

Vietnam Veterans Against the War-Winter Soldier Organization

NEWSLETTER

number 28



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General Information

Amnesty for War Resisters; None for War Makers

With a little help from Ford, there's no doubt but that amnesty has become an issue. As Ford blundered through his pardon (universal, unconditional pardon without alternative service) for Nixon, the NO received a number of requests for statements. According to those chapters and regions we have talked with since, the same thing was happening around the country.

We felt that the following points needed to be made around the pardon/amnesty issue. First, that there should be no pardon for Nixon; after all, he is a criminal--not so much for the crimes against his class which were the major part of the impeachment hearings, but for his crimes against the people (the continuing war in Vietnam, welfare cutbacks, the bombing of Cambodia, support for the dictatorships of Thieu, Lon Nol, Pak Jung Hee etc). For these crimes there can be no amnesty or pardon.

Second, the whole point that Ford is no different than Nixon--the faces may have changed but the policies haven't. In fact, Ford is equally guilty of all the crimes against the people listed above--which is one reason why the imperialists feel that pardon is necessary.

Third, the pardon demonstrates the dual standard of "justice"--the rich and powerful can almost always get off while the poor, third-world, working class can't. Attica is an excellent example, particularly since the trials are currently in the news, but whatever local cases of repression are being worked on can be used as examples.

Finally, we talked about our whole amnesty program--that resisters are not criminals, yet Ford is calling for conditional amnesty with case-by-case review; that Ford's so-called "compassion" is aimed at Nixon with his \$2 million worth of memoirs, his staff, his government-financed homes, etc but not at the people with less-than-honorable discharges who can't even get a job.

The NO used the technique of writing out the general points we wanted to make just to make sure that whoever was giving a statement would get in the essentials--we recommend this method to chapters and regions. We had also scheduled a news conference immediately following Ford's announcement of his amnesty program (which was postponed); we will do the same thing again whenever that

announcement is made. We know that Ford's program will come out sometime in the month of September (or at least so he has said); all chapters should be prepared to use that opportunity to make as much noise as possible. We've had a lot of practice talking about amnesty and using that issue to talk about US imperialism and its effects both in Vietnam and here at home. Picket lines, leaf-letting, news conferences--whatever people can think of--should all be used to greet Ford's bogus amnesty. And we should see that amnesty for what it is: an attempt to co-opt the anti-imperialist amnesty movement.

Puerto Rican Independence Day

The Buffalo NSCM voted to endorse Puerto Rican Solidarity Day, October 27th (see article in Winter Soldier). The Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) has called for a massive demonstration of support for the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for their independence; a rally/demonstration in Madison Square Gardens is planned for that night in New York City. The demands of this demonstration are: INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO and A BI-CENTENNIAL WITHOUT COLONIES! People interested in attending this Rally on Oct. 27th should contact the New York City VVAW/WSO chapter. For more information about this Solidarity Day, write: The Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee, P.O. Box 319, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10003.

Also, we have received a list of local contacts who are working on this Solidarity Day demonstration/rally. These contacts are coordinating Puerto Rican Solidarity Day activities and many cities will be having busses going to New York for the 27th activities. If you are interested in attending this demonstration or helping to coordinate things in your area, check the list and see if there is a local contact in your area.

Tami Kashia, 816 Willow Ave., Hoboken, New Jersey
Tony Tostain, 539 Howard Ave., New Haven, CN - (203) 776-0945
Kathy and Mike Graham, 860 Tower Ave., Hartford, CN - (203) 242-0575
Meca Sorrentini, 2820 W. Logan Blvd., Chicago, IL - (312) 278-4746
Roger Geller, Law Commune, Box 125, Cambridge, MA - (617) 492-5200
Bert Corona, CASA, 2673 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA - (213) 489-4336

!!! INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO !!!

Lawton-Gardner Trial Up-Date

The trial date for Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner is still set for Sept. 24th and it looks as though this will be the final date. Hopefully, things will get underway later this month, and off we go again through another trial filled with trumped-up testimony by government witnesses. This third trial is expected to last longer than either of the first two trials. The government called approximately 80 witnesses at their last attempt to convict these brothers, and they are now planning to call over 100 witnesses. So, we will most probably be in for a very long haul of 6-8 months of trial procedures.

As stated in this month's issue of Winter Soldier, the trial of Chukia Lawton and Rusty Bronaugh ended with a hung jury. Both Rusty and Chukia were charged

with interfering with a police officer in the line of duty, and Chukia was also charged with resisting arrest. After a three week trial, the jury voted 7-5 in favor of acquitting Rusty and 9-3 in favor of convicting Chukia. A re-trial on these charges is expecting to begin on October 4th, but with the way things have been going, this date may be postponed.

