

## --NEWSLETTER #1--

This Newsletter is the first in a series for the more than 500 officers and men who signed the statement "Reservists and National Guardsmen Say 'No' to the War." The response to the petition campaign has been tremendously encouraging. We are in touch with sympathetic Congressmen and veterans' groups. The Reservists Committee to Stop the War clearly has an important job to do in the peace movement.

It is too late in the day for any of us to need speeches or atrocity photos to persuade us the war and American imperialism must stop. Most of us joined the Reserves or the Guard because we weren't gung-ho in the first place. The question is, what can we do now. Specifically, how can we use our positions as Reservists or Guardsmen to fight--legally but effectively--the powerful American military machine we all know from the inside. The Reservists Committee to Stop the War should be a clearinghouse for this kind of information. There are some ideas for action in this newsletter; if you have more, please write.

The Petition Campaign can help persuade the American public forcefully that we Reservists and Guardsmen are not part of the Nixon-Agnew "silent majority"--and are not potential willing cannon fodder. We've got a lot of names; we need more. (Since everyone who signs will be put on the subscription list for this newsletter, new signatures help to build the organization too.) Of the men we've sent the petition to so far, a considerable percentage have signed. Please send us more names and addresses of Reservists and Guardsmen we can send it to. A list, or just one name. People you know or people you don't. Anybody who's in the Reserves or Guard. Or let us know if you'd like more petitions to distribute yourself. Use the enclosed envelope.

For Anyone Interested in Getting a Discharge--medical, C.O., psychiatric, occupational, hardship, or whatever--we have available on request a lengthy memorandum of information prepared by Steve Gompertz, a well-known California draft counselor who is one of the few specialists in the country on helping guys get discharges from the Reserves or the Guard. The memo should be used in conjunction with an experienced draft counselor or military lawyer in your community; we can supply names. There is a surprising variety of things that can sometimes get you a discharge (or a transfer to a control



---Newsletter #2---

The New York mail strike in late March was the first time American soldiers have been used as strikebreakers in over fifty years. You may have seen the Reservists Committee's statement on this (see clipping at right). A number of our members from the New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division were called up; we hope they used their post office sojourn to redirect draft notices to some over-30's types and to send President Nixon a few tons of the junk mail he wants to subsidize.

More seriously, many things did happen in New York that should be of interest to Reservists and Guardsmen everywhere. Most significant was the fact that a lot of guys simply didn't show up. The New York Times reported "considerable absenteeism" on the first day of the call-up. The 42nd Division instead gave out a confusing barrage of statistics that claimed no AWOL's "as such." What apparently did happen was that many Guardsmen just didn't answer their phones as soon as they heard their units were to be called. And then when they finally wandered in a day or two later: "No answer? Why sir, I was out of town on a business trip."

The men who did show up sorted mail with the same level of enthusiasm you take to an average Reserve drill. "Many played the old Army game of goldbricking and, seizing empty mail sacks, disappeared for the day," said Time. "Still others, working in post offices and resentful of the disruption in their lives, deliberately threw letters into wrong pigeonholes and switched labels on boxes of outgoing mail." The National Guard general in charge admitted to a Times reporter that he was worried about the morale of his troops: "The longer we are here, the lower the motivation." If they're smart enough to read the papers, the men who run the Pentagon may realize they'll have increased "motivational" problems with Reservists and Guardsmen called to fight any home-front wars in the future.

The Reservists Committee posters mentioned in the last newsletter are ready, and they look good. They are small, well printed and eye-catching. (You know how quickly your eye goes to any headline with the word "Reserve" or "Guard" in it.) Each poster has 35 tear-off reply postcards. If each of you puts up half a dozen copies on the bulletin boards of the college campus nearest you, we can easily triple or quadruple our membership in a few weeks---and be that much

## Protest on Using GIs in Mail Strike

The "Reservists Committee to Stop the War" — a Berkeley-based group claiming more than 450 members from the National Guard and the Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force reserves — protested yesterday against the use of troops in New York's strike-bound post offices.

"Strikes and walkouts are time-honored means by which American labor has traditionally expressed its grievances," a committee statement declared. "Joining the Army should not mean signing up to be a professional strike-breaker."

"It is ironic the President has used troops to quell this strike, since the galloping inflation that caused it stems directly from the Vietnam war. With 500,000 men fighting a costly and useless war half-way around the world, it's no surprise this country can't afford to pay its mailmen a decent wage."



