

Peacemaker

Orientation Program in Nonviolence

People who do not participate in war preparations are called cowardly and unpatriotic by other citizens.

People who encourage Negroes to defend themselves nonviolently are called Uncle Toms by other defenders of Negro rights.

Is nonviolence a form of weakness? Can nonviolence ever be used by the strong and brave?

August 22 - September 7, 1965
Catholic Worker Farm
Tivoli, New York

Gandhi wrote, "Nonviolence does not require any outside or outward training. It simply requires the will not to kill even in retaliation and the courage to face death without revenge."

That's simple enough; anyone who understands it, and who is willing to live by it, can live a nonviolent life at once — whether he does so with a group or by himself.

But many of us remain a bit confused about our duties under nonviolence. And some are not sure of whether or not we even ought to have "the will not to kill," let alone begin to put that will into practice. Therefore, we should like to discuss the objections to nonviolence and to hear its defense before we think of following Gandhi's, or anyone else's, suggestions about pacifism.

Members of the Peacemaker Movement have been conducting programs in nonviolence for several years, hoping to remove some of the obstacles from the road toward a peaceful life. They have tried to show that, far from being a type of cowardliness, nonviolence requires a rare courage not even found on battlefields; they have looked for ways to summon up that courage. Of course, as Gandhi suggested, no one can be taught to be nonviolent. But Peacemakers hope that their series of small discussions will help some people to see the necessity of pacifism and ways of attaining it; after that, each person's own will shall be his teacher.

Peacemakers are people who try to practice nonviolence in their daily lives. They believe that a truly peaceful world can be built only by individuals who accept some form of the Golden Rule for all their relationships. Many Peacemakers do not pay war taxes; many do not register for the draft. Some have been jailed for these forms of civil disobedience.

This year's orientation program will be from August 22 to September 7. It will be held at the Catholic Worker farm, beautifully situated on the Hudson River in Tivoli, New

York. Here, participants may observe the Catholic Worker method of dealing with poverty and alcoholism while they engage in the Peacemaker seminars. Like Peacemakers, the Catholic Worker defends a radical-pacifist philosophy.

The permanent staff of the program is made up of Peacemakers and friends of this movement who have experimented with non-violence for a long time. Many have gone to jail defending their beliefs. A secondary staff is made up of resource people who will visit only two or three seminars. These people will not necessarily defend nonviolence; they will discuss certain social problems with which they have come to be identified: racial integration, poverty, healthy living, sexual freedom—topics covering most aspects of our lives.

SOME TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The personal and social value of work

Manual labor and craftsmanship *vs.* machine labor

Imagination *vs.* cybernation

Simple living *vs.* modern luxury

Nonviolence

Civil rights

Civil liberties

Anticolonialism

Puerto Rico, Cuba, Viet Nam

American Indian tribes

Methods of resistance

Tax refusal

Draft refusal

Public demonstrations

Education

The arts

Freedom, authority, and irresponsibility

Political government

What is a nation?

Are civil laws necessarily moral laws?

What are a citizen's responsibilities to his nation?

Prisons, real and imagined

How does a man lose his freedom?

What are a citizen's responsibilities to his imprisoned friends?

Voluntary association

Capitalism, socialism, and anarchism

Intentional community

Methods of sharing

Methods of retaining individuality

Nonpolitical government

Morality and license

Does morality lead to excessive authority?

Does personal freedom lead to decadence?

Religious government

SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Meals will be prepared communally. Customarily, all participants share the physical work and expenses. People whose applications are accepted will be informed of the cost of their participation; it will be about \$3.00 per person per day. Some will contribute more, and some less, according to their abilities, but everyone will meet his responsibilities in sharing.

People who wish to join the program should complete the following application. Students and other young people are especially invited. We look forward to hearing from people who

have had little experience with nonviolence but who want to discuss it seriously from any point of view. Participants are expected to remain for the entire two-week program. Temporary visitors may be admitted, but they shall not be considered members of the program. Full details will be mailed to each applicant on his acceptance.

APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Can you attend the entire program? _____

If not, what dates can you attend? _____

What is your experience with nonviolence?

Why are you interested in the
Peacemaker Orientation Program? _____

Have you attended a previous program? _____

What skills or knowledge can you contribute?

To what extent can you share in the cost?

Mail to:

Victor Richman
601 West 115 Street
New York, N.Y. 10025

or:

Wally Nelson
3810 Hamilton
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

