

Your Right To Dissent

"Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

"On the third night of Summer, 1967, the Los Angeles Police Department dispersed a peaceful demonstration of 15,000 people before the Century Plaza Hotel before the Century Plaza Hotel. **Your Right to Dissent?**

In the hotel, the President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson, was attending dinner. The demonstrators had marched there to protest a policy their President endorsed.

By sheer numbers alone, they sought to dramatize their opposition to the Vietnam War. They threatened no violence, neither to the President nor to the 1,300 police officers that night.

They came to exercise a right guaranteed to them by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. They were denied that right by arbitrary dispersal order and the violence which followed.....

Chicago Convention, 1968...

Each evening with gusto the police moved in to enforce the arbitrary 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. closing of Lincoln Park. Each evening it was clear that if left alone the Yippie and others would harmlessly spend the night sitting around their trash fires singing and arguing.....

Yet it was equally clear that they had no intention of obeying curfew, and if driven out of the park with clubs and tear gas, they would spill into adjoining streets..... The city opted for a nightly riot, and the demonstrators, augmented by many Chicago young people were thrown out in the streets.....

July 11, 1969...

U.S. Court of appeals finds that a jury might properly find the Reverend William Sloane Coffin and Mitchell Goodman guilty for their public expressions of opposition to the military draft. The court is in direct opposition to the Constitutional right to freedom of the press....

1968...

The House Un-American Activities Commission recommended the use of the detention act (which gives the Attorney General the right to incarcerate "Each person as to whom there is reasonable ground

to BELIEVE that such person will engage in, or PROBABLY will conspire with others to engage in acts of espionage or sabotage.") against black liberation and anti-war organizations...

March 5, 1968...

The anti-riot bill attached to the Civil Rights Bill was passed by the House and signed by the President. This is the bill which makes it illegal to cross state lines to incite, organize, participate in, or encourage others to participate in a riot. This statute also prohibits the use of interstate communications media (telephone, telegraph, mails, etc.) to incite a riot. Even if a riot does not actually occur, a person can still be convicted for attempting to incite a riot. This bill makes the advocacy and expression of ideas tantamount to inciting to riot...

Washington Moratorium, 1969...

I was ready to board my bus to come back to Hartford, leaving what had been a peaceful, beautiful day of marching, singing, talking and converting, loving.... Suddenly I looked up and saw thousands of people running towards me. Like cattle, they were herded and cornered into one block. Blocked off by tear gas, clubs, guns I did not make it to the bus. Neither did many. We were trapped, choking, and trampled. Yet I could not raise my hands to protect myself.....

Kent State University, 1970...

They were out in the open to demonstrate their disgust over the latest expansion of the war, so was the National Guard — to disperse these peaceful people. The gas was thrown at the demonstrators, and was subsequently thrown back. The Guard kneeled, gas masks on, rifles poised and loaded They said later a sniper fired at them from a building, behind them, but they fired and killed four, wounded eleven more, four of whom were on the critical list.

Let them not die in vain.....

May, 1970

A San Diego organization which coordinates off-post coffee houses for G.I.'s was machine-gunned from a speeding car. Several people were injured, and the storefront office was badly damaged. Police in San Diego refused to investigate the shooting.

External Communications Committee

If You are Confused about What You Can Do.....

The External Communications Committee is coordinating all Universities, colleges, and high schools to effectively canvass the Greater Hartford Area and to cover it thoroughly. They have established communications with 10 colleges and 14 high schools in the Greater Hartford Area. Many are already helping but they need man power! We must appeal to the voting masses by talking, educating, urging Please, thing positive! If you want to help, come to Room E, Gengras Campus Center, anytime during the day... Anyone on the committee can tell you what to do, and when

(ED. Note) The following letter is one which is being used by the External Communications Committee in their canvassing efforts.

Hartford, Connecticut
The Honorable Thomas Dodd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Dodd:

I am strongly opposed to spreading the war in Southeast Asia, and am very upset about the involvement of American troops in Cambodia.

I realize that you are coming up for re-election and so are very busy. However, I strongly urge you to use your influence to end the presence of American troops in Cambodia and Vietnam.

On Going Out Into The Community

Know the fears of the people you are confronting. Be willing to spend some time with individuals. Help people realize the need for unity, understanding, and confrontation of fears. Combine the situation at home with that in Southeast Asia.

Teach them to read newspapers conscientiously. Papers present the offensive aspects of political actions because people enjoy reading about violence, etc. — it reinforces their beliefs that dissent is caused by a minority of violent radicals. The papers did not emphasize the non-violent themes of all speeches at New Haven; they emphasized the minor skirmishes.

Tell them why the students (who they feel should be studying and taking advantage of the opportunity for education that many of the older generation never had) have suspended academics: education is involvement, it should be a total experience of applying developed selves to the world. People say we are sheltered — NOW WE ARE INVOLVED WITH THEM. People assumed that students threatened the National Guard — make people question what they read — THERE WERE NO SNIPERS AT KENT STATE.

Confront the perpetuated Cold War ideology: "Communist countries are split — we can bring them together by continued fighting in Southeast Asia."; tell them of the severe split between China and the Soviet Union. Show them the gains which

would result from withdrawal: 1) The stock market would rise. 2) More money (30 billion a year) would be available for such things as cancer research, poverty programs, etc. 3) FEWER PEOPLE WILL DIE.

