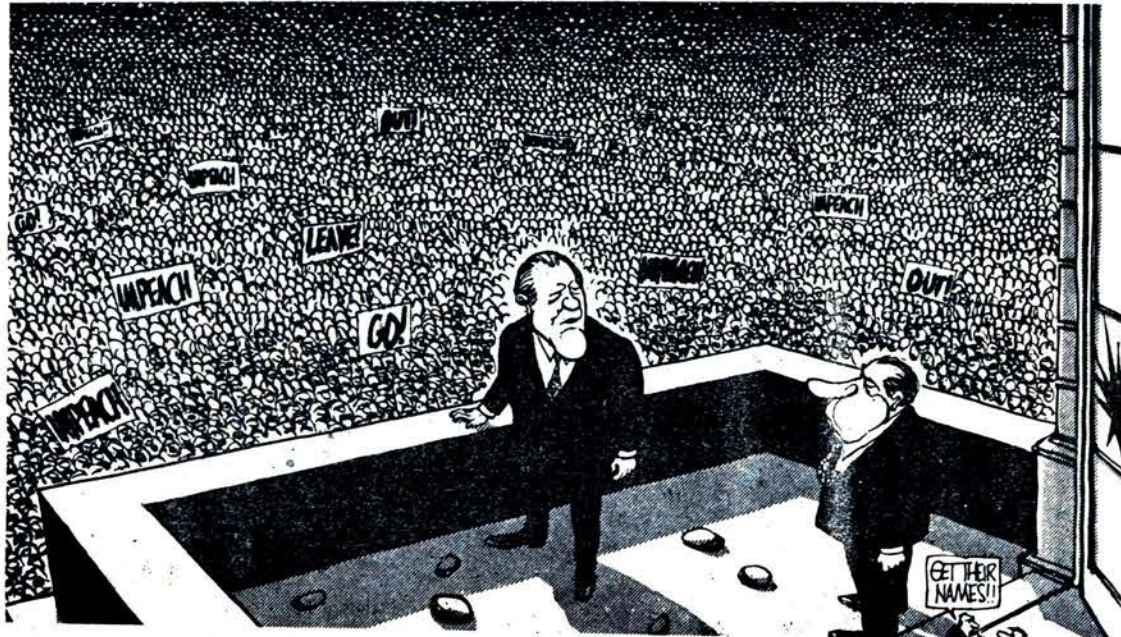
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827 W. NEWPORT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60657

KICK NIXON OUT



Oliphant, Denver Post

"Just a small group of activists. . . ."

Since 1969, when Richard Nixon was "elected," the American people and people in other parts of the world have suffered increasing attacks against them by the Nixon Administration. Although touted to be a "peacemaker," Nixon is responsible for more deaths and bombs dropped in Indochina or any other war than any one human being. He brought death to millions in his bombings of North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. His policies are responsible for continuing the war at all costs, even to the point of hiding American involvement in the fighting now raging in Southeast Asia. At home he has brought inflation, secret police and severe political repression. Now the American people are asked to let the courts and the Congress decide what should be done, the same courts and Congress that did nothing to stop Nixon's policies in the first place. If Nixon's conduct of the war is not enough, then look at the facts of his actions while in office.

INDOCHINA

In Vietnam, Nixon unleashed the most massive terror bombing campaign in the history of humanity. Over 6 million people were either killed, maimed or made homeless. In 1973, Cambodia was subjected to weeks of terror bombings, unauthorized by Congress, even after American troops had been "withdrawn" from Vietnam. The bombing in Cambodia was deliberately concealed; in a speech at a convention in New Orleans on August 20, 1973, Nixon said that he would do it again if he felt it necessary. Some 441 border crossing operations into Laos took place in 1970 after Congress passed legislation, in December 1969, prohibiting use of US ground troops in Laos. The General Accounting Office, in a report released in October 1973, has said that the US

military team in Cambodia actually is functioning as an advisory group despite the Cooper-Church amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act which said that no American aid could be used to "provide US advisors to or for the Cambodian military forces."

CIVIL LIBERTIES

On July 23, 1970, Nixon adopted the "Houston Plan." It called for surveillance of dissenters, political opponents, news reporters and government employees through burglary, wiretapping, eavesdropping, mail covers and spying by the CIA and other agencies; these operations were discovered in 1974 to have been in operation since 1970. In the same speech, Nixon told of creating the "Plumbers" unit of Watergate fame -- a secret police within the White House acting outside the law by engaging in burglary, illegal wiretaps, espionage and perjury. This same unit was responsible for the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatric files and the planning of the break-in at Watergate. Under Nixon, special Grand Juries were formed across the country to intimidate and jail political activists: the Gainesville 8, Harrisburg, the Chicago 7, Seattle and many others. Nixon also began pushing for the IRS to investigate "leftist" foundations and institutions.

CORRUPTION

A connection between settlement of a Justice Department anti-trust suit against International Telephone and Telegraph and an ITT pledge of 400,000 dollars to the Republican Party was suggested in a June 25, 1971 Dita Beard memo, and a March 30, 1972 memo from White House special counsel Charles Colson to H. R. Haldeman, in which Colson said the Senate Judiciary

hearings could produce revelations about the ITT case "that would lay this case on the President's doorstep." On October 31, 1973, former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst admitted that Nixon called him in April 1971 and with no discussion ordered him to drop the ITT case. A representative of the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. wrote a letter to Nixon on December 16, 1970 promising \$2 million in campaign contributions if Nixon would curb dairy imports; on December 30, 1970, Nixon imposed quotas on certain dairy products. Seven major corporations have plead guilty to making illegal campaign contributions to CREEP, and Nixon's private secretary, Rose Mary Woods, kept a file of these contributions.

THE ECONOMY

Nixon imposed wage-price controls that have totally failed to curb inflation. While allowing prices to rise at their own rates, wages have been held at strict levels. He passed on inside information to giant grain companies about the impending Soviet wheat deal, enabling them to make huge profits from the sale at the expense of the consumer, farmers and the taxpayers. Nixon and his administration have allowed them to force out independents and make huge profits on inflated prices; at the same time shipping out huge quantities of oil to dictator governments like Thieu of South Vietnam.

With the trials and indictments of almost all of Nixon's top advisors -- his former Attorney General and several top corporate friends -- it becomes clear that the problem in government is not Nixon alone, but the whole system that is crooked. The corruption, the chaotic economy, the political repression and other crimes are not because of one bad apple in the cart. The way things are run in the United States, the government, the courts, the police are all set up to serve the interests of the privileged elite, the corporate giants at the expense of the poor and working people of this country. Nixon was doing his job, serving big business -- not the American people -- and that is the crime. Getting rid of Nixon will not drastically alter the problems facing the majority of Americans, but it will show that the people are fed up with a system that places them last in its list of priorities. Nixon must be held accountable for the policies of exploitation and aggression as well as the "minor" crimes of Watergate. We must not wait for Congress to decide for us what is to be done. We must unite together and

Kick Nixon Out!

THE CONTINUING WAR

(The following article is an edited version of an article written by Nguyen Khac Vien, one of Vietnam's best known scholars. It is an account of conversations with prisoners released from prisons in the South after the Paris Agreement was signed. Currently Saigon has about 200,000 political prisoners, even though they don't classify them as such. Although Congress recently prohibited the use of any U.S. funds for the maintenance of prisons or police in South Vietnam, we continue to provide President Thieu with over \$1 billion a year. In addition, we maintain 4,000 U.S. civilians in military-related jobs and 1,150 men in the Defense Attache's Office. It is this support and this support alone which is keeping Thieu in power and his opposition in prison.)

