

# WINTER ★ SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



AGAINST THE WAR / WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

25c

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8



1974 SEPT - OCT

## A CRIMINAL FRAUD

# FORD'S AMNESTY



AMNESTY	pg. 3	V.A.	center
INDOCHINA	pg. 4	ATTICA	pg. 10
PUERTO RICO	pg. 7	Gls	pg. 12-13

## EDITORIAL

Gerald Ford, Nixon's replacement has come out for "leniency" for what he calls "draft dodgers" and "deserters." In a speech given before the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Ford said: "I foresee their earned re-entry into a new atmosphere of hope, hard work, and mutual trust... As I reject amnesty, I reject revenge."

For Nixon, however, there will be total, unconditional pardon. His crimes are forgiven, he is protected from prosecution no matter how many more of his criminal acts may be uncovered in the future. Nixon has, in the words of the new president, "suffered enough." Perhaps the \$850,000 requested for transition expenses, and the \$2 million projected fee for Nixon's "true" story of Watergate will help him suffer less. Nixon is an out-and-out criminal; he should be dealt with as a criminal, not freed from punishment. Meanwhile, it is clear that war resisters--who are not criminals, will be soundly punished before Ford's "leniency" takes command.

No where was there mention of the 500,000+ less-than-honorable discharges handed out during the Vietnam era. No mention, either, of the hundreds of thousands of people now living underground in this country as a result of having gone AWOL or refusing to register for the draft. No mention of clearing the records of those resisters who served prison terms. And, most important, no mention of the central issue of the amnesty campaign: that, because of the imperialist nature of the Vietnam War, the resisters were right.

The anti-imperialist amnesty movement is growing; the government had to do something. Ford, riding on the wave of temporary euphoria which followed Nixon's slinking away from the White House, went just as far as he thought was necessary to undercut the peoples' movement for amnesty. Concentrating on the well-publicized exiles, Ford completely separated them from the hundreds of thousands of poor, third world, and working class vets and resisters to whom amnesty must be granted. With great political shrewdness, Ford chose an audience which would trumpet the most reactionary position on amnesty and thus make the Ford position seem that much more progressive.

Ford has now made public the government tactic which we of VVAW/WSO predicted a year ago. He will try to divide the amnesty movement by co-opting those segments of the movement who refuse to recognize that the real problem is imperialism. For those of us who have been building the anti-imperialist amnesty movement, our task and slogans remain the same:

SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL  
VETS  
UNIVERSAL AND UNCONDITIONAL  
AMNESTY FOR ALL WAR RESISTERS

## GARY LAWTON to ANGELA DAVIS

# An Open Letter

In June 1974 Gary Lawton was asked to speak at a rally sponsored by the Southern California affiliate of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Angela Davis, one of the chairpersons of the Alliance was to be one of the other speakers. In refusing to speak on that occasion, Gary, a member of VVAW/WSO, wrote the following letter of explanation to Angela Davis, a leading member of the Alliance and the Communist Party, USA.

During the period when Angela Davis was the focus of the struggle against repression, Gary freely and fully did all that was asked of him by the Angela Davis Defense Committee in support of that struggle. The Defense Committee, and the Alliance which is its successor, promised to actively support Gary; in fact there has been no support. As mentioned in the letter, similar promises were made to Ruchell Magee; those promises were also broken. The National Steering Committee of VVAW/WSO feels that it is in the interests of political prisoners around the country that the practice of the Alliance in these cases be public knowledge. The following letter was handed to Angela Davis during the above-mentioned rally.

Riverside, California  
June 13, 1974

Angela,

I was recently asked by the Southern California Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, to participate along with you and other speakers at a rally to be held at the Embassy Auditorium on the night of June 14, 1974.

As much as I may, for other reasons, regret it, I feel that I must decline the Alliance's invitation owing to the fact that I cannot participate in a program with an individual (or group of individuals) whom do not have the best interest of all oppressed people and political prisoners at heart, and whether it is of any significance to you or not, I want you to know that the foregoing statement is directed solely at you.

Since your exoneration in the Marin Court House thing, you have done little to nothing in giving the same meaningful, consistent support to other political prisoners that was so eagerly and selflessly given to you at that time in your life, when you most needed help.

By this I mean, that since your release from incarceration you, and those around you, have engaged in a phony game of "Selective Support" of a few political prisoners and dealt with one or two issues (and those in a very half-hearted jive manner), but for the most part you seem not to give a damn about what is happening to the mass of both political prisoners and subjugated people as a whole here in the wilderness nation of Amerikkka.

If you can support Bro. Ben Chavis in North Carolina, then why can't you give that same kind of righteous support to Ruchell Magee; and while I'm on the subject of Ruchell Magee, ask yourself this, whom is more deserving of your total support, help and encouragement than Ruchell.

But no, you have turned your back on Ruchell, just as you have turned your back on dealing with the real issues of fascist oppression in this country.

You are now making a big to do about repression in North Carolina. You seem to have lost sight of the fact that what is happening in North Carolina is taking place everywhere here in this wilderness nation; and if that were not so George and Jonathan Jackson would be alive today, the Attica massacre would not have happened, Martin Sostre and those he represents wouldn't be waging a single-handed life and death struggle behind bars on the most outrageous form of frame-up, and Zurebu Gardner and I wouldn't be facing a third trial in as many years for an act we didn't commit.

My sister, you have lost touch with the people; and worse than that, you have become an ego tripping hypocrite and a sell-out to the very cause you once seemed to believe so fervently in.

Respectfully,  
(signed)  
Kali Moran, Sr.  
Slave name--Gary Lawton

# BOGUS AMNESTY



Chicago Amnesty Demonstration

President Ford has jumped on the amnesty bandwagon. He has decreed universal, unconditional pardon for Nixon and, at the same time, a highly conditional amnesty for some 10% of the war resisters.

In his first presidential speech outside Washington DC, Ford bounced the idea of conditional amnesty off the reactionary heads of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). With this speech he created a wave of publicity about the "new spirit of reconciliation" in the Whitehouse. But the clemency board (case-by-case review), the alternative service, bad discharges for returning deserters all show the real nature of the government's so-called "amnesty."

It wasn't soft spots in their hearts that persuaded Ford and his advisors to give "leniency" to the deserters and exiles, any more than it was "compassion" that got Nixon off the hook. Vets with less-than-honorable discharges weren't even considered in Ford's amnesty plans and that omission wasn't just by chance, either. The Vietnam War and the protests against it have bugged the imperialists for years; the defeat they took at the hands of the Indochinese people has bugged them even more. Pressure from the American people helped get the US combat troops out of Vietnam, and that pressure came from exposing the real nature of the imperialist war. No longer would the American people stand for the extension and protection of US exploitation of the raw materials and labor power of the Indochinese for the sake of increased profit for American corporations.

The growing amnesty movement holds the same threat for the US government, because universal, unconditional amnesty requires that they admit that their exploits in Southeast Asia were wrong--not just a blunder, but the conscious design of US imperialism. Of course, they can't afford that kind of exposure, so they keep on hoping that the American people will somehow forget the war. And, at the same time,

they hope the American people will not see and understand that our tax dollars are being shipped off to Thieu in South Vietnam and Lon Nol in Cambodia in order to keep that war going. But they also know that so long as amnesty is a loud, visible issue, the war won't be forgotten.

Shrewdly, Ford picked only one segment of the war resisters deserving amnesty. Ever since amnesty became an issue in this country, the exiles and deserters have gotten the majority of the attention and publicity even though they are the smallest section of resisters (50,000 exiles as opposed to 560,000 less-than-honorably discharged vets, or an estimated 200,000 resisters living underground). And, for the most part, exiles are not the sons and daughters of the working class; they are not third world nor poor. Clearly, Ford hopes that his conditional amnesty proposal will divert the growing militance and strength of the anti-imperialist amnesty movement; in a blatant insult to the intelligence of the American people, he hopes to trick those people whose concept of amnesty includes only the deserters and exiles into believing that amnesty, like the war, is a dead issue.

Nonsense. The American people know better. What does the Ford amnesty do for the vets with less-than-honorable discharges? Nothing. These vets, who are overwhelmingly third-world, poor, or working class, will still carry the lifetime brand of a bad discharge, no VA benefits, and no jobs. (Meanwhile, a real criminal will live in government financed estates in San Clemente counting his profits from memoirs about his Watergate crimes.) The resisters now living in hiding in this country--they are still in jeopardy whenever their records are checked for a simple traffic violation--Ford's amnesty does nothing for them either. They are predominantly third-world and poor. Ford's amnesty reaks with the same class distinctions that were so obvious in the war itself--the rich man's war, poor man's

fight.

