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Buffalo's Draft Raiders Explain Their Motivation

By LINDA CHARLTON

"OK. The war goes on. Vietnamization is found to be another lie." In a long statement opening with those words, the five persons arrested for raiding a Selective Service office in Buffalo over the weekend explained their motives yesterday.

The statement, signed simply "The Buffalo," was reportedly written by the group of three men and two women before their arrest Saturday. A similar statement was said to have been prepared by the group of 20 persons arrested early Sunday, in an apparently unrelated incident, in a similar raid on the Camden, N.J., draft office.

The Buffalo statement, made public yesterday afternoon through an antiwar group in New York City, linked the continuing conflict in Vietnam with racism, pollution, "big business" brutal pursuit of profit, and domestic "repression" of dissent.

Success Anticipated

The language, at points, indicated that it was written in anticipation of success, perhaps meant to be left behind in the Selective Service and Army Intelligence offices where the militants were arrested by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who, the bureau said, were "checking the security of the building."

"You see," the statement said, "today we destroyed the records of the Selective Service System in Buffalo, local boards 82 through 89; in addition, we confiscated records of the office of military intelligence. . . . The raiders, the statement said, saw it as "our duty before God and man" to act against "these records that help make the Vietnam war possible."

The statement said the militants were seeking to uphold "the freedom not to kill on another's command" but indicated continually throughout the statement that their protest was not against the war in Vietnam alone, which the statement called "symptomatic of a deep sickness in this country."

The militants pointed out that in raiding the offices to "hinder the abduction of our sons and brothers," they did not use "dynamite or fire" or offer violence to "the man on guard." The significance of the signature was noted, too, in a

footnote that said the buffalo, "once a powerful beast of freedom" and once nearly eliminated, was "returning today."

The similar Camden statement, according to a source close to the defendants, was being revised before its release. A spokesman for the F.B.I. said the two statements had "not yet" been received at the bureau's Washington headquarters and he did not know if the bureau would release them.

An F.B.I. spokesman in Philadelphia, which coordinated the efforts leading to the arrests there, said that the bureau was "not looking for anyone else right at this moment," adding that it was always "possible" that others would be arrested.

21st Person Arrested

Sources close to the investigation said no further arrests were expected in the immediate future, although others might be named if indictments were handed up by a grand jury.

In Camden yesterday, a 21st person, one of those named in the 22-page complaint, surrendered at the United States Attorney's office.

Dr. William Anderson, 36 years old, at whose home, according to the complaint, the alleged conspirators met to plan their raid on the draft office, was charged with conspiring to remove and mutilate public records, steal Government property, destroy Government property and commit a crime on a Government reservation. He was not charged with taking part in these actions, as were the 20 arrested Sunday.

Dr. Anderson, an osteopath, was released in \$10,000 bond after his arraignment before United States Magistrate Charles Rudd. Magistrate Rudd gave Dr. Anderson permission to travel to Pennsylvania, but not to New York.

"I don't want you to get in any trouble," he said. "I don't want you going around making any speeches. You people can organize, you can demonstrate, but in a proper manner."

Dr. Anderson, who was questioned by F.B.I. agents for more than an hour, refused to talk with newsmen.

One of those arrested Sunday was freed on bail yesterday. He was Francis Mel Madden, a married priest, who lives in East Orange, N. J. On Sun-

day, another of the raiders, the Rev. Milo M. Billman, 39, a Lutheran Minister from Camden was freed on his own recognition.

But the problem of raising bail for the others—the amount totaled \$600,000—was a major preoccupation of friends and associates of the Camden group yesterday.

Central to much of the activity was the Rev. Joseph O'Rourke, a 33-year-old Jesuit and antiwar activist, who has shared his apartment—in the building at the corner of Broadway and 98th Street—with the Rev. Peter D. Fordi, 34, one of the two priests in the Camden group.

"We're trying to do something about bail," Father O'Rourke told a caller—one of many—in his tiny apartment yesterday morning. And a few minutes later he told another. "I talked to Peter [Fordi] in jail—his spirits are high."

Father O'Rourke, who seems mildly uncomfortable when he is addressed as anything but Joe, was involved in an antiwar action against the Dow Chemical Company in 1969. His apartment—a small bedroom, a smaller kitchen and a bathroom—is one of several in the building that are occupied by 62 Jesuits affiliated with the order's Woodstock Theological College.

There are, Father O'Rourke said, about 150 members of the society in five buildings in the neighborhood, and by no means all of them are in entire sympathy with "the conscience people"—as those who take part in disruptive, nonviolent civil disobedience are sometimes called.

Berrigans' Influence Strong

The Rev. Daniel Berrigan and his brother, the Rev. Philip Berrigan, who are in prison for having destroyed draft records, are among the major influences on the thinking of such activists as Father O'Rourke and his friends in what is known as the Catholic left.

So, too, are some Protestants and vowed nonbelievers, such as the late Albert Camus, the French philosopher, whose comment—"I would like to be able to love my country and still love justice"—was quoted in the Buffalo statement.

The Camus statement is one of two decorations on the walls of Father O'Rourke's apartment; the other is a carved dove of peace surmounted by the word "shalom."

One question frequently asked about actions such as those in Buffalo and Camden is what they accomplish. According to Father O'Rourke, they are more than symbolic; by now, he said, "well over one million" files have been destroyed.

He said that such destruction caused months of inconvenience and disruption and, served a secondary purpose of drawing attention to the Selective Service System itself, which is now, he said, "under fire."

A spokesman for the system in Washington said the one-million figure was "hard to discount," but he said it was "immaterial, because destroying cards doesn't accomplish anything."

"We've had duplicates of everything," he said, "and the most that resulted from the destruction was a delay of a few days."

The spokesman said that there have been about "five or more" raids on draft offices around the country so far this year, a considerable drop from the 168 raids in 1970. During the fiscal year 1969-70, he said, the cost of the raids to the Government was \$1.16-million.

While those who take part in such actions are willing to accept the consequences, Father O'Rourke said, there has been a shift from the nonviolence of the nineteen-sixties civil-rights era in that those involved "will never submit that they are just penalties."

No Contradiction Seen

He said that those in the movement see no contradiction between their actions and their commitment to Christianity. The gospel, he said, is a "central document" in their lives: He and others such as Father Fordi, he said, see Jesus as a revolutionary "who attempted to give Caesar what he deserved," and feel that "the only Christian moral position is the revolutionary one."

All those arrested in Camden, he said, had faced their "jailers with great courage, talked with them, indicated that they forgave them."

Support, at least in terms of phone calls, for the Camden group was coming yesterday from antiwar activists all over the country, Father O'Rourke said, but he laughed at the idea of a formal conspiracy of activists, an interlocking directorate that planned and carried out actions in concert.

In Camden, a coordinating center in support of the 21 was set up in St. Mary's School, according to a spokesman for the "Harrisburg 13" defense committee here, the group which gave out the statement yesterday for "The Buffalo." The committee was acting as a switchboard and information-dispensing center for the Camden and Buffalo groups.

The space in Camden was provided, the spokesman said, by Msgr. Salvator Adamo, editor of the Camden diocesan newspaper, and was being