

WINTER★SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



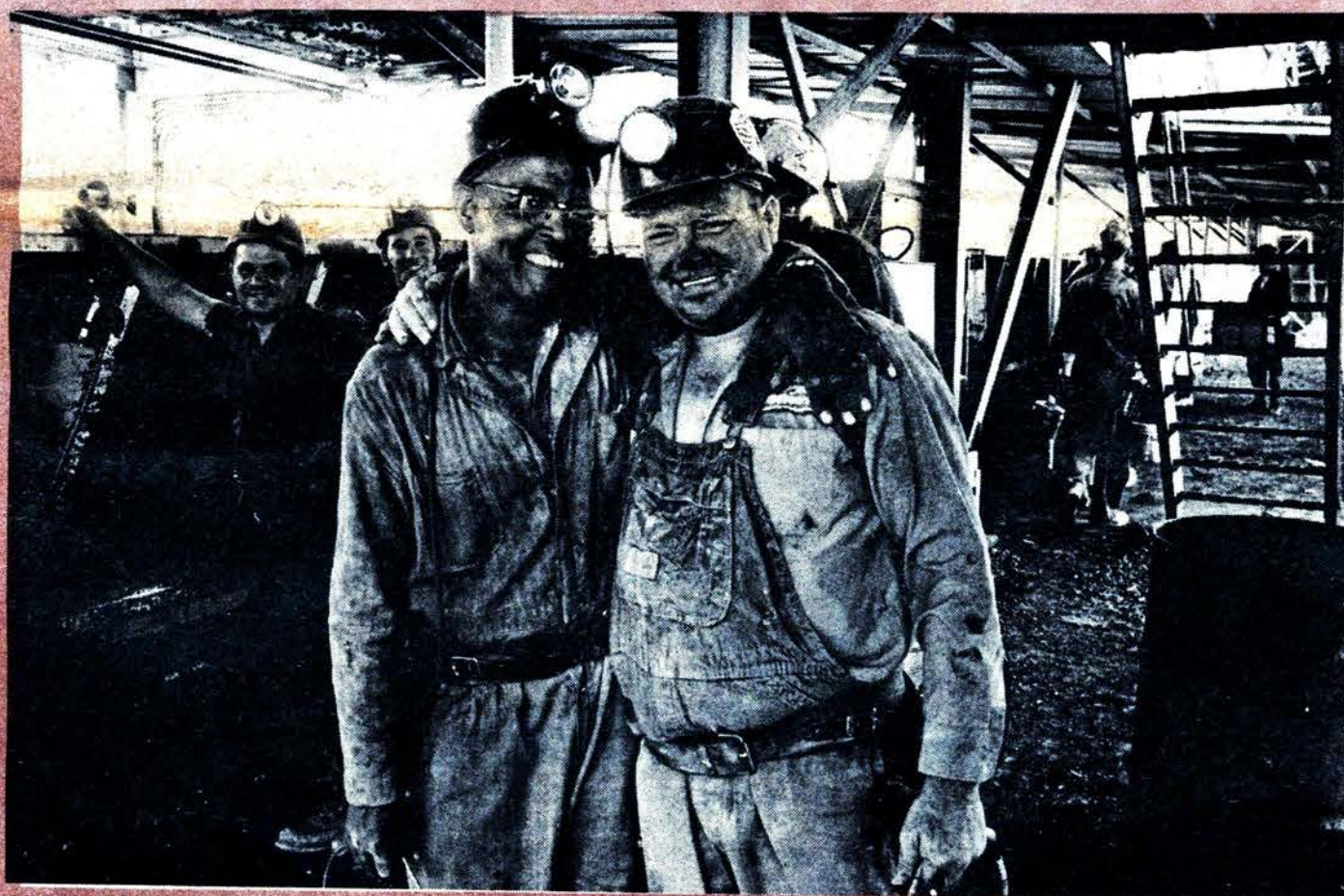
AGAINST THE WAR / WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5

MAY 1974

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CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY



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EDITORIAL

Political repression has become an established fact of life in the US. It is the result of a decaying, corrupt system and the efforts of the few that rule it to hold on to their power. To do this they must try to destroy the people's movement of resistance to their greed. VVAW/WSO is no stranger to this repression. One need only note the incredible frameup of the Gainesville 8 conspiracy trial.

Now the latest example of massive political repression is being enacted in N. Calif. There, the Government is using the SLA as an excuse for launching a general wave of repression against the people's movement and VVAW/WSO in particular. The Oakland trial of Bob Hood is symbolic of this repression---but it is most certainly not confined to Bob Hood and the Bay Area. FBI agents are daily contacting our members in cities across the country in calculated attempts to scare them away from the organization, intimidate their family and friends and cause them trouble at their jobs.

While VVAW/WSO is one of the organizations directly affected by the repression surrounding the SLA, it is by no means the only one. Repression of this sort is increasingly found in all sectors of our society. We need only witness the heroic struggles of political prisoners in this country: people like Lawton & Gardner, Ruchell Magee, the Attica Bros., the Leavenworth Bros., or Melvin X. Smith. Nor is it isolated to political prisoners or 'movement' groups. It is also increasingly directed at all working people in the US. The struggles of the Farmworkers, the Farah strikers or the Harlan, Ky. coal miners are but a few cases in point.

The result of the Government's repression, however, is to make people even more aware of who they are and the incredible strength they have in unity. As the contradiction between the needs of the people and the greed of those that rule heightens, repression will correspondingly increase. The inevitable consequence of this is resistance: repression breeds resistance! Moreover, experience has proven that repression can only cause us to regard our work with even greater seriousness and determination.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

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DEFEND the RIGHT TO STRIKE

On Feb. 9, 950 workers of Local 487 of the Textile Workers Union of America struck Borden's Columbus Coated Fabrics plant in Columbus, Ohio, presenting a list of demands, the most important of which are a cost of living pay increase and an improved health care plan.

According to Corwin Smith, president of Local 487, "The average industrial wage in Columbus is \$4.10 an hour. The average wage at Coated Fabrics is \$.49 below that. We desperately need a cost of living increase." The workers at the Coated Fabrics plant, facing production speedups, receiving low wages to begin with, hit with an 8% rise in the cost of living last year and facing an even greater rise in the cost of living this year, began their strike when their old contract ran out and the company offered only a token wage increase because it knew the union was financially unprepared for a strike.

In addition to low wages the members of Local 487 face a threat to their health and ability to continue to support their families. Throughout the country industrial workers are faced with unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, but at the Coated Fabrics plant the reality of the unhealthy working conditions became immediate. It was discovered that several workers were suffering from a nerve and muscle conduction deterioration because of exposure to a toxic substance or substances in the plant. Six workers were hospitalized, and an investigation revealed that 187 of the 950 employees had abnormal nerve and muscle conduction responses and 40 of these people had suffered crippling effects of varying degrees. Union officials appealed to the director of the agency

administering the Occupational Safety and Health Act laws, the Ohio Department of Health and the company. Because the toxic substance could not be identified neither the agencies or the company acted. Union officials then recommended that the workers no longer expose themselves to these dangerous working conditions, and the plant was practically shut down for two months. The company then agreed to implement recommendations to improve the atmosphere and working conditions in the factory in order to reinstitute normal production.

However, the double edged sword of low wages and inadequate health care continue to oppress the Borden workers. While on strike because of their inadequate wages it was discovered that 12 of the people with the nervous condition showed signs of regression. Because of this other employers are afraid to hire Borden workers, and the workers find themselves facing the possibility of becoming unemployables with the company's threat to close in the face of the strike.

The Borden workers are fighting back. They have called for a boycott of the Borden Burger chain and Borden stores in Columbus and of Borden products nationwide. According to Corwin Smith, "We have a relatively small union, but the morale is good. The company is really working us over - mentally. We will not be broken. We will not be beat - even though we're small."

