

B1, F 4
November 28, 1966

Dear Bros and Sisters,

We have just returned from our Sojourn of Northern Cities. We managed to get to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit. One of the Primary reasons for our traveling was to find out what Black people were doing about the draft and to put these people and groups in touch with each other. We feel that not until we as a people can develop a network of communications which doesn't depend on the man's mass media, we will never be effective. We hope that you will contact the various organizations, find out what they are doing and what joint actions may be possible. We also made contact with lawyers who have committed themselves to handle draft cases. Hopefully lawyers in your area might be interested. Contact should be made with them. We need a cadre of Black lawyers to represent us in as many cities as possible.

Within this letter, we have included some thoughts of our own and ideas from people whom we talked to about the draft. Also included are some DO's and DON'T's about attacking the draft.

IDEAS:

1. If there is more than one group in your area concerned about the draft, try to set up meetings with them to discuss possible joint actions, i.e. press statements, demonstrations, etc.
2. If someone from your organization gets Inducted or gets put in jail, people across the country should know it so that some national joint action can be done.
3. If you have a leaflet that is exceptionally good, it should be sent to others across the country (we're trying to work out an arrangement with SNCC on mass mailings of leaflets).

DO's: (Note - the legal points are for those who want to attack the draft from a legal angle. We realize that there are others who refuse to even honor them on any level. Please understand that I'm not discouraging either position but hope that you realize, both could ultimately mean five years at the expense of the Federal Government).

1. As soon as you receive your 1-A classification, appeal on any grounds you may have other than discrimination. Do not ignore this opportunity.
2. When you receive your Notice to Report for Induction, then file an appeal (or, if they won't accept an appeal, a registered letter) charging discrimination in the composition of the draft board and in your specific call for induction.
3. YOU SHOULD PRESENT YOURSELF ON THE INDUCTION DATE AND CO-OPERATE IN EVERY STEP UP UNTIL THE POINT WHEN THEY ASK YOU TO TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD TO BE SWORN IN. ONLY AT THIS POINT DO YOU REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.

If you have a valid claim of discrimination, there will then be no technical bar to presenting it in the federal district court.

4. Contact a lawyer about how to confront the draft with the minimum amount of expense and time.
5. Contact a knowledgeable source about what may happen before you go to an Induction Center.
6. Appeal any classification except CO status to tie up the draft board and cause them great expense.

DON'T's:

1. Never let a Brother go to the Induction Center alone.
2. Never sign any papers unless you are absolutely sure of what you are doing.

We hope that we will get some response from you in the near future.

Yours for self-determination,

Michael Simmons

Michael Simmons

Larry Fox

Larry Fox

P.S. Remember all successful revolutionaries spent time in jail - so either way, we can't lose.