

Vietnam Veterans Against the War-Winter Soldier Organization

# NEWSLETTER

number 26



july 22, 74

## General Information

### July 1-4 Demonstration Seen as Overwhelming Success

Overall, we feel that the July 1-4 action in Washington, D. C. must be viewed as a very definite victory for VVAW/WSO and the anti-imperialist movement. In addition to greatly deepening the political maturity and development of the organization through the process of struggle we experienced in D. C., the demonstration was a very positive force in strengthening the overall anti-imperialist movement through the development of the amnesty and veterans' movements here in the U. S. In terms of both the anti-imperialist veterans' movement and the amnesty movement, our actions came at a very crucial stage. While these movements have really only begun to make their impact felt on the nation, the effect of the D. C. demonstrations will go a long way towards firmly developing them in an anti-imperialist context.

As the dust from the July demonstration begins to settle, we must now begin the process of pulling together our experiences in D. C., learning all the lessons we can from them, and then applying those lessons to the conduct and further development of our work. This process is every bit as important as the actions in Washington themselves; for unless we can learn from our own history, our movement can never make consistent progress but will be doomed to repeat avoidable mistakes. The second part of this process, then, is to put those general lessons we can learn from Washington into our daily practice back at home. Unless this is done, we will have accomplished little of any lasting value, and the time to begin this is now. D. C. wasn't the end, but only a beginning for VVAW/WSO and our movement. Waiting until after the NSCM or for the end of summer is simply putting our work that much farther behind schedule.

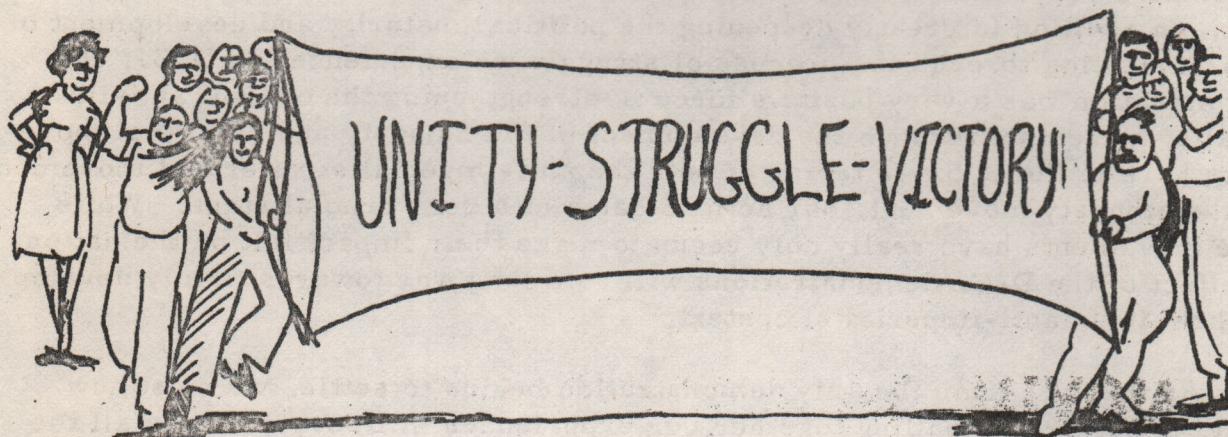
To facilitate summing up the lessons and experiences of Washington as well as possible, there will be a demo analysis workshop at the Buffalo NSCM where we can discuss the action and develop a collective analysis of its political lessons. All regional delegations should come prepared with their regional analysis of the action's strengths, weaknesses, etc. So far, St. Louis is the only region to have sent in an analysis to the National Office. If regions cannot have their analy-

sis mailed into the NO before the NSCM, they should at least bring a prepared critique of the demo with them to Buffalo.

One thing that should be stressed is that an analysis is not a trashing session! If regions only discuss what was wrong, what wasn't particularly liked, etc. they will have really said very little about the action. Rather the analysis should discuss how the action affected VVAW/WSO's overall organizational development, the development of the anti-imperialist struggle, etc. as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the demonstration.

### July Demo Lost & Found

The clean-up crew for the July 104 action in Washington, D. C. picked up a large number of lost and found items left by people on the Mall. Among other things, there were a couple of packs, a camera, a suitcase, numerous sleeping bags, coolers, clothes, etc. All of these items worth salvaging were trucked back to the National Office. If you lost something on the Mall during the action, please contact the NO with a description of it and we'll see if it was recovered. All unclaimed equipment will be saved for future VVAW/WSO action.



### NSCM Rapidly Approaching

With the National Steering Committee Meeting just around the corner, we feel it necessary to stress some points that will come up during this meeting. At the last meeting, most of the delegates were not prepared for the political struggle that developed around some key organizational problems. Because of that lack of preparation, the struggles took place in a very bad way; that is, through parliamentary procedure instead of through general political struggle. We feel that delegates should be prepared to focus on what are sure to be major points of struggle, so that we can all be more prepared to carry this struggle in a principled way, with as little bureaucratic harassment as possible.

