

CNVA
Direct Act



DIRECT ACTION

for a nonviolent world



New England Committee for Nonviolent Action
RFD 1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384

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Speak-Out June 16

Mulford Sibley, David McReynolds, Staughton Lynd, A.J. Muste, Gordon Christiansen, Sid Lens, Kay Boyle, W. H. Ferry, William Meyer, George Collier and others will confront U. S. policy makers on the front steps of the Pentagon. Mass participation is urged. See next CNVA Bulletin for details.



JOYOUS OCCASION -- The Navy returns the "World Citizen" to owner, Harry Purvis (second from left), after having kept it illegally for four years. Here it is being readied for launching. Story on p. 2.



Our training program was honored by the presence of Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker at one session.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DEMONSTRATION - On May 5th, New England CNVA and Providence people, with Dave Benson shown leading the line, in front of the Federal Building in Providence protest the landing of U. S. Marines in the Dominican Republic.



Bob Swann (center) and Ron Moose of our staff led six students from the Meeting School in Rindge, N. H. on a six week program in the South. Here they are helping re-build a church in Miss. which had been burned last year.

THE LIBERATION OF
THE "WORLD CITIZEN"
by Mary Christiansen

The "World Citizen" is a 12-foot rowboat. It belongs to Harry Purvis, a Northport, L.I. businessman and CNVA executive committee member. This boat, having been held prisoner by the Navy at the Submarine Base in New London since January of 1961, was finally returned to its owner on April 24th.

Prominent among those on hand to welcome the "World Citizen" were Russell Stabler and Bill Henry. It was Russ and Bill who, with Harry Purvis, rowed the "World Citizen" from the UN to Groton to participate in the Polaris Action project during the summer of 1960. It was Bill Henry who stepped from the "World Citizen" to board the moored George Washington as a nonviolent protest against Polaris missiles. It was for this act of trespass and his previous boarding of the Ethan Allen that Bill served a year in Danbury federal prison. Seized with Bill on January 28, 1961 were co-boarder Don Martin, oarsman Dave Rhoads and the "World Citizen."

Although Harry, on the advice of his lawyer, Catherine Roraback, agreed to settle his four-year suit out of court (at the request of the Navy), it is virtually certain that the Navy would have lost the case. Having been spared a legal decision, the Navy might have tried harder than it did to deliver a taut ship. Instead, badly caulked seams, a coat of bottom paint and 2 new oar locks were the only pains taken to make the "World Citizen" seaworthy as agreed. Even so, it was a joyous occasion when Harry Purvis and Catherine Roraback drove out of the Base with the neglected but proud "World Citizen" strapped to the top of the car.

The twelve of us who had been vigiling at the gate during our wait took this opportunity to remind the Navy with our signs that we were still opposed to Polaris missiles, opposed to U.S. involvement in Vietnam, and looking forward to the return of the "Spirit of Freedom." Seldom does anyone talk to pacifists who vigil at the Submarine Base, but that day 3 children were attracted to Bill Henry. In response to their stated belief that the U.S. had to fight Communism in Vietnam, Bill, gearing it to their age level, gave them a beautiful lesson in democracy and freedom. Two less fortunate children in a nearby car had only a brief glimpse of us before their frightened mother manually turned their heads in the opposite direction.

The last item of business before we left the Sub Base was the official signing of papers. The attending U.S. Deputy Marshal agreed to conduct this brief ceremony outside the gate for the convenience of our photographers. At 11:00, 13 pacifists, 1 attorney, and 2 reporters formed a happy caravan of 4 cars in search of a launching site. We found a site; but as we were about to lift the "World Citizen" down a bank of rocks, a harried man ran up to us, announced that we were on private property and that he had called the police. A policeman arrived, was friendly, and suggested that we go to the state launching area off Bayberry Lane in Groton.

The trip to Bayberry Lane took up past Electric Boat where, alas, thousands of men and women were hard at work.

