

NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIONAL NO-NUKES PRISON SUPPORT COLLECTIVE

#3

MID-JANUARY, 1981

WHO WE ARE - NNNPSC

The National No-Nukes Prison Support Collective was organized in the spring of 1980, with the goals of

- 1) providing support for jailed and imprisoned anti-nuclear activists, and
- 2) building links between the anti-nuclear movement and the prison movement.

So far, we are working to implement these goals by providing information about imprisoned activists through the Newsletter to members of the Collective, who then write letters of support to the activists, and letters to court officials protesting harsh treatment and supporting the actions of the jailed activist(s).

We have also begun to serve as a conduit of information on nuclear issues to ALL prisoners who desire to learn more about the nuclear threat and what can be done to resist it.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF THIS PROCESS--WRITING LETTERS AND DONATING A SMALL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME AND MONEY EACH MONTH TO SUPPORT THOSE IMPRISONED FOR ANTI-NUKE ACTIVITIES, PLEASE WRITE TO US, AND LET US KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST.

We will add you to our mailing list, and send you information about writing effective protest letters.

Jack Joppa
Box 1812
Madison, WI 53701

Allyson Hunter
Box 1221
Eugene, OR 97440

(please send
contributions of
stamps & cash to
Allyson)

Ploughshares Eight



* No trial date has yet been set for the Ploughshares Eight, the peace activists arrested after entering the G.E. Re-Entry Division assembly plant site in King-of-Prussia, PA, and destroying two missile re-entry nose cones for nuclear missiles. (see NNNPSC #1 and #2 for more details)

Their support groups, the Brandywine Peace Community, 51 Warren Rd., Media, PA, 19063, (215) 565-0247, has arranged a one evening "FESTIVAL OF HOPE" to raise funds and initiate plans for a continuous presence at the courthouse in Norristown for the duration of the trial. A trial date for late January or early February is expected to be set by the time of the Festival.

The Festival will begin at 8:00 pm, Sunday, January 18, at the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia, 2125 Chestnut St. Speakers will include Ramsey Clark and Dr. Helen Caldicott. Entertainment will be provided by the Bread and Puppet Theatre group, the Weston Prior Monks (music and prayers) and the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, one of the eight, who will read poetry.

Of the eight, four remain in jail until the trial: Elmer Kaas, John Schuchardt, Father Carl Kabat and Phil Berrigan, Montgomery County Prison, 35 E. Airy St., Norristown, PA, 19401. Molly Rush, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Dean Hammer and Daniel Berrigan were all released earlier.

Contributions for the support effort, stamps and cash, should be sent to the Ploughshares Eight Support Committee, c/o Brandywine. Further information about plans for the continuous presence in Norristown during the trial can also be obtained from Brandywine.

TRIDENT RESISTANCE, CONT.

The two Trident resisters, Johnny Jacobson and Charles Maconis, whose imprisonment was noted in NNNPSC-2, have been released from the Federal prison at Lompoc, CA. Johnny expected to stay longer because of his refusal to pay a \$500 fine, but the authorities have yet to contact him on that matter.

Meanwhile, Jim Douglass, who had long ago completed a six-month sentence for climbing over the fence at the Trident submarine base at Bangor, Washington, appeared before Federal Judge Donald Voorhees on Dec. 17, 1980. Jim had also refused to pay a \$500 fine, or otherwise cooperate with the terms of his probation. After reading a short statement to the judge, he had his probation revoked, and the maximum six-month sentence was re-imposed by the judge.

In his statement to the court, Jim noted that "The purpose of this court in fining me and putting me on supervised probation was to enforce nuclear war preparations. I cannot cooperate with that purpose...Our nuclear war preparations are a killing of the Spirit. The court in support of nuclear war is trying to kill the Spirit. The Spirit which makes us human dies a little more every time one more nuclear weapon is made on this earth--and every time we cooperate with that process...The purpose behind my fine and of threatening to send me to jail for six months (was) to get me to cooperate in killing the Spirit in my own heart. Refusing to pay my fine or to cooperate with my probation is one way of keeping the spirit alive. Some day the wings of that Spirit, which are justice and peace, will cover the earth. If we can keep the Spirit alive in our hearts, and in our courts, nuclear war will be overcome."