One of these points is the question on what is the nature of this organization. During the last meeting and since then, there has been much discussion, leading to three major "lines" on this question. Without trying to do these

points an injustice, we think the three can be characterized as follows: 1) A veterans-GI organization excluding non-vets and anti-imperialist in nature; 2) A mass, anti-imperialist organization with no defined base; and 3) A mass, anti-imperialist organization with a veteran and GI base and focus, not excluding non-vets. One of the problems in dealing with this question was the bureaucratic way the struggle was legislated instead of recognizing that there were vast differences on this question that should be struggled out at all levels of the organization.

The second major area of struggle will surely be the objectives. So that there will be no misunderstanding, the objectives coming up under old business are not subject to change in any form. It is simply a matter of voting them up or down. If a proposed objective fails to receive 2/3 of the vote, then the old objective remains. In effect, we sort of put a noose around our own throats with regard to dealing with the objectives, but the voting up or down under old business was decided by the Steering Committee, and thus, remains in effect as the way the objectives must be dealt with. The following excerpt from a letter from the Colorado region is an example of the problems we have created for ourselves.

"I've been asked to write to you all to let you know of a problem we ran into with New Business Objective #4....As it appeared in the minutes:

"PROPOSAL FOR OBJECTIVE #4: To struggle for universal unconditional amnesty. This will include a single-type, retroactive discharge for all veterans and amnesty for all persons in prison, underground, in exile and the clearing of all civil and criminal records resulting from resistance to the imperialist war machine.

"Most of us felt this was a right-on concept, as we understood it, but felt it was a very poorly CONSTRUCTED couple of sentences. As we read it and as it could be read by many unfamiliar with the issues of amnesty, it is structured in such a way as to seem to say that we want amnesty for all persons in prison, underground and in exile. Then in addition to that we want a clearing of all civil and criminal records resulting from resistance to the imperialist war machine. Most of us don't want amnesty for all people in prison, underground and in exile. But we do want amnesty for resisters in that state. See what I mean? To be correct in saying what we feel you/we want to say with regard to this issue we feel the structure (not the wording) should be changed to read as follows:

....."This will include a single-type, retroactive discharge for all veterans 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 civil and criminal records.

"We realize some people may think this is a petty point, some might think it is somewhat obstructionist to hassle over things like this, but most of the people at the regional felt it was important enough that we should mention it to you and possibly request that the next newsletter carry the STRUCTURAL change. If not, we feel we could not fully support the first draft, it just doesn't say what we want to say. We are offering this as a clarification, as a structural change, not as a change in the wording of the proposed objective #4 and we think it should be run in the next newsletter."

The only thing we can suggest with regard to this problem pointed out by the Colorado region is that the structural change be discussed in the workshop which will certainly occur around the objectives. It could be suggested by that workshop that this be considered as only a structural change, and vote to accept the change to go into effect at this meeting (this of course if the other objective #4 proposal doesn't receive acceptance).

#### Lawton/Gardner Trial Information

The trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner has again been postponed and will not begin until August 26th in Riverside. The reason for this further delay is that the government has refused to comply with court orders. In an earlier court decision, the judge ruled that some of the state's evidence must be turned over to the defense. This order has been ignored by the District Attorneys office. The defense used this reason to again file a motion that the charges against Gary and Zurebu be dropped, but instead, the judge again postponed the trial. This whole situation is getting ridiculous. This third trial has been postponed time and time again, tying up the lives of the defendants and defense workers, and recently the delays have been because the government has refused to cooperate, leaving the defense no alternative but to settle for the delays. Because of this, and because of the general racist and repressive atmosphere of this case, the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee is again requesting that chapters again wage a telegram/letter campaign demanding that the charges be dropped. Chapter members, friends and neighbors should send telegrams or letters to the following people immediately, demanding that this frame-up be stopped: Presiding Judge Richard Marsh, Riverside Superior Court, P.O. Box 1748, Indio, CA 92201; Byron Morton, District Attorney, 3535 10th St., Riverside, CA 92501; and Norton Younglove, Riverside County Board of Supervisors, 4050 Main St., Riverside, CA 92501. Get your letters/telegrams in the mail as soon as possible! We must stop this trial!

The following letter was written by Gary Lawton to Angela Davis. The meaning of the letter is self-explanatory, and the circumstances which prompted the letter center around Gary's refusal to speak at a rally in Los Angeles because Angela Davis was also speaking there. Instead, Chukia Lawton spoke at the rally and hand-delivered the following letter to Angela and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The letter was prompted by the activities of Angela and the Alliance concerning such major political trials as that of Lawton and Gardner, Ruchell Magee, and the Leavenworth Brothers.