They stuck an electrode near my ear and another on my breast. When they turned the magneto, I felt a shock, foamed at my mouth and my head whirled. I was trussed up and hung from the ceiling and each blow sent me twisting around. I was plunged into a big barrel full of water and they started to bang against the sides with a hammer, my whole body vibrated and lightning flashed through my head. They squeezed my legs in a vice and struck with all their force on the soles of my feet.

My baby was in front of me, a little thing of 23 months. A torturer seized its hands and placed it on a table. "Will you speak," they shouted. "No," I said. "I don't know anything." The torturer took a hammer and a pin. Pfff, the pin was driven into the child's thumb which stayed fixed to the table while the poor thing choked herself with crying. I sprang to my feet, seized a paperweight on the table and flung it at the brute's face, shouting: "Don't torture children." A great roar echoed my cry from all the prison cells. "Don't torture children." The torturer and his boss fled out of the room. I removed the pin and took my daughter in my arms.

Don't think that they were left free to beat and torture us just as they liked. It was a daily ordeal, but our struggle was also carried out at every moment. We had neither sticks nor rifles, not even a nail. But we had our voices, our songs, our arms and could pose a blunt refusal to everything.

We were compelled to salute the Saigon flag. But many among us died because they refused to do so. They tried to force us to shout slogans and sing counter-revolutionary songs. We refused. They became mad but we kept on refusing. Those that they suspected of being leaders were taken away and put in tiger cages.



They were bent on imposing their truths upon us by bludgeoning and also by arguments and we always shut them up in the end. We would climb out of these arguments with bruised limbs and heads often bleeding, some of us were maimed forever, others had paid for their firm stand with their own life, but our torturers emerged crushed and with bowed heads.

After these verbal battles, the shouts. Imagine hundreds, sometimes up to a thousand prisoners shouting all at once from every cell: "Down with the torturers," "Don't torture the wounded," "No mouldy rice," "Give us medicines." This would go on for hours at a time. The jailors were in a panic, and the overseers no longer knew what to do when blows proved ineffective.

Of course we had our own organization, our own leaders and a liaison network in order to launch a campaign, decide what slogan to use and perfect our strategy. We needed to know how far we should push our offensive, whether to stop the movement after some of our demands had been met.

We never started a hunger strike alone, separately. But by tens, by hundreds and sometimes the whole prison went on strike. That's what they were afraid of, the obstinate will, not of one, but of the whole collectivity ready, if need be, to die in support of their demands.

To let a whole prison die would arouse public opinion, they would get into trouble from their bosses, since their job was not to do away with detainees, but to "convert" them.

Do you know that at Poulo Condor (a prison) there is a liberated zone? Of course we were always enclosed by walls and barbed wire, but the torturers did not dare to venture into our sector.

We took no notice of the jail's regulations, we went on with our gatherings and openly organized courses of cultural and political education.

"A survivor from Pleiku tells this story:" We used to make pens out of the iron barbs, and set squares and protractors with bits of wood and paper from scraps of newspaper. And those who had some instruction started teaching geometry to their fellow detainees. The guards confiscated our things after beating all of us. So we made them all again. This time we engaged in direct combat, openly demanding the right to learn. In the end we were able to organize courses in mathematics, literature and history.

We had collected pieces of mosquito nets and shirts. Those who had malaria saved us their tablets of quinine so as to dye the stuff yellow and we got red or rather ochre and blue by scraping the walls. And this is how our magnificent flags of the National Front for Liberation were made. We also made streamers reading: "Long live the PRG Long live the NLF," "For strict implementation of the Paris Agreement," "For a policy of national concord,"

"Down with Thieu's dictatorship." They wanted to confiscate them but we warned them: "That'll be a scuffle to the death." They retreated.

"They came back as victors. Two hundred thousand others are still fighting at Chi Hoa, Tan Hiep, Poulo Condor and in hundreds of other prison and detention camps scattered all over the South. Every day, every minute the struggle continues, more ruthless than ever."

IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT
UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

REVOLUTION IN OMAN

DHOFAR



Starting with only 9 rifles, the people have liberated 90% of Dhofar

Dhofar is situated between the Yemen and Persian Gulfs, lying on the coast of the Arabian Sea. It is bound by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), on the west; the desert of Saudi Arabia on the north; and divided from the rest of the Sultanate of Oman, (a British 'protectorate'), by a 500 mile stretch of desert to the east.

A shepherd society is found in the rural areas of Dhofar. The material life of the people depends on cattle, camels, goats and an agriculture whose only two grains consist of beans and wheat. Most of its citizens live in caves. The colonialist authorities have worked to preserve these bad conditions, and encourage them through numerous laws and schemes, such as taxation amounting to 100% on water pumps. Fishing employs the most primitive means, as nets and modern equipment are banned by law.

A United Nations report described the situation as follows: "The people of Dhofar... were treated by the Sultan as slaves. He was cruel and imposed many arbitrary restrictions on the people. They could not travel outside; they were not permitted to build houses; food could only be bought in one walled market where the quantity... was fixed; and they were not allowed to import or export goods. Further, there was no work in Dhofar, no schools, no hospitals, no economic life, no equality, and no right to participate in politics." In fact, the Sultan would boast that Dhofar was "his

own private estate" and the official guide to the Sultanate appropriately called it "the dependency of Dhofar". This short description on the life of the people of Dhofar shows why they have organized mass struggle and taken up the gun for their liberation.

In 1964, the revolutionary forces combined to form the Dhofar Liberation Front, (DLF). At this time the fighters were for the most part workers, soldiers and poor merchants. Their main slogan was struggle against colonialism for Arab unity. There were also tribesmen who had continually fought against the yoke of colonialism. Their goal was the freedom and independence of Dhofar.

During the first period, 1964-68, southern Yemen became the independent PDRY, which provided a safe rear and a friendly neighbor. In addition liberated zones were established and the revolution spread to all of Oman. As a result, the US military, in league with the British began to intensify support and aid to the reactionary sultanate. These two factors led in 1968 to the second congress of the DLF where the name was changed to the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arab Gulf (PFLOAG). This reflected a change in strategy; to the spreading of the anti-imperialist armed struggle throughout the Gulf region.

By August 1969, the western sector of Dhofar had been liberated. Socially the PFLOAG began to break down the tribal structure, abolish slavery, erad-

icate illiteracy, provide medical care by establishing the Martyr Habkook Hospital as well as military health units and complete rights and equal status for women. On the political level, the PFLOAG fought to deepen national unity by establishing a broad united front to intensify the struggle against the imperialists. To date more than 90% of Dhofar has been liberated.