On September 7th, a demonstration was held at State Attorney General Younger's office in Los Angeles. This demonstration was sponsored by the L. A. Committee to Free Lawton and Gardner (a coalition of groups who are working around the trial). Over 60 people picketed Younger's office, demanding that the charges be dropped, and following the picket line a march and rally were held. The spirit of the crowd was very high and the militance and dedication of the crowd made the demonstration a success. Chapters are encouraged to plan demonstrations for the 24th of this month to coincide with the beginning of the trial in Riverside. If plans are developed, chapters should inform the National Office or the RPPDC. Also, telegrams and letters are still needed, so people should check with the last newsletter for the names and addresses of those people who are to receive the "mail swamp" demanding that the charges be dropped and the repression and harassment cease. Send your telegrams and letters off today!

Ruchell Magee's Case is Nearing Critical Time

People should be aware that Ruchell Magee pleaded guilty to charges of kidnapping in June. This plea was entered into the court after Ruchell received extreme harassment and was trying to deal with the frustration of having a series of court-appointed attorneys whose obvious intentions were to get him convicted. Shortly after this plea of guilty was entered, Ruchell began the process for getting the plea reversed. The judge wouldn't allow it and even tried to sentence him to life imprisonment on the spot. After a determined struggle, Ruchell appealed this guilty plea and asked that it be removed so that he could go through the procedure of a court trial. Sometime in the near future, the U. S. Supreme Court will decide whether or not it will hear Ruchell's appeal. If the Court refuses, Ruchell will be sent back to spend a life in prison. People should be watching for this decision and demonstrations are being planned for the San Jose area. Responses to the Court's decision in other parts of the country would also be beneficial in helping to take the message of this slave's right to rebel to their communities. As more information is made available, we will get it out to chapters.

Bob Hood Trial Set to Begin

The trial of Bob Hood (Oakland VVAW/WSO member charged with assault on a police officer) is set to begin on September 30th. Though there is still a chance that the trial will be delayed, the defense is assuming that the trial will begin and preparations are underway. One of the defense's primary points in pre-trial hearings has been Officer Burrows' complaint files. Burrows is the officer who attacked Bob at the time of his arrest. Burrows' lies are the only evidence that the prosecution has against Bob; and the defense has learned that over the last four years 11 complaints have been filed by citizens against Burrows. The defense asked for these files in discovery, feeling that they will substantiate to a jury what is already widely known in the community: that Officer Burrows is a brutal and racist police

officer who makes a practice of railroading innocent people to jail with lies to cover his own crimes. The judge has denied the defense access to these files on the grounds that they are kept in the Internal Affairs Division of the Oakland Police Department and not with the rest of his personal files; thus they do not fall within the range of the original discovery order. The defense has filed a writ of mandate to the Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn this ruling. If the Appeals Court decides to consider the Writ, they could order a stay of the trial until they reach a decision. According to recent cases heard before the California Supreme Court, denial of complaint files in cases such as Bob's mandates the dismissal of charges. We will have to wait and see what happens with this, but at the present, the trial is expected to begin on the 30th. Regular up-dates on what is happening with Bob's trial will be contained in the newsletter and Winter Soldier. For those chapters interested in contacting the defense committee handling Bob's trial, write to: VVAW/WSO Legal Defense Comm., 4919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA.



Vietnamese Report on July 1-4 Demonstration

The following report of our July 1-4 demonstration was given in the July 29 issue (#259) of South Viet Nam in Struggle, the central organ of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation:

"July 3: Hundreds of demonstrators including many Viet vets, came out strongly against the Nixon Administration's military interference in South Viet Nam and military and economic aid to Nguyen Van Thieu to help the latter sabotage the Paris Agreement.

"July 4: 300 Viet vets demonstrated with RSVN (PRG) flags, while 2,000 others in Washington... took to the streets to score U.S. violations of that agreement."

In describing the chaos of the American political and economic scene on the Fourth of July, and the impending doom of the Nixon administration, South Viet Nam in Struggle said: "Unfortunately for Mr. Nixon, the most significant event taking place in Washington on U. S. National Day this year was a demonstration held by Americans, mostly Viet Nam veterans. The demonstrators demanded implementation of the Paris Agreement, suspension of aid to Nguyen Van Thieu, Nixon's resignation, democratic liberties, the ex-servicement also claimed greater allowances. The size of this action was unexpected. It showed that the shadow of the Viet Nam war had not been conjured away one year after repatriation of the last GI. The demonstrators spoke up the mind to the American people when they urged

cessation of U. S. intervention and aggression in other countries and return to the fine tradition of independence and freedom of 1776."