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 on 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 wouldn't 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 sell-out to the very cause you once seemed to believe so fervently in,

Respectfully,

Kali Moran, Sr.  
Slave name Gary Lawton

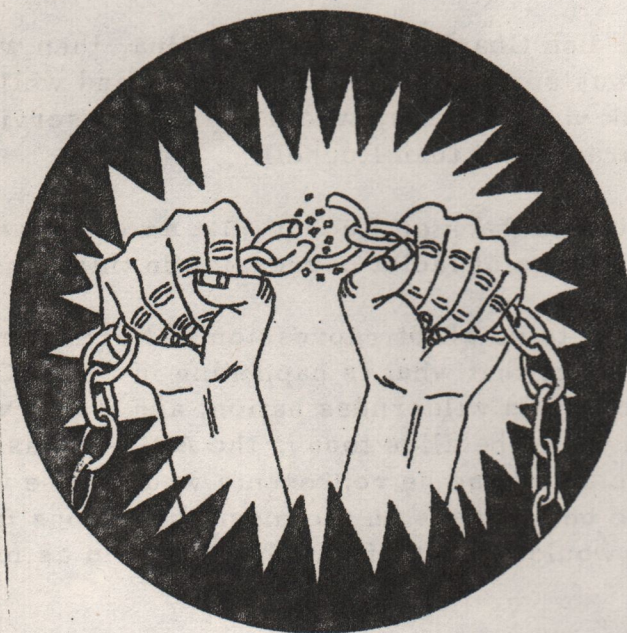
### Leavenworth Brothers Trials to Begin

The trials of the Leavenworth Brothers are just around the corner. On July 29th, Odell Bennett, Jessie Evans, Alf Hill, and Alfred Jasper will go to trial on charges of kidnapping, conspiracy to riot and conspiracy to mutiny. On August 12th, the trials of Jesse Lopez and Armondo Miramon will begin on charges of kidnapping and assault. We are still hoping that these trials will be postponed for the major reason that the defense is not yet prepared. Lawyers entered the case only a month ago, nearly 200 prospective witnesses have yet to be

interviewed, and a 1,000 page FBI report must be researched. For these reasons, we are asking that everyone send a postcard to the presiding judge demanding that the trials be postponed. People should write immediately to: Honorable Judge Frank Theis, U. S. District Court, Federal Building, Wichita, Kansas. Do it today!

Also, since the trials are to be held in Wichita, the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee is opening a News Bureau in that city which will be providing information on the events of the trials. The address of this new office is: LBODC, 106 East Lincoln, Wichita, Kansas. The phone is: (316) 267-6535. People who are interested in keeping on top of these trials as they are going on should contact the above office.

FREE THE LEAVENWORTH BROTHERS!



#### Discharge Upgrading Manual Completed

The manual which has been prepared by the Bay Area VVAW/WSO chapters regarding the technical aspects of Discharge Upgrading is completed. Several chapters have been waiting for this manual for some time, and it should prove to be a useful tool for all chapters with DUPs. Also included in this manual is the material which was to be included in the first issue of the DUP national newsletter. Since the material for the first newsletter fit into the context of the manual, it has been included. This means that the second issue of the DUP national newsletter will be out sometime in September. All chapters with operating DUPs, as well as chapters planning to establish DUPs, should try to order this manual (which is for VVAW/WSO internal use only). The cost of the manual is \$5.00 (to cover the costs for printing by the Oakland chapter). It should be ordered from: Jeanie Dolly, VVAW/WSO, 4919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. Checks should be made out to: East Bay DUP.

The following is the text of the speech which was delivered by Sam Schorr at the July 4th rally in D. C. The speech deals with the demands of Decent Benefits for All Vets and a Single-Type Discharge specifically, while also discussing the rising veterans movement in this country. Since this was the primary organizational speech given at the rally, we felt that many people might be interested in reading the full text.

Brothers and Sisters, Veterans and Non-veterans,

Remember all those promises made to America's brave and finest men and women, the smooth, easy phrases of bright promise the recruiters and wielders of the draft laid on those of us who were to serve democracy? Remember the great education to come? or the job training? or even the damn job? How about the fantastic care of a VA hospital, the concern of our leaders for their bloodied heroes? Can the veterans of this country ever forget the praises and laurels thrown around by presidents, generals, patriots, Congress and all the rest of those who sent men and women to war or to far off places to defend someone else's interests? Hell NO, we can't forget!

It is the John Waynes, the Richard Nixons, the Donald Johnsons, the corporate elite who have forgotten, as if they ever really cared. What has been apparent to the vast majority of veterans long before discharge is only now reaching the eyes and ears of our government. "What are those vets yelling about?" they cry. "Are we not always explaining to them our great concern, the fantastic programs we have created for vets?" they are whimpering. Bull, we shout. Its only a bunch of hot air that they've created, a distorted caricature of concern -- pure baloney!

