

# Are Nixon & Brass Plotting a Coup?

## AN APPEAL TO ALL GIs TO DEFEND THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Issued by the American Servicemen's Union, organization of GIs and veterans

"Last night as the FBI men moved in without warrant to 'seal' the Cox files, the whiff of the Gestapo was in the clear October air. Some of the soberest men in government and out are now privately expressing anxiety that the military might now intervene—either to back the President or throw him out."—Fred Emery, Washington correspondent of The Times (London), Oct. 22, 1973.

Enlisted men and women of the armed forces! Are the big Brass planning a military takeover of the US government? While the country lurches from one scandal to another at the hands of the Nixon gang, are the generals and admirals planning to declare martial law and install a military dictatorship — either to prop up the totally discredited president or to replace him? Don't we all know the kind of officers who dream of turning the US into one huge barrack, who consider civilians some kind of sub-human species, who believe that "more discipline" is the answer to every thing?

Well, we servicemen and women don't want any part of their insane dream of militarizing the country! We don't want to be ordered to raise our weapons against the people. We are not interested in pulling "guard duty" on the streets of America, or in the detention camps the Brass would set up for those millions who would refuse to "get with the program!"

Remember, only last October 25, when they woke us up in the middle of the night, ordered us to load our gear, and took us in trucks to various airfields? What did the Brass really have in mind — some "foreign crisis" or martial law at home? Nobody believed that phony story about a "Soviet invasion of the Mideast" — was the alert a dry run for a military seizure in Washington and other big American cities?

This is a real possibility. There is evidence that Nixon has long considered such plans — and it's no "coincidence" that Nixon's new right-hand man, Alexander Haig, was already in the White

House while still wearing four general's stars. (See "Nixon's June 5 Plot," page 2.)

Nixon won't solve this country's problems — raging inflation; unemployment; poor housing, education, medical care; racist oppression of Black, Latin and other national minority peoples. All he's concerned with is the welfare of his billionaire friends like Howard Hughes and "Bebe" Rebozo. But military rule is even less of a solution — and we rank-and-file GIs won't permit it!

We won't shoot down our families, our fellow working people, we won't stand guard over our next door neighbors. Not to preserve the rule of Nixon or any other corrupt politician or Brass-hat! We will not be their puppets in turning America into a fascist military state.

### COUP TALK IN THE AIR

There has been talk in Congressional circles and in European newspapers about the threat of a military coup here. Right after the government shake-up involving the firing of Watergate prosecutor Cox, and the sealing of his office by the FBI, Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) was quoted "off the record" as fearing this sort of development. More than one Congressman likened Nixon to Hitler.

The New York Post of Saturday, November 3, reports: "A California Congressman says he thinks Nixon might attempt a military takeover of the government rather than relinquish his office voluntarily.

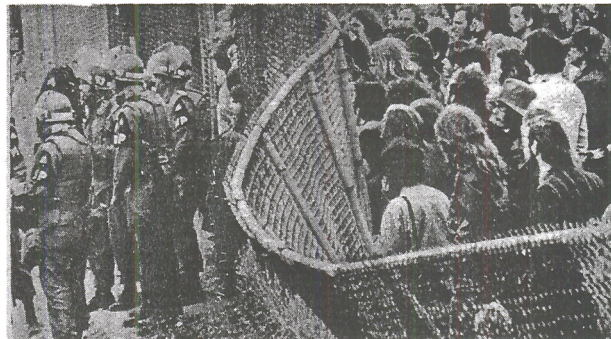
"As the noose of justice tightens

around Nixon, he is growing more desperate," Rep. Fortney H. Stark (D-Calif.) said yesterday. He said such an attempt would fail because most military officers would refuse to go along with it." If only we could believe the last part of that statement.

Citizens are sending hundreds of thousands of letters and telegrams to their Congressmen demanding that Nixon resign or be impeached. The office of Rep. Robert Leggett (D-Calif.) said: "Fears that he (Nixon) will impose martial law are cropping up more and more in the messages we receive."