We realize that this excerpt from an article contains some factually incorrect statements, but we wanted to print it because we feel it is important that people know that the Vietnamese are aware of our activities. Mail between the U.S. and Vietnam has become increasingly slower, so it takes a while for them to receive our materials, and vice versa.

Federal Prisoner Charged with Assault and Mutiny

Eddie Sanchez played a key role in getting the START behavior modification program ended at Springfield, Missouri. From the START program, he was transferred to Leavenworth Penitentiary, and from there he was sent to the CARE program (another behavior modification program) at the Federal prison at Marion, Ill. He was transferred to Marion because he allegedly assaulted a guard at Leavenworth and he is now awaiting indictment for the assault. While at Marion, Eddie was charged with attempting a mutiny. He was accused of having a gun and attempting to grab a prison guard hostage through the bars of his cage. The guard evaded capture and troops armed with guns, tear gas, shields and helmets were brought in. Eddie then surrendered, but in his cell was allegedly found a knife and manifesto of demands -- but no gun. (The gun was supposedly disassembled and flushed down the toilet). Though the gun was not found, two officials swear they saw it and were threatened with it. The demands that Eddie put forward was for media to enter the prison and tour the CARE program and for the subsequent dismantlement of the program.

Eddie stated that "this was a political act and a slave revolt. The attempt was made in order to spotlight attention and thereby secure help to release the prisoners from the confines of this infamous CARE program where prisoners have languished for one, two, three, and six years at a time. Several have committed injuries to themselves in attempts to be transferred, some have committed suicide and still others have gone insane." The National Committee to Free Eddie Sanchez has been formed at the following address: P.O. Box 1916, Denver, Colo. 80201. The committee has requested that letters and telegrams demanding an immediate end to the infamous CARE program and the immediate release of Eddie Sanchez from solitary confinement be sent to: Supervisor, Federal Penitentiary, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, Illinois 62959.

McAlester

The Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester has long been one of the hell-holes among the various concentration camps which make up the US prison system. Following a riot there last year during which large sections of the prison were burned to the ground, the brutality--which was always high--got worse; the "Rock," a section of the prison set apart from the rest of the buildings, became home for the leaders of the rebellion. This isolation unit is simply cages where prisoners are thrown and basically forgotten, except for periodic visits from guards so they can get their kicks with mace or gas or clubs.

And, as usual in the US prison system, though there was a great deal of indignation about the riots, and investigations and committees and all the other devices of the government, there were no changes in the basic inhuman conditions which had led to the riots in the first place.

In May, Robert Forsythe, one of the brothers in the isolation unit, died after one of the gassings from guards. This sacrifice, and the publicity surrounding it finally got the people of the state to begin to move. And the brothers inside McAlester fought back through a number of suits against the state and against the prison; finally, one judge ordered that the cruel and inhuman punishment come to an end. Rules were relaxed, the warden was fired, several of the most brutal guards were either fired or transferred; mail started to get to the prisoners, and McAlester reached, for awhile, a level of harassment which is usual for American prisons. In the words of one brother there, "Today, we are in the process of building a prison in which human organisms can survive under relatively humane conditions. All in all things are looking considerably better for the people."

Not all the problems were solved; the "doctor" at the prison was uncovered as a simply con-artist (not a doctor)--he is now under arrest. His background showed numerous similar frauds in the past--the prison officials, caring nothing about the care of prisoners, simply had not bothered to check his background.

More recently, however, the situation has again worsened and seems likely to return to the brutality of the past. The following report comes from one of brothers involved, who is now is solitary.

"The incident which allegedly caused all of this insanity took place in the rotunda on August 16, and was the first time that unity and solidarity has ever been demonstrated between the oppressed peoples who are captives of this state. About 11:00 in the morning, 40 members of the Organization of Black Cultural Unity gathered together in the rotunda under the pistols, rifles, shotguns, and machine guns of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to peacefully petition the warden for a classroom in the education department in which they could hold their meetings (This classroom had been promised by the acting warden; the racist deputy warden had refused to obey the warden's order)

"When the brothers began their demonstration the news spread like wildfire throughout the prison, and in a matter of minutes the rotunda was filled with irate captives who had come to join the brothers in their righteous struggle. Virtually every convict group within these walls was represented: United Indian Movement, Native American Church, the Law Collective, The Crisis, the central committee of H. O. P. E. (Help Our Prisoners Exist), the Convict Self-Government Committee, the workers, and would you believe, the JAYCEE's.

"After about 150 of us had stood arm in arm for about 15 minutes the word came down from the front end that the warden would see 4 brothers from the Organization with a view to arbitrating our differences. The brothers promptly rejected this proposal and demanded that all the people gathered together be allowed to hear what was said so there could be no jiving around at a future date about what was agreed upon.

