San Francisco, Calif. OCTOBER 16, 1967 10:00 am

THE RESISTANCE ---- NATIONAL STATEMENT

Today, October 16, 1967, we of The Resistance are publically and collectively returning our draft cards to the Federal Government. Similar actions are now taking place in Los Angeles, Portland(Oregon), St. Louis, Denver, Kansas City, Chicago, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids (Iowa), St. Paul (Minnesota), Boston, Washington D. C., New York, Philadelphia, Yellow Springs (Ohio), Champaign-Urbana (Illinois), Bloomington (Indiana), Puerto Rico, as well as in other towns across the nation, and abroad in London, England. Together, we are declaring our absolute refusal to cooperate in any way with the Selective Service because it is an integral part of a system that pursues a brutal war in Southeast Asia, that actively opposes attempts at social revolution in the underdeveloped world, that exploits the black people of America, that maintains institutions over which ordinary citizens exercise virtually no control.

To poor people at home and abroad, America has come to mean exploitation and misery. This reality demands a response with the totality of our lives. It demands this response now. We must begin to organize and pose an alternative to domestic squalor and foreign repression. To begin this task we will return to our campuses and communities.

On December 4, 1967, in a second nation-wide Resistance action, new groups of men will return their draft cards. Between now and December 4, we will harass and obstruct the Selective Service System with any means at our disposal, in order to break down the effectiveness of their "recruiting" and increase our own.

The draft is only one aspect of the system we oppose. We have chosen the draft as our focus of resistance now because it is an institution which oppresses all young men. Under the threat of prison, some of us are channelled (to use the official phrase) by use of deferments. Our energies are diverted from the struggles we need to take up. Others are ordered to fight and die in a war that violates the dictates of political wisdom, common humanity, and simple sanity.

Having taken up this struggle, we join with other Americans and men around the world who, with their lives, intend to build a genuine democratic community. The realities of American life now demand that we move from dissent to resistance.

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