

*"The policy of our paper is very simple — merely to tell the truth."  
— Paul Poynter, publisher, 1912 - 1950*

24-A

Thursday, August 10, 1972

## 'Conspiracy's' Sorry Record

The stream of Nixon Administration conspiracy trials, hitting first flood at Chicago in 1969, and shifting around the nation to Seattle, New Haven, Harrisburg and Los Angeles, reaches another crest at the end of the President's first term, in Tallahassee.

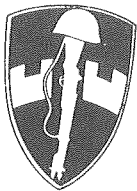
Vietnam Veterans Against the War are the targets of a new trial. But the basic issues and instruments of government against the defendants only confirm the inglorious history of previous conspiracy prosecutions by the Justice Department.

Like the Berrigan brothers, Daniel Ellsberg, Anthony Russo, the Chicago 7 and others, the members of the VVAW are persistent critics of the war in Southeast Asia. The government, which cannot persuade the country to the correctness of its war policy, feels compelled to gag the citizens who denounce it.

To silence the critics, the government accuses them of crimes they have not committed, having only to say that they intended or conspired to commit the crimes. To prove this in the case of the Berrigans, the government produced Boyd Douglas, a highly paid FBI informer with a past criminal record involving impersonation, fraud, and assault with a deadly weapon. The government's case failed. In the case of the VVAW, the government has produced William W. Lemmer, an FBI informant who, according to his wife, vowed "vengeance" against the ex-soldiers, including Scott Camil, the leader of the group. Whether his evidence is any better is yet to be seen. But, in the meantime, on the flimsiest charges, the government keeps its critics from attending two national political conventions.

The Nixon Administration has not kept its campaign pledge to make the streets of America safe from muggers and murderers. Instead the Nixon Justice Department has developed a sorry record of politically motivated prosecutions based upon the amateurish pursuit of nebulous plots at which any first-year law student would scoff.

By using these trials to curb legitimate rights of protest, the Nixon Administration has sent a more threatening specter across the land. The suppression of legitimate dissent creates disrespect for laws which are abused and for the government which immorally exercises this power. Beyond that, the suppression of dissent invariably invites more hostile dissent, a condition which cannot linger untreated in the nation without eroding support of the government among those citizens who take to heart the ideals of democracy.



- NIXON ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY VVAW -

STATEMENT BY DEFENDANTS

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? WHY ARE THEY PICKING ON US? WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO PROVE? THESE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WE HAVE MULLED OVER IN OUR MINDS SINCE THE INDICTMENTS CAME DOWN. HERE ARE SOME OF THE ANSWERS WE'VE COME UP WITH.

THE FIRST AND MOST OBVIOUS CONCLUSION IS THAT THIS IS NOT AN ATTACK ON US AS INDIVIDUALS, BUT RATHER AN ATTACK ON THE IDEAS AND ISSUES WE REPRESENT. THIS IS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF ATTEMPTS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INTIMIDATE AND DISCREDIT THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT AND THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO DISSENT IN THIS COUNTRY. IT IS A DIRECT ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR AS AN ORGANIZATION BY DESTROYING ITS CREDIBILITY AND UNDERMINING THE BASE OF SUPPORT IT HAS BEEN BUILDING AMONG THE PEOPLE.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO DO IS TO CREATE A DILEMMA FOR VVAW BY FORCING US TO WASTE VALUABLE TIME, RESOURCES, AND ENERGY FIGHTING THE GOVERNMENT'S INJUSTICE AT A TIME WHEN PROTEST AGAINST THE WAR WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE. THEY ARE TRYING TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY OF VVAW BY ASSOCIATING OUR NAME WITH CRIMINAL ACTS CITED IN THE INDICTMENT. THEY DON'T EVEN NEED A CONVICTION; ALL THEY NEED DO IS LINK THE NAME OF VVAW WITH VIOLENCE, AND THEY THINK THEY CAN STOP PEOPLE FROM LISTENING TO US. ULTIMATELY, IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE THE ENTIRE MOVEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WAS TOTALLY ARBITRARY IN ITS CHOICE OF DEFENDANTS. NONE OF US IS, BY ANY MEANS, A "MOVEMENT SUPERSTAR" OR EVEN WELL KNOWN AMONG OUR CONTEMPORARIES. THIS IS A GOVERNMENT WARNING THAT ANYONE WHO PROTESTS TOO LOUDLY OR TOO EFFECTIVELY COULD MEET THE SAME FATE.

THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS SHOWN A PARANOIC FEAR OF ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH IT, AND HAS GONE TO OUTRAGEOUS LENGTHS TO SUPPRESS DISSENTERS. THE MOST BLATANT EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THEIR USE OF THE GRAND JURY. THE GRAND JURY SYSTEM WAS ORIGINALLY SET UP TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN FROM HARASSMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF UNSUPPORTABLE INDICTMENTS. SUPPOSEDLY, THE GOVERNMENT MUST PRESENT EVIDENCE BEFORE THE GRAND JURY AND SHOW THAT IT IS SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO WARRANT AN INDICTMENT. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOW, HOWEVER, IS SUBPOENA THE PEOPLE IT WANTS TO HARASS, ASK THEM SELF-INCRIMINATING QUESTIONS, AND THROW THEM IN JAIL FOR REFUSING TO ANSWER. IF THEY DO ANSWER, THEY ARE EITHER CHARGED WITH THE "CRIME" THEY WERE FORCED TO CONFESS TO, OR CHARGED WITH PERJURY IF THEY DON'T GIVE THE ANSWERS THE GOVERNMENT WANTS. SO A PERSON HAS TWO CHOICES - TALK AND GO TO JAIL OR DON'T TALK AND GO TO JAIL.