Reflecting the rising national sentiment, The New York Times, The Detroit News, The Atlanta Constitution, and Time Magazine on

[continued on pg. 2]



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME? Washington, D.C., May 1-5, 1971. Over 13,000 Anti-war protesters arrested and penned in make-shift concentration camps. All but one arrest was ruled illegal by appeals court — under military rule, there would be no appeals, just courts-martial.

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November 4 called on Nixon to resign his office.

As long ago as August 8, *The Sun*, a British newspaper, stated on its front page: "For the first time since the appalling derelictions of public trust unfolded through Watergate, Americans today have been forced to think the unthinkable.

"That is: Washington, the seat of power, is drifting in a political vacuum.

"Since politics, like nature, will not tolerate a vacuum, Americans are now confronted with the nightmare prospect of a military coup. The groundwork for such an eventuality — once the exclusive province of fiction writers — has been laid."

The day after Nixon sent FBI men with pistols to seize the office of Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus, a high Justice Department official who worked for Ruckelshaus said, "This might not be SEVEN DAYS IN MAY (a film about a military coup in the U.S.), but it is one day in October." It's important

to note that a unit put on extended alert was Ft. Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division, a unit frequently used for domestic repression (against rebellions in the Black community and anti-war demonstrations).

## ILLEGAL ORDERS

How can we combat orders to take to the streets and beat the people "into line"? There must be no doubts on this score, enlisted brothers and sisters: any such orders are grossly illegal and must be disobeyed. To obey such orders would make us enemies of, and traitors to, our own brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers. We should consider ourselves duty bound to place under arrest anyone issuing such orders. And we should spread this message, barrack by barrack, to our fellow GIs. Group discussions should be held — not to create panic, but to make everyone aware of the possibility of this happening. If "riot control" training is stepped up in your unit, question your officers — put them on the defensive. Prevention is the best cure for any disease — and no one is in a better position to prevent military dictatorship than we rank-and-file GIs!

## We demand!

1. The right to refuse to obey illegal orders — like orders to fight in the illegal, imperialist war in Southeast Asia.
2. Election of officers by vote of the rank and file.
3. An end to saluting and sir-ing of officers.
4. The right of Black, Latin and other national minority servicemen and women to determine their own lives free from the oppression of racist whites. No troops to be sent into Black, Latin or other national minority communities.
5. An end to the systematic attempt by officers and NCOs to create prejudice against women, both in and out of the military. An end to the prostitution and rape of Vietnamese and all other women, which is conducted and incited by the military. We demand an end to the degradation of women and their treatment as sexual objects rather than as equal human beings.
6. No troops to be used against anti-war demonstrators.
7. No troops to be used against workers on strike.
8. Rank-and-file control of court-martial boards.
9. The right of free political association.
10. Wages for rank-and-file enlisted men and women adequate to maintain them and all dependents at a decent standard of living. Adequate housing for dependents, supplied by the military. Free day care centers for dependent children, controlled by their parents. Free and decent medical care for rank-and-file dependents, equal to that of officers' dependents.
11. The right of collective bargaining.
12. Full employment for veterans of both sexes; adequate unemployment benefits to last until such employment is provided. Special measures to provide decent jobs for Black, Puerto Rican and other national minority veterans. Free medical, dental and hospital care, and free education benefits or job training with financial support. Abolition of all "less-than-honorable" discharges.

# NIXON'S JUNE 5 PLOT

by ex-Sp. 4 Greg Laxer

In May of 1970, Nixon's invasion of Cambodia brought about the greatest storm of protest of the Vietnam War period. Students were shot dead by National Guardsmen and police in Ohio and Mississippi. There was opposition from Congress and from GIs themselves. The invasion turned into a disaster for the US and its Saigon puppet troops.

