

July 31, 1967
box 7662, stanford

Dear Friend,

Please excuse the impersonality of this message (I am too lazy to write 40 handwritten letters). This deals with the events which took place at the Oakland Induction Center on the morning of July 20, 1967, when Peter Ware and I of the Stanford Anti-Draft Union reported for our Armed Forces Physical Examinations.

I reported at 6 AM to the local Board in San Mateo on the 20th dressed in the traditional clothing of the Vietnamese peasant (black pajamas and conical straw hat). I wore 2 placards around my neck; one read, "Support Viet Cong" the other, "Hell No, I Won't Go". I carried literature for distribution, including about 25 copies of "Uptight With the Draft?" by the War Resisters League.

When I reported to the entrance of the Oakland Induction Center (with my orders to report in hand) I was refused entry by the military officers present (led by Officer Wallace). I was told to leave; after a couple of minutes of arguing, I was pushed outside by the officers present. 2 more times I attempted entry, but each time I was told that I could not bring my literature inside the Induction Center. The officers never once examined the literature in my possession. Present during these events were the following officers: Military Officers Wallace, Soyo, and Hornberger; Post Patrol Officer No. 98; and City of Oakland Police Officers Nos. 492 and 755.

I requested a written note from an Officer present stating that I had reported to the Induction Center as per my orders from the Selective Service System; this request was ignored. I was also threatened with arrest, but each time they merely pushed me out the door.

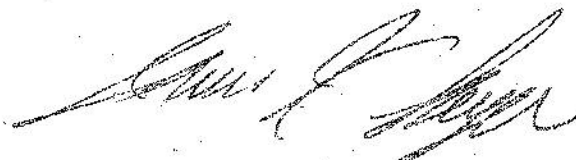
The following statement was posted at the entrance of the Oakland Induction Center: "FACILITY POLICIES. This is not a 'public' facility. Entrance to this station is on an official business basis. These policies prohibit: (1) carrying placards of any description, (2) distribution of seditious pamphlets, leaflets, or other such literature, (3) displaying pictures or posters, either carried or attached to the person, (4) loud, abusive or seditious speech, (5) any conduct which interferes with the normal conduct of official business. Commanding Officer, AFMES."

In a letter to my local Board in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I noted all events above (with the exception of a description of my clothing and placards, because they seemed to have no direct bearing on my being barred entry to the Induction Center); I also included a long list of witnesses to my being denied entry to the Center that morning (39 of you!).

This letter represents part of an attempt to build up a solid position (based on the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution) in case I should face criminal prosecution for my acts of July 20, 1967.

Thank you for showing support for Peter + I and the others who "won't go".

Yours for Peace + Freedom,



James K. Sayra

P.S. If you want to understand the National Liberation Front better, read VIETNAM-INSIDE STORY OF THE GUERRILLA WAR by WILFRED G. BURCHETT.