J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N.C.

Left wing

BRAGG BRIEFS

GI'S UNITED AGAINST THE WAR IN INDOCHINA

Bragg Briefs is published in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. It is a free press, published by active duty GI's stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Bragg Briefs is dedicated to realizing the vision of the American Revolution of liberty and justice for all peoples.

SPARE CHANGE???

VOL. 4 NO. 1 MARCH 1971

NC pl Cal 1-3 Ft Bragg USSF show

USSF SHOW STILL ON

Jane Fonda at Haymarket in Nov.

BUT MODERN ARMY CLOSES POST TO GI SHOW

In spite of General Tolson and the manager of the Cumberland County Auditorium, the USSF show with Dick Gregory, Elliot Gould, Donald Sutherland, Barbara Dane, Peter Boyle, Jane Fonda, and the rock group Swamp Dog, will be held!!

It will be staged in three shows—one Saturday, Mar. 13 at 3 pm —one Sunday, Mar. 14 at 3 pm and one Sunday evening at 8 pm.

It will be held in the Haymarket Square Coffeehouse in downtown Fayetteville, and it will cost $2.50 a ticket.

The coffeehouse staff had hoped there would be no need for any charge, but even though the performers are coming for nothing, expenses will be more than $3,000. Swamp Dogg will cost $1,000, and there are expenses for lighting, housing arrangements, security and advertising.

Everyone had hoped to get a larger place than the coffeehouse, but the advantage for the GI is that because of a seating capacity of 450, every seat will be good. No one is going to be more than about fifty feet from the stage.

The show is also going to be the subject of a film. Just how important a film it becomes depends on what happens this weekend. But it should be noted that the people who filmed "Woodstock" tried, but failed, to get rights for this show.

Tickets can be purchased at the Coffeehouse.

The scheduled performance of the USSF show on Fort Bragg for March 14th has been thumbed down by General Tolson and his brass band. Tolson's decision to ban the show has drawn sharp criticism from GIs and several Congerssmen and showed a blatant disregard for the constitutional rights guaranteed to GIs.

Fumbling for a loophole, in view of the practical nature of the show, Tolson's catch-22 centered on what he termed the 'inflammatory' language of the script. Fellow WACs and GIs BEWARE! Inflammatory language may be detrimental to doing your detail.

Tolson's objection is flakey at best. Already in a three week period, close to 2000 GIs at Bragg have signed their names to a petition to Congress in support of the show. From the GIs point of view, the USSF show is right on. It may present a problem to Army review boards because it gives them bad vibes. Cumberland Auditorium is a taxpayers' auditorium.

Cumberland Auditorium is a taxpayers' auditorium. Since the GIs at Bragg are an integral part of the community in Fayetteville, it seemed a fair alternative to allow the show to be performed their. But Shanhs, the man who runs the auditorium, has expressly opposed renting his auditorium to the GIs on the grounds that he does not want to have a 'Jane Fonda anti-war demonstration'.

A court injunction was filed on February 26th in federal district court in Clinton, NC by Fort Bragg GIs to contest this grossly unconstitutional move by Shanhs. Shanhs opposition was clearly evidenced at the Friday hearing. Constantly alluding to Jane Fonda, and to the show as a political rally, the purpose of which was to incite people and make speeches, Shanhs remarks were clearly indicative of the same biased reaction of his military buddies.

The brass and the Fayetteville business community are attempting to railroad the GIs in their desire for the show and Judge Butler is helping them. He has shoved the case under his lap and is delaying his ruling until March 6th, eight days before the show.

This conspiracy to incite GIs by Shanhs and military authorities is obvious in view of the fact that Shanhs did not read the proposed script at all but relied on the opinion of Bragg commanders.

USSF is coming to Fayetteville whether Shanhs or Tolson or Major Scholl like it or not. If necessary, it will be held at Haymarket Square Coffeehouse. Once again the Army has shown that the New Modern Army is nothing more than thirteen letters on a piece of paper. Fort Bragg recently received a $3 million modernization allotment and our suggestion is that either the Army return the money to the taxpayers along with an apology for the lies and deceit about modernization or save the money to hire crews to clean up the shit that is going to come down when Bragg blows apart from all the unvented frustrations building up. FTA is easily changed to FTMA with M for modern.

PICKETING SUPPORTS LETTUCE STRIKE

For the past five months the lettuce workers in the Salinas Valley of California have been on strike. After years of stoop labor, busting backs for 60 cents an hour, and working 12 to 16 hours in the field, the fields are empty, and the migrant workers there are saying--Viva Huelga! The strike boycott is against Bud Antle, a rich lettuce grower who produces about 40% of the Nation's lettuce. Antle has refused to negotiate a union contract with the migrant farm workers. Cesar Chavez and UFW have called for a national boycott of all Bud Antle lettuce to pressure them into opening their money bags.

Last week the North Carolina Lettuce Boycott Committee started its first action in conjunction with the national lettuce boycott that has been called by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, as they posted a picket line at the Colonial Store located in the Eutaw Shopping Center. The effects were felt by the management of the store almost immediately and they found it necessary to call out the Fayetteville police and a member of the City Council in an attempt to destroy the boycott effort.

cont. on page 3

MAY IS COMING

letters to the editor

MAY IS COMING

Disband and Bury

The soldiers in the 28th Civil Affairs Company are taking their turn at the annual IG inspection, and what a farce it is.

They have all been forced to buy new toothpaste, toothbrushes, and soap which must be left in the original boxes. Some of the GI's threw their boxes for the toothpaste away.So they have to buy a second tube.

On Friday, March 5, the company commander went through the barracks, picked up one man's package of injector razor blades and threw it on the floor. He may have thought it was empty, but if he had looked more carefully, he would have seen it was not. The day before he had thrown around even more things as he stormed through the inspection.

After the first haircut inspection he angrily summoned all the officers to a meeting, told them he was going to cut their g.d. throats and then dismissed them.

In short the whole company has been a madhouse for the past two weeks.

What is the answer to this lunacy?

All of the men know and even some of the career officers concede that the only thing that can be done with the 28th is to disband and bury it.

What else can you do with a company which doesn't do anything more important all year long than prepare for an IG?

THE WAR ENDS IN MAY

Respect a private, not today
So O.C.S. seemed the only way
Six months of life I sacrificed
For what I have, too high a price

More bread and freedom's what I got
Responsibility I was taught
Authority was given to use
But only within the written rules.

Those who wrote the rules were blind.
Some, indeed, had lost their mind.
Major and General in jobs misplaced
Ill fitted in the human race.
Once a cog in the Army machine
Retirement is the only dream.

