BRAGG BRIEFS

GI's UNITED Against the War in Vietnam

NORTH CAROLINA
HOOVER COLLECTION
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BRAGG BRIEFS is published in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is a free press published by active duty GI's stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina dedicated to establishing responsible alternatives to the current military and economic systems.

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Lifers Rip Off Government Property

Young soldiers, both EM and officers alike, have received a lot of abuse lately about their supposed disrespect for the military system and for the American government. Such charges are usually evoked by such heinous infractions as wearing one's sideburns a quarter inch too long, failing to have one's hair neatly combed immediately upon removing one's hat, or attending GI's UNITED meetings.

It's about time the accusations were aimed at a more appropriate target: older, higher-ranking soldiers who show much more disrespect for the system by frequently and blatantly manipulating and misusing it for personal gain.

Think about it: who's in a better position to know the loopholes in the system and to use them to his own advantage, the young soldier or the old? Who's got the power (i.e., rank) to bend the rule or regulation a little and get by with it, the PFC or the 1st Sergeant, the lieutenant or the colonel? The answer is pretty obvious, and the evidence to support the answer is just as apparent.

Let's cite a few actual examples of real and serious disrespect and contempt:

Take the case of the colonel at Fort Bragg who holds some private business interests in a tract of land adjacent to a nearby small town. The colonel would naturally like to develop and profit from this land; and, being a shrewd fellow, he decides to advertise his holdings. So he orders government photographers under his command to take government cameras and government film, hop aboard a government airplane flown by a government pilot, and take aerial photographs of his land. This film is processed and printed in a government lab, then used by a government lithographer to make up posters and brochures written by government writers and printed with government paper and ink. Meanwhile government illustrators are busy with government paint and posterboard preparing signs to adorn the colonel's acreage. If that weren't enough, he uses government vehicles and government drivers to cart those signs, posters and brochures about, and for a good measure has a few lowly GI's tagging along to lug the stuff around. When you figure in the cost of manpower and material, this little caper - having nothing to do, mind you, with the mission of the colonel's unit, perpetrated solely for his own

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Army Policy Bans Straight Press

The current Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese offensive in Laos has shown that constitutional rights are limited by the government for political reasons. Such rights as freedom of speech and press are supposed to exist, yet for the past six years the military-industrial complex has forbidden the press to write about our military involvement in Laos.

The major obstacle has been "Ground Rule 5". This is a military regulation which forbids the press to report on "intelligence activities, methods of operations or specific location." The penalty for any such violation would be revocation of press credentials in South Vietnam. Such a corporate giant as Newsweek has been warned not to report on US operations in Laos. Anyone in Southern Asia can read about our activities if they buy The Time of India or any newspaper published in Hong Kong. The only ones who don't know about what we are doing is the American public.

The present administration has used censorship to cover up its escalation in Southeast Asia. With two token withdrawals of US troops from South Vietnam, Nixon has been able to fool many into believing that he is disengaging from Southeast Asia, while in reality he has been escalating in Laos in order to pressure the North Vietnamese.

The stalemate in the Laotian war was upset last summer when US financed and CIA directed Meo guerillas pushed the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese out of the Plain of Jars. Since then Laotian peasants have been evacuated in order to set up free fire zones. Air combat support missions are at the same intensity as the air war once was over North Vietnam.

The credibility gap of the Johnson administration has been embraced by the Nixon regime. The public's right to know has been subverted and prostituted.

COURT ORDERS O'BRIEN RELEASE

PVT David O'Brien, after 20 months and 17 days in basic training at Ft Bragg, was released from the Army on March 24th.

O'Brien's suit against Secretary of the Army, Stanley Resor, began in November 1968 and ended with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling on March 18th. The final ruling granted O'Briens separation under the Army's regulation of lack of jurisdiction. The Court ruled that O'Brien was denied due process by his Selective Service Board.

O'Brien said that he had filed for deferment as a conscientious objector and that, during an appearance before the local board, the members stated that he was sincere in his claim. Much of the decision was based on the validity of notes that O'Brien had taken after his appearances before the board and had entered in his selective service file; at no time was there accuracy questioned.

The release was ordered because of the draft board's failure to grant O'Brien "procedural due process of law." The court concluded that the Selective Board's "failure to disclose the basis on which it acted rendered invalid the board's order to report for induction."

Although O'Brien left the Army as a Private, he feels his time in the Army was worthwhile "not simply because I won my court case and gained release from the Army, but because I was able to stay in basic for over 20 months without serving in a capacity against my beliefs and was for the most part a liability to the Army. Hopefully," O'Brien continued, "my struggle will benefit others in their struggle with the oppressive Army. My restraining order which stopped the Army from putting me in jail was one of the first in the country." The restraining order obtained by his lawyers was issued because the legality of his induction was being reviewed by the courts. Until it was determined that O'Brien was legally in the military, the Army was restrained from court-martialing him. With his release, the Army was forced to drop the charges against O'Brien for a 21 day AWOL in January 1969. O'Brien went AWOL to avoid shipment to Ft Gordon for training as an MP, feeling that he would be unable to serve in anti-riot duty or harrasement of GI dissenters, a

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GI's UNITED 1st Annniversary - Free Poster on Back

LOCAL REPRESSION

Arrest

On Sunday March 8, two members of GI's United, Dave O'Brien and Bill Carothers, were legally getting signatures in USATCI. Someone called a complaint in to the MP station and Sgt. James Judson was sent to investigate. He observed the petitioning and called the MP station to have Dave and Bill picked up. Two squad cars and two jeeps answered the call. The petitions were seized, Dave and Bill were put up against the squad cars and searched in front of about 40 trainees. They were then taken to the MP station where Judson, after contacting the Provost Marshall, Col. Kriwinak, charged them with illegal distribution of literature and wearing mixed uniforms. They were held for three hours and then released to their units. The petitions, with about 75 signatures were held for evidence. On Tuesday Dave O'Brien was restricted to his company area by his CO pending investigation of the charges against him. After an article appeared in the local paper and a vist to JAG by Bill, Dave was taken off restriction and the petitions were returned with no further action taken.

