

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION-PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: VVAW

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DATE 11/9/95 BY [signature]

11 ENCLOSURE(S) TO: Bureau

BUFILE # 100-448092

BT FILE # 100-9147

BT Letter, Airtel, (represent of) 11/19/73.

Re: VVAN/WSO
IS - NEW LEFT

Description of Enclosures

1 copy each of 11 separate documents

VETERAN SOLDIER ORGANIZATION
New York City Chapter
100 W. 4th Street
N.Y., N.Y. 10012
(212-473-9397)

Dear VVAW Brothers and Sisters,

The people have freed the Gainesville 8, and have shown the Government that they cannot rely on judges to do their dirty work for them. The NYC Chapter of VVAW/WSO will hold a VICTORY PARTY AND FUNDRAISER on Friday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 PM, at the Washington Sq. Methodist Church, 135 West 4th St. (off 6th Ave.). There will be dancing, refreshments and entertainment. Pete Mahoney, one of the Gainesville 8, will speak. Suggested donation is \$2.00. Come down and bring your friends!

Although Nixon and his boys did not succeed in jailing the Gainesville 8, they did succeed in taking up a big part of VVAW/WSO's time, energy and money for 14 months. The trial has left us approximately \$25,000 in debt and somewhat disorganized. It's time now for us to pull ourselves together and refocus our energy. The NYC Chapter has several things in the works.

As a national action, we have declared Oct. 1 through 8 INDOCHINA SOLIDARITY WEEK. For a run down of what the NYC Chapter will be doing see the attached leaflet.

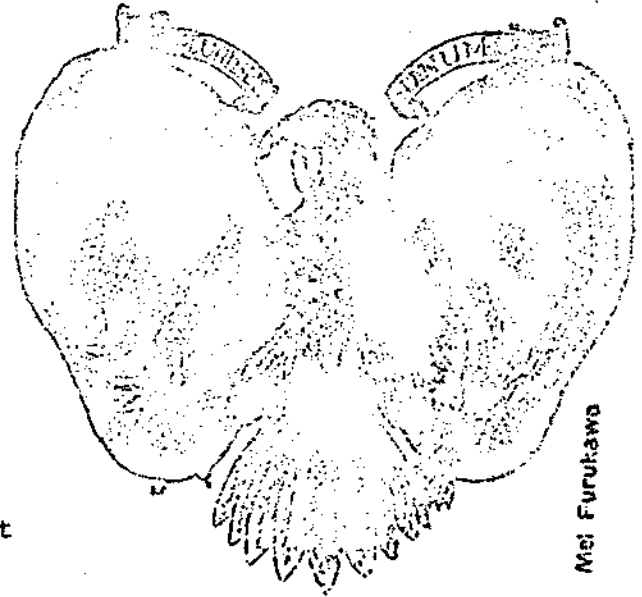
As part of the national AMNESTY CAMPAIGN NYC VVAW/WSO has had several training sessions to learn the process of discharge upgrading. We will soon be setting up regular counselling hours and trying to get as many vets as possible to file for upgrading. Anyone who has a discharge they want to try to have upgraded and/or is interested in working on amnesty should call or write the office.

The Federal Government has unfrozen \$11 million to create 1,000 jobs for Vietnam era vets in NYC. These are jobs ranging in salaries from \$4,800 to \$13,600 on a first come, first served basis. For further information call information for the number of the Mayor's Office for Veteran's Action in your borough.

We are sending you the first issue of the NYC Chapter paper. The next issue will come out in about 2 weeks. It will feature articles on the GI Bill, SPI numbers, Cambodia, the United Farm Workers and others. Anyone interested in working on the paper or especially in helping with distribution should write to LOCK N' LOAD c/o VVAW/WSO, GEO Box 3295, NY, NY 10001. With this issue we are trying to set up a regular distribution network on campuses.

The next general meeting will be on Monday, October 8, at 7:30 PM at the office. Perhaps you would like to help with a contribution if you are unable to come down and work. Anything will help as we are in continuous financial hassles.

See you on the 28th!



Mei Furukawa



Solidarity,
THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
VVAW/WSO

4-17-95

SPW/MLK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The meeting of the VVAW/WSO National Steering Committee will be held at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio (15 miles east of Dayton) on December 27-31. This is a preliminary letter to ask you for information and to give the information which comes from our most recent regional meeting which worked on plans for the NSCM.

The meeting will begin at 9 AM on Friday, December 28; we will be prepared for people to come to Antioch on Thursday. For the first day's meeting, please remember the decision made at St Louis (and at various earlier NSCMs) that round robin reports will be printed and available for the delegates; if they are ready for Thursday night, people could read them before the first meeting.

Each member of a delegation will be charged \$10 for food, room (and, believe it or not, bed), registration, etc. We believe that the time has come when the organization must pay its own way at these meetings--it is the responsibility of each region to come up with the necessary funds if an individual cannot do so. If the individual, his or her chapter, or his or her region does not have the necessary interest or sense of responsibility to the organization to get together the money, then we would suggest that they don't belong at the NSCM.

We don't yet know the results of the vote on our regional proposal (carried in the last National Newsletter) to allow unlimited numbers of observers from each region. If that passed (and we hope it did), regions are obligated to send us the number of people attending in advance. But even if the proposal didn't pass, we hope that regions will let us know how many people are coming and, if possible, send their names and registration fee ahead of time.

A tentative agenda and list of workshops will be sent out in the near future; please let us know what items you want to see on the agenda, and what workshops--in addition to the numerous ones left-over from the St Louis meeting--you want.

The Palo Alto NSCM passed a resolution banning beasts (dogs, cats, etc); the uncomfortable experiences in St Louis underlined the need for that resolution.

Possession or use of illegal drugs will be prohibited in the convention facilities.

Details of such items as agenda, childcare, maps, etc will be covered in the next letter. We are looking forward to the opportunity to see all of you at Antioch--and to provide the facilities needed to make the meeting as efficient and comfortable as possible.

In the Struggle,

Pete Zastrow, for the VVAW/WSO
Regional Office

4-11-95



SCENARIO:

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1st Phase - Now until January or February. In this phase we can lay the groundwork for the WSI and get the feel of what sort of response and information we can expect. Areas of work would be:

A. Establishing debriefing and verification procedures. Some sort of standardized questionnaire could be drawn up. Members with intelligence or counselling experience might get behind this - the level of interviewing would have to be deep and concise. Information could initially be verified by Chapters on campuses by checking it with contemporary news reports on file in libraries. A clearinghouse would eventually have to be set up to collect information from Regions and Chapters and cross-reference it by date and unit for purposes of verification.

B. At the same time, we can start interviewing core and fringe or paper membership in an effort to determine the probabal extent and the nature and credibility of the response.

2nd Phase - February until October. During this phase we do national outreach on both media and personal levels. There would be five areas to work in. A, B and C are roughly concurrent. The nature of this phase would be determined by the findings of phase 1.

A. Getting ads aimed at veterans in magazines such as "Playboy", "Ramparts", "Rolling Stone", etc. Also in underground, alternate, campus and community newspapers. A strong argument can be made to most publications that we deserve free - or at least cost - space.

B. Getting ads in liberal press and magazines with an implicit appeal to liberals, buearacrats and journalists to supply information they might have access to. Personal contact with known sympathizers would help.

C. National and/or Regional press conferences announcing plans for the WSI and stating national political purposes.

D. Outreach and debriefing to those who contact us on basis of ads. This is by far the most important aspect of the WSI. Every member involved in this is an organizer. Packets containing information on our history, objectives and programs (such as NOSCAM uses) can be made up. The "Winter Soldier" films can be widely used, etc. The single issue of the WSI should be emphasized, but we should openly state all of our activities. A continuation of partial verification by Chapters and Regions and cross-referral and final verification by the clearinghouse.

E. Organizational and financial groundwork for the actual hearings.

3rd Phase - October: the hearings. The hearings should be centered around Veteran's Day, but the actual timing can be worked out in the future. At the hearings, the best and tightest of the testimony collected in the 1st and 2nd phases will be presented. There can be one National hearing and/or Regional hearings. If possible, a cross-referenced index of testimony can be presented along with an analysis of the findings. Arrangements for the production of a film should also be considered.

(Ed. Note)... Those people who received the DD293 forms in the mail please do one of the following:

- Complete the form and mail it to DUP, 3067 24th St., SF, 94110
- Complete the form and drop it by the office
- Complete the form and bring it with you to the general meeting at Mission United Presbyterian Church, 23rd St and Capp, San Francisco, Sunday, Oct 28, 1973

Proposition K: Restoring Power To The Community

Proposition "K", which will appear on the San Francisco ballot in November, appears to have an excellent chance of winning. The measure would end the present method of electing members to the Board of Supervisors at-large. It would replace this undemocratic system with one that would elect each Supervisor from one of eleven equally populated (25,000 inhabitants in each) districts. One of the provisions of "K" would require that the Supervisor live in that district for at least one year.

- The proponents of "K" point out that it would:
- end the advantage that heavy financial backing now gives a candidate. With the elimination of the need to have city-wide media campaigns, city-wide mailings, city-wide vote-huckstering apparatus the cost of campaigning would be reduced to one that ordinary citizens or organized community groups could meet. (Candidates who won office in the last Supervisorial race are estimated to have spent more than \$100,000. Even the \$51,000 limit supposedly imposed by the recently-passed campaign spending law is far higher than an ordinary citizen could raise without becoming beholden to some private and wealthy special interest group.)
 - largely end the need for name-identification which gives the media such strong influence in electing candidates, particularly incumbents.
 - make the supervisors responsive and accountable to the communities from which they are elected, not, as is the case now, obligated only to the powerful interests which finance their incredibly costly campaigns. This would be especially important to groups like the Discharge Upgrading Project whose strength will be directly proportionate to their ties with the communities.

- The major opponents to "K" are:
- The Chamber of Commerce (almost two-thirds San Francisco);
 - So-called "labor" officials who are completely Mayor Joe Alioto, such as the bought and paid for and John Crowley of the CIO-AFL council. (The San Francisco memberships such as the city workers "K");
 - Incumbent supervisors like Terry Francois and elected by their own neighbors.
- D.U.P. STRONGLY URGES A "YES" VOTE C

The Thieu Regime

The Thieu regime in Saigon holds over 200,000 political prisoners since the ceasefire agreement. To avoid complying with the agreement, he has ordered them reclassified as common criminals.

Political prisoners include people who have demonstrated corruption, demonstrated against the government,



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blacks. Thus the military's racism maintains its grasp long after the individual has served their time in the service.

PEOPLE WITH BAD DISCHARGES ARE IN TROUBLE.

The Discharge Review Board in Washington, D.C., the only place to appeal a bad discharge, upgrades only one in seven appeals before it. Successful appeals are usually white, middle-class family men with jobs and money for a lawyer. 95% of the VA benefit claims from brothers and sisters with less-than-honorable discharges are denied--no school, no health care, no nothing. In some industries, 75% of the employers polled by the military said they would not hire a vet with a less-than-honorable discharge. The effects of a less-than-honorable-discharge plus the racism and sexism in our society make a decent life impossible for many people.

This problem has only one solution: a single type of discharge for all military veterans and retroactive upgrading of all previously issued discharges. Remove the military's ability to pass life sentences for any type of deviation from their standards.

What right does the military have to define who is an "honorable" citizen?

COME BY AND SEE US

What's happening with the appeals? How about your appeal...is it up to date?

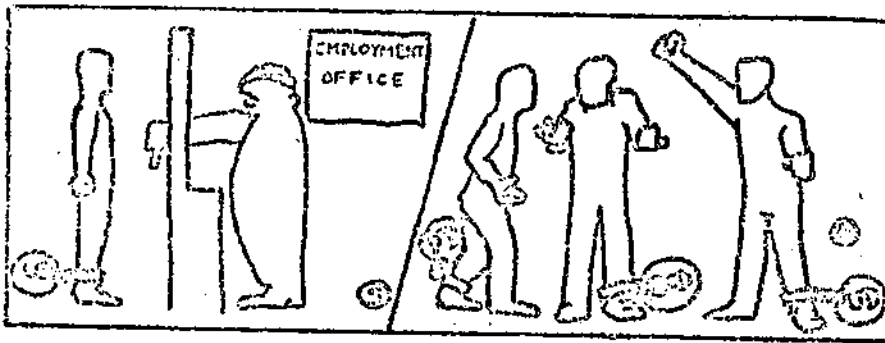
The staff has been trying to stay on top of it, making sure that this and that gets done. It's paperwork, and we don't enjoy it...and as more brothers and sisters hear of DUP, we'll have even more paperwork to do.

You can help. How? Find out what has to be done to develop your appeal... legal briefs, letters of reference, medical referrals. Call us, or better still, drop by. We know that a retroactive single-type discharge is the only common sense solution to the issue of "bad" discharges, and we can't be stopped by the government's first line of defense, bureaucratic red tape.

Control is exercised by threat of punishment. This punishment takes the form of petty harassment, Article 15 hearings (Captain's Mast in the Navy), courts-martial or administrative discharge hearings. The most effective means of controlling dissent is to discharge the person from the service. To get someone out of the service before their tour is up requires a court-martial or administrative discharge hearing. Administrative hearings are simple since the lifers don't have to prove a thing and the discharge issued can be a lifelong obstacle to employment, health and educational benefits.

Military regulations also provide that a person facing court-martial can apply for an undesirable discharge instead--still a lifelong sentence. Many people have thus been coerced into taking a UD by threat of jail, a bad conduct discharge or a dishonorable discharge. Although a UD is issued administratively its effects are usually as severe as a BCD or a DD given by courts-martial.