The struggle of the Borden workers will not be easy. They will not sign a contract that doesn't include an

(continued on page 11)

THE DEATH OF A FRIEND

Recently, we were told of the death of John Galgardi, 78 years old. John, a self-educated Italian immigrant became an anti-war activist at the age of 75. He participated in the demonstrations at the 1972 Miami conventions and he frequently wrote letters to newspapers in support of VVAW/WSO saying he found us peaceful and orderly; not the ogres painted by the police. His ashes were scattered over Flamingo Park, the campsites for the thousands of protesters during the summer of 1972. We mourn the death of a friend and yet, are spirited by the support he gave the Vietnamese and the determination he showed in the fight for the freedom and independence of us all.

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VVAW/WSO DEMONSTRATION IN WASH., D.C. SET FOR JULY



The National Steering Committee of VVAW/WSO, at its national meeting held at Yellow Springs, Ohio, last December, adopted a national strategy for bringing the idea of universal and unconditional amnesty to the forefront of public awareness. Within that strategy are plans for four days of national actions in Washington, D. C., from July 1st - 4th. The following demands will be raised individually during the first days and jointly during the big march and rally on July 4th:

*UNIVERSAL AND UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY

*A SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETERANS

*IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT - END ALL AID TO THIEU AND LON NOL

*KICK NIXON OUT!

During our stay in Washington we will be conducting non-violent actions at the following targets: Veterans Administration, the Discharge Review Boards, Congress, the White House, Department of Justice and others. We urge all who support our demands to join us.

ABOUT OUR DEMANDS

Universal and unconditional amnesty means that it applies to all people who resisted the war. We believe that U. S. involvement in Indochina was wrong from the beginning, and those who resisted the war were justified in their resistance. This includes draft resisters, military resisters, those in prison for acts of resistance, those who are living 'underground', and veterans with less-than-honorable discharges. We believe that amnesty for these resisters should be unconditional - no alternative service.

A single-type discharge for all veterans is demanded because under the present system of multiple discharges a bad discharge means a lifelong mark -

jobs are hard to get, chances of promotion are jeopardized and the rightful benefits that the government owes the veteran are often denied.

Implement the Peace Agreement - End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol: The peace agreement signed in Paris in January of 1973, offers the most viable solution to the war. The U. S. government is not living up to its part of the agreement, nor is South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, whom the U. S. government continues to send more than a billion dollars a year. The U. S. government also continues to give aid to the disastrous and unpatriotic regime of Lon Nol in Cambodia.

Kick Nixon Out! In addition to the economic disaster and political repression that Nixon has helped bring about in recent years in this country, he is also a direct obstacle to achieving any of our other goals of amnesty, a single-type discharge and an end to U. S. involvement in Indochina.

All organizations and individuals who support our demands are invited and warmly encouraged to join us in our demonstrations in Washington. The march and rally on July 4th will unite all of the demands and will be the high point of our actions. It is important that united action around these demands begin to take place. We do not see these July actions as an end in themselves; we see this as just the beginning in the long struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty. We hope that thousands of Americans will join us in building the amnesty and single-discharge movement and continuing the struggle to end U. S. involvement in Indochina and kick Nixon out.

For more information about our demonstrations this summer, to obtain a copy of our position on amnesty, or for more information about our other demands, please contact your nearest Regional Office listed in this paper, or contact the National Office.



US PROLONGS THE WAR CAMBODIA

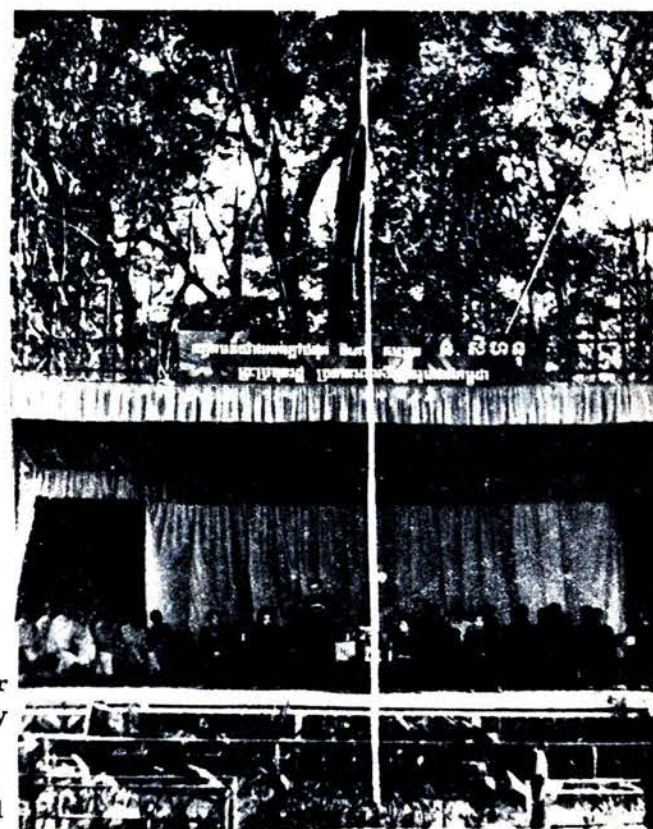
On March 18, 1970, with the direct aid and encouragement of the United States government, the Cambodian government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown in a military coup. Lon Nol was set up as the head of state to represent the U. S. This set the stage for the U. S. invasion of Cambodia which followed just six weeks later. From that point on, Cambodia was transformed into a battlefield. Once a quiet country with a predominantly Buddhist culture, Cambodia was now faced with the terror of U. S. imperialism.

The patriotic people of Cambodia who supported Sihanouk organized themselves to defeat those who are trying to control Cambodia. The government of the patriotic people is called the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC) and is headed by Sihanouk. At present, the headquarters of GRUNC is in Peking where Sihanouk and his ministers are living in exile. The political leadership within Cambodia is carried out by the National United Front of Cambodia (FUNC) of which Sihanouk is chairman, and the military operations are carried out by the People's National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (PNLAFC). So far, the PNLAFC have liberated 90% of the territory of Cambodia which includes 80% of the people. The main obstacle to complete liberation is the United States government.

Many people believe that the Cambodian bombing halt of August 15, 1973, meant the end of U. S. bombing of Cambodia. But since the law applied only to B-52 bombing missions, the U. S. continued to use its SR71, F4 and F105 planes to continue the bombing to the present day. Equally important is the use of mercenaries and CIA agents to continue the fighting. The U. S. is currently paying American, South Vietnamese and Thai mercenaries to fly planes and helicopters and fight on the ground. This is all part of what is known as the Nixon Doctrine of letting local people fight each other. This 'doctrine' was developed to keep U. S. imperialism hidden from the American people.

The Cambodians have shown their capacity to defeat the Nixon Doctrine by liberating 90% of their country. Our government has tried to give the impression that the North Vietnamese and the NLF are responsible for the fighting in Cambodia. But the North Vietnamese and the NLF believe the struggle for liberation must originate and be carried forward by the country's own people - not by outsiders. Sihanouk publicly addressed this point last December when he stated, "From June, 1972, to the present (Dec. 73), there was no unit of North Vietnam or of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation conducting activities in Cambodia. Since January 27, 1973, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (north) has ceased to send weapons and ammunition to the Cambodian people's national liberation armed forces which, from that time on, have to supply themselves by capturing 'U.S.-made' weapons and ammunition provided by the Nixon administration to the Phnom Penh regime." Not only has the liberation army captured weapons; but the military of the Lon Nol regime is so corrupt that just about any piece of military hardware can be purchased from them.