Off

After spending 10 months in basic training and 6 months on restriction, Pvt. Dennis Halliday was taken off restriction by his commander. Denny was taken off restriction after he wrote a letter to Gen. Tolson regarding his restriction and oppression. He is now awaiting a decision from the Federal District Courts on whether or not he will be awarded a Writ of Hebeas Corpus, based upon his belief as a conscientious objector. If all goes well, Pvt. Halliday may soon be released from political bondage.

Pvt. Halliday is a member of G.I.'s UNITED and an editor on "BRAGG BRIEFS" while a subject of military repression. He was only allowed leave at Christmas and one pass to see his attorneys. WOW!

Seizure

On Monday, March 9th, Rich Castelli, another GI's United member was petitioning in the training center when two MI agents approached him and confiscated his petition. They gave him a receipt but no explanation of how to get his petition returned.

The same day that the petitions were returned to Bill and David, two MI agents visited Rich in his company and returned his petition. They apologized for troubling him.

Order

On March 21st Mike Weintraub was given a written order by his CO not to circulate the petition: 1) During normal duty hours, 2) While in complete or part of a duty uniform, 3) Without written approval of the installation commander. After Mike visited JAG the CO wrote a new order saying the petition could not be circulated during duty hours. The other two points are not necessary for circulating a petition.

Refused

Pvt. Coleman has been in basic training for 10 months. He recently lost a hearing in Eastern District Court on a Writ of Hebeas Corpus based upon grounds of erroneous induction. However, he plans to appeal the courts decision because he knows he was illegally inducted.

On March 25, 1970, Pvt. Coleman was sent to E-7-2 for training, but after 2½ days he came back to HHD 2nd Bde. The reason for his transfer is that he is filing for discharge as a conscientious objector. While in USATC I he has been restricted for 10 months and feels constantly harassed by the brass on any technicality they can find.

"Hopefully, the Brass will realize that Black people aren't willing to be trained to kill under the Red, White, and Blue".

Returned

On March 25 Sp/4 William Carothers a GIs United member was transferred out of his unit the 612th Qm Co where he was a parachute rigger to the 546th Trans Co to be trained as a truck driver. This was done even though Sp/4 Carothers has slightly over one month left in the Army. After a visit to the 12th Support Brigade IG he found out that the order had come from Col Murley, the Brigade Commander. Col Murley felt that Sp/4 Carothers was a potential threat as he got nearer his ETS day because of his affiliation with GIs United. Col Murley refused to put his thoughts in writing and the next day Sp/4 Carothers was returned to the 612th.

Transfer

Congratulations to the 301st ASA Battalion for solving another of its "problems" in the usual manner. It seems they solve all their problems with transfers.

Sp/4 Charles Arnold, a member of GI's UNITED, who attempted to point out the racist attitude in his battalion along with organizing dissident GI's, is now of the 5th Evac. Hospital. The official reason for the transfer and the loss of his security clearence was not given.

This type of repression will last only as long as you allow it. The fact is, it is nearly impossible to have your security clearence taken away.

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task many MP's find themselves invloved in.

Summing up his military experience, O'Brien said, "The Army radicalized me with their oppressive tactics and forced me to read and study topics I had never thought of before. I was opposed to killing and participation in war prior to my entry into the military; but I was typically American in my feeling that the country's foreign policy was certainly right. While in the military, I realized a great deal about economics, racism, and American foreign policy; I realized that people can't speak of peace in Vietnam without actively working to stop imperialism. It became clear that our involvement in Vietnam was not an abberation of our foreign policy but its fruition."

Labor Unrest on Ft Bragg; Army Out to Break Unions

Since March 3rd, barbers at Ft Bragg have been on strike. The strike began soon after Cicero Fowler took over the management of the shops. The new regime began by raising haircut prices from 90¢ to $1, while lowering the barbers cut on each haircut from 65¢ to 60¢. The barbers' response to the exploitative measures was not long in coming.

It seems though that there are few soldiers getting shaggy around the ears. Why? Because on military pay either a soldier gets his haircut on post or does not get one at all since he can't afford a haircut off post. Regulations eliminate the second alternative thereby forcing the GI to assist in breaking the strike by getting haircuts from the scab barbers brought in by Fowler.

The Army has never felt any aversion to strikebreaking and through post regulations and a policy of "benign neglect" it has provided valuable assistance to the concessionaire in his attempt to destroy Local 844 of the Barbers Union on Ft Bragg.

LTC Wattendorf, the PX officer, claims the Army is not taking any sides, that it only "desires to see labor peace." But it is easy to see just where the Army stands. It condones Fowler's use of "yellow dog" contracts, but does not allow the union to distribute leaflets on post explaining its position. Fowler can hire strike breakers and scabs, but the union can't picket in front of the barber shops or anywhere else on post for that matter.