THE INVASION OF PROTESTING CITIZEN'S PRIVACY IS DONE PRIMARILY THROUGH THE USE OF WIRE TAPPING AND INFORMERS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN THAT IT HAS NO INTENTION OF FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES SET UP FOR THE USE OF WIRE TAPS. ANYONE WHO PROTESTS GOVERNMENT POLICIES IS SUBJECT TO HAVING THEIR PHONE CONVERSATIONS MADE THE PROPERTY OF THE FBI. THE USE OF INFORMERS IS THE MOST PATHETIC MEANS OF INVADING PRIVACY. INFORMERS GENERALLY FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES. THERE ARE THE PROFESSIONAL AGENTS WHO DO IT AS A JOB, AND, IF YOU ARE NOT RADICAL ENOUGH TO FIT THEIR NEEDS, THEY ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO PROVOKE YOU INTO VIOLENT ACTS OR COMMIT THE ACTS THEMSELVES AND AT-

TRIBUTE THEM TO YOU. THEN THERE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE FORCED TO INFORM OR FACE PROSECUTION THEMSELVES. THIS IS THE VILEST FORM OF BLACKMAIL, BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT GIVES SUCH A PERSON THE CHOICE OF DESTROYING HIS FRIENDS OR GOING TO JAIL. MANY TIMES, THESE PEOPLE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO LIE IN ORDER TO SAVE THEIR OWN SKINS.

PROBABLY THE BIGGEST QUESTION IN EVERYONE'S MIND IS WHETHER WE ARE, IN FACT, GUILTY OF THE CRIMES WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF. WE ARE NOT GUILTY! THE WHOLE EXISTENCE OF VVAW IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT WE WHO WERE ONCE THE PAWNS IN THE SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF THE PEOPLE AND LANDS OF INDOCHINA FEEL A MUCH GREATER VALUE FOR HUMAN LIFE THAN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT DOES. NOW THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO CHARGE US WITH THE VERY CRIME OF WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ACCUSING THEM FOR FIVE YEARS - THE TOTAL DISREGARD OF HUMAN LIFE TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN ENDS. SINCE WE ONCE PARTICIPATED IN THEIR DEADLY GAMES, THE GOVERNMENT THINKS IT WILL BE EASY TO CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO DO IT AGAIN. IF WE HAD NOT PROTESTED - IF WE WERE NOT RESISTING THEIR CRIMINAL WAR POLICY - WE WOULD BE CONSIDERED HEROES ON THE BASIS OF OUR WAR RECORDS. LOOK AT THE VVAW RECORD AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF. THE ONLY THING WE ARE GUILTY OF IS TELLING THE TRUTH. THE ONLY DANGER IS OUR PRESENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE WE EXPOSE THEIR HYPOCRACIES, LIES, AND CRIMINALITY BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DESTROY THE VVAW WITH THIS TRIAL. AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY WANT TO SILENCE US IN THIS CRUCIAL TIME BEFORE THE ELECTION. WE WILL NOT ALLOW THESE CHARGES AND THE THREAT OF JAIL TO HALT OUR ACTIVITIES. RATHER THAN DESTROYING VVAW, THIS TRIAL WILL MAKE US STRONGER. RATHER THAN SILENCING US, IT WILL ONLY MAKE US PROTEST LOUDER. WE HOPE THIS TRIAL WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE JUST WHAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS DOING; THAT IT WILL BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING THE GOAL FOR WHICH WE ALL STRIVE: ENDING THE WAR IN INDOCHINA.

*Scott Camil*

*Alton Foss*

*Pete Mahoney*

*Bill Patterson*

*Don Perdue*

*John Kniffin*

*Stan Michelsen*

*John Briggs*

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR - GAINESVILLE CONSPIRACY

BOX 13179

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

904-378-0774

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DEFENDANTS

Alton Foss was born in Miami in 1946. He graduated from high school in Hialeah, Florida, and at the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. After completing his training, he was sent to Vietnam with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, in December 1966.

In April 1967, in an ambush south of Da Nang, Alton received two rounds of gunshot in his left leg. He has had ten operations so far and is now in a Veterans Hospital undergoing two more operations. He receives a sixty percent disability from the Veterans Administration.

For his service in Vietnam, Alton was awarded a Purple Heart, Vietnamese Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and National Defense Ribbon. He has been an active member of VVAW in Florida for eight months. He is working toward a degree in Medical Technology at Charron Williams Para-medical College in Miami.

-----

Scott Camil was born on May 19, 1946 in Brooklyn, New York and moved to Florida at the age of 4. In 1965 Scott graduated from Hialeah High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps.

During his four years in the Marine Corps, Scott spent 20 months in Vietnam as a Forward Observer with C Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division, operating in Da Nang, Hoi An, Dong Ha, and Quang Tri. He was wounded twice and received decorations from the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments.

He was honorably discharged as an E5 in July 1969 and entered Dade County Junior College, from which he graduated in December 1970. He entered The University of Florida in January 1971 and expects to graduate with a degree in Philosophy in 1972. He joined VVAW in January 1971 and has been working as the Southeast Regional Coordinator since then.

-----

John Kniffin was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1940. He graduated from Jefferson High School in San Antonio, where he was President of the Episcopal Youth Group.

After completing two years at Texas A & M, John enlisted in the Marine Corps for four years, of which he served 32 months in Vietnam. He received decorations from the Government of the United States and the Government of South Vietnam. He has returned these medals to the administration in protest to the war. John was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant (E6) in 1968.

After his discharge he was employed by Southwest Bell Telephone Co., while attending college part time. In 1969 he moved to Austin, Texas, where he worked for Bell Telephone Co. and attended the University of Texas. He became active in VVAW in the spring of 1971, and has devoted all his energy since then to VVAW activity.