# Redline



a newsletter for  
anti-war Reservists and  
National Guardsmen

Published by Reservists Committee to Stop the War, P. O. Box 4398, Berkeley, Calif. 94704

--NEWSLETTER #4--

Our new title will be all too familiar to most Army Reservists. A word of explanation for anyone in other services that don't use the term: in the Army the unit brass "redlines" you (crosses your name off the sign-in roster, in red ink) if you miss a meeting or do something subversive, such as having sideburns a millimeter too long. Though the Reservists Committee does not advocate people skipping drills, most of us are decidedly absent in spirit already, so we figured it was an appropriate title.

An important demonstration we played a part in was held at the end of June against the annual convention of the Reserve Officers Association in Philadelphia. As everyone should know, the ROA is the powerful superhawk lobby which each year keeps Congress spending its useless billions on the Reserves. (Coast Guardsmen felt ROA's lobbying power recently: it was ROA's influence in Congress which defeated the plan to abolish the Coast Guard Reserve.)

There have been many anti-war demonstrations in the last decade, and plenty of bigger ones. But Reservists haven't taken to the streets much before now. This was the first time in its long history that ROA has been leafleted and picketed. It's a start. Reservists Committee members took part, along with the Philadelphia Resistance, Veterans for Peace, and a local guerrilla theater group.

The keynote speaker at the ROA convention was Senator Stennis, who gave a remarkably frank summary of why we are all in uniform: "Our business interests and our investments are world-wide. Our essential raw materials are gathered from around the world. I think that we must have, and that we shall have, a formidable military striking power...."

With speechmakers like that, we need no radical pamphleteers.

ROA's sister organization, the National Guard Association, is having its convention in New York in mid-September. Guard brass from all over the country will be assembling to pass resolutions asking for more troops, more money, and a tougher line against people like us. We will be there to greet them. Anyone interested in working on that demonstration, please write.

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---Newsletter #5---

## Area Army Reservists Donate Pay To Back Peace Candidate Royal Hart

By Herbert Denton

Washington Post Staff Writer

Nearly one-third of the enlisted men of an Army Reserve unit plan to give \$1,200 of their military pay to Democrat Royal Hart's campaign to unseat Republican Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan in the Maryland Fifth District congressional race.

The reservists, some of whom live in Washington and the Virginia suburbs and cannot vote for Hart, said they decided on the action because of the candidate's forthright opposition to the war in Vietnam.

The part-time soldiers all serve in the 354th Civil Affairs Unit, which meets at the Riverdale Armory in Prince George's County. They are in their 20's and early 30's. Several are lawyers for government agencies, others are students.

They plan to give Hart the money at a press conference Wednesday in front of the Grant Memorial near the Capitol.

For some time the 23 men

have formed a "strong, active antiwar group" within the military unit, according to George C. Bradley, a spokesman for the group, and have voiced their opposition to the war at monthly reserve meetings.

They often meet each other for lunch between monthly reserve meetings and when they got together recently decided to turn over the pay checks they received for the last three months of military duty to a local "peace candidate" for Congress, Bradley said.

They were aware of the irony in this and that was part of their intention, he said in response to a question.

One of the group turned over his entire paycheck of \$175, the largest contribution, Bradley said. But most turned over about \$80-\$100. The smallest contribution was \$2.

Most of the group learned about Hart's campaign after they decided to support a local candidate. They spotted his name among a listing of "peace candidates" published in the New Republic magazine.

They phoned Hart last week, bought sandwiches and went to Washington's Franklin Park for lunch where they talked about the war with the candidate and were "very impressed."

The group's military commander has not been informed of their action, Bradley said.

Their antiwar sentiment frequently has provoked heated debate with officers during the reserve meetings.

"Generally the generation gap is very much in evidence," said Bradley who noted that most of the officers in the unit are in their 40s or older.

Bradley, a lawyer for a government agency that he declined to name, said he did not feel that the group's planned donation to Hart's campaign would create problems.

"I would guess not, but that is only a guess," he said.

He and other lawyers in the group have combed through Army regulations and do not feel that this is prohibited by them. He said the men are not claiming to represent the Civil Affairs Unit in their action.

Bradley said that in the beginning the group thought it could only raise about \$800 or \$1,000, but when they started calling members of the reserve unit they found many more than expected who were willing.

Hart said yesterday that he was pleased with the reservists' support.

He made clear to a reporter that he was not a "one-issue candidate," feeling an end to the Vietnam fighting was only the first step in "reordering national priorities."

He said he felt the support of the weekend soldiers was "a kind of startling development."