An officer can command respect.
Requiring it will break his neck.

Could the times be as they were
An E-1 I'd be again for sure.
Better for a 'Sarge' to scream
Get in and clean up that latrine
Than for a Major to address
Me while I'm standing at parade rest.

For while attending A.I.T.
A private's life was not for me.
That dollar 'given' monthly from my pay
Permitted lifers' kids their games to play.
Civilians also got their share,
Yet through their streets I couldn't dare.

"Screw the soldier" merchants scream.
An 'Easy Mark' we soldiers seem.
Far from the post we must escape
To a friendless town of hate.
Credits easy, interest high
When bills come, too late for why.

IS THIS THE REAL JOHN J. TOLSON

LTG & Mrs. John J. Tolson, CG XVIII Abn. Corps & Fort Bragg, as Tarzan and Jane.

Bragg briefs

Bragg Briefs could be
a powerful weapon
for Fort Bragg GI's.
More powerful than 100 IG's.
Stronger than 100 Congressionals.

If you want it to be.

If you see things that
shouldn't be
If your mess sergeant
is ripping off your food,
If some lifer
is getting out of line,
WRITE US.

Once the light is on
the worm
how long before
he squirms?

BRAGG BRIEFS
P.O. BOX 437
SPRING LAKE, N.C.
28309

attention cid and fbi

Editorial Board for March

Hal Noyes	JFKCENTER
Dick Olson	28th Civil Affairs
John Berk	Dental Activities
Dave Bunten	Womack Army Hospital
Phil Friedrich	612 QM co
Larry Street	Coffeehouse Staff
Chip Cole	Civilian

Honorable mention to Fred Blitzer
Bill MacDonald...

thanx to don/shayna/tom/audra/steve/ tina/skip++++for tea, sympathy, and such special thanx to bill for music.

Editor, Bragg Briefs;

It is time for us to stop trying to reform capitalism and stop expending all of our energy treating its symptoms. Trying to stop its wars, crime, violence, hate, poverty, politics, harassment, drug addiction, desecration of our natural heritage, waste of our resources, pollution of our enviornment, and other inherent evils of our outgrown system is of course essential, but it can't cure the desease.

While trying to keep these disasterous symptoms under control we must also seek to cure the basic illness lest the symptoms simply contunue to recur. We must at least give equal priority to changing our system of our society.

Once we realize this, we may find that we can cure the desease before we can effectively cure the symptoms. In this context we should perhaps give priority to the job of changing our system.

Unfortunately we don't all agree on just exactly what form the new system should take, except that it should be cooperative instead of competitive, or how it should be brought about. So in order to achieve the necessary unity and consensus on which to build a mass movement, we must identify and expose the major corrupting influences to be eliminated, set up our minimum goals, and then develop a meaningful system of participatory democracy open and acceptable to all elements fo the left, to achieve these goals.

Such a plan has been made available by theU.S. FARM NEWS'. It is not complete or perfect, nor could any preconceived plan be. It sets up the participatory democracy and a simple suggested outline guide as a starting point to work from and on in developing the new society. Don't let the establishment keep the offensive. This is our chance to sieze the offensive and restore power to the people!

Send a dollar for two copies of the PET PLAN to U.S. FARM NEWS, 1024 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50309, and together with a friend start a Study Group. It only takes two.

Sincerely,

Roger Dugan

WE NEED AN ARTIST!!!
NOT JUST ANY KIND OF AN ARTIST,
BUT A PEOPLES ARTIST!!!

THE WAR ENDS IN MAY

who are they kidding

Half an hour after I entered the Fort Wayne Detroit INduction Center I knew that this perticular 28th of February 1968 would probalby be as much of a hassle as the one coming up on Feb. 28, 1971. From beginning to end the Frigging Army seems to be sprinkled with a generous amount of mind bending B.S.

Like a fool I volunteered for the Army three years ago, being an impressionable youth I went on to volunteer for Infantry, Airborne, Special Forces, Viet Nam and other assorted shit-details. Now the lifers back here at 1rst Bn 325th Inf, 82nd ABN Div want to show their thanks by hasseling me for over staying my TDY time because of personnel problems on the home front. Lack of money, un-notified orders for a return trip to Viet Nam, my parents having to leave our home for financial reasons, the trip to Nam with an ever nearing ETS were a few of the reasons I gave both my C.O. and First SGT for an extension. Unfortunately they seemed to think that if I returned to Bragg on the 16th of December they could put me to use around the Barracks cleaning up the floors or typeing over in S-1 instead of taking care of my family problems for a change. There may not be much Justice in the Army but there is a great amount of in-Justice. I went ahead and stayed, now they feel that I should pay for this great desertion to my duty. Who are they kidding???

a report from inside bragg stockade

This story comes to you from A block, solitary confinement, post stockade. Needless to say, it sucks. Six feet by eight feet, three steel walls, bars on the front, one chair to sit on during the day. At this writing, A block is full, all twenty cells including two sweat boxes. Most of the stockade is full for that matter, close to 300 men.

A great many men in the stockade are Vietnam Vets, close to one-third. The majority of these served in combat units and were wounded. About eighty percent of the men in the stockade are here on AWOL charges.

Typical stories are Clarence nelson, wounded once, served with ranger units and the 199th Light Infantry.

Tony Roussakis, wounded once, three times decorated, served with the First Cav Infantry.

Richard Ulmschneider, married, wounded twice, decorated twice. served with the 4th Infantry.

Richard Crabtree, 27 months in Vietnam, all served with ranger units on search and destroy missions and reconnaisance missions, wounded once, three times decorated.

Milton Taylor, married, seven times decorated. wounded three times. A piece of steel still in his groin, he has a nervous condition and passed out last week because he didn't receive his medication.

There are many, many more cases like those mentioned above here in the stockade. For many returnees who do not wind up in the stockade, the only way to cope with the conctant harassment of the 82nd's NCOs and officers is with smack. One man in A block, a Nam returnee, comes from one of the heaviest smack units in the Division. Out of one hundred and thirty men in his company, sixty use it and twenty five or more are junkies.

Your CO, if he is a lifer, or your group or battalion commander all enjoy their power and authority, their flashy uniform and their imagined importance. Ask any one of them how many times he has gone into the field and served with draftees and enlisted men. Not in a secured area or support unit, but in the unsecured areas, the jungles that Richard C. and Tony R. had to probe, the hills that Richard O. and Milton T. had to capture and surrender, watching entire companies being decimated as they did it. These are the places where enlisted men and draftees have been fed into the fires by the thousands. Many who survive have this reward-confinement and the Army's brand of a less than honorable discharge.