Peter Mahoney was born September 9, 1948 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He attended St. Adrian School in Williston Park, N.Y., St. Anne School in Brentwood, N.Y. and St. Pius X Preparatory Seminary in Uniondale, N.Y. and graduated from Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, R.I. in June 1966. From 1966 until 1967 he attended Providence College where he was on the Deans List.

He joined the Army in April 1968 and went through Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Dix, N.J., and Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in March 1969. He then went to Jump School, also at Fort Benning. While at Fort Benning he served as a Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Company Commander with A Company, (LRRP), 75th Infantry. Advisor School at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Language School at Fort Bliss, Texas prepared him for his job as Senior Advisor on a Mobile Advisory Team in the Phu Thu and Phong Dien districts of Thua Thien Province in Vietnam from May 1970 to March 1971.

Peter was awarded a Bronze Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was discharged from the Army in 1971 as a 1st Lieutenant. In 1972 he was elected a National Coordinator of VVAW.

-----

William James Patterson was born in Norfolk, Va., on September 20, 1947. He enlisted in the Army for three years in January 1966. From February 1967 to February 1968, he served as a door gunner on a "Huey" helicopter gunship with the 25th Infantry Division LRRP. He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Purple Heart, three Air Medals, Vietnamese Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, National Defense Medal, and Aerial Crewmember's Wings. Bill also received decorations for the Tet and Counter Tet actions which he participated in.

From 1970 to December 1971 he attended the University of Texas at El Paso. In April 1971, Bill reported to the Provost Marshall at Fort Bliss that he had killed 13 Vietnamese civilians under direct orders, and also specified other war crimes he had seen and participated in. No action was taken in response to his testimony. From April 1971 to the present Bill has worked full time with VVAW as West Texas Regional Coordinator.

-----

Donald Perdue was born in Detroit in May 1949 and moved to Florida in 1951. He attended Hallandale Elementary School and South Broward High School in Broward County. After graduating from high school, Don was drafted and served in the Marine Corps from March 1969 to October 1970, and in Vietnam from September 1969 to July 1970. He was honorably discharged as a Corporal.

Since his discharge he has attended Broward Junior College, and expects to transfer in September to Florida Institute of Technology. In the interim he has been working as an apprentice pile driver and in a service station on weekends. Don also works in many community programs and is the Broward County VVAW Coordinator.

He is on the Board of Directors of the Broward Artificial Reef, a federally-supported ecology program for the repair and building of reefs, to replace natural coral reefs destroyed by pollution, to replenish fish life and sea ecology. His main concern is to end the suffering of the people of Indochina and to transfer an awareness of the sad state of our ecological balance to the people of the world.

-----

Stanley Krough Michelsen, Jr. was born on August 19, 1949 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and moved to Florida in 1953. He graduated Pompano Sr. High School in 1967, went to broadcasting school in Atlanta for one year and joined the Army in March, 1969.

During his 3 years in the Army he spent 20 months in Vietnam. He served in the 7th PSYOP Battalion for the 3rd Marine Division. He extended his tour 6 months in March 1969. He was stationed in Dong Ha where he received a Bronze Star, Vietnamese Service medal and Vietnamese Unit Citation. He turned down two good conduct medals.

Stan attends Santa Fe Jr. College where he is majoring in broadcasting. He has been VVAW Asst. Regional Coordinator of Florida for 1 year. He went to Paris in June as part of a VVAW delegation to meet with the North Vietnamese to gather evidence against the Nixon administration to be used at the republican convention.

Stan was subpoenaed on July 10 to Tallahassee, he was never called to testify and the subpoena was dropped on July 13. He was indicted on October 18, 1972.

-----

John King Briggs was born in Norwalk, Connecticut on October 20, 1951, and moved to Pompano Beach, Florida, in 1954. He went to Pompano Beach Senior High and quit in his senior year to drive a truck. In 1970 he went back to school and received a General Education Development Diploma. He attended Santa Fe Community College majoring in liberal arts. John has worked in the furniture business in Gainesville and Jacksonville, managing Water Beds Unlimited in Gainesville in September 1971.

John's draft status is currently 1-A but his sympathies are with the conscientious objector. On August 7 he was subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury and was dismissed. The Grand Jury reconvened September 7 and John was resubpoenaed. He was charged with contempt of Court by Judge David Middlebrooks and was placed in Leon County Jail on September 8. This was immediately after Justice Douglas had over-ruled the contempt citations on 4 members of VVAW and they had been released from Leon County Jail. Judge Middlebrooks ordered that the ruling by Douglas on the previous citations did not apply to John.

On September 17 the charge was dropped with no explanation and he was released from incarceration. John was indicted on conspiracy charges October 18, 1972. He has been a supporter of VVAW in Gainesville.

# The Charlotte Observer

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1972

JAMES L. KNIGHT, *Publisher*

C. A. McKNIGHT, *Editor*

BEVERLY R. CARTER  
*General Manager*

JAMES K. BATTEN  
*Executive Editor*

REESE CLEGHORN  
*Editor of the Editorial Pages*

## Editorials

### Anti-War Veterans' Case Resembles Berrigan Trial

The Justice Department's conspiracy case against six members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War almost reads like a short history of the Harrisburg Seven affair. We hope the government has more to go on than the word of one more dubious FBI informer; otherwise it could be in line for yet another embarrassment at the expense of innocent citizens.

The six are charged with plotting an assault on the Republican National Convention. They were arrested and indicted largely on the testimony of William L. Lemmer, a 24-year-old informer who was one of the most militant members of the anti-war group. Lemmer has a history of emotional instability. He was offered a psychiatric discharge from the Army; in recent months a University of Arkansas doctor recommended psychiatric treatment for him.

Yet the government took Lemmer's word and last month charged the six defendants for conspiring to "organize numerous fire teams to attack with automatic weapons and incendiary devices po-

lice stations, police cars and stores in Miami Beach." It also charged them with plotting to destroy communications and to raid Convention Hall.