Bedecked with a UN flag, a CNVA pennant and a yacht ensign, the "World Citizen", with its original crew, was launched at noon. Harry Purvis and Bill Henry manned the oars and Russell Stabler, within minutes, began to bail water. A photograph taken of Catherine Roraback waving goodbye from shore was jokingly referred to by a reporter as "attorney on the rocks."

Five and a half hours and 18 nautical miles later, the "World Citizen" pulled into Old Lyme, Connecticut. The 3 men, weary from rowing and bailing, were convinced that this battered veteran of peace action, starved for tender loving care, could go no farther. The next morning the "World Citizen" was driven home to Northport, where Harry plans to restore her to usable condition for further action in the battle for peace.

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ONE LITTLE, TWO LITTLE, THREE LITTLE KITTENS -- we have that many now looking for a home. And if you wait a little while our other kitten factory will soon be producing more. Since we can't afford to support this population explosion, we hope some of our readers will be interested in adopting one of these kittens with a guaranteed pure peace pedigree. Let us know if you want one.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF ACTION AND INTEREST FOR OUR READERS

- May 22 -- Electric Boat is launching another Polaris submarine -- the James Knox Polk. This is their May 22nd Movement. We hope all you good people out there will form your own May 22nd Movement and move down to Groton, Connecticut on that day to join with us in our protest at EB against this latest "city killer." The vigil line will be formed at 2:00 p.m.; the ceremonies begin at 4:00; we will vigil and leaflet through the afternoon shift change and until the ceremonies are over.
- May 23 -- New England CNVA Executive Committee meeting. We hope you will stay after the launching on the 22nd and come to the farm for the weekend. You are welcome to sit in on the meeting, work in the garden, or do any of the hundreds of jobs from carpentry to office work to chopping wood.
- June 16 - Speak-Out at the Pentagon. National CNVA plans to turn the teach-in into an outdoor meeting, confronting policy makers on the steps of the Pentagon. This will probably be civil disobedience at least as far as the speakers are concerned. Already signed up for speaking are Kay Boyle, W. H. Ferry, William Meyer, George Collier, Sid Lens, Staughton Lynd, Mulford Sibley, and such CNVA stalwarts as A. J. Muste, Gordon Christiansen, and David McReynolds. CNVA hopes there will be mass participation. See the next national CNVA Bulletin for more details.
- June 27 - All-summer workcamp starts at New England CNVA Farm.
- July 4 -- Three-week Training Program in Nonviolence begins at New England CNVA Farm.
- August 1- Our second three-week Training Program begins at the Farm.
- Aug.6-9 - National CNVA demonstration in Washington including a presentation to President Johnson of additional signatures on the Declaration of Conscience.

Demonstrations in Canada

- May 11 -- Canadians in British Columbia are undertaking an ambitious project -- COMOX Project '65 centering on the RCAF Base on Vancouver Island. Community work in Comox begins May 11.
- May 22 -- Walk from Victoria starts, arriving in Comox on June 4.
- June 5-6- Civil disobedience at the Comox base -- probably a sit-down at the entrance. Community work and demonstrations are expected to continue all summer. For information write: Comox Project '65, Vancouver Peace House, 3148 Pt. Grey Road, Vancouver 8, B.C., Canada. Telephone 731-1372.

We expect the La Macaza project will start again this spring. You may remember the demonstrations there last fall. At the time this bulletin went to press, we had received no word of their plans. For information write: Project La Macaza, 3512 St. Famille, Montreal, P.Q., Canada.