All of the individuals here feel that men should be released from duty as soon as they return from Nam. The Army, of course, is not about to give anybody a break or what they deserve, so this article is an appeal to two groups of people. First, to the men in the Congress of the United States to do something for those men who have been made to serve in a filthy war. Second, to every enlisted man who wears the uniform to break the back of this mother fucking war machine.

Organize your unit around local issues and policy changes. It has already been done successfully. You can use this paper to do it.

Last week I asked my block sargeant, E-5 Gore, if we could take a poll at the six o'clock formation of all those men who were wounded returnees so that we could give the statistics to the GI press service. He said no, he might lose a stripe for that. The next day I was brought before First Sargeant Shires, charged with distribution of literature, and placed in solitary confinement. Military Justice!!

Bill MacDonald

who's getting out?

In a whirlwind of complicated Pentagonese jumbling, three persons have been discharged from military service and a fourth is being recommended for an unsuitability discharge.

Cornelius Cooper, a West Point alumnus, disappeared in a flash as a TWX message from Washington informed Fort Bragg authorities that his Conscientious Objector application had been approved. Less than 48 hours later 'Coop' was a civilian. The TWX failed to mention that Cooper had filed two Article 138 complaints against General Tolson for failure to enforce Army racial discrimination regulations and for permitting AUSA, a pro-war lobby, to exist on post illegally. Cooper is the first West Pointer to get a CO.

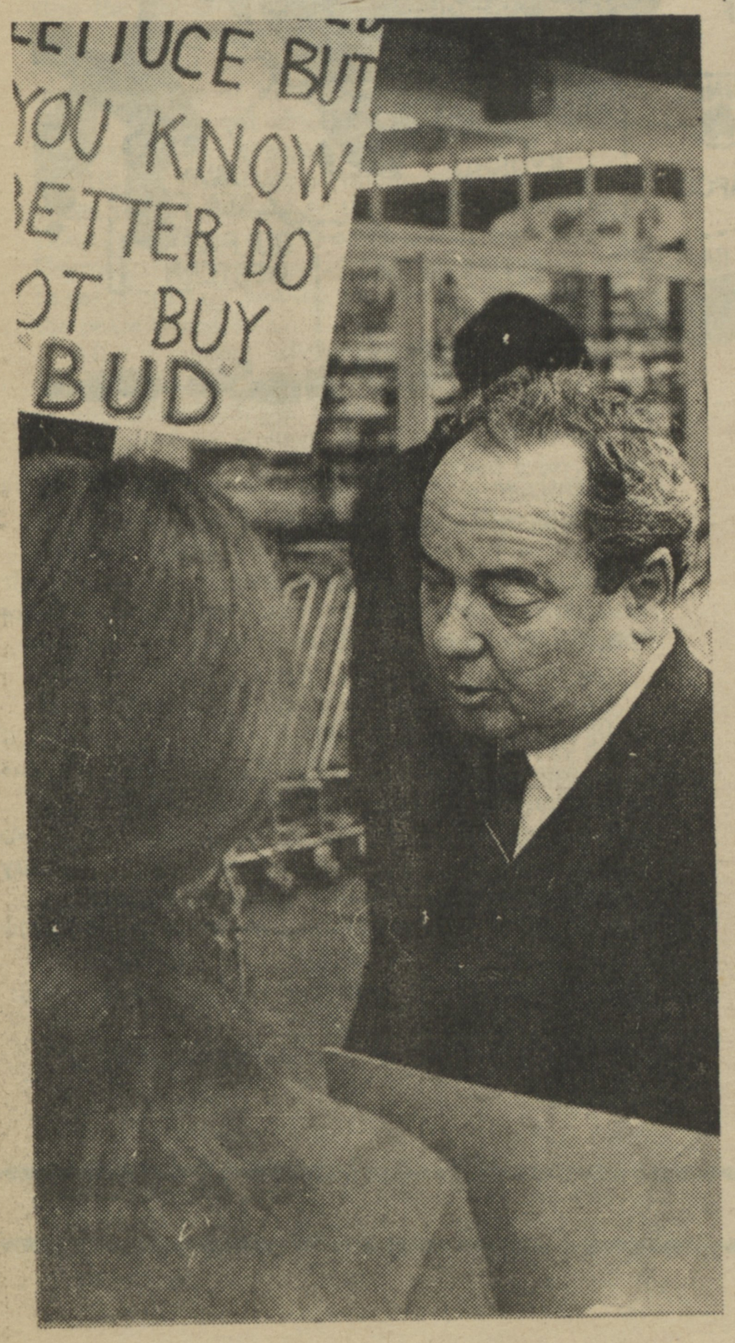
David Vaught, also a West Point grad, had his unsolicited resignation mysteriously accepted. His notification of impending honorable discharge also failed to note his AUSA complaint against Gen. Tolson and other Article 138.s he has filed.

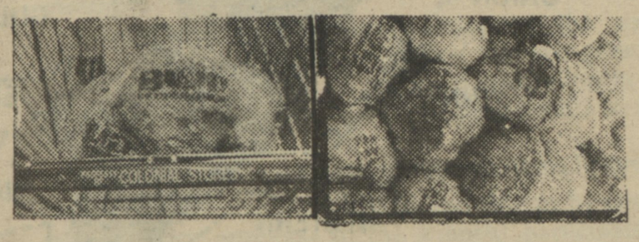
John Berk, Dental Activities, is also about to be separated honorably. After his CO application was denied, the Army decided not to contest Berk's writ of habeas corpus in federal court. By order of the court, he will be discharged on or before March 12th. Interestingly enough, John had also submitted an Article 138 re AUSA.