We know what the problem is. Unemployment and sham jobs. 6% unemployment for all Americans, 10% for vets generally, and 14% for minority vets. Or those incredibly bogus job fairs so many of us have been to where they tell us to be a janitor or a laundry helper or a part-time gas pumper.

Or the GI Bill. Do they really expect us to swallow their line that \$220 or even \$260 a month will pay tuition, books and living expenses, and learn something at the same time? Maybe Nixon would like to trade places. Then he can try to get his so-called law degree, the one he's forgotten about.

Do any of our great legislators know what its like to lie in their own excrement for hours, or wait all day for someone to turn them over to their other side in a VA hospital? Do they know what its like to get hooked on methadone in trade for heroin?

Do they know what its like to be branded for life by a bad discharge? We know that the vast majority of bad discharges weren't even given at a court-martial, that most were issued administratively by the military to get rid of dissidents, to get rid of men and women who wouldn't submit to the racism and oppression of the military or fight against the Indochinese people. Maybe they would like a secret code, a SPN number, placed on their employment record branding them as "deviant" or having "unclean habits."

These are the things that face the veterans of today. We no longer have any illusions about the great future the recruiter painted for us. We no longer trust the government or the VA to fulfill their responsibility to veterans on their own initiative. We've learned one thing the recruiter didn't tell us, one thing that is now crystal clear. If veterans want their benefits, then we have to fight for them. That's why we are here. That's why we are demanding decent benefits for all vets and a single-type discharge.

What do we mean by decent benefits? Just that. We are demanding benefits that meet the needs of each veteran, no matter what living situation he or she may be in. If a vet needs assistance to go to college and live, then it is the responsibility of the VA to provide that assistance. If a vet needs job training, then job training must be found. If a VA hospital needs more doctors, then find them. If an addict needs help, then help, not re-addict them to another junk. If it is a job that is needed, then get on the backs of those huge corporations with their superprofits to create good jobs. We're sick and tired of having to make our lives fit the needs of the bureaucrats. We are not here to nit-pick with the government. We are here to demand, and demand we will! The VA, third largest agency in the federal government; second largest employer behind the Pentagon, and with a budget of 12 billion dollars, better have the ability to get the job done!

And what of the 500,000 men and women with less than honorable discharges. What about a discharge system that acts as a terror weapon for the military brass against enlisted GIs? We know that the discharge system is used as a tool of repression; for isn't it a fact that 80% are administrative where the GI is not put on trial for any crime. Isn't it a fact that third world GIs get twice as many bad discharges in proportion to their numbers in the military? What about the fact that no other criminal sentence brands you for life except major felonies? We are tired of being told that only the "unfit" get bad discharges. It is the U. S. Military that is unfit! We demand that this weapon of terror be taken from the military. Let GIs have the same rights as any citizen under our so-called justice system. Let the military then try to wage wars against our will! Let them then try to kick around GIs with petty harassment and racial oppression!

There is another trick to be played on veterans, a blatant tactic which can only spell defeat. Many have said, "You have just demands. But you shouldn't demand an end to the war or demand amnesty. Just stick to vets issues and you'll be better off, you might even win." Its the same trick the police, government and other vets groups tried to play on the men and women of the Bonus March of 1932. The trick of dividing vets against their friends and neighbors. The trick of separating vets from their real allies. That is the little told story, the one ignored by the pimps of the veterans movement. Those first marchers weren't dumb, as these opportunists soon learned. They had the greatest weapon of all on their side, unity -- unity with the rest of the poor and working people of America. After all, where are vets if not overwhelmingly from the poor and working class. The Bonus Marchers didn't just demand their bonus, but also the end to all wars of aggression and the paying of unemployment insurance to all workers.



Today we are faced with similar tactics. But we will not be deceived! We will not separate ourselves from our real allies, the poor and working people of this country!

To raise demands that only reform our present system would sell veterans and non-veterans out to the interests of the ruling class, to that tight circle of power of the Pentagon, VA, and older vets groups. They would love for us to just ask for a few dollars. That they can afford. After all, did not our grandparents and parents get social security and unemployment, and a GI Bill, not at the expense of the big profit makers, but from the taxes of other working people, off the sweat of those who could least afford it.

No, they don't fear reforms. What they fear is our willingness to unite with other people. What they fear is our understanding that it is the system, imperialism, that lies at the root of our common problems. They fear our anti-imperialism. They fear it because it rips away the facade of respectability and legitimacy that hides their greed. They fear it because it is a consciousness that cannot be coopted by them.

Brothers and sisters, the line is clearly drawn! Will we stand idly by in our suffering? NO! Will we allow the pimps to divide us? NO! Will we fall for sweet reforms that will leave us bitter later? NO!