Ford's amnesty means case-by-case review; politically active exiles, those who pose a potential threat to the imperialists, will find their path filled with obstacles. Alternative service is another sorry option. Many exiles could have performed alternative service in the first place, but they knew--and still know--that they would not serve in an imperialist war, even to the extent of alternative service.

What kind of change does Ford's bogus amnesty mean even for the exiles and deserters? Damn little. Deserters who have returned to the military have been getting administrative discharges all along--the military doesn't want the hassle of paperwork and the publicity about the thousands who deserted rather than fight for American corporations. And few exiles who have returned have been severely punished. But Ford's purpose was not to give amnesty, even the most conditional kind; it was to co-opt and defuse the amnesty movement. That's why he chose the most reactionary diehards he could find, the VFW, to announce his new-look policy. Given the Stone Age mentality of VFW leadership, Ford knew they would blare out their flag-waving opposition to any hint of amnesty. That made Ford look more progressive, and made what is basically the old policy appear to be new and different.

Ford rushed into an amnesty position which Nixon couldn't take; with his hard-line stand on amnesty, Nixon had painted himself into a corner. But despite the new trimmings, the Nixon position and the Ford position are basically the same. This helps account for Ford's "amnesty" for Nixon--full pardon with no alternative service or review. Nixon's crimes against the people--the continuing war, welfare cuts, the bombing of Cambodia--are Ford's crimes too, and the crimes of the entire class they represent; for these crimes there can be no amnesty. Nixon is a criminal; war resisters are not criminals, because they rightly resisted an imperialist, wrong war.

The amnesty movement and VVAW/WSO will continue to demand universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters, never for war-makers. Vets with bad discharges will continue to demand an end to discriminatory discharges and the institution of a single-type discharge for all vets. We have learned that if we are to win these demands, we will have to fight for them. The National Program of VVAW/WSO (see the centerfold of the paper) shows how we will carry on that fight.

(For further information on our position on amnesty, a 12-page booklet is available from the VVAW/WSO national office and from most regional offices.)

## Mass Anger Ousts Nixon

# KICKED OUT!

### Unsafe at Any Speed President Gerald R. Ford



Nixon's gone--kicked out of office. The man who replaced American troops with American tax dollars in Vietnam, who lied about "peace with honor" (which is neither "honorable" nor "peaceful") has been forced into retirement behind the stonewalls of his tax-financed California fortress. Nixon was an enemy of the people. We should celebrate his departure.

Nixon was ousted for 2 reasons: the first being that there was mass pressure for him to get out of office in the form of the anger and struggle of the people of this country; and the second, because the people who run this country --the huge corporate business interests --saw the growing unity among the American people, and saw that Nixon could no longer serve in the best interests of business.

The crisis facing imperialism today is real. Imperialism works for one motive: profit and power. It uses whatever forms of exploitation will make profit and power the greatest. But around the world people are saying no. Countries like Vietnam are fighting for liberation so that their raw materials and labor power can be used for the good of the people of their country, not for the profit of a foreign investor. In the US, workers are refusing to be exploited further and demanding their rights; there are strikes everywhere.

In short, profits are getting hard to come by--that is the crisis of imperialism.

It's like a pack of wolves, all hungry, but with only one bone among them. If there are fewer wolves the bone provides better pickings. It works just the same way with the corporate powers; so they're turning on each other. There are splits between the various factions, which are only natural when imperialism decays and profits lessen. The wolves have to feed on each other.

These splits showed up clearly during the impeachment proceedings. All the articles of impeachment were aimed at Nixon's crimes against his cronies, never at his crimes against the American people or the people of the world. Was there an impeachment article about the vicious cutbacks of funds for welfare programs? For not paying taxes? Was there an article about the criminal bombing of the civilian population of North Vietnam? Or Cambodia? Of course not.

But Nixon's crimes against the people who collaborated with him in running this country were all laid out. Watergate and the coverup--a crime against the Democratic party. Refusal to honor subpoenas from various governmental bodies--a crime against the privileged group. Even the debate over the illegal bombing of Cambodia did not center on the crimes against the Cambodian people, but on the fact that this bombing was kept secret from other members of the US government. Nixon's obvious contempt for the people of this country, proved time and time again by his Watergate speeches (how dumb does he think we are, anyhow?) was never mentioned.

The corporate owners of the country are used to the kind of in-fighting which goes on in and around the White House and the halls of Congress. Only when the people began to surge forward did they feel it necessary to take action against Nixon and his gang. Unity among the people was on the rise; people were seeing that the government did not act in the interests of the majority of the people. Unity among the people, in opposition to a government of big business, is a real threat. So Nixon was ousted. There could not be a trial of Nixon on the basis of his crimes against the people, because big business, the military, and Congress were all partners in those crimes.

Just what does Nixon's resignation

mean? Despite pious pronouncements of the new president, it doesn't mean that inflation is over. Life isn't going to get better for the millions of unemployed, or poor, or working people. A change in faces in the White House can't make these changes happen, particularly when one of these "new faces" belongs to Nelson Rockefeller whose family has been historically one of the most vicious enemies of American workers.

It does not mean, as many commentators have put forth, that "the system works." It works great for the 1% who, like Rockefeller, own the major corporations and all of the foreign and domestic capital stock in the country, but getting rid of one crook doesn't make the system work in the interests of the people of the country.

It does not mean that the people around the world who are victims of American imperialism will have it any better. Billions of dollars will still pour into the corrupt structures which dictators such as Pak Jung Hee in South Korea, or Thieu in South Vietnam or Lon Nol in Cambodia use to prop up their shakey regimes. American business interests in those places and elsewhere around the world will continue to work for their own profits, and exploitation of the world's people by the Rockefellers of this country will continue.

For those who had any doubt about what the replacement of Nixon means, look at the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller. The family which has for years exploited the world's people and resources, and murdered workers here at home now has its favorite son as vice-presidential nominee. Rockefeller-owned interests, such as the Chase Manhattan Bank, or Standard Oil have now made their connection with the US government blatantly obvious. The nominee who personally ordered the massacre at Attica makes clear the fact that there will be no change in the government.

What Nixon's resignation does mean is that the people of this country have a real power when we unite. That Nixon was forced out of office shows that the country's real rulers and owners are scared of growing unity. That they felt it necessary to try to co-opt the growing movement for universal unconditional amnesty again demonstrates that they feel threatened. The expanding peoples movement will keep on growing and unifying; the threat to the new faces in Washington will be even greater than the threat which finally Kicked Nixon Out!

**UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY**

# VIETNAMESE STUDENTS FIGHT DEPORTATION

(Los Angeles, CA) -- Seven South Vietnamese students brought to the U. S. five years ago on U. S. Agency for International Development (AID) sponsored scholarships are now fighting deportation proceedings ordered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The deportation proceedings against the students were begun after they had been denied political asylum

in the U. S. by the INS, on advice from Sec. of State Kissinger and the Dept. of State. During initial hearings on August 15th, the students won a postponement of the case until next month.

While in the U. S., all seven of the students -- two women and five men -- have been active in voicing their opposition to the war and the antidemo-

cratic Thieu regime. In June, 1972, when the U. S. drastically escalated its bombing of Vietnam, the seven students, together with 14 other South Vietnamese students, went to the Saigon Consulate General in San Francisco to present a letter protesting the waves of repression then occurring in Saigon. They have also participated in various anti-war educational activities.

In a recent press statement, the seven students point out that "although the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam has been signed for 18 months, the belligerent and repressive policies of General Thieu continue unabated. Thousands of intellectuals, students, religious leaders and other people have since been arrested and put in jail for advocating peace, national reconciliation, and faithful implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement."

Should the government succeed in deporting the students, it is clear that they will similarly be imprisoned or possibly killed on returning to South Vietnam.

Help in their fight for asylum is desperately needed. They have asked that letters demanding asylum and condemning the Thieu regime's violations of the Paris Agreement be sent to: Congress, Sec. of State Kissinger, and Leonard Chapman, Jr., Commissioner of Immigration, Washington, D. C. Copies of all letters should go to the students' lawyer, Frank Pestana, 619 S. Bonnie Brae, Los Angeles, CA 90057.