So far progress on the case bears striking similarities to the government's pursuit of Rev. Phillip Berrigan and the Harrisburg Seven, who allegedly had planned to kidnap presidential assistant Dr. Henry Kissinger.

Charges in both cases were brought by the same Justice Department official; defendants in both cases belong to anti-war groups and claim the governmental action was taken to discredit their activities; and in both cases the grand juries handed up quick indictments then remained sitting—leading to defense charges that they were on a "fishing expedition" to find corroborating evidence and testimony.

And then there are the informers — Boyd Douglas, a convict, in the Berrigan case and Lemmer in this one. Douglas proved to be a wholly unreliable witness. He admitted to being a compulsive liar and often contradicted himself on the witness stand. Against his word, the Harrisburg jury voted 10 to 2 for acquittal.

Lemmer presents different problems. VVAW leaders have stated in affidavits that he was one of the more vociferous members of their group. According to one, Lemmer himself had urged "positive action" at the GOP convention: "His plan was that we get automatic weapons, disassemble them and strap them to our bodies, then get into the convention and rip people off . . . As long as I've been in the movement, I've never heard anyone speak of such radicalness."

That kind of talk raises questions. If there was a conspiracy, how much of the planning came from the FBI's own informer? Would there have been a plot without him? Can his word be trusted any more than Douglas' in the Berrigan trial? And why must the Justice Department rely so heavily on the word of a man with a history of instability?

The government does not have a very good batting average in conspiracy cases. It failed to win a conviction in the Berrigan trial; it may fail again at Tallahassee.

# Informer Appears Key to U.S. Case Against 6 Antiwar Veterans

By JOHN KIFNER

Special to The New York Times

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Aug. 13—The Government's case against six members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War charged with plotting an assault on the Republican National Convention appears to rest primarily on the testimony of an informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation who had established a reputation as one of the antiwar group's more militant and vociferous members.

The informer is William L. Lemmer, a 24-year-old ex-paratrooper who had been the organization's Arkansas-Oklahoma regional coordinator and who testified before a Congressional hearing that he had once been offered a psychiatric discharge from the Army.

Veterans who knew him, and Mr. Lemmer's estranged wife, Mary, say that he had a history of instability. The veterans say that he had frequently urged violent or disruptive acts on the group and that his activities had led to a number of arrests in the past.

The veterans contend that the conspiracy the Government describes did not exist. The Justice Department, as is the normal procedure, declined official comment on the case.

## Tape Recordings of Lemmer

The veterans group says it has 14 hours of tape recordings in which Mr. Lemmer details his activities as an informer for the F.B.I. and tells of various weird plots and counterplots that he contends he was involved in. They also have three rambling letters written to Mrs. Lemmer, in which he vows vengeance on members of the group he blames for taking her away from him, and speaks of his grand jury testimony and other activities.

The recordings were made shortly after Mr. Lemmer had told some of his fellow veterans at the meeting in Gainesville, Fla., that forms the heart of the overt acts in the indictment that he was working for the F.B.I. The Government has subpoenaed the tapes, but has not yet obtained them.

Mr. Lemmer, who is apparently under the custody of the F.B.I.—in one letter, he speaks of being in "protective hiding"—was not available for comment.

The indictments, handed up by a Federal grand jury here on July 13, charged six veterans, all in their 20's, with conspiring at a meeting in Gainesville, Fla., on May 28, 27 and 28 to disrupt the Republican National Convention, which is to be held in Miami Beach from Aug. 21 to 23. The six are: Scott Camil, John W. Kniffin, William J. Patterson, Peter P. Mahoney, Alton C. Foss and Donald P. Perdue.

The indictments charge that they conspired "to organize numerous 'fire teams' to attack with automatic weapons fire and incendiary devices police stations, police cars and stores in Miami Beach"; that the alleged conspirators "would fire lead weights, 'fried' marbles, ball bearings, 'cherry' bombs, and smoke bombs by means of wrist rocket slingshots and cross bows," and that they planned to "disrupt communications systems in Miami Beach."

The six veterans have not yet been arraigned. Last week, Judge David L. Middlebrooks of United States District Court ordered four other veterans back to jail for refusing to testify before the grand jury.

The progress of the case thus far bears a number of striking similarities to the Government's prosecution of the Rev. Phillip F. Berrigan and six other antiwar activists on charges of conspiring to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger, Presidential adviser.

The case was brought by the same Justice Department official who supervised the Berrigan indictment, Guy L. Goodwin, chief of the Internal Security Division's Special Litigation section.

In both cases, the defendants belong to groups that have been innovative forces in the antiwar movement. Both groups charged that the indictments were attempts to discredit them.

In both cases, the indictments were brought quickly and both juries remained sitting after handing up the indictments. The Government said this was because the investigation was ongoing; the defense charged it was a "fishing expedition" to find and compel corroborative testimony.

And, in both cases, attention focused on the role of an informer: Boyd F. Douglas, a convict, in the Berrigan case, and Mr. Lemmer in the veterans case.

Bill Lemmer, a pudgy man who has recently cut off the long hair and bushy beard favored by many of the antiwar veterans, enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville last fall, following his discharge from the Army.

One of the first things he did when he came to town was to call Martin Jordan, the leader of the Fayetteville antiwar veterans group, and say that he had met him at the group's big demonstration in Washington that spring.

"I said, 'Come on over, I'd like to talk to you,'" Mr. Jordan recalled, "because I wasn't there."

Mr. Lemmer quickly became prominent in activities of the antiwar veterans at the university. He had an assertive quality that several veterans described as a "tremendous ego," which led him to tell boastful war stories and claim expertise in a number of fields.

