

A CALL FOR

RESISTANCE

How serious is your opposition to the draft? Rallies and demonstrations are important expressions of opposition, but in the end, only one thing matters: *will you register or will you resist?* And if you choose to resist, are you willing to face the legal risks involved? *

The National Resistance Committee is a network of individuals and organizations who are committed to stopping draft registration. Our purposes are:

1. To resist current U.S. preparations for conscription and war by encouraging those of draft age to refuse registration.
2. To sponsor and promote non-violent demonstrations and civil disobedience at U.S. Post Offices during the draft registration weeks in the summer of 1980, and
3. 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 Carter administration proposes to begin face-to-face draft registration of all 19-20 year old males at U.S. Post Offices during an initial two week period (the specific dates have not been announced yet). On these registration weeks hinge the future of the draft in this country. If the mass sign-ups are a success, the draft will become an entrenched part of American society, with ominous consequences for peace abroad and freedom at home. If, on the other hand, young people refuse to register, and if resistance is organized and widespread, the draft will fail. That is why the National Resistance Committee is committed to unifying *all* draft opponents around a common and narrowly defined goal: stop registration.

* Military Selective Service Act, 50 U.S.C.A.App §453 *Registration* ". . . it shall be the duty of every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States, who, on the day or days fixed for the first or any subsequent registration, is between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six, to present himself for and submit to registration at such time or times and place or places, and in such manner, as shall be determined by proclamation of the President and by rules and regulations prescribed hereunder."

50 U.S.C.A.App §462 *Offenses and penalties* ". . . any person who . . . evades or refuses registration or service in the armed forces or any of the requirements of this title (said sections), or who knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces . . . or any person or persons who shall knowingly hinder or interfere or attempt to do so in any way, by force or violence or otherwise, with the administration of

this title (said sections) or the rules or regulations made pursuant thereto, or who conspires to commit any one or more of such offenses, shall upon conviction in any district court of the United States of competent jurisdiction, be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

However, during the Vietnam war the sentences for SSS convictions averaged less than two years and many non-registrants were never prosecuted. Although we are not sure of the future policy that the administration may pursue regarding draft resisters, anyone who violates this law may face arrest and imprisonment.

The National Resistance Committee opposes all existing conscription laws and any draft legislation pending in Congress. We declare in advance that we will not accept, nor submit to any compulsory military training.

The Resistance Committee embraces individuals of all political persuasions. Our point of unity is an action — resistance — not an ideology. We have obtained the endorsement and cooperation of many prominent resisters and opponents of the Vietnam War — Daniel and Philip Berrigan, David Dellinger, Daniel Ellsberg, David Harris, Karl Hess, Ron Kovic, Fred Moore, and others — but our main concern is with reaching draft age young people, and providing them with the knowledge and moral support to resist.

Toward this end, the National Resistance Committee publishes a newsletter *Resistance News*, and an organizing manual. The organizing manual explains how to set up local resistance support groups, how to handle legal defense, how to get media publicity, civil disobedience tactics, and more. The Committee also distributes pledge cards for draft age people to sign and carry with them. The pledge states, "As a person of draft age, I pledge to refuse to register for conscription. I understand the legal risks of this action and I am willing to take them." These cards help build resistance by providing an excellent point of departure for discussions or resistance, and also help young people feel secure in the knowledge that a substantial number of others are with them. Our goal is to collect at least 100,000 of such pledges.

The National Resistance Committee is confident that a strategy of concerted resistance can bring conscription to a halt. The draft, like all forms of tyranny, depends on the compliance of people who become victims through their tacit obedience to immoral laws. By withholding our cooperation, boycotting registration, and standing in solidarity with thousands of other resisters, the SSS law will be made inoperative and unenforceable.

The success of the Resistance Committee relies on grass roots support and local initiative. If you are serious about stopping the draft, get in touch with us soon. We can supply you with materials, information, organizational support, and, when possible, speakers for local support groups.

We Will Resist

Come to an informal Resistance Workshop with David Harris, meet resisters from other states, share good times, etc. Anyone who wants to learn more about resistance strategy is welcome to attend. This Sunday, March 23, at 11:00 AM at the United Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue N.E. (Maryland Ave. & First Street, N.E.) in conference room #3.

National Resistance Committee
P.O. Box 1433
Washington, D.C. 20013

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- I want to be put in contact with a local resistance group.
 - Send me _____ of these leaflets.
 - Send me _____ pledge cards.
 - I want to organize a local resistance support group; send me one of your organizing manuals. (Please include \$2)
 - I want a speaker for a group of draft age young people.
 - I want to contribute to the National Resistance Committee.
Enclosed is _____\$10 _____\$25 _____\$50 _____\$100.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ Are you of draft age? _____

Comments & suggestions: _____