"After a short delay Bubbling Bud (Harold E. "Bud" Wilson, acting warden) calmly walked into the rotunda without guards or any noticeable show of force and discussed the problem with us. He quickly agreed that his previous verbal order would be carried out and he made it clear that the racist pig O' Reilley (the deputy warden) wasn't running anything but his head. This announcement was greeted by resounding cheers. The brothers dismissed the assembled group and we all split in an orderly manner.

"During the demonstration many of the guards fled out the East Gate and some of the women employees were evacuated from the impregnable Administration Building. A typical honkie overreaction. An imbecile can see that we had about as much chance of taking over the prison from the rotunda as a goldfish conquering his bowl. Actually the pig was freaked by the solidarity which transcended the color barrier which has long been one of Oklahoma's most potent control mechanisms.

"The oinkers wanted to lock the penitentiary down immediately, but the fascist governor wanted the publicity of the Johnny Cash show which was to come to Big Mac on August 19, so he ordered the warden and the Director to let us go to the big show (!) on the 19th and clobber us on the 20th.

"I believe I told you about how the liberal warden with his bourgeois humanist approach dismantled the execution squad by transferring the pigs who murdered Bobby (Robert Forsythe) to other concentration camps around the state. Only one man was actually fired, and that for dragging helpless prisoners from their cages and stomping them into the floor after they were incapacitated from massive overdoses of Mace and tear gas. The hated criminals of the administration were left waiting in the wings for just such a justification as this.

They have rounded up 120 men and put them in the Adjustment Center. Thier propaganda says that these men will be subjected to "intensive counselling and psychological therapy with a view to effecting positive attitudinal changes." These people aren't sophisticated enough to use prolixin or anectine, their behavior modification techniques consist of tear gas and clubs.

"The men they have rounded up are said to have rebellious attitudes. They are said to be the leaders of groups of troublemakers. They have been selected on the basis of the people who were active in organizing the various groups that our friendly saviour, the bourgeois humanist encouraged. They are weeding out people who are conscious and people with organizing ability. It's the Big Nurse in spades. A Clockwork Orange...."

The NO is working on seeing how we can best support the struggles going on in McAlester, and we will get out further information as possible. McAlester, with all its other problems, has also gotten caught in a political crossfire between the governor, David Hall, and members of the state legislature and parole board. Meanwhile, the brothers inside continue the struggle. Letters to the warden (Harold E. Wilson, warden, P. O. Box 97, McAlester, Oklahoma 74501) will let this liberal-in-words, fascist-in-practice know that people are aware of his repressive activities.



Paul Lyons

In the Third Class mailing that went out a week and a half ago was a leaflet about the case of Paul Lyons, a prisoner presently being held in the Pennsylvania State Prison in Pittsburgh. Paul has done much for VVAW/WSO and deserves all the support we can give to him in his struggle against racism and repression in the prison system. The National Prison Project hopes that chapters and regions will get out the word about this brother; we have a limited number of the leaflets left here--if you know of groups or organizations which are interested, let us know and we'll send off the leaflets.

Discharge Statistics

The following statistical information, sent to the NO by the Dayton VVAW/WSO, comes from the Congressional Record; copies of the full information can be gotten through NISBCO (att: Duane Shank), 550 Washington Bldg, 15th and New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005.

"The VA is also responsible for determining whether or not a veteran with an other than honorable discharge will receive unemployment compensation through the Department of Labor. A VA representative estimates that of 1,000 to 1,200 applications for VA benefits and unemployment compensation each month, the VA finds favorably in approximately 4% of the cases for unemployment compensation and about 7% for VA benefits."

In 1973, "approximately 70,000 former servicemen were given other than honorable discharges, but only 8,911 even applied for review. Approximately 42,000 cases were eligible for review by the Army, but only 4,474 cases were actually reviewed and only 473 were actually upgraded.... In 1973 alone, the rate of successful appeals ranged from 11% by the Army to 25% by the Air Force and 29% by the Navy and Marine Corps. Since 1967 the Army has favorably reviewed 2,176 out of a total of 16,747 applications."

"In 1972 (fiscal year), for example, 32.6% of the dishonorable discharges issued by the Army went to Blacks. I think that it is not just a coincidence that in the first quarter of 1974, the unemployment rate for young, black vets was 18.9%."

Regional Reports

Ford in Columbus

The VVAW/WSO chapter in Columbus, along with a number of other groups, greeted Ford when he came to speak at Ohio State University. About 100 people had a very successful picket in front of the arena where Ford was to be speaking, with much leafletting before and after the speech. The demonstration and literature were well received by the people attending; the action was fairly successful in that the demonstrators reach a large number of people and brought the issue of amnesty to them (as well as the other demands: End US Interference Abroad; Stop Police Repression in Black, Chicano, and other Third World Communities; Universal, Unconditional Amnesty; and End Attacks on the People's Living Standards: Decent Housing, Health Care, and Education for all People.