In a long interview, after she had gone through a large pile of old letters kept in a tin box, his wife recounted her relationship with Mr. Lemmer, whom she had known since he was a senior and she was a sophomore at the same high school in Texarkana.

Mr. Lemmer was a popular youth who had held several class offices and was a serious student who attended the International Science Fair in 1967, she recalled. He attended Valparaiso University in Indiana for slightly over a semester, dropping out when a girl he was going with had a nervous breakdown, his wife said.

"That's the way he is," Mrs. Lemmer said. "Any time he gets close to anything or anybody, it destroys them." She added that he was even unstable in just friendly relationships.

He joined the Army in March, 1968. As she traced his letters from basic training, advanced infantry, jump school and Special Forces training, she found a "gradual mental change," from "an intellectual status" to a more "every day, physical kind of thing."

In February, 1969, she said, he was sent to Vietnam with the 173d Airborne.

## Drawings in Letters

Mr. Lemmer is an excellent artist, his wife noted with some pride, and many of the letters from the period are decorated with his drawings. There is a recurring sketch of a teddy bear, which, she said, he would draw with various expressions to illustrate his feelings.

He was sent home in February, 1970, with a long leave. But in July, she recalled, he was ordered back to Vietnam and they hurriedly got married. He left in August but was soon shipped back because of a severe asthma attack.

He was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga., and she dropped out of the University of Arkansas to join him. There, she says, he became involved in antiwar activities.

He went to Washington at the time of the veterans' protest in the spring of 1971, and ap-

peared before a Congressional hearing. He presented a petition signed by 113 soldiers on the post protesting conditions and said that he had been harassed by military intelligence because of his antiwar activities.

In his testimony, reprinted in the Congressional Record, he says that "when they found out I was about to try and receive a legitimate medical discharge, they offered me a discharge on the grounds of psychiatric disability and for some ungodly reason I never found out." The testimony is somewhat disjointed, but it appears from the context that this was before he had served in Vietnam.

Mrs. Lemmer recalled much of their married life as a succession of financial problems and complained that as her husband became more involved in antiwar activities she was always left at home while he attended meetings or traveled.

But, about last October, as she placed it, the financial problems seemed to ease, although she said he never told her why. He was able to fly to veterans meetings in Denver, Washington and other places. In January he bought a Dalmatian that he kept with him constantly, new clothes, and in May he traded in their old car on a Toyota sports car that, she recalled cost \$3,847.

Indeed, it was largely Mr. Lemmer's ability to travel to various meetings, Mr. Jordan said, that persuaded him to step aside and let the newer man become the Arkansas coordinator of the group, a position he later expanded at a meeting in Denver to include Oklahoma.

But, there were things that, in retrospect, disturbed him about Mr. Lemmer, Mr. Jordan said.

"As long as I've been in the movement, I've never heard anyone speak of such radicalness," he said of Mr. Lemmer.



When the former Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, came to speak at the university, Mr. Jordan and other veterans said, Mr. Lemmer urged that they get lengths of chain and chain the door shut during the speech. The suggestion was voted down.

On another occasion, he recalled, he sat down at a table in the basement cafeteria of the Student Union building where Mr. Lemmer was talking to a group of other veterans about what he called a "positive action" at the Republican convention, then scheduled for San Diego.

"His plan was that we get automatic weapons, disassemble them and strap them to our bodies, then get into the convention and rip people off," Mr. Jordan said.

In affidavits filed in the Federal District Court here, Mr. Jordan and Donald C. Donner, another member of the Fayetteville veterans group, said that during their tape-recorded interrogation of Mr. Lemmer, he had told them that he had "counseled, aided and abetted" a teen-ager in a plan to blow up a campus landmark known as Old Main, teaching the youth how to make and place the bomb.

At midnight on last Oct. 15, F.B.I. agents and city policemen stalked out inside and outside of the building captured Mark C. Vanciel, then 19, the son of a local minister, with a Molotov cocktail. They found ether poured under the building's front door. He was sentenced to jail until his 21st birthday.

Barbara Stocking, a doctoral candidate and teaching fellow at Boston University, who worked for the veterans, met Mr. Lemmer at a peace demonstration in Washington last May. She accepted a ride to Florida with him.

#### Talked During Trip

He talked for "nearly the whole time" during the two-day trip, she said in an affidavit filed in the District Court here, and "he said that I should not go to the Miami conventions because, he said, all of the V.V.A.W. [Vietnam Veterans Against the War] leaders were going to be picked up and taken out of circulation."

The affidavit stated: "He and some other people were going to shoot leaders of the New Left, and start a riot, and there would be a lot of fighting and shooting, and everyone would be arrested. He said he had a source of unlimited funds to carry this out, and would go into hiding afterwards and leave the country."

"Whenever we stopped to eat along the way," the affidavit went on, "as soon as we were at a table or counter, he began talking in a loud voice about shooting, bombing, and the like. I asked him to stop.



The Arkansas Traveler

#### William L. Lemmer, an F.B.I. Informer, at an antiwar demonstration at the University of Arkansas.

but he still did it. When we got to Gainesville and went to the house of Scott Camil, which was where he was going to stay, he again talked of shooting and bombing."

Mr. Jordan and some of the other veterans cited an incident late in the spring at Tinker Air Force Base near Oklahoma City. After an antiwar rally, 36 demonstrators were arrested on trespassing charges when they crossed onto base property.

In checking the court records, Eric Grove, lawyer for some of the defendants, discovered that Mr. Lemmer had been released on his own recognizance without the aid of a lawyer—a highly unusual procedure.

Later, in their affidavits, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Donner would say that Mr. Lemmer had told them during the tape-recorded questioning that he had managed to get his release through his F.B.I. control agent. At this time, Mrs. Lemmer said, her husband had called her from Oklahoma and instructed her to tell friends that she had borrowed the money to pay his bail.

