Many of you received a solicitation for funds in the last few weeks. Summertime is always a lean time for raising money. In order to keep our field staff financed and increase our anti-war activities generally, we really need your contribution before vacations begin. If you did not send a donation from our last fund appeal and you could send one today, we would greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

**ACTIONS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. JUNE 17 AND 18**

CALCAV, in cooperation with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Resist, Women's Strike for Peace, and other peace organizations, is calling for people to come from as many states as possible to Washington on June 17 and 18 to participate in a "Speak-out" inside the Pentagon and to visit with Congressmen. The rationale for this quickly organized effort lies in the fact that American servicemen are still dying for a repressive regime in Saigon, with other American servicemen finding their constitutional rights abridged. In both instances, in Vietnam and elsewhere, the GI is getting the short end of a bad bargain.

CALCAV and the other groups are organizing people to go to Washington to press Senators on these issues. The three specific questions to be asked are:

1. Do you believe that young Americans should be dying in Vietnam to support an unrepresentative and repressive regime that can exist only because of their sacrifices?

2. Do you believe that it is right for the military to prosecute and punish servicemen -- like Marines Harvey and Daniels, or the Presidio "27" -- for expressing their constitutional right to protest war and injustice?

3. How will you use your office to bring Americans home from Vietnam and end suppression of dissent in the United States Armed Forces?

At present there are delegations coming from many major cities. This action will begin at 11:00 a.m. at a local Washington church -- the location has not been confirmed yet -- on Tuesday, June 17, and conclude sometime around 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th. For more up-to-date information on this action please feel free to call the National CALCAV office collect! The registration cost will be $2.00; housing and/or sleeping in churches will be arranged if needed.

We hope to have somewhere between 500 and 1,000 people in Washington on those days. By the time you read this newsletter we will have lined up speakers and more specific details, so please do not hesitate to call us if you are at all interested.
REPORT FROM SWEDEN

The Rev. Thomas Lee Hayes reports from Stockholm, Sweden that he has rented a farm 15 miles outside the city where several American deserters have begun to live. The rent for the farm is $600 a year.

Several Americans visited Mr. Hayes while in Stockholm for a recent peace conference called to discuss the Vietnam war. Along with others, Mr. Hayes was able to meet with several Vietnamese, including Madame Binh, one of the chief representatives of the National Liberation Front at the Paris talks.

If any of our readers would be interested in raising money to assist Mr. Hayes in his work, contact the National CALCAV office. Mr. Hayes has sent several specific proposals which need funding. Perhaps, a local CALCAV group would be interested in supporting this work as a local project.

NO, MR. PRESIDENT.

An Editorial from the Johnson County (Kansas) Daily News
Friday May 9, 1969

President Nixon essentially asked the American people Wednesday night for another year's extension of the current Vietnam policy.

"Let me be quite blunt," he said. "Our fighting men are not going to be worn down, our negotiators are not going to be talked down, our allies are not going to be let down."

We should be equally blunt to him.

We have already let down about 33,000 of America's best young men. We have sent them off to slaughter. We have already let down probably twice that many, by having them maimed for life.

But, even more importantly, by continuing our present insane policy, we propose to let even more of them down.

And for what reason?

National pride. We refuse to admit that we have already lost a war that should never have been started.

Our leaders made a series of stupid blunders, and we have not risen in anger to force a reversal of those blunders.

We should do so now.

We should tell President Nixon that we should not extend our ridiculous slaughter for 12 months, or even for 1 month. We should recognize the foolishness of this "Let's not let our allies down" sentimental, militaristic and idiotic posture. We should not give President Nixon his year.

We should withdraw our troops, and employ our young men in the creation of a better America.

Our pride be damned.
NATIONAL DENOMINATIONAL MEETINGS

During the Summer many denominational bodies have national meetings throughout the country. CALCAV will try to influence several of them with respect to their stand on the war, the draft, amnesty, and other related issues. Every denominational organization is at a different point with respect to its position on the above issues; this means that different strategies and tactics will need to be developed that will be tailored to each meeting. It is our understanding that we will work closely with those concerned with church renewal and with progressively minded persons in each denomination.