This hardware is put to good use. On March 18, 1974, a unit of the liberation army, in which women played a major role, liberated the former royal capital of Phsar Oudong. "While women fighters have taken part in the liberation struggle in Cambodia since the founding of the NUF (National United Front) four years ago, this was the first big victory in which women have been reported in the West as playing the major role" (*Guardian*, 3 April 74). Every week, as the crisis of the Lon Nol government worsens, more families are moving to the liberated areas. On March 13, 1974, for example, fifteen families from Neak Luong came to rejoin 828 other inhabitants from the same locality in the liberated area of Prek Veng Province. And in Kandal Province since last November 12,000 inhabitants of Ponhea Lu District crossed over to the liberated area where they actively took part in the production work. They helped dig irrigation canals and harvest rice. In addition,



— Prince Norodom Sihanouk delivers his speech from the rostrum of the March 23, 1973 rally. The flag of the Kingdom of Cambodia flies in the foreground.

tion, in January and February, in answer to the appeal of FUNC and the PNLAFC, 4,026 soldiers abandoned the Lon Nol army and joined the United Front (Cambodia Information Agency, 23 March 74).

With over \$500 million in U. S. military and economic aid pouring into the Lon Nol regime this year, it is still uncertain when the regime will collapse. The city of Phnom Penh is surrounded by PNLAFC forces; inflation is skyrocketing; morale is low among the poorly-paid government troops; AWOLs and desertions are high; and more and more segments of the society, such as teachers, students and Buddhists, are protesting the disaster that Lon Nol perpetuates. A recent statement by Sihanouk will help to explain the strategy of the United Front: "We lack the ammunition (necessary) to attack a big city, to penetrate it and remain in it. Three months ago our fighters succeeded in entering the town of Kompong Cham, but they had to withdraw later because of the lack of ammunition. The leaders of our internal resistance are conceiving a new strategy that will aim at bringing about the collapse of Lon Nol's regime by tightening, each month, the grip on Phnom Penh's throat, on the military as well as the economic level, and this without us having to carry the armed fight into the core of the city" (*Far Eastern Economic Review*, 7 January 74).

The goal of the Cambodia patriots is for a democratic country that is independent and not aligned with any other country, without any foreign military bases within their borders. Continued U. S. aid and CIA involvement only prolong the day when Cambodia is again under the control of its own people.

END ALL AID TO LON NOL

INTERVIEW

GUINEA BISSAU



Guinea Bissau is a small country on the west coast of Africa that has been fighting for its independence from Portuguese colonial rule for more than 500 years. PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands) took the political and military lead in this struggle in 1959 when a peaceful workers strike was put down by Portuguese troops, killing 50 workers and wounding 100 others. Today, PAIGC controls more than two thirds of the land in Guinea Bissau and has made tremendous strides in the development of health, educational and other social institutions in the liberated zones. In April, 1972, the people of Guinea Bissau, under PAIGC, elected their first National Assembly and last September, they declared full independence for their country. The following is an interview by WINTER SOLDIER with John Silva, a field commander of the PAIGC forces, who recently visited Oakland, California

WS: How much of the country is now under the control of the liberation forces?

Silva: In Guinea, we are in control of 72% of an area of 800,000 population. We also control border regions near Senegal where there are 350,000 of our people, plus 150,000 refugees. In Cape Verde, there is no armed struggle yet, but we are organizing people politically, preparing them for another level of struggle.

WS: Are the Cape Verde Islands militarily strong for Portugal?

Silva: The Cape Verde Islands are located 400 miles from the coast and thus they are in a tactical position favoring Portugal. There is an air base on one of the islands and the Portuguese have a naval base at San Vincente which is used to supply their forces in Guinea and Angola. Also, the air base is a stop for South African planes. Ever since the boycott of South African goods, many South African planes route through the Cape Verde Islands to get their goods to the U. S.

WS: What is the proportion of urban to rural lands still controlled by the Portuguese?

Silva: The Portuguese control the principle urban areas with 42,000 troops they have stationed there. In these urban areas, the people have been much more assimilated into the colonial ways and away from African culture. Thus, it is much more difficult to wage struggle in the urban areas. However, there have been important victories. Sabotage and massive strikes have characterized the recent struggle in the urban areas.

WS: How would you characterize the political situation in the liberated zones?

Silva: In the liberated zones, we have direct elections of representatives to the National Assembly. Our National Assembly consists of 120 representatives: 80 from the liberated zones and 40 from labor unions and student organizations outside the liberated zones.

Our National Assembly has the supreme power to lead the state of Guinea. Within the National Assembly we have the Council of State with its president which makes up the executive of the state. The party is the political organ, and the armed forces are the defensive arm, the liberating arm of the party. The immediate goals of the party are to liberate the unliberated zones in Guinea and to bring about conditions necessary for the liberation of the Cape Verde Islands.

WS: What role are women playing in the struggle?

Silva: For us, women have the same rights to participate at all levels and to serve with men... We had to unite many tribes to wage the struggle in Guinea. In the Moslem tribes of our country, the women were treated as slaves; they did not even have the right to participate in conversations where men were present. But we have women who are conscious of their rights now, and are participating in the important meetings, in the political aspects of our National Assembly. We have to fight very hard against the attitudes of many of our men to make them understand the rights of women -- that women have the same rights, the same duty to struggle as the men; and that a country cannot be free if its women are not free.

We must understand the nature of our struggle and that we cannot go against the ways of our people. We must base our struggle in the culture of our people profiting from the good sides of the culture so we can defeat its negative sides. There are programs within the party to free women from their oppression by the negative sides of our culture, and the women are in the vanguard of these struggles. Someday there will be an even greater number of women in our National Assembly than men because, in our country, for every three women there is one man. That is the proportion in our population.

WS: What is your view of the black struggle in the United States?

Silva: Their struggle is our struggle. This country (the U. S.) was built on the blood and sweat of our common ancestors. They have the right to freedom in this country and their freedom will help our struggle in Guinea and Cape Verde because the U. S. is the biggest imperialist force we all must struggle against. Solidarity is our duty.

WS: What message would you like to give VVAW/WSO and the American people?

Silva: Revolution has no color. Political and moral support is what we want from the American people; to educate people in the fight against imperialism. We are also in need of medical supplies, books and transportation. We wish all the American people victory in the near future because your successes will be victories for all the people of the world.

G.I.s CONTINUE

Comment:

KENT STATE

May 4th is the anniversary of the killing of four students at Kent State University by the Ohio National Guard. Recently, a Federal Grand Jury returned indictments against eight present and former enlisted members of the Guard for their role in the shooting. Neither the governor or the University President who were responsible for the National Guard coming on the campus in the first place were named in the indictment; nor was the officer(s) who gave the order to shoot. No one who has ever had riot training is going to believe that this Guard unit's members, without any orders, readied their weapons, went into firing position and started shooting at unarmed people on their own initiative. The Guard members were exhausted and scared; and when they got the order to fire, some of them did.

These indictments are an example of how the justice system works when the military is on the defensive. The lower ranking people always get the blame and the higher-ups go free. To think that these indictments represent at least some form of compensation for those four lives is to miss the point. At the most, these indictments are a small part of the overall lesson that we must draw from the whole Kent State affair. That lesson is how the National Guard is used by the government to suppress the American people in their struggles for a decent wage and working conditions, for an end to imperialist wars like Indochina, and for an end to political repression.

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)

LETTER

Fort Leavenworth

(Ft. Leavenworth, KS) The following letter was received from a brother in the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks (military prison) at Ft. Leavenworth, KS:

Comrades,

"Here at the USDB/Koncentration Kamp, tension and brutal attacks by pigs on inmates is at an alltime high. The great hog and his lackies are picking inmates at random and sending them to the Isolation Unit, in order to destroy the solidarity displayed by the inmates here. At the present time, the pigs are trying to crush the flow of newsletters and our Solidarity meetings. The lackies of the administration have put up a chain link fence in all the wings - which makes it a prison within a prison. To compound the troubles, an inmate has been accused of knifing a guard.