Mr. Jordan said that when he learned of the incident, he called the antiwar veterans' national office, which, in turn, called Gainesville, Fla., where Mr. Lemmer was attending a meet-

ing. It was at this meeting, held in apartments rented in a ramshackle old frame house by Scott Camil and several other Gainesville veterans, that the Government contends the alleged plot was hatched and that the use of fire bombs, slingshots and cross bows was demonstrated.

The veterans openly say that many of their members are armed. Mr. Camil also concedes that he has bought wrist-rocket slingshots—a weapon that uses steel balls for hunting small game and that is available in sporting goods stores here. The veterans say that at one point there was a plan to use the slingshots to fire marshmallows at policemen in a "guerrilla theater" action.

#### Democrats Called Topic

The veterans say that the meeting—a gathering of Southern regional leaders who met sporadically to discuss their problems in working in a more conservative area—was held to discuss plans for demonstrations at the Democratic, not the Republican, convention.

Some of the veterans say that Mr. Lemmer attempted to bring up the subject of the Republican convention, but was shouted down.

And, it was at this meeting, Mr. Camil and others said, that Mr. Lemmer took several people aside and for the first time

said that he had been an F.B.I. informer. He offered at the time to become a double agent.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Jordan and Mr. Donner met with Mr. Lemmer for two tense days, resulting in the long tape recordings.

One lawyer, not directly associated with the case, who has heard portions of the tapes described them as "hair-raising." He said he believed that Mr. Lemmer was "being used."

Meanwhile, relations between Mr. Lemmer and his wife were deteriorating. She would soon move out of their apartment, retain a divorce lawyer and, in mid-June, have him arrested and held for a sanity hearing.

#### Cites Threats and Weapons

In affidavits filed in the Fayetteville courthouse at that time, she said that he kept a loaded weapon with him, and that he had threatened her, her lawyer and several of the other veterans. The police confiscated a loaded .22-caliber pistol and a loaded .22-caliber automatic rifle from Mr. Lemmer.

Mr. Lemmer was released after being examined by a young general practitioner from the university, who recommended that he see a psychiatrist.

Since the break, Mrs. Lemmer has received three rambling letters from her husband, letters that abruptly shift in tone from pleading with her to come back to him, to bragging of his importance to the Government and of his grand jury testimony, to braggadocio and warnings of vengeance against Mr. Jordan and other veterans.

He says at one point that if he comes for them it will not be noisily, but in "tennis shoes" with a "length of piano wire," and says, "I am not a leg infantryman like them. I am an elitist paratrooper, S. F. [Special Forces] ranger."

At another point he says: "If you must tell them anything, tell them to keep an eye over their shoulders at all times. Because one evening soon, they'll see the satisfying smile of mine."

But, Mrs. Lemmer also recalled returning to their apartment the day she left and finding the walls covered with artwork, including many of his war drawings, and a number of index cards stuck on the walls reading "P.V.S. [post-Vietnam syndrome) Kills."

"There was a drawing of a street lined with buildings," she said. "Everything concrete with no life except maybe one or two twigs of grass coming through the cracks. And in the middle was a little teddy bear, the teddy bear he used to draw with this funny look on its face, this dull look."

# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

YOU CAN HELP US BY DOING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

SEND MONEY NOW! - TO - VVAW GAINESVILLE CONSPIRACY (PROJECTED COST OF  
BOX 13179 TRIAL - \$125,000)  
GAINESVILLE, FLA. 32601

ARRANGE TO HAVE ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS SPEAK AT YOUR SCHOOL OR IN  
YOUR COMMUNITY  
(A SPEAKERS PROGRAM IS VITAL - TO GET OUT INFORMATION  
AND TO RAISE FUNDS)

WRITE LETTERS TO THE EDITORS OF PAPERS IN YOUR AREA PROTESTING  
THE INDICTMENT & TRIAL

DISCUSS THE CONSPIRACY CASE ON RADIO AND TV TALK SHOWS

WRITE LETTERS TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN, U.S. SENATORS, AND THE PRESIDENT,  
PROTESTING THIS REPRESSIVE INDICTMENT AND TRIAL

SET UP A DEFENSE COMMITTEE IN YOUR COMMUNITY - TO RAISE FUNDS, TO  
BUILD ACTIONS AROUND THE TRIAL - TO ORGANIZE A LETTER WRITTING  
CAMPAIGN - TO GET OUT INFORMATION

PARTICIPATE IN THE INDOCHINA PEACE CAMPAIGN AND IN OTHER ANTI-WAR  
ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA

SUPPORT ANTI-WAR CANDIDATES IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

VOTE RICHARD M. NIXON OUT OF OFFICE

VVAW GAINESVILLE CONSPIRACY

BOX 13179

904-378-0774

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

## NEWS RELEASE

VVAW/WSO  
Gainesville 8 News Bureau  
307 SE 2nd St.  
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

July 6 pre-trial hearings for the Gainesville 8 Conspiracy Trial were held before Judge Winston Arnow to determine if the pre-trial activities of the defendants would prejudice the jury before it was selected. A defense motion was heard re: the right of discovery requesting access to the files of the fbi and other government agencies suspected of using electronic surveillance and agent provocateurs against the Gainesville 8 and other VVAW/WSO members. The judge ordered defense attorneys to show cause why they should not have to pay costs of a previous pre-trial hearing concerning the burglary of the office of a former attorney for one of the defendants. Separate contempt hearings were heard against Anthony Sidell, a VVAW/WSO member, and the Columbia Broadcasting System television network (CBS).

The hearing of the question concerning the defendants' alleged attempts to prejudice the jury produced an illegal line of questioning from special prosecutor Guy Goodwin and Judge Arnow. Their actions precipitated an outburst from spectators and a general disruption which eventually resulted in contempt charged against the six defendants present, one of their supporters, and a warning to another.

