

Alternative

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"COLD WAR" DRAFT MEETS COLDER RESPONSE

N. Y. TIMES: Shhhh

PEARL BUCK : I'll Make that Pact

TWO of the speakers at a Gandhi Memorial Meeting in New York, October 5, were Pearl Buck, noted novelist, and Robert Bone, 25-year-old automobile worker who has refused to register for the draft. The speakers were announced in paid ads in the New York papers, but the N. Y. Times had its own ideas about how to fit the news to print. It refused to include a line saying that one of the speakers would be "a conscientious objector who has refused to register for the draft."

The ad was then changed by the sponsors to say that one of the speakers would be "a conscientious objector." This was still too dangerous a sign of the times to be an ad in the . . . Oh well, what we mean is that there's no sense in letting those things get around.

The publicity may have been censored but the meeting was not. Bone spoke very vigorously on "Why I . . ." He told of meeting numbers of young men in recent weeks who are opposed to the army but haven't known of any organized resistance to it. At the end of his talk, he said to the audience, "I'll make a pact with you. I'll go on fighting against violence and regimentation in prison if you will carry on the fight on the outside, helping to reach people who have never heard of non-violent direct action."

When Pearl Buck came to the speaker's stand, she interrupted her prepared text to say, "I have never attended a meeting of this kind in the United States before. It was a very moving experience to me to hear Mr. Bone speak as he did." Then she turned to him and said: "I'll keep that pact with you."

More than 800 persons heard Donald Harrington, Amiya Chakravarty, A. J. Muste and David Dellinger urge Americans to adopt a Gandhian program of non-violent civil disobedience against American militarism. Donald Harrington said that if Congress had passed a law requiring us to go out and murder a hundred thousand people we would all refuse to do it. But obedience to the draft law will bring about the slaughter of many millions.

Million Forget to Register

THE U. S. Government tried to warm up its cold war a little last month with the aid of a much ballyhooed peace-time draft. But the response was colder than the weather. Through the 2-week registration period, draft officials kept calling for more volunteers to do the registering. But long waiting lines continued at registration places until the government finally had to "draft" teachers to do the job. Then, because so many 18-25 year olds were failing to show up at registration centers, employers of large plants were assigned the task of registering their employees at the job. Even so, when the tumult and the shouting died, about a million Americans had "forgotten" to register.

In the limelight were the active resisters—picketers, leaflet distributors, and 18-25 year olds who publicly proclaimed their refusal to have anything to do with the draft. Three of the latter were arrested when they turned themselves over to the F.B.I. These were Lynwood Dodge, 24, of Madison, Wisconsin; Stuart Perkoff, 18, of New York City, and Ralph Cook, 19, of Portland, Maine.

Rejected "Bribe"

As of publication date, Cook is the only one convicted. Had he registered, he would have been deferred as a pre-divinity student. But he refused to accept this bribe which had been offered to men with appropriate church connections. In giving Cook a 2-year sentence, the judge sustained the opinion of most draft resisters, saying "the act of registration is the keystone of the system devised by Congress."

Picketing and leaflet distribution took place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Columbus and Xenia, Ohio, and Puerto Rico. Demonstrators carried signs and distributed leaflets urging men of draft age to "Refuse to Register" and to "Refuse to be Drafted." This was open violation of the law, but the Federal Government didn't dare increase the publicity by making arrests, during the crucial registration period. Only in a few cases were

continued on page 4

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Editors: Robert Auerbach, David Dellinger, Ralph DiGia, Roy Finch, Sander Katz, Wm. Kuennig, Louise Abell Mack, Anne Moffett, Roy C. Kepler, Margaret Rockwell.

Letters

To the Editors:

Anne E. Moffett's choice of personalities for purposes of comparison who by the very nature of their philosophies, inclinations, backgrounds and methods of work were so removed from one another is nothing short of amazing.

Their sole commonality, not mentioned by Miss Moffett, resides in their shared fundamental objective and in the revolutionary character of their respective tools for its attainment. There the resemblance ends. Freud was a scientist, Gandhi—a spiritualist. The former, because of his particular kind of training and temperament, pursued his work by means of objective analysis. Gandhi, on the other hand . . . was a moralist and reformer. Freud, too, was concerned with the lot of the individual and society. He endeavored to accomplish that end by trying to get at the very basis of human conflict so that man may liberate himself from his prejudices, intolerance and aggression. He produced a new type of clear-vision, non-distorting mirror for mankind to view itself to better see its jealously-guarded delusions, which are the root of error and prejudice.

