

In recent weeks government spokesmen have expressed concern over alleged subversion within the ranks of the peace movement. President Johnson, wondering uncautiously how any citizen could "feel toward his country in a way that is not consistent with the national interest," condemned protest as projecting a false image of "American unity and determination" to the Communists in Hanoi and Peiping.

Although the attacks were directed toward the peace movement as a whole, the anti-draft program of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) was singled out as "a blow aimed at the government, both directly and indirectly."

The press gave vivid portraits of "draft dodgers, card burners, and cowards" unconcerned with the lives of their friends dying in Vietnam. But is this an accurate picture of the nation-wide opposition of thousands of young men to the draft? What program does SDS and other groups offer which excites such apprehension?

#### THE SDS IDEA

The SDS idea is simple: democracy works only when people participate in making decisions which affect their lives. The big decisions - like whether our country should involve itself in disastrous military adventures or allocate millions to weapons while domestic priorities are neglected.

The war in Southeast Asia is one of those decisions which drastically affects the lives of millions of ordinary people, yet which one of us ever voted for its continuation? At what level of policy formulation was the war ever opened to full and public debate?

SDS believes that it is at the level of personal confrontation with the process of militarization - the draft - that individual dissent must become vocal.

#### THE DRAFT

The draft has never been popular in this country. It is an authoritarian institution which conscripts the right of the individual to an independent moral decision. Youth are inducted to fight a war which they may neither support nor even understand. The military power of the American government rests not on patriotism from below but on coercion from above. It rests not on cooperation, but acquiescence. Many American men serve in the Armed Forces, not because they desire to, but because they believe they cannot avoid combatant service. Yet they go.

The Selective Service cannot tolerate dissent to the equity of its methods or the morality of its aims.

That is why SDS feels the imperative need to awaken discussion among draft-aged high school and college students about the dubious morality of the Vietnam war, enabling them to decide what course of action best fits their understanding of American democracy when the inevitable call from the Selective Service arrives.

### "BUILD, DON'T BURN"

The issue is not the evasion of service, but the opposition of voluntary participation in programs of construction to forced conscription for the purposes of destruction. This generation has shown its courage and willingness to serve in building democracy in Mississippi and Alabama. Hundreds of students have left school to work on SNCC and SDS community projects in the poorest areas of the North and South, living on subsistence salaries and risking the violence of racism. They share a belief that the "Great Society" must be constructed on a foundation of peace and justice, not wanton violence.

If you disagree with America's perilous policies in Vietnam, if you would rather build than burn--then join with us in protest of the draft and the war machine it represents. Explore the alternative of conscientious objection and creative civilian service. If you feel a responsibility to make democracy a reality, examine the programs of VISTA or the community action projects of SNCC and SDS.

Look at the faces of the victims of poverty and war--then make your decision.

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