The disruption occurred during the cross-examination of Brian Adams, national coordinator of VVAW/WSO. Adams was called by the defense and testified that any and all activities around the trial were going to be organized by VVAW/WSO as a national organization and not by the defendants or their attorneys or members of the defense committee. During cross-examination Guy Goodwin began asking Adams for names of all people who would be working with him despite the objections of defense attorneys that the questions were irrelevant to the issue and were in violation of Adam's first amendment rights relating to freedom of association. At one point, Arnow overruled a defense objection and interjected a comment saying that he also would be interested in hearing the names of these people. When Goodwin asked for all names of people all around the country who would be implementing the plans for the demonstration, a voice among the spectators shouted "No!" General confusion followed. Two deputy marshalls identified Walter Klim as having said "No". They took him before the bench, and Klim told Arnow he had not made the comment. At that point, Mrs. Angelica Rohan of Miami, a witness in another pre-trial hearing set today, stood and told the judge Klim had not made the statement, but she would not reveal who did. Arnow called Mrs. Rohan before the bench

and under pressure from the judge, she identified Frank Hall as the person who made the interruption. At that point, the six defendants jumped to their feet, maintaining, "Two marshalls lied." Arnow subsequently found the six defendants in contempt. He also vacated a contempt citation and \$25 fine earlier imposed on Klim and found Hall in contempt of court, sentencing him to probation without supervision.

After a recess, Adams was back on the stand. He refused to answer most of the remaining questions on the grounds that it was a violation of his first amendment rights and possibly will be cited for contempt in an upcoming hearing for refusing to answer.

Despite the testimony, Arnow failed to hand down a decision on the question of pre-trial publicity.

In conjunction with the matter of the use of electronic surveillance by the fbi and others the defense called Pablo Manuel Fernandez who testified that while working for the Miami Police Dept. he used a bug to record a conversation with Scott Camil and Alton Foss. He further stated that he recorded a phone conversation with Scott Camil because he thought the fbi would be interested. Judge Arnow repeatedly upheld objections by the government of the defense attorney's attempts to discover Fernandez's involvement with the fbi and to discover the nature and extent of fbi use of electronic devices and informers and/or provocateurs. Angelica Rohan testified that Fernandez had told her that he worked for the fbi.

Defense attorney Morton Stavis requested that Guy Goodwin be allowed to testify as to the government's use of electronic listening devices. Goodwin had previously submitted four affidavits on the subject; first denying, then admitting to one and then another instance of electronic surveillance. In each instance, Goodwin admitted to the the government's use of electronic surveillance only after it was uncovered by a source other than the government. Given the history of Goodwin's lack of cooperation, Stavis asked that Goodwin be called to testify on the grounds that it appeared the government had information which the defense had a legal right to see under the Brady decision. Arnow refused to allow Goodwin to take the stand.

Defense attorney Doris Peterson requested that Judge Arnow remove himself from the case for reasons of prejudice, citing a long list of prejudicial remarks and actions by the judge. Arnow refused the motion.

The contempt charge against Tony Sidell resulting from an alleged threat to punch out fbi informer Gene Thrasher outside the courtroom was heard and dropped. Thrasher and David Williams had stolen a VVAW/WSO film from Sidell's house and had given it to the fbi. The question of defense attorneys paying costs was dropped.



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR  
GAINESVILLE CONSPIRACY DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 13179  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601  
(904) 378-0774

We have received your generous contribution to the Defense Committee. We would like to express our thanks and deep gratitude for your donation. You can be assured that the money will be used in the continuance of the struggle for peace and justice.

We are expecting a very long trial, possibly six to ten months, and we will use the trial as a political forum to express our views on the war in Vietnam and other issues we believe to be of vital importance. The actual cost of this trial will be enormous, possibly as much as \$250,000, but we are confident that the people of this country who believe in what we are doing will support us as much as they possibly can.

Once again we wish to thank you, and we know that the future will show that your trust in us has not been misplaced.

Hoa Binh,

THE GAINESVILLE EIGHT

*John Briggs*

JOHN BRIGGS

*Scott Camil*

SCOTT CAMIL  
FLA. VVAW

*Alton Foss*

ALTON FOSS  
FLA. VVAW

*John W. Kniffin*

JOHN KNIFFIN  
TEXAS VVAW

*Pete Mahoney*

PETE MAHONEY  
NY VVAW

*Stan Michelsen*

STAN MICHELSEN  
FLA. VVAW

*Bill Patterson*

BILL PATTERSON  
TEXAS VVAW

*Don Perdue*

DON PERDUE  
FLA. VVAW

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR  
Phone 904 378-0774  
P. O. Box 13179 Gainesville, Florida 32601

### NONVIOLENCE

As veterans of the most violent war in history, we have an understanding of what violence means. We have committed that violence in Vietnam on a grand scale. But what many of us do not understand is the concept of non-violence.

We grew up in a violent society with John Wayne movies, Dragnet, and all the other things. And in The Nam we saw many of our brothers die because they thought they were John Wayne. Nonviolence does not mean nonaction. Nonviolence is a special form of action designed to point out the contradictions inherent in using violence to obtain peaceful goals.

We went to Washington to show the American people that the Vietnam War is totally wrong. We had to do it with nonviolent action or we would have missed the point entirely. Our guerilla theatre actions portrayed violence. Our war crimes' testimony described the violence we committed in the past. And our very presence in Washington forced people to relate to the violence in Vietnam.

If a confrontation had occurred during our stay, we had to insure that it was clear to everyone -- the press, the public, the government -- that any violent acts were initiated by others than ourselves. We were there to educate the people of America. We were there to show them that we want peace and not another war.