Credit: Focal Point

(left to right) Bui Van Dao, 25; Doan Thi Nam Hau, 25; Cao Thi My Loc, 25; Nguyen Huu An, 26; Nguyen Hoang, 31; Vu Ngoc Con, 26; Nguyen Dang Yen Truc, 24.

## HEAVY FIGHTING IN S. VIETNAM

The heaviest fighting seen since the Jan. '73 ceasefire was signed has been raging for months in S. Vietnam in areas surrounding the nation's two largest cities, Saigon and Da Nang. In direct violation of the Paris Agreement, the Thieu regime had set up some 10,000 illegal outposts on PRG territory from which it has been launching thousands of sweeps, shelling attacks, 'pacification' raids, and land-grabbing operations; many of which were of division and multi-division size. The response of the Vietnamese people to these attacks has been severe. In fierce counterattacks, troops of the National Liberation Front (NLF) have retaken literally hundreds of the Saigon outposts in the past several months, inflicting extensive damage to Thieu's forces.

In an area some 19 miles southwest of Da Nang, NLF troops have dealt the Saigon forces one defeat after another in battles around the town of Duc Duc and

the district capital of Thuong Duc. NLF forces also succeeded in cutting the strategic Rt. #1 near Qui Nhon, Saigon's major link to the north. Then, on Aug. 7th, Saigon suffered an even more serious defeat when the NLF captured Thuong Duc.

About the same time in an area west of the district town of Ben Cat, 25 miles north of Saigon, liberation forces inflicted extensive damage on Saigon troops in an engagement that had begun on May 17th with what the NY Times called the heaviest fighting seen since January '73. The Times also quoted a western diplomat in Saigon as saying "in some ways I don't blame them. At some point they say 'enough's enough.'" On Aug. 15th near the town of Phu Cuong, 20 miles north of Saigon, the NLF captured a number of Saigon outposts in what government sources called the "closest major fighting had come to the capital in more than two years." The next day NLF tanks ad-

vanced to within 15 miles of Saigon, "closer to Saigon's city limits than they ever had."

Noting the mounting NLF victories, the Times admitted on Sept. 3rd that "uncounted outposts have been given up in Quang Ngai and Quang Nam provinces under heavy pressure" from liberation troops. But as a western diplomat pointed out in the dispatch, "the communists are just taking back what they consider to be theirs." Despite the impossibility of maintaining the Thieu regime in the long run the US still seems determined to go down with the sinking ship. Pres. Ford had already made it clear that he will continue Nixon's disastrous policies in Indochina no matter what the cost may be. In an omnimous reflection of this decision, the PRG mission in Paris reported on Aug. 6th that American pilots were still flying combat missions over liberated territory in direct violation of the Paris agreement and that they recently killed over 300 people near Loc Ninh. But as the PRG also noted in condemning Ford for his decision, "whoever asks for the indefinite pursuit of US aid to the Saigon regime identifies with the lies of Nixon and puts his feet into the quicksand of Vietnam." The US has no other recourse left-either get out now or follow the Thieu dictatorship down to total defeat.

IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS!  
END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL!

## VETERANS' MOVEMENT

# HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

One very important chapter of American history that, like so many others, has been carefully hidden from the American people is the history of the veterans' movement in the US. Traditionally, the way our "history" books have dealt with the story of the people's movements, the struggles against exploitation, racism and repression, has been to pretend that they never existed - simply omit any mention of them at all or so greatly distort what really happened as to literally rewrite history. Such is the case with the story of the veterans' movement; a history of militant struggle that goes all the way back to the very birth of our nation. In a series of articles, Winter Soldier will begin the process of telling the real history of the veterans' movement - a movement that is alive and just as much a part of our society today in 1974 as it was two hundred years ago.

The growing mass movement of veterans we see today in the US is not an isolated phenomenon. Its roots go all the way back to the period after our Revolutionary War. Then, and after every major war the US has been involved in, veterans have organized as a group to fight for a decent standard of living and for the fulfillment of the promises the government made to them while they were in the service. This was not just coincidence either. After each of these wars, there was an initial period of brief economic prosperity followed by a deep economic crisis. In each of these economic depressions following on the heels of a war, veterans were among the very first to really feel the pinch. Organizing to fight for their rights and for decent benefits was a simple matter of survival.

In 1783, just after the Revolution, a group of Revolutionary War vets organized a "Pay March" to the Continental Congress, then sitting in Philadelphia. While the generals of the war, like Washington and Lafayette, had been rewarded for their service with large pensions and land grants, the enlisted men who had actually fought the war had not even received their pay since the Battle of Yorktown two years earlier. With a logic as sound today as it was then, the "Pay Marchers" felt they had a better chance of getting their back salaries by marching on Congress and forcing it to act rather than by waiting for Congress to do so on its own initiative. Congress thanked them for their troubles by asking Washington to send troops out to attack them. Washington did so, calling the vets "soldiers of a day" and a "rough lot" (much as President Hoover would later call the famous Bonus Marchers of 1932 "criminals" and "reds.") While the "Pay Marchers" failed to win their demands, they did establish a time-honored tradition of the veterans' movement: the militant mass action of veterans fighting to win their demands.

About this same time another mass uprising was going on in Massachusetts. Today, this is known as "Shays' Rebellion" after its leader Col. Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War hero of Bunker Hill. The severe economic crisis that followed the war caused particular hardship to thousands of small farmers who were losing their lands to mortgage foreclosures and lawsuits for past debts. These farmers formed themselves into armed bands to fight back against this. Joining with them were a great number of ex-servicemen of the war, out of work and trying to survive (many of whom were dispossessed farmers themselves.) It took the government nearly two years to put down Shays' Rebellion, and even then only by using very heavy armed force was it finally able to crush the revolt in 1787.

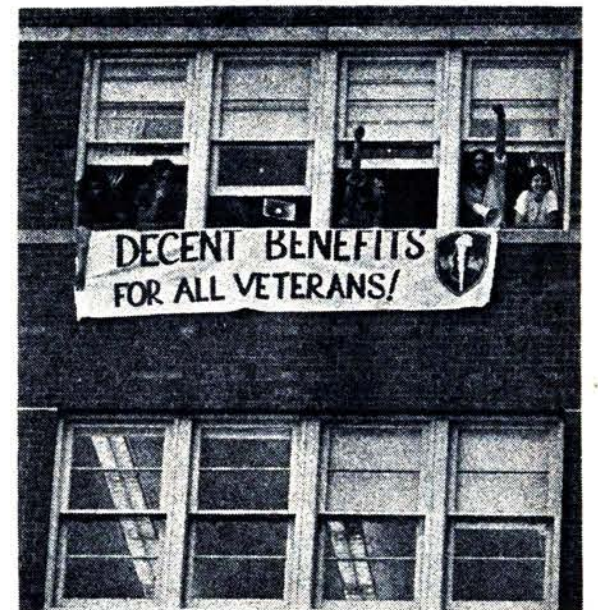
After the War of 1812, veterans again organized to fight for their needs. In 1818 vets had forced Congress to award payments for injuries and the burden of postwar economic hardships, even though these were not service-connected disabilities. This was the first time vets had won any non-service connected disability payments and set the precedent for winning similar benefits for veterans after each war since then.

The end of the Civil War saw the now familiar pattern of a short period of economic prosperity followed by a serious economic depression. This economic crisis set the stage for the long-run "pension fights" Civil War vets would wage well into the 20th Century. While the organization of Civil War vets, the Grand Army of the Republic, grew to be very powerful and drew the dutiful attention of every presidential candidate up to the First World War, vets and their families had to fight for every dime they got from the government.

To receive pensions for service during the Civil War, veterans (or their families, if they had been killed) had to fill out incredibly complicated forms so filled with red tape and bureaucratic gobbledegook that only a very experienced person could successfully complete them. This left most veterans prey to slick politicians who would dangle hopes of pensions before them for votes. It also subjected them to the even more insidious group of bloodsuckers known as "claims agents" and money lenders.