"Brother Gregory Jackson, an inmate and victim of the US military prison system is being held in administrative segregation on a charge of aggravated assault and attempted murder. Bro. Jackson, who is presently serving a 2-year sentence, is scheduled for release from bondage in the fall of this year. He is a black activist who is striving for justice and human rights for all inmates. Because of his political ideology, he was frequently harassed by prison guards. Now Bro. Jackson is facing trumped up charges by the prison administration in an effort to silence him.

"At the time of the alleged assault, Bro. Jackson and some of the other in-



mates were holding a solidarity meeting on Tier 3. The guard was assaulted on 8 Tier, while the solidarity meeting was in progress. The guards rushed in and everyone was hurled into cells on tier 3. After this security measure was taken, everyone was ordered back to their own cells. About a half hour later 15 guards approached Bro. Jackson, handcuffed him and took him to isolation. Word had gotten out that Bro. Jackson was assaulted on his way to isolation, and a protest was scheduled for Monday March 18, in the mess hall, but the guards soon put a stop to that.

"The administration here has been trying to smokescreen all information available by starting false rumors. Everyone is asking why Bro. Jackson was singled out of 200 inmates in his section of the prison. The only reason is that Bro. Jackson is an activist in organizing the inmates, which the pigs know is a threat to the system. There are numerous witnesses to the whereabouts of Bro. Jackson when the assault occurred. The administration is hiding all the details and has appointed Bro. Jackson a JAG lawyer (military lawyer) who will work along with the administration to prosecute him.

"The case needs publicity and outside organizational support. It would be helpful if supporters would write letters of interest about Bro. Jackson's status to the Commanding Officer, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas 66027. WRITE IN SUPPORT OF BROTHER JACKSON!"

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

Wizard of Id



TO STRUGGLE!

USS LITTLE ROCK TRIALS



(Naples, Italy) Court martial proceedings for eleven black sailors from the USS Little Rock began recently at the Naval Law Center in Naples. The incidents leading to the courts martial occurred on November 8, while the Little Rock was on alert in the Mediterranean Sea during the height of the Middle East war.

For months prior to the November outbreak, the younger black sailors on the Little Rock had brought specific demands to the attention of ship captain Peter K. Cullins. These included the removal of racist supervisors; an end to duty roster juggling that put blacks on duty when the ship was in liberty ports; an end to unequal treatment on sick call; an end to the assignment of blacks to the most demeaning jobs on the mess deck; and a protest of general conditions of institutionalized racism on the ship.

According to the Lawyers Military Defense Committee, which is working on the case, the situation on the Little Rock was more tense than on most ships since it was a fleet flag ship with an admiral on board, and the number of blacks had been purposely kept low. Out of the crew of 1300, only 50 were black, and, to add to the problems, Capt. Cullins refused to respond in any way to the demands of black sailors to deal with racist policies.

When it became evident that Cullins was not going to intervene in any way, the black sailors began to hold meetings to discuss the problems. "We would rap about the hate the white sailors were taking out on the lower-ranking black sailors," James Shempert, one of the defendants, explained. "We would have meetings and then they(white sailors) would spread rumors about us."

This situation dragged on for four months. Then in November, a black sailor was attacked and hit over the head with a wrench by a white sailor who, according to witnesses, did so screaming, "I'm going to kill you, nigger." Blacks and whites gathered in groups and at one point about 200 white sailors armed with knives, pipes and spikes raced through the ship trying to corner the highly outnumbered black sailors. Captain Cullins eventually was able to calm the white sailors but still refused to recognize the racism on the ship.

After the incident, only blacks were charged with riot and assault, which could result in six months imprisonment and Bad Conduct Discharges. The whites who precipitated the incident have already been rushed through the courts. The one who hit the black man over the head with the wrench was acquitted; the other found guilty of drunken behavior was given a minimal sentence and quickly returned to duty. No white sailors were charged with assembling with weapons.

The first of the courts martial of the eleven black men has been convened by Captain Cullins, a clear violation of military law which requires that commanding officers personally involved in an incident remove themselves from the case. Similarly, the jury is a hand-picked group of white officers, some of whom have been the targets of specific racism charges by black sailors.

Other incidents of racism also occurred in the Mediterranean during the same period of the Middle East war. One incident involved black and Puerto Rican sailors on the USS Independence, and another involved three black marines on the USS Iwo Jima.

For more information, write to: Lawyers Military Defense Committee, c/o Captain Ed Welch, Naval Law Center, Box 8, FPO New York, NY 09521.

Melvin X. Smith Convicted

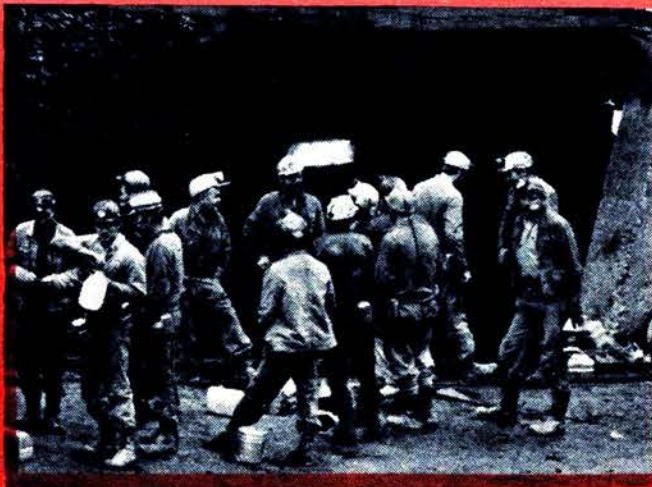
Melvin Smith has been convicted of involuntary manslaughter in a re-trial of his case involving the killing of his first sergeant. The original trial had resulted in his conviction for first degree murder, but that conviction was reversed on a technicality. The Army chose to court martial Smith a second time, and this court martial resulted in a conviction on the lesser charge and a sentence of 8 years at hard labor with the three years he has already served credited to Smith.

The courts martial came as a result of an incident that occurred in 1971 when Smith was stationed in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. Temporarily insane because of a serious head injury suffered from a fall and subject to racial harassment from his military superiors, Smith went on a shooting spree which resulted in the death of his first sergeant and injury to two other men and himself.

Since that time Smith has been subject to the abuse and oppression which the military heaps upon the GI, especially the Black GI. He was court martialed and convicted of murder despite overwhelming evidence, including the testimony of Army doctors, that he was insane at the time of the killing. He has been denied needed medical attention. In prison he has been harassed for writing letters which have been published. His mail has been tampered. He has been denied the right to correspond with organizations such as VVAW/WSO. He has been persecuted because of his religious beliefs. His friends within prison have been punished for possessing petitions which support Melvin. For three years he has faced the racism and oppression of the military and its prison system.

Melvin and his lawyer see the verdict as a victory. However, the struggle of Melvin Smith will continue because of the harsh sentence. The sentence will be appealed, and Melvin needs your financial support to carry out that appeal. Donations should be sent to the Melvin Smith Defense Fund, c/o Independence Bank of Chicago, 7936 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois 60619. Melvin's struggle is the struggle of all GIs. His is the struggle of all the oppressed in prison.

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!



INTERNATIONAL

ON MAY FIRST PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WILL DEMONSTRATE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, AS WORKING PEOPLE CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY. PEOPLE WILL BE HOLDING CELEBRATIONS FROM CHICAGO TO LONDON TO PEKING IN RECOGNITION OF THE REAL BUILDERS OF SOCIETY, WORKING PEOPLE.

MAY DAY STARTED IN THIS COUNTRY! IT GREW OUT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY IN THE 1880'S. AT THAT TIME WORKING PEOPLE HAD TO WORK 12 TO 16 HOURS A DAY. AS A CONSEQUENCE IN 1884, MILITANT WORKERS DECIDED TO ORGANIZE NATION-WIDE STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR MAY 1, 1886 TO FORCE EMPLOYERS TO GRANT THEIR DEMANDS.

