



National Resistance Committee

"Edward Hasbrouck has taken an honorable and courageous step towards preventing global catastrophe. He should have the support of people who are committed to peace and justice."
Noam Chomsky

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Statement of Purpose:

- To resist current U.S. preparations for conscription and war by encouraging those of draft age to refuse registration.
- To sponsor and promote non-violent demonstrations and civil disobedience to oppose draft registration.
- To build a grass-roots movement by collecting pledges of non-registration, distributing literature, holding public actions, forming support groups and working with existing organizations to resist registration.

"The case of the U.S. against Edward Hasbrouck is also the case of the U.S. against each of us, and against many others who are not here today. His indictment is also an indictment of our work, of our beliefs, and of our feelings against registration, the draft, militarism, and war."
(statement read to the court during Edward's arraignment)

Just as draft registration is a trial balloon for reinstatement of the draft, so the trial of Edward Hasbrouck for refusal to register--the first in the Northeast and fifth in the nation since Vietnam--has put us all on trial. This is a test case: it tests the breadth and depth of our resistance. It tests our willingness--your willingness--to act for survival, peace, and freedom.

We need your help now. Edward's show trial produced a show of public rejection of the draft, publicity of the failure of registration, a packed courtroom, a picketed courthouse, and nonviolent civil disobedience. But Edward was still convicted and will still be sentenced at 9 a.m. January 14th. Your letter to Judge David S. Nelson (U.S. District Court, J.W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, Boston, MA 02109) will be considered by the court and will affect the chances for a good sentence and a good precedent. (The lightest sentence yet has been two years of unpaid "community service" work while on probation.)

We are planning further legal activities and civil disobedience at Edward's sentencing. We are continuing to coordinate a national network of hundreds of draft resisters and support groups. To maintain an effective resistance, to inform and mobilize the community--these tasks require time, energy, and money.

The sentencing is only two weeks away. Mass Open Resistance has serious financial problems which were aggravated by the recent loss of our office to a new landlord who bought the building, ordered us out, and changed the locks before we could move. (We have no phone but are still receiving mail to 1020C Comm. Ave., Boston, MA 02215.)

Most nonregistrants have been closeted by the threat of prosecution of public nonregistrants. Only those not subject to registration can speak and act without fear. Said Eric Weinberger when he was arrested after Edward's conviction, "I cannot let young friends be jailed for their opposition to war while I go free because I've been around too long to be asked to fight my country's unjust wars."

We need your support and solidarity in whatever way you can share them with us. We invite you to write to Judge Nelson, to come to Edward's sentencing, to share your ideas and resources, and to spread the spirit of resistance.

In Peace, for Mass Open Resistance,

William Worthy

Karen Lindsey