For soldiers who can't get off post there is little way for them to know there is a strike going on. Anybody see an article in the Paraglide or Veritas about the strike?

The Army claims that the dispute is between Fowler and the union, and that the Army is not involved. It is involved in this strike in the same way that it is involved in the California table grape boycott and the recent mail strike.

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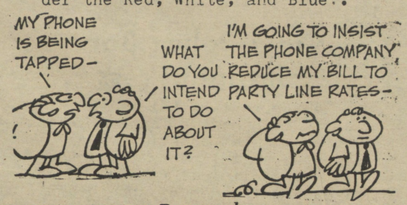

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GI MOVEMENT NEWS

TACOMA, WASHINGTON...PVT Bruce Maclean, an anti-war GI, was hustled off the base at Ft Lewis and forced into a plane - destination Vietnam - during the night of Feb 19th. PVT Maclean arrived at Cam Ranh Bay the following morning. The American Serviceman's Union initiated legal action to have him brought back.

PVT Maclean happens to be one of the organizers of the October 20th ASU meeting at the Cascadian Service Club on the base. He and 34 other anti-war GI's were arrested that night at the club. He was also one of the key witnesses at the people's trial of the Army at the University of Washington on Jan 21st. Maclean, then AWOL, declared his support for the National Front for Liberation of South Vietnam.

Distribution Suits Filed

Plans are being made to file suits aginst the Army for on-post distribution of GI free press newspapers at Ft Bliss, Texas and Grissom Air Force Base, Indiana for the publications Gigline and Aerospaced. A similar suit has already been heard in the federal courts by Bragg Briefs; it will soon be heard by the appeal courts. The legal work for all three cases is being handled, in large part, by the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee in New York. The suits, as the Bragg Briefs suit, will seek a declaratory judgment from the courts that GIs have the right to distribute their literature on post; and, further, will ask that the courts enjoin the Army from utilizing unconstitutional post or Army regulations which deny distribution rights.

Petitioning Drive Succeeds on Bragg

GI's UNITED has been collecting signatures on a labor petition for six weeks. We now have over 1,000 signatures, which we plan to take to Congress in May.

We have had many hassels over these past few weeks. The Brass knows this is a legal petition, but they have been arresting people and seizing petitions so other people would be afraid to sign them.

We will not be intimidated! The petitions will go to Congress and we will have change in the Army! Oppression does not stop determination, and we are determined to end our servitude as second class citizens. No form of oppression should stop a person who has grievences because it is not simply your right but our duty to petition change.

FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no laws .... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to Petition The Government for a redress of grievances.

MEMPHIS, TENN.... The four black marines who were charged with conspiracy and rioting have won a tremendous court victory. Facing possible sentences, for the charges, of up to 86 years in the brig, each. Instead the maximun sentence was six months, and the others ranged from four months to thirty days.

Civilian attorneys for the defendants said "It was a great victory. Of course they shouldn't have received any sentence at all for defending themselves, but it is a victory when you consider what they could have gotten".

In a similar case now pending at Fort Knox, Ky. one man has already been sentenced to two and a half years at hard labor. It is very possible that the differance between this and the Memphis verdicts was a direct result of organized protests that poured into the air station after the case became known to the vast public.

"If anyone asks, tell them we won!"

MULDRAUGH, KY... Local officials have defied a federal court judge and resumed their efforts to close down a G.I. coffee house in this tiny town at the gates of Ft. Knox. Since February 24, two young people have been in jail because they were challenging the legality of the new attack. G.I.'s have started a boycott of the Local merchants in protest against the continued harrasment.

The officials went ahead with eviction proceedings on "public nuisance" basic. G.I. supporters have circulated a petition demanding an end to harrasment and the firing of the police chief. All merchants refusing to sign are being boycotted. Another petition against the stockade system is also being circulated.

FT DIX, NEW JERSEY...PVT Carlos Rodriquez, the last of the Ft Dix 38 to be tried by general court-martial has been sentenced to four years at hard labor, a bad conduct discharge, and partial forfeiture of pay on charges of arson. PVT Rodriquez was acquitted on another charge of riot. His four year sentence is the longest of any of the 38. The trial lasted five days; the jury was out 70 minutes. Rodriquez' attorney said they will appeal to the next higher military authority.

FORT GORDON, GA.... The four G.I.'s who in January of this year formed the "G.I. War Crimes Commission" at Fort Gordon, have been tried separately in special court-martials.

The verdicts handed down by the four different judges were typical of military justice. Three contradictory verdicts were reached on the disloyalty charges. Only one of the four was convicted, two were aquitted and the charge in one case was ruled "unconstitutionly vague".

The government did better on the second charge in which they achieved two convictions. The fact that they convicted the wrong persons is of course, irrelevant. P.F.C. Johnson, who openly admits distributing the leaflets in his company area was aquitted because of lack of evidence, while Pvt. Czaplyski and PFC Horner were convicted in spite of the fact that the only leaflets found on base were found three miles away in Johnson's company area.

The trials only served to publicize the activities of the commission which now has nation-wide support, thanks to the Brass!!

FORT BLISS, TEXAS.... On his visit to Ft. Bliss, General Westmoreland had an unscheduled confrontation with anti-war sentiments. Some 100 citizens turned out for the demonstration. Nearly 80 were Fort Bliss G.I.'s.