Many people with a bad discharge got them for things which are crimes only in the service (such as insubordination: not saluting an officer). They got them for consciously or unconsciously resisting the military by going AWOL, taking drugs or disobeying orders. Homosexuality is a threat to officers and NCOs afraid of their own sexuality and thus can also result in a "less-than-honorable discharge." Frequently bad discharges are given to progressive political activists under some pretext or another. But most severely affected by bad discharges are non-white people, primarily



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PURPOSES:

- I. Exposure of systematic deception and venality in the military.
That this would be a major effect of such a WSI goes without saying. If we can prove the concealment of casualties grew into an institutional policy, there is no way the military can sanely deny or justify it. Claims of 'national security' - the usual excuse - would only serve to compound their hypocrisy.
- II. Create public awareness of tie-ins to war and domestic political conditions. Properly handled, a WSI on these lines could serve as a springboard for analysis on almost any issue VVAW/WSO is currently involved in. Examples would include amnesty, PVS, prison struggles, racism, South Vietnamese political repression, anti-militarism and so on. The government would be totally unable to make the victims appear the instigators of their fates, as they have attempted to do with ghetto uprisings, Indochinese genocide, prison massacres, the extermination of native Americans, and the lot of the poor in general.
- III. Show VVAW/WSO as a defender of the people's right to know the truth about policies enacted in their name. Hopefully everything we do politically and educationally reflects this. The impact of this one issue, however, could firmly establish this to large numbers of people who have not been aware of our history as an organization and who are unfamiliar with our objectives and our long term goals.
- IV. Recruitment of core and supporting membership. Many veterans may well have been too preoccupied with trying to justify their role and behavior in Vietnam to really get behind the War Crimes WSI. Such an issue demanded a certain level of political consciousness to begin with. In addition, its confessional aspects made it seem irrelevant to many, particularly third-world vets. This WSI offers both a more direct attack on the policies and nature of the government and military and a potentially broader base of popular support. Many vets, not reached by VVAW/WSO, could get behind us on this issue. In turn, it could serve as an opening wedge into their political consciousness. The issue could also activate many paper members who have become inactive for one reason or another. It would not be inconsistent with the Winter Soldier concept, either. Because of the need for careful groundwork and research to verify particulars, many non-vets can work on it.
- V. Serve as a memorial action to the US and Indochinese dead. While this may offer fewer concrete returns, it alone is ample justification for undertaking such a WSI. We should not make the mistake of sounding pious; the class nature of the war and the dead should be emphasized. This aspect of the project may be best summed up in the statement of union organizer Mother Jones: "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living."

The major opponents to "K" are:

. The Chamber of Commerce (almost two-thirds of whose members do not live in San Francisco);

. So-called "labor" officials who are completely in the pocket of the Infamous Mayor Joe Alioto, such as the bought and paid for Dave Jenkins of the I.L.W.U. and John Crowley of the CIO-AFL council. (These unions with a high degree of San Francisco memberships such as the city workers and hospital workers do support "K");

. Incumbent supervisors like Terry Francois and Peter Tamares who wouldn't be elected by their own neighbors.

D. U. P. STRONGLY URGES A "YES" VOTE ON PROPOSITION "K"!

The Thieu Regime

The Thieu regime in Saigon holds over 200,000 political prisoners in violation of the ceasefire agreement. To avoid complying with the agreement, General Thieu has ordered them reclassified as common criminals.

Political prisoners include people who have denounced the military government for corruption, demonstrated against the government, or called for a policy of neutral-



WILL YOU NEED transportation to the General Meeting? Contact the offices next week and we'll arrange something.

ATTENTION: Small booklet after the General Meeting. We want to get to know you!

ism, or didn't have their ID card when the National Police stopped them, which Thieu has branded "pro communist."

Operating under military rule by decree, the National Police and provincial chiefs have the power to arrest citizens for vague reasons and hold them without trial.

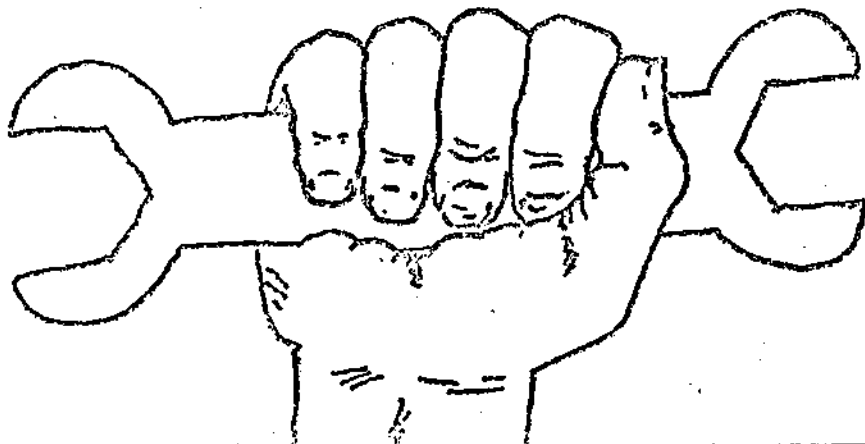
The United States government directly supports the prison system in South Viet Nam, paying for prison construction, some operating expenses, and salaries for civilian advisors in the prison system. This concerns you. It is your taxes.

If you want to help end the US support of Thieu's prisons, contact your local Viet-Nam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization office.

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TUNE UP BENEFIT

Come to our tune-up benefit to help us keep our work continuing. The date is Sunday, November 4. We'll take cars from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., but we'll be there till 5 p.m. We'll service cars and bicycles so far, and if you know how to tune-up motorcycles, give us a call next week. We'd certainly appreciate it.



A-19-95 9654 NY
PROPOSAL FOR A WINTER SOLDIER INVESTIGATION
ON CONCEALMENT OF US CASUALTIES IN VIETNAM

INTRODUCTION:

Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization has not generated any highly visible single-issue national project, other than demonstrations, since the first Winter Soldier Investigation into US War Crimes in 1971. This has been partly due to the need to build chapters on a local level and partly because of the forced necessity that we respond to such government instigated actions as the Gainesville trial and the Christmas 1972 terror bombings of the DRV. Concurrent with the successful conclusion of the Gainesville trial, there has been a growing awareness in VVAW/WSO of our energy and long range dedication to the political struggle, as well as in our ability to relate and work collectively on a number of organizational levels. While our core membership may be small, the energy and discipline exists to justify starting another Winter Soldier Investigation promising major political impact and public educational relevance. The subject of such a WSI would be the deliberate concealment of US casualties in Indochina by the military and the executive branch of the government.

As US ground troops have moved out of Indochina - at least 'officially' - the war has become removed from the forefront of American public concern. While US manipulation in SE Asia and other parts of the world continues, and while effects of the war on veterans and the country at large go ignored, most Americans have turned their attention to more immediately felt problems: inflation, energy shortages, law becoming order - in short, the qualitative breakdown of the daily patterns of rote and attitude defining 'the American way of life'. While such disclosures as Watergate and government dirty tricks would seem to generate mass activity, they may have had the opposite effect and increased apathy and the day-to-day feelings of worthlessness characteristic of a society stripped of the means of self-determination. The scope and nature of the various inquiries into Watergate offer little hope for progressive political change. It is a fairly sure bet that both major parties, despite lip service to reform, will spend the next few years promoting Americanism in order to reassert and strengthen the hollow shells of the institutions which provide the basis for their existence. At the heart of this political/institutional structure is the military and its subsidized industrial base - right now the major enemy to freedom and democratic process and the greatest potential support for overt facism in this country. A WSI on US casualties covering both Democratic and Republican administrations, could do more than the inter-class debate over Watergate to conclusively prove the dehumanization and corruption of capitalist political institutions. It could generate a sense of personal outrage among large numbers of people in this country who have before now not been able to focus on the roots of their dissatisfaction.

SCENARIO:

The following scenario could be used to implement the WSI. It is structured to advance public awareness of the project in conjunction with our ability to collect and corroborate information.

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A. Establishing debriefing and verification procedures. Some sort of standardized questionnaire could be drawn up. Members with intelligence or counselling experience might get behind this - the level of interviewing would have to be deep and concise. Information could initially be verified by Chapters on campuses by checking it with contemporary news reports on file in libraries. A clearinghouse would eventually have to be set up to collect information from Regions and Chapters and cross-reference it by date and unit for purposes of verification.

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3rd Phase - October: the hearings. The hearings should be centered around Veteran's Day, but the actual timing can be worked out in the future. At the hearings, the best and tightest of the testimony collected in the 1st and 2nd phases will be presented. There can be one National hearing and/or Regional hearings. If possible, a cross-referenced index of testimony can be presented along with an analysis of the findings. Arrangements for the production of a film should also be considered.

4th Phase - Follow-up. This phase would consolidate the ties and interest established in the course of the project. There should be follow-ups with all veterans and supporters reached in the course of the project. In addition, there should be both political pressure for government disclosures on our findings and education on a mass basis around the outcome of the WSI.

AREAS OF TESTIMONY:

Following are unconfirmed examples of the type of testimony the WSI should produce:

In the spring of 1967, a firebase of the 1st Cav Div was mortared and the ammo dump blew up. Over thirty personnel in an adjacent field hospital died. The figure reported in the press was two US KIA.

In March, 1968 (during Tet's last days) graves registration EM in DaNang reported that the number of US dead processed in I Corps was the same figure as that given out in Saigon for total US casualties for the week in the entire country.

In 1968, during the Hamburger Hill battles, a US battalion was reportedly surrounded and overrun. These losses were never reported.

In the NVA offensive of spring, 1972, US WIA's considered beyond help were put on medevac flights to Clark AF Base instead of being sent to in-country hospitals - closer and better equipped - so that their deaths would be reported as accidental in the Phillipines.

CONCLUSION:

It is too early to estimate how extensive our findings may be. It is possible that there may have been as many as 100,00 US dead in Vietnam. Certainly, the number will be substantial. We will have to prove - solidly - enough instances of deliberate deception to justify our case and show institutional direction; we will not have to set and conclusively prove any figure. It is highly probable that accurate records exist in the Pentagon as they did in the Cambodian bombing cover-up. A detailed enough presentation on our part will force the liberal press and congress to act on the charges or be seen as part of the problem. It means getting our shit together more solidly than ever before and corroborating virtually everything we present.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War was founded in 1967 when six Vietnam Veterans joined together and participated in an anti-war march in New York City. The organization grew over the next several years, first being made up only of Vietnam Vets, and gradually including all Vietnam era vets. Between 1967 and 1971, VVAW concentrated primarily on exposing war policy and bringing the facts of the war to the attention of the American people. At about this time, the focus of VVAW began to broaden; the realization that the war was only a symptom, expressive of American economic structure which profits from the exploitation of working and third world people at home and around the world, matured and became a conviction that wars like Vietnam would continue.

As they learned what was behind the Vietnam war, and as they went into the communities to work, they found people who agreed with their objectives, but were not veterans (though all Americans are Vietnam veterans). To broaden the base of membership, "Winter Soldier Organization" was added to the name, which is presently Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization. Winter Soldier comes from a quotation by Thomas Paine and refers to those who persevered in the struggle of the first American Revolution during the most difficult times. Non-veterans who had been active in the anti-war movement could identify with this idea and could participate as full members of VVAW.

As a result of this change, women, who had been supporters and behind-the-scenes workers, became recognized members of VVAW/WSO. This was by no means easy. There are still chapters with members who object to the broadening of membership, but there are others in which women have carried the chapters through difficult times. Right now, several women have been nominated to serve as national coordinators, and one woman is going to Moscow as a representative of the organization.

Locally, women became an active membership in 1972 with attendance at meetings. As we became more familiar with the operation and activities of VVAW/WSO, and as the men in the organization showed acceptance of our participation, our presence was felt increasingly. Women have served as members of the coordinating committee, have conducted meetings, headed committees, represented the organization at coalitions, on radio shows, at national actions such as Gainesville, and at regional and national meetings, and have participated in all activities as full members.

Although VVAW/WSO encourages full membership, we have had difficulties that we are, in many cases, still struggling with. The major difficulty we face is that of unequal responsibility, a difficulty generated by sex-roles. The attitude which is most prevalent outside the organization is that which regards women as "groupies" or secretaries. Frequently women who serve as representatives of the organization are ignored by outside groups or the media merely because we are women. Within the organization there is a problem with male dominance in certain areas. Because VVAW/WSO was originally a veterans' organization, men tend to control discussions and decisions concerning military and war policy. By far the most pressing inequality which we face as members of VVAW/WSO is one which is self-imposed. Frequently we have not minded working side-by-side with male members, but when it came to representing VVAW/WSO outside the organization, we have deferred to the men. It has only been in recent months that women locally have been appearing as representatives to outside organizations and to the media. This has taken place with encouragement from both men and women in the organization.

From January to May of this year, twelve people trained for counseling, though this was primarily intended for people experiencing

PVS (Post Vietnam Struggle). Some training was noted to work with groups in rap sessions well. At the end of May the women who had gone through this training started a women's group. Three of the five original members are still active in the group. We now have weekly meetings on Monday evenings at the Storefront at 363 Connecticut St. The group has maintained participation with between eight and twelve women regularly attending meetings. Generally, we concentrate on topics of particular interest to the group. We've dealt with personal problems and conflicts of individual members of the group, and have given strength to our sisters. On one occasion we met with several brothers from the organization as we felt we would all benefit from a joint discussion of certain concepts and experiences. It was a good session and we hope to continue this practice at regular intervals.

The major portion of our political work is done jointly, since we are fighting the same sources of oppression. We feel this is necessary in the struggle to improve our society, and to eliminate sexism in all people. As is stated in part of objective eight of the ten objectives of VVAW/WSO, "We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization, and within ourselves."

ATTACHMENT 2 VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/
WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK - NORTHERN NEW JERSEY REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. Box 902 Ellicott Station
Buffalo, N.Y. 14205

October 18, 1973.

Dear Members of the National Collective -

At the recent New York - N. New Jersey regional meeting, it was decided that a letter of criticism was in order concerning recent occurrences involving the National Office and the decision-making process determining national VVAW/WSO actions. We have four specific points to deal with:

1. At the NSCM in St. Louis, it was voted that the National Office prepare and distribute a national amnesty petition reflecting the VVAW/WSO amnesty position and following the direction set after discussion of the workshop report (p. 16, St. Louis minutes). To date, this has not been done. At least the text can be prepared and distributed through either "Winter Soldier" or the newsletter.
2. It was also determined that those members of the organization directly involved with NCUUA prep are a statement on the pros and cons of affiliating with NCUUA (also p. 16). This also has not been done.
3. The report in the NSCM minutes concerning the Mass Organizations Workshop is misleading (p. 18-19). It is unclear by the text that the second proposal was passed after being separated from its "red-baiting" introduction. The way it is printed makes it appear as if the introduction was also passed.