While the demonstration was going on, one member of the Columbus chapter was being held under a version of "house arrest" by secret service agents who surrounded his house, keeping him and his wife inside.

Shea Stadium Attack Developments

In this month's issue of Winter Soldier there is an article describing what happened at Shea Stadium the night that VVAW/WSO members were attacked follow "Honor Vietnam Veterans Night" ceremonies. As stated in that article, 4 of the VVAW/WSO people had their charges dropped in the hearing that took place on Sept. 9th. One of these brother, Aaron David (who has a history of mental problems) has been hospitalized in the Bellevue Psychiatric Ward as a result of this attack. The brothers who remain charged at this time are: Mike Grew, who charge was reduced to a misdemeanor of "harassment," and Danny Friedman who is presently charged with 2nd degree felonious assault. Because of the seriousness of Danny's charges, the evidence regarding this attack will have to be taken before a grand jury and the government will be asking for an indictment. This process may take another couple of months before the final charges are in on Friedman, or it is also possible that the grand jury will decide that no indictment is warranted. Because of this, no defense committee has yet been formed, though the New York City chapter will be preparing for that possibility. Mass outreach regarding the Shea Stadium attack is being done, however, and chapter members have been leafletting the VA and the MOVA (Mayor's Office on Veterans Affairs) offices exposing the attack.

Labor Day in Milwaukee

VVAW/WSO, in coalition with a number of other groups, sponsored the annual Labor Day Parade and Rally in Milwaukee. Approximately 300 people marched under banners proclaiming Universal, Unconditional Amnesty; The People Kicked Nixon Out: Celebrate; End Police Repression--Free Ray Mendoza; Support the United Farmworkers--Victory to All Strikers; Victory to the Vietnamese and Palestinian People; and Free Puerto Rico.

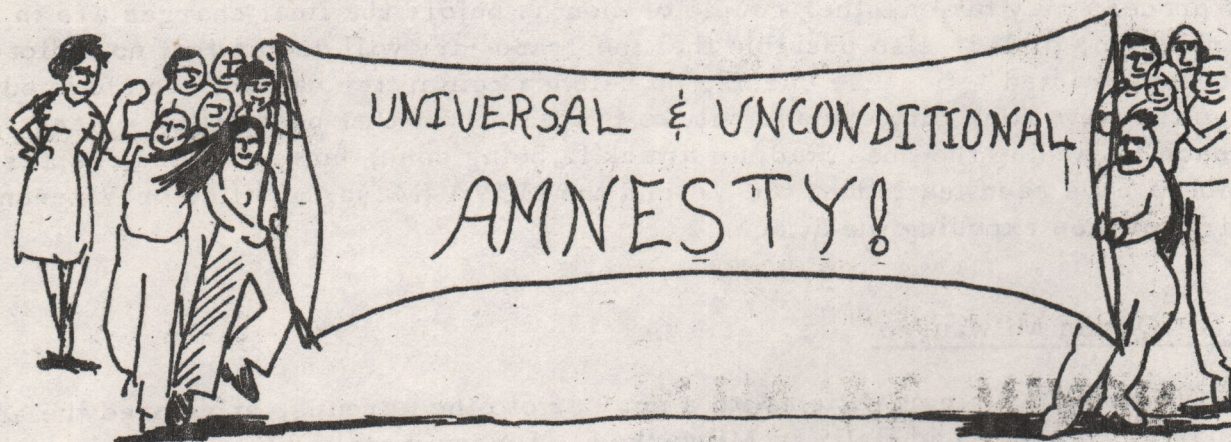
The parade marched through the community in which VVAW/WSO members live and work in Milwaukee; the response from people along the streets was excellent even including signs on cars parked along the street. People heard the chants and joined the parade, which ended with a Rally at a neighborhood park. Speakers talked about the demands of the parade; there was music, food, baseball all to celebrate the day set aside for American labor.

California Chapters Doing Amnesty Demo Blitz

The California region has felt it extremely important (as we all should) to be in the streets at this time in response to Ford's statement on conditional amnesty and the subsequent pardon of Nixon. Because of this, the region has held, and is planning to hold in the future, a series of amnesty/anti-pardon demonstrations around the state. The first such action took place on August 26th as the Oakland, San Jose, San Francisco and Santa Cruz chapters held a joint demonstration at the Regional VA building in San Francisco. Over 50 people showed up at the VA demo to raise our four demands, and the VA was completely caught off-guard. The demonstrators picketed outside the VA and then charged through the building, distributing 750-1000 leaflets to VA workers, people going in and out of the VA building, and passers-by on the street. The timing of the action was perfect because VA workers were coming out on their lunch breaks and were

very interested as to why the demonstrators were there. The action was hailed as a great success -- both because of the spirit of the demonstrators, outreach that was done and the large media response.