In 1971, as the struggle spread, the British engineered a coup ousting the old Sultan in favor of his British-educated son, Qabus, and ushered in the present era of alliance between the Sultan, British and US forces, including its allies Iran, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

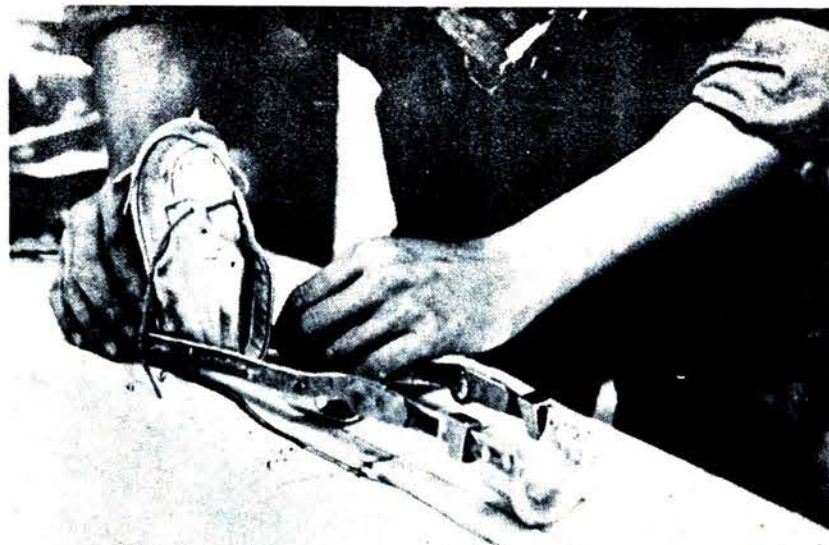
While the British maintain their control in the Gulf through the presence of British troops, the US prefers a more indirect role. Just as in Vietnam, the Nixon Doctrine was to let Asians fight Asians, in the gulf it is let Iranians and Arabs fight each other. The US is using the Shah of Iran, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and King Hussein of Jordan to provide the man-power for the front lines. To bolster their military capacity, the US has given \$300 million directly to Qabus and concluded the biggest arms deal in history between Iran and the US amounting to over \$3 billion. After the arms deal, the Iranian troops fighting the PFLOAG was increased to 33,000. Saudi Arabia for its part has centered its military attacks on the PDRY, but at the same time has pledged \$6 million plus weapons to Qabus and finally Jordan has sent over 400 officers and men to fight in Oman.

The US government does not give out arms and money without expecting something in return. The dividends expected in this case are control of one of the richest oil areas in the world. Whoever controls the Persian Gulf controls the oil and thereby controls the nations dependent on this oil. Also as seen in Vietnam, the US government is determined to defeat struggles for self-determination in order to maintain its position of dominance in the world. The victory in Dhofar is therefore a victory in the fight against imperialism in general, and US imperialism in particular.



NO HELP HERE!

V.A. Vs. VETS



Eight hundred arms lost in battle; 170 hands lost in battle; 1,081 multiple amputations; 500,000 veterans with less-than-honorable discharges; 60,000 to 200,000 heroin addicts (depending on your source); 46,092 dead by "hostile" fire; 10,317 dead by "non-hostile" causes; 153,311 wounded in action; 150,341 wounded outside of action; 4,500 legs lost in battle; 23,214 vets 100% disabled; 331,611 total of disabled vets; and 13,167 classified as 100% disabled for mental reasons by the Veterans Administration. Over 3 million men and women served directly in Vietnam and another 3 million served in the military during what is called the Vietnam era.

With the flood of statistics about the injured and dead comes the even greater horror of the way these men and women are treated by society and the government that made them numbers. The third largest agency in the federal government, the Veterans Administration, is charged with the responsibility of caring for and administering the benefits of all veterans of US military service. The VA's budget (\$12.2 billion in 1972) comes only behind the Defense Department and HEW.

The power of the VA is vast and is virtually "locked" up in a tight network formed by the traditional veterans organizations, the Veteran's Administration and the House Veteran's Affairs Committee. The Director of the VA is Donald Johnson, a product of this power clic. Johnson was a national commander of the American Legion. Herbert Rainwater, now director of the Veteran's Employment Service in the Dept. of Labor, was national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Richard Roudebush, a special counselor to Johnson had also been national commander of the VFW. From the VFW, he was elected to the House where he joined the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

So goes the merry-go-round of the veterans' bureaucracy. But where do the 6,000,000 Vietnam-era veterans fit in? Because of the unpopular nature of the war, many middle class young men were able to get educational deferments and avoid the draft. This left poor and working class young men (a

big percentage being third world), who could not afford legal help or knowledge in avoiding the service, as the "cannon fodder" for the war.

Those that survived came back to a glutted job market, with no more "saleable" skills than they went to Vietnam with. And the VA, which was originally set up to help those veterans most in need, just has not been effective in dealing with some of the most pressing needs of returned vets -- like drugs, medical care, Post-Vietnam Struggle, education and jobs. The Discarded Army, a Nader publication, analyzed the reasons for this: "Because of the pressure of well-organized veterans' lobby, programs applying to non-service connected needs for men at ages far from military service take up half the VA budget. As a result, the larger part of the benefits go to veterans who have never seen combat, at ages when their re-adjustments needs have passed, and for problems unrelated to military service. This is the achievement of a powerful lobby, a compliant Congress and a supine executive agency."

Though VA hospitals represent the largest hospital system in the country, 170 hospitals with 100,000 beds, the figures are not as impressive as they sound. There is a ratio of 140 employees to 100 patients in VA hospitals nationally. In 1970, by comparison, community hospitals had 292 employees for 100 patients and university hospitals between 350-400 for every 100 patients. And of those 140 employees in the VA hospitals, only 90 are involved in direct patient care, the other 50 are in administrative work.

This red tape machine plays havoc with those men who are able to take up the GI Bill to get an education. A recent computer foul-up prevented 40% of the vets going to school on the GI Bill from receiving their allotment checks. The computer was fixed and now only 6% (160,000 vets -- which the VA calls an "acceptable" error) do not receive their money each month. "We are sorry a few individuals are not getting their benefits," said a spokesman for the VA. On top of that, the GI Bill at its present level almost completely blocks getting an education at a four-year university.

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death of Vietnam veterans. Others have turned to drugs, which are readily available in VA hospitals. Recent inspections at VA hospitals have uncovered horror stories of disabled vets using heavy drugs to fight off the repressive atmosphere in the hospitals, like finding two paralyzed men trying to shoot up in the garbage elevator. Besides, the VA does not acknowledge that there are any psychological problems that stem from the war. The VA puts the blame on "bad childhoods," not on the contradictions of fighting an unjust war.

Nixon has dubbed March 29th as "Honor Vietnam Veterans Day." But it is clear to the millions of returned vets that neither he, nor the Veterans Administration, wants to help those the government used to fight its war. VVAW/WSO knows that the only way American can "honor" its veterans is to get rid of Donald Johnson as Director of the VA, give amnesty to the 500,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges and provide benefits that fit the need of the person, not the need of the VFW, American Legion or the Pentagon. Join VVAW/WSO's fight against the VA and help make it a responsive agency, not a puppet of government propaganda and powerful "veteran's" lobbies.

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

☐ I would like to Join VVAW/WSO

☐ I am an active-duty GI

☐ I am currently in prison

☐ I am enclosing \$_____ to support your group

NAME _____

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SECRET DISCHARGE CODES



'I RUSHED DOWN TO WELCOME YOU BACK!'

"By having these numbers on the discharge certificate, the Defense Department makes it possible for employers to decode them. It thereby participates in an invasion of privacy of thousands of veterans, including many who have honorable discharges but unfavorable SPNs... We do not permit other Government departments and agencies to operate elaborate discharge systems in which every person is classified upon being released. Why should the Defense Department be allowed to act as a screening agency for private employers?"

Rep. John F. Seiberling of Ohio

While these are only a few examples of SPN codes, they do give an idea of just how drastically they can affect a vet's chances of getting a good job. This injustice is compounded immeasurably when we realize that a vet may have lost out in applying for a number of jobs because of a bad SPN code without even knowing they exist, let alone that his was an unfavorable one. By not telling a GI before being discharged what his SPN code is, why he got it and who gave it to him, the GI is in effect sentenced by a kangaroo court without even knowing that he was on trial.