Indochina Solidarity Week:

- a. The time between the NSCM and Indochina Solidarity Week was not enough to effectively organize around an issue of this importance. In future actions more lead time should be planned.
- b. The theme of the action was fully supported, but its timing and intent seemed arbitrary. Chapters without educational resources had a hard time drawing analytical tie-ins between Indochina and class and economic developments in this country. In future actions an organizing pamphlet or position paper would be a welcome tool.
- c. The poster used was very unpopular. The text was too small, the graphics weren't eye-catching, and the paper stock was poorly suited for efficient posterizing. In the future, posters should be designed with their function well in mind.

It was also felt that the regional office had done a poor job in passing information and materials to the chapters. Only Buffalo and New York City were able to generate any sort of activity around the theme and they failed to get their general membership behind them very well. Overall, though, it was felt that, where activity did take place, people were made more aware of the ongoing struggles of the Indochinese people and of VVAW/WSO's presence as a credible anti-imperialist organization. The October issue of "Winter Soldier" was well received everywhere it was seen.

For the Region.
In Solidarity and Struggle,

Steve Hassett

ATTACHMENT 3

The text of the letter of support to Frente Unido:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The New York-Northern New Jersey Region of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization supports your march to free Oscar Collazo, Lolita LeBrun, Andreas Figueroa Codero, Irving Flores and Rafael Cancel Miranda and all political prisoners held by the government of the United States.

Our recent victory against an attack of political repression by the Administration must be considered as a victory by all of those involved in the struggle to end such repression in this and in all countries of the world.

Yours is another battle in this conflict and we from VVAW/WSO will support this and other efforts of yours for your and our ultimate victory.

Comrades in Struggle,

Steve Hassett
Regional Coordinator
- NY-NNJ Region
VVAW/WSO

Potsdam - Chapter inactive; generally campus oriented and working on vets benefits issue.

Orange County - Don Abrams out of the Army and reorganizing chapter; making new contacts with vets and other interested people; main thrust of interest is amnesty campaign.

Suffolk County - Chapter active but needs imagination; no clearly defined political goals; getting "Winter Soldier" sales in gas stations, stores, etc.; working on coalition and class action suit against county police harrasment and brutality.

Westchester County - Chapter formerly inactive; will be reforming with campus base.

Oneonta - (Oneonta was not at the meeting - the report is condensed from National newsletter #12) Activities around veteran's benefits, amnesty, Gainesville, "Winter Soldier" sales; worked on a fund-raiser coalition for Attica defense; moving from campus base to community base; good relations with third world people there.

2. Regional Report:

There has been a lack in communications by the RO; too great a lapse since last Regional meeting; RO failed to pass Indochina Solidarity Week posters and information on the smaller chapters; two mailings over summer - one to Regional membership on outdated list, other to list of McGovern supporters - \$436.00 raised, after expenses \$303.00 remaining in RO; Region needs to develop up-to-date mailing list; Ray Winters announced his resignation as Regional Coordinator effective this meeting.

3. NSCM Report:

Maggie Fowler, Ray Winters and Steve Hassett reported on National Steering Committee Meeting in St. Louis, August 24 - 28. Proposals were read and personal impressions given.

4. Direction of VVAW/WSO:

At this time, it was decided to alter the agenda and spend the rest of Saturday afternoon discussing goals and direction of VVAW/WSO before proceeding with any specific issues.

Many areas were covered including relationship of individuals and Chapters to 10 objectives and sense of organizational discipline; role of coordinators at any level in VVAW/WSO; future of VVAW/WSO as mass based organization with political education built largely on work on single issues; implementation and meaning of Winter Soldier concept; need for more political education on all levels. In a round robin fashion, every member present discussed their feelings on these issues and their motivations for being in VVAW/WSO.

The role and purpose of "Winter Soldier" newspaper were also discussed. It was felt the paper should deal more with the struggle in the US.

TO: VVAW/WSO

FROM: VVAW/WSO Members on NCUUA

SUBJECT: Organizational Membership and Participation in NCUUA

4-19-95 sflb/ala

History

During the first months of 1973, the National Office Collective was asked to participate, along with other groups, in writing the first draft of a position paper on the subject of amnesty. Criticisms were shared, and a position paper was submitted to the National Steering Committee meeting in Placitas, New Mexico in April. It was adopted by that body as the official position of the organization, and is also the position paper of the other organizations which participated in writing it.

At the same time that the position paper was being drafted, a coalition of groups met in Washington, D. C. to attempt to analyze and come up with a position on amnesty. VVAW/WSO was one of the organizations which agreed to call for that meeting and discuss the subject with other individuals and groups. That conference adopted a position for universal and unconditional amnesty, and called for a conference to be held in May, in Toronto, which would further discuss the position of universal and unconditional amnesty. The Washington Conference also called for the creation of a National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA), and elected six people to a Steering Committee of that body. Those six represented the ACLU, IALC, WSP, CCCO, SCEF and the Inter Religious Task Force. The Toronto Conference was charged with electing six people who would represent those people in need of an amnesty. This election would complete the process of creating the organization of NCUUA.

By the time of the May conference, VVAW/WSO had adopted the position paper, and therefore as an organization, was able to participate in the conference and work fully with those groups who supported an amnesty which was universal and unconditional, and which included all those who had resisted the war in any form.

Over thirty VVAW/WSO members attended the conference, from all parts of the United States. Since one of the groups in need of amnesty would be veterans without honorable discharges, that group was entitled to one representative on the Steering Committee of NCUUA. Ed Damato, of the National Office Collective, was nominated by the VVAW/WSO caucus and was elected by the conference to that position. His position is to represent all veterans in need of amnesty, not VVAW/WSO in particular.

Five other people were elected to the Steering Committee at Toronto to represent the amnesty constituency: Jeff Hayes, representing GIs (Ft. Meade project); Walter Collins, representing prisoners (Southern Conference Educational Fund); Andy Rutherford, representing families of resisters (Vancouver American Exile Association); Dee Knight, representing exiles (AMEK-Canada); Jeanne Friedman, representing civilian resisters (Campaign for Amnesty). Jeff was later replaced by Ilie Weissman (Legal In-Service Project). Jeanne Friedman later joined VVAW/WSO -- Campaign for Amnesty had been one of the groups which participated in writing and adopting the position paper on amnesty that was also adopted by VVAW/WSO.

Meaning of Election to NCUUA

The six people elected at the Toronto Conference represent their constituencies, not their organization. It was decided at that conference that, in the absence of a unified movement to speak for the entire constituency, the organization from which those elected came would make all decisions about that person's role, or to substitute a person, if need be, until the next general meeting of NCUUA which would be held in the Spring of 1974. All of the six people share a commitment to universal and unconditional amnesty, and it is also true that the organizations from which they come hold that view.

Meaning of Membership in NCUUA

As NCUUA was getting underway, it was felt necessary to ask groups and individuals to indicate their support for a universal and unconditional amnesty by joining NCUUA. When VVAW/WSC was asked to join it was on the basis of its support for amnesty, and it was possible to join because such membership was an indication of support for the broadest possible amnesty, and because membership does not entail any organizational dominance of member groups by NCUUA. The membership of VVAW/WSC is not linked directly to the participation on the Steering Committee by the two people who are members of the organization. Their responsibility is to their amnesty constituency. Therefore, they can participate in decision making of that body, speaking in the interests of the people they represent, in line with the national VVAW/WSC position paper on amnesty. Any decision involving VVAW/WSC participation would be subject to approval of the National Steering Committee.

Importance of NCUUA

NCUUA is comprised of over 100 organizations from across the country. These organizations range from local to national, from pacifist to revolutionary, from liberal to radical. All groups are working for universal and unconditional amnesty.

The constituency of each organization dictates the strategy of their campaigns for amnesty. Some groups think it best to work for amnesty through Congressional action. Some think it more important to organize at grass-roots levels while others believe in achieving amnesty through symbolic protest.

The objective of each strategy remains universal and unconditional amnesty. NCUUA does not sanction one form of work over another. What it does do is allow for the various constituencies to get together to discuss the general over-view of the amnesty movement within the United States and Canada, and to encourage dialogue between these various strategies in order that the groups may find common ground upon which to work together.

The absence of NCUUA would hamper coordination between these groups which could make it more difficult to finally achieve amnesty. It is for this reason that it is vital to continue affiliation with NCUUA. It provides VVAW/WSC with the ability to understand and to hopefully influence the actions of the various groups around the country in working for an amnesty that is compatible with the position paper adopted by the VVAW/WSC National Steering Committee.

1160 Pennsylvania #3
 Denver, Colorado 80203
 Phone-303-534-6285

16 October 1973

For Further info contact:

Tom Bernard
 Bill Johnson
 303-534-6285 (Denver)
 Al Reynolds
 212-722-4262 (New York)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 4-19-95 BY SP6 BJK/MS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"DISPOSITION OF RICHARD BUCKLIN"

Richard Dean Bucklin, 28 year old Denverite, who was Absent Without Leave (AWOL) from the US Army for five years (of which four years were spent in exile in Sweden), remains in a maximum security detention cell at the Ft. Carson, Colorado, stockade.

Bucklin voluntarily returned to military control in Denver, Colorado on October 4, 1973. Shortly before surrendering to military authorities, Bucklin held an open press conference at which he stated:

"I have spent five years in exile and it looks like I will spend two years in Leavenworth. They (the Army) are going to throw the book at me."

Bucklin said he wanted his prosecution and possible imprisonment to "mean something, to have an effect--to make the American people aware of the plight of all war resisters". Bucklin further told news reporters that all he wanted to do was "to live in this country and start my life over again", but first he wanted to expose the Army and the military for what they are, "headless giants who not only don't mind killing the peoples of foreign lands, but also don't mind destroying their own people in order to further their goals".

Ft. Carson authorities provide the following rationale for holding Bucklin in maximum security since October 5th:

"We put him in maximum security because we felt that the Vietnam Veterans in our stockade might physically harm Bucklin or kill him."

The Defense will request his release from the stockade in Federal Courts on Wednesday, the 17th of October, based on the following:
 a) He turned himself in one time at Ft. Carson in July of 1973; b) The Army promised him an Undesireable Discharge in lieu of a courts-martial; c) The Army granted him an extended leave; d) The Army changed it's mind and ordered him back to face courts-martial; e) He voluntarily returned a second time; f) He stated at a public press conference that he was prepared to go to jail; g) He presents no danger to the community or himself; h) And there is no reasonable basis on which to believe that he will go AWOL again.

An Article 32 hearing was held at Ft. Carson for Bucklin on Thursday, October 11th. An Article 32 hearing is a preliminary hearing of evidence, the purpose of which is to inquire into the truth of the matters set forth in the charges (two counts of AWOL), the form of the charges, and to secure information upon which to determine what disposition should be made of the case.

The hearing began with Bucklin being presented to 1st Lt. John Cully, an Article 32 investigative officer, in an ill-fitting, tattered green uniform, stained with grease and dirt, with one sleeve of his fatigues shirt missing completely.

Attorneys on the Defense team (Rudy Schwere & Jeff Goldstein of the National Lawyers Guild, Captain Allan Friedberg, Staff Judge Advocate assigned to Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver, and Captain Alfred Juechter, a Ft. Carson military defense counsel) made an immediate objection.

Schwere told Cully, "I believe the Government of the United States and the Army of the United States have a duty to provide our client with a proper fitting uniform."

Friedberg told Cully the uniform Bucklin was wearing was "three sizes too big, has no Army insignia and has a torn sleeve."

Cully said he was conducting the hearing to determine what the evidence was in the case and wasn't concerned with Bucklin's appearance. But at the insistence of the Defense counsel, Cully recessed the hearing for one hour and fifteen minutes while Bucklin was escorted to an Army sales store and outfitted with a uniform of his size, complete with insignia.

When the hearing began again, Bucklin's four defense lawyers insisted on cross-examining two army officers who signed the morning reports stating Bucklin went AWOL on August 6, 1968, rather than relying upon the "hearsay evidence" the Army was presenting.

1st Lt. Cully recessed the hearing once again to inquire on the feasibility of the request. He was immediately called to the chambers of Ft. Carson Staff Judge Advocate, Colonel Mundt, for some quick lessons on military law. Colonel Mundt also confronted Captain Allan Friedberg, defense counsel, with a statement questioning his "ethics" in making such an "unreasonable demand".

When the hearing was reconvened Cully informed defense lawyers, that "He made checks" and found that the two officers in question were no longer in the military and had "no known addresses". He then informed the defense that the morning reports would be accepted as evidence, despite their continuing protests, and that the two former officers would be made available during the actual trial. (In essence, the hearing officer determined that hearsay evidence against Bucklin would be substantial to try him by general courts-martial---Military Justice is to Justice what Military Music is to Music) The "evidence" was placed into the records and the hearing was convened.

Defense is contemplating a motion to disqualify Colonel Mundt based on the impropriety of his statements to defense counsel, Captain Allan Friedberg. If Mundt is disqualified, a motion for change of venue (moving Bucklin and the trial to a different location) will follow (preferably to Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center).

The Richard Bucklin Defense Committee, composed of representatives of Rocky Mountain Military Project, the National Lawyers Guild, Draft & Military Counseling Center, and Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization, is in need of time and money in order to defray legal expenses and to conduct the type of nation-wide publicity campaign this case deserves.

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: The Richard Bucklin Defense Committee
C/O RNMP
1460 Pennsylvania
Denver, Colorado 80203

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR,
WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK - NORTHERN NEW JERSEY REGIONAL OFFICE
c/o Steve Hassett P.O. Box 902 Ellicott Station
Buffalo, NY 14205

Minutes of the Regional meeting - Ithaca, NY October 13 & 14, 1973

Chapters Present: New York City, Rochester, Buffalo, Suffolk Cnty,
Orange Cnty, Westchester Cnty, Potsdam, Ithaca.

Agenda:

1. Chapter Report
2. Regional Report
3. NSCM Report
4. Discussion on NSC Proposals
5. Indochina Solidarity Week
6. Operation County Fair
7. Frente Unido
8. VVAW/WSO direction
9. Gainesville
10. People's Lawsuit to recall 1972 elections
11. "Winter Soldier" distribution
12. Regional responsibilities and election
13. Amnesty and discharge upgrading
14. Oct. 27th Karl Armstrong action
15. Jr. ROTC
16. Political prisoners
17. Veteran's Day
18. New Business

1. Chapter Reports:

Buffalo - Chapter showing some growth; nine members went to Gainesville demos; storefront being used more; selling "Winter Soldier" at Unemployment office; strong ongoing women's rap group; some work with Attica Defense; fairly successful Indochina Solidarity Week with leafletting, postering, press conference and movies; distributing WHAM, Free Fire Zone and "Winter Soldier" at VA Hospital. (Attachment 1)

New York City - Moved into new office and reorganizing chapter; starting discharge upgrading project; one issue of paper called "Lock & Load" out but confusion nature and direction; working on action at St. Alban's Naval Hospital to protest closing; very successful Gainesville victory night celebration; ongoing rap groups; guerilla theater and leafletting around Indochina Solidarity Week; some staffing problems.