The second series of amnesty demonstrations took place in southern California as the Venice chapter mobilized about 40 people within two days to hold an anti-pardon rally after Ford made his announcement regarding Nixon. Another anti-pardon rally is scheduled for Sept. 16th in San Francisco. This particular action is being sponsored by two prisoners organizations (including the United Prisoners Union) and VVAW/WSO. We'll try to have more details in the next newsletter.



Philadelphia Demo

The Philadelphia Chapter of VVAW/WSO organized a regional demonstration to meet President Ford when he appeared in Philadelphia on September 6th for the 200th anniversary of the First Continental Congress. Although a 9 square block area was roped off (only the elite were permitted inside that area), some 150 people marched around the perimeter with the chant "Nixon's not the only one, Put the system on the run." "Nixon or Ford, the Vets Fight Must Go On," was the theme of the demonstration. A number of groups in Philadelphia participated in the action, including the RSB, O4O, Resistance, the Workers Organizing Committee, RU, and VVAW/WSO from around the region. Amnesty and the other demands from the DC demo were included; the demonstration ended with a Rally.

Eugene, Oregon Chapter Activity Increases

After a period of relative inactivity, the Eugene, Oregon chapter is beginning to pick up again. They recently opened an office so they can better do outreach into their community. The office contains information and some counseling on discharge upgrading and SPN codes, information on PVS, amnesty materials, newspapers, films, slides, and a speakers bureau. Veterans in Eugene have been expressing an interest in bad discharges and SPN codes, and the chapter has been doing propaganda around these topics. Also, with Ford's statement on amnesty, the chapter has received requests from media for interviews and statements.

NCLC In Buffalo

Because of harrassment from the goons of NCLC (National Caucus of Labor Committees), the Buffalo VVAW/WSO chapter has put out a pamphlet entitled NCLC=Pigs--Pigs in the Peoples Movement. (They cost 10¢ each and are composed of articles from Liberation News Service and Counterspy, plus an introduction by the Buffalo VVAW/WSO.) As the introduction points out, NCLC's national newspaper, New Solidarity, says that "VVAW/WSO is directed and run by and for the CIA.... The NCLC has been doing the ovrk of the police by calling themselves socialists, but acting like fascists. Instead of fighting against the system, they are the system's agents. They should be exposed as fascists and dealt with as such."

The most recent national appearance of NCLC was as the US Labor Party (one of their fronts) at the first appearance made by Rockefeller after his nomination as vice president. They were in the audience heckling; Rockefeller was thus given the chance to appear in the guise of a liberal by saying that people should listen, let everyone be heard. Of course, the heckling was the normal garbage which NCLC spouts, filled with utter contempt for the American workers, and which can only serve to discredit anyone even associated with the left. They are, in fact, the pigs of the movement demonstrated by their words, their ideas, and their practice.

National Office Reports

A Money Plea

The National Collective of VVAW/WSO cordially invites the chapters of the same organization to join in a massive campaign to support its own National Office and national newspaper. It may have become apparent to many people that there was no September issue of Winter Soldier. It may also have become apparent that there are no membership buttons, amnesty buttons, "What Is" pamphlets, amnesty pamphlets, and other assorted mass propaganda and agitation materials to be obtained from the National Office.

There is a reason for all this. You guessed it -- no money. There was not enough money to print the paper, nor is there enough to make or print any materials that in the past have flowed so wonderously from Chicago. Many chapters obtained materials "on credit," meaning that the items were never paid for. The paper as of yet is not even paying for the truck rental fee needed to collect the paper from the printer every month. We don't think it is necessary to become hard-nosed about this, but it is a definite strain.

We feel that chapters have been very irresponsible about their responsibility toward the newspaper in particular. That paper does not fall from the sky and we have been in the position of almost single-handedly supporting the newspaper for the past 16 months. We have paid for 16 issues, which means that approximately \$16,000 have been spent on W.S. It is because of this that we are asking that chapters begin to pay for the copies of W.S. that they receive. We would