The SPN codes are just another part of the military's incredibly unjust and racist discharge classification system. There are over 1/2 million badly discharged Vietnam-era veterans and hundreds of thousands of others with unfavorable SPN codes today that are being discriminated against in trying to obtain decent jobs, getting loans for education or medical care, etc. These can be directly attributed to the war in Indochina and the racism and oppression of the military. Just as resistance to the war and military life resulted in less-than-honorable discharges, so it resulted in being labeled with an unfavorable SPN code. The only solution to this injustice is to put an end to the entire discharge classification system, once and for all.

One of the best ways of doing this is to work for universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. To this end VVAW/WSO has set up discharge upgrading projects around the country. These projects are organizing people for a single-type discharge and an end to all types of coding systems such as the SPN codes, as well as counselling and preparing appeals to the discharge review boards. If you are interested in working for this issue or have a problem with your discharge, contact the regional VVAW/WSO office nearest you.

UNIVERSAL AND UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR ALL WAR RESISTERS!

A SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS !

A 'secret' kept from most GIs and veterans is that their discharge certificate - honorable, general, undesirable, bad conduct, or dishonorable - is only part of the arbitrary tag the military puts around their necks on leaving the service. On every single DD-214 (discharge record) issued since 1947 there is a 'SPN' code, (for Separation Program Number Designator), which lists one of over 530 different reasons for separation from the military. Almost without exception, the GI or vet is unaware of even the existence of such a code, let alone who gave it to him or her and why.

These codes are assigned to all GIs on leaving the service, (without right of appeal or review), whatever the type of discharge. Just because a person has an honorable discharge there is absolutely no guarantee that it will not have an unfavorable, or downright libelous, SPN code. A vet may discover years after separation that his or her DD-214 has a SPN code labelling him or her as a subversive, a sexual deviant, having an inadequate personality, or something equally as incredible. In a sense it's a lot like putting a brand on cattle.

While these codes are kept in an officially 'classified' manual, (MSC-DD-214-Rsvd. 11/1/72), they are readily available to any employer who wants them for use in screening prospective

employees. In a study of the nation's 100 largest corporations recently conducted by Rep. Seiberling on the subject of employer discrimination against less-than-honorably discharged vets, it was disclosed just how widely used these codes are. Over 80% of the corporations responding to the survey admitted that they require all vets applying for a job to submit a copy of their DD-214. Some 20% of these readily admitted that they know the SPN codes and use them in their hiring of employees. Given the 'official prohibition' by the Defense Department against public disclosure of SPN codes, the fact that 20% of these corporations in the survey openly admit using the SPNs is an indication of just how commonly they are used by employers.

The following is a listing of some of the SPN codes that a vet might find listed on his or her DD-214: 246-For the Good of the Service; 262-Bed Wetting; 28G-Failure to Pay Just Debts; 281-Unsanitary Habits; 361-Homosexual tendencies; 362-Homosexual Tendencies, Desires or Interest Without Overt Homosexual Acts; 367-Aggressive Reaction; 368-Anti-Social Personality; 383-Criminalism; 385-Pathological Lying; 384-Drug Abuse; 388-Sexual Perversion; 41A-Apathy; 460-Emotional Instability; 461-Inadequate Personality; 480-Personality Disorder; 489-Disloyal or Subversive; 261-Inaptitude; 281-Desertion; and 386-Shirking.





BEHAVIOR

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"The day has come when we can combine sensory deprivation with the use of drugs, hypnosis and the astute manipulation of reward and punishment to gain almost absolute control over an individual's behavior. We want to reshape our society drastically, so that all of us will be trained from birth to want to do what society wants us to do. Today's behavioral psychologists are the architects and engineers who are shaping the Brave New World of Tomorrow."

-- Professor James V. McConnell
Dept. of Mental Health Research
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

"There is presently for prisoners in prisons throughout the U.S., both state and federal, a new kind of warfare and dehumanization. For prisoners it is a present terror, for those on the outside it is a threat." These are the words of a federal prisoner speaking of the terrorist tactics of our prison officials as the practice of behavior modification in prisons becomes increasingly more common.

Since the early sixties, federal and state corrections departments have been investigating ways to modify the behavior of prisoners who present any sort of threat to the order of prison life. As prisoners have become increasingly politically aware and developed a history of resistance to the oppression which stifles them every day, prison authorities have found it "necessary" to provide facilities for "aggressive and manipulative prisoners who are resistive to authority." (The quotes are taken from the outline of Project START, a behavior modification project of the Springfield, Mo. Federal Prison).

The basic philosophy guiding these behavioral projects is well expressed by Dr. Edgar Schein (associate professor at MIT) and a behavior modification enthusiast. Schein explains: "My basic argument is this: in order to produce marked change of behavior and/or attitude, it is necessary to weaken, undermine, or remove the supports to the old patterns of behavior and the old attitudes." This may be done "either by removing the individual physically and preventing any communication with those whom he cares about, or by proving to him that those whom he respects are not worthy of it and, indeed, should be actively mistrusted."

Some of the techniques which Schein suggests for the prisons of this country include: "social disorganization and the creation of mutual mistrust" achieved by "spying on the men and reporting back private material"; "tricking men into written statements" which are then shown to others with the object being "to convince most men they could trust no one"; "undermining ties to home by the systematic with-

holding of mail" plus the segregation of natural leaders, and the physical removal of prisoners to isolated areas so as to break or weaken close emotional ties.

The standard procedure previously used in prisons to break a prisoner's spirit has been physical brutality. However, this approach has recently been proven unsuccessful and prisoners have continued to resist this treatment as can be seen in the uprisings at Attica, Leavenworth, McAlester, etc. Since the technique of outright physical brutality has failed to modify behavior, corrections departments have become much more sophisticated in their brutality and turned to psychology and psychiatry to solve the problems of the "non-cooperative" or "anti-social" prisoner.

Of the new, "sophisticated" techniques of dealing with "troublesome" prisoners, one of the most widely used methods of modifying behavior and breaking the prisoner's spirit has been "drug assaults." Prison officials, with the help of psychiatrists and drug companies (Updike, Squibb and Lederle Labs) have been experimenting for several years to find ways to modify behavior through the use of powerful and dangerous drugs. One such powerful drug is Prolixin, a drug which has been used in prisons such as Vacaville, Calif.; Patuxent, Md.; and the Illinois Security Hospital for several years. Prolixin is a more powerful counterpart of thiorazine and is a depressant which lingers in effect for two weeks. According to its manufacturer, E. R. Squibb, Prolixin is a "highly potent behavior modifier with a markedly extended duration of effect." Side effects include: "the induction of a 'catatonic-like state,' nausea, loss of appetite, headache, constipation, blurred vision, glaucoma, bladder paralysis, impotency, liver damage, hypotension severe enough to cause fatal cardiac arrest." It can also lead to a persistent palsy-like disorder. On top of this, "the symptoms persist after drug withdrawal, and in some patients appear to be irreversible."



An even more frightening drug is Anectine, a derivative of the South American arrow-tip poison, curare. When Anectine is injected into a person in a conscious state, it slows heartbeat, causes respiratory arrest and will make the subject feel as if he/she is dying. Dr. Arthur Nugent, chief psychiatrist at Vacaville prison, says that Anectine induces "sensations of suffocation and drowning." The subject experiences feelings of deep horror and terror, "as though he were on the brink of death." Nugent claims, "Even the toughest inmates have come to fear and hate the drug. I don't blame them, I wouldn't have one treatment for the world. I'm at a loss as to why everybody's upset over this."