David Bunten, Womack Army Hospital, is being recommended for a 600-212 discharge(unsuitability). SMG Miles of WAH has recommended this action. Dave has a long history of conflict with the Army, including having two CO applications denied and three Article 15s within four months for hassling the machine in his own innovative ways. Dave has been dealt with for a uniform violation(wearing his Don't Eat Lettuce shirt in the hospital mess hall), refusing a direct order to work, and insubordination for not being able to obey two orders at the same time. He has also been picked up in downtown Fayetteville for soliciting signatures on a petition of Congress. Strangely enough, Dave also filed an Article 138 on AUSA. Bunten is currently under security investigation independent of the 212.

boycott meeting

MARCH 10 - 9 P.M. - HAYMARKET SQUARE





cont. from page 1

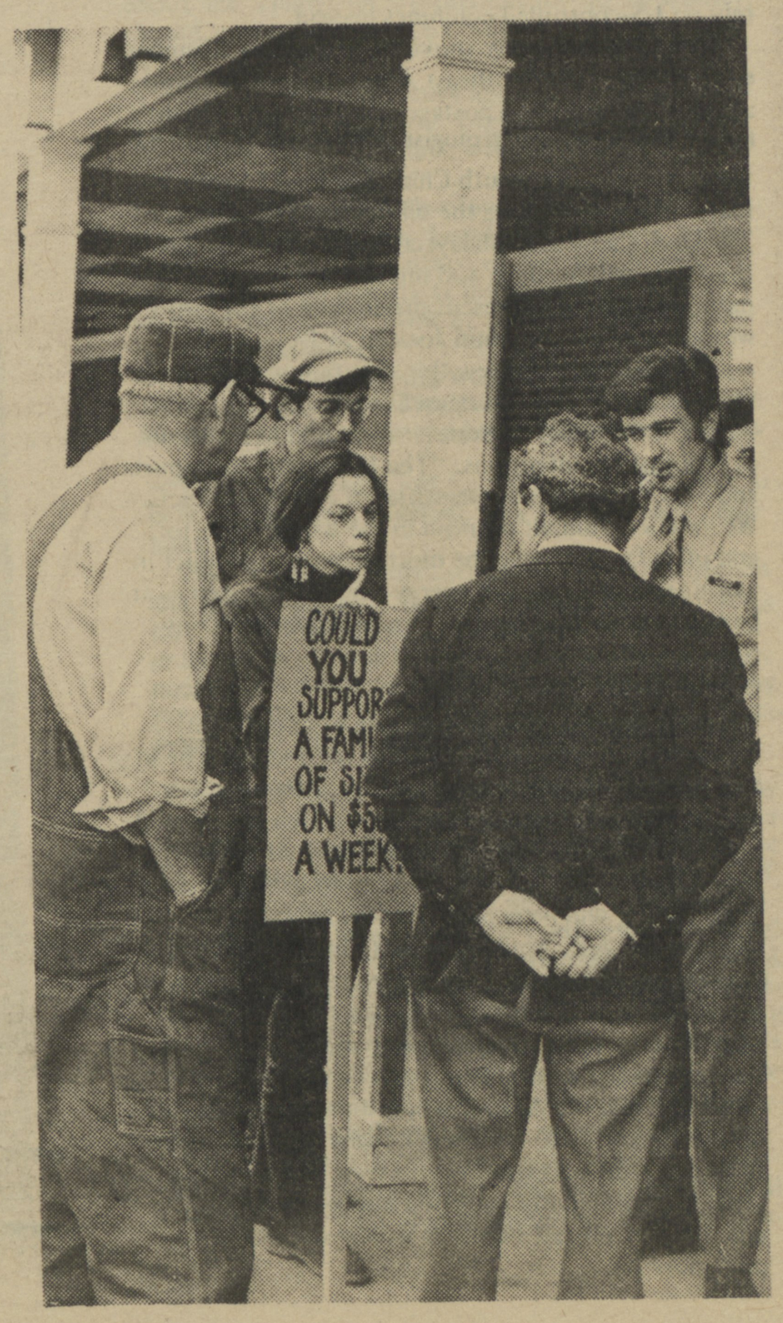
On Saturday the picket line, consisting of G.I.'s and county people, moved into high gear with twenty to thirty persons participating. The manager called the police out in force, but the Chief of Police informed him that the picket line was completely legal and that Fayetteville in fact had no laws to specifically control or destroy any picket line.

The councilman present at the time is now sponsoring a bill that is being written by the Attorney General of N.C. in an effort to minimize the effects of the pickets.

This action has been prompted by the tactics used by the boycott committee, which are the same that were used so successfully during the Grape Strike/Boycott. The major thrust of that boycott was aimed at keeping shoppers from shopping at any store that handled California table grapes. This proved completely successful in bringing enough ecomonic pressure on the growers that they recognized the UFWOC as the sole bargaining agent for the workers signing contracts that increased wages to reasonable levels and improved the workers' living and working conditions.

Thus far this tactic is working in the lettuce boycott effort, as the shoppers are refusing to shop at Colonail Stores and buying their groceries at the A&P and other shops which do not carry Bud or Bruce Churce Lettuce.

The CNLBC has plans to extend its picketing activities to other stores in the Ft. Bragg area. The need for every GI who is concerned with the fate of his fellow worker to join the picket line is essential if this boycott is to succeed. As one ex-Colonial shopper and school teacher said, "The workers are powerful but if they are going to win everyone must join them with their active support". VIVA HUELGA!



is an ocean of oil worth an ocean of blood?

J.C. PEELE, M.D.
KINSTON, N. C.

how u.s. corporations are dividing up an asian empire

An oil boom in Southeast Asia may well change the course of US involvement in Indochina. Although little noticed in this country, US oil companies are exploring what some experts believe to be the biggest oil and natural gas deposits in the world. They are located in the ocean off the coasts of Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia. Negotiations are underway for leasing oil lands off the coasts of South Vietnam. For the past year men and equipment have been pouring into Singapore, headquarters for all exploration. There are about 6,000 men there now. Throughout the rest of the world, oil rigs have cut off work, and steamed off to join the Southeast Asian oil boom.

In 1969 six American companies began to explore the area. According to *Fortune*, Tenneco, Standard Oil of California, Gulf, Continental, Union Oil of California, and British Petroleum each invested $2 million in exploratory research. While the current area of intense exploration runs from Cambodia on down to Australia, experts are also surveying the China Sea. One report suggests that the shallow subsoil between Japan and Formosa may hold the world's richest oil and gas deposits, richer than those of the Persian Gulf. This oil is of particular interest to Americans because it is low in sulphur content. But most oil and gas discovered would go to the energy market in Japan, where the demand for oil and gas is rapidly expanding. The demands in Japan are encouraging to the big international oil companies for it means that the Japanese probably will not be able to provide much of the needed oil through their own companies and will have to rely on US-controlled combines instead.