ask that chapters/regions pay 5¢ for each Winter Soldier they order. We realize that at this time, some regions will find this impossible until they begin to build up their own sources of income more effectively, and in light of this, we would settle for 5¢ for every copy of the newspaper that is sold. We don't think this is unreasonable. Either way you look at it it means that for every 5 copies of W. S. that you sell, you sell one for us, i e for insuring that W. S. continues to be published. We know that some regions are capable of paying for the newspaper they receive; for those regions that are not at this time able to pay that amount, we strongly suggest that chapters begin to sell the newspaper, not just give it away to everyone who walks down a street. It costs roughly 5¢ to print each copy of the paper, and the bulk of the papers are sent to the regions for their use. Subscriptions alone will never pay for the paper, because 22,000 of every issue is sent out bulk and we have no control what happens to them at that point, i. e. are they sold, mailed, given, etc. We know that payment for newspapers will not happen over night, and chapters will have to increase the amount they sell and grow into the idea that the paper has to be supported on the local level. But the simple fact is that unless the National Office has assistance from the regions, we cannot guarantee how much longer the paper will be published. We simply cannot go on the way we are going at the present.

Along with paying for the newspapers you receive, we hope that chapters will really press to collect the monthly dues; that is, one dollar from each member of your chapter. It will become increasingly more important that these dollars be sent religiously to the N.O. every month. For the record, since the internal funding proposal was passed in Buffalo, five chapters have sent in their dues: San Francisco, Santa Cruz, East Bay-Oakland, Milwaukee, and Chicago. That's out of 104 chapters listed. It will also be important that when chapters send in their dues, they inform us of the specific month that they are paying for. This is because if chapters send their money in at the end of a month, we will not know which month they are paying for. So, be sure to ear-mark the money so that we can keep better track of who is paying for which month.

Also, it would be great if chapters held specific fund-raisers to pay for materials NEEDED by the chapters for their work. Like holding a party at someone's house to pay for some buttons, or whatever. The N.O. has a budget of about \$5000 dollars of which only \$720 is spent for the collective to survive. The rest is used directly on organizational needs. It makes sense for the National Office to be supported by the members of the organization. At least, we think it does.

PAY FOR WINTER SOLDIER --- PAY YOUR DUES!

ALL POWER TO THOSE WHO PAY THEIR DEBTS!

Working Paper

The VVAW/WSO working paper was sent out with the last newsletter (#27); according to the Buffalo Steering Committee Meeting minutes, changes, suggestions, definitions, advice, complaints, or whatever should be in to the NO by the 15th of October.

Veterans Day Approaching

In line with the National Program that we adopted at the Buffalo NSCM, the dates for the first major actions are approaching. People should already have begun implementing the program in their day-to-day work and building a campaign around our four demands within their communities and regions. Also, we know that in some regions, building actions for the Veterans Day demonstrations are being held or planned to occur in the near future. It is important that this first "high point" in our National Program come off successfully and we are expecting strong, militant actions to occur on either October 28th, November 11th, or hopefully, both of these days around the country. If chapters have not yet begun to plan for Veterans Day demonstrations, it is time to start doing so. We hope that all regions and chapters will keep us posted on how the planning is going and what is being scheduled for this first major action of our program implementation. Also, in line with the continual reminders about photos, we will be doing coverage of the Vets Day actions in Winter Soldier, so be sure to get your chapter photographers prepared and get those photos in to us ASAP! (Needless to say, this applies to all chapter actions).

National Defense Committee Meeting set for November 2-3

This is another reminder that the NDC week-end workshop will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 2-3. As decided at the Buffalo NSCM, this is not an "open" meeting, and it is requested that those chapters and individuals who have particular expertise or skills in doing defense work, as well as those people who have been involved in the procedure for getting our National Defense Committee information put together attend this meeting. There are several chapters and people who are responsible for writing papers which are to be discussed at this NDC meeting. It is imperative that these papers be completed as soon as possible so that we will be ready to get down to work when the Milwaukee meeting begins. So, for all of you people who are involved in getting the NDC materials together, let's get moving so that this Milwaukee meeting will be as productive as possible, and so that we can have the NDC packet ready to be discussed by the entire National Steering Committee at the St. Louis NSCM.

G. I. News

In the special 3rd class mailing which people should be receiving by now, you will be getting the September issue of GI NEWS which is now in an 8-page, newsprint format. We switched over for several reasons. First was the cost. We got 2,000 copies printed on newsprint for almost the same price that we payed for the last issue of GI NEWS which was 800 copies on an expensive stock. The second reason is that a newsprint format is basically an easier format to work with. To begin with, you don't have to colate and staple anything; it comes right off the press folded. It is also much easier to work with in terms of laying out material. And last, but not least, is that a newspaper is a much easier piece of literature to use as a tool to reach G. I. s than a newsletter. People are much more likely to take a newspaper than a newsletter like the previous GI NEWS. It also lends itself to being stuffed inside WINTER SOLDIER much more readily than a newsletter.