G.I.'s For Peace planned and executed a peaceful, legal picketing of his appearence before the local chapter of the Association of the United States Army on January 15. The picketers carried signs protesting "stockade brutality", stating "Peace is Patriotic" and "GIFP Welcomes General Westmoreland".

Of course, the General carefully restrained from commenting on the demonstration as much as possible although he was forced to acknowledge them. Their presence that evening forced him to amend his planned entrance to the Hilton Inn to avoid the demonstrators themselves.

FLAC FREES SPRING

On Saturday, April 4th the Fayetteville Liberation Arts Committee (FLAC) is sponsering a second free concert to FREE SPRING. The festival is happening in Rowan Park right here in Fayetteville from 1 till 5 in the afternoon. Rowan Park is on Woodside Ave. between W. Rowan Dr. and Hay St. At FREE SPRING #2 there will be a couple of rock bands and a theatre performance by the Fayetteville Theatre Association.

This series of concerts is sponsered in the interests of the G.I. and the youth community of Fayetteville. FLAC, a group of G.I.'s and other youth, hopes to become a forum for both the G.I. and youth to speak out! We have been silenced long enough. We have been patient long enough.

So come April 4th and help FREE SPRING!

It's Free.

An Introduction to GI's UNITED:

THE FIVE POINT PROGRAM

The GI Movement

The G.I. Movement has grown in two years from a few dissenters to a strong political force involving thousands of G.I.'s supporting over sixty G.I. newspapers. Our struggle began in opposition to the Vietnam war, but has become a struggle against the established system. All of us have come to realize in the struggle that the Vietnam war is not an accident but the direct outcome of the goals and policies of the United States. Politically conscious G.I.'s must create a political movement because change will come only when action by the people makes it possible. The situation of G.I.'s makes us a part of the natural leadership of this rising movement.

What is Imperialism?

Change can come only through the direct political action of the people because the establishment gives all power over the system to those who built it and profit from it - the imperialist ruling class.

The society of the U.S. is a monopoly capitalist imperialism. The social order is founded on a very small number of very large corporations. The managers and owners of these corporations form an elite class dictatorship. The goals and policies of our society are just variations on those necessary for the businessmen, who control the economy, culture, and government of the United States.

Their goals are to make their businesses ever larger, richer, and more powerful. Their policy is to attain this goal by exploiting the people of the world in every way and in any degree possible - what they call minimizing cost and maximizing profits.

The name for this policy is imperialism. At home this struggle for capitalist survival takes such forms as exploitation of wage earners, racism and male supremacy, militarism, thought control, political repression, cheating consumers, waste of natural resources, and pollution. Abroad imperialism means gobbling up natural resources and investments, exploiting "cheap foreign labor", fighting for control of foreign markets, and forever waging war to protect investments from other capitalist countries and the countries being robbed.

To do all this the imperialists must control the people of the world. They do so by setting up puppet governments - dictatorships abroad and phony democrocies at home.

Politics in capitalist society takes a lot of money. The rich thus control the political system. Besides controling the politicians they control the media for political education - schools, newspapers, radio and television. To fool the people they use the jingoism of superpatriotism, racism, and red - baiting. But the laws that get passed are the laws the ruling class wants.

In the last twenty years this has become clear as we have seen the government cheat thepoor, undercut the blacks, waste money on ever increas-

"Just look at it our way, lady. Your son was a profitable investment."

ing militarism and get us involved in Vietnam and many other conflicts. At every turn the government has served the interests of capitalists and hurt the interests of the people.

The war in Vietnam, in connection with the black movement, has resulted in an uprising of the people which grows stronger every day. The veneer of liberal legality is stripped away and the class nature of the government is exposed. We see our rulers go to ever more repressive measures, attempting to smash the popular drive for peace and ecomomic and political democracy.

Why Vietnam?

The government must try to put down the movement because the survial of capitalism depends on imperialism. Where the peace movement and the civil rights movement realized that war and racism were not accidents but policies of the ruling class they became one movement demanding one thing - POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

The war in Vietnam and Laos is being fought to protect the imperialists. It was easy for them to start this war without popular consent because of the militarism and the "arms race" which has been the foundation of their profits since the Second World War.

The U.S. got involved in Vietnam after W.W.II by supporting the colonial ambitions of France. The U.S. has stayed in Vietnam since the French defeat because of the U.S. imperialist's neocolonial ambitions. Military intervention war begun in order to sabatoge the democratic process in Vietnam. The ruling class knew, as Eisenhower admitted in a speech in 1956, that the vast majority of the people in southern Vietnam would vote to be reunited with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh. Besides removing an area from imperialist exploitation this would also be a major political defeat since the capitalist ideology says no people would ever democratically elect a communist government.

The Vietnamese freedom fighters are waging a war of national liberation, like other third world countires Vietnam is under-developed because of imperialism. Much of the wealth that could be invested goes into the bank accounts of the imperialists. Moreover, these countries are deliberately kept weak and divided so that the wealth will continue to go to the imperialists.

