

WRITERS AND EDITORS WAR TAX PROTEST, P. O. Box 255, N. Y. C. 10024

May 10, 1968

Fellow Signers:

About two weeks ago, a meeting of the WEWTP steering committee was called to decide how best to wind up the group's affairs. Attending were the 5 signers of this letter; Larry Bensky could not be there, but later concurred in the decision to dissolve WEWTP as an organization and to contribute our surplus of approximately \$3,600.00 to the Civil Liberties Legal Defense Fund, Inc. (94 Prescott Street, Cambridge, Mass.). We quote from our letter to Dr. Robert Rosenthal of CLLDF, which was formed to undertake the legal defense of conscientious draft resisters as well as those exercising other civil liberties, stipulating the conditions of our contribution:

"Should any of our members - whose names are on the list attached - find themselves in need of legal advice because of prosecution or harassment directly related to their protest non-payment of income tax for 1967, or to their signing of our ads and public protests, they will receive appropriate counsel and aid from the Fund, at least to the limit of expense covered by our contribution. If, however, no such requests have been made to the Fund by one year from the date of this letter, or if the expenses of answering such requests are less than the total contribution, all or the balance of this money will be released to the Fund for general use at its discretion. The Writers and Editors War Tax Protest was always a temporary organization, and its limited goals have now been achieved. We remain pledged as individuals, however, to the moral and financial support of any of our number who is prosecuted or harassed because of non-payment or simple membership. If requests for aid exceed the contribution, please notify one of the members below so that we meet and decide on appropriate action."

We trust you agree that this is a practical way to conclude our joint efforts, while at the same time safeguarding those signers who may need legal help in the months to come. While prosecution or serious harassment seems unlikely during the currently prevailing "movement to peace" atmosphere, it seemed wise to be prepared. All of which seems fair enough since WEWTP certainly added its bit to the anti-war clamor which produced the current atmosphere and the many swift changes that have taken place in it. We ended up with 528 signers. And if there were that many strongly anti-war people from one small area of American life, surely the political computers in Washington were capable of extrapolating that figure to the population as a whole. So Johnson got the message. Thanks for lending your voice and your name to ours.

Eric Bentley
John Leonard
Peter Spackman
Gloria Steinem
Gerald Walker