"An oil company spokesman declared, 'Compared to those of the Southeast Asian coasts, the Louisiana deposits are like a postage stamp on an elephant's back.' The American geologist James Gaunt, who has been exploring the South China Sea for 15 years, estimates that in five years the oil fields off the coasts of Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, South Vietnam, and Indonesia will produce 400 million barrels a day, or more than the total present production of the entire western world." (Joachim Joesten in *Weltwoche*)

US spokesmen view this situation with a certain imperial air. Here is a statement by Phillip H. Trezise, Assistant Secretary of State: it is quoted in *Le Monde* as proof of US intentions: "The United States imports and exports enormous quantities of energy products. We have a dominant position in the world oil sector, and oil is far and away the most important product in world trade. Energy and energy-supplying materials are basic to national economies. No government of any sort can overlook the place that sources of energy occupy in its political and economic life. . . . If we continue expanding at the present rate of five percent the 1970 rate—our crude oil needs for 1980 will be in the order of 24 million barrels a day, a figure much greater than any previous forecasts, which anticipated a maximum of 20 million barrels a day. At present, American production is about 10 million barrels a day. Therefore, it will be necessary either subtantially to increase domestic production or to import much more crude oil than today. . . . Although it would be possible to decide that the United States could supply its own needs or come close to doing so, we know that such a decision would cause a significant increase in oil prices. Will the American consumer, who pays the duties, choose in favor of much higher prices in order to be more or less master of his own oil needs or in favor of considerably increased imports and not much higher prices? I think it will be decided to import more oil.

In 1969, the US Ambassador to Thailand said, "A very significant matter may come about. No one yet knows whether or not it will. It concerns petroleum explorations in progress in the Gulf of Thailand. It is being undertaken not only outward from Thailand but also from Malaysia, Indonesia, etc., but it is very important insofar as Thailand is concerned, and six companies of which five are American are exploring now and apparently have high hopes of finding something. If it works out, it could be a new and terribly important source of American investment in this country."

A few months ago President Thieu signed a law passed by the National Assembly granting foreign companies the right to explore for oil along the South Vietnamese coast. Taking into account this fact along with the statements quoted above, Jacques DeCornoy recently wrote in *Le Monde*, "Have the oilmen received firm assurances from Washington of the United States' willingness to 'hold' Indochina, in particular South Vietnam? One would think so, in view of such haste. For the companies began to put money in even before President Nixon announced the 'Vietnamization' program. Moreover, Vietnam is not the only country affected by this business. Six months after the right-wing putsch in Phnom Penh, four months after American troops intervened in Cambodia, Cambodia-Thai negotiations over increased economic relations between the two neighboring countries took place in Bangkok. The negotiations surveyed the possibility of establishing a common prospecting program. . . . Cambodian-Thai cooperation obviously is unthinkable without relying on companies that employ modern technology and that have vast capital resources, and that are, therefore, foreign."

james ridgeway

IF THE PRESIDENT WON'T AND THE CORPORATIONS DON'T WANT TO THEN THE PEOPLE MUST END THE WAR BECAUSE ITS THE PEOPLE'S BLOOD

Representatives from a broad area of North Carolina met at Haymarket Square Coffeehouse the weekend of Feb. 20-21 to discuss the Peoples Peace Treaty and plan statewide action around it.

The treaty, presented in the center section of Feb. Bragg Briefs, was unanimously accepted, as the most feasable way the American people have ever had to stop the war in Vietnam. As a treaty between representatives of the National Student Association and representatives of the National Student Association and representatives of Viemamese student groups, it asfords a base around which the many diverse American anti-war groups can organize.

With the latest Gallup Poll showing 73% of the American people opposed to the War and wanting all US troops pulled out by the end of 1971, the meeting at Haymarket centered around how best to use the treaty to get people to, "end the war themselves", by making the peace themselves.

After a reading of the treaty, reports on the National Peoples Peace Treaty conference, which was held in Ann Arbor Michigan, February 5–7, were presented by people from Raliegh and Chapel Hill. It was felt that the Ann Arbor conference showed a very high level of optimism about the potential of the treaty, and a strong resurgence of spirit and solidarity in the movement on a national level.

Attention was then moved to the question of which of two planned Spring national actions around the Peace Treaty people in North Carolina should work towards.

The first, called by the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC), is a one day peaceful mass rally on April 24th to be held in Washington D.C. The second is a broader effort called by the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) from May † to 5 in Washington. These plans include a mass rally Sunday, May 2nd emphasizing nonviolent civil disobedience, a "stall in" Monday morning, and continuous—though now rather nebulous—activity through the 5th.

After rather one sided debate, the conference voted to endorse and work wotards the PCPJ program for May 2–5 over the one day, one issue (end the war) approach of the NPAC

The PCPJ is calling gor, 1)Immediate withdrawel of all US military, air, land, and sea forces from Vietnam, and demanding that the US set a date for the completion of withdrawel; 2)$5,500 Guarentees Annual Income for a family of four —set the date; and 3)Free all political prisoners —set the date. This multi-issue orientation of thePCPJ, along with the dates chosen for the action, and a request by the PCPJ that the NPAC become co-sponsors of the May 2nd rally, were the major points for the floor vote in favor of backing the May 2 to 5 actions.

At this time the question of the need for support from those at the conference for the Planned Counter-Armed Forces Day rally in Fayetteville was brought up, and the body unanimously voted to lend all it's resources to the event.

Support for any planned action in the state around International Women's Day was also passed, and the noticable lack of women participation in the and the noticable lack of women participants in the conference discussed.

The almost non-existant communications between people and groups in this area was felt to be one of the major problems in the womens participation, along with being one of the problems around the lack of people representing the black community of North Carolina.

This came up repeatedly in the conference, and one of the major accomplishments of the two days was the setting up of the N.C. Chronicle, as a North Carolina central information, coordinating and donation point.

Anyone desiring the N.C. Chronicle & Peoples Peace Treaty Newsletter, or anyone having questions about the Treaty, on information for the newsletter, should contact: Rt. 3, Box 111–A, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Most of the conference Saturday was centered around how to develop support for the Treaty throughout North Carolina, working toward the May actions.

Discussion turned to developing the Raleigh demonstration as a People's Legislature meeting to endorse the Treaty, but many of the details were left to be dicided on Sunday as the beginnings and use of working collectives jelled in peoples minds through workshop discussions.

The idea of developing working collectives, within to spread the Peace Treaty, recieved much interest from the people at Haymarket. Organizing collectives was not talked about just for work on the PPT, but to help people work together on a growing, long range basis.

People have to start contacting all the individuals and groups possible in their areas of the state, using the NC Newsletter as a coordinating device for literature, speakers and general reports on Peace Treaty activity. All this work is to be centered around getting people mobilized to go to Raliegh May 1rst, and Washington May 2 to 5 to support the Treaty.

Sunday was spent discussing alternatives for the May 1rst rally in the State Capital, and setting up a March 20th date for another Statewide Peoples Peace Treaty meeting to take place at the University of North Carolina. The next meeting will be in conjunction with the New University Conference of Chapel Hills' March 17–20 Socialist Symposiam and Festival.