With this background, an extraordinary meeting was held at the White House on June 5, 1970. Present were; Nixon; Richard Helms, CIA director; J. Edgar Hoover, FBI director; Lt. General Donald F. Bennett, director of Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA); and Admiral Noel Gayler, director of National Security Agency (NSA). The topic of discussion was supposedly "strengthening the government's domestic intelligence gathering." As if they weren't already tapping countless phones, offices, burglarizing and planting informers in anti-war organizations, etc. But there's something even more sinister and illegal here: the presence of the CIA, which is forbidden (by the 1947 Act of Congress which created it) from engaging in domestic activities. And why the military presence unless the real purpose of the meeting was to draw up "contingency plans" for using the armed forces against a rebellious populace at home? The existence of this anti-Constitutional conspiracy was revealed in the course of the Watergate hearings, although none of the Senators chose to dig deeper into it.

This was not the first time the Pentagon has been involved in such schemes. The summer of 1967, while Lyndon Johnson ruled, was rocked by

rebellions in the ghettos of Newark, New Jersey and Detroit. In July of that year, the Army Reserve 356th "Civil Affairs Group" spent two weeks learning how to run New York City's police department, prisons, District Attorney's office and courts. The personnel involved were officers. On August 5, 1967, *The N.Y. Daily News* explained: "for some day, they may be called upon to take over the operation of a government the size of New York City or larger." (Like the whole country?) It has been known for some time that the federal government has a "Domestic War Room."

There is no reason to believe that Nixon has scrapped such plans. Indeed, since the start of the Watergate revelations, he has militarized his

regime more than ever. Forced to drop his top aides, John Ehrlichman and H.R. Halderman due to their shady activities, he replaced them with his former "Defense" Secretary, Melvin Laird, and General Alexander Haig. Haig has officially "retired" from active duty, but continues to pass down orders to civilians which he demands be obeyed because they come from "the Commander-in-Chief." Colonel Frederick Brown and Major George Joulwean were also serving on the White House staff while on active duty. General Robert E. Cushman, Commandant of the Marine Corps, while serving as Deputy Director of the CIA, provided electronic gear and disguises for the activities of convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt. Another General, Vernon Walters, serving as Deputy Director of the CIA, exerted pressure on then FBI head L. Patrick Gray to back off from investigation of the Watergate affair. He later complained that the CIA had been "used." And, of course, Kissinger, the "Dr. Strangelove" expert on nuclear overkill, now runs foreign affairs at the State Department.

A highly significant remark let slip during the Watergate hearings came from former White House Counsel John Dean on June 26, 1973. While Richard Kleindienst was Attorney General, Dean had expressed to him fear of arrest for contempt of Congress if he refused to testify before Senator Ervin's committee. "Don't worry," Kleindienst told him. "Our boss has the army." This shows the mentality of the whole Nixon gang. With the government in their hands, every citizen, and especially every GI, must be on the alert, for anything can happen... unless we nip it in the bud! And that must be our goal.



Laird (left) and Haig: resurrected from the Pentagon to prop up a sagging presidency. How far are they willing to go?

# A brief history of US military repression at home



1877: Maryland militiamen fire on striking railroad workers. Federal troops were frequently used in this manner last century.



1970: A Kent State University student lies dead, one of four murdered by National Guardsmen on May 4, demanding that GIs not be sent into Cambodia.

by ex-PFC Pete Perkins

Not only has Nixon had his hand in countless incidents of international intrigue, from Indochina to Latin America, but he has also piled up an extensive history of domestic terror as well, above and beyond just the Watergate Conspiracy. Since he has been in office, federal troops have been used at Kent State, Ohio and Jackson State, Mississippi to massacre anti-war students, Attica State prison to massacre rebelling inmates and in New York City to attempt to break the postal workers' strike of June, 1970. Also, he had soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines by the thousands lining the streets at his inauguration ceremony this past January to try to intimidate the 150,000 anti-war demonstrators who came to demand that he sign the

Vietnam Peace Agreement. By now, not only GIs themselves, but people in general know that Nixon is very capable of using his military forces against not only oppressed people overseas, but right here at home as well.

