



**"The first step in the procurement
of military manpower is registration."***

"...it shall be the duty of every male citizen of the United States...who shall have attained the eighteenth anniversary of the day of his birth... to present himself for and submit to registration under the provisions of Section Three of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967."

your eighteenth birthday is an important time.

it's a time when you have a choice.

you can choose to celebrate life

or you can celebrate death.

"celebrate death?"

"why?"

yes, why...when at eighteen there is so much of life to celebrate, when things seem just to be beginning. why then think about death, why think about killing, why think about war?

the selective service system assumes that you won't think about these things and that you'll register for the draft without considering these questions of life and death.

we are asking that you, please, think about these things.

think about

whether you wish to spend two years of your life in the army;

whether you would prefer to take a year or two off before continuing your education to travel around, to explore, to think about things;

whether you think it's fair for the guys who can't afford to go on to college or choose not to to be the first ones to go off to be killed;

whether you think american guys should be fighting in vietnam;

whether you think war is any way to settle disputes;

whether you wish to be trained as a killer;

whether you really think you could kill;

whether you want to use your own life to destroy or to help build a community of peace, brotherhood and joy.

these are heavy things to think about, especially now, but they are really very important for when you register for the draft

you are saying, "sure i think it's ok to kill. sure i think it's ok to be fighting in vietnam. sure i think it's ok for the poorer kids to be called and killed first. sure i think it's ok for me to be using my life for war."

are you really sure that you want to say these things?
if you're not then we ask that you think about the possibility of
refusing to register for the draft.
we ask that you think about the possibility of joining the
growing community of young men in the resistance who in saying
"no" to the draft are saying "yes" to change, to life.
by our non-cooperation with the draft and with our lives we are
attempting to affirm our brotherhood, attempting to discover
new ways of learning, new ways of living with one another,
attempting to create a community of gentleness and love.
come help us create this community.
before your eighteenth birthday learn about the draft.
think hard about non-registration.
why use a birthday of your own to celebrate death?
you could right now begin a life long celebration of life.
please, think about the choice.
and perhaps

Join us...

General Lewis Hershey
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Hershey:

On April 3, 1968 I stood with my brothers to acknowledge my non-cooperation with your Selective Service System. I sent you a short note telling you of my decision not to register. I'm writing you now to elaborate on it.

The reason I will not cooperate with you is because I believe that I have a different feeling for mankind than you. I believe that all men are equal and have the right to lead their own lives. We, as Americans, have no right to meddle in the affairs of foreign countries, although I do realize that to remain as the richest and most powerful nation on earth requires the exploitation of other people. This is where you and I probably differ most, for I feel that it is too late in time for there to be a most powerful nation. Futhermore, the only people who benefit from this exploitation are the rich and the upper middle class while the poor remain poor and are used in your "conflicts."

You use such terms as "national defense" to excuse your actions..."defense"...against what? I have not heard of any acts of aggression against the people of the United States.

The revolutionary movements around the world are not out to harm my way of life. There sole purpose is to bring a better life to their people.

I refuse to help you fight these people. They are not out to control me, as you are with your Selective Service System.

It is a sorry thing that people do not see this, but rather go on believing that if they do not serve in the military "communists" will soon be climbing through their backyards or killing innocent people in foreign countries. Others do not want to be inducted, but feel that they must submit to it because they are ordered to do so.

You offer the alternative classification of Conscientious Objector for the person who will not go in because of beliefs

like mine. For the unaccepted C.O. the alternatives that exist include flunking your physical examination or leaving the country. These alternatives stand between me and freedom for in getting a C.O. or 4F deferment I might be out of the fire, but I would have done nothing to extinguish it so others wouldn't be burned.

With this in mind, I decided not to help perpetuate the Selective Service System by joining it. For my non-cooperation I realize that I might be put in jail, but it is better to have my body imprisoned with a free mind than to have an imprisoned mind and body.

In Peace and Freedom,
Andrew Detsch
Portola Valley, California
Pacific High School

I want to be left alone. I'm tired of being threatened and just want to live in peace. Jail might be the only peaceful place around. I remember when we used to play Monopoly and somebody got all the houses and hotels and was sucking money out of me that the best place to be was in jail. Otherwise, I'd lose the game.

I want to explain my reasons for refusing to cooperate with the Selective Service System.

The Selective Service System demands service from every man for at least two years of his life. It calls this service "in the national interest." The main purpose of the System is to raise fighting men and to control the activities of men in the United States. The Poor are inducted, and students and the Rich are forced to go to school or be inducted as well. The Selective Service System has good reason for not inducting students and the Rich, for students are needed to build better weapons and to keep the war economy going. The Poor are offered jobs in the army, and almost cannot afford to resist. They are threatened with economic destruction. The only way anyone can escape direct control is to resist by going to jail.