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NEW HAVEN YOUTH CORE WEEKEND On April 9, fifteen members of New Haven Youth CORE and one father came to spend a weekend at Polaris Action Farm. The young people were aware of the issues involved in civil rights, but many had not been exposed to peace issues. The theme of the weekend was to relate such issues as the war in Vietnam to civil rights.

by Suzanne Simon

The Friday evening activities started with a film about the forming of the Polaris Action group. This led to a discussion about the basic tenets of nonviolence as a tactic and as a way of life. Being teenagers, the group found it easier to discuss nonviolence as it applied to our lives and experiences. The discussion centered on the theory of nonviolence in the raising of children. No consensus was reached; people tended to defend the way in which they had been raised. Some concluded, however, that reasoning was always more effective than violence in developing a child's values.

SELMA BEFORE AND AFTER (Peter, a New England CNVA worker, spent 1 1/2 weeks in Selma before the March to Montgomery and 6 weeks after. He is now home in Maine where he will promote CNVA projects such as the June 16th Speak-Out at the Pentagon.)
by Peter Kellman

In January, a task force made up of SCLC and SNCC civil rights workers moved into Selma Alabama. (SNCC had been working there for some time previously.) They organized wards and through them taught the people how to practice democracy.

The civil rights workers are the "Hands of the People." The Negroes have no representation in the government, so there is no one to look after their public affairs. The SCLC-SNCC staff set about to do the work the people couldn't do for themselves, mainly organize a movement to obtain voting rights. This will allow Negroes political representation which will facilitate the obtaining of equal opportunities.

Before the movement started, Negroes would simply complain to themselves about their problems. But in the ward meetings, problems were discussed and then action to solve these problems was decided upon and followed through.

The high school students were the first to move in demonstrations, mainly because the parents were scared, but the students weren't. After the teen-agers were beaten on the head, gassed, run over by horses, etc., a few times, the parents decided to stand by their children.

Now after all these demonstrations, including the famous march, what has been accomplished? Jim Clark's posse has been dissolved. This means that Negroes can go to the courthouse with no fear of being beaten up. It does not mean that they will be registered. Because of the local boycott, buses have stopped running and Negroes have been hired in some downtown stores. But over 600 people have lost their jobs and many welfare checks have been stopped.

A real change can be noticed in the physical appearance of many Negroes. Where once they shuffled, looked at the ground and said "Yassuh," now they pick up their feet, look straight ahead and will never again be led to believe that they are inferior and that it's their job to do America's dirty work.

SCLC has spread its field workers to the surrounding six counties and is organizing on the same basis as Selma. Present plans call for a major demonstration in Montgomery this summer to demand Negro representation in State government.

School boycotts have been very effective in these six counties. The federal government pays an allotted amount for every day a student is in school. When the local school boards divide the money, an unfair portion goes to the white schools. Thus this boycott of Negro students is taking money away from the white schools.

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NEW HAVEN YOUTH CORE WEEKEND (cont. from page 3)

Saturday was a work day; people exhausted themselves in sundry manners, moving rock piles, chopping wood, licking stamps, digging sand, dumping junk, mopping floors and adding to the general confusion of house cleaning. In the evening we saw a documentary about the children of Hiroshima, "1000 Cranes." Too tired for a discussion, we mustered enough energy for a walk in the woods. Quickly we got lost and Gordon intoned those now-famous words, "If we get back to the farm, I'll kiss the ground." (We did find our way and had our ground-kissing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.)

A discussion about Vietnam and local New Haven problems occupied the final morning. Especially interesting was Bradford Lyttle's information about the use of massive non-violent protest by the National Liberation Front during early opposition to Diem. Everyone wrote letters to our Senators protesting American policy in Vietnam.

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IN WASHINGTON TO PROTEST THE VIETNAM WAR Twice this past month people at our project heeded the call to go to Washington to support protests against the war in Vietnam. For the April 17 SDS demonstration we sent 10 people, and on May 11-12 four people went to the interfaith vigil at the Pentagon.

PLEASE POST

Summer Program 1965

TRAINING

Two 3-week Training Programs in Nonviolence will be held at New England CNVA Farm, from July 4 to July 24, and from August 1 to 21. These programs are designed primarily as introductory courses for those who want to know more about the philosophy and history of nonviolence, its main advocates and practitioners, and its practical application from a personal level to the international level. Resource leaders, films and tapes, demonstrations, field trips, work periods, training in organizational and office skills will be included as well as extensive reading and discussion. Open to families and single people of all ages - limit 15 adults per session.