Nixon is far from the first US president to use federal troops against the civilian population. Remember how "Lynchin" Johnson, a supposedly "liberal" Democrat sent troops into the Black community in city after city from the time of the Watts Rebellion in 1965 to the Martin Luther King assassination in 1968? This happened over and over again, and in the case of Wilmington, Delaware, heartland of the huge Dupont Chemical empire, the state of siege of the Black community lasted nine full months. This is just some of the recent history of domestic military repression.

Even before George Washington's time, troops were used to massacre the Native American (Indian) population and to crush

rebellions of the Black people living under slavery. From the time of Washington to Lincoln, the main duty of the all-white military was to harass and murder the non-white population. Following the Civil War, wage disputes between working people and the ruthless Robber Barons of the industrial boom period became more and more intense and working people fighting for union recognition were often confronted by the boss-controlled State and Federal Militia. Strikes such as the Railroad Strike of 1877, the Carnegie Steel Strike of 1892 and the Pullman Strike of 1894 turned into big and bloody confrontations between striking workers and federal troops. General Phil Sheridan summed up the attitudes of the Brass by calling the strikers' demands for decent wages and union recognition "the insane howlings of the lower strata". Even with the troops behind them, the bosses couldn't crush the emerging unions, and working people won major victories throughout the period.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, union organizing was reaching new heights, and the class struggle of workers against their bosses were starting to take new forms. One form of this was the demand of WW I vets for a federal bonus they needed to survive the hard times of the Depression. Once again,

the military elite of the day (including such "heroes" as General Douglas MacArthur, Col. George Patton and Major Dwight D. Eisenhower) were sent to lead the charge of cavalry troops to disperse them. "The mob was a bad-looking one," MacArthur later told the press, "it was marked by signs of revolution." Many rank-and-file troops refused to go along with the assault and the vets got their much needed bonus shortly thereafter.

We can see from this brief history that the role of the US military at home is as disgraceful as its role in places like Vietnam. Wherever people were struggling for human and economic rights, GIs were sent against them to uphold the status quo. But our resistance to this type of mission has grown tremendously since those enlisted men refused to attack starving veterans in the nation's capital. In Vietnam, towards the end of US troops' participation in the war, the officers feared for their lives when amongst their "own" men. And we are not about to stand by idly and let Nixon use us to prolong what is probably the most corrupt government in US history!

## Join!

To:  
American Servicemen's Union  
58 West 25th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10010

I am a rank-and-file enlisted member or dependent of the United States Armed Forces, or Vietnam war era veteran.

I hereby declare that I support the American Servicemen's Union and enclose \$2.00 to register myself as a member. I understand that renewal of Union membership is \$2.00 annually.

As a Union member, I agree to support other Union members in our effort to gain our rights.

As a member, I will receive a copy of the *GI's Handbook on Military Injustice* and a subscription to *The BOND*, and any other advice and instruction issued by central Union organizers.

I will also contact the Union center for advice in case of emergency, and keep the center informed in order to aid other Union members.

Name (GIs include rank and service no.): \_\_\_\_\_

Present address (if on active duty, include unit, base, ship, APO or FPO no., etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no. (if in US): \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional information from active duty applicant:  
ETS or discharge date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address and telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

## Subscribe!

Please check appropriate category:

- Rank-and-file enlisted man or woman, or dependent. PRICE: free!
- Unemployed veteran of the Vietnam war era (1960 — present). PRICE: free!
- Veteran of the Vietnam war era (1960 — present). PRICE: \$3.00 for full year.
- Non-veteran civilian. PRICE: \$6.00 for full year, or \$3.00 for six months. (Your fee enables us to send *The BOND* free of charge to those who cannot afford to pay.)
- I am enclosing a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address: \_\_\_\_\_

If active duty, ETS or discharge date: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE NIXON ROGUES GALLERY \*

\* Due to space limitations, we present here only a part of the Nixon gang. Our apologies . . .



The ringleader

Will he declare himself

"President for life"?

## Big wheels . . .



**JOHN EHRLICHMAN**  
Number 3 man of Nixon team. Advised Nixon on "domestic affairs" (political espionage, repression, etc.). Set up White House Special Investigations Unit — better known as "the Plumbers," extra-legal gang of thugs who handled the White House dirty work.