Rochester - Media presentations, mostly on PVS; selling "Winter Soldier" and working on library subscriptions; no Indochina Solidarity Week activity; hoping to get into high schools around films and Jr. ROTC; chapter too small to generate much activity.

Ithaca - Chapter dormant over summer and now reactivitine; working with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom on Saigon political prisoners issue.

Handwritten:
4-19-75
J. B. [unclear]

4-19-95 J66/ML

Newsletter

Vol 3 number 1

October 27, 1973

Brothers, Sisters, Friends & Allies,

As you can see, this is the start of a new series of Regional newsletters for the New York - Northern New Jersey Region. Hopefully, this will come out every month, but it can only do so with your support and input. Its intention is to make people more aware of the programs and activities of VVAW/WSO and to provide resources and information that can be applied to advance these programs within the Region.

The newsletter will go out to the following groups and people: The National Office, all Regions and project offices, chapters and membership within this Region, active duty service people, prisoners, political groups financial contributors and friends. Each issue, one subject will be dealt with in some detail. This time it is structure of VVAW/WSO. Right now, there isn't enough money to mail this to the entire Regional membership, so only those members who have directly contacted the Regional Office or responded to a fund raising letter will receive it until something can be worked out.

It will also serve as a means of correcting or updating minutes of Regional meetings and position statements.

To insure the success of the newsletter, we would like to hear from every chapter within the Region by the 20th of each month. Even if there has been no activity, we'd like to hear something. Without steady communications, no support can be provided. Also, we'd like copies of any leaflets, etc. any chapter does to attach them to each copy of the newsletter - about 200 copies to start.

In order to eventually work out a Regional mailing the mailing list has to be updated. Right now, it's about 2 years out of date. All Chapters should update theirs and provide us with a copy as soon as possible. Individuals not working with an active Chapter should provide us with as many names as possible. Always try to get names of active duty brothers and sisters and people in prison.

CHANGES:

The following changes within the Region should be noted:

Russ Brown, Suffolk County Coordinator, has changed addresses. He's now at 53 South Evergreen Drive, Selden, NY.

Same for Don Abrams in Orange County. His new address is Apt 3A2, Fletcher Heights Apts., Fletcher St., Goshen, NY 10924.

The Regional Office has also changed. Ray Winters has resigned as Coordinator and the new Coordinator is Steve Hasset. The mailing address is PO Box 902, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14205. His home address is 21 Marigold St., Buffalo, NY 14215. Phone is 716-836-7967.

STRUCTURE:

Briefly, VVAW/WSO is composed of five elements: the National Office, Regions, Chapters, Projects, and the National Steering Committee (NSC).

The National Office is in Chicago and is made up of six coordinators elected for one year terms. It functions as a living/working collective. Among its responsibilities are the implementation of policy, coordinating activity on a national level, and putting out the monthly newspaper "Winter Soldier". Coordinators can be elected to consecutive terms, but a policy

change is in the manner that would have them doing some sort of work on a Chapter level between terms in the NO.

The primary function of the Regions is communications. Regions vary in size and activity, but there are currently over twenty active Regions in the country. Some have a single coordinator - others a collective. This newsletter gives an overview of some Regional responsibilities.

The Chapters are the most important level of VVAW/WSO. This is where activity is carried on and organizing takes place. Most policy to be implemented is generated from the Chapter level. Each Chapter is pretty much left to determine it's own degree of activity and direction as long as it's consistent with the ten objectives of VVAW/WSO. In addition to Chapters across the country, we have Chapters on military bases overseas, on aircraft carriers, and in prisons.

Projects serve specialized functions and may be either permanent or temporary in conception. Current projects are the PVS (Post Vietnam Struggle) Clearinghouse in Milwaukee, the Amnesty Clearinghouse in Chicago, NOSCAM (GI organizing) in Ohio and Illinois, Operation County Fair in Alabama (where VVAW/WSO members are helping to build a people's medical clinic in a rural area), the Gary Lawton Defense Committee and the recent active Gainesville Defense Committee and News Bureau.

The National Steering Committee is perhaps the most important element of VVAW/WSO in regards to policy and organizational consistency. It meets every four months and is composed of five-person delegations from each Region and members of the National Office. National Coordinators cannot vote or make proposals. Any proposals dealing with policy have to be discussed and voted on at the Chapter and Regional levels before being voted on at the NSC meeting.

In keeping with the implementation of the Winter Soldier concept, VVAW/WSO membership - including elected positions - is open to anyone who supports the 10 objectives. This based on the realization that there is nothing glorious or worthy in being a veteran of Vietnam and that, in many ways, we are all veterans of the brutalization and racism of American imperialism. The name itself comes from a statement made by Tom Paine, a writer in the first American Revolution:

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

JUNIOR ROTC:

Some members of the New York City Chapter are doing research into the meaning and implementation of Jr. ROTC in New York State and elsewhere. As you may know, a bill authorizing such programs was passed in the final hours of the legislative term last spring after having been defeated once previously. (At the same time, the legislators gave themselves a \$5000 annual raise.) If you have, or can get, any information concerning Jr. ROTC programs and curriculum in NYS or any other state, please send it to Joe Urgo in the NY City Chapter or care of the Regional Office.

CORRECTION:

At the recent NY-NNJ Regional meeting, it was decided to send a letter of criticism to the National Office concerning Indochina Solidarity Week (Oct. 1-8) and some other items. Due to an oversight on the RO's part, the suggestion that graphics and posters for future actions be previewed either in "Winter Soldier" or at a NSCM was left out of the letter and the Regional minutes. Sorry.

NIXON:

At the last Regional meeting, we agreed to support the National Lawyers Guild lawsuit to recall the 1972 presidential elections. Nixon's firing of Cox, his subsequent actions with the tapes, and his jingoistic moves in the Mid East bring things to a head. National feels all Chapters should support impeachment rallies, demos, drives, etc. and we feel the same, so don't feel the decision taken at the meeting precludes any pro-impeachment activity.

AMNESTY:

National has just published the VVAW/WSO Position Paper on Amnesty in pamphlet form. The RO has ordered 150 copies for the Region. Active Chapters should order their own supply soon from National.

ARRIVAL:

Gary and Carol Kenyon of Rochester have a baby girl, Denise Lynn, born Monday, Oct. 22. She's a strong girl and can already make the power sign. Right on!

RESOURCES:

This will be a running resource list to encourage and develop activity within the Region. Any suggestions from Chapters, Regions and individuals are welcome.

Films: (on hand in the Region)

Regional Office	Dewey Canyon III*
	Winter Soldier (Americal Div)*
New York City	Winter Soldier (Americal Div)*
	Pentagon Papers*
	Dewey Canyon III*
	Training in Army
Buffalo	Winter Soldier (90 minutes)*
	Winter Soldier (1st MarDiv)*
	Only the Beginning*
Rochester	Pentagon Papers*

* These films are available to VVAW/WSO Chapters for the cost of mailing from Ohio Newsreel, PO Box 19241, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. They have a catalog of good films which can be rented cheaply.

Buffalo can also get a Medical Aid to Indochina slide show - War and Medicine - on medical care in the DRV and PRG.

"Vietnam: A Question of Torture" a BBC documentary on prisoners in Thieu's regime is available from Rev. John Cupples RFS, Boston Clergy and Laity Concerned, 474 Centre St., Boston, Mass. 02158 (617-969-7900). Cost is \$10.00 plus shipping. AFSC, 48 Inman St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139 has the same film at the same price.

Buttons:

The VVAW/WSO button will be changed soon to include Winter Soldier so National is out of buttons. For the time being, Don Abrams has some extras he will share with Regional membership.

VVAW/WSO Policy:

All Chapters should have the following minutes and papers -

Regional minutes - Oneonta, Dec. 72; Newburgh, Feb. 73; Geneseo, Apr. 73; Albany, June 73; Ithaca, Oct. 73.

National minutes - Palo Alto, Cal; Sept/Oct. 72; Chicago, Ill. Jan. 73; Placitas, NM. Apr. 73; St. Louis, Mo. Aug. 73. Also the Position Paper on Amnesty and the June 1973 organizational working paper.

Placita and Regional minutes and the Amnesty pamphlet are available from the RO. Order the rest from National.

Also available from National are:

Winning Hearts and Minds (poetry by Vietnam veterans) \$1.00 each

Free Fire Zone (short stories by Vietnam veterans) \$1.50 each

The New Soldier (photo book on Dewey Canyon III) \$2.50 each

"The People of Vietnam Have Been Victorious" (poster) .10¢ each

"Unconditional Amnesty for all War Resisters" (posters) .10¢ each

Other Resources:

Hostages of War: Saigon's Political Prisoners by Don Luce and Holmes Brown \$1.50 from Indochina Mobile Education Project, 1322 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. Ask for their catalog.

Indochina Solidarity Committee, Box C, Old Chelsea Station, NY, NY 10011. Many items - catalog and samples for \$1.00.

The US Military Apparatus from North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), Box 57, Cathedral Station, NY, NY 10025. (The RO is ordering some) Also a magazine/newsletter for \$6.00 per year.

The AMRC Papers. \$1.25 from Science for the People, 306 North Brocks St., Madison, Wisconsin 53715. Background on the Karl Armstrong war resistance case.

PABLO NERUDA'S LAST POEM:

This was written 3 days before the Chilean coup. Since then Neruda, Nobel Prize Winner, Communist and friend of Allende, has died - according to the junta - "of cancer". His manuscripts were seized by the junta.

Nixon, Frei and Pinochet,
even now, up to this bitter day
in the month of September
of the year 1973
with Bordaberry, Garrastazu and
Banzer,
you are the ravenous hyenas of
our history,
rodents gnawing at the banners
that were raised
with so much blood and so many
flames,
pillagers from hell,
wallowing in your haciendas,
pharisees, a thousand times sold
out,

and selling still, scared
by the wolf packs from Wall Street,
greedy manufacturers of misery,
stained by the sacrifice
of a martyred people,
prostituted peddlars
of the bread and the air of America,
hangmen, swine in your cesspools
in your bosses' whorehouses,
with torture your only law.

And the lasting hunger of the People.

(from "The Lincoln Gazette")



VIETNAMESE VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR - VVAW - A SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

NO. 14

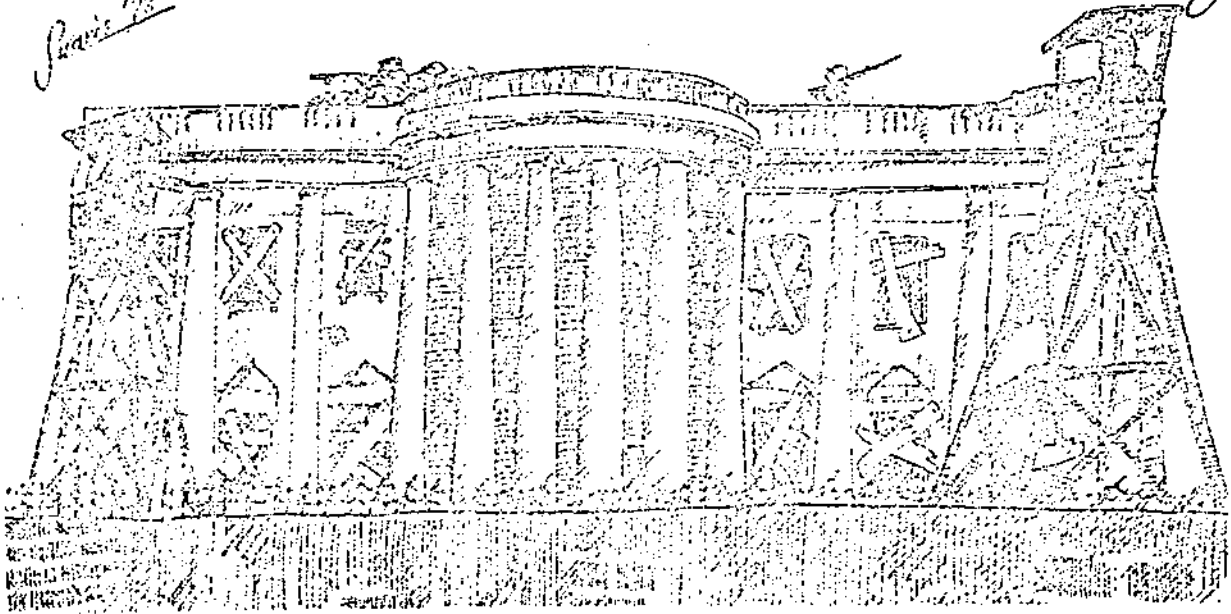
NATIONAL OFFICE
627 West Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
Tel. (312) 835-2129

NOV. 4, 1973

General Information

NOV 13 1973
4-19-95 8/6/91

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Impeach the President!

Lying, stealing and cheating are not new to President Nixon, or any previous president for that matter. But the latest act of declaring the "Dean" and "Mitchell" tapes non-existent may be the straw that broke the camel's back. The next important step for us is to kick the gangster out.

The American people are beginning to demand his impeachment or resignation and we must push the process along. Only 27% of the people approve of Nixon, 35% want his impeachment, and a concerted effort by people's organizations can push it forward.

The gains to the people of America and the world are obvious -- a weakening of executive authority (which will weaken the ability of a president to re-enter Indochina with troops or the Middle East) and a small retribution for the 6,000,000 victims of Indochina and the 200,000,000 victims here in America.

We encourage all chapters and regions to participate in actions which will lead to the eviction of Nixon.

San Quentin 6 "Plead" Not Guilty

On October 26, the San Quentin 6 (Johnny Larry Spain, Hugo Pinell, Luis Talamantez, Fleeta Drumgo, David Johnson and Willie Tate) were to enter pleas of guilty or not guilty on 12 charges stemming from the August 21, 1971, incident in which George Jackson was murdered.