That these drugs produce the ability to alter an individual's "behavior" is easily seen. Both of these drugs (examples of just two of many such drugs used in prison "experimentation") reduce the prisoner to a vegetable and make the prisoner unable to think clearly or react with emotion. Because of the vulnerable frame of mind that the prisoner is placed in while under such treatment, the prisoner is then scolded for his behavior and told to shape up or he/she will be given further doses of the drugs. The spirit of the prisoner is so drastically broken that the prison psychiatrist then is able to control a person who will be more readily amenable to behavior conditioning.

Another method of behavior conditioning which has been consistently used in

MODIFICATION



prisons and mental hospitals is adverse conditioning. This method of conditioning gives negative reinforcement for behavior which is to be changed. Among the types of negative reinforcements which are used are electric shock and emetic drugs. By the use of electro-shock, prison psychiatrists have attempted to "cure" homosexuals by showing the individual "homosexual movies" while his penis is wired. When the prisoner becomes sexually excited, his penis is shocked. Emetics (drugs which induce nausea) are used in the same manner as shock treatment. A prisoner will be shown a movie of a bank robbery and injected with the drug which causes him/her to be violently sick. If this procedure is repeated often, the prisoner will become nauseous at the very thought of robbing banks.

Perhaps the most frightening method of "modifying behavior" is the use of lobotomy and electro-shock to the brain. Lobotomies are usually performed by removing portions of the frontal lobe of the brain (which controls many of our subtle functions such as emotion). Lobotomies leave people in a totally passive state -- a human robot -- who will perform tasks with no emotional response. Lobotomies may also be performed by implanting radioactive radium seeds in the brain. By using electrodes, a lobotomist can destroy the brain cells gradually and can stimulate areas of the brain in order to cause pleasure, pain and reflex actions in the prisoner. The purpose of psychosurgery is to stop "aggressive behavior" and characteristics which do not conform to prison life.

The above described techniques used in behavior modification are becoming increasingly common practices. Such techniques have been used in prisons in Morgantown and Alderson, W. Va.; Clinton, New York; Ft. Worth and Seagoville, Texas; Terre Haute, Ind.; McNeil Island in Washington; Lompoc, Terminal Island and Vacaville, Calif.; Patuxent, Md. etc. Thus far, the two most "far-reaching" behavior programs have existed in Springfield, Mo. and Marion, Ill. All of these programs have met with courageous resistance by those people who have been considered as "candidates" for the programs (those brothers and sisters who have refused to be molded into the submissive being that is demanded by prison officials). Resistance has taken the form of hunger-strikes, work stoppages, and court litigation on the part of the prisoners. This resistance has been successful to the extent that the START (Special Training and Rehabilitative Treatment) Program at Springfield has been cancelled. The administration at Springfield and the Dept. of Corrections have cited "economic reasons" as responsible for the termination of the START project, but in reality, the closing of this project was due to public pressure and the resistance of the brothers on the inside who were saying "NO" to the inhumanity of the program.

But even though START has been defeated, the largest fear in the field of behavior modification projects is still to come. Sometime this spring, a special \$14,000,000 facility will be completed in Butner, North Carolina. The approximately 200-bed facility has stated its purpose of using its inmates for experimentation and research in behavior modification. The objective of the project is to set up a small microcosm of the outside world whereby the prisoners will be taught to "get along" in that world and to conform to everything in it. This objective is a complete denial of all human and legal rights of the people who will be selected to participate in this program. It completely voids the right to resist oppression and injustice which is constantly growing in this country.

The prisoners to be housed at Butner include "security risks, minority groups, management problems, etc." To translate these terms into normal language, those people most likely to be sent to Butner will be those brothers and sisters now being held in Segregation Units throughout the country. These are people who have participated in work stoppages, prison rebellions, and other forms of resistance to the oppression of prison life. Butner will consist of the politically conscious brothers and sisters who have be-

gun to fight back against repression in prisons, particularly black and third world prisoners.

There is a unity growing in our prisons; there is an increase in organization to fight for human and legal rights; and there is a growing level of involvement in political struggles. This unity and movement of prisoners must be stopped if the prison system is to continue to exist as it now does -- as a hell-hole of brutality which tries to bring about the submission and complete denial of spirit among its inmates. Butner is the height of political repression as it now exists; it is the sign that the re-molding of minds is on the agenda for dealing with political dissent and resistance in the future.

Butner must be stopped, shut-down, dispensed with. Many prisoners who have been involved in resistance to previous behavior modification programs view the opening of Butner as the beginning of outright fascist tactics by the U. S. government. They believe that they will be the guinea-pigs for the techniques of drug assaults, psychosurgery, etc. which will be conducted at Butner; but after these techniques have been perfected, the prisoners feel that these methods of controlling behavior will be introduced on the people of this country who are outside prison walls.

As political dissent against a corrupt, non-responsive and freedom-robbing government grows and continues, so will the country's rulers have to find more severe methods of quelling that dissent. It may not be long before the needles, the electrodes, and the scalpel will be used on many people who are now walking the streets. Everyone in this country must take on the responsibility of informing themselves as to the struggles that are now going on in our prisons, and of supporting the brothers and sisters who are leading the resistance against the oppression of prison life. These brothers and sisters are not only fighting for themselves, but they are struggling for everyone as they continue to resist the blatant repression which is facing them so that it will not be carried to the world outside. Their call for the cessation of behavior modification projects such as Butner must be heeded and pressure must be put on the government to see that these projects are stopped and that new projects do not begin. Letters in behalf of all the prisoners in the U. S. should be sent to: Norman A. Carlson, U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C. 20537, demanding an end to the terror tactics of behavior modification.

G.I.s CONTINUE

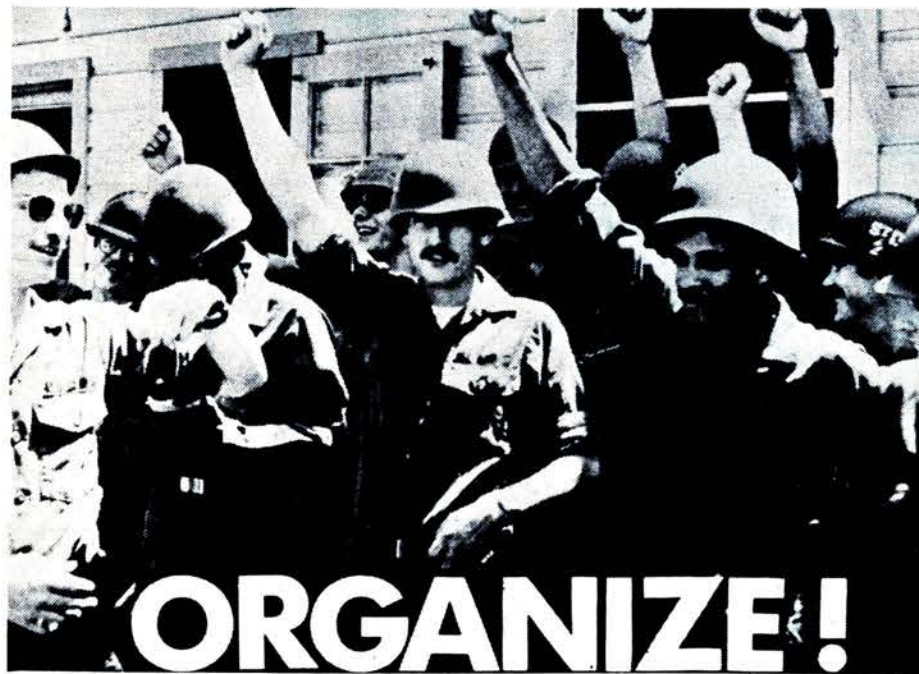
RENEW ARMY DRUG ATTACK

(Washington, D.C.) A three-judge federal appeals court has given the Army a go-ahead to resume its campaign of terror tactics and repression under the guise of drug-abuse prevention in Germany. In a split decision, the panel gave the Army a stay of execution on a February 8th lower-court ruling that banned the drug program because it violated the constitutional rights of GIs. The Army had been barred by US District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell from using evidence gained in illegal searches of GIs or their living quarters in trials or as a basis for discharges under less than honorable conditions.

