

May 1, 1969

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ACTIONS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

CALCAV is suggesting that clergy and laymen across the nation organize activities for Memorial Day (May 30) to emphasize the true solemnity of the day and to offset the sabre-rattling and anti-Communist oratory normally heard. Of particular importance is the need to focus attention on the persons killed in the Vietnam war. Local people will be able to determine what will be most helpful and effective in their local communities; the following are intended only as suggestions.

1. The reading of the names of all American soldiers killed in Vietnam. A litany form could be employed with a suitable response repeated after each name. Some way of including the countless Vietnamese killed in the war should also be devised. Such a reading of the more than 34,000 names was done in a draft board in Philadelphia on Good Friday, resulting in extremely effective news coverage. Persons there took turns reading the names over a 20 hour period. Perhaps the reading could begin on Thursday afternoon and end on Friday to coincide with other activities. The list of names is available from Congressman Paul Findley, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, D.C. Representative Findley placed these names in the Congressional Record several weeks ago.
2. Processions could be held which would move to various institutions in the community to emphasize the connection of the institution with the war. Stops could be made at government buildings, draft boards, high schools, universities, prisons, and monuments; the processions could terminate at a church or synagogue. Such a procession was very effective in Worcester, Massachusetts at the time of Easter and Passover.
3. Vigils or sit-ins could be held at these locations.
4. Religious symbols, such as crosses, crucifixes and torahs, could be utilized to emphasize the religious tone of the events.
5. Memorial services could be held in a church or synagogue or at suitable out-door locations.
6. Attempts could be made to change the usual form and content of traditional Memorial Day observances along the lines suggested above.
7. A vigil could be held at the site of the traditional observance to change its focus.

We are sure that you will have other ideas in addition to these. We urge that you make this effort in your community to bring an atmosphere of reality into Memorial Day Observances this year. It seems to us both irrelative and irrelevant to observe that day only with ceremonies which extol the virtue of war and urge victory over the "enemy", while the war in Vietnam and the men, women and children killed in that war are ignored.

ACTION AT DOW'S ANNUAL MEETING

CALCAV will stage a demonstration at the Dow Chemical Company's annual stockholders' meeting on May 7, 1969, in Midland, Michigan. Dow has been the producer of Napalm B, an extremely flammable mixture of gasoline and plastic which has been used extensively in Vietnam and also in Latin America. In addition Dow produces for the government other materials employed in Chemical-Bacteriological warfare. At the moment of this writing, CALCAV knows of rumors to the effect that Dow will no longer produce Napalm for the Pentagon. If this rumor is true, the demonstration will celebrate this fact and at the same time call attention to other materials produced by Dow.

CALCAV made the decision to return to Dow this year (a similar action was held in May, 1968) to dramatize not only the role of Dow Chemical in providing war materials but also the involvement of corporate industry generally in the manufacture of materials of war.

The demonstration is being organized mainly by local Clergy and Laymen Concerned groups in Michigan. They hope to have a large turnout of students, ministers, housewives and others in Midland. Plans at the moment include leafletting and canvassing door-to-door in the city of Midland; guerilla theatre; speakers; and participation in the stockholders' meeting itself. At the moment, CALCAV is working with lawyers on the possibility of issuing a restraining order against Dow which is trying to limit the number of tickets to the meeting given to CALCAV people.

All persons who wish to participate in this activity should feel free to come to Midland on May 7. For further information contact:

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SIMULTANEOUS NEWS CONFERENCES PLANNED FOR MAY 23

CALCAV, working with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, is arranging news conferences to occur simultaneously in approximately 25 cities across the country on May 23, 1969. The issue to be discussed is that of political prisoners in South Vietnam. Recent imprisonments of folk-singers, intellectuals and those who advocate peace indicate the need to more fully acquaint the American public with this repression of dissent or criticism by our "allies". In addition to the news conferences, a high level delegation of religious leaders to Washington is planned to discuss this issue with government figures.

HELP IS NEEDED! If you would be willing to set up a news conference in your city, please get in touch with the national office. We will supply you with copies of a "Press Kit" and other materials and suggestions to help you in making arrangements and holding the news conference.

LITTLE TIME IS LEFT. If you are interested in helping with this project, telephone the national CALCAV office COLLECT. The number is area code 212--749-8518. Let us hear from you today!

NATIONAL COUNCIL TO REPEAL THE DRAFT

The National Council to Repeal the Draft (NCRD) has recently been formed. Its purpose is to work for the complete and total abolition of the draft. Among its sponsors are: The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy; Major General LeRoy H. Anderson, U.S. Army (Ret); Kenneth Boulding; Harvey Cox, PhD; Senator Ernest Gruening; Mrs. Coretta Scott King; Bishop John Wesley Lord; Captain Dale E. Noyd, U.S. Air Force; Carl Oglesby; Benjamin Spock, M.D.; Rear Admiral Arnold E. True, U.S. Navy (Ret); and George Wald, PhD.