The conference then broke down into workshops on media, liberal co-optation, and canvassing that were attempts to speak to problems or areas of involvement that were major concerns of various groups of people.

The conferenced at Haymarket Square was the beginning of a closely integrated movement in North Carolina. There's a very long way to go, but hopefully the conference March 20th in Chapel Hill will solidify the North Carolina family----everyone is invited.

WILLIAM CALLEY

On the evening of January 31, six officers from the Fort Bragg COM assembled to discuss an issue that was very much in public view, the court-martiak proceedings of Lt. William Calley. Although this trial seemed to be coming to a not so rapid close, there were issues being raised both superficial and underlying that will have repercussions for many years to come. The following transcript was an open end discussion amongst these officers in an attempt to better understand and clarify in their own minds the implications of the alleged My Lai massacre. There were many questions that had to be answered: What brought My Lai about? How many My Lais have there been? How many more will occur? Where does the guilt for a My Lai rest? It was questions such as these which had been raised at our weekly meetings that initially provoked the discussions, and it was questions like these that started the discussion that follows. But as we soon discovered, the discussion projected beyond its original intent and into its context we brought many other ideas. The ideas expressed were specifically those of the individuals involved and in no way reflect on any official policies of the US Army or Air Force, but in light of our present day society we felt it important to share these thoughts with whomever would be interested enough in reading them. Our intent is not to proselytize or convince others of the validity of our opinions but hopefully to stimulate further thought and discussion amongst others on the issues at hand.

The principles involved in the following discussion were: David Vaught and Cornelius Cooper, both 1Lt in the Army and West Point graduates; Richard Ford, Air Force 1Lt; Stuart Freyer, a Major in the Army Medical corps; John Berk and Fred Blitzer, both Captains in the Army Dental corps.

Freyer: What happened with the general?
Vaught: Charges on the general just got dismissed; on General Koster. He was Superintendent of West Point.
Freyer: On what grounds?
Vaught: In the interest of justice. That was the phrase they used.
Freyer: What does that mean?
Vaught: Doesn't mean anything. In the 'interest of justice' the charges were dropped against General Koster.
Berk: That means that they were saying that he had nothing to do with it?
Vaught: Well he was only indicted for dereliction of duty. But he did have something to do with it! He was the highest ranking general that knew anything about it.
Berk: But what they're saying is that he didn't know anything about it.
Vaught: Supposedly after it occured he was aware of it. He kept the lid on it by not telling anybody above him.
Blitzer: Well, where did it start? At what level of command?

Prior to their release, U. S. Air Force First Lieutenant Wesley L. Rumble (Calif.), Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade R.F. Frishman (Calif.) and Seaman apprentice Douglas B. Hegdahl visitod a church in Phu Ly destroyed by U. S. bombs.

Vaught: You mean the knowledge of...
Blitzer: Well, the fact that it was going to happen. Who initiated the action?
Vaught: It seems to me that it was a pretty typical Search and Destroy mission.
Blitzer: Starting at Company level?
Vaught: No, starting at Battalion level.
Blitzer: Who's jurisdiction was that?
Vaught: The Division assigned the Battalion the S

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and D mission. But S and D was a concept used all over Vietnam that was developed by Westmoreland and his staff. And of course what they'd do is mark the land off; this is VC controlled. After determining they were going to S&D, they would divide the land up into "areas of operation" more commonly called an AO Then they'd just say 'this was the Division AO', we're going to put three Battalions in the AO and search and destroy. Then the Battalions would break down into companies so that in this case the companies' AO was a village or village area and they'd go in for S&D and search and destroy. And thats what they did!
Blitzer: What would a typical search and destroy mission involve? Soldiers, civilians, livestock, or what?
Vaught: Generally this would mean if this were a VC controlled or VC sympathizer village, they would burn the village and if there were livestock, they'd kill them too. That's what it was; search and destroy. Now they varied of course, then they have search and clear and any number of missions aside from S&D that were less destructive such as the clear and hold. But in S&D they would generally come in and if it were a village they'd surround the village and then go in and search, leaving the security force on the perimeter.
Blitzer: What had been done with prisoners who were thought to be sympathetic towards the Viet Cong?
Vaught: It's hard to say. There are many incidences brought up by the war crimes commission where they murdered innocent civilians. The official policy wasn't to do that. Then of course there was always the dilemma about the VC sympathizer; the 3 year old kid that throws the grenade at you or the women with the bicycle full of dynamite. Distinguishing between the innocent civilian, the VC sympathizer, the VC, and the North Vietnamese Army regulars was not always very clear. Wouldn't you say, Cooper?
Cooper: Yes, I agree. The nature of guerilla warfare is such that there's very little distinction between who is a combatant and who is not a combatant. Because there are no sanctuaries per se, there is no territory to be held because it's such a mobile war with all the people playing a role. I think we should now address ourselves to William Calley; what his trial means and what the government is attempting to gain from trying this man.
Vaught: Especially when they are trying him and dismissing the charges which were only dereliction of duty on the Division commander, the two star general without charging anybody above that.
Berk: It looks as if they dropped the charges on everybody above him as well as everyone below him.
Vaught: Well, no, I think Medina is still...
Blitzer: I believe Calley and Medina are the only two involved at this time.
Vaught: I'm not sure if charges against Henderson have been dropped. Has Henderson's been dropped?
Freyer: Is he the sargeant?
Vaught: No. Henderson is the Colonel. And the battalion commander of course was killed; that's the LTC. But they've dropped all charges on general officers. There were two general officers indicted. I think all the charges against enlisted men were dropped; nearly all, because they dropped the remaining four all at once after they aquitted Mitchell and Hutto.
Cooper: Maybe a question to ask may be should William Calley be tried for war crimes in Vietnam? Or possibly, what would be considered a war crime? How are we going to go about classifying and distinguishing one crime from another in the context of Vietnam?
Ford: Technically, depending on your viewpoint, the whole war is a crime, so everything done over there is a war crime.
Berk: Traditionally, war crimes trials have never been conducted by the country whose soldiers were committing these crimes. And what would happen to William Calley if he were put before a South Vietnamese court that wasn't a puppet court?
Vaught: The interesting precedent is the Nuremberg trials concerning the Japanese general, the supreme commander of the Japanese forces in the South Pacific, who was held accountable for the actions of his troops and eventually executed for his complicity. Then of course in Germany the civilians who were high into the government were tried, that being an international tribunal.