We are not so much interested in the "politics" of the religious bodies as we are in helping them see new and more creative challenges before them with respect to these issues.

The first meeting with which CALCAV will be involved is that of the United Church of Christ in Boston, during the month of June. We will be working with a new group called United Churchmen for Change. At the present time we are investigating the possibilities of also involving ourselves in the meeting of the Unitarian Universalists later in July; the Disciples of Christ who will meet in Seattle; and the Missouri Synod of Lutherans who will meet in Denver, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations which will meet in Miami in October. If you are a member of any of the above religious bodies and would like further information on this new thrust of our National Committee, write our national office.

MAY 23 ACTIONS

On May 23, in Washington, D.C. and in 34 other cities across the country, CALCAV cooperated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation in staging news conferences on the theme of political and religious repression under the Saigon regime. In Washington, where our activities went beyond a simple news conference, Mrs. Robert C. Ransom, whose husband is on our National Steering Committee, went to the South Vietnamese Embassy and returned medals that had been awarded posthumously to her son, Mike, killed a year ago in Vietnam by a land mine. Mrs. Ransom said she could not accept medals from a government that put students, religious leaders and others in jail because they wanted peace. She cited the closing down of more than 30 newspapers in Saigon since January 1, 1969 as one sign of this repression. An official of the South Vietnamese embassy said that the papers had been shut-down because they did not "serve the national interest".

While Mrs. Ransom was at the South Vietnamese Embassy, her husband, a lawyer for IBM; Father Robert Drinan, Dean of the Boston College Law School; Mr. Don Luce, former Director of the International Voluntary Services in Vietnam; Mrs. Ann Bennett, wife of Dr. John C. Bennett; and the Rev. Richard R. Fernandez, Director of CALCAV met at the White House with Mr. Richard Sneider of Dr. Henry Kissinger's staff. The group discussed many questions surrounding political repression in South Vietnam. Mr. Sneider gave the tired old arguments concerning domino theories and the certainty of "a blood bath if the American forces pulled out of Vietnam". The group was "assured" that there was less political repression today in South Vietnam than two or three years ago. When Father Drinan pressed Mr. Sneider for specific information the government official simply reassured the group that there was "less political repression"!

(continued on page 4)
May 23 Actions, Continued

At the Lafayette Hotel after the meetings held simultaneously at the White House and the South Vietnamese Embassy, the group announced that a high level delegation was being sent by several religious organizations, including CALCAV, to South Vietnam to study the whole issue of political repression. The delegation left on Sunday, May 25, and will return with a full report on June 10. In addition to Father Drinan and Mrs. Bennett, the delegation includes the following:

Mr. John Pemberton, Director, American Civil Liberties Union
Representative John Conyers, Congressman from Detroit
Admiral Arnold E. True, U.S.N. (retired)
Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Professor of Theology, Jewish Theological Seminary
Bishop James Armstrong, United Methodist Church, North Dakota

ACTION AT DOW CHEMICAL'S ANNUAL MEETING

More than 300 persons from the state of Michigan gathered in Midland, the home of the Dow Chemical Company for its annual Stockholders' Meeting, on May 7. Clergy and laymen from throughout the state distributed leaflets in the town on that day. Of equal importance were the meetings held in three Midland churches on the Sunday prior to the Stockholders' Meeting. The meetings, organized basically by Mrs. Barbara Fuller of Ann Arbor, centered around the discussion of chemical warfare and Dow's involvement in that enterprise. More than 200 Midland residents participated.

In the Stockholders' Meeting, several persons representing CALCAV in Michigan as well as national spokesmen for the organization held a "Teach-In" that received good news coverage throughout the central mid-west. Although Mr. Carl Gerstacker, Chairman of the Board of Dow Chemical Company, said that many of the speakers were liars, and implied that CALCAV's whole orientation and style had strong fascist overtones, he did admit that perhaps one task which we could dedicate ourselves to was getting napalm outlawed!