Five of the six men remained silent when asked to plea and Talamantez responded with "innocent." Judge Broderick then took the liberty of entering pleas of not guilty for all of the brothers, without their consent.

The reason that the "6" remained silent rather than offer a plea is based on their valid contention that they are being tried in the U. S. District Court illegally and have been chained, shackled and often physically assaulted, without consideration for their right to a fair and impartial trial. Each man is facing 5 counts of murder and overt acts of conspiracy.

No trial date for the "6" has yet been set. Lawyers are still arguing on motions for change of venue and a speedy trial for all defendants.

Farah Tries to Trick the People

The boycott of Farah slacks, supporting striking workers of Farah Manufacturing Company, has been so successful that the company is now selling its products under new names.

According to the union, the new names are: Cliff Mark, Beau Mark, Golden Scroll, Passport, Club 20, Par Excellent, Su Par Jeans, Daire, and Kinrod. Supporters of the strike are asked to watch for these -- and don't buy them.

Other things not to do: Don't buy non-union lettuce and grapes. Don't buy Campell's soups that contain clams and oysters (in support of Norfolk oyster workers, still on strike). Don't buy Gulf Oil products.

"Soldiers and Strikers" -- A Book Well Worth Reading

Enclosed with the newsletter is a copy of "Soldiers and Strikers" by Vincent Pinto. This book contains a good history of major labor strikes and the role that the U. S. military has played in strike-breaking. The book is quite interesting and we encourage chapters to read and discuss the information contained in the book.

We have been receiving books from Hanoi for the past several months. We don't know who ordered the books, but they are consistently arriving. We have received many copies of some of the books, so we have decided to offer the books for sale to the chapters. Following is a list of the books that we have available for 50¢ each. If people are interested in improving their historical and political understanding of Vietnam, these books would be a good place to start the educational process. Order from the National Office.

Traditional Vietnam -- Some Historical Stages
Forward Under the Glorious Banner of the October Revolution
Indochina 1971 - 1972
A Century of National Struggles
U. S. Neo-Colonialism in South Vietnam
The Men of Company 97
History of the August Revolution
The Ivory Comb
Third Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front
The Late December of 1972 - U. S. Blitz on North Vietnam
U. S. War Crimes in Vietnam
Worthy Daughters and Sons of Lao People

USS John F. Kennedy

Resistance in the Navy is growing and the USS JFK (an aircraft carrier) is no exception. The Kennedy was due to return from a tour in the Mediterranean on October 22nd. Instead, they received order to return and stand by as back-up forces for the Middle East Conflict.

Reaction on the Kennedy was immediate: "Our sea Daddy came over the intercom this morning and told us that we will not be home on time and that we were supporting this so called war! Well, I would like to tell you one thing, I don't! I am tired of the blue screw! I don't feel that I should be subject to a war that I know nothing about!"

Numerous letters received from the people on the Kennedy indicate that this feeling is not confined to just a few people. Several people who have been active with the VVAW/WSO chapter on the boat have been threatened with conspiracy charges as a result of their efforts. One was told by a lifer that if he got caught with more than one copy of Winter Soldier he was going to get it -- apparently meaning a court martial. One brother had a package of Winter Soldiers torn open in the ship's mail room. He was called to the Master At Arms shack to pick them up and told: "You're heading for an unsuitability discharge, boy. The Navy doesn't like VVAW/WSO." Well, dear Navy, VVAW/WSO ain't too crazy about you, either.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of the Army SPNs. These were compiled from the Discharge Upgrading Project, the Red Cross and other sources.

SPNs are but one aspect of how the military uses the discharge system to identify and control people past their military service. They are to be found in the Reason and Authority section of the DD 214 (Block 11).

The VVAW/WSO chapter in Dayton, Ohio compiled this list and will continue to do so and reprint them for the chapters. Dayton particularly needs SPNs for services other than the Army. All available information should be sent to VVAW/WSO, P.O. Box 1625, Dayton, Ohio 45401.

Helpful Hints and Notes on Discharge Upgrading

When an individual has his/her discharge upgraded to a general or honorable by the review boards, eligibility for G.I. Bill benefits begins on the date of the board decision and is good for eight years thereafter.

Congressman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) has a bill in the Armed Services Committee that would place limitations on the reasons for giving less-than-honorable discharges. The first section of the bill reads just like our demand for a single grade of discharge. Then, as would be typical, it gets screwed-up by the conditions which are also part of the bill. We would suggest that people write for copies of HR 9646 and make their comments to Stokes on his bill. There is practically no chance that the bill will ever make it out of Committee, but it does offer an opportunity to do some education.

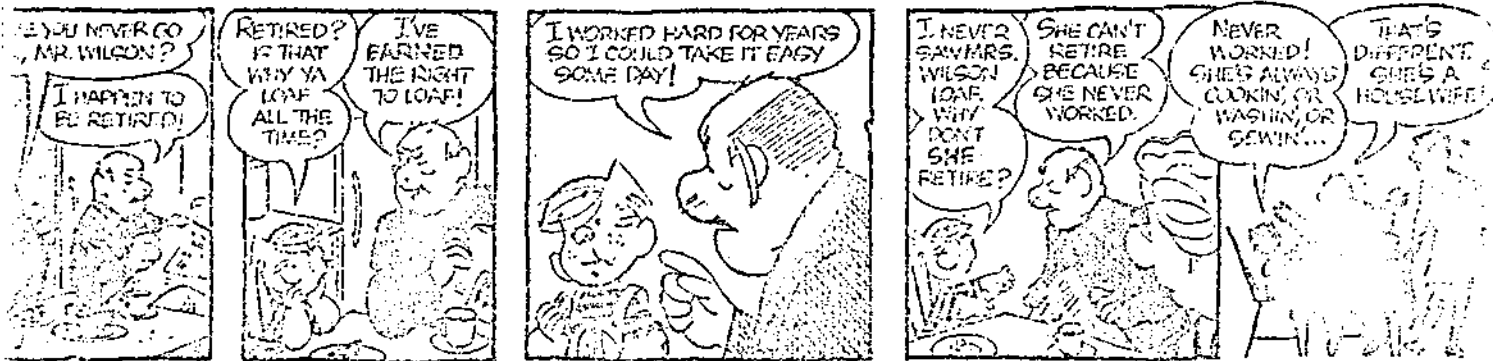
Navy and Air Force Boards of Review seem to be a little bit faster and more liberal than the Boards of the other services at the present time.

People who received an administrative discharge for simple possession or use of drugs prior to July of 1971, can get their discharges changed with relative ease. The Secretary of Defense (Laird) issued an order which said that all people having such discharges would have them administratively reviewed and upgraded by the service concerned. In theory, people were supposed to have been notified of this action, but in practice, this never happened.

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors has brought two new pamphlets of interest to folks doing counseling. The first is entitled "Upgrading Discharges" and is dated, July 1973. This gives a basic explanation of what is involved in doing a case. The pamphlets cost 20¢ each or 10 for \$1.20. "Guide for the AWOL GI" is a basic pamphlet of advice for military people on the Lam for whatever reason. This is one of CCCO's better efforts to date.

100 copies are available from any CCCO office for \$5.00. Orders can be sent to CCCO, 2016 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

CCCO has also brought out the latest edition of their "Military Counselors Directory." This lists current known projects and people who are doing military counseling. An update service, to be done every three months, is also available with the directory. The total cost is \$2.50, which includes the directory and one years updating. If you or your chapter has knowledge of anyone doing draft, military or veterans counseling, send their name, address, phone number, hours of business, nearest military bases (and distance from center) and other pertinent information to the CCCO Philadelphia office.



Electronic Surveillance Resource

For those of you who missed the workshop on electronic surveillance at the St. Louis NSCM, here is the book which will help familiarize you with this field: The Electronic Invasion, by Robert M. Brown, Hayden Book Co., Rochelle Park, New Jersey. \$4.95.

Alternate Communication

At the Placitas NSCM one of the workshops discussed alternate forms of communication. One of the tasks to be worked on that came out of that workshop was to find information on ham radios. So, belatedly, here it is. Write to the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111. They have books for sale and can give you the best information on becoming an amateur radio operator.

JOURNAL NUMBER 88

Special Thanks to Chapters who Donated to the Cause of the National Office

Since the last newsletter, the responses to our pleas for money have been, in our opinion, overwhelming. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the following chapters and regions for their support: Buffalo, NY; Columbus, Ohio; Rochester, NY; Normal, Ill; Washington, D. C.; Oakland-East Bay, Cal; San Francisco, Cal; Miami, Fla; New York City, NY; Dayton, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; and the MOINKWPAWVA regional office. The money which has been sent has helped us to keep this office open and operating. It is encouraging to see that people are willing to support their organization with their hard-earned pennies when the going gets rough. Other chapters have contacted us and informed us that they would have donated, but the chapter itself is in extreme financial trouble. To these people, we also thank you for responding to our pleas.

Discharge Upgrading Project Newsletter

The first newsletter published by the Discharge Upgrading Project in San Francisco, California has been enclosed with this newsletter. The DUP newsletter will give you an idea of the work that is being done by the DUP, as well as filling you in on the S. F. chapter activities.

VVAW/WSO Chapter formed in U. S. Disciplinary Barracks

In recent weeks, brothers in the USDB at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas have formed a VVAW/WSO chapter. Though totally underground, they now have 15 members in their chapter. Regional offices who receive information from NOSCAM should be aware of your responsibilities to these brothers. Send them the information asked for! The isolation of people in prison can only be broken down by communication.

Here are some excerpts from a recent letter about the USDB: "Every officer that gets busted for something and comes here goes straight to "B" Custody. They have three custody levels - C, B, and A. C custody is the prison life, racial difficulties day in and day out, assaults and batteries all the time . . . two hundred and fifty guys to use at the most six showers that are working. I could go on and on about little shit but adds to a lot when you're on the inside looking out. B custody -- no locked doors, no lock ups, two colored TVs, liveable environment in general. A custody -- outside the walls, fishing, swimming at an indoor pool on the weekends, work release, etc. You name it, they got it. I feel if these damn officers fuck up enough to go to prison they should start from the bottom and work their way up. They should go through the changes and boredom, and frustration everybody else has to put up with. It takes the average inmate four or five months to get out of C custody to B. They (the officers)

Impeachment Activity

There has been some activity in the chapters calling for the impeachment of you-know-who. We suspect that there is more energy around the impeachment issue than we have heard about, so chapters should be sure to let us know if they are participating in "Throw the Bum Out" type actions.

Buffalo, New York -- Buffalo is participating in a community coalition known as the Committee for the Removal of the President. A rally calling for the resignation or impeachment of Nixon was held on October 26 and the theme "Nixon's Time is Up" was used. Approximately 400 people attended the rally and the march which followed.

Albuquerque, New Mexico -- Albuquerque has been involved in a full-scale effort to get people to write their Congressmen. The chapter helped provide post cards and stamped envelopes to the University of New Mexico community and they plan to do a door-to-door campaign in the rest of the community. In one day alone, over 1,000 letters (all in favor of impeachment or resignation) were sent to Washington, D. C.

Chapter Media Presentations

It is very important for chapters to be involved in film-showings, and other types of media presentations. Two chapters, Buffalo and Kansas City, are conducting film showings as a regular chapter project, and the showings have received wide attendance and positive response in both areas.

Kansas City has access to a theater on one Friday night of each month. Each Friday, another organization is invited to co-sponsor the event and show films relating to the work that is being done by that particular movement group. VVAW/WSO films are also being shown. During intermission, the chapter provides hot chocolate, cider, etc. to the audience, and rap groups and discussions are conducted following the films.

Buffalo is showing films every Friday night in their new Storefront office. The project is called "Political Cinema" and films relating to various political struggles in this country and on the international level are shown. Discussion groups follow the film showings.

Veteran's Day Activity

We have not received detailed reports yet, but we do know that marches and memorial services were conducted by some chapters. Buffalo and Milwaukee held memorial services, while the San Francisco and Oakland-East Bay chapters participated in the Veteran's Day Parade in the Bay Area. The New Mexico region is also planning to participate in a Vet's Day Parade on November 11th.

Redwood City VVAW/WSO and the Williams Street Defense Committee

The Redwood City, California chapter is involved in the Williams Street Defense Committee which provides help for people who are arrested in their community. The defense committee arose after an incident which occurred last December in which four community people (one VVAW/WSO member) were arrested for interfering with a police officer. Actually, they were advising a neighbor of their constitutional rights after a sheriff's deputy had entered the neighbor's house illegally. The trial of these four brothers is to begin on November 15th in Redwood City. Since the arrests, the defense committee has been working on community support and education on the rights of people to be free of unreasonable search and interference by police.

Advice from Dayton VVAW/WSO on How to Do PSAs

Public Service Announcements are one method chapters can employ to build consciousness in the community about projects that the chapter is engaged in. In Dayton, we began running PSAs on several local radio stations for our Draft and Military Counseling Center several months ago. These ads have resulted in a major influx of counseling cases and new members.

Under Federal Communications Commission rules, radio and TV stations are required to make time available to people for announcements "in the public interest." Youth oriented stations are usually the easiest to approach, though all stations locally have some type of "Community Bulletin Board," or similar device for airing PSAs. You will have to check with the local stations wherever you are to get their exact requirements and procedures. Most require several days advance notice for events and usually ask that the PSA be typed out on a 3 x 5 card.

PSAs can be used with almost anything a chapter is doing as a project. There are a few things that we have learned in our use of PSAs that we would like to pass along: 1. Make the PSA short (30 seconds reading time is average) 2. Make it to the point; 3. Try to come up with a catchy opening line that will get people to listen; and 4. Be sure to give an address or a telephone number for people to contact you through.

If chapters are interested in more information or sample copies of the PSAs that Dayton has been running, you should contact the Dayton VVAW/WSO office.