Blitzer: As compared to the situation here where the country that's committing the acts is in reality placing itself on trial whether or not it's willing to openly admit this or whether or not it's aware of this implication.
Cooper: Of course in the West the concept of war has always been perverted in the sense that it was a game, and civilians weren't involved...and it was just among the soldiers. Whereas in the East...
Vaught: In WWII that wasn't true.
Cooper: There was still this sense of chivalry and honor in war, which I personally regard as a perversion. There is no honor in war, there is no chivalry, it's complete hogwash, the whole thing...and so Americans and the people in the West have had this Victorian, Middle-age concept of the soldier and they've carried

it over into battlefields. To me the whole idea of war crimes or singling out individuals is totally fallacious.
Berk: You say that the glory of the soldier is probably why countries got together for the Geneva Convention, the Geneva accords on war. Well I have never understood how if two countries were determined to fight each other and allow a great deal of people to die, how can they draw these arbitrary rules like no gas, prosoners of war will be treated hospitably...just the fact that they agreed to them is insane. It's like playing a game by saying that well, once you're tagged you have to go sit on the bench.
Blitzer: I feel you're right in considering it like a game, because it's almost as if two sets of rules are being set down in terms of a judicial system. There's a set of rules used in the outside would, which is civilian life, and of course the set of rules I feel is being used in the trial right now, in terms of justification for letting off these people who supposedly were in command by writing it off and saying...
Vaught: Who were in command? I mean it's a common occurrence in Vietnam that you'll have a platoon on the ground in a village and above the platoon you'll have the company commander in his helicopter, on top of him the battalion commander in his helicopter, and the assistant division commander in his

NATION ON TRIAL

helicopter, and the division commander in his helicopter, all just hovering on the battle. With the commu munications and the helicopters it's not that they didn't know what was going on.

Cooper: I personally think it's totally wrong to try anyof those people for that crime. The crime is so diffuse that we must consider it a collective crime of our whole society. We sent them over there, we armed them, we equipped them, and we filmed the movies

that made them want to go out and kill, and we made them feel they were something. Even in our capacities as officers it's totally bogus for us to blame a superior and hold him accountable for everything a subordinate does because that man is an individual and the Army doesn't issue leashes of sufficient length and number to kepp a hold of everybody who's under his command.

Blitzer: I would like to take issue with you feeling that the man, the general in this case, is a free thinking individual. He, in turn, is influenced by the entire military system - something that relates back to its infrastructure and what makes it go as a system; that being the complete subordination of one's free will to the system itself. As you pointed out andI said it is difficult to place the blame on any one individual but rather the entire system and the society which supports this system. For without this support the system could not be maintained and perpetuated.

Cooper: I feel that we all maintain that to blame the guy one step up for these war crimes is the wrong approach to any sensible solution. Because if this is to be the case one could always keep going up and up and up. Calley or someone else there pulled the trigger. The question we have to ask is why did did he pull the trigger. Not what individual is to blame but why.

Berk: Traditionally the whole concept of justice in trials has been to isolate the destructive elements of society so they can't do their destroying. But if you are trying to indite people of the caliber of William Calley, you're going to have a whole hell of alot of people in jail because America has turned out millions like him.

Freyer: It's like the murder committed by the main character in Richard Wright's *Native Son.* He's a black man who has such a difficult, primitive life that he can do almost nothing else, and what he does you understand so well. Of course he has to be tried and exesuted for his crime. But you know so intimately that really the crime is society's crime. It's not his crime. That's the tragedy and that's Calley's tragedyoor the whole My Lai tragedy, and as Coop says, it's our crime.

Cooper: How much worse is William Calley, how much more solied are his hands personally by pulling the trigger than say the numerous aviators who are declared as heroes Thye drop bombs on Hanoi, Haiphong, and numerous villages; and then get captured and now we lament for them in front of our various military purchasing houses on post. These people over there are treating criminals in the sense of equal stature, probably as well as we're treating Calley.

Vaught: We don't really know that.

Berk: It's hard to say, but it would be interesting to know how they are treating the so called prisoners of war.

Ford: North Vietnam considers them war criminals - not prisoners of war. That's their exception to The Geneva Convention. They'll treat a prisoner of war according to the Geneva Convention. but they reserve the right to treat war criminals differently.

Cooper: Legally an international court of law would probably hold it as such, because we never have legally declared war against North Vietnam. We've been over there in an undeclared conflict dropping bombs on people and then trying to gain some legal status according to the perverted Western rules of war where you have to declare war to go to war. But this country insists on fighting numerous wars and never declaring war.

Vaught: It's interesting equating Calley to the prisoners of war. I don't know if I'd thought of that before.

Cooper: The public's attitude towards Calley is different that it is towards the prisoners of war. When they come back, assuming the war is over sometime, I expect they will be given a tickertape parade down somebody's street, probably Atlanta now rather than New York; whereas Calley is now in court being tried for crimes committed in Vietnam.

Blitzer: I hate to sound cynical, but there's also the possibility that society no the Army itself in the form of public opinion may consider that it's easier to make Calley a hero than to bring him down because in the long run they'll be bringing themselves down. This may even take precedence over his innocence or guilt.

Cooper: My fear is that what the government is trying to do is to diffuse the peace effort by raising the POW issue when they could bring everyone of them home tomorrow by getting our troops out of Vietnam.

Vaught: No, no. The negotiating teams are just setting the date for withdrawal, then the prisoners can be released.

Cooper: The point is the government has it in its power to get those prisoners back by taking appropriate action.

Freyer: Is there any real danger, militarily speaking, in getting out say in a week? Because that' s often the excuse that you hear. You can't get out such a large force so quickly. You need two years.

Vaught: I don't think you could get them out in a week, but a month isn't totally unrealistic. What would you say, Cooper?

Cooper: I think logistically speaking it would take a while. But the government's main arguments are bogus in terms of taking one or two years to get the troops out .

Berk: But the main issue in terms of safety is whether North Vietnam is interested in attacking the retreating Americans.

Cooper: No, that's contrary to their whole theory of war. If American troops are actively leaving Vietnam, they wouldn't attack us. They have nothing to gain by attacking our troops because they would be sacrificing their own troops to eliminate troops who are leaving anyway.

Berk: The only reaction they could get would be to prolong the whole thing, which I don't think they would be interested in doing.

Waught I think six months at a leisurely pace and probably much less if this is their intent.

Cooper: As I said before, I think these issues are being used to defeat the peace effort. They're being used to make Nixon look goodby making the people for peace look as if they're out of sympathy with the POW's. Well they aren't. They just look upon it in the context of the entire war. They just see that it's unrealistic to ask the North Vietnamese to return our prisoners until America quits the war. And at the same same time the administration is trying to say in the trial with Calley, "Now we've killed our war criminal." I have artillary ears." It's very common. They were proud that they couldn't hear. It was part of this,"Be a man concept".