The original decision that has now been overruled came in a class-action suit filed by the ACLU on behalf of 18 GIs in Europe and in a larger sense on behalf of all GIs stationed in Europe. In a decision that was a victory in the half-a-cake-is-better-than-none category, Gesell held that the Army could continue a variety of barbaric tactics that included strip searches, unannounced shakedowns of barracks with dogs, and stringent bans on personal activity, but only if it resulted in medical treatment and not punishment. When General Davison, commander of the Army in Europe, attempted to get Gesell to postpone the order, Gesell responded sharply by calling the motion "offensive."

This latest ruling, which overturns even the slim guarantees of the Gesell injunction, means that the Army can charge full speed ahead with its infamous "Nelligen Anti-Drug Program", weeding out dissidents, minority-group GIs, minor drug offenders, and other victims by slapping them in jail or discharging them with UDs or worse. But the Army will lose in the long run; the GIs in Europe simply won't put up with it anymore. The ACLU will continue its fight to get the program ended.

CONTACT: Lawyers Military Defense Committee, 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.



ARMY GROWS WORSE

On two Army bases, there is clear evidence that the brass is getting more repressive. Both situations point to a general trend in the military toward "tightening up" to make life as tough as possible for enlisted people--and, potentially, for civilians.

At FORT BRAGG, N.C., the 82nd Airborne Division has been on a precautionary "riot alert" since January, with an unusual and unseasonal amount of riot training. Just military paranoia. It might be--but then again:

Look at the economic situation: real wages being eroded, strikes threatened, workers angry. Look at the political situation: Nixon hanging on by his fingernails, threatened with impeachment and conviction, and lying and squirming more every day. Perhaps the 82nd's alert is a backup plan for the President, or perhaps preparation for intervention in case of uprisings by some of Nixon's victims: minority people, workers, inner-city dwellers, protestors.

The GIs at Bragg don't know what they are on alert for; but they know the history of their division. GIs of the 82nd, since the division returned from Nam, have been sent to D.C. twice and Miami once to "control" antiwar demonstrations. This summer, they may be asked to participate in something far worse. For more information, contact NOSCAM-Chicago.

At FORT RILEY, KANSAS, a new commander of the Personnel Control Facility (the transient unit where GIs who are returning from AWOL, who are between orders, or who are waiting for discharges) has decided that the Army is being too soft on its dissidents. The commander, Major Assenberg (an appropriate name) is sending errant GIs up for wholesale courts-martial, refusing to allow administrative discharges, and coming down particularly hard on GIs whom he suspects of having had "outside help" (like seeing a lawyer or a military counselor before entering the PCF).

Assenberg particularly has it in for the local ACLU chapter, which has been helping GIs with legal hassles. He has specifically told GIs who have gotten ACLU help that he hopes they "get the book thrown at them," and is consistently harsher with these GIs than with others who have committed the same crimes. Petitions are being circulated, asking for a Congressional investigation of Assenberg's practices and a campaign is under way to see that he gets transferred out of power. For more information, **CONTACT:** Manhattan ACLU, 124 W. 11th St., Junction City, Kansas 66441.

TO STRUGGLE!

SMITH TRIAL SET

(Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas) Sp/4 Melvin Smith will go to trial on April 8th at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on murder charges. The Army will try to prove, for the second time, that Smith consciously and willfully murdered a sergeant in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, in 1971. Smith has fought for more than three years now to prove that he had suffered a grievous head injury and was insane at the time of the killing. A huge pile of evidence supports this claim, including the testimony of Army doctors. But because of the Army's racist vendetta against him as a symbol of black GIs, Smith has already been convicted once and has spent the last three years of his life in prison. This second trial will determine whether or not he is to stay in Leavenworth for the rest of his life.

Harassment of Melvin and his brothers at the prison continues at a high rate. He has been subjected to disciplinary procedures for writing letters that were published; his mail has been tampered with, and he has been denied the right to correspond with VVAW/WSO and some other groups. Prisoners found with petitions supporting Smith have been punished and the petitions confiscated. But he and his supporters remain strong and fully in support of Melvin Smith because as one of them said, "What is good for one of us is good for all of us!"

The case has not received much national straight-press publicity because of the big media's tendency to shy away from military cases and because this trial concerns a war that is no longer "news." But many papers, including black publications and a whole range of Movement news media have kept up the pressure to free Melvin Smith. Thousands of signatures have been gathered on petitions, and many of his civilian supporters in the Midwest are planning to attend his trial.

The war is not over for the Vietnamese people. It is not over for the Vietnam veterans who are exiled, jailed, unemployed, sick, wounded, or crippled because of U.S. imperialism. It is not over for the families of these men. And it is not over for Melvin Smith. He is going on trial for all of us, and he will win for all of us.

Money is still urgently needed for his defense; petitions are still being circulated; and publicity is needed. Supporters should contact NOSCAM-Chicago immediately; the trial is beginning soon. While letters may not be allowed in to Melvin, it would cheer him immensely to know he has friends. Write to him at Drawer A, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027. Telegrams and letters to the Commandant at Leavenworth, demanding an end of the harassment of Melvin and his brothers, would also be greatly appreciated.

**FREE MELVIN SMITH!!
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!**

HAWAIIANS FACE MILITARY RACISM

(Schofield Barracks, Hawaii) Two Hawaiian GIs, Danny Grance and Pete Kealoha, are facing general court-martial on charges of disrespect, assault, and threats to an officer and a sergeant.

Danny and Pete had been subjected to discriminatory treatment ever since they joined the military. Pete was stationed for more than a year at an isolated Army post in Germany where racial incidents and riots were commonplace occurrences. He was the only Hawaiian at the base, and he faced constant difficulties in that he and several Puerto Rican GIs were caught in the middle of tensions between blacks and whites. Pete felt that he couldn't talk to any officer--black or white--and receive any kind of receptive audience. Other soldiers would ask him if the Hawaiian

people "still eat people," or if they "were still savages." Similar things happened to Danny, who was stationed in Colorado. There he found that Hawaiians and Puerto Ricans were bunked together in segregated rooms and were rarely promoted.

With these pressures on them, both Danny and Pete went AWOL to come back to Hawaii. They turned themselves in at Schofield Barracks.

On December 12th, Danny and Pete got drunk in their room at Schofield. Their commanding officer, Lieut. Floyd, was called in, and tried to "handle" the situation with the help of one Sergeant Sparks. According to MPs who were there, Sparks was obviously intoxicated. Floyd ordered Danny and Pete to become sober. The ensuing scene, with attempted explanations being cut short by commands of silence, became more and more heated, until long-standing anger and frustration finally exploded.

Now Danny and Pete are charged with serious offenses, and the wheels of military "justice" are turning. Following the incident, both of them were confined to the stockade for seven weeks because Lieut. Floyd, the same man who had pro-

voked the incident, decided that they were a "danger to society." The evidence against them, and the military's whole case, proved to be very weak when it was presented at their preliminary hearings, but the commander of the division, General Gatsis, decided to convene a general court-martial anyway.

