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camp however, is one of purpose. We build tents, construct sanitary areas, have rallies, are visited by Congressmen and women. We form a giant peace sign on the ground. The black community outside the camp throw food in to us. But from 9:00 in the morning, till 10:00 at night, when we march out to our buses under search lights reminiscent of Hogan's Heroes, our greatest need is warmth. The Man brings us to an indoor ice rink, where we try to sleep on the concrete floor. The police have opened all doors and windows to cool us down. There is still no legal aid, no formal charges. The National Guard is somewhat friendly to us: giving us oranges, cocoa and even, at 3:00 AM, blankets. We reciprocate by demanding successfully, that the Guard be permitted to sit, rather than stand at attention.

At 8:00 AM Tuesday morning, just minutes before the ACLU was to try to get us off scott free, the police get an idea to move us again. We had just had a successful political agitprop session, so our spirits were high. The prospect of further isolation from the outside world was a little too much for me to bear, so I submitted to processing: fingerprinting, photograph—trial on June 24th on disorderly conduct charges.

What lessons can we draw from this incident? First of all, I suppose, it again proves Mao's dictum regarding political power and the gun. Our civil liberties meant next to nothing when a political decision had been made on the highest level. Next, the action concretized for me at least, the connection between the waging of an adventuristic, imperialist war and the emergence of a domestic police state to silence criticism of that war. The action should also convince us of the necessity for community organizing, for bringing the real people into such non-violent resistance. If the crowd from the April 24th march had been doing what we did May 3rd, Washington would surely have been shut down. We were a vanguard movement, but one that was in constant danger of perceiving itself as a mass movement. As a cadrebuilding action, May Day was superb. Perhaps the gains in terms of radicalization of those present, particularly those whose only offense had been going to school on the morning of May 3rd, or wearing long hair, will outweigh any alienation of working and middle class support. Back to our constituencies, to solidify and expand our bases for the mass actions to come!

## At the Youth Conference



Sam and Marshall at the conference

by Sam Konkin

*we came, we saw, we converted*

Pleasantly surprised by the 75 degree weather we encountered arriving at Denver's airport, far higher than predicted, we continue by a long bus ride to Estes Park, Colorado. After the first night, we awoke to heavy snowfall and deficient plumbing. Nature was foreshadowing an allegory of the White House Conference on Youth.

From April 18 to April 22, budding young establishmentarians, reform-tripping on parliamentary procedure, and a few free-loading radicals condensed from around the world to Estes Park, the new mecca for Meeting Freaks.

Several invitations to the Conference were passed along the spectrum from conservative to less conservative libertarians; most invitations were ultimately turned down. Final judgement as to who should receive the applications for invitations ended in the hands of Society for Individual Liberty/ California Libertarian Alliance axis leadership, and led to complaints by Eastern RLA of exclusion. Nevertheless, all three libertarians who swallowed their repugnance of attending a purely statist function, (not to mention repugnance of the food served there) were RLA'ers and openly wore black flag buttons. Besides myself, Ron Kimberling of California and Marshall Beerwinkle of Texas were present.

Two more left anarchists, Sissy Kelly of D.C. and Joost van Nimis (International Delegate who attended Dartmouth) put on RLA buttons during the Conference. All were on different task forces.

At first a libertarian caucus was considered and rudimentary efforts were made to create it. To our surprise, the formation of an Anarchist Caucus was announced, and so, the RLA'ers trudged through the snow to the outlying cabin where the meeting was to be held. The meeting was called by a press delegate of a University of California paper, and attended by VILLAGE VOICE and ROLLING STONE reporters. No concrete proposals emerged from the ten people there, but much joyful chemistry was in evidence; nor did anyone stay around for the Free Enterprise Caucus that was to follow in that cabin. Most of the group broke off to attend the Press Conference where the aforementioned chemistry acted as a crap-repellent. Those interested in the details of the Press Conference can contact Ron Kimberling, c/o CLA, Box 572, Santa Ana, Cal. RLA attendance of the Task Force meetings with the exception of two converts, was poor, but coffeehouse attendance, where acid rock light shows were held, was excellent.

The libertarian delegates spent most of their time with delegates interested in libertarianism. Some libertarian influence was exhibited in the Preamble and Report of the draft Task Force. The Drug Task Force advocated legalization and regulation of marijuana, and the right to use other drugs coupled with *increased* persecution of dealers, split libertarian ranks. I made my only address to the Assembly: an impassioned attack on regulations and control. The remaining libertarians felt their personal safety from arrest was more important than battling for principle, and quietly voted for the Report. No other measure evoked action by RLA at the Conference, and voting was split on other issues. One example of this was the Vietnam recommendation demanding complete American withdrawal but massive US aid in "reparations" which I felt was continuing Imperialism in a more "accepted" guise. Fortunately another decade must pass before the State will hold another White House Co-opt of Youth.