NCRD was organized through the efforts of several groups, among them CALCAV. Claudette Piper is the Director of the organization, which will publicly announce its formation early in May. The address is 201 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.

FILM LIST AVAILABLE

The National Office has recently compiled a listing of selected films for use at conferences and meetings. The films deal with the war, the draft and related issues. Each film is listed with a short, but thorough, description; its main rental source; its rental fee; and information regarding purchase. For your FREE copy of this listing, write the national CALCAV office.

WAR CASUALTY POSTER

Within the last several weeks you should have received a poster listing the number of American and Vietnamese military deaths in the Vietnam war. This basic poster will be up-dated with current statistics each month. Subscribers to the poster series will receive one poster each month for 12 consecutive months. If you wish to be a subscriber but have not sent in your order, do so today. Send \$3.00 for each set (one poster each month for 12 months) you wish to the national CALCAV office. Orders must be paid in advance.

ASSISTANCE FOR DESERTERS FROM THE ARMED FORCES

Due to CALCAV's long-standing visibility in supporting draft resisters and recently in sending Thomas Lee Hayes to Sweden to work among deserters, the organization has several times within the last year been asked to perform a unique and vitally important function. There are many men who, for a variety of reasons, find themselves in the military and discover that they are conscientiously opposed to all war or to the Vietnam war in particular. Unable to secure a discharge from the military as a C.O. (there is a provision for such discharges), they have deserted rather than abandon their convictions. Some go into exile in Canada or Sweden. There is, however, a considerable number for whom exile is not an option. They wish to remain in the United States and at the same time do some form of meaningful work--to make some sort of social contribution here. The only course available to such men is to go "underground"; to go to a place where they are not known and there assume a new identity. CALCAV has assisted several men recently in finding such a place to live and work. Each time the need has arisen a place has been found within a reasonable period of time. But to be prepared to help deserters quickly, CALCAV would like to know persons around the country who would be willing to help such a person or persons. If you are willing to perform this service to these victims of the Vietnam war and are in a situation which would lend itself to providing a place to live and work with reasonable anonymity, please contact the national CALCAV office by mail. Also, if you know of someone in need of such a place to live and work, feel free to contact us.

LETTER FROM THE REV THOMAS LEE HAYES

The following is a portion of a recent letter from the Rev. Thomas Lee Hayes, CALCAV's Staff Associate in Stockholm, Sweden:

"As to the work with the deserters themselves, there has been plenty of it. Since May, 1967, more than 240 Americans have contacted Swedish authorities for permission to stay. Others in process of application or 'underground' bring that total closer to 300. Our men are quite a heterogeneous group. They range in origin from Florida to Alaska, from many small towns to New York City, in military duty from clerks to special forces, in bases from Fort Monmouth to Khe Sanh, in age from 18-34, in rank from p.f.c. to lieutenant, in military service from a month to eight years. One former master sergeant served a year in Vietnam, returned to Europe and then split.

Most of the men are younger, between 18 and 22, the kind of men who are supposed to make the best soldiers. They suffer no illusions of early or even eventual amnesty in the States. They do not pine away for a homecoming, though some would return and many are estranged from their families. On the whole, they are here because of their opposition to the Vietnam war and what it meant to them. Faced with killing or supporting the killing of the Vietnamese or military prisons, they deserted. Most are highly serious about adjusting to Swedish life, language and labor, although this is very hard for just about any American.

Contrary to public impression in the States, there is no political asylum for them. There is only a de facto right to stay. This amounts to a political limbo. Great gaps exist between the story you hear in the American press by way of the Swedish government and the bureaucratic network of denied or delayed work permits. Without the work permit our men cannot work. Housing, especially in Stockholm, is virtually impossible to find. Yet last September 1200 Czech families, many of them in Sweden during the invasion of Prague, were resettled with political asylum, housing, jobs, within a 60 day period. Many Americans and Swedes see this as favored treatment resulting from political pressure by the U.S. on the Swedish Government.

A well known Swedish writer, Vilhelm Moberg, has written of Swedish emigration to the States. In a more recent work, The Unkown Family, he writes:

The United States is no longer the country to which rebels and revolutionaries flee. Just this category of people are going in exile to Canada and Europe. For me these Americans fulfill the great heritage of freedom of their country; in reality they are faithful to this heritage. These are the Americans who will not fail that proud proclamation in the Declaration of Independence. . .

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Issues & Actions

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