ORGANIZING PROCEEDED FOR THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF. BECAUSE OF THE REPRESSION OF THE TIMES A LOT OF THE ORGANIZING WAS CONDUCTED IN SECRECY.

WHEN MAY DAY CAME WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TOOK TO THE STREETS.

THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN CHICAGO, WHERE 25,000 WORKERS WENT OUT ON STRIKE. ALTO-

GETHER MORE THAN 500,000 WORKERS WERE INVOLVED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY WAS NOT AN EASY ONE. EMPLOYERS MOBILIZED THE POLICE, NATIONAL GUARD, ARMY AND COURTS TO BREAK THE STRUGGLE.

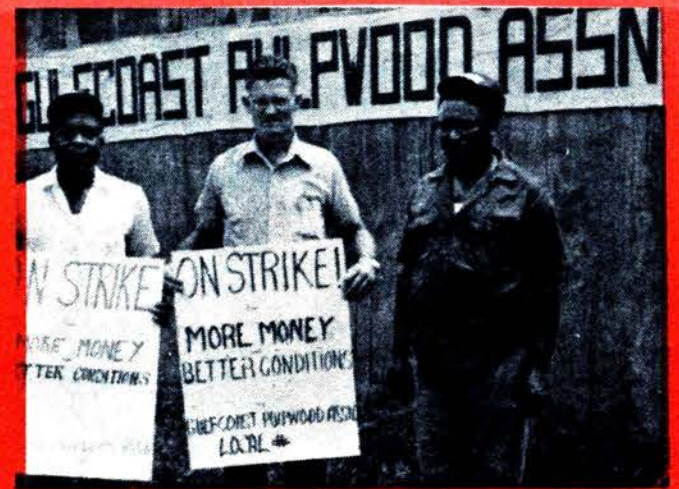
THERE WERE MANY MARTYRS AND HEROES IN THE SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE, WITH FOUR OF THE CHICAGO ORGANIZERS HUNG AND OTHERS SENT TO JAIL ON TRUMPED UP CHARGES.

INSPIRED BY THE U.S. WORKERS' STRUGGLE, THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT DECLARED MAY DAY, "INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY" AT AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN 1889, IN PARIS AND IT HAS BEEN CELEBRATED EVER SINCE.

THE VICTORY FOR THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY WAS NOT AN END TO THE STRUGGLE. QUITE THE CONTRARY, ITS IMPETUS HAS CONTINUED THROUGH HISTORY DURING THE 1930'S THE DEMAND FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, OLD AGE AND SOCIAL INSURANCE BECAME A MAJOR FOCUS FOR MAY DAY. ON MAY 1, 1930, 350,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN MARCHES AND RALLIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. TODAY, WE HAVE AS A GOAL THE STRUGGLE FOR UNIONIZATION AND AN END TO RACIAL, NATIONAL AND



L WORKERS DAY



WOMENS' OPPRESSION AND IMPERIALISM.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY THIS YEAR COMES AT A TIME WHEN WORKING PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY ARE SUFFERING FROM ONE ATTACK AFTER ANOTHER. EMPLOYERS ARE TRYING TO INCREASE THEIR PROFITS BY TAKING MORE AND MORE OUT OF THE PAYCHECKS OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

THE LIVING STANDARDS OF WORKING PEOPLE ARE FACING THE MOST SUSTAINED ASSAULT SINCE THE DEPRESSION. U.S. BUSINESS IS IN HOT WATER, DEFEATED IN THE COSTLY, UNPOPULAR INDOCHINA CONFLICT, LOSING RESOURCES AS COUNTRIES ATTAIN NATIONAL INDEPENDANCE, AND, ON THE HOME FRONT, FACING THE DETERMINED RESISTANCE OF WORKERS IN THE U.S.

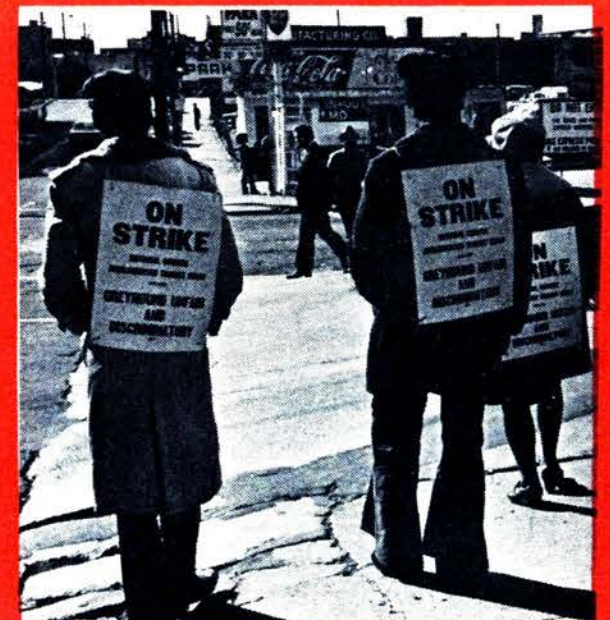
INFLATION AND TAXES ARE SKYROCKETING WHILE WORKERS WAGES ARE TIGHTLY REGULATED FROM ONE "PHASE" TO ANOTHER "PHASE". UNEMPLOYMENT IS HIGHER THAN EVER. ESPECIALLY AMONG BLACK, LATIN, ASIAN, AND WOMEN WORKERS.

AFTER EVERY ROUND OF LAYOFFS, OR WAGE CUTS THE EMPLOYER CALLS FOR HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY. IN OTHER WORDS, SPEED-UP.

TO ROUNDOUT THE PACKAGE THE GOVERNMENT ALONG WITH THE CORPORATIONS PUSHES LEGISLATION TO TAKE AWAY THE WORKERS RIGHT TO STRIKE, IN COLLUSION WITH CERTAIN "LABOR LEADERS."

FACED WITH THESE CONDITIONS, WORKERS AND POOR PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE FIGHTING BACK WITH "WILDCATS," STRIKES, AND DEMONSTRATIONS. THOUSANDS OF AUTO WORKERS HAVE HIT BACK AT THE EVER INCREASING SPEEDUPS. POSTAL WORKERS HAVE "WALKED OFF" THE JOB, TRUCKERS HAVE STOPPED HAULING, MINERS HAVE GONE OUT UNTIL THEY WERE GUARANTEED GAS, THE FARAH AND ONEIDA VICTORIES MADE THE FIRST STEP IN UNIONIZING THE WHOLE SOUTH, AND THE UNITED FARM WORKERS CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT.

THIS MAY DAY WE WILL REMEMBER OUR VICTORIES, AT THE SAME TIME WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE STRUGGLE AHEAD.



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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Seattle, Washington 98105

Alabama-Miss-Tenn

Linda Regnier
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Kansas-Missouri-North & South Dakota-Neb.

VVAW/WSO
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Kansas City, Missouri 64111
(816) 753-1619

Louisiana

SEE ALABAMA

National Office

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

Project Offices

Gary Lawton Defense Comm.

Lawton/Gardner Defense Committee
PO Box 244
Riverside, California 92502

Operation County Fair

Linda Regnier
Route 1, Box 109
Browns, Alabama 36724

Amnesty Clearinghouse

See National Office

Post Vietnam Syndrome Clearinghouse

See Wisconsin-Minnesota

N.O.S.C.A.M. (National GI Office)

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

BUILD VVAW-WSO

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY



CONT. BORDEN

adequate pay increase and an adequate health care plan. They are faced by a company which desperately wants to break the strike as an example to Borden workers elsewhere. Borden is using every tactic it knows to break the strike. It has tried to intimidate the workers by hiring a K-9 security outfit to guard the plant and has salaried foremen taking photographs of the pickets. Borden has also cut off a worker's compensation payments which were being given as a result of the nervous disease.