CLERGY APPLAUD CANADIANS ON WELCOME TO U.S. DESERTERS

On Thursday, May 22 the Canadian Parliament agreed to grant "landed immigrant status" to men who have deserted the U.S. Armed Forces. This means that deserting American servicemen can now enter Canada with same rights and privileges of other immigrants. In a statement issued by our National Committee in Montreal on May 29, more than 30 religious leaders said "Once our country was viewed as a haven of safety for refugees from injustice. This is the noble message of the Statue of Liberty. As it was given to us by Europe, so now that statue might appropriately be moved to Canadian soil. For, to our sorrow and shame, the United States now has its own political prisoners and exiles. Your welcome to Americans who cannot in conscience take part in their country's military adventurism reveals Canada as a sanctuary of hope in North America."
Reprinted below is an excellent article from the May 19, 1969 edition of I.F. Stone's Weekly. CALCAV is grateful to Mr. Stone for the permission to reprint the article here. We recommend this publication highly. Subscriptions at $5.00 a year are available from 4420 29th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The Essential Truth No Repression Can Erase

"A society that does not correct its own ills cannot expect peace ..., The frustrations spawned by a society which has inverted its values and reversed its priorities, putting war ahead of human well-being and preferring privilege to justice—these frustrations pushed the on-coming college generation into an activism which over-reaches immediately attainable goals."

—Dr. Buell Gallagher May 7 and May 9, resigning as president of New York's City College.

In Defense of the Campus Rebels

I hate to write on subjects about which I know no more than the conventional wisdom of the moment. One of these subjects is the campus revolt. My credentials as an expert are slim. I always loved learning and hated school. I wanted to go to Harvard, but I couldn't get in because I had graduated 49th in a class of 52 from a small-town high school. I went to college at the University of Pennsylvania which was obligated—this sounds like an echo of a familiar black demand today—to take graduates of high schools in neighboring communities no matter how ill-fitted. My boyhood idol was the saintly anarchist Kropotkin. I looked down on college degrees and felt that a man should do only what was sincere and true and without thought of mundane advancement. This provided lofty reasons for not doing homework. I majored in philosophy with the vague thought of teaching it but though I revered two of my professors I disliked the smell of a college faculty. I dropped out in my third year to go back to newspaper work. Those were the twenties and I was a pre-depression radical. So I might be described I suppose as a premature New Leftist, though I never had the urge to burn anything down.

If National Security Comes First

In microcosm, the Weekly and I have become typical of our society. The war and the military have taken up so much of our energies that we have neglected the blacks, the poor and students. Seen from afar, the turmoil and the deepening division appear to be a familiar tragedy, like watching a friend drink himself to death. Everybody knows what needs to be done, but the will is lacking. We have to break the habit. There is no excuse for poverty in a society which can spend $80 billion a year on its war machine. If national security comes first, as the spokesmen for the Pentagon tell us, then we can only reply that the clearest danger to the national security lies in the rising revolt of our black population. Our own country is becoming a Vietnam. As if in retribution for the suffering we have imposed, we are confronted by the same choices: either to satisfy the aspirations of the oppressed or to try and crush them by force. The former would be costly, but the latter will be disastrous.

This is what the campus rebels are trying to tell us, in the only way which seems to get attention. I do not like much of what they are saying and doing. I do not like to hear opponents shouted down, much less beaten up. I do not like to hear any one group or class, including policemen, called pigs. I do not think four letter words are arguments. I hate hate, intolerance and violence. I see them as man's most ancient and enduring enemies and I hate to see them welling up on my side. But I feel about the rebels as Erasmus did about Luther. Erasmus helped inspire the Reformation but was repelled by the man who brought it to fruition. He saw that Luther was as intolerant and as dogmatic as the Church. "From argument," as Erasmus saw it, "there would be a quick resort to the sword, and the whole world would be full of fury and madness." Two centuries of religious wars without parallel for blood- lust were soon to prove how right were his misgivings. But while Erasmus "could not join Luther, he dared not oppose him, lest haply, as he confessed 'he might be fighting against the spirit of God.' "* I feel that the New Left and the black revolutionists, like Luther, are doing God's work, too, in refusing any longer to submit to evil, and challenging society to reform or crush them.

