

A.C.L.U. COMES OUT AGAINST THE WAR

To Act for 'Immediate' End
—Urges Draft Repeal

By BARBARA CAMPBELL

The American Civil Liberties Union has adopted a resolution to work for the "immediate termination" of the war in Southeast Asia in what was termed a "major departure" from the organization's role as a defender of individual rights.

The board maintained that the war in Vietnam was depriving citizens of their civil liberties because it had not been declared by Congress. The board called on Congress to repeal the draft and to refuse to appropriate money for the war.

The vote for active participation in efforts to stop the war was 43 to 1, with 11 abstentions.

The union's board of directors adopted the resolution Tuesday and announced it yesterday at the beginning of a four-day conference at the New York University Law School.

Noting that a major effort by the union to end the war was a departure from the organization's role, John DeJ. Pemberton the executive director, insisted that the union remained a nonpartisan organization.

"We have never before identified war itself as the cause of civil liberties deprivation," Mr. Pemberton said in explaining the nature of the change in union policy.

The union, the board resolved, will continue court challenges against the draft and seek "its legislative defeat" in Congress. In addition, it promised to "continue attacks against all forms of Government-inspired repression" of dissenters against the war.

'Violations' Cited

The board cited the following points as violations of civil liberties related to the war:

¶The draft system, "with its severe deprivation of personal liberty and its administrative inequities."

¶The curbing of non-obstructive dissent. The threat of criminal prosecution for flag offenses and draft-card burning.

¶The increased violence caused by war issues including the shooting of Kent State, Augusta, Ga., and Jackson, Miss.

The union also noted the worsening urban neglect caused by "splintering in our cities over the prolonged war"; the loss of academic freedom; a "Government crackdown" on news media that criticize the war and the increasing "military domination of policy."

Of particular interest to the board is a Massachusetts law passed in April authorizing the state's young men to refuse combat duty unless war has been declared by Congress.

The State Attorney General is expected to file suit under the new law before the United States Supreme Court in behalf of Massachusetts servicemen to test the legality of the war. The board has resolved to act as a friend of the court if the action takes place.