Let us raise and fight for our demands with no compromise, with a unity of spirit and organization that cannot be stopped! We are the real makers of history, and let history show that it is the power of our unity that will win our demands! Fight for decent benefits! Fight for the single-type discharge!

## Regional Reports

### Pre-Demo Building Actions: VA seized in Miami, New York City

The following letter was discovered in the office of the VA Regional Director in New York City.

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr John F Radowich  
Associate Director, Information Service

June 26, 1974

FROM: Information Service Representative NY

SUBJECT: Scheduled Demonstration at New York VAH

The same consortium of radical-left groups that staged demonstrations Saturday at the Bronx VAH and yesterday (June 25) at the Newark VARO, are scheduled to hold a third area demonstration at 11 a. m. tomorrow at the New York VAH, First Avenue and 23rd Street.

The Chief Attorney's Office has acted, as they did at the Bronx on Saturday, to alert the New York City Police, the FBI and the U. S. Attorney, New York Southern District.

John McDonald, who is in charge of security for our side (Assistant Chief Attorney), assures me security will be "air tight." There will be no mob invasion of the New York VAH.

The objective, of course, is to get on TV and work up public interest for the July 4 march on Washington. We'll see what happens.

Newton H. Fulbright

What happened is that 12 members of New York City VVAW/WSO took over the director's suite on the 16th floor of the VA Regional Headquarters, barricaded the doors, and held it for the next 6 hours. Later, they allowed Regional Director Paul Nugent back into his office to talk with them. The demands were the five demands of the Demo, plus publicity for the Demo and transportation to DC. Eventually, the VVAW/WSO members were arrested and charged with "criminal trespass." (VA Regional Offices belong to Regional Directors, not to vets.)

MIAMI: Seven members of the South Florida chapter of VVAW/WSO were arrested after handcuffing themselves to doors on the second floor of the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital. Demands were treatment for all vets regardless of type of discharge; VVAW/WSO was also protesting methadone treatments, inadequate out-patient care, and discrimination in admission policies. Although the building was heavily guarded, VVAW/WSO members pushed through the security guards; police were called in with wirecutters to remove them from the hospital.

THE VA's ON THE RUN: KEEP IT RUNNING!!!

### Demo Support Actions

In Minneapolis 100 people came out for a picnic and rally on July 4th in support of the VVAW/WSO actions in DC; the park at which it was held was also the site of more traditional 4th of July celebrations. "We are satisfied with the presence we made among the celebraters. We had a guerrilla theatre performance of the war machine being destroyed by the resisters and the workers. We had singing of the picnickers and large banners that were hanging throughout the day so thousands of people saw them.

We also prepared a leaflet which we distributed to the people gathering for the activities at the park. It's the first time I've handed out leaflets that people have come up to me to get a copy...."

In Venice, California, VVAW/WSO members formed a contingent in the local 4th of July parade, marching under the VVAW/WSO banner, and carrying signs for the five demands of the D. C. action. Also in California, we received word that there was a demo of approximately 200 people in Riverside, who turned out to support the five demands of the Washington action. Santa Cruz was also to conduct a support demo, but the details have not yet been received. So, Riverside and Santa Cruz, get the nitty gritty of your stories in to the NO.

Telegram Received from London, England VVAW/WSO in Support of DC Demo -

VVAW/WSO, 930 F STREET, WASH DC 20004

GREETINGS SOLIDARITY AND FULL SUPPORT FOR VVAW/WSO WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATION FROM EXILES, VETERANS, GIS AND ALL OTHER AMERICANS IN BRITAIN WHO CANNOT BE WITH YOU TODAY STOP WE WILL BE THERE NEXT TIME WHEN WE TOGETHER HAVE WON THE FIGHT FOR UNIVERSAL UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY STOP

IN STRUGGLE UNION OF AMERICAN EXILES LONDON VVAW/WSO

Borden's Strike/Boycott Over

Local #487 of the Textile Workers thanks VVAW/WSO for their support of their strike and boycott of Borden's products. They feel that one thing that really pushed Borden's into a position to settle was the fact of nationwide support of the strike, especially by organizations with chapters all over. Also, thanks to the people that took time to write Borden's and voice support of the strike and boycott. They felt that the boycott had gotten to the point of going nationwide, similar to the Farah strike. To guard against this, and the obvious loss in profits, Borden's went along with some of the union's demands, many of which they flatly refused to negotiate earlier. The Borden's article that appeared in May Winter Soldier, articles in regional newsletter, local boycott leaflets that surfaced in many parts of the country; these are but a few of the many things that the union pointed out that helped their union win the righteous demands they were seeking. So again, on behalf of the union and Columbus chapter of VVAW/WSO, we would like to thank all those who helped with the boycott. We have won a clear victory in this struggle; let us move on to others. (From the Columbus chapter, VVAW/WSO)

Santa Cruz Chapter Gains Access to the V. A.