NEW

ENGLAND


COMMITTEE

FOR

NONVIOLENT

ACTION

ACTION



In conjunction with the Rhode Island affiliated group of New England CNVA, certain action projects are being undertaken this summer to extend the number of people interested in a permanent organization in the state, and to experiment with effective action in a small state. Included in these projects will be leafleting and talking with people on the beaches and at resorts, especially high school age young people; leafleting at the Jazz and the Folk Festivals at Newport; obtaining signatures on the Declaration of Conscience; preparing for speaking engagements about conscription in Rhode Island high schools next fall; and one or two demonstrations at military installations. Much of the action will center on two themes: conscription and Vietnam. In addition, New England CNVA will cooperate with two national projects:

1st or 2nd week in June -- Speak-Out at the Pentagon

August 6-9 -- Presentation of additional signatures on the

Declaration of Conscience to President Johnson.

WORK

In order to prepare adequate facilities for the growing numbers of people who reside at or who visit the New England CNVA Farm, a continual workcamp program will be held at the farm from June 27 through Labor Day weekend. Camping facilities will be improved; buildings will be remodeled and repaired; lumber will be cut for a new meeting and recreation hall; the garden will be cultivated and the products prepared for canning and freezing; a roadside stand may be operated part-time; reorganizing the office will be undertaken. Participants will be welcome to share in discussions with resource leaders and speakers, and upon occasion to take part in some of the action projects. Attendance is for a minimum of one week; open to persons of all ages, junior and senior high school students especially are encouraged.

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FACILITIES AT NEW ENGLAND CNVA FARM

Regular living accommodations at New England CNVA Farm are neither primitive nor luxurious. Semi-private rooms and dormitories are located in the house and outbuildings. Every effort is made to provide private, suitable accommodations for families, but those who come for a brief period may be asked to stay in the dormitories.

Workcampers will live in tents in a separate area of the farm, and will do their own cooking. Their facilities will be of the camping out variety, but they will be welcome to use the library, meeting rooms and other common rooms when needed.

Camping facilities will be available for families wishing to spend a camping vacation at the farm. Facilities are under development and will include tenting sites and a cooking center with water, stove and refrigerator. Trailers may be brought; it is necessary to obtain a permit from the Town of Voluntown for a trailer occupied for more than three nights. Persons using these facilities are welcome to join in the sessions with speakers and resource leaders. Suggested contribution for a family of four or five is \$2 per day or \$12 per week.

It is possible that cabin facilities will be available in an adjoining resort which will be operated as a camp for young people in the summer of 1966. Further information on these facilities will be forthcoming.

Excellent well-balanced meals are provided at the farm. All residents and guests are expected to help once a day with cooking or dishwashing, and to assist with the regular housekeeping chores.

COSTS

New England CNVA requests that each person living or visiting at the farm contribute at least \$2 per day or \$12 per week to help with the costs of food and overhead. Those who cannot afford this amount are asked to request scholarship assistance before coming. Those who can give more are urged to do so to support the on-going program of New England CNVA and the improvement of the facilities at the farm.

RESERVATIONS

We request that advance notice in writing or by telephone be given by all coming to the farm during the summer. Specify when you are coming, how long you are staying, and in what program you wish to participate.

Please fill out and return to NEW ENGLAND CNVA, RFD #1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384
Telephone (203) 376-9970

I wish to come to the farm for ___ July Training Program; ___ August Training Program;
Workcamp (specify dates) _____; Action Program (dates) _____;
Family Camping (dates) _____; a short visit (dates) _____.

