THOMAS LEE HAYES GOES TO SWEDEN

One of the highlights of the recent Washington Mobilization of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam (CALCAV) was the installation of the Rev. Thomas Lee Hayes as the organization's worker among deserters exiled in Sweden. In a short ceremony on the steps of the Justice Department, Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Rabbi Abraham Heschel, both Co-Chairmen of CALCAV and the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, a member of its Steering Committee, placed their hands on Father Hayes and commissioned him for his work. Following this, Father Hayes led the more than 1,200 participants in repeating a pledge dedicating themselves to this "ministry of reconciliation". In this way, broad-based support for what Father Hayes will be doing in Sweden was dramatically symbolized. In addition, amnesty for all Vietnam war resisters was made an integral part of this same "ministry of reconciliation".

On March 20th, Father Hayes, his wife Janet, and their two children Sharon and Jenifer, left New York City for Stockholm. Since his first several days in Sweden were spent in getting his family settled and arranging for housing, he did not begin his actual work among the more than 225 deserters until April 1st.

The 36 year old Episcopal minister was educated at Oberlin College where he earned an A.B. degree in psychology. He studied theology at the Episcopal Theological School and Harvard Divinity School, receiving the S.T.B. degree in 1957. In addition, he did graduate work in Psychology at the University of Iowa and theological studies at Bexley Hall, Kenyon College. Since 1966, Father Hayes has been Executive Director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, a national organization based in New York City. Previously, he had been a parish minister in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Elyria, Ohio. While in Pittsburgh, he directed Social Action for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and helped found the local organization of CALCAV.

Father Hayes sees his work having three related functions. First he will serve as a "bridge" between the deserters and their families in the United States. He will assist with communication across the Atlantic and attempt to interpret the deserters' situation to their families and to American society in general. In addition, he will interpret the reactions of families and American society to the deserters themselves. Second, he will assist the deserters with the problems of day-to-day living in Sweden. The men have difficulties with housing, money, work, and language as well as with Swedish government agencies and representatives of the U.S. Government. Because of the fact that he will hold a valid passport and not merely the temporary pass which the deserters obtain, he will be in a better position be of considerable assistance to the men. Further, he will surely develop positive relations with the Church of Sweden and other religious bodies which will add to his ability to negotiate problems that arise. Third, he will serve as a pastoral counsellor to the deserters, helping with the personal problems of the individual men. In addition, he will endeavor to build a sense of community among the deserters who at present are considerably divided by political factions.

It is interesting to note that Father Hayes' work will be somewhat the reverse
Thomas Lee Hayes Goes To Sweden, continued

of the more avant-garde understanding of ministry prevalent in American Protestantism, which places a high priority on structural change as distinguished from a more individualistic ministry. Father Hayes will be working directly with people and will, on a daily basis, be giving of himself primarily as an individual in being a pastor to the deserters.

The decision to place Father Hayes in Sweden grew directly out of the fact-finding trip to Stockholm and Paris in October, 1968, by several members of CALCAV's National Committee. Their primary recommendation, based on the express desire of some of the deserters themselves, was that a worker be sent to Sweden as soon as possible. The work of Father Hayes is viewed by the Steering Committee as part of the task of the religious community as well as that of the peace movement generally. It would be misleading if the work among deserters were seen in isolation from the other interests of CALCAV. For this reason, Father Hayes' presence in Stockholm will be of significant value as CALCAV, other peace groups, and individuals not heretofore identified with the peace movement press for amnesty for all those who have resisted the draft and are imprisoned or in self-imposed exile and those who have been forced to desert the Armed Forces because of the war in Vietnam. To care for deserters while the war continues and then to forget them when the shooting stops would create a significant human casualty which would be unfortunate. For this reason, the work for amnesty is only just beginning.

The Hayes' address in Stockholm is: The Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Lee Hayes, Hasselstigen 6, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden. May we suggest that families of deserters in particular contact Father Hayes for this will assist him considerably in his work. In future editions of ISSUES AND ACTIONS we will print portions of Father Hayes' monthly reports so that all will be able to share in the work he is doing.

"IN THE YEAR OF THE PIG" RELEASED

A hard-hitting documentary film titled, "In The Year Of The Pig" is now available. The film, which is 1 hour 45 minutes in length, was produced and directed by Emile de Antonio. He has previously done other noteworthy documentaries, including "Point of Order" and "Rush to Judgement". The new film has received very favorable reviews everywhere it has been screened.

Kenneth Paul, in reviewing the film for the Washington Post, called it "a savage nauseating movie against American involvement in Vietnam..." It is, Mr. Paul continued, "a documentary polemic, a brilliantly put together film 'made primarily' 'in anger not meant to be objective.' It is an eloquent and exhausting act of protest...while it is devoted solely to Vietnam, it presages the fall of 'the American colossus.' 'In The Year Of The Pig' will be worth seeing 'after Vietnam' for it raises questions about Americans that will be asked as long as we are a superpower. Little gore is indulged in: most of the movie is devoted to a rational discussion of Vietnam and our activity there. The unmitigated grief produced, terror more than pity, is the absence of escapes, to humor or even to melancholy. The unrelenting, grainy movement of the film, its stark grayness, is a formal renunciation of the American Dream.