The Borden workers face a difficult struggle against this company on strike pay of \$22 a week. They deserve our support. We should boycott all Borden products including Mary Jane pickles and Cracker Jack. Contributions for the worker's families and letters of moral support can be sent to Local 487 Textile Workers, 1441 North Grant, Columbus, Ohio 43201

BOYCOTT BORDEN!

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE
DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE!

WHAT HAVE WOMEN DONE? A Photo Essay on the History of Working Women in the U.S.A. by the Women's History Group (UFP March 1974)

From the cotton and tobacco fields of the pre-Civil War South, to the textile mills of the North, to the needle and shoe factories ... women have labored in almost every industry. At the turn of the century women worked in tin plants, glass factories, cardboard box plants; during the World Wars women were pulled into heavy industries including steel mills, aircraft plants and shipyards. Today, women's labor is at the heart of the financial, service and merchandising industries.

The prejudices women challenged, the fears they overcame, the victories they won have benefited the whole working class. Rare photos show women banding together in militant struggles for better working conditions, decent wages for themselves and their husbands. The pamphlet exposes the lies used to justify the oppressive treatment of women—that they can't do heavy work, that they work for pin money, that they aren't as intelligent as men.

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WHAT IS VVAW-WSO

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

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

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

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

the final break, and the return of the medals signified the ultimate act of revulsion for what these medals stood for.

The summer of 1971 saw a general lull in anti-war activity the country over. VVAW began to move in a new direction -- into our communities. We began the process of learning that the war was only a symptom, that as long as the American economic structure could profit from the exploitation of working and third people at home and around the world, wars like Vietnam would continue. During all of this, however, we did not forget about the war. Christmas, 1971, found 16 members of VVAW holding the Statue of Liberty captive. The war was again front page news.

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?

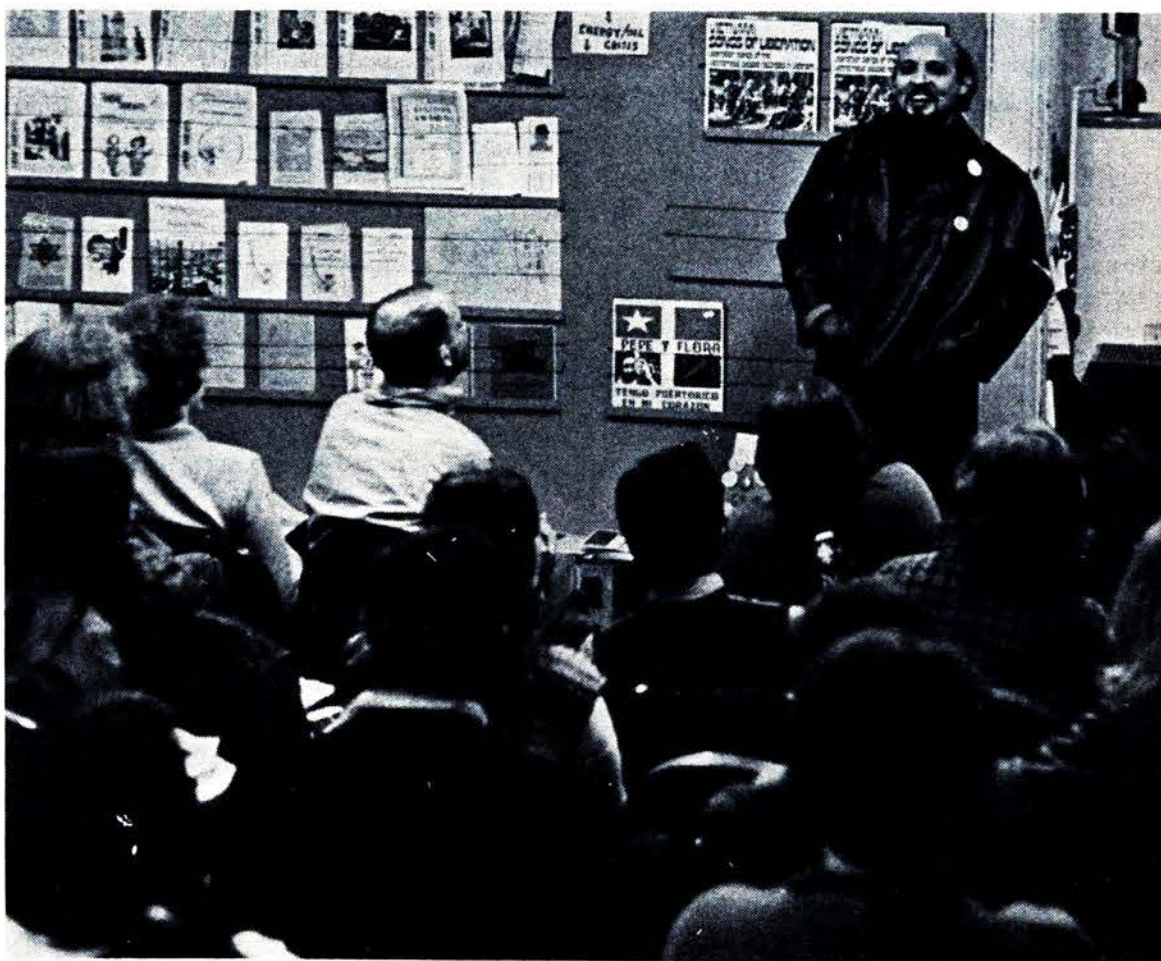
The most basic and important participant in the operation of VVAW/WSO is the individual member. The members elect chapter coordinators or representatives who are responsible for the local operation. Each chapter is represented at Regional meetings which are held at least four times a year. Each region 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.

LAWTON-GARDNER TRIAL

INTERVIEW WITH GARY LAWTON



Gary Lawton on Speaking Tour in Chicago

(The following is an interview with Gary Lawton, a member of VVAW/WSO and defendant in the Riverside, California case of the murder of two Riverside policemen. Gary and his co-defendant, Zurebu Gardner, have already gone through two trials, both of which ended in hung juries. Further details of the Riverside frame-up can be obtained from the National Office of VVAW/WSO or from the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee (RPPDC). The addresses are listed on page 10 of this paper. This interview came at the end of one part of a national speaking tour sponsored by the Chicago chapter of VVAW/WSO. Gary spent two days in Chicago and one day in Milwaukee meeting with people from both communities and speaking about this political trial).

WS: What is the current status of your case?

GL: My co-defendant and I are set to go to trial again on May 20th. However, this may change as we (the defense committee) are in the process of filing a major motion for dismissal which is scheduled to take place around April 17th. The motion will be filed by William Kunstler, who is helping my attorney, Franklin "Skip" Glenn. You see, this thing (the frame-up), has reached unprecedented heights. This third trial will be the first time in the history of the state of California that a person will be tried a third time without there being a prior conviction of the defendant. The first two trials were hung with the majority from the two juries leaning towards acquittal.

WS: What tactics has the prosecu-

tion and/or the Riverside Police Department (RPD) used to stop or hinder the work of the defense committee?