___ Please send more information about New England CNVA - its philosophy and program.

___ Please send directions for reaching the farm by ___ bus, ___ train, ___ car.

I agree to abide by the Discipline of Nonviolence and the Principles of Conduct of New England CNVA while I am at the farm.

NAME _____ Phone _____

ADDRESS _____

TWO WAYS OF LOOKING It would be nice if for just one bulletin we could forget using some of our valuable space for a fund appeal, but unfortunately the state of our finances doesn't permit us this luxury. When we are at the point of not being able to pay our phone bill and are threatened with having service cut off, when while this is being written we don't have the money to mail out this bulletin, when we are at the point of having lengthy meetings each morning to go over past expenses to see if they are justified and to examine proposed expenses to see if there is any possibility of getting along without them, when we have to agonize over whether our food budget should be 65¢ or 85¢ a day per person, when current bills which should be paid as soon as possible amount to well over \$2000, when our bank account frequently has only \$5-10 in it, then we know that there is no alternative to asking as forthrightly as possible for support from our readers.

The other side of the coin presents a much more pleasant view. We do have an active relevant program. Just note the pictures and stories of past activities in this bulletin. Then look at our "triple revolution" summer program of training programs, work-camp and action projects. We feel that the grave situation outlined in the first paragraph and the bright program put forth in this bulletin merit your generous support.

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TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LEADERSHIP Although the participants were few in number, the program proved itself of great value to the participants, many of whom are CNVA staff. by Ted Clark The program provided an opportunity to read intensively in many areas and to discover much that was either unknown, or had been overlooked.

Dorothy Day, of the Catholic Worker, Wilmer Young, a Quaker from Pendle Hill, Dr. Klein, a psychiatrist from New Haven, Bob Swann, coordinator of NE/CNVA, and Sylvia Williams, a member of Tolstoi Farm, an intentional community organized upon pacifist principles, were some of the resource people; there were several films to supplement the discussions as well. Most of the discussions lasted two or three hours, some as many as five, which is a good testimony to their interest. Several new directions for CNVA came out of the program, although none have been acted upon yet. Brad Lyttle, our director, gave several talks on Gandhi and led spirited discussions. Because the trainees were experienced, the program took on more depth than usual, and the members examined such issues as contemporary morality and Vietnam extensively. The program was continually spiced with demonstrations and projects, including high school weekends, which gave the members a chance to put into practice what they already knew. The only complaint was that there was not enough time to do all the reading and writing we wanted to do.

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Our thanks for these contributions received since our last bulletin: MS 73.64; BH 75; EB 10; T&FC 25; HBL 3; BW 1; HR 3; S&MF 5; 1stMeth 4; JS 6; NHCORE 60; MES 10; VM 2.13; IS 10; A&TU 20; TR 20; GP 10; BB 10; SF 5; MF 8; DA 20; GT 10; DB 10; SW 5; JG 11.17; RH 10; TR 20; JJ 5; E&FP 25; DP 5; HRR 6; VC 5; ERH 25; MC 5; EJ 10; RL 5; RCW 5; ST 10; WAMcK 5; AB 5; MK 2; SM 5; WC 5; DA 15; MM 200; LK 3; CA 10; GP 15; HK 10; GP 10; MrsEFK 2; ML 5; MM 5; DM 10; SW 10; CG 15; H&MH 50; RB 1; JN 5; TC 4; IS 2; FC 1; BF 10; EJ 1; HK 24.90; AC 10; PLS 10; JMcN 7; LCG 5; BC 5; MC 50; LCB 3; GP 10; KP 2.50; CCP 2; EWW 25; LD 5; KB 10; CT 10; RM 5; MrsJB 1; P&TS 20; A&TU 20; TW 5; D&AH 15; HB 5; KW 2; GP 10; J&VF 4; IFL 100; AS 2; CM 6; PH 50; AK 3; ERH 25; FW 10; LLH 5; JP 2; DP 1; JJ 5; EK 5; KK 3; CS 13; GP 10; ER 95; JM 12; RC 5; M&IS 5; NatCNVAappeal 101.48; cont jar 30.70; G&MC printing; MP seeds; J&CS seeds; RCW office sup; CD sheets; BM food.