When you go out in the community, remember:

1. Talk to the people on THEIR terms if you expect to make any positive impact on them. People are put off by "revolutionary" rhetoric. They don't understand it; they don't listen to it.

2. Don't antagonize people. They have a right to disagree with you. Don't call names. Be diplomatic; use tact.

3. Be familiar with all the material you are carrying. Be able to back up your argument with facts. Use examples that relate to people's experiences.

4. Don't lecture, patronize, or be condescending to people. They will resent it and will not be affected by the points you are trying to put across.

5. Really listen to the people. You can learn from them as much as they can learn from you.

6. Keep cool. Keep your responses as factual and non-inflammatory as possible. Don't let people antagonize you.

7. Ask people to keep up with current events and to question reporting with an open mind. Appeal to their humanity.

8. Don't ask for money, but accept it if offered.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL DISSENT BECOMES "RESPECTABLE." AMERICA MUST ADMIT FOR ONCE THAT IT MADE A MISTAKE.

Strike News

CONNECTICUT WITH CAMPUS
Students at the University of Connecticut have begun swamping their draft boards with requests for conscientious objector status, and they hope it will spark a similar movement across the country. Governor John Dempsey is to meet today with representatives of several Connecticut colleges. A meeting promised after a demonstration of the capitol in Hartford.

A RESPONSIVE CONGRESS

The House passed and sent to the Senate Wednesday a 20-billion 200-thousand military bill. The members debated for five hours and turned down five amendments that would prohibit any of the money being used to pay for US ground troop action in Cambodia.

Brandeis University's national strike information center reports at least 337 (new figure) colleges closed around the country, many with faculty or administration approval.

PRESIDENT

Maine congressman has urged Congress to assert its constitutional authority over future military policy in Southeast Asia. Second district congressman William Hathaway made the statement yesterday on the floor of Congress. Hathaway said President Nixon's issue is "unchecked executive discretion to order our military into action on foreign lands, wherever and whenever the president chooses."

OUR MAYOR!

Hartford Connecticut mayor Ann Uccello says that college administrators should "show more backbone when confronted with demands of militant groups." Mayor Uccello told an audience today at Ohio Dominican College in

Columbus that campus disruptions; destroy colleges. She said "radicals are capitalizing on civil unrest and Americans must strive to eliminate the causes of discontent." She said protesters are those "who cannot compete successfully in the establishment world because they don't have what it takes - courage, dedication and perseverance to succeed the way thousands of young people have done." Mayor Uccello said "instead, the cop-outs try to tear down the society in which they live they simply don't have the ability or determination to make their way."

CAMBODIA & GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP

More accidents and more deaths in the Indochina war. American helicopters have dropped thousands more allied troops into Northeastern Cambodia. One of the choppers crashed, killing nine Americans in the accident-plagued operation.

That makes 26 G-I's killed in five helicopter smash-ups in Cambodia and four in Vietnam, all since Tuesday. US military sources say the Cambodian offensives and Communist reprisal attacks have raised American casualties to the highest point in a year.

American deaths in Vietnam last week totalled 123-an increase of 29 over the previous week. Another 997 G-I's were wounded. South Vietnam announced pulling back six thousand men from a completed mission in Cambodia, but UPI reports at least 48 hundred Americans will be in Cambodia by late today.

REPRESSION

The Saigon government has seized editions of three daily newspapers and it brought the total of confiscations since January 1st to 28. Seizure of one paper was

explained by the government in this way - "it misrepresented arguments on the Cambodian issue that might undermine the national security and public order."

REFERENDUM

The Massachusetts Senate has passed a resolution, calling for a referendum on US action in Cambodia. The resolution, introduced in the senate by Senate president Maurice Donahue, would allow Massachusetts voters to decide the issue in the November election. The action yesterday came on a voice vote.

S.T. Del Corso, the adjutant general of Ohio, denies a charge that national guardsmen were at fault in the killing Monday of four Kent State students. He called Senator Stephen Young, who made the statement, a liar.

Mr. Nixon is also under pressure within the cabinet. Interior Secretary Walter Hickel told the President by letter, "I believe this administration finds itself today embracing a philosophy which appears to lack appropriate concern for the attitude of a great mass of Americans - our young people."

Anthony Moffett quit today as head of the Nixon Administration's liaison office with young people and he resigned with a blast at President Nixon. Moffett charged the president and his advisers have sanctioned, quoting now, "the most vicious tactics" against political dissenters. Moffett said recent remarks by Mr. Nixon confirmed for him that the President and his advisers "do not have the best interests of youth in mind."

Constitutional Rights

Note: The complete text of the amendments is given in the United States Constitution

To: ALL

Rights Guaranteed by the First Ten Amendments to The Constitution

1. Freedom of religion, speech, the press and public assembly guaranteed
2. Right to bear arms guaranteed
3. Quartering of soldiers on householders prohibited in peacetime
4. Search and seizure only of described articles or persons in a warrant, issued after sworn testimony offering good reason for search and seizure
5. Trial for a major crime only

after indictment by a grant jury public jeopardy prohibited Witnesses shall not be compelled to testify against themselves

No punishment except by due process of law No confiscation of property without just compensation

6. Speedy, public trial in state where the offense was committed 7. Jury trial of civil suits of more than twenty dollars and jury findings of fact to be final

8. Excessive bail prohibited Cruel or unusual punishments prohibited

9. Statement of guarantees does not deny other rights retained by the states or the people

10. Powers not given or prohibited to the United States are retained by the states or the people