GL: You have to understand that the atmosphere in Riverside is one of extreme oppression. I mean, every day some new act of terror comes down on the community. The DA and the RPD are waging a campaign of brutality against the community in the hopes of scaring away our support. For example, several members of the defense committee were brutally attacked, without provocation, by members of the RPD on March 24th. It was an obviously planned incident. One of the committee members was being arraigned at the Superior courthouse and my wife Chukia, Zurebu, and Rusty Bronaugh, a defense worker and member of VVAW/WSO, were there to show solidarity with the brother, William Palmer. The RPD knew that members of the RPPDC and VVAW/WSO were going to be there as they had picketed the courthouse earlier. Out of nowhere, this cop decides he's going to arrest Palmer's 14-year old son for burglary. Well, the committee was not going to let that happen without a warrant, which they asked for but none was presented. My wife then told this cop that he was not going to arrest the boy until a warrant was shown. Bam! Chukia, Zurebu, Palmer and another woman are jumped by at least 15 officers. Chukia was choked unconscious and the muscles in her right arm were ripped up. Zurebu may have permanent damage to his right eye. Six cops held him while this one just kept hitting him, and he was later refused medical treatment. All of them have been arrested and charged with

"assault on an officer." Rusty received word of the charges against him through the mail!

WS: Why, with no evidence, is the DA bent on convicting you and Zurebu?

GL: Look at it this way. Shortly after the killing of the two cops, the RPD announced in the press that the killers had evaded their massive net. They have absolutely no leads on the real killers and they have already spent 3 million dollars trying to mail us. They have to save face because right now they look like absolute idiots with two hung juries and a bunch of punks and weirdos for witnesses. Mark Rosenbaum of the ACLU, said that the DA does not have enough courage or ethics to admit they (the DA) have no case.

The cops have stated that the murders were "professionally" done. James Tennell, the investigating detective, said: "There is no other person in this area who could have carried out this killing but Gary Lawton because of his military background." (Ed. - Gary was in the Marines for 4 years spending a portion of his service as a weapons expert). Now the cops had to find someone who was obviously in friction with them and I'm it. You see, I helped organize what we called a "police monitor" program. We used to go to possible trouble spots between the cops and the people of the community. This work did not help create friends with the RPD because we would raise a stink about police misconduct, plus get involved on the scene. So, you have this militant black man chasing cops around Riverside and that gives the DA the lever he wants.

WS: How do you see this case in relation to other political prisoners?

GL: The RPPDC and I have an overriding concern for many other political prisoners, because we see no difference between our frame-up and the situation of many other brothers and sisters either behind bars or on trial. Take Ruchell Magee -- a man I call "The Man the People Forgot -- or Melvin X. Smith, or the Attica brothers and many others. They are all in the same boat as me and I do not think that I am special or different than any of them.

The tragic thing is that Ruchell has been forgotten and ripped off. Political groups and individuals used Ruchell for their own selfish aims. They used him to raise money that didn't go to the defense, they set up bogus defense committees, and yet today there is no active defense work being done. He represents an era of political repression, 18 years in the struggle to be free. His co-defendant was Angela Davis and she has left him to rot. Ruchell has done incredible work such as setting legal precedents for other prisoners, yet the people have forgotten him. I recently visited Ruchell and the man is still waging his war on oppression -- the right for this slave to rebel.

Look, my oppression is the same as all poor people, all struggling people. I am glad for all the support I and Zurebu have received, but you've got to fight for the end of all oppression; you can't isolate our case from everything else.

WS: Are there any other points you'd like to emphasize?

GL: Well, there is one point that is of particular importance to me. I want people to understand that this is no hype solicited from me. There has been much talk about VVAW/WSO's involvement in my defense in political circles. Things like "you are only doing it to push your organization," and other such bunk. I'd like to make it clear that we were offered support at a time when there was no defense committee, and it was support with no strings attached. I mean, neither Zurebu nor I have been asked to endorse the group or even to join it, although I have joined VVAW/WSO while Zurebu has not. The thing is, VVAW/WSO still support Zurebu like he is family -- the same support I get. They have been sensitive to our needs and wishes.

It is a shame to me that VVAW/WSO has given 2-1/2 years of consistent support, while no other national organization has even given lip service, and others are still sniping at the organization. If other groups had given a fraction of the sincere support that VVAW/WSO has given, not only to us, but to others like Ruchell, we'd all be in a better position today.

POLICE ATTACK BOB HOOD



Bob Hood, N. Calif. Coordinator of VVAW/WSO, is facing a possible life sentence on charges stemming from a brutal police attack on him Feb. 6th. The attack on Bob came as part of a general wave of police terror in the Oakland area following the Marcus Foster slaying and the Patricia Hearst incident. Bob is tentatively set to go to trial in Oakland Superior Court on May 21 on a charge of "assault on a police officer with a deadly weapon."

The night the incident occurred, Bob had been called and told that a friend of his was being harassed by several police units not far from his home. Going to the scene to witness the incident and assure that his friend was given his constitutional rights and not beaten up, Bob instead found himself staring into the barrel of an Oakland PD service revolver.

In Bob's words, "as it turned out, it was my body and my rights that were trampled on. The officers on the scene viciously assaulted me while my hands were above my head. After putting the cuffs on me, one of them removed my pocket knife from my pants. This knife, they allege, I used to attack Officer Ted Burrows. While it is ridiculous and absurd to imagine that anyone but a madman armed only with a Swiss Army Knife would stab at an armed policeman with many other officers looking on, it's certainly not ridiculous or absurd to be on trial for a felony rap with a possible life sentence."

The Oakland PD officer filing the charges, Ted Burrows, indicated the motivation for the assault when he admitted that he knew that Bob was in VVAW/WSO and said that, "I'm aware that members of this organization are radical and pose an extreme threat to officers' safety." In describing VVAW/WSO, Burrows said that "violence in the streets is the means by which their political goals have been reached." In add-

ition to being an outright lie, this is an odd statement coming from Officer Burrows, who has been the source of a lot of the violence in the streets of Oakland himself. In a recent pre-trial hearing in another case, Burrows admitted hitting a 17 year-old black woman in the face because "she was in my way!"

Police attacks on VVAW/WSO are nothing new. We have continually been subjected to Governmental attempts to discredit or destroy the organization by trying to portray us as "violent." The highlight of this came with the conspiracy trial of the Gainesville 8. There, literally dozens of paid FBI agents provocateur surfaced as part of the Government's 'case' against us. The vote of acquittal in this trial proved the lies of the Government's charges against us.

Since the emergence of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) and the arrest of Joe Remiro, a former VVAW/WSO member, there has begun yet another attempt to destroy the organization--this time by linking us to the SLA. In the Bay Area, VVAW/WSO has experienced not only the attack on Bob Hood, but round-the-clock surveillance, searches of member's homes, unnecessary police detention, and general harassment. Nationally, the FBI has joined the Oakland PD in all this, launching an extensive campaign of intimidation and harassment -- attempts by the FBI to interrogate VVAW/WSO members occur daily. As witnessed by the case of Bob Hood, the Government is using the SLA as a smokescreen to hide its continued attacks on VVAW/WSO and other politically active organizations and individuals on the left, as well as to increase police repression in the communities of the Bay Area.

Money for legal fees and the defense effort is badly needed. For contributions or more information write: VVAW/WSO Legal Defense, 4919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA. 94609.

VIETNAM VETS DAY

In its latest attempt to placate veterans, the Nixon administration announced March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day. This day was to honor those who served in Vietnam in spite of the fact that the administration has ignored the issues of jobs, benefits and health care for veterans and families, and in spite of the fact that the war in Indochina continues unabated since January 27, 1973.

It was reported in Jack Anderson's column on March 29, that part of the preparations by the government for this day included: "Some information was received to the effect that the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Volunteers Organization (sic) and similar organizations may demonstrate at VA hospitals and regional offices on or around March 29. Confrontations may occur in regard to amnesty and upgrading of military discharges and may include demonstrations and sit-ins...any intelligence gathered should be reported to Mr. Bill Rettew, ext. 3093, home phone..." This information came via secret message on March 22 over the VA hot line to regional directors. Thus, the administration recognized their inability in dealing with veterans and feared their own publicity stunt.

As it turned out their intelligence sources were correct. Chapters of VVAW/WSO and other veterans' groups demonstrated across the country at VA facilities and city functions to 'honor' the Vietnam veterans.