NSCM Set for Antioch, Ohio -- Dec. 27-31

The MOINKVVAWPA regional office has confirmed the next National Steering Committee Meeting, which is to be held in Antioch, Ohio from the date of Dec. 27th to Dec. 31st. Ohio will be sending out information to the regions regarding the pertinent information at a later date, but they have given us some information already. The meeting will be held at the university in Antioch. We will be staying in one of the dormitories, so people will have actual beds to sleep on. Also, there is a heated swimming pool which we will have access to. The host region has requested that all agenda suggestions be sent to the regional office as soon as possible so that we can avoid as much of an agenda hassle at the beginning of the meeting as possible. Suggestions should be sent to: VVAW/WSO, P.O. Box 19302, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Operation County Fair

OK folks, here, hopefully, is the final word on Bogue Chitto addresses. The last address giving Box 85 was incorrect. The correct address for all correspondence is: Diane Schmidt, Route #1 - Box 83, Browns, Alabama 36724. The correct address for sending all medical and pharmaceutical supplies is: Dr. E.A. Maddox, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic, c/o Linda Regnier R.N., Route #1 - Box 83, Browns, Alabama 36724

For those who are unaware, People's Farm and the Bogue Chitto Collective are two separate entities. The people on the Farm are a woman named Cheryl and her three children. Cheryl is the corresponding secretary for the Clinic. The members of the VVAW/WSO Bogue Chitto Collective, Diane, Linda, Rick and George, live down the road. Rick has taken an indefinite leave of absence from the Collective.

The enclosed Operation County Fair Newsletter will be coming out every month.

Position Paper on NCUUA

In St. Louis, the Steering Committee asked that the VVAW/WSO members who are on the NCUUA steering committee put together a paper discussing the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty. This discussion of NCUUA is enclosed with this newsletter. If there are any questions relating to this paper, they should be sent to the National Office or be brought up at the next NSCM.

VVAW/WSO Activity Around Prisons

Since the St. Louis NSCM and the discussion around prisons and prison support work which occurred at that meeting, VVAW/WSO chapters have become increasingly involved and active in prison work. Names of prisoners are being sent to this office by the regions, and the names we receive are being sent out to the regions. The response to the "Prison Project" has grown rapidly and positively, both from VVAW/WSO members and from the inmates themselves. Because of this, we feel that it is vital that the type of work which has been done around prisons continue in the future.

During the week of October 22nd, three regions participated in direct actions against prisons. In Lucasville, Ohio, VVAW/WSO members leafletted visitors and informed them of the repression within Lucasville and called for families and friends of inmates to become involved in putting an end to the repression. The leaflet laid out a list of demands which VVAW/WSO in Ohio is demanding of the Ohio prison system and Lucasville Penitentiary. In Wisconsin, VVAW/WSO women were involved in a demonstration at Waupun State Prison demanding conjugal visits and more lenient and decent visiting rights for families and friends of prisoners. Ten women and four children demonstrated in the warden's office and outside the prison demanding that their request be met. The warden failed to bow to the demands so meetings with the Governor and further actions at Waupun are being planned. In Florida, the region sponsored and participated in a 40-mile march from Gainesville to Starke Prison demanding that the racist and political repression within Starke be halted and prisoners be guaranteed their rights. Nearly 200 people participated in the march on Starke. Corresponding with the Starke action, the Florida region has set up a permanent prison support project and defense fund for the brothers in Starke.

The type of activity which has been increasingly directed at prisons is excellent and should be continued. Also, other regions should seriously consider the possibility of doing similar actions within their areas. Any and all activity centering around prisons should be reported to the National Office and brought to the next NSCM for discussion in the workshop. Also, regions should continue to send in names of prisoners that they know of so that we can have a complete list and put inmates on our Winter Soldier mailing list.

Resumes of People Accepting Nomination for National Office

As discussed at the last NSCM, those persons accepting the nomination for National Coordinator are to put together a resume for the chapters to read. This is being done so that the membership will know something about the individuals' history and current activity. Following are the resumes of the people who have accepted their nominations. Relating to the election of coordinators, we have received word that Walter Klim has declined his nomination. He has not sent in a letter yet, but has notified us by telephone. His written response to his nomination will appear in a later newsletter.

Resume of Marla Watson

22 years old

born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas

attended University of Kansas from 1969 to 1973

Military: None (and proud of it)

Political History: Worked with Black Panther Breakfast Program 1968-69
and did organizing in K. C. inner-city ghettos

Joined K. U. Women's Caucus and worked with other women's organizations in 1970 and 1971 (at which time I realized they were sexist)
Active in "campus" politics from 1969 to 1973 (remnants of SDS) - served on just about every steering committee of the various political coalitions which so often arise on campuses
Joined VVAW/WSO in March, 1972 and became Lawrence chapter coor.
Member of Regional Staff from summer of 1972 to May, 1973
Joined National Collective in May, 1973 and am still there

Current functions in the National Collective: Internal Liaison, Political Prisoners, Prisons, Financial records, Women, Office Manager

Resume of Brian Adams

30 years old

born in Gainesville, Texas and raised in McLean, Virginia

attended University of Wisconsin from 1962 to 1968

Military: Commissioned 2nd Lt., Univ. of Wisconsin ROTC, June 1966

Active Duty: June 1968 - June 1970

Vietnam: August 1969 - June 1970; 13th Scty. Plt., 164th Cbt. Avn. Gp.
1st Avn. Bde.

VVAW/WSO: Joined August 1970

Regional Coordinator of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming from Feb. 1971-Nov. 1971

Regional Coordinator of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming from June 1972-Jan. 1973

National Coordinator from January 1973 to present

Operation RAW, Dewey Canyon III, Colorado Winter Soldier Investigation
National office representative in Gainesville & New Bureau and support demo.

VVAW/WSO delegate to 18th World Conf. Against A&H Bombs, Tokyo,
August, 1972

VVAW/WSO delegate to Moscow World Congress of Peace, Oct., 1973

Miscellaneous: Has never been affiliated with any other political organization other than VVAW/WSO with the exception of La Brigada Venceremos.
Member of 5th contingent of V. B. from February - May, 1972.

Current functions in National Collective: Amnesty, External Liaison, Security

Resume of Ed Damato

27 years old

born and raised in New York City
ex-Catholic

Military: Drafted into Army in May 1966 - Released in 1968

Vietnam: HHC 2nd Bde, 9th Inf. Div. - February 1967 - February 1968

VVAW/WSO: Joined August, 1970

Regional Coordinator of New York State - February 1971 to January 1973

National Coordinator from January 1973 to present

Veteran of Operation RAW, Dewey Canyon III, Republican Convention,
Winter Soldier Investigation - January, 1971 (didn't testify)

Miscellaneous: Delegate to World Peace Congress, Versailles, France,
February, 1972

Delegate to World Peace Congress, Rome, Italy, February, 1973

Member of Steering Committee - National Council for Universal and Un-
conditional Amnesty (NCUUA)

Current functions in National Collective: Internal Liaison, Amnesty, G.I.'s
Press Clippings file

Resume of Sam Schorr

26 years old

born and raised in Los Angeles - middle class Jewish family
2 years of college but only one year credit (thrown out twice)

Military: Enlisted on Feb. 23, 1966 in Army - Released Jan. 17th, 1969

Vietnam: Charley Co., 86th Combat Engineer Bn. 1st & 9th Inf. Div.
September 1966 to September 1967

Political History: Joined SDS immediately after release from service and
stayed until the summer of 1969

Dropped out and moved to Israel in Oct. 1969, returned to States, July 1970

Started a Vets for Peace club at school which later became a VVAW chapter

Worked at VA hospital as a drug counselor on their Methadone program
until bombing of Hanoi

Regional Coordinator of California VVAW/WSO from June 1972 to Jan. 1973

National Coordinator from January, 1973 to present

Participated in WSI in Detroit, 1971 and in Dewey Canyon III

Miscellaneous: VVAW/WSO delegate to 10th World Festival of Youth and Stud-
ents, August, 1973

Current functions in National Collective: Fund raiser, financial records, legal
and incorporation, office machines, W.S. subs and literature sales

Initially there was a great deal of hasseling with the preparatory committee for the Congress and a lot of uncertainty as to whether or not any VVAW / WSO delegates would make it to Moscow. Finally, however, we did manage to get three members there for the Oct. 23 - Nov. 2 meeting. They were Brian Adams of National, Ann Bailey of Wis. - Minn. and John Naveau of N. Ill. - Iowa. Due to the problems we encountered, Bill Hager and John Mussgrave were not allowed to go by the preparatory committee. The background to this and to some other incidents that occurred during the trip will be more fully explained at the December NSCM.

By far, the most productive results of the trip were the numerous personal contacts we established with various liberation struggles going on around the world. To actually meet with such an incredible number of organizations and governments actively involved in liberating their nations from U. S. imperialism was a very moving experience. To mention but a few, we held bilateral meetings with the Lao Patriotic Front, GRUNC (Cambodia), the PRG, the DRV, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, the PFLOAG (Arab Gulf), ZAPU (Zimbabwe), Tanzania, Yemen, Trinidad, and many others. When we sometimes may feel isolated and working against impossible odds, we must always bear in mind that we are not alone. If the Moscow trip pointed up anything it was just how little we know about the size of the struggle going on all over the world and how much we need to educate ourselves and our people to that struggle.

In terms of our work, some of the delegations we met with raised specific demands that they asked us to work on and bring to the attention of the American people. They were:

CAMBODIA

1. Demand that the U. S. stop bombing Cambodia. Despite the August 15th bombing halt the U. S. has continued to bomb the Cambodian people with everthing but B-52's.
2. Demand that the U. S. cease all aid to the puppet Lon Nol regime. While Lon Nol only holds about 10% of Cambodian territory at this time, the point is that his regime would collapse tomorrow but for U. S. aid.
3. Demand that the United Nations recognize the Royal Government of National Union, (GRUNC), headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the only legitimate government of the Cambodian people. To date, over 60 governments have already recognized GRUNC!

With the rainy season ending shortly in Cambodia, the liberation forces will be on the move and in need of as much support as we can give them. They do not intend to settle for anything less than total victory!

PRG

1. Demand that the U. S. fully implement the January 27th accords and stop the repeated violations of the agreements. Cease fire violations initiated by the U. S. have

- been occurring with increasing frequency and ferocity, particularly in the last few weeks.
- 2. Demand an immediate release of the more than 200,000 political prisoners still held in Thieu's prisons. The accounts we heard of the conditions in these prisons were absolutely hideous.
- 3. Demand that the U.S. end all support for the Thieu dictatorship. This would include removing the more than 20,000 U.S. "civilian" advisors aiding the Saigon military.
- 4. Demand reparations for the damages suffered by the Vietnamese people.
- 5. Demand that all governments, including the U.S., recognize the PRG as the only legitimate government of the people of South Vietnam.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

- 1. Demand that the U.S. end all support and aid for the Park dictatorship in the southern part of Korea.
- 2. Demand that the U.S. remove the more than 45,000 U.S. troops still stationed in Korea.
- 3. Demand that the U.N. recognize one, unified, Korea, not two separate Koreas as the U.S. would have it. Korea has been one nation for over 5,000 years and cannot permit the artificial division of the country forced on the Korean people by the U.S. in the 1950's.

The VVAW/WSO delegation realized that there were many other demands from other delegations at the Congress that we support and should work on. But given the capabilities of our organization and the orientation of our work, it felt that these were the most important points to bring to the organization. All of these demands are fair and should be supported by the organization, in terms of organizing and active work, to the fullest extent possible. We cannot overemphasize just how important our work is in raising these demands to our brothers and sisters struggling with us against our common enemy.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY!

Information Requests

Last Call for Photos of this year's Actions

In the last newsletter, we requested that chapters mail in photos and descriptions of the actions and activities they have been involved in during the year 1973. We need such photos and synopses desperately, and we need them as soon as possible. In order for your photos to be included in the December issue (which will center on a year of struggle) they should be sent to us immediately because we must have them by Nov. 12th. Rush all of your photos of VVAW/WSO actions and projects to the National Office ASAP!

NEWSLETTER

Reporting on the efforts to serve the health, legal and social service needs of the people of Dallas, Perry and Wilcox Counties, Alabama, free of charge and the efforts to construct the MARTIN LUTHER KING-JR. MEMORIAL CLINIC, Bogue Chitto (Browns), Ala.

A national project of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization
827 West Newport - Chicago, Illinois 60657 (312) 935-2129

NOVEMBER 1973

Introduction

THIS INFORMATION
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-19-88 BY SP6/gal/uf

In the summer of 1972 the community of Bogue Chitto, Alabama, asked members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) to assist them in developing medical services for their community. By November 22, 1972, community health training classes had been organized by VVAW/WSO utilizing resource people from Selma, Birmingham and VVAW/WSO Chapters around the country. Operation County Fair* was voted a national project on January 7, 1973, by the National Steering Committee of VVAW/WSO at its meeting in Chicago.

Members of the community held meetings during the following months to discuss the idea of building a clinic and the type of body they would like to administer and govern the clinic and its services. The community decided to name the proposed clinic The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic. VVAW/WSO was asked to handle the task of incorporation, and on March 7, 1973, The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic was incorporated in the State of Alabama as a non-profit, volunteer organization with Dr. E. A. Maddox, M. D. of Selma, Alabama, as its Medical Director and thirteen members of the community of Bogue Chitto (Browns) plus Dr. Maddox as its Board of Directors.

The Clinic is to have 3 examination rooms, 2 consultation rooms, 4 bathrooms, a laboratory, pharmacy, records and reception room and a waiting and child care room. The Clinic will be located in Dallas County in the unincorporated area known as Bogue Chitto near Browns, Alabama, and will provide all services free of charge. Eventually, services provided for the community will include dental and psychological care and legal assistance. On March 13, 1973, the Kent Drafting Service of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, completed its material cost estimate of the Clinic. The estimate is \$18,676, which includes excavation, drilling of a well, water filtering system, electricity, sewage disposal, paving at the building and all materials needed to construct the building, but does not include labor. Labor will be provided by members of the community and members of VVAW/WSO.

Since incorporation, members of the Clinic Staff have been engaged in screening activities in and around the Bogue Chitto community. Utilizing supplies donated to the Clinic, they have taken health histories, assisted in surveying the community to point up areas in which health education is needed, provided trans-

* County Fair is the military term used in Vietnam for the limited medical aid programs U. S. military units would conduct throughout the countryside as part of the pacification effort.

portation to health care facilities in Selma when necessary accompanied patients to health care facilities where they acted as "health advocates" for the patients to insure proper and prompt treatment and follow-up; and they have engaged community members in a program of continuing health care education. The Staff members are: Dr. Maddox, Linda Regnier, Registered Nurse (VVAW/WSO member) and Diane Schmidt, Registered Nurse (VVAW/WSO member).