The Santa Cruz chapter of VVAW/WSO has waged a successful struggle against the V. A. to gain access to the Veterans Memorial Building for the purposes of conducting VVAW/WSO activities. After a couple of months of hassle, the chapter now has free access to offices in this building, as well as being able to use the banquet hall, auditorium, and other building facilities. For further information as to how Santa Cruz was recognized as a legitimate veterans organization and this infiltration of the V. A., contact: VVAW/WSO, 12189 Lake Boulevard, Felton, California 95018.

VVAW/WSO T-Shirts

The Washington DC chapter of VVAW/WSO has a limited supply of VVAW/WSO T-shirts available (the same shirts which were sold at the demonstration in DC). For further information, write VVAW/WSO, 1404 M St NW, Washington, DC 20005 (phone: 202-466-8293).

## Clean up your own garbage

The National Office has received a bill for \$99.19 from the City of Cincinnati for "Removing political posters and repainting traffic equipment damaged by same." While we have figured out how to deal with this bill, we want to know why we haven't gotten bills from all over the country???

# National Office Reports

## National Defense Committee Reports Needed Immediately!!!

At the early June NDC workshop held in St. Louis, several people/chapters were assigned responsibility for getting papers written and submitted to the National Office by July 1st. To date, none of the papers have arrived. It is imperative that these papers be submitted immediately. We had originally intended to have the papers reproduced and sent back out to those people working on the NDC, but there is not enough time for that. Without receipt of the papers immediately, it may even be too late to get them reproduced for the NDC workshop which will take place at the Buffalo NSCM. In order to facilitate discussion in that workshop, it will be necessary for all of us to have those specific papers in front of us for reading. Following is a list of trial analyses and areas of importance for which papers are required to be discussed at the upcoming NDC workshop. If your name, chapter or region is on this list, then please complete your responsibilities and get the papers to us right away. Without cooperation on this, the NDC workshop will be stumbling around in a void of darkness!

Why NDC work? -- Toby Hollander  
Relationships to Lawyers -- Jeanne Friedman  
Agitprop -- Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense  
Internal Political Education -- LBODC  
Don Kemp Trial -- Milwaukee  
Karl Armstrong -- Milwaukee  
Lawton/Gardner Trial -- California  
Bob Hood -- California  
Leavenworth -- LBODC  
Attica -- Buffalo  
References & Resources -- All (to be compiled by  
National Office)

## Mailings

On July 29 we sent out a third-class mailing to all the chapters, containing the latest issue of AMEX magazine, the NCUUA (National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty) Newsletter, GI News (issue #7), and a pamphlet entitled "What is VVAW/WSO" put out by our chapter in Yokosuka, Japan. While we feel it is important for all chapters to have this material, the money which was saved by mailing them third class made this slower method worthwhile.

## National Office Nominations

Following are letters from three of the five nominees for the national collective--Bill Davis, Bob Moore, and Mike McCain. All three declined the nomination. Brian Adams and Rich Bangert have also decided to decline nomination; their letters will be printed later. Both Brian and Rich have offered to stay on--Brian until January, Rich until at least October--as staff so that the work of the National Office can get done.

April 22, 1974

Sisters and Brothers,

Having considered the importance and seriousness of my nomination for election to National Office at the Milwaukee NSCM, I must respectfully decline that nomination.

I have been a member of VVAW/WSO for four years and recognize the need for strong leadership at the national level, but while I feel qualified for the office, I also see the need for good organizers on all levels of the organization

Regionally, MOINKVVAWPA has a strong base and is rapidly developing in Ohio but there is a definite need to broaden that strong base into surrounding states in the region. I feel I can definitely assume a major role in that process, particularly in my home state of West Virginia.

On a chapter basis, I'm very much involved in the activity in Columbus. In addition to participation in our ongoing programs, I feel it would be an inopportune time, if elected, to depart with the arrival of the regional here.

So with typewriter in hand and politics in command, I express my Solidarity with my sisters and brothers around the country.

UNITY\*\*\*STRUGGLE\*\*\*VICTORY  
BUILD VVAW/WSO  
ON TO WASHINGTON D. C.

In Struggle,

Bill Davis, Columbus  
VVAW/WSO

June 16, 1974

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After careful consideration of the objective conditions of the Cincinnati chapter, VVAW/WSO, and the anti-imperialist movement, I have decided to decline nomination to National Office at this time.

National leadership of a mass anti-imperialist organization with a base in veterans and GIs is important, but leadership of a mass organization must be developed at the mass level before it can be fully capable. At this time, I don't think I have the necessary experience in leadership at the chapter level to be able to sum up my practice and use it in leadership at the national level.

