

{LPI}

Libertarian Notes Conscription

- (1) Understanding of truth is attained only by the unvarying use of reason.
- (2) Government rightfully exists only to protect every individual citizen in his life, his liberty, his property and his pursuit of his personal happiness. Force may justly be used by government only to restrain or deter those who, by initiating force or defaulting on a freely assumed legal obligation, have deprived or would deprive others of their life, liberty or property. No other use of force by government at any level - local, state or federal - can be justified in principle under any circumstances whatever.
- (3) National defense is a legitimate function of government, and military services should be maintained sufficiently strong and effective to perform this function. Disarmament and pacifism can lead only to enslavement by foreign conquerors. National defense cannot justify government ownership of any property, or furnishing of any services, not indispensably necessary and actively used for performance of the deterrence and combat functions of the military.
- (4) Collectivism, which is most openly manifested in communism, socialism, and facism in every form and application throughout the world, constitutes today by far the greatest threat to liberty facing us; consequently, it must be opposed with all our strength. Any person or group which would restrict personal liberty by using force except against the initiators thereof is also a threat, whether called Left or Right.
- (5) Death may be preferable to survival within the inhuman condition of a totally collectivized state. But the decision to die, or to kill in defense of freedom, must be left to the individual.
- (6) The Selective Service Acts passed by the government of the United States are a direct assault on individual freedom in this country.
- (7) When a government asks individual citizens to die or to kill, the only possible justification for the request must be the defense of the basic rights of the individuals, which may be in jeopardy. To volunteer and die in the name of truth can be an act of greatness; but to be forced to die in the name of 'the domino theory' is absurd.
- (8) Ideas of men and the so-called 'practical reality' created by men are inseparable. When statesmen pretend to be operating on the basis of practical reality alone, their policies become irrational and dangerous.