All the people of the world including us citizens of the capitalist countries are victums of the imperialist system. Today the wars of liberation are the cutting edge against the system. We G.I.'s are in a better position than anyone else in the U.S. to resist and weaken imperialism as we are its major tool of conquest. We

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must learn to see through their leis, we must unite to bring them down. The war is being fought to protect the economic interests of the capitalists. But every gain for them is a loss for us. They tell us we're fighting to protect the freedom of the Vietnamese, but we support dictators. They tell us its a war for human dignity and yet it is based on and breeds blatant racism. Would My Lai have happened if instead of being "little slanty-eyed gooks" the people of Vietnam were white Europeans? Racisim is a deadly enemy of our interests. The white supremecy used to make us hate the Vietnamese and keep us divided is also used to keep us divided at home.

Racism

The war in Vietnam is a racist war. But then, the U.S. is a racist country. Racism, as we know it, is a product of a class society with a profit economy. It was created and sustained by those who profit from cheap labor and a divided people - the capitlists. Racial prejudice and discrimination are profitable because they lower wages, divides the people, divert our attention and allow members of the dominant race to feel superior evan when they are bad off.

Racism is a result of imperialism. The Indians and spanish-speaking peoples are national minorities because white people stole their lands. Blacks are a national minority because whites stole them just like any other "natural resource" of Africa.

Racism continues because of the established system. It is difficult even under the best conditions for individuals to destroy prejudices they acquired as children. But it is impossible to destroy them in a class society which is based on the acceptance of inequality, which is racist in its basic structure, which breeds the fear and frustrations on which racism feeds, and which offers petty rewards to the people of the dominant groups for giving in to the rest of the pressures.

The movement for social, economic, and political power for the national minorities is the most advanced part of the progressive movements. The minorities are in the same situation as other third-world peoples in Asia, Africa, and South America. Neo-colonialism and racism are their enemies. The end of racism can come only with black power, brown power, yellow power, and red power. Equality and human dignity will exist only when all peoples can meet as real equals. This means that the national minorities must have the same control over their economies, societies, politics, and cultures that white people, as a group, have over theirs.

Because the leading elements in the black struggle have reached these conclusions they have come out against the imperialists. Like the Vietnamese they too are fighting the battles for white Americans freedom and receiving the bulk of the repression. None of us shall be free until we unite against the racism that keeps us disunited in the face of our common enemy.

Democracy in the Army

The Armed Forces of the U.S. have only one purpose - the protection of established business interests and the accumulation of new markets and investment opportunities. The form of the U.S. Army is derived not from military necessity but from socio-economic necessity. The army is a corrupt, authoritarian caste system because our society is one too. No other form of organization could hold men in line for purposes that have nothing positive to contribute to their lives. Unquestioning obedience to "superiors" is necessary only because a soldier who questioned what our army is doing would not be a good tool of imperialism.

Our leaders know this is true. After W.W. II democratic forms of army organization were imposed on Japan and Germany. The U.S. imperialists kept theirs organized along the old Prussian lines. We wonder why?

We want the U.S. to be a truly democratic and peace-loving country. If world imperialism where ended no country would need a large army. But if we have an army then we would want it to be a

democratic one. An army that exists solely to answer the real needs of the people would be able to function without authoritarian control and the absurd regimentation found in our armies. Such an army would be under the careful control of the people as a whole where recruitment is truly voluntary and where a soldier can quit at will. Further, in such an army enlisted men would have a strong control over the selection of officers and NCO's and the regulation of day to day life. Finally, in such an army the political and social rights of soldiers would be strictly protected.

If we are going to do political work, to develop ourselves and our movement we must defend our human and democratic rights. While the constitution as a whole serves only to underwrite the power of the ruling class, the Bill of Rights it contains has traditionally served as a basis for defense of the rights of dissenters.

We must therefore resist any attempt to take away the rights allowed us. Further we must fight for our "constitutional rights" to freedom of the press, speech, and assembly. Since political involvement by the people around our own issues is a deep threat to imperialism, our struggle for our rights in the army is a direct attack on imperialism itself.

Part of this struggle is to unite in defense of those caught up in the repressive apparatus of the army and the civilian government.

Free All Political Prisoners

This is particularly important for G.I.'s since every dissenting G.I. is a political prisoner. Either drafted or recruited under threat of the draft, into an army he can't quit, the soldier is a prisoner of the state. We must fight political oppression both to protect movement people and to fight for our own rights.

GI's UNITED

G.I.'s United at Fort Bragg is an organization of active duty G.I.'s who are part of the world wide progressive movement. We are in total opposition to the war in Vietnam and the imperialist system in its entirety. We have united to do political education and political action in the army to help bring imperialism to an end.

(continued from page 1)

gain - probably cost the good ol' US of A several thousand bucks. And this same man has the unmitigated, hypocritical gall to call his troops "poor soldiers" when their gig lines aren't straight!

Case No. 2: A certain supply sergeant decided that his home needed new walls, so he ordered some nice mahogony paneling on the pretense of refurbishing an office where he works. When the sheets arrived, he proceeded to liberate the wood and falsify the paperwork covering its shipment. You can drop by this guy's house anytime, and he'll proudly show you his attractive living room and then, with a chuckle, tell you how he managed the redecorating. He doesn't even bother to hide it! That seems like a good cue for a moment's digression to talk about the oldtimers in the military - mostly big brass - who place a high premium on a man's ability to steal (that is, if the man is an E7 or above; don't try it if you're below that if you value your arse). How many tales have you heard since you donned OD about this or that marvelous NCO who could come up with the ungodliest assortment of merchandise in the middle of a desert when nobody else could even get a pencil to fill out a requisition? The hell of it is, these guys really exist - and they're revered!