Often these "claims agents" were doctors who would verify the claims a vet would make for compensation. A government investigator of the time described the situation as follows: "claim agents would sit at the pay offices on pay days and seize the pensions of frightened, ignorant privates, frequently retaining more than half of it for themselves...the pensions...of Civil War veterans collected in the pockets of the loan sharks." Despite all the obstacles set in their way, however, Civil War vets continued their fight for decent benefits for well over 40 years. As late as 1918, after WWI had begun, there was still a slight increase in the classification of categories of veterans eligible for pensions.

By the time World War I had started, big business and war profiteers had learned the power of the veterans' movement. They wanted to prevent vets from organizing as an independent political force and avoid having to pay the great cost of veterans' pensions as they had to for both Civil War and Spanish American War veterans. In the next article in this series we will deal with the veterans' movement during the WWI period.



VA Takeover in Chicago

**Fight for Freedom & Independence!**

# PUERTO RICO



Fence in San Juan, Puerto Rico

The nation of Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States for more than 75 years, and the people of Puerto Rico have been fighting back against this domination for just as long. A call has gone out to all who support this struggle for independence to show their support around the national demonstration which has been called for Madison Square Garden in New York City on October 27th. The demands of the demonstration are "INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO!" and "A BI-CENTENNIAL WITHOUT COLONIES!"

Puerto Rico is located several hundred miles off the southeast coast of the US in the Caribbean. It is a classic colony of the United States: a country under the full political and economic control of the US government. Eighty-five percent of all industry on the island is directly controlled by US corporations. Although Puerto Ricans have their own "government" and a constitution, all political decisions are subject to approval from Washington. It is this reality that molds and dictates the lives of Puerto Ricans.

In response to this colonial exploitation, the people of Puerto Rico have begun, as they have many times in the past, to build a massive movement for independence... a movement to free their country. In 1897, they won a large degree of autonomy from Spain in their war for independence. However, in 1898, the island was invaded by armed forces of the United States, which placed the territory under military occupation, dissolved the Parliament and established United States rule by force of arms. Since that time, the US government has done everything in its power to crush the aspirations of the Puerto Rican people for independence.

Today, the US has exclusive jurisdiction over all questions of citizenship,

foreign affairs, defense, immigration, emigration, foreign trade, currency, postal service, radio and television, air and maritime transport. Decisions of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico can be overturned by federal courts of the US, and all laws adopted by the US Congress automatically apply to Puerto Rico.

The US also has absolute control over the economy of Puerto Rico. Investments total over \$1 billion, and now the big oil companies are planning to build a gigantic superport to handle their oil, something the people there strongly oppose. What makes things even more attractive for US corporations is that all of their profits are exempt from all corporate and personal income taxes for up to 17 years!

The US also maintains an extensive network of military bases in Puerto Rico, some of which have nuclear weapons on them. At least 13% of the best land is taken up by US bases.

What does this domination mean for the Puerto Rican people?

It means that their economy will remain stagnant forever. The enormous profits made by US corporations do not get plowed back into the Puerto Rican economy; they get plowed into the bank accounts of corporations like Union Carbide, Exxon, American Metal Climax, Gulf Oil and Sheraton Hotels. For Puerto Rican workers, it has meant wages that are 50% lower than in the US, unemployment that is 30%, and prices 25% higher than in New York City.

The constant drive to squeeze more out of the Puerto Rican worker has meant the implementing of such extensive schemes as Operation Bootstrap, the infamous plan to industrialize Puer-

to Rico. What this scheme has done instead is to create massive unemployment as the agriculture industry was destroyed and the developing industries did not provide enough jobs. The standard of living of the present industrial worker, rather than improving, is constantly deteriorating.

Historically, this has led to militant labor struggles, and today is no exception. In the last year-and-a-half, strikes have been called by such unions as the Electrical Workers Union, the Firemen's Union and the Sanitation workers in San Juan. The government responded by calling out the National Guard. Early this year the government responded to a Teachers Union strike by occupying the schools with police and arresting the teachers. For US corporations and the Puerto Rican government, this rising militancy calls for only one response: more repression.

This repression has come in the form of everything from political arrests to using the Taft-Hartley law against militant workers. It has also taken the form of bombings of offices like the pro-independence newspaper CLARIDAD and the physical assault of Puerto Rican leaders. And the government is now making plans to revamp the penal code to legalize many new forms of repression.

The domination of Puerto Rico has also meant mass migrations to the US. With the economic situation so bad and the continuing repression, hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have been forced to migrate to the US. Today, at least two million Puerto Ricans reside in the US, more than 40% of the Puerto Rican nation. New York City alone has 1.2 million Puerto Ricans. But this migration has meant little improvement - for many it has only made matters worse. Unemployment in some cities is as high as 50% for Puerto Ricans; for Puerto Rican Vietnam veterans in New York City, the unemployment rate is 60%.

These conditions, however, have not deterred the Puerto Rican people. With the same spirit that continues to guide the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, their struggle for independence is growing every day, gaining momentum in workers unions and popular organizations, as well as here in the US. The call for independence for Puerto Rico is a call that deserves the support of all Americans. It is a call that represents not only international solidarity, but a movement to end the cultural genocide and economic pillage of the Puerto Rican nation by US imperialism.

**INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO!**

**VICTORY TO THE  
PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE!**

(For more information, contact:  
Committee for Puerto Rican Decolonization, Box 1240, Peter Stuyvesant Station  
New York, NY 10009)



# VETERANS AD

On August 19th, President Ford appeared in Chicago before the national convention of the VFW where he named Richard L. Roudebush as the new director of the Veterans Administration. "Roudy," as his buddies call him, was hauled in to fill the vacancy left by the sudden departure of the VA's former director, Donald E. Johnson. But whether it's Ford or Nixon, Roudebush or Johnson, it's still the same story: the only way vets are going to get decent benefits and services is to fight for them. Changing the names on the doors of a few top-floor offices can't even begin to change this fact of life.

Even as President Ford was patting the new director of the VA on the back and telling the faithful at the VFW convention what a great guy he was, over 50 people, members of VVAW/WSO and supporters from the Revolutionary Student Brigade, the People's Voice, and the Revolutionary Union, were at the Regional VA Administration Office on the other side of town letting the VA know what they thought of the whole, lousy VA system. They seized the Chicago Regional VA Director's office and served notice on the VA that there would be no letup on it. The new director, Richard Roudebush, has since then made a point of asking for a "moratorium on criticism of the VA" -- a fighting brand of "criticism" that had kicked his predecessor, Donald Johnson, out of office -- while he "overhauls the agency." The many VVAW/WSO actions such as the Chicago VA take-over should have made it clear to both Roudebush and the VA that this is not going to happen.

Just who are we talking about when we deal with the Veterans Administration? It's not as if it was some two-bit operation struggling along doing what it can with an impossible situation. Rather, it is the third largest federal agency, only behind the DOD and HEW, receiving on the order of \$13 billion a year. Yet, we find that only 20% of this budget goes to veteran's benefits while 40% goes to "administration." The VA is the second largest federal employer and runs the largest hospital system in the U. S. Yet it has the lowest doctor to patient ratio of any large hospital system in the country. Out of every 140

employees in the VA hospitals, 50 work solely with administrative work. As opposed to the 340-400 employees per 100 patients in university hospitals, or the 292 employees per 100 patients in community hospitals, the VA has an appalling ratio of 140 employees per 100 patients in its hospitals.

Dealing specifically with Roudebush, his whole notion of a "moratorium on criticism of the VA" is pure nonsense. He has been working for the VA since Jan. 1971, and holding the #2 post of deputy administrator since Jan. 1974. He clearly represents the reaffirmation of the same miserable policies the VA has followed for years. Recently, he stated that Vietnam veterans are getting their fair "share" of the VA budget. "From a numbers standpoint" he said, "Vietnam veterans represent about 20% of the nation's 29 million veterans and they are getting about 30% of the total budget." Who is he kidding? To say that a veteran recently discharged from the service, out of a job, without schooling or training and often with extensive medical needs requires the same VA assistance as a 55 year old WWII vet is outrageous. But more importantly, where does Roudebush get off with his silly arithmetic in the first place: 30% of lousy VA benefits equals lousy VA benefits!