I would rather go to jail than to Canada because I want to be able to travel freely after my release. If I had decided to go to Canada I possibly would not have been able to return to

the United States or any country with a draft for the rest of my life. Permanent self-exile is much worse than temporary imprisonment.

I feel conscription is an evil even when not connected with war. It seems though, that not only is conscription connected with war, but that wars are made so easy with an available peacetime draft that that very draft itself is instrumental in causing war. Generals repeatedly warn against a volunteer army because they know that only a few would volunteer for a war involving no attack on the United States. We are being used as human chessmen in their insane game of war.

The Conscientious Objection deferment is as much a part of their game as anything else. Obviously, men opposed to war would just disturb the military if "allowed" to join. Therefore, the military reaches an agreement with the objector that neither will cause the other trouble. Why is it that people have been reclassified for just attending peace marches? It is because they spoke out and gave the military trouble. The draft has consistently been used as punishment.

"Draft Chief Hershey, asked if a declaration of war would ease his task of inducting youths, says: "We get along very nicely conducting war without it; we don't even have to have enemies-we kill our friends."--Wall Street Journal, 3/15/68

To quote from John Wells, who is now in an army stockade for refusing to wear his uniform or further cooperate with the army: "...it is not the case that I desire to corner you, so that you have no choice but to punish me. If I were in that position to make requests I would only ask one thing of the army: that I be left alone. My principal purpose in life is not to make your life difficult; my fondest wish is to be left alone in peace so that I may enjoy my life, complete my studies and become a teacher...To the principles and resolutions set down here, I now pledge my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor."

A lady named Mrs. Head has worked at my draft board for twenty years. I went in before my eighteenth birthday and she told me to come back when I was eighteen. I didn't and I FEEL GOOD.

Jeffrey Mertens
Berkeley, California
Berkeley High School

i sing of Olaf glad and big
whose warmest heart recoiled at war:
a conscientious object-or

his wellbeloved colonel (trig
westpointer most succinctly bred)
took erring Olaf soon in hand;
but-though an host of overjoyed
noncoms (first knocking on the head
him) do through icy waters roll
that helplessness which others stroke
with brushes recently employed
anent this muddy toiletbowl,
while kindred intellects evoke
allegiance per blunt instruments-
Olaf (being to all intents
a corpse and wanting any rag
upon what God unto him gave)
responds, without getting annoyed
"I will not kiss your fucking flag."

straightway the silver bird looked grave
(departing hurriedly to shave)

but-though all kinds of officers
(a yearning nation's blueeyed pride)
their passive prey did kick and curse
until for wear their clarion
voices and boots were much the worse,
and egged the firstclassprivates on
his rectum wickedly to tease
by means of skillfully applied
bayonets roasted hot with heat-
Olaf (upon what were once knees)
does almost ceaselessly repeat
"there is some shit I will not eat"

our president, being of which
assertions duly notified
threw the yellowsonofabitch
into a dungeon, where he died

Christ (of His mercy infinite)
i pray to see; and Olaf, too
preponderatingly because
unless statistics lie he was
more brave than me: more blond than you.

Seventh of May, A.D. 1968

To The Eight Human Beings Calling Themselves Local Board 62
And Any Others It May Concern, Within Or Without The System:

God Bless:

Some weeks ago I wrote to Lyndon Johnson informing him that I had not registered for the draft. I gave him reasons for my inaction, and asked him to resign. Ten days later he announced he would not run again. With hopes that you will join us in similar courses of action I write to you now and ask that you stop sending men off to die and to kill. You don't have to do it. Then, you will be happy as I am happy...doing the right thing, inspiring not inducting.

You do not understand that you are doing evil because thousands of young men cooperate with you. They are afraid of the army and of jail and do not wish to offend you.

I know that I could never serve in the army. If my heart lacked the love, my mind would be too healthy to tolerate it. I am not afraid of jail for I have realized that the important thing is to use time beautifully regardless of where. You and your cooperators do not realize this for you spend your time foolishly playing fear games that you would rather not play, and that you do not have to play.

You believe in threatening, jailing, and killing your enemies, foreign or domestic so that they will not threaten, jail, or kill you. Give up this belief. Men are happiest when they are nice to one another. I am not your enemy, I do not wish to threaten, jail, or kill you. I'm trying to live my own life. I do not object to spending two years serving my country. I hope to spend my entire life serving it. I do object to cooperating with you, just as I would object to cooperating with any enslavers and murderers.