Freud's Contribution

Of course, I do not even pretend to begin to understand Miss Moffett's inference in contrasting Freud's death in exile and Gandhi's in his own homeland. India was suffering from a lingering malaise whereas Europe, including Freud's native land, was engulfed by a raging pestilence. Offering himself up on that altar of obscenity, as Miss Moffett suggests by making the comparison, would not have mitigated the dread epidemic nor would it have achieved one whit of good for any one, anywhere in the world. Freud did not dream of war, not even of an ideal war, as the writer of that article suggests. But he knew human nature. He knew that conflict, where inevitable, need not lead to strife. Towards that end, he labored a lifetime to uncover the hidden sources of antagonism and hostility. If anything, his work proved that wars are not inevitable and that conflicts can be resolved if the disputants will but bring to the task a determination to thoroughly examine the motives leading to the impasse. He dreamed of a world in which people would bring to the smallest, as well as to the biggest task, the security and fearlessness which results from self-

continued on page 4

NOTES FROM ARIZONA

"WHAT kind of a world would we have if every one believed as you do: not to defend their country; not to pay taxes; not to belong to any church? Why, that would be chaos!" So spoke a rather stern faced Franciscan priest to me as I was selling the CATHOLIC WORKER in front of his church the other Sunday. I replied:

"We would have a fine world. We will have chaos soon enough with the atom bomb."

"But you can't say that most people are ready to get along without any government," the priest answered quickly.

"They think they have to have government," I answered. "They will never get ready to act for themselves by having the government do everything. Meanwhile those of us who know better can show what self-government can do."

Wallace and the Bomb

Sentimentalists, fellow travelers, and those easily misled will fall for the cry of peace uttered by Wallace, forgetting that he supported the last war with its bomb and has never said that this was a mistake. His policy of subsidies to keep up prices goes on today keeping prices of sugar, potatoes, citrus, etc., etc., higher than ever. The Vegetarian candidate for President offers the program which the Socialists are too weak to present but they are not organized and will not get on the ballot in most states. All other candidates support war except the SLP which hides away in its corner content with so-called revolutionary utterances but always playing safe in time of war.

There is no leadership among the anarchists in opposition to war, most of them desiring to oppose the war without getting into trouble; evasion rather than the bold tactic of Berkman and Goldman is their line. The I.W.W. presents many pacifist arguments in its paper but does not want to disrupt the organization by another anti-war fight. Whether any proportion of Catholics will follow the revolutionary Christian Anarchist stand of the CATHOLIC WORKER or succumb to the warmongering of Spellman and the hierarchy remains to be seen.

In the last war the War Resisters' League and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, like most churches, allowed their members to decide how to make the best bargain with the war department and took no absolutist stand, figuring that the life of the organization was more important than the ideal for which it was founded. Now some leaders of these groups advise the absolutist stand of refusal to register.

Those of us who do not depend upon organizations, although we may belong to them, and who are determined to refuse to cooperate in any way with the war will find it rather a lonesome fight. The unions, as before, will wax enthusiastic over "time and a half," the clergy will pray for victory in this most holy war; the women will run after the uniform and allotment checks and seek to tame the C.O.'s. The youngsters who are ex-

continued on page 3

VOTE FOR HENRY TRUEY

Your vote for Henry Truey can help decide some world-shaking questions — such as whether the world will be shaken by atom bombs in March or whether it will be shaken in April. It may decide crucial questions of secret diplomacy, which in turn will determine whether Russia is attacked by the “peace-loving Japanese” and the “democratic Chinese” or whether Russia is able to persuade the “Jap Bastards” and the “Dirty Chinks” to stab US in the back. If in the end, your vote decides **NOTHING**, and **ALL** the politicians break **ALL** their promises again, you will at least have the satisfaction of — having voted.

But if you are tired of having someone tell you who to kill and when, you might try running your own life for a change. You can begin by announcing that you won't kill anyone anywhere. And you can continue by joining the movement of non-violent direct action against war and conscription. Today everyone must decide either to fight **AGAINST** war or to fight **IN** war. That is a far more important decision to make than the decision to support this or that political candidate.

Vote with your daily actions, not a meaningless ballot!

NOTES FROM ARIZONA

continued from page 2

cited about the World Federalists may graduate some of their number to the absolutist cause when their bubble has been punctured by the war.

