

15 October 1969

Dear Watkins-Johnson Employee:

As you may already know, today is the first day of the National Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam. Millions of people across the country are stopping their usual business to talk and work together to bring American troops home from southeast Asia.

It's easy to realize what the war has done directly to this country in terms of American lives lost, billions of dollars wasted on war material, and increases in taxes and inflation. What's tougher is to think about what preoccupation with this war has meant in terms of opportunities wasted. We have not really been able to put our constructive talents to work on achieving social justice for all Americans, on cleaning up our polluted water and air, on rebuilding our cities, and on providing all Americans with enough food and decent places to live.

These problems come right home to Santa Clara county. People who do not draw professional salaries now find it almost impossible to live in the northern part of the county. As they are forced to move further from their jobs, they have to drive more to get to work, increasing traffic problems and thus increasing air pollution.

The Bank of America recently declared that about 60% of the people employed in manufacturing in Santa Clara County work for the aerospace and electronics industries. Our community is very efficient in turning out the products needed to continue the war, but we can't get ourselves together to start a good mass transportation system for the county.

But worse than these physical problems is what the war is doing to our heads. We are channeled and pushed and molded to work for war. Our talents are being put to work for destruction. Where will the YIG filter or travelling-wave tube you built yesterday be used tomorrow? In a military satellite? In a Lockheed spy plane? Over the last 4 years more than 70% of W-J's sales have been to the U.S. government, primarily to the military. We must begin to examine and change the uses to which our talents are put. And today is the day to start.

---Wear an armband today. They say "Stop the Killing" and are available at 424 Lytton Avenue in Palo Alto.

---Talk with your fellow workers today. Talk about what the war has done to you, to them, and to your neighbors. Take the afternoon and begin to talk the problems and possible solutions through.

---Gather at noon at Lytton and Bryant Streets in Palo Alto and march in the parade against the war.

---Attend the rally at Stanford in front of Memorial Church tonight at 8:00.

OCTOBER 15: NO BUSINESS AS USUAL UNTIL THE TROOPS COME HOME.

Sincerely,
Stanford SDS