Related but more important is the present status of the Cincinnati chapter, including our projects and our plans. We have summed up and criticized our past practice--practice that I have been involved in. We have done, and must continue

to do, anti-imperialist work around the war, prisons, amnesty--but we have failed to mobilize and organize people around these and other anti-imperialist issues. We made the error of integrating the regional office with the chapter at a time when the conditions of the Indochina War had just changed considerably and new ways of education, agitation and organization were called for. We have been slow in organizing around amnesty, including DUP and SPN counselling/organizing.

Amnesty, DUP and SPN counselling/organizing, and continuous work around the war in Indochina are inseparable parts of the anti-imperialist movement. In Cincinnati, we have educated around these and other issues for a long time, but we have failed to bring into active struggle those we have attempted to educate. We are now attempting to do this, realizing that this is what is meant by organizing in a mass anti-imperialist organization. The same goes for prison work--we have done good work in many aspects of helping prisoners organize around their repression in the context of anti-imperialistic politics, and we have begun in Cincinnati to build a support group, but we have not sought to build a mass support group around the prison issues. In short, we have the issues and the politics to engage the masses in their struggles, and we are trying to develop the practice that will accomplish this.

In conclusion, the two most important ingredients to a mass organization are its politics and its people. Leadership must not only master the politics, it must be able to put the politics into practice, which is borne out in organizing and mobilizing people around the politics. In this way we build a mass anti-imperialist movement.

In the Struggle,

Bob Moore  
Cincinnati Chapter, VVAW/WSO

23 June 1974

Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to and am respectfully declining the nomination for national coordinator of VVAW/WSO.

Michael D. McCain

### Operation County Fair

Things are moving slowly in Bogue Chitto. As far as the Clinic goes, the money in the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Clinic account is being used to contract for the remaining work to be done on the clinic building. The clinic now has a tax exempt number: 411-12 JCB: A8353. There continues to be an interest in finishing the clinic among a small number of Bogue Chitto residents, mainly those who make up the Board of Directors and the Rural Health Workers. But the participation of VVAW/WSO will come to an end on September 1st when Linda returns to school. The funding proposal has been completed, but without someone to do follow-up, it will have to be turned over to either the Clinic Board or someone else in the area to follow up on. Possibilities are being explored. Also, patches with "VVAW/WSO Medicine for the People" have been completed and can be ordered from Bogue Chitto for \$2.50.

## Materials Available

Amnesty buttons (a limited quantity) .....	10¢ each
VVAW/WSO buttons .....	10¢ each
Amnesty booklets .....	10¢ each
Amnesty posters .....	25¢ each
"Enlisted People in the Army, 1756-1973" (16-page newspaper-size pamphlet) .....	10¢ each
Lawton/Gardner booklet (16-page booklet about the frame-up in Riverside) .....	25¢ each
PVS pamphlet (4-page pamphlet describing Post-Vietnam Struggle) .....	free
"What Is VVAW/WSO" pamphlet (24-page pamphlet describing the organization) .....	10¢ each

All of these are available from the national office; they do no good here. We realize that we're all poor, but printers and button makers require payment in advance-- the last collection of buttons had to sit at the factory for several weeks while we tried to get together the money to pay for them. We can't order more of anything until we get the money from the items we have now.

## Enclosures

Included with this newsletter is the August issue of Winter Soldier and a copy of the pamphlet "What Is VVAW/WSO?" which many people picked up at the DC Demo. We assume that the pamphlet will have to be changed after the NSCM (if there are changes in the objectives) and look for your input as to how it can be improved.

## National G.I. Conference Postponed -- Location Changed

Due to circumstances in the Denver chapter, the National G.I. Conference which was to be held in Denver over the Labor Day weekend is now re-scheduled. Members of the two offices of the VVAW/WSO National GI Project and the National Collective recently met and decided to move the conference to a new date, since little preparatory work has been done. The Chicago chapter accepted the responsibility for handling logistics. The Conference will now be held in Chicago beginning on Friday evening, October 11th and ending sometime on Monday, Oct. 14th. Further information on the exact site and registration fees and procedures will be coming out soon.

The following article was submitted to the GI Project Alliance GIPA NEWS AND DISCUSSION BULLETIN. GIPA NEWS is a regular discussion bulletin on the GI movement which is published in San Diego. It is an internal bulletin which goes only to groups doing GI work. For those of you who are unfamiliar with GIPA and the folks at the Center for Servicemen's Rights in San Diego, they are very reliable people who have offered to print anything and everything that we would like them to print about the conference.

"The National Steering Committee of VVAW/WSO, at its national meeting in April, 1974, saw the need to devote more emphasis to the critical area of military organizing. With the hope of developing more unity among the GI movement and building a strategy that will begin to seriously challenge the role of the U. S. military under imperialism, the National Steering Committee voted to call a national conference of all groups doing active work among GIs.

"The meeting had been originally scheduled for Labor Day in Denver; however, circumstances have forced us to re-schedule the conference. The conference will now be held in Chicago on the weekend of October 11-14 (Friday evening through Monday noon). We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion and hope that everyone will be able to attend.

