

THE SITUATION IN TALLAHASSEE-

On July 7, a Federal Grand Jury based in Tallahassee, Fla., issued 24 subpoenas to members of VVAW. These subpoenas were presented to, among others, Scott Camil (Fla. Reg. Coord), John Kniffin (Tex Reg Coord), and Pete Mahoney (Nat. Coord). All of these 24 refused to testify. As a result of this refusal, four VVAW brothers were randomly selected to be cited for contempt. These four (Wayne Beverly, John Chambers, Bruce Horton, Jack Jennings) were thrown in the slammer without benefit of a hearing. No bail was set for them, and they had to remain until they either testified or for the life of the Grand Jury, which could be up to 18 months. Since then, however, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, in New Orleans, has overturned the Federal courts ruling, and the four members are now out and waiting for a hearing. Nevertheless, they will probably be sent back to jail without bail.

Also resulting from the Grand Jury's investigation have been six indictments for "conspiracy to disrupt the Republican Nat. Convention..." with such things as sling shots, cross bows, glycerene bombs, automatic weapons, etc. All their charges are based solely on the testimony of one William Lemmer, former Ark/Okla Reg. Coord, who was unmasked as a pig back in May. He was compromised then, at a Southern regional meeting in Florida. We have 14 hours of his taped testimony resulting from that meeting.

Anyway, only the brothers who were at that meeting were subpoenaed. The six indictments that have so far been handed down were against the three brothers mentioned above, as well as: William Patterson, Alton Foss, and Don Perdue. As of this writing, only one brother still remains in jail (all of the brothers voluntarily surrendered themselves.) We lack the final \$10,000 of the outrageous \$25,000 bond that was set on each of them. With luck we'll have that money raised very soon.

We can say with confidence that the government has no case whatsoever. But what they do have is a fascist judge named Middlebrooks (Carswell's replacement), a puppet grand jury, and a puppetmaster of a prosecutor named Guy Goodwin. Goodwin is the lawyer who prosecuted Berrigan. He is waging not a legal battle, but a full scale propoganda war aimed at destroying our credibility as an organization. We will win in court, of that there is no doubt. Whether or not we maintain our credibility depends on the support of all our sisters and brothers.

We need help like we've never needed it before. So how about giving some. Contact your local coordinator for advice as to how to help. And if you have any spare change...

BILLY DEAN SMITH - is a black GI who is accused of murdering two white officers at Bien Hoa on March 15, 1971. Other than the fact that Billy was the most 'militant' guy in his company, the army has no case. The only evidence they have is a grenade pin found in his pocket, which they claim is from the grenade that killed the two officers. There has never before been a ballistics test that has proved that before. Billy is now facing the death penalty and sits in solitary confinement. As in the Gainesville case the government is again attempting to suppress the GIs and vets who fought in Vietnam. For more information write to this office.

THE LAST PATROL -

On August 20, the Republicans will have their convention in Miami. The importance of a VVAW presence is obvious. But now as a result of the Federal Grand Jury investigation into VVAW, six of our brothers have been indicted on phony charges. (See enclosure later on) . The best way to show support for our brothers and to also show Nixon that we will not be intimidated is to be in Miami in force. We owe it to our brothers, ourselves and to all the victims of the genocidal policy of the U.S. in Southeast Asia, to be strong in Miami.

VVAW is organizing a motor convoy to the Miami Republican Convention called THE LAST PATROL. It will leave from NYC on August 17 and arrive in Miami on August 20. Each day as we drive we will make stops at military installations and cities with the purpose of leafleting and talking to the GIs and local people.

Arrangements are now being made for mechanics to travel with the convoy and for Miami parking and medical facilities.

If you and your friends are planning to go to the convention please fill out the coupon and mail to NYS VVAW 25 West 26 Street, New York City, New York 10010.

A campsite will be available in NY on the night of the 16th and we will be leaving about 10 AM on the 17th.

Sorry, that everything isn't more specific but we will have that information shortly. Please keep in touch.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (area code) _____ (number) _____

I AM INTERESTED IN GOING TO MIAMI ON THE CONVOY _____

I HAVE A CAR AVAILABLE _____ # OF PEOPLE GOING WITH YOU _____

OF PEOPLE YOU COULD TAKE _____ DO YOU NEED A RIDE _____

SKILLS AVAILABLE FOR CONVOY _____

OTHER INFORMATION THAT WE SHOULD KNOW _____

ENCLOSED IS A CONTRIBUTION TO HELP WITH THE CONVOY.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VVAW-NEW YORK