## Reservists Give Anti-War Aid To Candidates

BOSTON (AP) — A group of 40 Boston area Army reservists have begun donating part of their summer training pay to congressional candidates and organizations working to end the war.

Christopher Burns of Cambridge, a spokesman for the group, said Tuesday the 40 have donated a total of \$425 so far.

Burns said each recipient of a donation received a letter saying the group is "opposed to continued U.S. military intervention in Indochina," but adding they did not "claim to speak for our unit."

Washington Post 6/23/70

Atlanta Constitution 7/29/70



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---Newsletter #8---

A Time of Crisis. The war is spreading faster than ever. Recent months have seen the heaviest bombings in the history of warfare, the invasion of Laos, the Vietnamization fraud, new revelations of torture and massacre by American troops, a duplicitious President trumping up the P.O.W. issue. The next few months will see new territories invaded, new weapons used, new lies to justify it all. We must act.

There are ideas for action in this Redline, as in previous issues. No one needs to tell you the urgency of working against the war in every way possible. This is also a time to be sure we are acting effectively. In this issue are some comments from readers about Redline and the Reservists Committee. If you have more ideas---especially about specific anti-war actions Reservists and Guardsmen can do---please write. If not, there are plenty of suggestions here now; please act.

Sweet Words; More Guns. From reading the newspapers, you get the impression the U. S. military is turning into one big encounter group. Gripe sessions with commanders. Beer in the barracks. On-base coffee-houses. Peace posters everywhere. A "new look" designed to keep men fighting an unpopular war.

As our protests grow, we'll get the same kind of stuff in the Reserves. Relaxed hair rules are the first sign. There'll be plenty more---changes to make the Reserves and Guard look different while it keeps on doing the same thing. Don't get taken in by all this. People can already have beards in the Navy---it doesn't stop them loading bombs. Army soldiers in Vietnam can wear peace medallions on duty---and into battle.

Sideburns or not, Nixon and Laird apparently are serious about their announced plans to call up the Reserves and Guard for the next Vietnam instead of draftees. A few signs of the preparations:

- \* "The contemplated budget increase for the Reserves and for the National Guard could total a quarter billion dollars or more," said a recent Associated Press story, "The Administration's plan to field a relatively small and compact all-volunteer force by mid-1973 is based in large part on a combat-usable Ready Reserve which includes the National Guard."



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Newsletter #9

We won! Our victorious lawsuit to get Congressmen barred from the Reserves was an important legal triumph for the G.I. Movement. This decision will affect 117 Senators and Congressmen, many of them hawks, such as major generals Barry Goldwater and Strom Thurmond. There is no doubt this will weaken the extraordinary political power of the Reserve lobby.

On the Constitutional issue, the judge ruled clearly in our favor. We **assume** the Defense Department will appeal the decision. If the appeal court upholds the verdict, and the Congressmen don't swiftly resign from the military voluntarily, we will then ask for an injunction to force them out. And we should be in an excellent position to get one.

Most G.I.'s — and most Americans — who seek justice in court are not so lucky. But sometimes there is a vulnerable link in the Establishment's legal armor, and we managed to find such a spot. The courts are one battlefield only; there are many, many more.

Lawyers and law students: we still have a few copies left of our brief for the case. Write us if you want one. The argument is an interesting one historically, since ultimately it rests on the day in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention spent several hours arguing whether military officers should be able to sit in Congress. They decided no, and we have finally gotten their intentions enforced.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1971

## Judge Rules Congressmen Can't Be in Reserves

WASHINGTON, April 2 (UPI) — A Federal judge ruled today that it is unconstitutional for members of Congress to hold commissions in military reserve units.

United States District Court Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, however, refused to issue an injunction ordering Senators and Representatives to resign their positions.

He said he expected the ruling to be appealed to higher courts and that there was no urgent necessity for such an order.

Judge Gesell said that 117 Senators and Representatives hold commissions in Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps Reserves.

His decision came in a suit against Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird brought by a group called the Reservists Committee to Stop the War.

### 'Civil Office' Barred

Judge Gesell said he based his decision on Article 1, Section 6, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which says:

"No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office."

The ruling today held that a commission in the military reserves fell within the area of a civil office of the United States.

Judge Gesell noted that "the meaning and effect of this constitutional provision have never before been determined by a court."

Judge Gesell said in a footnote to his ruling that reserve officers were "disproportionately represented on the committees concerned with military affairs" in the last Congress. He gave no breakdown in the present Congress.