In New York City VVAW/WSO held a march from the VA to the unemployment center and back to the VA to point out that on Vietnam Veterans Day, veterans could not find jobs, in part because of their bad discharges issued as a result of the veterans' resistance to the war and the military. They entered the VA Regional Office and demanded to speak to the administrator, who finally submitted himself to their questions. He denied knowledge of basic facts about the VA and at one point stated, "I'm only one of 260,000 employees of the VA." This from the Administrator of the New York Area Regional Office!!

In Milwaukee, 17 members walked into the Woods VA Hospital director's office to confront him with demands for a single-type discharge, adequate medical care and full staff, recognition of Post Vietnam Struggle, universal and unconditional amnesty and an end to the war in Indochina. The results of this meeting were the same as in New York City; nothing happened as the administrator tried to pass the buck to Washington. But there was a spirited rally outside the hospital at the same time as the take-over, with a picket line that attracted many of the hospital's patients.



VVAW/WSO Demonstration in Santa Barbara

In St. Louis, the members of VVAW/WSO found a different reception. They went to the VA Hospital and the Regional Office and were able to speak with the respective administrators with little problem. In both cases the administrators agreed to meet with them to discuss the possibility of starting a veteran's outreach program under VVAW/WSO direction, in the Souldard district. Even there, the VVAW/WSO members recognized the master public relations job done on them. It remains to be seen what will come of these talks.

In Denver, VVAW/WSO members were refused entrance into the VA building. In Santa Barbara, California, VA officials had agreed beforehand to allow the members into the hospital, only to find that upon their arrival the offices were closed for the day, under orders from Donald Johnson, VA Administrator in Washington DC!

Afterwards, the Santa Barbara chapter walked out of a 'feast' for Vietnam Veterans Day denouncing the hypocrisy of the VA who, while 'winning and dining' them, refused to meet to discuss veterans problems. In San Jose, VVAW/WSO members attended a USO-sponsored celebration and passed out leaflets and sold Winter Soldier. The leaflets spoke of the unending war in Indochina. The chapter also condemned the 'girlie show' provided for the event. One speaker, the USO president, remarked that only about 40-50 veterans, (4 Vietnam vets), showed up for the hoax out of a Vietnam veteran population of 40,000 in the county.

Other actions occurred in Yorba Linda, Santa Cruz, Miami, Chicago and Washington DC.

As a direct result of these demonstrations, President Nixon was forced to make a speech two days later announcing the formation of a new council to study the problems of veterans, and appointed Donald Johnson as head of the committee along with the Secretaries of Labor, Defense, etc. These hacks are responsible for all the problems in the first place, along with the business interests that sponsor their criminal acts. This 'concession' on the part of Nixon is as much of a hoax as the Vietnam Veterans Day farce.

Joe Hirsch, of the NYC chapter, summed up the day thusly, "While Nixon has committed more billions for the destruction and slavery of Indochina, the people of the United States suffer more each day with skyrocketing prices for food, spiralling unemployment, inferior medical care and terrible housing. Veterans in particular suffer --even with honorable discharges! Unemployment for veterans runs rampant and vets with bad discharges have received life sentences. We will fight back!!"



VVAW/WSO Demo in Milwaukee

LEAVENWORTH UP-DATE



During the past month, the repressive situation surrounding the Leavenworth Brothers has led to an additional indictment, a trial, and the setting of one trial date. The Leavenworth Brothers are 26 men who have been held in solitary confinement at Leavenworth Federal Prison (Kansas) since last July as a result of the uprising which occurred in the prison on July 31st. Seven of these brothers (all members of VVAW/WSO) have been indicted with major felonious charges stemming from the prison rebellion in which one guard was killed and 4 guards held hostage.

As was reported in the last issue of WINTER SOLDIER, one of the seven indicted brothers has been kept separate from all the other brothers being held at Leavenworth. William Hurst (indicted for kidnapping and assault along with Jesse Lopez, and Armando Miramon) is the only indicted brother who is white, and it is probably because of this that he has been kept apart from his other brothers. The prison seems to be using the old "divide and conquer" tactic among the races in the hopes to undermine the solidarity and unity of the brothers; thus Hurst has been held at the Wyandotte County Jail in Kansas City. On March 28th, Hurst was charged and arraigned on charges of murder. On March 21st, Hurst's cell mate, Richard King, was found with an extension cord strangling his neck in the cell block shower. There is a great deal of mystery surrounding the case and no concrete evidence as to Hurst's involvement in the killing was presented at the hearing. However, since Hurst has recently been indicted on other charges of "prison violence," the jail seems to have decided that he is

the man responsible. No date for this trial has yet been set.

In a different aspect of the defense of the Leavenworth Brothers, Michael Mazzetti (VVAW/WSO reporter and member of the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee) was tried for criminal contempt of court on April 4th. He was charged with violating a Federal court order which states that "no photograph may be taken inside the courtroom or its environs." Mike was arrested on Feb. 22nd for taking pictures of the prison bus in the parking lot of the Federal Courthouse where a hearing for the brothers was being held. On that day, the brothers had been severely beaten by Marshalls, and Mike had taken photos of the beatings when he was ordered by a Marshall to cease taking pictures because there was a court order banning such practice. Mike continued to take photos when the Marshall failed to produce the court order and was then arrested. Mazzetti was convicted of "willfully and intentionally" violating the court rule, though it was brought out in the trial that the order banning photos was never posted in or around the courthouse. Mike received a sentence of 15 days, and the conviction and sentence is being appealed on grounds that Mazzetti could not have "intentionally" violated a rule that he had no prior knowledge of. The arrest and conviction of Mike is an example of arbitrary enforcement of the law and may also be seen as plain and simple police harassment of the LBODC. The Marshall who arrested Mike was well aware that he was a member of VVAW/WSO and the LBODC, and it is for this reason that the government decided to use an unknown court rule to stop Mike

from photographing police acts of brutality against the brothers.

A trial date has recently been announced for Odell Bennett, who was charged with assault on a federal officer last November. Odell's trial will begin on May 6th in Topeka, Ks. These assault charges were brought against Odell for an incident which occurred last fall when Odell was to be taken to court for a hearing on a petition filed against conditions in the prison. Before he was removed from Leavenworth, he was given a "finger wave" (rectal search) which he resisted by verbally protesting this treatment. He was beaten because of his resistance, was then gagged, tied up and thrown into the floor of the car which was to take him to the courthouse. Guards sat on Odell all the way to the courthouse so he "couldn't get out of line." Before his court hearing, he was beaten again, and it is because of these incidents that he has been charged with assault. (Odell was later charged with murder, kidnapping and assault -- along with Jesse Evans, Alf Hill and Alfred Jasper -- resulting from the July prison uprising).

The LBODC is planning a 23 mile March for Justice which will begin on May 4th in Lecompton (the slave capitol of Kansas before the state abolished slavery). The purpose of the march is to show that our society still retains a form of slavery. There are thousands of brothers and sisters being held behind prison walls who have been placed there by the political and economic system of our society which denied them their freedom and keeps them "holed up" under conditions of extreme brutality and dehumanization. The march will culminate in Topeka as Bennett's trial begins, and a demonstration will be held at the courthouse demanding an end to the frame-up of Odell and all the Leavenworth Brothers.

This frame-up must be stopped! The Leavenworth Brothers are guilty of nothing more than trying to live their lives as human beings rather than animals. It is the prison system of this country which should be under indictment, not 7 brothers who are the victims of that system. The Brothers need your help. Thus far, the brothers are still without attorneys, and lawyers are desperately needed as the major trials approach. We call on all movement lawyers to consider this plea for help and come to the aid of these brothers. As always, money is also needed to insure that these brothers receive a fair trial. For information, contributions and details on the May demonstration, contact: LBODC, P.O. Box 5158, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.

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