This documentary could properly be called the definitive work in the field. For further information on the film and for rental details contact:

American Documentary Films
336 West 84 Street
New York, New York 10024
(212) 799-7440

Inquiries regarding the rental of the film are invited.
TAPE OF WASHINGTON MOBILIZATION AVAILABLE

A tape containing most of the major addresses of the recent Washington Mobilization of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam is now available. This 1,800 foot tape is recorded at 3 3/4 speed, dual track. It contains the speeches by Senator George McGovern, Dr. Seymour Melman, Father Robert Cunnane, and Mr. David Harris, as well as the sermon of the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus and the complete proceedings at the Justice Department, including remarks by Mrs. Coretta Scott King, Rabbi Abraham Heschel, and Mrs. Evelyn Whitehorn. The tape can be obtained from:

World Peace Broadcasting Foundation
Post Office Box 96
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

The tape is available on a free loan basis. If one should wish to keep it rather than return it, a donation of $5.00 is suggested. Complete information is available from the above address. Do not place orders through the National Office of Calcav.

MILWAUKEE 14 TRIAL BEGINS

The Milwaukee 14, a group consisting mainly of Roman Catholic Priests who burned draft files in Milwaukee Wisconsin, last September, will go on trial in that city on May 5th. The Federal Government as well as the state of Wisconsin have indicted the 14 on similar charges. The May 5th trial will be on state charges only. The legal proceedings against these men are likely to be long and complicated. The fact that the state will be prosecuting its case first is unfortunate and assures more complication than would otherwise ensue. The Milwaukee 14 has formed a support group to assist with legal expenses. This group is desperately in need of funds. Contributions may be sent to:

THE MILWAUKEE 14 DEFENSE COMMITTEE
661 EAST 219th STREET
BRONX, NEW YORK 10466

All contributions will be most welcome and appreciated. We urge you to do what you can to help.

PRESIDIO 27 DEVELOPMENTS

Since the last issue of ISSUES AND ACTIONS there have been several developments in the court-martial proceedings against 27 prisoners at the Presidio Stockade in San Francisco. Most important is that the first man to be tried and sentenced, Private Nesrey Sood, found his sentence of 15 years at hard labor reduced to 7 years by Lt. Gen. Stanley Larson, the Commander of the Sixth Army. Shortly thereafter, Major Gen. Kenneth J. Hodson, Judge Advocate General of the Army at the Pentagon, reduced the sentence to two years. This movement through Army channels is extremely fast by normal standards. Moreover, there is remaining another level of review by the Army which could result in a still lower sentence. Surely, the public outrage at the charge of mutiny and extremely harsh sentences meted out played a large part in the reduction of this sentence.

Another man, John Colip, has been convicted and sentenced to four years at hard labor. This is, in any case, a strong sentence, but appears relatively mild when compared to the previous sentences of an average 15 years. There are several possible reasons for this lesser sentence. One, most obvious, is that the Army is responding to public pressure and outrage. Second is the possibility that the court-martial panel, sitting away from the Presidio itself, was more prone to be lenient. The third possibility is that the Army found in Mr. Colip an opportunity to focus attention away from itself. Some of Mr. Colip's testimony indicated that he had been led into the sit-down strike last October 14th,
by several persons and was not really aware of what he was doing. There was an attempt to link this with one of the attorneys, Mr. Terrance Hallinan. Reports have been received at the San Francisco office of CALCAV that those who are yet to be court-martialed were told that if they obtained legal counsel from someone other than Mr. Hallinan, they would receive similar light sentences. The Army wishes to have Mr. Hallinan replaced because he is a well-known champion of civil rights. The men have not accepted this opportunity and fourteen continue to retain Mr. Hallinan as their civilian attorney.

At this moment, five men are beginning their courts-martial on mutiny charges in Fort Lewis, Washington, after two weeks of pre-trial motions at the Presidio. Their lawyers asked for this change in venue with the hope that a trial away from the Presidio would prove as favorable as it had for John Colip. The courts-martial are expected to last a few days. The results and sentences will be known by the time this newsletter is in the mail.

The largest group of men, 14 in number, will come to trial at the same time and will be represented by Mr. Hallinan and military counsel. This court-martial was originally scheduled for March 18, but has been postponed due to delays in the proceeding court-martial. It will probably begin on or about April 7. General Larson has ordered a change of venue to Fort Ord near Monterey. Defense attorneys are fighting this change.

To date, in response to the last edition of ISSUES AND ACTIONS almost 1,000 letters have been written to congressmen, the President, the Secretary of Defense and Army officials. The largest number has gone to Secretary of the Army, Stanley Resor. In addition the full text of the article from ISSUES AND ACTIONS was read into the Congressional Record by Rep. Edward Koch of New York City. Demonstrations have been held around the country to support the 27 and to express outrage at the charges and sentences.

If you have not written your congressmen, Secretary Resor, or to any of the others listed in the last newsletter, we urge you strongly to do so. This case is far from resolution. Pressure must continue if hope is entertained of considerably reducing or, better, dismissing the charges and sentences.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

New telephones have been installed in the national CALCAV office. All the former lines have been disconnected. The new telephone number is: (212) 749-8518.
"President Nixon's decision to deploy a modified Sentinel antiballistic system is not the end of a great debate but the beginning. Its purpose will be to determine whether the United States intends to plunge ever deeper into an expensive and illusory security race or to turn actively toward the pursuit of peace and domestic progress."

The first book on the ABM has just been released. The Anti-Ballistic Missile: Yes Or No? is a special report from the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. Both sides of the question are presented and are fully discussed by the following: Senator George McGovern, Mr. Harry S. Ashmore, Mr. Adolf A. Berle, Mr. W.H. Ferry, Mr. I.I. Rabi, Mr. Franz Schurman, Mr. Harvey Wheeler, Mr. Jerome Wiesner, and Justice William O. Douglas. Enclosed is an order form. Please return it to this office prepaid and a copy of the book will be rushed to you.