In the 91st Congress, he said, "reserve officers constituted more than half the membership of the Senate Armed Services Committee, one-third of the House Armed Services Committee, and two-thirds of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Compensation and Pensions."

"Given the enormous involvement of Congress in matters affecting the military, the potential conflict between an office in the military and an office in Congress is not inconsequential," Judge Gesell said.

### 1789 Convention Cited

The judge held that a commission in the Reserves amounted to "an office" and quoted from proceedings of the Constitutional Convention in 1789 and the Federalist Papers to support his conclusion.

the antiwar group, which has headquarters in Berkeley, Calif., said Judge Gesell's ruling "really opens the way to the cutting of one small but significant link in the military-industrial-Congressional establishment."

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Michigan Democrat who is the sponsor of a bill to prohibit members of Congress from holding reserve commissions, said he was "delighted" by Judge Gesell's ruling. "There is no justification for maintaining any status which entitles one to pay or retirement credits," he said.



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— Newsletter #12; November — December 1971 —

## "What Can I Do?"

A lot of members write us: "If you ever need any help in Des Moines...in Alaska...in the advertising industry...just let me know." There is something you can do, wherever you are: Start a group of anti-war Reservists and Guardsmen in your city or your unit. We don't care whether you call yourselves the Kalamazoo Chapter of the Reservists Committee or Acquarians for Good Karma; the point is to make trouble for the military.

## "Is it legal?"

Yes. There are no laws or regulations against soldiers' unions. Several Reservists Committee members are experienced military lawyers: all things we directly advocate in Redline are 100% legal. And you can use common sense: obviously it is not legal to urge people to disobey orders, for example. But there are an amazing number of things you can do (see next page) which give the brass no excuse to harass you whatsoever.

## "How do I start?"

It's easier to get a Reservist to go on a peace march in Seattle if he knows a group of Guardsmen just demonstrated in Miami. That's why we publish Redline. Circulate our membership statement (write us if you need a copy) among members of your unit: Everyone who signs will go on Redline's mailing list. We'll also send them, over the following month, all back issues still in print. Wait till people are getting these, then try your organizing. If you don't like circulating petitions, send us names and addresses and we'll mail people the stuff directly. (If you send a list of everyone in your unit, please mark which men will be most receptive---or at least cross off those you know won't be. Postage costs money.)

## "What next?"

Anything you like. A good start might be a meeting---perhaps after a drill or on a lunch break---of interested unit members. Maybe people will like some of the plans in the past issues of Redline---or have better ones of their own. Maybe there's something particularly outrageous about your unit that calls for a special protest. Whatever you decide, write us. That's how we get the news printed here.



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Published by Reservists Committee to Stop the War

- Newsletter #14; April 1972 -

## Important Notice:

Beginning next issue, our brother-organization in Boston, formerly Reservists Against the War, is taking over the publication of Redline and most of the work of the Reservists Committee. The reason why is that those of us in California who began putting out Redline two years ago have now been out of the military for some time. We felt the newsletter and the organization should be run by people who are either in the Reserves or in day-to-day contact with Reservists and Guardsmen. Anybody fills that bill better than our brothers in Boston, who work full time counseling Reservists and Guardsmen about discharges and other problems. And far more important -- as you know if you've read recent Redlines -- they've sparked the most extensive and imaginative series of anti-war actions by Reservists anywhere in the United States. A collective of Reservists, Guardsmen, and military organizers will continue to publish Redline, provide new counseling services for Reservists, and work to end the war, the Reserves, and the Guard.

So Redline may look a little different next time, and it'll be coming to you from Boston instead of Berkeley. But its commitment to stopping the slaughter in Asia and abolishing the Reserves and Guard at home will remain. If you've got ideas about what you want in future issues (more news of the active duty G.I. Movement? the air war? other things?), or about things you think a national organization of Guardsmen and Reservists should do, write the new editors. Also, in its new home Redline is going to depend on you as much as ever for:

1. News, photos, newspaper clippings about resistance in the Reserves and Guard. Almost every news item you read here is based on information a Reservist like you has sent in about something happening in his unit.
2. Money. Napoleon said an army marches on its stomach, but an anti-army like ours marches chiefly on its wallets. If you dig Redline and want to see it continue, now's the time to cast a vote of confidence by sending in a contribution. These are what we depend on to publish; we can't exist without them.

Money, news, and ideas from now on should be sent to:

Reservists Committee to Stop the War  
67 Winthrop Street  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Attention G. I. papers, Movement organizations: please change your mailing lists accordingly.