Then there's the one about the light colonel in a local unit who belongs to several civic and social clubs (non-military) in Fayetteville. Man, those organizations have got it made, for they have the men and resources of an entire military unit at their disposal just for the asking. And don't think they don't ask.

These instances we've cited aren't as isolated as you might think. How about the cases of the gun-smuggling general and the embezzling sergeant major and the green beret gangsters that have been in the news lately, or the higher-ups who allegedly who allegedly tried to whitewash the My Lai affair? Keep your eyes open in your own unit and see what chicanery you can spot; you probably won't get eyestrain from looking too hard.

Let's consider just one aspect of this topic: money (not to mention those morals and ethics officers and NCOs are supposed to hold so dear). How much did you shell out to the good uncle in taxes this year? A sizable sum, right? Okay, now take a look at the obvious monetary waste in your unit: see where your wallet went?

The military hierarchy's misuse of government funds occurs on the job as well as in their personal life. Have you ever known a ranking man who, in order to satisfy a personal whim, ignored a rule or regulation even though he knew that doing so was wrong? You can run right up the chain of command with a list of examples on that one.

By now, we hope we've made at least a toehold case for the fact that higher ranking military types show much more disrespect and contempt, both in quantity and quality, for their government than younger, more idealistic troops whose main goal is to reform and improve the system. What the younger troops, by and large, are doing is constructive and progressive, wheras what such bigots as we've described are doing is catabolistic as hell. So, what can you, the individual GI, do to make your position more tenable? For a start, you can avoid emulating your elders and keep an eye out for the type of activities we've been discussing. Do a little detective work, feret out the evidence, get the facts down cold, then hang the SOB's. A casual, well-documented note to the IG (preferably a civilian representative thereof) would do for a start. Now, let us guess what your thinking: "Sure, I'm really going to turn them in to the IG and get my ass in a jam." Well, you don't have to get in a jam if you use a little discretion and subterfuge. (1) Hang onto the lethal information until you're about to ETS, then drop it by the IG while you're clearing post. (2) Write your congressman or, better yet, find a guy from Arkansas and get him to write Fulbright. (3) If you can't wait to see the fur fly and you aren't short enough to try the first suggestion, get a buddy who is short to drop in the complaint or contact GI's UNITED (we'll be glad to help). (4) Write an anonymous letter to the guilty party and threaten to spill the beans; that should be good for a few clandestine sweat beads on his brow.

At any rate, don't let them get by with it. The guys mentioned in our examples certainly are not going to, and if they guess who they are, they'd better start sweating, because this is a public notice that their number is up.

Whatever you do, man, when you get the goods, cause a hassle! Just think of all the ulcers that will invade those brass stomachs when the bigwigs learn that every GI at Bragg is making like a snoop. Needless to say, this epistle isn't aimed at honest officers and NCO's, but there are enough dishonest ones to make things on the American system and budget. Okay, soldier, you're sworn to uphold the Constitution, so get to it. Just think how much easier it will be to breath down below if you can clean the scum off the top of the barrel.

Military Court of Appeals Rules Against Priest; Trial Date Set

On March 13th, the US Court of Military Appeals upheld the right of a commanding officer to overrule a decision of a military judge. The decision centered on whether or not the Commandant of the Naval District of Washington applied improper influence on the court-martial judge in the case of anti-war sailor Roger Priest who faces court-martial because of statements he made in his servicemen's newsletter "OM".

The court-martial proceedings were stopped on December 8th when Priest appealed to the highest military court to prevent prosecution on two charges which had been dismissed by military judge CPT B. Raymond Perkins but were later reinstated after the convening authority, Rear Adm George P Koch, ordered the judge to reconsider his decision. Priest's lawyers charged that the admiral's action was a "gross usurpation of the authority of the military judge, an unpardonable interference in the course of the proceedings and a denial of due process of law." They asked that the two charges alleging that Priest solicited servicemen to desert and commit sedition be again dropped. Though the court's decision refuted the defense lawyer's position, it did acknowledge that "certain anomalies in military practice exist in comparison with the procedures in the Federal civilian courts, but," says the court, " a difference of procedure is not tantamount to a due process defect."

Priest, the first serviceman to face court-martial for statements made in an anti-war newsletter, will now stand trial in Washington on April 14th.

In a final pre-trial hearing on March 20th Judge Perkins denied all motions by the defense, including a request that correspondence between L.Mendel Rivers and the Pentagon be subpoened, letters which plainly indicate that the House Armed Services Chairman applied improper influence on the Navy in the case.

Priest is also charged with making statements advising and urging insubordination, disloyalty, and refusal of duty by members of the Armed Forces and making statements disloyal to the United States. He faces a maximum punishment of 39 years in prison.

General Fouls Water

The Commanding General of Fort Ord is being sued by the State of California. This was brought about by his ignoring the cease - and - desist order which was levied against him for continued dumping of undisinfected sewage into the Monterey Bay. It is not really known whether the General felt he was above complying with the State of California's anti-pollution program or that he was so busy trying to save this country from destruction that he was completely ignorant of the fact that he was polluting our natural water ways.

Brass Smashes M*A*S*H

That citadel of enlightment and truth, the Ft. Bragg Paraglide, commented last issue on the banning of M*A*SH* by the Army and AirForce Motion Picture Service.

M*A*SH* stars Elliott Gould, Donald Southerland and Tom Skerritt as three battle surgeons drafted during the Korean War. According to the Paraglide, a group of 25 officers critics banned it from distribution on military installations. It is the first ban since 1963.