I want to change your hearts; I want to change your heads. I will go to jail if that is what it takes. I would like you to think about this: if the only place Local Board 62 can find to put an Honor Roll student who is following his conscience is in jail than something is wrong. If Local Board 62 sends unwilling human beings to kill other human beings unwilling to be killed

then Local Board 62 is a nightmare. You are men. I want you to wake up now.

I will give you no information that will help you register or classify me. I have no time for that. There are too many receptive young people I must speak with, and many beautiful things to enjoy before I go to jail, but I do have a gift for you, something given me by the example of many others- courage. I hereby encourage you to break the Universal Military Training Act as many times as you can.

TAKE COURAGE AND GIVE IT TO OTHERS

I get depressed, and I wish I didn't have to go, but I always carry around a crucifix to remind me how the universe is built. It's very impressive.

Yours Truly,
Jonathan Christian Bell
Los Altos Hills, California
Los Altos High School

There are from time to time mornings when the world seems to begin anew, when there are visible the effects as of a certain creative energy. ...The world has visibly been recreated in the night. Mornings of creation, I call them. In the midst of these marks of a creative energy while the sun is rising with more than usual splendor, I look back...for the era of this creation, not into the night, but to a dawn for which no man ever rose early enough. A morning which carries us back beyond the Mosaic creation, where crystallizations are fresh and unmelted. It is the poet's hour. Mornings when men are new born, men who have the seeds of life in them.

Henry David Thoreau

For lack of another acceptable draft alternative I was forced to refuse registration with the Selective Service System on my eighteenth birthday, January twelfth, 1967. As I stood on the brink of the "adult world" I was determined to make this first decision one of purpose and meaning. I was haseled by the threat of being forced by cooperation with the draft to support the United States military system, as is each young man in America, a system of mass legalized murder and oppression oblivious to world brotherhood and understanding. I considered all the other draft alternatives from Conscientious Objector to fleeing to Canada, but ultimately I was left with no other honest, productive position other than that of resistance.

When I first became involved in the peace movement two years before, I had naturally accepted the Conscientious Objector position. C.O. seemed consistent with my personal beliefs, and the practical path amidst the confusion at home and abroad. I was distantly aware of those non-cooperators going to jail, but I couldn't understand where they were at. "Probably they're sick, or masochistic, maybe even insane." But, the two intervening years, the Vietnam War and a look into the Selective Service System changed my mind. I learned that the C.O. classification is used like a safety valve to silence possible opposition to the draft and government policies. Though made in good faith, what accomplishments the CO makes through alternative service work are miniscule considering that the basic problems of the Establishment which are originally responsible for that poverty or poor education, for instance, are ignored. Greed continues to guide our country's policies while the general population remains misinformed and self-centered.

To resist injustice and murder in America today, to non-cooperate with the draft carries the penalty of prison. As witness to these convictions I am now willing to accept the consequences. Those first thoughts of prison frightened me something fierce. Do we ever comprehend that other side of life when we are swept up right in the middle of living? For me that's what a great deal of life was all about. To be alive meant to be free. The act of conscription by the Selective Service System denies each young man in America the freedom of choice. It continues to persist today by its manipulative use of fear. The draft forces us either into the service, with the rationalization that it's in the defense of the country, into staying in school for a deferment, or into dodging the draft.

On a global scale the United States military attempts to deny the less affluent people of their right to self-determination, as in Vietnam.

I did not enjoy becoming eighteen. I felt pressured by the urgency of time and the weight of the consequences of non-cooperation. I was plagued with self-doubts; doubts as to my judgment of the draft and the war, doubts as to the effectiveness of going to jail. Family and friends who disagreed with my breaking the law questioned my inner motivations. Only later on did I realize that this reaction was only natural. I had lived in a culture, all my life, which attempted to channel me into acceptance of the status quo, not into resistance.

When I was arrested for non-registration the federal government offered me the chance to reconsider, "enthusiastically" suggested many "outs" and finally promised me a CO classification if I registered. But since my eighteenth birthday I have found an increasing feeling of peace within myself. I did make the right decision for me. The self-doubts which I knew have resolved themselves. I revel in the beauty and mystery of human life and wonder how I could have once accepted the idea of conscription. I am impressed by the new clarity and inner strength that we as individuals in the Resistance have found simply by taking the responsibility for our own lives. Our struggle has created a consciousness among our families and within our communities that otherwise would not have existed. I have been blessed with many new beautiful friends. I am thankful that I did take the chance, that I followed my intuition to refuse registration. Though prison looms in my future I have never carried a draft card; my soul will always be free.

Join me, if you can. I am neither sick, nor masochistic nor insane. Well, rather insanely in love with life, with now blooming spring, with laughing eyes and little children; all those things which unite us all together in brotherhood. Come. It is by far the finest thing we can do with our lives.

Christopher Jones
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