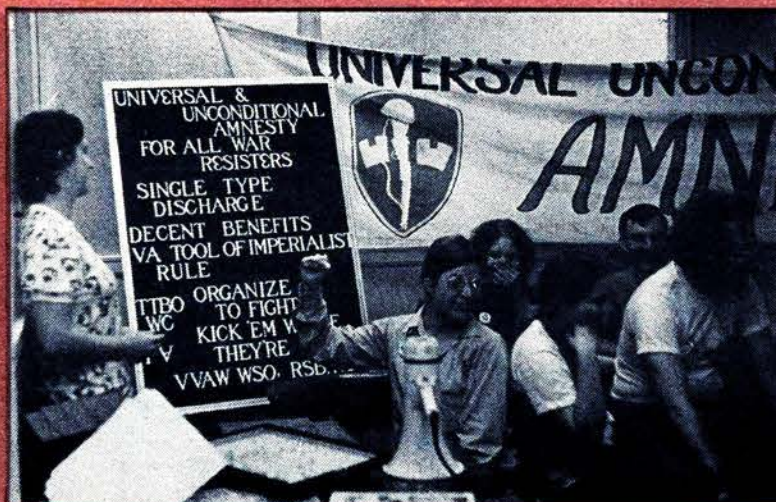
In a classic position statement on where the VA really stands in terms of meeting veterans' needs, Roudebush recently said that he opposes the "demand made by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (sic) that VA medical care be offered to veterans with less-

than-honorable discharges." Such a policy, he said, would have to be enacted by Congress and the President, but that even if they did enact such policy, he would oppose it! (This is partially a lie as it is up to the discretion of each regional VA director whether or not vets with administratively-given bad discharges receive medical care).

Such a statement from the head of the agency that is supposed to "serve" vets is unbelievable. But that's why Roudebush was put in the job to begin with. His personal political history is, in and of itself, enough to provoke a confrontation between vets and the VA. A staunch right-winger, friends have described him as "having a patent on patriotism." In any case, his political views were sufficiently reactionary to win him the post of national commander of the VFW in 1957.

But the lesson we must draw from all this is not that Richard L. Roudebush is the problem. Actually, he is just the symptom; a hack mouthpiece hired by the corporate elite, the real rulers of this country. His role is to serve these people by keeping veterans in line and politically "de-fused." Once he can no longer perform this task, he (like Donald Johnson) can be discarded. The real enemy is the system of imperialism and the business interests that run it. That is the real cause of the problems veterans face and the reason why the VA cannot and will not solve them.

Imperialism is now facing the worst political and economic crisis it has seen in over 40 years. The actual extent of the crisis may well exceed the depression of the 1930's. The causes of this crisis have their roots in the defeat imperialism suffered in Indochina, the untold billions poured down the rat hole of a genocidal war of aggression, the struggles for liberation and independence of oppressed people all over the world, and the rising resistance of working peo-



Inside the Chicago VA



Milwaukee VA Takeover



# ADMINISTRATION



ple here at home. To survive, imperialism is increasingly forced to place the burden of the crisis on the backs of the American people through economic attacks and political repression. Veterans, in the forefront of the struggle against the war in Indochina, now find themselves in the forefront in the fight against these attacks.

When Congress passed a recent GI Bill increase, President Ford promptly put the brakes on it and threatened to veto it outright to "control inflationary excess." The increase voted by the Congress was only for a measly 23% (it also included an extension of GI Bill benefits from 36 to 45 months, and would have made vets eligible for a new \$1000 federal loan program). The 23% increase would have raised a single vets check from \$220 to \$270, a married vet's from \$261 to \$321, and a married vet with a child from \$298 to \$366. Besides the fact that inflation already means that a GI Bill would have to be increased by 12% just to keep from actually being reduced in its real value. To equal the GI Bill given WWII vets, the present GI Bill would have to be increased by over 300%. And yet, President Ford killed the increase!

It's clear that policy decisions such as this are a direct reflection of the attack the system is waging against vets in particular (in this case) and working people in general. Small wonder that a recent Congressional study found that "the unemployment rate for honorably discharged young Vietnam veterans, age 20-24, for the first quarter of this year has been 9.9%, and a staggering 18.9% for non-caucasian veterans." There is no other solution to these attacks on veterans and the American people as a whole other than by uniting and fighting back against the whole imperialist system and the VA as one integral part of that system. The best way of doing this is by exposing the system to the people for what it really is and by attacking it through militant action of the people.

## NATIONAL PROGRAM

At its last National Steering Committee Meeting in Buffalo, New York, VVAW/WSO adopted a new program for the coming year that is aimed at building just such a people's struggle. The program is based around 4 demands: Universal & Unconditional Amnesty; Implement the Agreement, End All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol; Decent Benefits for All Vets; and a Single-type Discharge for All Vets. During the coming year, the organization will build a people's campaign around these issues in their communities, coming together for coordinated regional demonstrations all over the country on four target dates: Veteran's Day, the Anniversary of the Signing of the Paris Accords, Vietnam Veterans Day and Armed Forces Day. These demonstration dates will provide a focus for nationwide action around the 4 demands, though they, of course, will only be the "high points" in the campaigns that naturally must be built in the communities on a day-to-day basis. The two aspects of the program, visible actions and daily work around the demands, must go hand in hand: VVAW/WSO believes that these demands provide the necessary link between the immediate needs of veterans around their day-to-day struggle for survival and the more general, over-riding anti-imperialist issues that are vital to the growth of the anti-imperialist movement and a real solution to the basic cause of our problems.

The Chicago VA take-over was but one of the more recent examples of how this campaign can unfold. In Chicago, VVAW/WSO members and supporters seized the director's office and forcefully raised their demands: decent VA benefits for all vets, a single-type discharge for all vets, universal and unconditional amnesty, and implement the Paris Agreement - end all aid to Thieu and Lon Nol. The demonstrators also explained these demands to hundreds of sympathetic VA staff employees and

vets in the hospital through the leafletting, speaking and picket lines held during the action. As was pointed out to these people, the goal was not to seize the director's office, but to use that as a tactic to expose the VA. The goal was to use that action to unite with as many other people as possible, vets and VA workers alike, in attacking the VA and fighting to meet the needs of all veterans in the U.S. The Chicago demonstrators emphasized that the VA take-over there was just one of many militant actions against the VA organized by VVAW/WSO all across the country. Similar demonstrations and activities have been held in such places as Milwaukee, New York City, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Miami, Florida. The militance and increasing frequency of such actions all spell out one message: the VA is in for a long siege! Vets are fed up with the hollow promises, lies and shoddy treatment the VA's been handing out. And they are going to fight to see that things start changing -- one way or another!

- ★ UNIVERSAL UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY
- ★ IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS - END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL
- ★ SINGLE TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS
- ★ DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS

## BUILD THE NATIONAL PROGRAM!



1932 Bonus Marcher Signs Up



Washington DC VA Demo

# ATTICA

On September 13, 1971, over 1000 storm troopers under direct orders from Governor Nelson Rockefeller, assaulted D-Yard in Attica Prison and murdered 43 people. The reason for this brutal attack was not to free 38 hostages: they were being well-treated by the brothers--and 10 of them were killed by the Rockefeller troops. The reason was to attempt to destroy the tremendous unity which had grown up among the 1280 prisoners in D-Yard, a unity which had overcome the racism which prisons use to keep the people divided.

The Attica Rebellion was not the first uprising in prison. It was certainly not the last. The killing which became so public at Attica goes on daily in the prisons of America; sometimes the murders become public knowledge--as in the cases of Whitey Hurst, one of the Leavenworth Brothers, murdered in the Wyandotte County Jail, or Robert Forsythe, gassed to death by guards at McAlester, Oklahoma. More often, prisoners are quietly murdered in their cells; their deaths, if anyone hears about them at all, are covered up as illness or suicide.

The same brutality is going on in the streets, where third-world and poor people are shot by police. A few of these cases, also, become public knowledge--cases like Tyron Guyton in Oakland, or Clifford Glover in New York City--when the people unite against police tactics. But the back pages of any major city newspaper give daily examples of the "legal" murders in the ghetto-prison of this country.

ATTICA MEANS ALL OF US. And what happened at Attica prison is still happening to us all. Though the tactics have changed, the same system of repression is still trying to crush the 61 indicted Attica Brothers, now through the courts. Just as the Brothers in Attica united during the Rebellion, more and more people are united behind the fight against the prison/court/legal system called "justice."