We would like to know by September 28th how many copies of the next issue each chapter would like. We're only going to print enough to fill orders, so please make a realistic assessment of how many you are able to distribute. You may want to stuff WINTER SOLDIER and distribute them to GIs or to National Guard and Reserve people as they are leaving their meetings; or you may just want to give everyone the added supplement wherever you go. These papers (GI NEWS) will be sold to chapters for 5¢ a piece. If you have a hard luck case, let us know and we'll try to work something out; but we can't see how anyone couldn't afford to pay \$5.00 for 100 papers. With regard to this issue, we have about 800 copies left. First come, first served.

A final note on receiving GI NEWS as soon as it is printed. You may have noticed that the last GI NEWS (August issue) arrived by 3rd class mail about one month after it was printed. The reason for this is that it is cheaper to send it along with another piece of literature in one of our general chapter mailings. The chapters that receive them right away when we mail to GIs and the GI movement organizations are those chapters which have sent us the \$3.00 for the postage. Any chapters that would like to insure that they get GI NEWS as soon as its printed, please send us your \$3.00 for a subscription so we can put you on the list. Otherwise, it will have to continue going on the "next bus out."



Notes From the Paper Packer -

Shipping costs for Winter Soldier are soaring faster than the inflation rate. Trying to decipher the codes and charts of the Greyhound and REA rate books is more difficult than finding the needle in the haystack. We would recommend that each chapter that receives papers call these two companies and find out which would be cheaper for the amount of papers that you receive. If you find a cheaper way, please let us know and we will begin sending you the papers via the other carrier.

Some chapters receive papers parcel post. For small shipments, this is the cheapest way. If you receive papers parcel post, could you please send us that amount every month as it is getting too expensive for us to do that.

Some areas act as distribution points for WS. For instance, Buffalo, NY takes the papers for Rochester, Oneonta, etc. This saves the organization a lot of money. If you receive 10 lbs of papers or 90 lbs of papers via REA it costs the same. Five close chapters receiving approximately 15 lbs of papers each, would

save money by following the example of Buffalo. Each chapter could chip in a bit and everyone would save money except REA.

An example of poor shipping takes place in the New York City area. Here four different chapters within a 50 mile radius, all receive separate shipments. The extra money wasted can be used to help us print the paper. If each of these chapters pooled the costs and used NYC as the central shipping point, a lot of money could be saved.

We suggest that regional offices take a look into this problem, figure out the cheapest way and let us know by next month. Also, if a chapter changes addresses please let us know right away, so that we can send papers (or anything for that matter.)

"What Is VVAW/WSO" and Amnesty Buttons

We've been getting requests for both the booklet "What Is VVAW/WSO" and for the orange and blue amnesty buttons. We're out of both, and have no money with which to reprint them. We recognize that both of these items are useful, even necessary tools for the organization, but we can only work with what we've got. Therefore we propose that chapters and/or regions decide how many of each they need, then send the NO 10¢ a piece for however many will be needed. As soon as we have sufficient money, we will get them redone (we've already got \$10 for each); the "What Is" booklet will have the revised objectives as of the Buffalo Steering Committee.

So, the sooner the money comes in the sooner we can get the things redone--let us know how much money you are sending for which item. We'll get them out to you in the mail as soon as that process is completed.

New Chapter List

A revised chapter listing is included with this newsletter; if people will keep the NO informed of changes, we can send them out with later newsletters. Also on the chapter list are people listed as "Contacts." These are individuals who are starting chapters in their area but have not yet become chapters; we send the internal newsletter (and whatever other information comes out of the NO) to these addresses, because we feel it is important that chapters in the process of organizing have the information. For people who are just interested in following the organization, we recommend subscriptions to Winter Soldier--that is not the purpose of this newsletter. If regional coordinators or collectives have other beginning chapters who they feel should be receiving the newsletter, they should inform the NO so that these contacts can be added to the list.

Pictures

Are you tired of seeing only pictures of VVAW/WSO actions in Chicago and Milwaukee in Winter Soldier? There is a simple solution: SEND PHOTOS. We know that other chapters and regions are conducting actions, but we can't print pictures of them unless have them. Ideally we would like to get 5x7, black and white prints, but smaller prints (or larger, for that matter) or even the negatives would be a great improvement over nothing. At this point, any reasonably good picture of VVAW/WSO in action is almost guaranteed publication, just because our selection is so small.

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

THE VAWA AND THE STATE OF TEXAS

Several paragraphs of faint text, likely the beginning of a main section or a detailed report.

Another block of faint text, continuing the narrative or report.

Final block of faint text at the bottom of the page, possibly a conclusion or a signature block.

VVAW/WSO CHAPTER LIST

September, 1974

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CORRECTION: The Denver chapter mailing address should be the same as that of the Colorado Regional address.

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