Jim turned himself in to federal marshalls in Tacoma on Jan. 2, 1981, and immediately began serving his sentence at the McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary, Box 1000, Steilacoom, WA. Jim wrote to us before turning himself in that "I don't think there's much point in writing to the judge in my case--put the energy into further acts of resistance."

EVERY ACT OF RESISTANCE TO THE NUCLEAR THREAT SUPPORTS THOSE IN
JAIL OR PRISON FOR THEIR ACTS OF RESISTANCE.

Jim can also be supported by ordering his book, Lightening East to West (\$4.50 + 60¢ postage, Sunburst Press, Box 6, 4610 SE Belmont, Portland, OR 97215), which is recommended for all peace activists.

the nuclear trigger

The Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility, located 16 miles northwest (and upwind) of Denver, Colorado, is a federally owned, Rockwell International-managed plant which produces and reprocesses all the plutonium triggers used in nuclear weapons for the United States.

There have been hundreds of arrests and subsequent jailings at Rocky Flats over the past 2½ years. The plant also happens to be the original focal point of activities by the core group of the NNNPSC.

Clare Galinas and Ron Goyer recently spent 22 days in the Denver County Jail for two arrests each on the same day, Dec. 15, 1980, and for a previous arrest. They were released January 6, 1981, because of an appeal decision dating back to April 29, 1979, when approximately 300 people were arrested. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the 1979 arrests were illegal because the 'No Trespassing' signs had not been posted around the property more than 30 days before the federal arrests, as required by the law. Of course, what this decision has to do with Clare and Ron's release is confusing, because their arrests were 1½ years later, and obviously the signs had been up for more than 30 days by then.

The law sometimes works in mysterious ways, but in all its absurdities, it is still the law...

Roberto Brown, Norfolk Prison Colony, Box 43, Norfolk VA 02056, is a prisoner who has organized a prison study group called Nukes Kill. The men have raised several hundred dollars, which they donated to the Clamshell Alliance. Roberto wrote shortly after NNNPSC-2 came out that he was in solitary confinement, and facing a rather bleak holiday season. Please drop a note of encouragement his way. He can also receive, and would greatly appreciate, parcels of pre-wrapped foods.

update: womyns pentagon action

The harsh treatment of womyn taking part in the Womyns Pentagon Action in Washington, DC on Nov. 17, 1980, and particularly of those who plead guilty or nolo contendere immediately (reported in NNNPSC #2) has been followed by an amazing leniency on the part of the government since that time.

Currently, no womyn are in jail or prison as a result of the action. In total, there have been approximately 54 dismissals of charges, 12 acquittals and 26 convictions. 38 womyn have plead guilty or nolo. Of the 64 womyn sentenced so far, most have received 10 day jail terms. One womyn was convicted of assault (!?) and received a sentence of 50 hours alternative service.

Since December 15, all womyn who have come to trial have had their charges dismissed. Many of these dismissals have been requested by the U.S. attorney prosecuting the cases, who declined to press the case when it was called. The attorney who requested these dismissals is a veteran of civil rights struggles who was clearly sympathetic to the actions of the womyn, and showed no interest in advocating the government's case.

Two of the five womyn originally sentenced to 30 days were released after serving 19 days, when Ms. Munsell, their sentencing magistrate, had an apparent change of heart in the matter and immediately released them. An article appearing in the New Yorker magazine a few days before she ordered the release of Cassandra Dixon and Pam Osgood was critical of the harshness of the sentencing, and mentioned only Ms. Munsell by name as one of the three magistrates responsible. Although Ms. Munsell mentioned no reason for the reduction of sentence, the inference that public expression of outrage over the actions of the courts can influence the actions of the judges and prosecutors is not unreasonable.