About the Area

Bogue Chitto is a poor, Black community 16 miles west of Selma and 65 miles southeast of Tuscaloosa in Dallas County. The population of Bogue Chitto is just over 300. Services available within the community are few. There is one grade school which goes up to grade 4; one combination grade school/head-start program/community center; a combination country store and gas station; and two churches. There is no doctor or clinic. There is no place for young people to meet or play sports. The community has two TVs and six cars. Most of the houses are shanties or clapboard huts and only 50% of the houses have running water. Many of the people who have attended high school still have trouble reading.

Dallas County has a population of 57,000, 53% being Black. The per capita income is \$2,023 per year with 31.5% below the poverty level. The neighboring Counties of Perry and Wilcox each have populations of 18,000 with over 65% being Black. The per capita annual income for these two Counties ranges between \$1200 and \$1500 with 40% to 50% below the poverty level.

The health problems of the community are serious. For example, one out of fifteen babies die in, or shortly after, birth. Most births occur at home and without attention. Many diseases and problems go undetected and untreated. Some of these diseases and problems are tuberculosis, diabetes, anemia, venereal disease, hypertension, rickets and dental problems. The reasons these problems go untreated are 1) lack of education, 2) lack of money and, most importantly, 3) racism, especially on the part of the medical community. Medical facilities are still segregated and in many cases the doctor will not even touch a Black patient.

Our Purpose

One of the objectives of VVAW/WSO is the elimination of racism. Operation County Fair offers a concrete program to involve our members and friends in a positive effort to eliminate racism and its effects.

The role of VVAW/WSO is to organize and train the community of Bogue Chitto in the methods of operating a health and social services clinic; assisting in all phases of construction of the Clinic; recruiting professional and paraprofessional health, legal and social service personnel to work in the Clinic; soliciting donations of money and supplies; and developing long-range funding strategy.

CLINIC MEMBER VISITS NEW MEXICO CLINICS Diane has just returned from visiting three clinics in New Mexico. The clinics visited are: Clinica Del Pueblo De Rio Arriva in Tierra Amarilla, La Clinica de la Gente in Santa Fe and another clinic in Albuquerque.

CLINIC ORGANIZATION Diane is now in charge of pediatrics and burns; Linda, medicine and surgery; Rich, emergency room and ward technician. Referrals are made to an M.D. when necessary. Regular home care visits are made as well as giving health instruction for patients discharged from the hospital in Selma. At the present, two community residents are in the hospital.

CONSTRUCTION The interior of the interim clinic building will soon be sealed with insulation and paneling and the floors tiled. Outdoor work is being finished up before the weather turns bad.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS Final work is being completed on the IRS application for tax exempt status. A final ruling by the IRS could take as long as a year, but in most cases in which an organization is reasonably assured of being granted exemption, the IRS will issue a temporary letter of exemption.

SHIPMENT ARRIVES Twenty six boxes of pharmaceutical supplies have just arrived in Bogue Chitto from the California Region of VVAW/WSO.

DONATION A five hundred dollar donation was just received from the D. J. B. Foundation. The Clinic is waiting for a response on grant proposals that have been submitted to ten foundations.

VVAW/WSO ORGANIZERS Four members of VVAW/WSO are now working in the Bogue Chitto Community on a permanent basis. They are: Diane Schmidt, Registered Nurse, Linda Regnier, Registered Nurse, Rich Craven and George Brezeau. They live in the house in Bogue Chitto being used as the interim clinic building. Living expenses are covered by the salaries of three of these people who have jobs at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma.

*To receive a current list of supplies which are needed by the clinic, please write to the address below.

*If you know of anyone who would like to be on our mailing list, or if you would like your name removed from our list, please send name and address to address below.

Send all donations of medical supplies

to: Dr. E. A. Maddox
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Clinic
c/o Linda Regnier, R. N.
Route #1 - Box 83
Browns, Alabama 36724

Correspondence or any other donations

send to: Diane Schmidt
Route #1 - Box 83
Browns, Alabama 36724

The mailman who delivers Route #1 is active in the Ku Klux Klan. The sisters and brothers in Bogue Chitto request that mail sent to them not be identified with VVAW/WSO or any other organization that could be construed as being radical. Thank you.

General Information

THIS DOCUMENT
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
4-19-95 SP6/ya/va

Lawton - Gardner Trial -- Immediate Action is Needed!

In the November issue, you will see in the Lawton-Gardner article that six inmates of the Blith Detention Facility overheard one of the D. A. s prime witnesses bragging about the fact that he had been offered \$5, 000, a new identity and a ticket to anywhere for falsifying his testimony against Gary. These six inmates sent a letter to Gary's attorney informing him of this fact and stating that they were willing to testify in court about this police bribery. After this letter was sent, the six inmates were moved to the Riverside jail where they were interrogated. Since the article in W. S. was written, we have learned that these six brothers have been interrogated for long hours each day, beaten and threatened with long jail sentences if they insisted upon testifying against the police. Three of these inmates were intimidated to the extent that they have refused to testify, but three of the brothers have agreed to tell their story before the court.

On October 17th, Sonny Robinson became the first of these witnesses to appear on the witness stand. He testified about the police bribery, as well as the treatment that he and the other five inmates have been subjected to since they sent the letter to Gary's attorney. Because of Robinson's and the other inmates courageous acts, we have reason to believe that the lives of these people may now be at stake. It is imperative that every chapter send a telegram to the judge (and also have your friends do the same) asking that the judge insure the health and safety of these six men and make sure that due process of law is granted to all witnesses in the case. Judge Hews should also be asked to investigate any charges of police intimidation which might result from this recent act.

Telegrams and letters should immediately be sent to: Judge John Hews, Dept. #8, Superior Court, County of Riverside, 4050 Orange St., Riverside, California 92501.

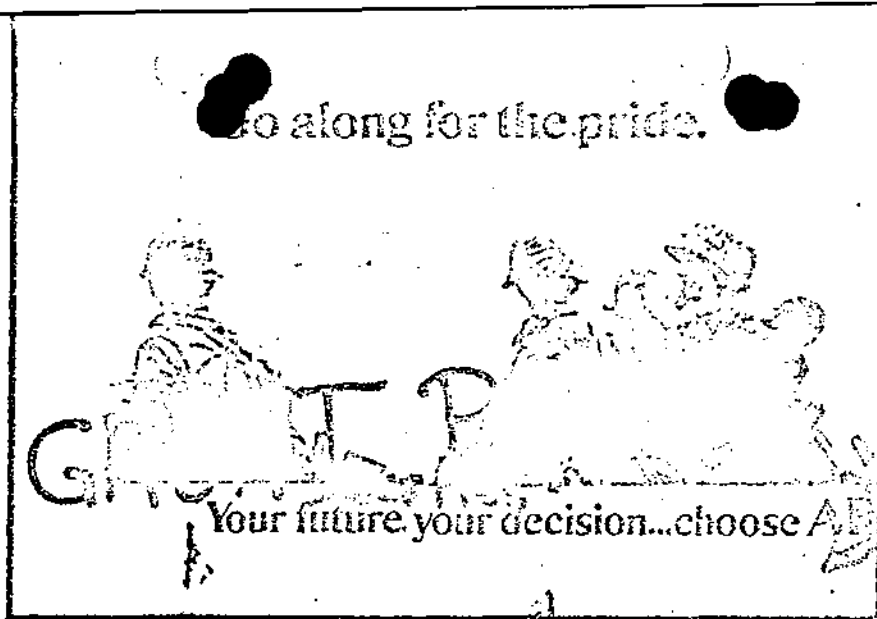
Bribery of prosecution witnesses should not come as a surprise to anyone who is aware of the racism and blatant attempts by the government to frame Lawton and Gardner. The fact that these six inmates brought this to the attention of the court may be a major break-through for the defense and prove to the Judge and jury that all is not right in Riverside. We must all take the respon-

sibility of doing every possible to insure that these brothers are safe and free from further police harassment. One way of accomplishing this is to flood the judge with pleas for safety from people all over the country. By doing this, Judge Hews will be more likely to do his job because he will be aware that people are watching him. Send your telegrams and letters TODAY!

Job Fairs -

Two years ago, the government and various business organizations initiated veteran job fairs in an attempt to prove that they were concerned with the lack of jobs for Vietnam-era veterans. These job fairs offered few jobs although thousands of veterans showed up looking for work. Since these shams were begun, VVAW/WSO chapters around the country have proved that they are nothing but cheap theatrics designed to placate an entire segment of the population. While giving the facade of concern for veterans, these job fairs only heightened the fact that there are no jobs available for anyone in this country. The following cities will be having job fairs in the upcoming months. It is suggested that chapters in these cities begin to prepare for them.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Organizer</u>
11/15/73	San Bernardino CA	Sgt. Allen Jakobitz, Transition Office Norton AFB, California
12/6-8/73	New York City NY Americana Hotel	Miss Jennie Henneaux, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 99 Church St. New York, New York 10007
1/18-20/74	Fort Hood TX	M/Sgt Leon Tonini, Army Education Center, Fort Hood, Texas
2/7-9/74	San Diego CA Royal Inn at the Wharf	Elmo Burns, VA Regional Office, Veterans Opportunity Days II, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California
3/28-30/74	Washington DC	M/Sgt Jerry Barran, 1143d AB Sq. (OPMMT), The Pentagon, Wash DC 20330
May (to be announced)	Chicago IL	Samuel C. Bernstein, Mayor's Office of Manpower, 201 Wells St. Suite 1200 Chicago, Illinois 60606
6/6-8/74	Los Angeles CA Marriott Hotel	Elmo Burns - (see above)
July (to be announced)	Colorado Springs CO	Noncommissioned Officers Association William Lucas, PO Box 2268, San Antonio TX



GIs Arrested for Leafletting -

Three GIs were arrested on October 13 in Jacksonville, North Carolina as they collected signatures on a petition to Senator Fulbright to 'immediately introduce legislation forbidding the introduction of US forces in the current Mid-East hostilities.'

The three, who were out of uniform, were told they were being arrested under a military ordinance forbidding them from petitioning or demonstrating. There is no such military regulation that restricts the political activity of military people when they are off-base. The Onslow County Deputy made the arrest and then turned them over to the local MPs. They were released after a Naval JAG lawyer in Norfolk called to find out what they were being charged with.

In addition to being illegally arrested, the pamphlets on the Mid-East war they were distributing and the petitions they had signed were confiscated illegally. As of yet these have not been returned.

The GIs were part of an effort by various GI projects: The Defense Committee of Norfolk, The GI Office of Charleston, The GI Union of Ft. Bragg and the United We Stand Bookshop of Camp Lejeune/New River Air Station; to focus attention on the buildup of American troops in the Middle East. Five ships are off the island of Crete, 500 miles from Israel, including an aircraft carrier, and three destroyers. Three more ships were on their way to Crete from Barcelona, Spain. Two thousand Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Reg. were scheduled to leave for the Mediterranean on October 16th, which would double the strength of the Marine Corps in the area. The 313th Army Security Agency from Ft. Bragg was sent to Israel. These are but some of the developments in the buildup of American forces in the Middle East. For more information write to United We Stand Bookshop, PO Box 1163, Jacksonville, NC 28540.

The National Office has received many calls asking what the position of VVAW/WSO is on the war in the Middle East; mostly from chapters. Since there is no definitive position of the organization on this question, we think all VVAW/WSO members should follow the position laid out in the second and tenth objectives of the organization. Basically, the objectives say that we are opposed to any and all intervention of the US military in the internal affairs of other countries. We are opposed to the sending of any US military personnel and materiel to the Middle East to participate in that war. We have seen how the war in Indochina started with just economic military aid and blossomed into a full-scale war by the US government. We see a similar danger in the Middle East.

Another aspect of the war is that it is being fought over territories that are (or were) controlled by Israel that really belong to the nations of Egypt and Syria and Jordan. The Arab countries are fighting to liberate those territories and return them to their control. The National Office believes that Israel must give up those territories if there is to be a just settlement.

We suggest that people study the objectives and determine how they apply to the Middle East. As with Indochina, the more we learn about US corporate and political involvement in other countries, the more capable we are able to deal with life and death issues that affect our lives and the lives of the people of the world. This is by no means a definitive statement about the situation on the Middle East. We think that the regions should begin immediately discussions on this question so that when we meet at the next NSCM we can deal with it.

Regional Reports

Operation County Fair

The VVAW/WSO chapter in Bogue Chitto is no longer entertaining drifters. Anyone wishing to work or visit the chapter there must be cleared through the National Office, as per their request. There are now five dedicated sisters and brothers living collectively there who are rapidly developing a respectable position in the community.

Electrical wiring is in; when the outhouse is finished and everything Ok'd by the county, the power will be on. Septic still needs to be finished.

As of October 17th, the Clinic had \$13.00 on hand. They would appreciate any small donations (or big ones). A food-clothes-medical supplies drive for Bogue Chitto would be a good project to organize around. Remember, this is a National Project. For a list of supplies needed, write: Diane Schmidt and Linda Regnier, Rt. #1, Box 85, Browns, Alabama 36724. They request that ALL MAIL BE SENT UNIDENTIFIED -- that means use only personal names in both the return and regular addresses.

North Carolina -

We received reports from two chapters in North Carolina: Jacksonville and Raleigh. The following are their reports.

Jacksonville - Have found a few inactive members of VVAW/WSO that want to reorganize the chapter. Have also contacted Onslow County Library and Coastal Carolina Community College about subscriptions to Winter Soldier. I have left copies at each and am getting good reactions, but nothing definite. There will be a meeting, the first week of October to reorganize and begin projects, which seems to be working with United We Stand Book Store in the GI movement and upgrading discharges. Hope to have something more definite in the next report.

Raleigh - This has been a short operating month for us. However, we managed to get copies of WS into three universities in the area, University of N.C. at Chapel Hill, NC State University (Raleigh) and Duke University (Durham). The copies were old issues, which may explain the lack of response. Those that did respond expressed interest in the organization and its goals. Being a new office, we are experiencing all the problems of birth - we hope to have our 'house' settled within the week.

Air War/1984 Record Available -

The New England VVAW/WSO Media Project has printed a record of testimony from the Air War Winter Soldier Investigation held in Boston in the Fall of 1971. It runs for 16 minutes and is excellent. The cost of the record is \$1.00 to individual members of VVAW/WSO and 50¢ in bulk orders to VVAW/WSO chapters only. We recommend that you buy one copy to see if you could use it in your work. For more information contact: Jim Alt, 34 Beacon, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

Milwaukee VVAW/WSO Makes Incursion Into V. A. Building

On October 11th, about 30 members of the Milwaukee VVAW/WSO chapter made a "limited incursion" into the Veterans Administration building demanding full benefits for less than honorably discharged vets and a new GI bill of rights.