"We would like to begin by evaluating the past 10 years or so of GI organizing work in hopes that the evaluation can be applied to the future. Secondly, we would like to thoroughly examine the current strategy of the military, both as it applies internally to GIs, and externally to the workers of this country and foreign countries. The political direction of the GI movement is the next item we would like to focus on, and we hope that by coming to some common analysis that the GI movement will develop the unity necessary to build a strong GI movement in the U. S. military. The final and most important goal that we have for the conference is developing an overall strategy for the GI movement that all GI organizers can work on. By overall strategy we are speaking about programatic unity -- the development of demands, tactics, strategy. We hope that on the final day of the conference that people will be able to summarize the points of agreement developed in the workshops and arrive at a program that everyone can apply to their own area.

"In our own work among GIs, we have found a great divergence in the politics, style and focus of work among GI organizers, as well as a general feeling of isolation, and this divergence and isolation seems to be the greatest drawback to developing a powerful GI movement. Many of us have found it easy to assign the cause of the problem of a weak GI movement to the objective conditions of the military, the decline of U. S. troop involvement in Indochina and the end of the draft. We feel, however, that the real cause of the current low ebb in the GI movement is the lack of unity; if unity had existed long ago (as it does among the GI movements in many European countries), the GI movement would have adjusted to the changing conditions. Instead it has almost reached the point of extinction, with one person holding on here and there, papers coming out sporadically, and money drying up.

"VVAW/WSO considers itself an active and serious part of the effort to build the GI movement and we hope by calling this conference that it will contribute to developing a unified strategy.

#### LOGISTICS

"By August 10th, all groups doing GI organizing and counseling will receive invitations in the mail with further instructions on registering and other details of the conference. If you have not received anything in the mail by August 10th, please contact the VVAW/WSO National GI Project at 827 W. Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (312) 935-2129.



"The following is a tentative list of workshops that we feel are vital and can be realistically covered in the two days allotted to workshops:

UCMJ/Disciplinary system (including bad discharges, confinement, etc)

Military Strategy

a) as it relates to people within the military

b) as it relates to people outside the military - U. S. working class and foreign countries

Racism

a) as it's used against enlisted people by the brass

b) among enlisted people

GI defense work

Working and living conditions

Organizing on ships

GI counseling in GI organizing

Women in the military

"We encourage everyone to begin preparing discussion papers on the topics that you have an interest in and send them to the GIPA NEWS AND DISCUSSION BULLETIN. They have offered to reprint discussion papers and their next deadline is around Aug. 15th. Please send a xerox or carbon copy to the VVAW/WSO National Office if possible.

"We plan to begin around 7 PM on the evening of Friday, October 11th, with a discussion of the agenda (anyone having agenda items should also send them to GIPA NEWS AND DISCUSSION BULLETIN to be included in future pre-conference issues). The next item is a general discussion by a representative of each group explaining how they see their relationship to other groups. At this point, people will also have a chance to ask questions about each project. Which brings us to the next point: project reports must be written up in advance -- there will be no oral reports. If the project reports are prepared far enough in advance of the conference for the BULLETIN to reprint them, then everyone will have a chance to read them ahead of time and ask pertinent questions. Oral reporting would take far too much time. We will then begin with a general evaluation of current GI work, if time permits; otherwise that item will be taken up on Saturday. On Saturday and Sunday workshops will be conducted. On Monday, the plenary session will begin, at which time we will discuss the workshop reports and then move to the final discussion of an overall program.

"Any questions should be directed to: VVAW/WSO National GI Project, 827 West Newport, Chicago, IL 60657 (312) 935-2129. Agenda items and discussion papers should be sent to: GIPA NEWS AND DISCUSSION BULLETIN.

Everyone interested in building the GI movement and VVAW/WSOs role in that movement should be prepared to discuss the subject in the GI workshop at the next NSCM in Buffalo.

# Information Requests

## Send in Your Photos of the Demo

We are trying to collect as many photos of the July 1-4 demonstrations as possible. We've received quite a few from various regions, but know that there must be thousands more out there in the chapters. We are trying to put together a complete "visual" file of the D. C. actions, and we'll need the help of the chapters on this. We also realize that all of the photos were not taken by VVAW/WSO members, so people should also check with all those in the regional delegations. We can only use black and white prints, and it is probable that we will not be able to return the prints we receive. So, if possible, have your photos duplicated (or send us the negatives which can be returned) and get them to the National Office as soon as possible.

## Address Changes Needed

It's time again to request chapter address up-dates from the regional offices. There have been several changes recently, so we will be compiling a new chapter list during the next few weeks. Regions should also go through the last chapter list and let us know which of the listed addresses are defunct, as well as getting any address or phone number changes sent in as soon as possible.

### DOONESBURY