## Notes on Military Crises

by Jack Flash

The armed forces are a critical force in the maintenance of order throughout the empire and, increasingly, on the home front in America. One growing factor in the crumbling of the Leviathan is the crises in the army that has recently been highlighted by several events.

The army in Vietnam, as even the bourgeois media has finally noted, is having discipline problems: a light-hearted indication is that GI's prefer passing a joint to killing Cong, and risking their own lives for a war they don't believe in. Unfortunately, soldiers are also shooting up hard drugs in order to escape the misery of the war, so fear grips parents not just that their sons might come home in a pine box, but that heroin addiction might be the ultimate reward for Vietnam service. (It has now come to light that the CIA and the puppet rulers of South Vietnam are the chief pushers in the drug trade in Southeast Asia— see the May issue of RAMPARTS and May 20 issue of LIBERATED GUARDIAN). But resistance to the Good-German role in the army has also taken more conscious and political forms. "Search and destroy" missions have become "search and evade" missions. Troops have simply refused to go into battle or on missions they thought senseless and dangerous. In a TV interview, soldiers who had refused to go on a mission they considered unworthy replied that they would certainly follow orders in the future—provided they thought the missions were sensible. Generals fear open rebellion especially among black GI's who are highly conscious of who the real enemy is, and many of whom plan to join militant liberation struggles when they return to the States. Nobody wants the war.

In late April the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam responded to the sentiment of American soldiers in a proclamation that gives a boost to GI's seeking peace with the people of Vietnam. The proclamation ordered, among other things, that the People's Liberation Army (PLA—the army of the NLF and PRG), "not to attack those anti-war U.S. servicemen, individuals or groups, who demand repatriation, oppose orders of the U.S. commanders, and abstain from hostile actions against the PLA... or the South Vietnamese people... To stand ready to extend aid and protection to those anti-war U.S. servicemen who have to run away out of their opposition to combat orders... To welcome and give good treatment to those U.S. servicemen who cross over to the South Vietnamese people and the PLA, to stand ready to help them go home or seek asylum in another country if they so request... To welcome and to grant appropriate rewards to those U.S. servicemen who support the NLF and PRG..." The NLF has indicated that there are already American soldiers fighting on the side of the PLA. While it is unlikely that large numbers of soldiers will actually join the NLF forces, the NLF proclamation welcoming such actions helps make that possibility a real threat as the war drags on and on. What is likely is the continual increase of the understanding that the NLF/PRG is not the enemy of the American soldier as such but is the enemy of imperialist aggression, and that there is no point for American GI's to engage in combat with the "enemy" who is pledged not to attack when hostilities are not shown (and PLA soldiers are directed to take note of peace literature and signs). The result should be an increase of search and evasion. Another form of active resistance on the rise recently, is what is called "fragging"— the practice of offing particularly oppressive officers with fragmentation grenades or other explosives. The Pentagon has been forced to admit the existence of "fragging" claiming (by their figures) that one hundred and nine officers last year alone were so despicable that their men put them out of commission permanently. The authoritarian structure of the army offers no peaceful method for the expression of popular sentiment.

For GI's simply wanting OUT NOW, desertion has become the popular method of beating Nixon's pullout timetable. The desertion rate (which doesn't even include those AWOL under 30 days) is now almost 100,000 per year! The army has little hope of recovering its lost soldiers on such a scale. Obtaining CO's, dishonorable discharges, work slowdowns, and sabotage are other forms of resistance on the rise.

There is also a new crises shaping up on the home front, not just attack on the war from the left, but a protest of "middle americans," normally conservative americans. This is the crises sparked by the trial and conviction of Lt. William Calley.

Most Americans have been satisfied with the ruling class explanations of the war, even as sons were dragged away. There may have been regret, but no critique of the war emerged. The only serious breach began on the issue of atrocities, that is, those incidents which are not supposed to happen according to the civilized rules of war defined by bourgeois morality. Of course, even proof of atrocities had been around for a long time before the liberal wing of the bourgeois media began to report on such things. But finally people have become aware that America is committing atrocities in Vietnam and sentiment against the war for this and other reasons has spread tremendously.

Americans think it is a dirty war. Well, the state had an answer: We'll cleanse ourselves of these horrible acts against humanity. In a war that has seen such monuments to imperialist devastation as napalm, defoliation of hundreds of thousands of

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