Conditions in Attica were the spark that set off the Rebellion: 25¢ a day wages; five-minute parole hearings (the parole board is seen as a vitally important door to freedom by many prisoners --to be dismissed immediately simply underlines the jive nature of the whole system); constant abuse by the all-white, small-town guards (2/3s of the prisoners were third-world, the great majority from the cities). As a result, on September 9, 1971, the prisoners took control of their prison; for four days, black, brown, and white prisoners worked together, struggling against their common enemy.

Rockefeller refused all pleas for him to go to Attica to negotiate and avoid the bloodletting. He ordered the attack. Guards and state troopers, armed with inaccurate shotguns and hunting rifles (with "dum-dum" bullets--



illegal in international warfare under the Geneva convention), charged D-Yard; one out of ten people was hit by gunfire. Rockefeller said of his storm troopers: "I think they did a superb job." Nixon went on TV to congratulate Rockefeller on his handling of the situation. Even then, however, the massacre wasn't over; leaders of the Rebellion, seen alive after the attack, were later found dead, bringing Rockefeller's body count to 43. Despite guarantees from prison administrators that there would be no physical reprisals, 45% of the men in the yard had, according to doctors who examined them, "bruises, lacerations, and broken bones."

The Rockefeller forces did not count on the public outrage at their acts. All their cover stories collapsed. For instance, the story that hostages had their throats cut by prisoners, the first story to hit the media, was shown to be a lie after medical exams were completed. Rockefeller's own appointed commission could only find evidence of state brutality and violation of basic human rights.

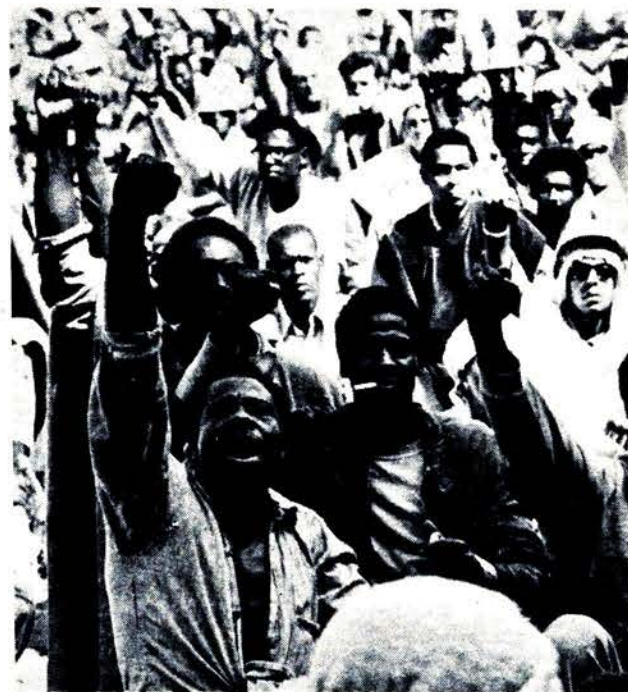
An all-white grand jury handed 42 indictments against 61 Brothers; the racist nature of the jury was so obvious that the court was forced to move the trials from Attica to Buffalo. People throughout the country are aware that there have been no indictments against the guards and troopers who did the killing. And the real criminal is now the vice-presidential nominee.

In the three years since the Rebellion, none of the original 28 demands of the prisoners have been met; instead, the state has constructed new guard towers and has armed the guards with M-16s. But the Attica Brothers, and the people around the country who work in their support, are struggling for more than just a few improvements at Attica. In the words of one of the Brothers, discussing reforms, "Our cry goes far be-

yond these realms. In effect what can happen is 'the placing of the cart before the horse.' What good is having TVs in our cells, tasty foods, programs, conjugal visits, etc if we are still coming in with 25 years? When our freedoms are still deprived? When as a class we are considered 3rd or 4th class citizens? No, the changes have to be back further than concentrating on the criminal justice system. And even further than when police place handcuffs on a person. The changes must be focused upon the road from which the horse and cart came from, and where it leads. Reform cannot do that."

The immediate battle of the Brothers is in the court where the racist, repressive system is still trying to silence them and all that they have come to stand for. And the Brothers still need the support of the people. They need the visible support such as the Rally in Buffalo on September 14 in Commemoration of those who died 3 years earlier. Financial support is also needed; Attica Brothers are available to speak. Money from their speaking tours has gone a long ways toward financing a defense against the \$9 million of state funds spent in prosecuting the Brothers. Attica News, and films on Attica--as well as further information--can be obtained through the Attica Brothers Legal Defense, 147 Franklin St, Buffalo, N. Y. 14202. And, around the country, people are confronting Rockefeller with his Attica crimes.

Prisons and the role they play in repressing and exploiting the people of the country are one link in the chains of imperialism. Imperialism needs prisons--both Attica and the ghetto. Imperialism's strongest enemy is UNITY among the people.



## Racism Characterizes Trial

# LEAVENWORTH

The trials of the Leavenworth Brothers began on July 29th in Wichita, Ks. Six prisoners are facing trial on charges stemming from the rebellion which occurred in Leavenworth Federal Prison on July 31, 1973, as prisoners lashed out at their oppression and the inhuman conditions they were forced to put up with day after day. Currently on trial are 4 black brothers - Odell Bennett, Jessie Evans, Alf Hill and Alfred Jasper. Evans, Hill and Jasper have been charged with assault and all have been charged with riot. They were also charged with murder, conspiracy to riot and mutiny, but these charges were dropped due to lack of evidence. Jesse Lopez and Armando Miramon, two Chicano brothers, will face trial on charges of kidnapping when the current trial is completed. All are members of VVAW/WSO.

In the midst of more than 30 Federal Marshalls, extreme security precautions, and continual harassment -- both of the defendants and courtroom spectators -- this incredibly repressive and racist scene opened. In early court proceedings, Odell Bennett removed himself from the courtroom saying, "I do not wish to dignify these railroad proceedings with my presence." During a statement, Bennett made a motion that Judge Theis disqualify himself because of racial prejudice. Bennett stated that Theis had made a reference to him as a "boy." Theis refused the motion and said he was sorry for using the word "boy," but said that it is a term commonly used when referring to racial minorities! Another brother, Alfred Jasper, began this trial with no attorney. (His lawyer recently had surgery and could not be present to represent him). Refusing to be tried without his attorney Jasper also removed himself from the court saying, "I do not have the attorney of my choice, therefore, I do not wish to participate in this frame-up."

On the third day of proceedings, jury selection began. Out of the 92 prospective jurors, only 3 were Black and no other national minorities were rep-

resented. Two prospective Black jurors disqualified themselves, saying that a lifetime of racial oppression and experiences involving Blacks unjustifiably accused would prevent them from being partial. The third Black juror stated he could be impartial regardless of race but at the first opportunity, the government used one of their challenges and the young Black man was dismissed. Despite Alf Hill's protest of "My peers are Black!" an all white jury of 8 men and 4 women, with an average age of 45, was empaneled.

Following jury selection, the government began to present their case -- a case filled with conflicting testimony. Witnesses against the brothers included government informers and prison officials. An example of the contradictions in these witnesses' testimony was the wide variety of stories that appeared in disciplinary reports and written statements prepared at different times. Eye-witness testimony was just as conflicting. A guard, Hobson, testified that he saw Alf Hill with a pipe in his hand hitting Ronald Teare, another guard. Hobson said he took the pipe from Hill and rescued Teare. Earlier in the government's case, guard Dale Groover stated that he had seen Jessie Evans with the pipe and that he had pulled Teare to safety and away from Evans. Groover made no mention of Hill being present. Also, it was revealed that the prison maintained a "hot list," which is a list of those prisoners who are politically active in fighting the oppression of the prison system. All of the 6 indicted brothers are on this list.

Defense testimony has consisted mainly of prisoners who have testified about the conditions in Leavenworth prior to the rebellion. They stated the atmosphere had been very tense and that prisoners were upset over the recent death of a prisoner who died as a result of inadequate medical care. The testimony of these witnesses also proved that the brothers were nowhere near the place of the rebellion when it broke



Armando Miramon, Jessie Evans

out. Aside from their testimony, it became clear that the defense witnesses were testifying under extreme duress. Lester Pickens (a Leavenworth prisoner) stated he was in fear for his life because a prison official had warned him to stay out of trouble, or "the same thing that happened to the 4 niggers going to trial will happen to you." Other defense witnesses remarked that they had received similar threats from officials warning them not to testify.

