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## BOOK PUBLISHERS ACT AGAINST WAR

Form a Project Movement  
to Lobby for Peace

By HENRY RAYMONT

A group of executives and editorial employes of many of the nation's leading publishing houses has started a protest movement against the war in Indochina through a sustained campaign and lobbying in Congress.

Christopher Cerf, an editor at Random House and chairman of the Action Committee of Publishers for Peace, spent Friday and yesterday meeting with colleagues to devise the new strategy.

"Everybody is very anxious to do something," the 26-year-old Mr. Cerf said. "The publishing industry is supposed to represent national discourse, so we intend to use all our resources and skills to help make the Nixon Administration aware of this new groundswell for peace."

Among the resources, he pointed out, is the wide use of advertising space by publishers to promote their books as well as close personal ties of many editors with members of Congress and officials in Washington who have written books in various fields. Mr. Cerf is the son of Bennett Cerf, chairman of Random House.

The committee was formed by a group of 50 to 60 publishers and editors at a meeting at the American Institute of Graphic Arts on Thursday to coordinate the growing demands for antiwar action at numerous publishing houses following the killing of four students at Kent State University last Monday.

### 150 Sign at Holt

At Holt Rinehart & Winston, for example, 150 persons signed a petition to President Nixon protesting the war and the student deaths. The signers included Ross D. Sackett, chairman of the board, Aaron Asher, editorial director, and Tom C. Wallace, editor in chief.

Among those who met at the institute were Chester Kerr, director of the Yale University Press; John Jay Iselin, editorial director of Harper & Row; Arthur Wang, president of Hill & Wang; Sol Stein, president of Stein & Day; Gail Rentsch, publicity director of Atheneum Publishers, Hal Sharlott, editor in chief of E. P. Hutton, and Andre Schiffrin, editorial director of Pantheon.

In an initial step, employes of Random House have raised funds for an advertisement in The New York Times and The Washington Post urging the public to view a special program, "To End the War," on NBC-TV at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, featuring Senators George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, Charles E. Goodell, Republican of New York, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, who will outline plans for an amendment to curtail military procurement authorization.

"The time for rhetoric is past," said Robert Bernstein, president of Random House. "We must work on practical measures to influence legislation. If we feel there's great danger in the continuance of present policy, it's just not fair to leave it to the young, many of them without a vote, to make these changes."

The next step in the committee's strategy is a resolution seeking industrywide support for the protest. The resolution will be submitted at the opening session of the annual meeting of the American Book Publishers Council, a trade association, at a Poconos resort in Pennsylvania Monday afternoon.

Another move planned by the committee is to use next month's annual meeting of the American Booksellers Association in Washington to send delegations to Congress to lobby against the war.