Please fill out and mail to NEW ENGLAND CNVA, RFD #1, Box 197B, Voluntown, Conn. 06384

_____ **DEMOCRACY & NONVIOLENCE** by Ralph Templin -- a new book soon available. It stresses "the role of the individual in world crisis" centering on such issues as peace, civil rights and human community. \$4.00

_____ **Barpali Brochure** -- pictures illustrate some of the lovely fashions Ron Moose has created from this cloth imported from India. A price list of yard goods, skirt pieces, table cloths, bed spreads, etc. is enclosed with suggestions for use.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the work of New England CNVA. I pledge \$ _____ per month.

My name and address on the reverse are correct.

THOREAU WALK It was the day before the deadline for payment of federal income taxes, and it was Thoreau country, the ideal setting for a protest march against war taxes. On that bright spring day, 30 New Englanders gathered by Walden Pond preparing to trek the 25 miles to Internal Revenue Service offices in Boston. The walkers' leaflets and posters urged that the United States militarily disengage itself from Vietnam and that citizens refuse to willingly support that, or any, war, particularly through levies on their income. This New England CNVA-sponsored anti-war demonstration, though far apart in time, was a 20th century war tax protest reminiscent of the stand which Henry David Thoreau took in the same town in regard to support of the same government, and for similar reasons. This time, rather than protest the extension of slavery, it was protesting the suppression of freedom, rather than protest the expansion of territory, it was protesting the escalation of war and spread of suffering.

These issues were raised by Porter Sargent while walkers and others sat on the green in Concord center. The next day -- tax deadline day -- three tax refusers, Donnell and Elizabeth Boardman, and Joe Shaver, personally confronted IRS District Director, Alvin Kelley. They discussed with him the moral responsibilities of tax payers and of tax collectors, explaining why they and other persons cannot conscientiously pay taxes which go for war or war preparation, and presented statements of several non-payers.

Outside IRS headquarters, walkers picketed and distributed leaflets to passersby and to wide-eyed laundry workers across the street. There were two street speeches made by Dr. Boardman and by Reverend Ira Blalock, but these were not without repeated interruptions. The speakers had to contend with a tuned-up police radio receiver blurring from a motorcycle parked behind them. During the first talk a window in the IRS office was slammed shut by an irate IRS official who did not want his "customers" listening. The talks pointed up the citizen's obligation to make known to his government his feeling about its operations and the way it uses his money, even if it involves civil disobedience. Obedience to conscience is a higher duty than obedience to the laws of the state; or, as Thoreau put it, "It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right."

The Thoreau Walk ended with several hours of vigiling and leafleting at the IRS branch office in downtown Boston. The weather was good, as was the press coverage, and sincere thanks are extended to all persons who helped make the Walk a success.

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OUR WANT LIST People to work on farm improvement -- Carpenters to build the fire escape, remodel the "sauna", etc. Gardening, chopping wood, tearing down unusable buildings, etc. also need to be done.
 Photo Enlarger -- for 35mm or with interchangeable lens.
 Gardening Tools -- tractor, cultivator, and hand tools such as hoe, rake, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: With summer coming on, many of you will have a new address until fall, or permanently. It will be most helpful if you would notify us of the change as soon as you can. If you disappear, the post office sees the RETURN REQUESTED next to your address; this is the magic message that tells them we want the bulletin back with a new address if they have one. The catch is that this service costs 8¢ for each returned bulletin, and another 4¢ to remail it to the new address. We spend \$50-100 a year trying to keep track of our wandering readers.

DIRECT ACTION BULLETIN
 RFD #1, Box 197B
 Voluntown, Conn.
 06384
 #58 May 12, 1965

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 Swarthmore, Pa

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