Lifelong dissent has more than acclimated me cheerfully to defeat. It has made me suspicious of victory. I feel uneasy at the very idea of a Movement. I see every insight (continued page 5)

* Froude's Life and Letters of Erasmus.
(continued from page 5)

degenerating into a dogma, and fresh thoughts freezing into lifeless party line. Those who set out nobly to be their brother’s keeper sometimes end up by becoming his jailer. Every emancipation has in it the seeds of a new slavery, and every truth easily becomes a lie. But these perspectives, which seem so irrefutably clear from a pillar in the desert, are worthless to those enmeshed in the crowded struggle. They are no better than mystical nonsense to the humane student who has to face his draft board, the dissident soldier who is determined not to fight, the black who sees his people doomed by shackles stronger than slavery to racial humiliation and decay. The business of the moment is to end the war, to break the growing dominance of the military in our society, to liberate the blacks, the Mexican-American, the Puerto Rican and the Indian from injustice. This is the business of our best youth. However confused and chaotic, their unwillingness to submit any longer is our one hope.

Revolutionaries In a Free Society

There is a wonderful story of a delegation which came here to see Franklin D. Roosevelt on some reform or other. When they were finished the President said, “Okay, you’ve convinced me. Now go on out and bring pressure on me.” Every thoughtful official knows how hard it is to get anything done if someone isn’t making it uncomfortable not to. Just imagine how helpless the better people in government would be if the rebels, black and white, suddenly fell silent. The war might smolder on forever, the ghettos attract as little attention as a refuse dump. It is a painful business extricating ourselves from the stupidity of the Vietnamese war; we will only do so if it becomes more painful not to. It will be costly rebuilding the ghettos, but if the black revolt goes on, it will be costlier not to. In the workings of a free society, the revolutionist provides the moderate with the clinching argument. And a little unreason does wonders, like a condiment, in reinvigorating a discussion which has grown pointless and flat.

We ought to welcome the revolt as the one way to prod us into a better America. To meet it with cries of “law and order” and “conspiracy” would be to relapse into the sterile monologue which precedes all revolutions. Rather than change old habits, those in power always prefer to fall back on the theory that all would be well but for a few malevolent conspirators. It is painful to see academia disrupted, but under the surface were shams and horrors that needed cleansing. The disruption is worth the price of awakening us. The student rebels are proving right in the daring idea that they could revolutionize American society by attacking the universities as its soft underbelly. But I would also remind the students that the three evils they fight—war, racism and bureaucracy—are universal. The Marxism-Leninism some of the rebels cling to has brought into power a bureaucracy more suffocating than any under capitalism; the students demonstrate everywhere on our side but are stifled on the other. War and imperialism have not been eliminated in the relations between Communist States. Black Africa, at least half-free from the white man, is hardly a model of fraternity or freedom. Man’s one real enemy is within himself. Burning America down is no way to Utopia.

If battle is joined and our country polarized, as both the revolutionists and the repressionists wish, it is the better and not the worser side of America which will be destroyed. Someone said a man’s character was his fate, and tragedy may be implicit in the character of our society and of its rebels. How make a whisper for patience heard amid the rising fury?

Only 81% On Net Worth!

“Washington—Major issue raised by the renegotiation case being contested by Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corp. is whether aerospace companies whose sales skyrocketed to meet Vietnam war demands should have their profits slashed because they appear excessive by the yardstick of net worth. This is the same problem the industry faced during the Korean war period when unilateral determinations by the Renegotiation Board against major aerospace firms mounted to more than $100 million. The board’s determination of $7.5 million excessive profits against Grumman for the calendar year 1965 is now in a preliminary phase here before U.S. Tax Court Judge John E. Mulroney. Grumman’s profits for the year averaged a moderate 6.5% of sales. But the board said the company’s 81% return on net worth ‘clearly indicates the presence of excessive profits.’”

—Aviation Week & Space Technology, April 14.
Issues & Actions

CLERGY AND LAYMEN

CONCERNED ABOUT VIETNAM

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