

89th Congress - Second Session

July 7, 1966

SPECIAL NOTICE AND SUPPLEMENTARY ACTION

MEMORANDUM RE: ACTION ON VIETNAM, THE DRAFT, AND CIVIL RIGHTS

TO: NATIONAL BOARD, BRANCH AND LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMEN AND WNL SUBSCRIBERS

FROM: ANNALEE STEWART, Legislative and Branch Liaison

You will receive the F C N L WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER instead of the WILPF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER until further notice (except August), until a new Legislative Secretary takes over this responsibility.

I. VIETNAM - Don't let up on letter-writing about the Vietnam War! The bombing of oil depots close to Hanoi and Haiphong has increased the necessity of every concerned person to let the President, Secretary of State, your Senators, Representative and local editor know that there is opposition all over the country! URGE THE PRESIDENT TO STOP ESCALATION OF THE WAR, HALT BOMBING, and propose instead peace terms which will guarantee the withdrawal of all outside military forces from South Vietnam and the self-determination of the Vietnamese people under appropriate international supervision. See WILPF Position Paper on Vietnam 6/21/66. GET AS MANY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN LETTER-WRITING AS POSSIBLE -- your family, your neighbors, your religious and community leaders and organizations. THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE!

James Reston's Column (N.Y. Times 7/1/66) makes clear that this is a commitment to a military victory and a betrayal of the promises made to the American people. Get and read the full copy, if possible.

"WASHINGTON, June 30--The Johnson Administration may finally get over its agony in Vietnam--it may even achieve its military objective in the end--but it will probably never regain the confidence it has lost in its judgment and veracity.

"With the bombing of targets on the outskirts of Hanoi and Haiphong, it has now done almost everything it said or indicated it would not do except bomb China, and the end of this melancholy chapter in American history is not yet.

"The Johnson Administration said it was not seeking a military solution to the war, and it is now obviously seeking precisely that. It said it was there merely to help a legitimate government defend itself, and it has ended up by replacing a military clique that is not a government not legitimate and is not really defending itself.

"Even when allowances are made for the uncertainties and moral ambiguities of warfare, the guile of this Administration, exercised in the name of high and even noble principle, is hard to match....And even in this last adventure in Hanoi and Haiphong, we are told officially that these bombings are not an 'escalation' of the war....

"There is now not a single major nation in the world that supports Mr. Johnson's latest adventure in Hanoi and Haiphong. Even Prime Minister Wilson of Britain...felt obliged to make a public statement against the bombing...

"This question of confidence in the good judgment and good faith of the United States Government is really more important than anything else....

"But a great deal does hang on whether the American people can trust the pronouncements of their Government, whether they can remain united

(over)

on purposes they understand and respect, whether the allies believe Washington really wants a compromise settlement in Vietnam, or merely on its terms.

"Nobody knows in these circumstances what is now ahead... .

"What if the enemy now brings in new supplies overland from China's ports to replace the bombed Haiphong stores of oil and places them just over the China border from North Vietnam? Will we then carry the bombing to 'the source' in China?..."

Congressmen are concerned by the lack of mail. WRITE SENATOR VANCE HARTKE (R-Ind.), thanking him for his courageous speech in the Senate (6/30/66) on the U.S. policy of escalation of the war.

II. THE DRAFT AND PROPOSALS FOR A UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF SERVICE FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE - The House Committee on Armed Services held hearings with only Members of Congress and government agencies as witnesses. The WILPF and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) protested their exclusion and asked for extension of the hearings to include NGOs. See WILPF Annual Meeting Resolution and No. 10 on the WILPF Questionnaire for Candidates.

WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE TO OPPOSE COMPULSORY SERVICE, however valuable the projects themselves may be, as incompatible with a democratic society. Ask them to work for abolition of a compulsory military system.

Repr. Bradford Morse (R-Mass.), speaking for himself and 24 other Reprs., said when testifying, "the most important alternative to study, however, is the potential abolition of the draft. COMMEND HIM AND ASK FOR A COPY OF HIS TESTIMONY. Your Congressman may be on that list.

The Gallup Pole (Wash. Post 7/2/66) showed 72% favoring a 2 year duty for young men - either in military or nonmilitary work; 47% preferred that their sons serve in the Armed Forces; 54% (asked in an earlier survey) preferred that their sons begin service at 18 or earlier. What a disturbing evidence of the indoctrination of parents, as well as efforts to convince our youth!

President Johnson appointed a National Advisory Commission on Selective Service to make a study of the draft and policies for the future. The Selective Service Act expires June 30, 1967 and the Commission Report is to be completed early in 1967.

III. CIVIL RIGHTS - The controversial Fair Housing Section, Title IV is in serious trouble! (See p.3, FCNL WNL enclosed). WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE SECTION'S PROHIBITIONS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN THE SALE AND RENTAL OF HOUSING.