

# Spock Hopes 500,000 Will Refuse to Be Drafted

By EDWARD C. BURKS

Dr. Benjamin Spock said last night he hoped "that 100,000, 200,000 or even 500,000 young Americans either refuse to be drafted or to obey orders if in military service."

That was the reaction of the tall 64-year-old author and pediatrician to the news from Boston that he was one of five persons indicted on a Federal charge of conspiring to counsel young men to violate draft laws.

Calm and in good spirits during a news conference at his small, unpretentious apartment at 135 East 83d Street, he cited the "Nuremberg laws" as justification for his antidraft activities.

### The 'Higher Law'

"I certainly don't feel myself guilty," he said.

He referred to the "higher law" brought out at the time of the Nuremberg postwar trials of Nazi leaders. That law, he said, made it morally necessary to disobey when "your government is up to crimes against humanity."

He insisted that he was not afraid of going to jail but would fight it all the way to the Supreme Court.

"The Government is not going to quit easily and neither are we," he said.

### Policy Called Illegal

One reason, he said, for the indictments is that "Lyndon Johnson and the Administration are feeling more desperate all the time because the war is still going against them."

He conceded that he had been giving moral and financial support to young war resisters for some time.

"I'm not a pacifist," he said. "I was very much for the war against Hitler and I also supported the intervention in Korea, but in this war we went in there to steal Vietnam."

He repeatedly described the American intervention in Vietnam as "illegal," "detrimental" and "disastrous."

Dr. Spock, a large-boned man who wears heavy horn-rimmed

glasses, looked hale as he stood in front of a bookcase containing his "Baby and Child Care" volume in many languages and told how he would continue to do everything he could to stop the war.

He defended his conduct as "legal in the highest sense." The defiance of the anti-draft youths, he said, was "a very patriotic endeavor requiring enormous amounts of courage—the most effective way of opposing the war."

He then expressed the hope that hundreds of thousands would refuse induction in order to create "a very awkward position for the Government." Or, he said, the American people "can rise up and throw Lyndon Johnson out."

But while praising the peace campaign of Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, Dr. Spock saw scant chance of denying the Democratic renomination to Mr. Johnson this summer and declined to endorse any candidate.

Immaculate in "television blue"—a blue suit, blue tie and blue shirt—Dr. Spock repeated his story for an array of cameras and other newsmen.

Did he feel that his antiwar activities were a disservice to American fighting men in Vietnam?

"No," he said, "I never feel any guilt about servicemen, although I know about half of the people in the country are on the other side, supporting the war."

"But soldiers don't have the best opportunity to judge the war. After all they only hear one side of it."

Mrs. Spock sat quietly at one end of the living room. Her husband, asked to pose with a copy of his book, of which 20 million copies have been sold, quipped:

"I don't want to be reading my own book. It's easier to go to jail for five years than to hold this."

Then he said that he was willing to go to jail if necessary to prove his point.

Indicted with him were

Mitchell Goodman, a New York novelist; the Rev. William S. Coffin Jr., Yale University chaplain; Michael K. Ferber, Harvard graduate student, and Marcus Raskin, director of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington.

"Since I preached a sermon at Arlington Street Church here on Oct. 16," Mr. Ferber said in Boston, "I appear to have been implicated in the demonstration that followed a few days later in Boston."

"I gather they have moved against the big shots, although I do not consider myself one of those but rather a middleman."

Mr. Goodman said: "I'm going to get a lawyer and fight this thing to the Supreme Court."

"I consider it very important to test the legality of the draft law and the constitutionality of Mr. Johnson's war. I suppose that the only way they can be tested is if people of some repute are arrested and tried."

"The United States Government is involved in illegalities and that's what we're fighting. People like me believe the Government has committed atrocities in Vietnam. We are attempting to save the moral integrity of this country."

Mr. Goodman questioned why the Government did not take legal action against all 2,000 signers of a statement entitled "A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority."

The statement, signed by Dr. Linus Pauling, the Right Rev. James A. Pike and Robert Lowell, pledged the signers to

raise money for youths who resisted the draft.

"Is the Government afraid to arrest some of these people?" Mr. Goodman said. "Why has the Government been selective? Have they begun a picking off process?"

"I intend to continue my antiwar activities. My conscience forces me to do that."

Mr. Coffin and Mr. Raskin said in Washington that they would not comment until they had read the charges against him.

A spokesman at Yale refused to comment on Mr. Coffin's indictment.