**H. R. HALDEMAN**  
Was White House chief of staff — Nixon's right-hand man. Before the Senate Watergate committee, he vigorously defended all the Nixon gang's illegal activities. Believes there's a "communist under every bed." For him, martial law would be too mild!



**HERBERT KALMBACH**  
Overseer of secret campaign fund. Took in money for Nixon (to be repaid in political favors, such as money from dairy industry) via various "committees" existing on paper only, so as to make sources untraceable.



**JOHN MITCHELL**  
Managed Nixon campaigns in '68 and '72. Ruled "Justice" Dept. during period of assassinations of Black Panther leaders, murders of Kent and Jackson State students, mass arrests of citizens exercising freedom of speech and assembly, illegal electronic surveillance, and gross political frame-ups — including that of Camp McCoy 3, ASU organizers. Now under indictment for illegal funding of '72 campaign.



**MAURICE STANS**  
Was Nixon's Secretary of Commerce. Under indictment, with Mitchell, for illegal campaign funding in '72. Handled millions of dollars in cash for Nixon — never issued receipts.

## Middlemen . . .



**CHARLES COLSON**  
Ex-Marine officer, a political "hit man" for White House. Said he'd run over his own grandma for Richard Nixon.



**JOHN W. DEAN III**  
Was Nixon's personal counsel. Took part in many phases of Watergate affair, but was willing to "spill the beans" before the Ervin committee. His name is now a dirty word in Nixon circles.



**TOM HUSTON**  
Former Army officer (Military Intelligence); helped set up the June 5 military plot. In college, national chairman of "Young Americans for Freedom," which supported the Vietnam War to the last drop of GIs' blood while its members hid behind student draft deferments.



**JEB STUART MAGRUDER**  
Ran CREEP (Committee to Re-Elect the President), which took in funds from big corporations and channeled them into "dirty tricks" in '72 campaign.

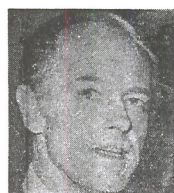


**DONALD SEGRETTI**  
Started trying to recruit fellow Army JAG officers for "dirty tricks" while still on active duty at Ft. Ord, Calif. Criticized, in retrospect, by Nixon higher-ups for his "sophomoric" activities.

## "Plumbers" . . .



**BERNARD BARKER**  
CIA-trained "Plumber." Born in Cuba of American parents, fancied himself a "freedom fighter" in failed Bay of Pigs invasion. 1961; operated under code name "Macho." Got spy gear, disguises from CIA for his activities. Imprisoned for Watergate break-in.



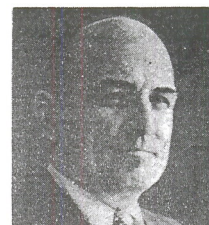
**E. HOWARD HUNT**  
CIA veteran of 20 years. Author of 46 pulp spy novels, wherein he lived heroic fantasies of foreign intrigue. Now living hard reality of imprisonment for "Plumbers" break-in at Democratic National Headquarters in Watergate complex. Under indictment for similar operation in L.A. (office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist).



**EGIL KROGH, Jr.**  
Head of "the Plumbers." Summed up the Nixon team philosophy in 1969 like this: "Anyone who opposes us, we'll destroy. As a matter of fact, anyone who doesn't support us, we'll destroy." Issued instructions to the likes of Barker, Hunt, Liddy, who did the actual dirty work of break-and-enter, burglary, bugging, etc.



**G. GORDON LIDDY**  
Came to "Plumbers" through FBI experience. Likes to play with guns — while attempting to break into a McGovern headquarters, he shot out a lamp, Mickey Spillane-style. Caught in the Watergate, convicted and imprisoned. Reports indicate the other prisoners don't like G. Gordon.



**JAMES MCCORD, Jr.**  
Seven years in FBI, 19 in CIA. "Security co-ordinator" for CREEP. Supervised electronic surveillance by the "Plumbers," participated in Watergate break-in.