The hardship on these prisoners was also seen when another prisoner, Jack Abbott, testified that a Lieutenant told him that, "If Jasper is found dead there will be no investigation." After he concluded his testimony, Abbott, who has spent more than 1 year under the extreme psychological pressure of the Leavenworth "hole," muttered, "There are no Blacks on this jury," and dove head first into the jury box. The defense then moved for a mistrial on the grounds that Abbott's actions would prejudice the jury against the testimony of prisoners, but Judge Theis denied this motion.

And so, this trial continues. But what we have here is not a trial for a few assault charges, but a persecution of these brothers who have been deeply involved in struggling for their basic human rights and an end to exploitation and oppression. These brothers are not guilty of anything other than resisting a system which treated them as less than human and refused to allow them the dignity of being men. In his own defense, Jessie Evans said, "The child who is hungry in the richest country of the world today is a prisoner; the millions who must stand in unemployment lines, the tens of millions who are forced to live on the pennies of welfare, these are prisoners too; the working mothers and fathers who must slave for their survival wages, are they not prisoners also? When the millions of people of this country are unmercifully exploited and oppressed behind a barrage of slick propaganda, then we the people must protest! We will protest!"

The Leavenworth Brothers need your support and it is vital that this outrageous frame-up not be conducted in isolation and out of the minds of the American people. For information on how you can help, and for the needed financial contributions, contact: Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Comm., 106 E. Lincoln, Wichita, KS 67211.



Alf Hill, Odell Bennett, Jesse Lopez, Alfred Jasper

# G.I.S CONTINUE

## US Marines Support Korean Patriots IWAKUNI, JAPAN

The Special Court Martials of five US Marines stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan, began on August 28th. The Marines are charged with a violation of a local Marine Corps order which prohibits the distribution of a petition off base, by off duty personnel without prior command approval. They were arrested on July 12 and 13 for showing others a copy of an individual signature letter (not a "petition, publication, hand bill, flyer, or other similar printed or written material" as stated in the order) while off duty, out of uniform and off base.

The letter was to Senator J.W. Fulbright and protested the abuse of democratic freedoms in South Korea and especially the sentencing of 55 political prisoners (including students, professors, poets, and two Japanese citizens) to punishments ranging from 20 years to death. These actions were the latest in a series of repressive acts carried out by South Korean President Pak Chung Hee under his Emergency Measure No. 4 of April 3, 1974. President Pak declared martial law in December of 1971 and has banned all criticism of his regime. To date more than 40 Marines have signed the letter.

The Iwakuni Five are: LCPL Gerald W. MacCauley, PVT Hugh G. Dalton, LCPL Robert A. Falatine - all of Hdqtrs & Maint. Sqdrn 17; PFC Patrick F. McDonald of H&MS 12; and LCPL Frank Huff of H&MS 15. All 5 Marines are members of 1st MAW (Marines Against War), the Iwakuni chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization. While the Iwakuni Five believed the order to be an unconstitutional abridgement of their First Amendment Rights, and in open violation of the right of servicepeople to petition Congress, it was in an attempt to avoid open defiance of the order that they chose to show others a copy of an individual signature letter rather than a petition.

The Marine Corps thought differently. Not only did the Marine Corps decide to arrest the five, but they put four of them on restriction to base or barracks for periods up to 45 days. The four were informed that the restrictions (done without any judicial process or Article 15 punishment) were "for the protection of the government."

The Marine Corps seems intent in stifling any expression of an opinion contrary to their own, especially when it comes to the question of Korea. South Korea is an excellent example of US imperialism in action. Twenty-nine years after the sending of US troops to Korea, the 'temporary force' is still there. Today over 45,000 US troops are stationed at over 50 bases throughout southern Korea, enforcing the artificial division. In addition, the US sends over \$200 million each year to help maintain the army of Pak Chung Hee. Not content with all this support, however, Pak declared martial law in December of 1971, and has since ended any semblance of democracy.

The actions of the Iwakuni Five show that the military will be having a much harder time in the future in de-



Emblem of 1st MAW - Iwakuni

fending corrupt dictatorships like it did in Vietnam. The Iwakuni Five deserve the support of us all. For more information, contact: Iwakuni Five Defense Committee, PO Box 49, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan 740.

END ALL AID TO PAK!  
SUPPORT REUNIFICATION!  
FREE THE IWAKUNI FIVE!

## Black Sailors Fight Back NORFOLK NAVAL STA.

On April 4, ten Black sailors were busted on the Norfolk Naval Base, supposedly because they didn't have their hats on. The ten men were actually a delegation sent from a meeting of 35 to 40 brothers to talk to the base commanding officer about police brutality at the base.

During the arrest, the men were pushed and maced, and then held in the brig without charges for a week. Eight of the men were released, leaving only Reggie Wakefield, a fireman apprentice from the USS RALIEGH, and another sailor. Reggie is now being charged with twenty separate violations of articles of the UCMJ. These charges stem from three incidents in which Wakefield was beaten by base police, one incident in which he was maced so badly that the skin peeled off the right side of his face!

Captain Samuel G. Anders, the base commander, has played a major role in this whole development. He was personally involved in the arrests; it was his verbal order that kept the ten men in the brig for a week with no charges having been drawn up; he is

now playing a major role in trying to keep information about the case from getting out to the public. People have been refused entrance to the brig to see Reggie and to help him publicize his case.

As a result of this latest incident of racism and harassment, as well as the whole pattern of racism at Norfolk Naval Base, two GI organizing groups in the area have launched a campaign to remove Captain Anders. The Defense Committee/Tidewater and the Black Military Resistance League have joined in a call for the resignation of Anders as commander of the base. The following are their demands:

- 1) We demand the resignation of Captain Anders for his role as the leader of a racist, imperialist and anti-working class naval command;
- 2) We demand an end to racist attacks by base police against Black sailors. We demand an end to base police harassment of all enlisted men and women;
- 3) Drop all charges against Reggie Wakefield. Reggie goes to Special Court Martial on August 29th. Almost

(continued on next page)



# RIVERSIDE UPDATE

The third trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner (2 black men charged with the 1971 killing of 2 white policemen in Riverside, CA) is scheduled to begin on Sept. 24th. The first 2 trials ended with hung juries, and since the conclusion of the last trial, this third trial has continually been postponed by the prosecution as part of a general campaign of harassment. This recent postponement was granted because the former District Attorney and chief prosecutor is ill and the new prosecutor claimed he needed time to prepare for the trial. Under defense examination, however, the current prosecutor admitted he had been assigned to the case in June, but he did not notify the defense or court of this assignment (though he had numerous opportunities to do so).

In other Riverside developments, the trial of Chukia Lawton and Rusty Bronaugh ended with a hung jury. Both were charged with interfering with a police officer and Chukia was also charged with resisting arrest. These charges stem from a March police attack on defense committee members following a picket-line by Lawton-Gardner supporters. Chukia and Zurebu Gardner were both seriously injured in this brutal attack, and as a result, Chukia and Rusty were charged, tried and after 3 weeks in court, the trial ended with a hung jury. A re-trial is tentatively scheduled to begin on October 4th.

The trial of these 2 defense workers is a clear indication that the government will go to any lengths to repress the movement for the freedom of Gary and Zurebu. For more information on the Riverside trials and for the needed financial contributions, contact: RPPDC, P. O. Box 244, Riverside, CA 92502.

# New York City

## VVAW/WSO ATTACKED AGAIN

Members of VVAW/WSO were brutally attacked by security guards at an Aug. 19th Yankee ball game played at Shea Stadium. The New York City Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) declared the 19th to be "Honor Vietnam Veterans Night" at Shea and vets were invited to attend. After passing out leaflets which exposed the sham nature of this attempt to "honor" vets, 12 members of VVAW/WSO went inside and occupied box seats. Though other organizations (such as the Disabled American Vets) raised their banners, 30 security guards gathered in front of the VVAW/WSO contingent and started to come over the fence. The banner was lowered but the guards remained in front of the VVAW/WSO people.

Following the ceremony, the National Anthem was played and VVAW/WSO members again raised their banner. This prompted the guards to charge over the fence and attack the group (which had grown to 20 people) with blackjacks and fists. During the beatings guards screamed, "We knew you were going to be here. We're going to kill you." The guards then dragged 6 people out of the stands and threw them into a locker room. Guards locked the door, ripped the legs off wooden chairs, and began to savagely beat these brothers with the self-made clubs. One of the brothers,

Danny Friedman, was beaten by 6 guards at once, received several broken ribs, and required 8 stitches in his head. The other brothers suffered bruises and lacerations and one received a broken nose.