The Reason:

"The Surgeons clowning in the movie would destroy a GI's confidence in combat medical treatment. "The Paraglide article continues, "Although M*A*SH* protrays the surgeons as competent professionals in the operating room, it wittingly characterizes them as establishment pranksters with no respect for military discipline both in and out of the bloody operating room."

What all this really means is that the brass is upset over the disrespect shown the Army machine. Even the bumbling Paraglide unwittingly admits it.

It is also interesting that the panel that censored M*A*SH* was made up entirely of officers.

Because a few officers objected to the irreverence portrayed against the Army, a first rate motion picture can only be seen off post. And speaking of Army Hospitals, if the brass is so concerned about a GI's confidence in medical treatment why don't they do something about a certain Army doctor at Womack Army Hospital who told wounded Vietnam returnee complaining of chest poins: "When does it hurt? When you fuck?"

Pollution and Profit

We have been hearing a great deal lately about the problems of the "enviroment" - air and water pollution. Most of our rivers and lakes have water which is so full of industrial filth and sewage that the fish and other life in them are dying, and our air is so full of pollutants from automobiles and factory smoke that it is estimated that within a few years some people in large cities (mainly infants, the sick and elderly) will begin to die from breathing it.

We know how to stop this kind of thing - filter the air and purify all water before returning it to the rivers and lakes. It is even possible to build a virtually smog-free car engine. But these things are not being done. Why?

The filters and other devices needed to purify man-made wastes cost money. The businessmen whose factories and cars pollute the environment won't install these devices because it is not profitable for them to do so. Because doing these things might cut into their exhorbitant profits or weaken their competitive position in the market, the businessmen do not do them, and all of us suffer from irritated eyes and noses, higher cancer rates, and fewer places to swim or fish in clean water. The profit makers put their selfish interests above the common good of all the people.

One might suggest passing laws to force the companies to clean the air and water they use. This would probably work, if the laws could be passed and enforced. But can they be? The businessmen who refuse to act responsibly toward our environment are the same ones who control the legislatures. Their money is necessary for a senator or congressman to pay for his election costs - naturally he is going to defer to their interests. The companies also influence legislation by means of the powerful lobbies they maintain in Washington and in the state capitols.

Even if the necessary laws could be passed, there is very little hope of their being effectively enforced. The record of American business is one of constant contempt for the laws (such as those concerning price-fixing and monopoly) designed to regulate them. And when caught, how are they punished by the courts? They are given absurdly small fines which they can pay easily and usually a slap on the wrist and a warning not to break the law again. This is understandable, because the same politicians who serve the businessmen also appoint the judges!

The only conclusion that can be drawn from the above evidence is that the pollution and destruction of our natural environment will continue. It will continue until the American people rise up and force the greedy corporations and corrupt politicians to act for the common good.

Unpopular War, USA

Yes, we are in an unpopular War
Since we can't understand what
we are fighting for
No more of this fighting we can
take
Because so many of our love ones
lives are at stake
We realize this so called war on
communism isn't real
Since our capitalists gain
wealth while we fight and
natural resources and raw materials they steal
We demand the fighting to cease
Before more deaths and injuries
increase
Our people, we want brought back
home where they belong
Because we need them to help the
struggle here along
A struggle for freedom and peace
Which our system does not preach
Now, Every war will be unpopular
to people as me
Until our home in American is
truly Free

..... B.C.

War to be Outlawed in Massachusetts

A bill has been introduced in the Massachusettes legislature that, if passed, would make compliance with orders for Vietnam illegal. In preliminary votes, the bill has passed with flying colors. It is designed to force a decision by the Supreme Court on the legality of the war.

"Give us this day our daily illusion . . ."

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Meetings of GI's United are held every Tuesday evening at 7:00 at the "Quaker House" 324 Ray Avenue across from the USO club. Everyone is welcome.

Letters to the editors are encouraged.