Since we know so little about nonviolence, and since we are not trained in it, we must always be creative with our energies. We must maintain a sense of humor as well as a sense of urgency and determination. We must control ourselves and show the people of this nation and of the world that we have had it with the war -- all wars. That the needless dying in Indochina must cease NOW. And in order to do it we must live it. We have to be free. And that freedom includes freedom from the role we were trained for -- the role of violence.

In the end each of us will have to make up our own minds, and act according to those beliefs. But if in our demonstrations we do the same things we did in the Nam, then we are no better than the Nixons and Mitchells of the world.

Peace and Love and Nonviolent Action



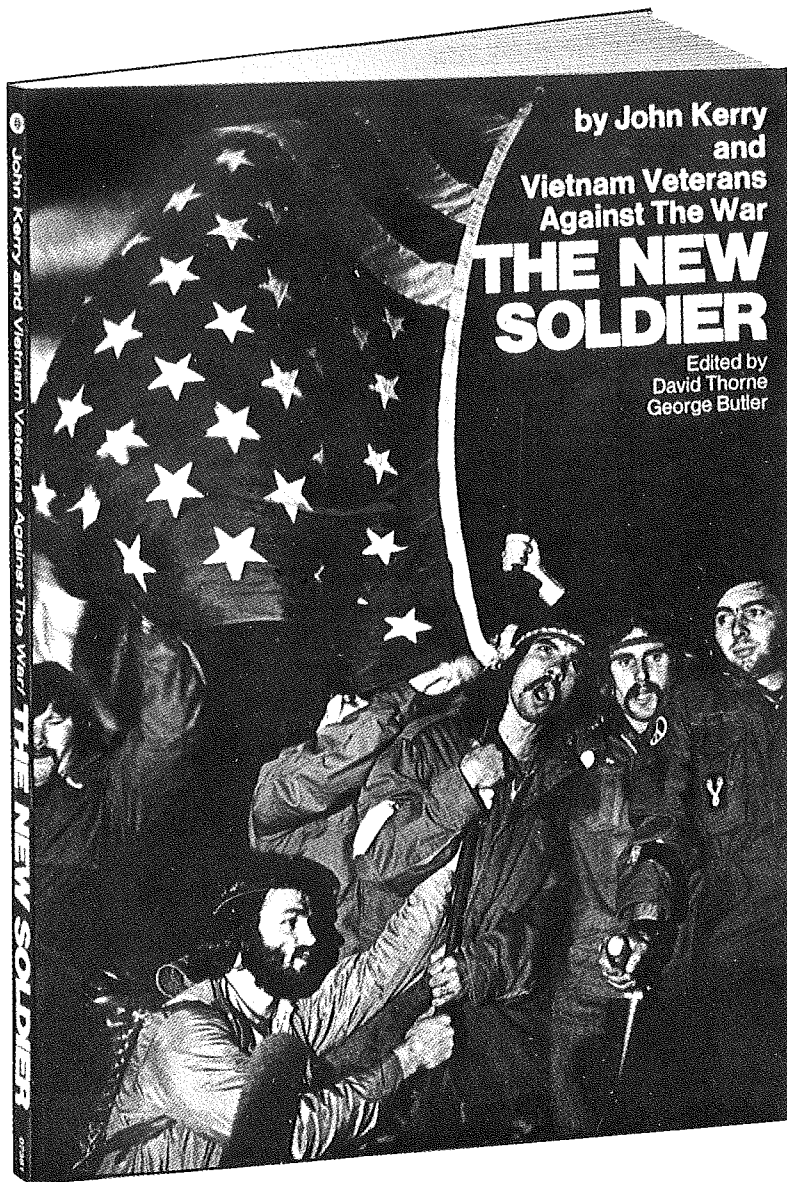
RETURN TO: VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR  
GAINESVILLE CONSPIRACY DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 13179  
GAINESVILLE, FLOIRDA 32601

WE DEMAND THAT THE INDICTMENTS AGAINST VVAW, AND ITS SUPPORTERS BE DROPPED BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO DENY AMERICANS THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO EXPRESS DISSENT AND OPPOSITION TO THE WAR IN SOUTH EAST ASIA.

WE ALSO DEMAND THAT THE ILLEGAL USE OF THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY SYSTEM BY THAT SAME ADMINISTRATION BE DISCONTINUED.

PLEASE PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 \_\_\_\_\_



## The New Soldier

"I hope every American will read it. It may put an end to this terrible war."

**Congressman Paul N. McCloskey**

*The New Soldier* "reflects in a moving way the seriousness of the young Americans who have done what they can, both in Vietnam and in Washington, to lead our country toward a saner and more rational policy."

**Senator J. William Fulbright**

This is not a book written by the government, by politicians or the pentagon, or by "think-tank" experts. It is the anguished cry of a small number of young men who were fortunate enough to be able to come home from Indo-China. These are the men who bravely cast down their medals and ribbons on the steps of the Capitol

Building in April 1971. In publicly protesting their government's policies in Indo-China, they faced their peers as well as themselves. *The New Soldier* addresses not just America, but countries under arms the world over.

### The book includes:

- \* John Kerry's entire testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- \* 54 statements by Vietnam Veterans
- \* 136 photographs of the Veterans' demonstration in Washington, D.C.
- \* 56 snapshots by veterans of their Vietnam experiences
- \* An epilogue by John Kerry explaining "Why *The New Soldier*?"
- \* Publisher's list price:  
\$3.95 paperback  
\$7.95 hardcover
- \* 8" x 11", 174 pages

Mail order forms to:

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST  
THE WAR  
BOX 13179 GAINESVILLE, FLA. 32601  
PHONE 904-378-0774

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the paperback edition of *The New Soldier* at the special rate of \$3.50 per copy (includes postage)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Vietnam Veteran

All proceeds from this book—due to the authors and editors—will go to Vietnam Veterans Against the War.