Writing letters protesting certain official actions, or expressing support for imprisoned activists is a strong personal statement, the positive effects of which cannot, and should not, be discounted. Even the simple act of writing a letter in support of jailed activists is a significant act of resistance, and adds to the total effect of all our efforts.

escape—

below gun
towers, up
and over
the barbed
wire fencing;

butterfly

(taken from Poems From Prison
by Johnny Baranski, Trident
resister. Available from
Sunburst Press, Box 6
4610 SE Belmont, Portland,
OR, 97215. \$2+15¢ postage)

SALVATION

by day, this
concrete box is
zero green;
by night and
high beam lamps,
a laughing skull,
teeth darting
wildly out
on the yard,
bars—
imagine!—
fingers of
ashen bone
holding helpless
men like game
to the block.
yet, not far
beyond, a doe
and two fawns
spring up
a slope to
graze on grass
that speaks
the tongue
of summer.

A group of native American prisoners in Wisconsin are interested in receiving information about uranium mining, particularly in Wisconsin and Minnesota, so they can further their own knowledge of the issues and spread this knowledge to other prisoners inside the walls.

Movement groups and individuals who can donate published information (pamphlets, reprints, books) about uranium mining should send them to United Natives of North America; c/o Dale Decoteau; Box 1000; Oxford, WI 53952.

NOW MORE THAN EVER - NNNPSC NEEDS YOU!

In the unhealthy political environment of the Reagan administration, the necessity of civil disobedience as a tactic in the fight against nuclear power and weapons is clearly more urgent. As a result, many more committed activists are likely to end up in jail and prison in the next few years. And that means a need for even greater efforts to support those inside the walls, so that their energy and inspiration is not isolated behind the same steel bars which cage their bodies.

The National No-Nukes Prison Support Collective hopes to serve the movement for a peaceful, non-nuclear future by supporting those in prison for anti-nuclear acts, and spreading information about their struggle to movement groups around the country.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Spread the word about the collective to groups and individuals who might not yet be aware of our work. By doing this, we can increase the number of people writing letters and taking other actions in support of jailed activists, and be certain to establish contact with all activists who are doing time for expressing their commitment to a non-nuclear future.

SEND US A DONATION! Ideally, we would like to receive regular small donations from members of the collective (that's you!) who can afford to contribute just one or two hour's wages each month. If you think you can afford this type of sustaining contribution, please help us out so the collective can be self-supporting, without having to draw too heavily on the incomes of a few people.

BEWARE OF WHAT YOU WRITE TO PRISONERS!!

A recent incident occurred in Colorado which should serve as a warning to those of us writing letters to activists in jail or prison.

An anti-nuclear activist, Doug Gillingham, wrote a short paragraph in someone else's letter to a friend doing time for actions against the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant. Doug had just gotten a job with the Army Corps of Engineers for the summer of 1980, and so jokingly wrote that he had infiltrated the government, which could lead to 'wooden shoe, monkey wrench gang, sabotage' activities.

Never think the authorities don't read prisoner's mail! The F.B.I. contacted Doug at his job, with a copy of the letter. Although he tried to convince them that it was all a joke (ha ha), the F.B.I. doesn't have much of a sense of humor. They are now in the midst of a full-scale investigation of Doug, questioning his friends, friend's parents, his parents, employers, and those he works with at the Rocky Flats Truth Force, the movement group he works with in Colorado.

WHO'S INSIDE:

Besides the people mentioned in the articles in this issue, the following people are also in jail for anti-nuclear activities, and more information about their cases has appeared in previous issues of the Newsletter, and can be obtained by writing to us.

Bill Kuykendall
Box 2209

Petersburg, VA 23803
(sentence: 2 years)

Jim Merrill
Box 2209

Petersburg, VA 23803
(sentence: 2 years)

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