Legal and defense work is being handled by lawyers at the Liberated Barracks, a GI counseling service in Hawaii. They have asked that those interested in the case write letters of protest to General Gatsis and send for petitions that can be circulated and returned to Hawaii. For more information, **CONTACT:** Grance-Kealoha Defense Committee, c/o Liberated Barracks, 124-A Onawa St., Kailua, Hawaii 96734.

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)

VVAW·WSO

LEAVENWORTH REPRESSION HEIGHTENS



Demonstrators wearing names of Leavenworth Brothers.

The situation around the Federal Prison in Leavenworth, Ks., is becoming increasingly tense and grotesque. On July 31st, a rebellion (sparked by the oppression within the prison) occurred in which the prisoners held control of the prison for 2 hours. During this time, several guards were injured, parts of the shoe factory were set on fire, and 4 guards were taken hostage. In a separate part of the prison which was untouched by the rebellion, 1 guard was killed. Indictments relating to this July uprising were handed down in February; charged with murder, kidnapping and assault are Odell Bennett, Jesse Evans, Alf Hill and Alfred Jasper. Also charged with kidnapping and assault are William Hurst, Jesse Lopez and Armando Miramon. All of these brothers are members of VVAW/WSO.

The Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee (a project of Kansas City VVAW/WSO) called for a demonstration on Feb. 18th in support of these brothers. On that day, over 200 supporters participated in a rally, followed by a silent, single-file march to the prison. At the prison, the demonstrators presented Warden Daggett with a petition demanding: 1. Release the Leavenworth Brothers from Solitary 2. Drop the frame-up charges, and 3. Comply with the July 31st list of prisoner grievances. After arriving at the prison where the supporters were met with cheers from behind the prison walls, the demonstrators stood silent for 10 minutes paying silent tribute to all the Brothers before they marched away singing.

In recent months, the true nature of the prison and "justice" systems has shown itself to be blatantly repressive and racist. The brothers have been ordered to appear in court for hearings several times, and they have been consistently beaten as a result of their resistance to the practice of rectal searches. At court hearings, the brothers have appeared bloody, chained and gagged, while their pleas for relief and

medical attention have been ignored by the court. One of the brothers, Odell Bennett, has been on a hunger-strike since Jan. 2nd, as a protest to his treatment by Leavenworth officials. His demands to be moved to the medical facility at Springfield, Mo. (plus hundreds of letters to the warden from supporters) have also been ignored. Though Bennett now weighs little more than 100 pounds, the prison has refused to budge, though this is a direct violation of Bureau of Prison rules.

The racism of this entire frame-up can be seen in the fact that William Hurst (the only white brother who has been indicted) has been separated from the rest of the brothers. Hurst was transferred to Marion, Ill. shortly after the uprising occurred, and has been sent back to Kansas during this period of frequent court hearings. He has been separated from the rest of his close brothers, and remains in the County Jail in Kansas City.

Racism may also be seen in the trials of Alf Hill and Alfred Jasper which have already taken place (trials stemming from incidents which occurred after the 31st). On March 4th, Hill's trial on charges of assault on a federal officer and inciting a mutiny began in Topeka, Ks. During jury selection, 26 prospective jurors (all white) were called and Hill was denied the right to question any of them. During the trial, Hill addressed the jury by stating: "There are no black people here... My nose was broken. I've got no shoes. They tell me they are going to kill me. They broke my ribs. This is a racist frame-up and you've been framing me all my life... Well, I'm not going to sing your Negro spirituals no more!" Hill was found guilty on both counts and could receive a sentence of up to 20 years. Two days later, the trial of Alfred Jasper began on charges of possession of a deadly weapon (allegedly a sock filled with glass). Judge Templar (the judge who heard both trials) made an unprece-

dent decision in the selection of Jasper's jury, and ruled that the prospective jury that was called for Hill would be the same for Jasper. This meant that out of the 26 prospective jurors originally called, 12 heard Hill's trial and 12 heard Jasper's (which left literally no room for defense challenges). Needless to say, he was also found guilty and could receive a 10 year sentence. Odell Bennett, who was also charged with assault and inciting a mutiny, was to go to trial on March 11th, but his trial has been postponed and no future trial date has been set.

The atmosphere at Leavenworth has grown increasingly more repressive. According to the LBODC and the brothers inside, conditions in the prison are at the boiling point. None of the grievances which led to the 31st rebellion have been dealt with. Solitary confinement is terribly overcrowded because 40 brothers who participated in a hunger-strike in conjunction with the Feb. 18th demonstration have been thrown in the "hole." The guards have been acting in a very provocative manner recently, and the brothers suspect that they are attempting to incite the prisoners into a confrontation situation. The attorneys are not permitted regular visits with the brothers, and mail from the attorneys and defense committee has been cut off. If conditions within the prison do not change, it is possible that there could be a re-play of the July uprising.

The frame-up of these brothers must be stopped! They are not guilty; the prison administration which incited the July rebellion is guilty. If the brothers are to get a fair trial and be allowed to prove their innocence, they will need help from the people of this country. The attorneys will not be able to handle the trials of the major indictments, so good criminal lawyers are desperately needed. Also, money to defend the brothers is vitally important. Send contributions and information requests to: LBODC, P.O. Box 5818, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

NEWS BRIEFS

NIXON BOOED IN CHICAGO

On March 15, about 2,000 people demonstrated outside the Hilton Hotel in Chicago where Richard Nixon was addressing a luncheon of the Executives' Club. The demonstrators, many of whom participated during their lunch hours, united in their demand that Nixon be kicked out of office. The Milwaukee and Chicago chapters of VVAW/WSO also participated. Chants of 'Kick Nixon Out' and 'Throw the Bum Out' echoed off the building outside the hotel. Police, trying to provoke a confrontation, arrested one demonstrator, but the people were not fooled. The focus remained Nixon, who was forced to use a side door in order not to see the American people demanding his removal.

BOB HOOD DEFENSE FORMED

Bob Hood, VVAW/WSO member from the Oakland chapter was arraigned on March 13, and charged with 'assault with a deadly weapon against a police officer'. The charge carries a sentence of six months to life. Hood is being framed by the Oakland PD, in an effort to attack movement organizations by linking them with the SLA kidnapping of Patricia Hearst, and the continued attacks on VVAW/WSO. The trial begins on May 21. Funds are needed to defend Hood and to prove these charges false. Send donations, and for more information contact: VVAW/WSO Legal Defense Committee, 4919 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland CA 94609!

FARAH WORKERS' VICTORY

Recently the NLRB ruled that the Farah Manufacturing Co. must recognize the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America as the union representative. As a result, Willie Farah, president of the company, was forced to give in to the demands of the predominantly Mexican-American women who have been striking Farah for the past two years. The victory of the workers includes: union recognition and the re-hiring of 3,000 workers fired during the strike. The boycott has been called off and the workers are now engaged in negotiating a union contract.

DC6 CHARGES DROPPED

In January, six members of VVAW/WSO were arrested for taking over the Saigon Information Office in Washington DC. They were charged with 'interfering with a diplomatic mission'. The charges were dropped after a defense motion was introduced in court to disclose wire-tapping. The take-over was to protest continued US support for the Thieu regime and also for the US to recognize its responsibility in implementing the Paris agreement on ending the war in Vietnam.