Cooper: Perverted masculinity concept.

Freyer: Very similar to the Indians who marked themselves. You're proud of the fact that you disfigured your own body.for the glory of war or to prove your own manhood.

Ford: It's the whole sickness of war or the way we operate it. We glorify it to the point where we train a man to be proud of his ability to kill. We give him medals for killing people, for getting wounded; any kind of job you do conneted with combat--infact, any kink of job you do in the military. If you just do a damn good job pushing papers, you get a commondation medal. But it's the whole sickness of the entire system that creates this type of mentality in a man that he desires to strive toward killing other human beings and feels proud about doing it. Now if it's a war that has to be fought where we're being attacked and it's our national survival, and we're out there just to survive, it's a job that has to be done.

But do we have to be proved of our ability to do it? This is the thing that's always disturbed me.

Freyer: There should be something next to the medal that says, "The winning of this medal may be hazardous to your health."

Cooper: The unfortunate thing though is that all this discussion is a logical consequence of an army. It's impossible for a man to devote 20 yrs. of his life to somethong without taking some pride in it. It seems to me that all the perversions that come out of war are logical extensions of armies. The army's function is to go to battle, as John said earlier, if one really feels thatthere's something worth fighting for.....

Freyer: Is that really their function? Sometimes you talk to them and they say our goal is peace, which I personally don't believe.

Blitzer: This is one of the great falacies that the public been led to believe. It's a matter of society being deceived or even worse deceiving itself into believing the often quoted rationalization that. "our goal is peace." Therefore, there are no more war criminals, It's important to make people aware that these crimes happen everyday in Vietnam. It's a matter of policy.Free fire zones are a matter of policy. All one has to do is go to almost any hospital on the West Coast where they're working on Vietnamese children who had their faces totally demolished. It's beensaid that the whole country may become a labratory for the affects of DDT on people over a perios of time because there's been so muc of it used and so indiscriminately. This has to bring us to the realization that war is such a total atrocity. I've met officers who told me that they went out on a hill every day and fired artillery at anything that moved, no matter what it was. Atrocities, crimes and brutalities are war, and there's no way to escape these things unless we got out of the war.

Berk: They really pound this insanity into the soldiers that go over there. I was talking to a soldier only this afternoon, and he said that when he was over there it was common while placed on a defensive perimeter, if you saw something move, you shot even though you may have been instructed to hold your fire until you could determine what you were shooting. This is routine? it's just the way it's done. So in realitythe policythe government sets is probably less important that how it acts.

Cooper: This brings to mind a conversation I had with a soldier who had all his antagonisms mixed up. He hated Vietnamese because they didn't fight and he wanted to go back and fight again because his brother had been killed over there, which just demonstrates how far the army can go in confusing their fighting men.

Freyer: We also accept many things that we should not necessarily accept. I was talking about hearing problems, which I often talk about with patients; and one day I was talking totthe son of a very?high ranking commander in the Armed Forces who told me that soccalled 'artillery man's ears' (the loss of hearing for certain high frequencies often associated with not being able to hear your watch tick or your car directional) is accepted almost as a mark of distinction,which is almost unbelievable. The logical conclusion is the infantryman's loss of his right leg.

Vaught: We used to have instructors at West Point, especially in summer training, who when asked a question would say, "Speak up, be a man, speak up, What was Westmoreland's statement about the Russian generals being extremely envious of us?

Vaught: ...of the Vietnam war, because our forces were receiving extensive training in air mobile tactics.

Cooper: And he might be right though. See that's the point,that's what I'm talking about.

Blitzer: It's unfortunate that this is the level of his thinking. The imperssion I get is that his concept of what's happening is not beyond(or he's not permitting it to go beyond) just the military. I son't think he has the wisdom, which I would want the person in command of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to have.

Cooper: Well, I think this is perverted because armies are perverted. If you, believe that wars have to be fought sometimes, unfortunately whether it's good or bad, then this thinking is totally logical to me; because if I wanted to be a soldier, I think that the best way to become a good soldier is to practice it.

Freyer: Maybe the goals of an army could be to be the smallest army possible ; just as the goals of automotive companies is to have the least employees making the most cars.

Cooper: But it wouldn't be an army Stu.

Freyer: Well it would be whatever it would be... a missile army or whatever. A different idea that didn't involve men dying, the least men involved, and the quickest peace. The general who got the quickest peace would get the prize.

Cooper: If you believ you need an army then there's no point in maintaining an army that won't win.

Vaught: But he istalking about winning!

J.C. PEELE, M.D.
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Suppose you have an elephant
with 56 millimeter trunk
and say he's
tearing up the jungle
(say you think he's drunk
or crazy)
How're you going to bring that elephant down?
lion can't
bear could but don't want to
and the panther's too small for that job.

Then suppose you have an elephant
with million millimeter trunk
and his jungle is the whole green world?
(and drunk
and crazy)
you see the problem.

one more word
about elephants
No matter how hard they try
elephants cannot pick their noses
any more than bankers can hand out money
or police put away their pistols
or politicians get right with God.

a sty
in the elephant's eye
aint nothing
but a fly in his nose
is a serious if not fatal condition
when the fly
gets into that nostril
it begins to swell a
and stay closed
he cant smell cant drink cant think
cant get one up
on anybody
he begins to regret
all that flabby ammunition
hanging on him
he begins to wish
he'd been a little more bare-faced
like an ape or a fish
all those passageways
he needs to feed himself
tied up

ELEPHANT TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
by a fly
a million flies
outweigh a trunk
a tank
a bank
a million flies
outthink a pile of IBM
junk

we must be wise
to the elephant's lies
you may think we should try
to sober him up
but the trouble isn't that he's drunk
the trouble is
that he's an elephant
with multi-millimeter trunk
who believes the world is his jungle
and until he dies
he grows and grows

we must be flies
in the elephant's nose
ready to carry on
in every town
you know there are butterflies
there are horse flies and house flies

This paper does not reflect the views of the pentagon, the dept of the army, the white house, r.m. nixon— his aides or buddies, the joint chiefs of staff, the treasury dept, the state dept, or any of those people.

THE WAR ENDS IN MAY

blue flies, shoe flies and it's-hot-
true flies
then there are may flies and wood flies
but I'm talking about
can flies & do flies
bottle flies, rock flies and sock flies
dragonflies and fireflies
in the elephant's nose
ready to carry on
til he goes down

Who are our enemies? Who are our friends? This is a question of the first importance for the revolution.
Mao Tse-Tung

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