Following the beatings, guards took the VVAW/WSO members and turned them over to City police. After 4 hours in the police station, the brothers were finally taken to a hospital for medical attention. They were booked on charges of 2nd degree assault (a charge which carries a maximum of 7 years). In a court hearing on Sept. 9th, charges against Joe Treglio, Dave Blaylock, Brian Guerra and Aaron David were dropped. Mike Grew's charge was reduced to a misdemeanor of "harassment," and Danny Friedman remains charged with the felonious assault.

Circumstances surrounding these beatings make it strangely resemble a set-up. Following the attack, VVAW/WSO received a call from a MOVA coordinator who said MOVA had received a call from City police prior to the game. Police told MOVA that VVAW/WSO would be at the game, that there would be a disturbance and that 6-8 people would be arrested. In the Sept. 9th hearing, a guard testified that security forces had been told to watch the area where VVAW/WSO was seated because an outburst was expected.

In the words of one of the attacked brothers, "This is an obvious attempt to attack us as an organization... It is the same strategy as was used in Gainesville -- to discredit us and put an end to our work." Not only is this an attack on VVAW/WSO, but it is an example of the lengths the government will go in order to stop the growing movement of veterans. This is the way that MOVA, Shea Stadium and the New York police "honor" Vietnam vets; this is one more reason why vets must unite and continue to fight back!

**VVAW/WSO**  
**827 w. newport av.**  
**chicago, il 60657**  
**312 935-2129**

- I would like to JOIN VVAW/WSO
- I am an active-duty GI
- I am currently in prison
- I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support your group
- I would like more information

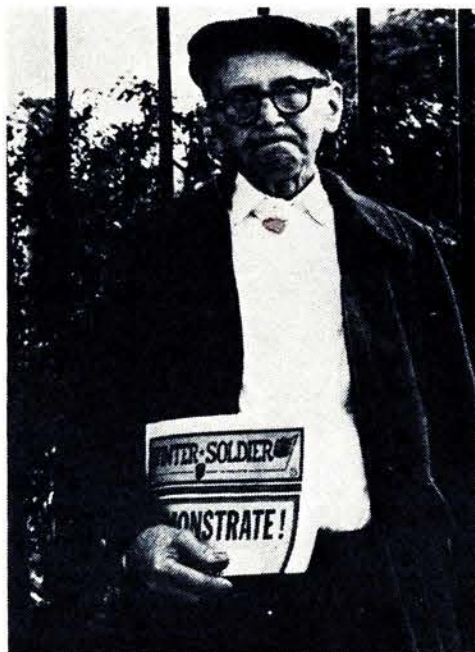
name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBSCRIBE WINTER SOLDIER**  
**SUBSCRIBE**  
**SUBSCRIBE**



**\$6 YEARLY**  
**\$9 FOREIGN**  
**3 GIs**  
**15 INSTITUTIONS**  
**FREE TO PRISONS**

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

make checks payable to: VVAW/WSO.



# Vietnam Veterans Against the War

## Winter Soldier Organization

### Objectives



1. To struggle for an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, advisors, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the people of Southeast Asia based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.
2. To struggle for the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the people of the world. This includes the creation and maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination and the theft of the natural resources of this and other countries.
3. To struggle for the goal that all military people (Active-duty, Reserve and National Guard) be afforded their constitutional rights which are denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We condemn the use of the National Guard, Reserves and Active-duty personnel as strikebreakers, and we support the efforts of servicepeople in the struggles against military repression. We oppose the use of the military as an oppressive and policy-making force domestically and overseas.
4. To struggle for universal unconditional amnesty. This will include a single-type retroactive discharge for all vets, and amnesty for all persons in prison, underground, or in exile as a result of their resistance to the imperialist war machine as well as the clearing of all their resulting civil and criminal records.
5. To struggle for decent benefits, full medical care (including the recognition of Post Vietnam Syndrome as a service-connected disability), and productive employment for all veterans with parity for all war resisters. We demand an end to discriminatory corporate hiring practices based on Vietnam-era service or Special Processing Numbers or descriptions, and the exploitation of veterans as a tool to divide the working class.
6. To struggle against racism which is historically used as a tool of U. S. imperialism to prevent and destroy unity among the people and justify the oppression and exploitation of third world people at home and abroad. We must fight this dehumanizing tactic which divides us, and strive to build unity between all people.
7. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.
8. To struggle for the right of all workers to organize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We support progressive struggles aimed at improving working conditions.
9. To struggle against the use of the criminal justice system (police, courts, prisons, grand juries) as a tool of political repression, recognizing that this system now serves the interests of the rich and powerful while suppressing the majority of poor and working people. We will fight for the freeing of all political prisoners.
10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

## Regional Offices

### ALABAMA/LOUISIANA/MISSISSIPPI/TENNESSEE

contact National Office

### ALASKA/WASHINGTON

VVAW/WSO  
215 Viking Union - WWSC  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
(206) 676-3460, ext. 22

### CALIFORNIA/NEVADA/ARIZONA

VVAW/WSO  
255 East William St.  
San Jose, California 95112  
(408) 998-4210

### COLORADO/UTAH/NEW MEXICO WYOMING

VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 18591  
Denver, Colorado 80218  
(303) 333-7200

### FLORIDA/GEORGIA

VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 965  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33302  
(305) 524-2021

### N. ILLINOIS/IOWA

VVAW/WSO - Chicago  
827 West Newport  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
(312) 327-0488

### S. ILLINOIS/E. MISSOURI/OKLAHOMA ARKANSAS

VVAW/WSO  
1023 Allen Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63104  
(314) 621-2648

### MARYLAND/WASHINGTON DC/VIRGINIA

VVAW/WSO  
521 B Second St., NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
(202) 543-0817

### MASSACHUSETTS/NEW HAMPSHIRE/MAINE/VERMONT

VVAW/WSO  
15 Clymer  
Burlington, Vermont 05401  
(802) 862-8175

### KANSAS/W. MISSOURI/NEBRASKA/NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA

VVAW/WSO  
1128 East 44th St.  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110  
(816) 531-6312

### NEW YORK/N. NEW JERSEY/RHODE ISLAND/CONNECTICUT

Steve Hassett, VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 902, Ellicott Station  
Buffalo, New York 14205  
(716) 886-8645

### NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA

VVAW/WSO  
1003 West Lenoir St.  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603  
(919) 833-0570

### OHIO/INDIANA/KENTUCKY/MICHIGAN W. PENNSYLVANIA/WEST VIRGINIA

VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 10116  
Columbus, Ohio 43201  
(614) 299-6921

### OREGON

Allen Tlusty, VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 5193  
Eugene, Oregon 97405

### E. PENNSYLVANIA/DELAWARE/S. NEW JERSEY

VVAW/WSO  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102  
(717) 232-6794

### TEXAS

John Kniffin  
P.O. Box 12986  
Austin, Texas 78711

### WISCONSIN/MINNESOTA

VVAW/WSO  
2532 N. Holton  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212  
(414) 264-1242

## Project Offices

### LAWTON/GARDNER DEFENSE COMM.

RPPDC  
P.O. Box 244  
Riverside, California 92502

### AMNESTY CLEARINGHOUSE

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

### POST-VIETNAM SYNDROME CLEARINGHOUSE

VVAW/WSO  
2532 N. Holton  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212  
(414) 264-1242

### NATIONAL G.I. PROJECT OFFICE

VVAW/WSO or VVAW/WSO  
P.O. Box 1625 827 West Newport  
Dayton, Ohio 45401 Chicago, Ill. 60657  
(513) 274-3171 (312) 935-2129

### NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT OFFICE

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

## Regional Contacts

### IDAHO/MONTANA

Travis Opdyke  
488 Lilly  
Boise, Idaho 83707  
(208) 376-0043

### National Office

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

# UNITE TO FIGHT!



*a  
single type  
discharge  
for all  
veterans!*

*universal  
unconditional  
amnesty!*

*decent  
benefits  
for all  
veterans!*

*implement  
the peace  
agreements--  
end all aid to  
Thieu & Lon Nol!*