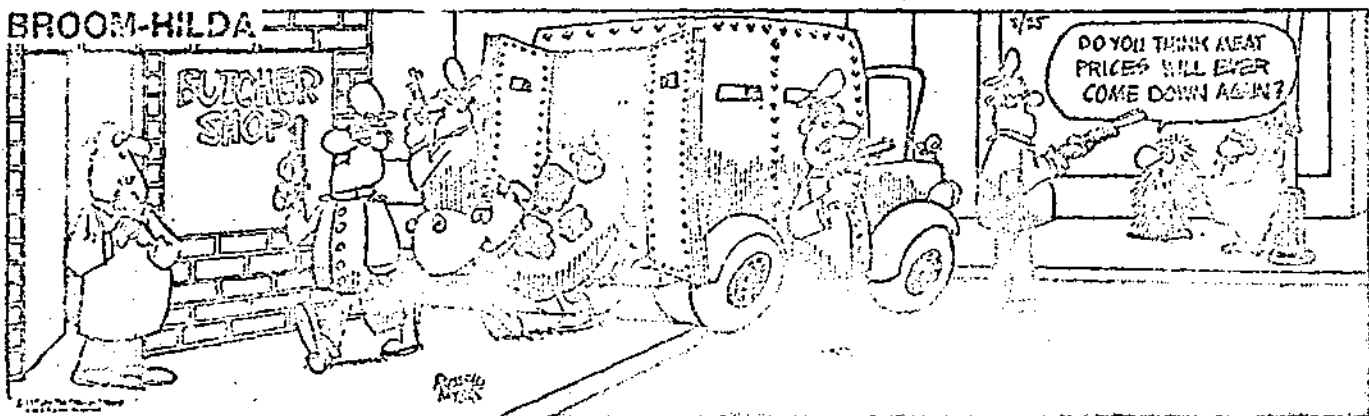
The specific demands that the chapter put forth to the VA Regional Director were: full benefits for all discharged GIs, a new GI bill of rights, that would provide adequate funds for education and medical treatment, the restoration of funding cuts for VA hospitals and the firing of Donald Johnson (national VA director).

The VVAW/WSO contingent entered the VA building and teams of three scattered throughout the building distributing leaflets and talking with employees. At the same time, one of the members remained in the lobby to read a statement to the press. The group then headed to Director Bunker's office and occupied it for about 20 minutes before Bunker agreed to meet with the chapter's representatives and hear the demands. While the representatives met with Bunker, the remainder of the contingent threw a picket line around the building. Before leaving, everyone informed the VA that they would be back and continue to confront the VA until the demands are met.

The Milwaukee action came off without a hitch. The "incursion" was the chapter's response to what they feel is the need and the time for chapters throughout the country to take direct action against the VA and force them into accepting demands. The Wisconsin region would like to see regional and local actions at the VA nationwide so that feedback can be obtained. The results of all regional actions should be brought to the next NSCM and discussed so that national coordination of activity directed at the VA can be determined and planned. Milwaukee would like to see actions directed at the VA become a long-range VVAW/WSO project. Chapters should report all VA actions to the National Office.

St. Louis Military Law Project Backlogged -

Due to the summer recess at Washington University in St. Louis and the fact that the Director, Toby Hollander, was in Gainesville working on the defense team, the Military Law Project has a backlog of well over one hundred cases to research. If you know of anyone waiting for information from the Project or anyone who is intending to write them, please inform them of the situation. If the information is urgently needed, an explanation should accompany the request. The Military Law Project is located at: Military Law Project, Washington University School of Law, Lindell and Skinker, St. Louis, MO 63130. Telephone number - (314) 863-0100 X 4902.



Now More Than Ever -

President Nixon has once again proven that he no longer considers himself subject to the laws of this country. In his latest attack on America he has purged his regime of an Attorney General, an Assistant Attorney General and the Special Watergate Prosecutor.

On Saturday, October 20, Nixon ordered Elliott Richardson to fire Archibald Cox. Richardson refused and resigned. His successor, William Ruckelshaus refused the order also and was fired. The third attempt to fire Cox was successful when the solicitor general, ultra-conservative, Robert Bork, (or Dork?), assumed the post of Attorney General and carried out the order. In addition to firing Cox, Nixon abolished the office of special Watergate prosecutor, in direct opposition to the Senate resolution establishing the office.

The repercussions of this latest action by Nixon are far reaching. In a blatant attempt to force the will of the Presidency over that of the Congress, Nixon has put Congress into a position which will ultimately dwindle down to two choices. Either they will have to impeach him or they will once again kowtow to the President's office, thereby allowing Nixon to continue his consolidation of power. If they back down Nixon will continue his policies of repression of the American people, and in fact, all the people of the world.

We must remember that two of Nixon's closest aides in the White House are Alexander Haig and Melvin Laird, both Pentagon employees. We must also remember that the heads of all the military forces are Nixon appointees. As Nixon continues to disregard even a vague semblance of democracy, and as the weak-kneed Congress consistently backs down when faced with a Constitutional crisis, we the people of this country move one step closer to Fascism. It happened in Chile; it can happen here.

There will be many demonstrations aimed at impeaching Nixon in the next few weeks. We feel that it is vitally important that all chapters of VVAW/WSO participate in these attempts to make the will of the people enforced. To do nothing at this time would be to help Nixon put the nooses around our necks.

Amnesty Poster and Pamphlet -

The long wait is over!! Both the pamphlet and the poster are ready for distribution. They are enclosed for your inspection. Each poster is 10¢ and each pamphlet is 10¢. Remember that there are only 5,000 pamphlets for the entire country, so order prudently and promptly before they are all gone. Since we are flat broke, we ask that you send the money in advance of shipment. Orders with checks will have first preference.

Not For Women Only

We received a brochure from New Day Films, a group of independent filmmakers who have formed a distribution cooperative for films about women. If chapters are interested in doing educational work on the oppression facing women in this society, you might be interested in obtaining and renting these films. Following are the names and rental fees of the seven films which are available.

"Anything You Want To Be" -- 16mm b/w, 8 minutes, rental: \$15. The film deals with the pain, humor, hysteria and sadness of being a teenage girl while being bombarded with "female" stereotypes.

"It Happens To Us" - 16mm color, 30 minutes, rental: \$30. This film is a series of comments from women who have had abortions. The brutality of illegal abortions is contrasted with the safety of early, legal abortions.

"Joyce At 34" -- 16mm color, 28 minutes, rental \$35. Joyce is any woman at any time who faces the conflict of work versus family. The film depicts the need for cooperation inside a family in order to achieve equality without guilt.

"Betty Tells Her Story" -- 16mm b/w; 20 minutes, rental: \$25. This film deals with the fact that our society puts undue emphasis on a certain standard of outward physical appearance and what this can mean to those who don't conform.

"Growing Up Female" -- 16mm b/w, 50 minutes, rental: \$30 (to movement groups). This is a major documentary about the experience of being a woman in America. The film is a series of encounters with six women who are looking for self-definition.

"Sometimes I Wonder Who I Am" -- 16mm b/w, 5 minutes, rental: \$12. This film is a brief study of the conflict felt by a young housewife as she contemplates the career she could have had.

"Woo Who? May Wilson" -- 16mm color, 33 minutes, rental: \$35. In this film, May Wilson shares her painful readjustment from her role as wife-mother-grandmother on a farm in Maryland to life alone in a large city.

If chapters are interested in renting any of these films or receiving more information about them, you should contact: New Day Films, P. O. Box 315, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417. (201) 891-8240.

For Women Only

We are very interested in finding out what the women in VVAW/WSO are up to. Women should inform the national collective as to women's groups that they are working with, the activities of these groups, women's projects that are being conducted inside VVAW/WSO, and ideas for future women's projects that you would like to see developed. This request is so that we can find out if and what the women are involved in and this information will be passed along to other women who might be interested.

Bart Savage's Resignation from National Collective

The following letter was written by Bart Savage and is the announcement of his resignation from the National Collective. The letter should be self-explanatory. We are very sorry to be losing Bart because his work in the N. O. has been excellent, but we are pleased that he will continue working with the organization.

Brothers and Sisters,

With deepest regrets, I submit my resignation from the National Collective effective immediately for reasons of health. The issue of my health was brought up in St. Louis prior to my reelection. I stated that I felt I was in good condition and I was re-elected on the basis of my answer. However, the trip back to Gainesville (5 days of thumbing in 100 degree weather) resulted in the rapid deterioration of my health. Criticism for my running for reelection is mine, and mine alone.

Since my return from Florida, I have been on a leave of absence, recuperating in Chicago. I have now begun working again with the Chicago chapter and will continue to support and actively work for the objectives of VVAW/WSO. I hope to see you all again soon.

Love and Solidarity in Struggle,

Bart Savage

P. S. There is no truth to the rumor that my resignation is connected with the Watergate Tapes.

Who Does What in the National Collective

With the arrival of Rich Bangert to the National Office, the collective held a lengthy meeting discussing the work of the office. Analysis, criticism, and self-criticism of our jobs was done and work was re-distributed. Following is the list of areas that each member of the collective is responsible for. This is just to let you know who is doing what and if you need specific information, you should contact the appropriate person.

Brian Adams -- Amnesty, External Liaison, Security

Rich Bangert -- Veterans Affairs, Research, Operation County Fair,
Fund-raising, Press contacts, Speaking gigs

Ed Damato -- Internal Liaison, Amnesty, G.I.s Press Clipping file

Barry Romo -- Winter Soldier editor, External Liaison, G.I.s

Sam Schorr -- Fund-raising, Financial Books, Office Machines, Books/
Buttons/Pamphlets/Posters

Marla Watson -- Internal Liaison, Political Prisoners, Prisons, Financial Books, Women, Office Manager

Mary Ann James Decline

The following letter was received by the National Collective from Mary Ann James, who was nominated as National Coordinator.

"Dear Folks,

I have decided to decline the nomination to the National Office. I feel that I am needed more in my own region at this time, but the main reason is that I would like to see the present National people remain in office. The only exception being that I think Marla should be a national coordinator instead of a staff member. I believe this is necessary for the Winter Soldier concept to really take hold. Perhaps Brian, Sam and Eddie could draw straws as to which one would be a staff member. This would not alter the present collective in any effective way.

Things are looking up in our region. There are chapters starting up in Boulder, Greeley and Colorado Springs. We are planning a regional meeting and party for Saturday October 6th and perhaps some kind of action for the end of Indochina Solidarity Week. Hopefully a Ho Binh will be put out by the end of this month. We are working on articles now.

I just got back from the first real vacation I have had in 2 1/2 years. It took me almost the whole week to get used to not doing any VVAW/WSO work. Now I am adjusting to working and going to meetings every night.

Well, its time to get back to Pa Bell, so I will write more later.

In Solidarity,

Mary Ann James"

Winter Soldier Newspaper -

There are several items involving the Winter Soldier that bear your attention. First, we ask again that the chapters work at getting subscriptions from institutions and libraries, at the cost of \$15 per sub. Our chapter in Rochester, New York reports that on one try they got one subscription and have come to realize that it is an easy thing to do. They will be getting more soon, which will help us finance the paper each month. We quote an excerpt from a letter from the Rochester Chapter. "Seriously folks, let's get behind the Winter Soldier subscription drive. National needs the bread, and the people need to confront reality." Thank you Rochester.

The other item deals with picking up the paper from the delivery company. Every month we are confronted with one or two chapters who refuse

shipment or who do not respond to the notifications of either REA or Greyhound. When this happens, the papers are invariably sent back to Chicago and we get stuck paying for shipment to and from a destination. This mounts up and we just CANNOT afford it. As a consequence, and after being unable to contact the chapter who refuses shipment, we will no longer send the paper. The lack of interest in receiving the paper by these chapters is unfortunate. We understand that certain chapters cannot afford large shipments and we have made arrangements to help them, but for chapters to order shipments and then refuse, we see no alternative to stopping shipment of papers. \$50 a month can be put to better use.

We would also like all regions to look into rates for shipping. One region has requested that we send all chapters in that region the papers. The extra cost for the regions in choosing this means of distribution is astronomical compared to shipping the papers to one office, whereupon, the chapters can drive to the central office once a month and get them. This would also allow for closer coordination between regions and chapters.

Information Requests

Contributions From Chapters -

In response to our last request for chapters who could help send us some money because we are broke, we would like to thank those that did. The chapters that responded are: Rochester, New York; Dayton, Columbus and the Ohio Regional Office; and San Francisco, California. We sincerely thank you from the bottom of our collective piggy bank. The situation with money is still bad and if there are any other chapters that could help us out in our time of need, please do so.

Photos, Details of Actions, etc. -

We are toying with the idea of devoting our December issue of Winter Soldier to a year of struggle for VVAW/WSO. If we are to do this we will need photos and synopses of actions that your chapter has undertaken during the year 1973. We would like photos of marches, demonstrations, assorted actions and members wearing buttons. Hopefully, you will respond. We would like to have pictures and details from all chapters as we want to show that VVAW/WSO was active in all areas during the past year.

Chapter Lists -

Once again, we ask if your chapter address is wrong or not listed, let us know of the change. Include phone number changes also.

Chapter List Update - 10/23/73

Address Change

VVAW/WSO
1217 Illinois
Joplin, MO 64801

VVAW/WSO
223 Belmont
Redwood City, CA 94061
(415) 366-1893

Phone Change

St. Louis - (314) 621-2648

Columbia, MO - (314) 449-5271

New Chapters

VVAW/WSO
3356 Neosho Place
San Diego, CA 92117
(714) 488-8975

VVAW/WSO
3860 Ocean Drive
Oxnard, CA 93030

Address Change

New York State Regional Office
Steve Hassett
21 Marigold
Buffalo, NY 14215
(716) 836-7967

Steve Piotrowski
535 Division St
Stevens Point, Wisc. 54481

Delete

Jim Thompson - Whittier California
Jim Hale - Homestead, Florida

Operation County Fair-New Address

Diane Schmidt
People's Farm
RR #1, Box 85
Browns, Alabama 36724
(205) 996-8205