VVAW·WSO PLANS TRIP

LAWTON SPEAKS ON OHIO TOUR

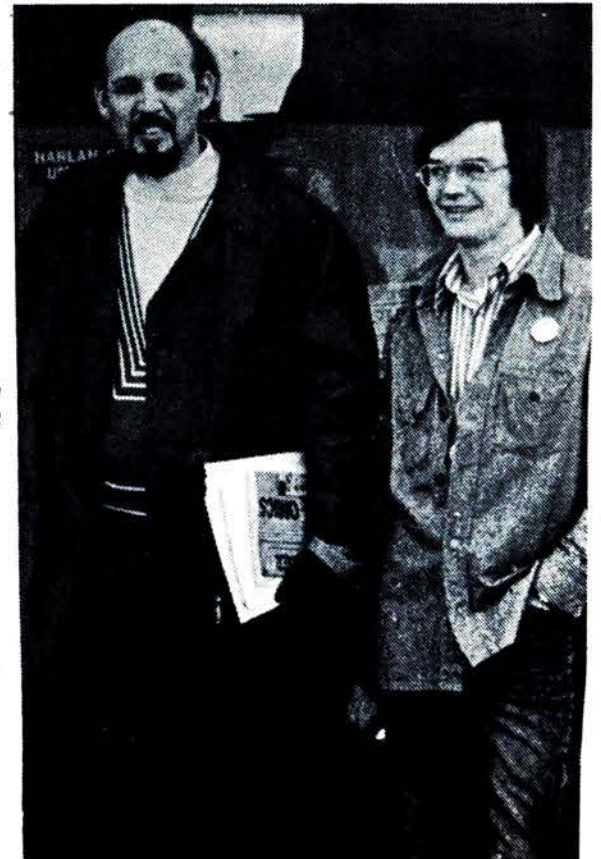
May 20th has been set as the date for the beginning of the third trial in the case of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner. These two black men have been framed by the Riverside Police Department for allegedly killing two white police officers in April of 1971. This marks the first time in the history of California that the state is prosecuting a third time after the first two trials ended in hung juries. Because of this continued racist attack on the defendants, growing interest in the case is spreading across the country.

During the last week of February, Gary Lawton went on a speaking tour of Ohio which brought him to Kent, Mansfield, Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton. The tour was arranged by VVAW/WSO and several of the speaking engagements were co-sponsored by black and community organizations.

At each engagement, Lawton briefly summarized the history of the case and explained why he and Gardner are continuing to be framed by the police. Prior to the killing of the police officers Gary was a respected community organizer working successfully in Riverside and as such, became a threat to the government officials, who were being exposed for their inability to function in the interests of the community. Lawton stressed, again and again, that this frame-up is part of an overall attempt on the part of the government and the police to silence political activism.

To prove his point even more, while Gary was in Cincinnati he met with James Hardy and talked about this case in his speech. Hardy, like Lawton is a black community organizer who was framed by police and spent a year in jail for attempted burglary, and like Lawton, he was totally innocent!

The speaking engagements gave many people in Ohio a chance to hear first hand of the Lawton/Gardner case. Similar tours are being set up in Illinois and New York. Peter Zastrow, regional coordinator for Ohio VVAW/WSO



Lawton and Ohio Coordinator

said of the tour, "The tour gave the people of our region a clearer insight into the nature of political and racist oppression, specifically in the case of Gary Lawton, but also how the same repression exists daily in the communities in which we live and work."

Gary also told each audience of the attempts by his defense committee to have the charges dropped and the trial called off. A petition drive is beginning aimed at the DA of Riverside. To date many petitions have been signed and the defense committee encourages all to write to Byron Morton, District Attorney of the County of Riverside, 3535 10th Street, Riverside, California 92501 and call for the dropping of charges.

The defense committee is in desperate need of funds. To send donations or to obtain petitions, write to the Lawton/Gardner Offense-Defense Committee, PO Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.

FREE LAWTON & GARDNER! STOP THE THIRD TRIAL!

Birmingham Foundry

Women Workers on Strike



Photo by LNS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala (LNS) On November 30, workers at Stove and Range went out on strike rather than accept the new contract that their International--the United Steelworkers of America--had pressured them to take.

Virtually the entire plant--except the foremen and supervisors--is black. And surprisingly, a majority of Stove and Range workers--about 60%--are women, who perform the heavy, industrial work almost always associated with men including the handling of hot molten iron.

The foundry makes cast iron cookware, barbeque grills, cast iron furniture and most importantly, cast iron coal, wood and gas heaters. The threatened lack of heating fuel this winter has greatly increased the orders for these heaters and the strikers see that as added pressure on the company to give in to their demands.

The company did do all that it could to intimidate union members into not striking. "They said, 'We ain't gonna give you all the money we got. And we ain't talkin to you all til February. Christmas is comin up and you ain't gonna have any toys.' The supervisors told us this and of course they know just who to go to to plant the seed," explained one woman. Many union members were intimidated into voting against the strike for fear that they would lose.

Furthermore only about half of Stove and Range is unionized to begin with, making organizing for the strike even more difficult. (Alabama's "right to work" law states that a closed union shop is illegal--that is a person does not have to join the union in order to work at a plant where a union is present.)

But nevertheless, the union members did vote to go out and since that time the strike has been 100 percent effective in stopping production.

When asked what led up to the strike, one woman said:

"Well, number one was the wages. Number two no benefits. Well, small benefits, but they're not equal to the cost of living. Women aren't able to support their families--and basically at Stove and Range women are the head of the household.

Then you have language in your contract that's utterly ridiculous, slavery--the company has the sole right to work you any seven days a week, 24 hours a day and we have no say so as to our working conditions."

First on the list of clauses in the old contract the strikers would like to get rid of is the "Merit Increase" system. As the contract reads: "The Company may in its sole discretion grant increases to individual employees based upon merit, experience and ability."

"It's just like when we was picking cotton; well that's the merit increase," said one woman. "You know they say 'well we know the wages is small (starting rate is \$2.10 an hour. No women, no matter how long they've worked, make more than \$2.30), but if you go in and work you'll get a merit increase and your pay check will get bigger.' Well, I been there four years and it hasn't gotten bigger."

The strikers are demanding an immediate \$1.00/hour raise in 1974, a 20% increase in 1975, and another 20% in 1976.

"You know, they even went along with a lot of our proposals," said one woman. "Then they stuck conditions on them. Like we asked for a cost of living increase. 'Good idea. We believe in the cost of living,' they said, but only if you work 95% of the time. If you don't work 95% of the time you don't get a dime. And the company wants to use its own cost of living scale in the calculations.

"And if you're gonna get a paid holiday they want you to work 30 days before the holiday and one after or else you don't get paid.

"If you refuse to do what they tell you to do, that's grounds for firing," said one woman about health and safety in the plant--another issue that the strikers feel strongly about. "One time I came in, the machine wasn't right. I said I'm not going to run this. The supervisor said they've been running it all night; but still I wouldn't do it. I've been there a while and I'm not going to run that machine so that a skillet is gonna fly off and smash my head open. You could get killed."

Many strikers aren't too happy about the role the Steelworkers International has played. Prior to the strike the International representative tried very hard to convince the rank and file that the new contract was a good one. And since the strike began many workers have complained that the union has not helped them--in fact has impeded their efforts to get food stamps.

Strike benefits--\$10 a week--have been slow in getting to the strikers and some people were not told that they had to sign up for the benefits before a certain deadline so it's up in the air as to whether they will even get the \$10 a week.

"The union's been out there--how many years? Some 40 years but this is like the beginning. It's always been a company thing, you know, the company writes the contract; they write the proposals and just send 'em out.

"This was our chance. Our contract was about to expire so we banded together. We all got together and drew up a proposal we wanted brought to the contract meeting. We said, this is what we're going to have or we won't have anything."

One woman at Stove and Range summed up her reasons for striking like this: "It's just that, all the people working here, you know, after all these years, don't want anybody else to have to come in these gates and have to keep on fighting the same structure over and over again."

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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