To expect to influence the masses is futile. To say that the people are with us is as foolish as the assertion by the SLP that they will soon win because their vote increased 1000% (from one vote to 10). If each of us will come as near to the absolutist stand against capitalist society as it is possible for us to do we will awaken those marginal few who are ready for the next step. For as long as the workers are bourgeois minded and want the things that make for war they will support war. Debs, Ben Salmon, Goldman and Berkman did not live and die in vain. Let us remember their forthright stand and cease our compromising and pussyfooting.

—AMMON A. HENNACY

The N. Y. RESISTANCE GROUP, publishers of *Resistance* magazine, will hold a series of weekly discussions this fall and winter. Robert Bone (see Pearl Buck story) will speak on “The Radical on the Assembly Line,” Saturday, October 23. The following week there will be a debate: “Is the Ballot an Additional Means to a Better World?” Speakers, David Wieck and Igal Roodenko. November 6, Paul Goodman will speak on Popular Culture.

The meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. at SIA Hall, 813 Broadway (near 12th Street), New York City. Admission is free.

National organizations active in the fight against the draft include Peacemakers, 2013 5th Avenue, New York 25, N. Y., and War Resisters' League, 5 Beekman Street, New York 7, N. Y. They welcome your support and participation in activities. Write them for information about groups in your area.

MILLION FORGET TO REGIC

continued from page 1

there local arrests for "disorderly conduct" and "sauntering and loitering."

In New York City, picketing continued throughout the registration period. Suddenly, on the last day of registration, police discovered that the picketers were breaking the law. They arrested 14 men and women on a little used law, charging them with "endangering the public peace" by *inciting violence against themselves* on the part of "patriots" who might resent their slogans. But the judge was not impressed and the case was dismissed.

Also in New York, an attempt was made to prevent street meetings by sentencing Bayard Rustin and James Peck to 15 days in jail for refusing to obey the orders of a Police Lieutenant to move one of the meetings into a dark side street. The men served their sentences but the meetings continued when they and other speakers refused to be intimidated. The officials were unwilling to continue the arrests at this time in view of the determined opposition and the publicity that would inevitably result from a series of arrests.

Within the past week, some non-registrants have been arrested in California, Florida, Minnesota, and New York. The F.B.I. reported in the Washington "Star" that it was beginning to investigate "quite a few" cases. But they did not mention how they were going to track down a million non-registrants, or what they could do with them if the whole million persisted in their refusal to register.

Unfortunately the majority of these non-registrants will probably register, if they are caught. But there remains a sizable core of convinced resisters who will continue to resist, whatever the penalties. And meanwhile, the whole million are "dragging their feet." At the present time the Government is waging a campaign to reach such people in order to persuade them of the Travel, Adventure, and Security blessings provided by the U. S. Army. On the other hand, several anti-war organizations are also trying to reach them—with a slightly different message. It may be that the continued existence of *homo sapiens* hangs in the balance.

We're Not Magicians!

YOU'VE BEEN receiving *Alternative* since we first started publishing. Some of you have asked us, by card or letter, to continue mailing. If you haven't—don't assume we *know* you *want* to be on our mailing list. We're making up our permanent mailing list, and if you want *Alternative* mailed to you every month, notify us by card or letter now.

Subscriptions are free on request. If you have no dough—and many of our friends do not—just tell us to keep *Alternative* coming. And if you can afford to contribute, remember that we're trying to be self-sustaining. At the moment we are a little in the red. We need \$80 an issue to cover our mailing and printing costs. Please make money orders payable to Louise Abell Mack, our treasurer. Checks are payable to Louise Abell Mack, or, *Alternative*, Box 827, Church Street Station, New York 8, N. Y.

And apologies from the editors for being slow lately. It was a choice between *Alternative* and active draft resistance! (See article on "Cold War' Draft," in this issue.)

Persons who come into conflict with the new draft law can get information and legal aid from the newly formed Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa. Caleb Foote is Executive Secretary, and Ray Newton is Chairman.

LETTERS

continued from page 2

understanding and without which the understanding and loving of others is doomed to failure.

Gandhi, although a man of peace, wielded so much influence, moral though it was, that, to my mind, was frightening in its proportions. No mortal being should allow himself to exert such power, good though its avowed and intended purpose. There were surely others in that vast land of his who could have shared Gandhi's burden of moral and spiritual leadership . . .

D. SAFIAN.

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