

On April 3, The Resistance will grow. Young men across the country will return their draft cards to the government, expressing their refusal to support the American military --- not with words of peace and cries of anger, but with their lives. They know that they could protest and demonstrate against the war and imperialism, for the blacks and the poor whites, but they know that their protests would be ignored. For the government, while not requiring silence, demands that dissent remain inactive. It demands that our opposition to the war must not develop into action which obstructs the progress of the war. The Vietnamese peasants who act in opposition to American war efforts face death. We face only a few years in prison. We must act honestly now to end our collaboration with the war, or tomorrow both our country and the world will reap the bitter fruits of American policies.

If we are honest with ourselves we will admit that none of us wish to carry draft cards. But we carry them anyway. We carry them out of fear. We carry them because we have been told that it would be "politically ineffective" to return them; we are trapped in our own rhetoric. Somehow we think that we can end a war fought by the most powerful military establishment in history, without some sacrifice. For some reason we seem to believe that peace will come even while we acquiesce and grant the tools of war legitimacy in our own lives. We seem to think that freedom can come easily and that we must avoid prison terms which will remove us from the struggle. Such thinking is possible only for those who believe that this war is just a tragic mistake which will end, to be followed by peace abroad and at home.

thus control us. We must begin to practice the values of truth and honesty which we proclaim, and reject in fact the values that we condemn in words. In the face of a disintegrating nation, we must begin to build the spirit of community, to teach, to make 'peace' a meaningful word.

We ask you to take hold of your own life. The dead and the living of Vietnam are calling on you. Our dead American brothers can speak no more, and those who continue fighting will die while we decry the war but continue to pursue our studies. Those men who have gone to prison for draft refusal are asking that you join them in the struggle. Those of us who no longer have draft cards want you with us. The time grows short and the demands are great.

Will you join us?

The Resistance: On October 16th and December 4th over 85 men from the Chicago area severed their ties with the Selective Service System. They joined more than 1500 others in this nation-wide action. Most of these men handed in their cards. Others handed in statements of noncooperation (having already burned their draft cards prior to the 4th or 16th) or made public their refusal to register. Most of the Chicago resisters work full or part time with CADRE.

For further information contact CADRE (Chicago Area Draft Resisters), 333 W. North Ave.,

Chicago, Illinois 60610 Area code 312, 664-6895