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End Imperialism

US Out of VieTnam

End Racism

Democracy in The Army

Free All Political Prisoners

FREEDOM NOW

Power to the People! Political power comes out of the barrel of a gun. Conspiracy Eight Receive Long Contempt Sente[illegible] Ca[illegible] caution, sir, i[illegible] Strike Ft Jackson C[illegible] cl[illegible]ed On Public Nuisa[illegible] Ch[illegible] Off the pigs [illegible]kers of all [illegible]ountries unite, yo[illegible] have [illegible] thi[illegible] lose but you [illegible]hain[illegible] Yoti[illegible] for ism is not [illegible]cial[illegible] anymo[illegible] th[illegible] menu is [illegible]eal [illegible],4, [illegible]ke [illegible]n and [illegible] the [illegible]ate [illegible]reaks Why do we speak [illegible]f r[illegible]ons Why [illegible] we shit [illegible]n? 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What you farmers need to do is raise less corn and more hell For every porkchop there is a frying pan What do you mean America hasn't made progress, who built the world's largest shopping center? -Richard Nixon We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created Democratic Beer is the curse of any revolution N.Y. High Sch[illegible]lers Demand Bill of Rights Jesus Christ Coke, after Coke, after Coke, after Coke, after Coke Je[illegible]us Christ Pollu[illegible]ion By any means necessary Laff Minimidimaxi Commodities Mad Ave Capitalism [illegible]s ridiculous The [illegible]my is obscene Napalm My Lai Yippie Out now Violence [illegible]s peace Do it In th[illegible] streets FTA Bragg Briefs Loses Suit in District Court I wanna hold your hand I wanna hold you u[illegible] I wanna hold you down Simplicity Boycott Scal California table grapes Richard Milstone Nixon Stop the ABM; stop the USA Trust your impulses OK If you[illegible] not part of th[illegible] solu[illegible], your pa[illegible] of th[illegible]problem [illegible]s comparison of generals, police, and big business [illegible] pigs is an insult to the n[illegible] breed o[illegible]s[illegible]ine How many times will a man turn his head? Be Sto[illegible] air pollution stop ta[illegible]dard 1976 What would [illegible]ha[illegible]e a good [illegible]ic[illegible]ential celebration Democratic Convention Moves to Hawaii in 1972 So does the co[illegible]piracy The American "revolution" Venceramos $$ Communications Draft Coup D'etat Keep on truckin' Black Truth is the whole WW Up against the wall The spirit of the people is greater than the man's technology Dare to struggle, dare to win Politics is wa[illegible] without bloodshed, war is politics with bloodshed Seize the time One man with a bit of courage makes a majority Smash Wow The policeman is not htere to create disorder, but to preserve disor[illegible]er SDS Ha More than on[illegible] organization has died Down with Trots Vote i[illegible] the streets settling ta[illegible]tics Love it or Repression Yip, Yip, Yippie Rat leave it - [illegible]ore than 100,000 War is a racket Neo-[illegible]olonialism in Canada Insurrection of Working class You a[illegible] either a th[illegible]ough always preceded [illegible]vic[illegible]m [illegible]r a rebel [illegible]laves are in[illegible]rr[illegible]ion of arms [illegible]generall[illegible] expected [illegible]o sing as Wi[illegible] [illegible]u[illegible]ce in the [illegible]S well as work John Brown % means just us white I can hire one-ha[illegible]f the % folks Mad dogs I working class to [illegible]kill the Progressive Ban the other - Jay Goul[illegible] Damn bomb Big business Culture Togeth[illegible]r We means big wars Help can build a new [illegible]orld on Draft card burning the ashes of the [illegible]old We With truth, justice, You can jail a [illegible]evolution- and liberty for all ary, but you ca[illegible]'t jail a Who said that? Yip, revolution Red Stronger Yip, Yippie Blasting than dirt Ass[illegible]ssination caps [illegible] get [illegible] Big i[illegible] Marlbo[illegible] Country satisfacti[illegible]n Power Kick the ass of [illegible]he ruling Right on beautiful people class Hubert Hu[illegible]phrey Id Woodstock [illegible]re you kidding We Americans hav[illegible] no commis- Humph Desertion Anyo[illegible]e sion from God to police the who [illegible]ates pig and appl[illegible] worl[illegible] AWOL [illegible]on't pay war pie [illegible]an't be all bad [illegible]ull takes It is [illegible]quite obvious Ho Chi Minh [illegible]me big [illegible]nion that [illegible]nless we have the female Crisis Love your brother sex on our si[illegible]e, we cannot hope Free press The principl[illegible] to accomplis[illegible]h any object we $ of self defense is an Am[illegible]r- [illegible]ave in vi[illegible]w saith Luther 1830 ican tradition that be[illegible]n at M[illegible]torcycl[illegible] Cosmetics Trash Lexington and Concor[illegible] Sauron Ha[illegible]ppin[illegible]ss is a hot gun Strike is alive and well in the US Pea[illegible] now Wiggy Molotov Army Upset Everybody must cocktail Unity Liberty get stoned Easy Rider Who is submission to the law -Ft pays the bill? Up from liberal- Dix Stock[illegible] Nonsense ¢¢ ism The best things [illegible]n l[illegible]fe [illegible]ibrty i[illegible] revoluti[illegible]n an [illegible]f you rip them off the [illegible]nfla[illegible]e Ri[illegible]ht on Sl[illegible]it bourgeoisie 15¢ hamburgers Now Capitalists are blood[illegible] Uh History is the history of class suckers Rhetoric, again struggle Religion is the opium of Yippie Penis An un- the masses Running dog Clean air [illegible]rmed people are slaves Whatever the adversity, we should pro- [illegible]r subject to slavery at tect our mimeographs and other printing [illegible]ny gi[illegible]en time What if? equipment and materials even at the risk Crazy Zodiac Seize the of life -Comrade Kim Il Sung People time What if there was a war have a right to decent housing Dove Dialectic[illegible] [illegible]ria[illegible] W[illegible] [illegible]he[illegible] and [illegible]ly [illegible]t the [illegible] so[illegible]p[illegible]surd[illegible]. 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The poor have no laws; the laws are made by the rich for the rich Struggle To what end Beastiality Bring me your poor, your huddled masses LSD DAR-damn arrogant reactionaries Jelly Slapstick Our will to live must no longer supercede our will to fight Private enterprise is private greed So? As revolutions have begun, it is natural to expect that other revolutions will follow Brass lives high while GI's die The Constitution void for servicemen The revolutionary party must be the servant of the people Who said that? The [illegible]m[illegible]ia im[illegible]ight [illegible]A[illegible]ich[illegible] Ducks are beautiful animals The only law of human nature is freedom Thermodynamics Love you All we are saying is give class war a chance Child Zarf (a cup) Rhetoric makes a good background Thank you GI's UNITED

Fort Bragg, NC.