

We are...One Group

Fighting for

One Cause

FOR YEARS WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER demanding universal, unconditional amnesty for the over one million who need it, making clear that all resisted and/or were victimized by the same unjust war.

In September 1974 President Ford set up his "Earned Re-Entry" Clemency Program which attempted both to split and thereby defuse the issue, and required war resisters to do "penance" while giving Nixon, one of the war's prosecutors, an unconditional amnesty.

We have always found our greatest strength lay in our insistence that we shall not be divided. Together we mounted an education campaign reaching people in small towns and large cities all across the country. We explained the true nature of President Ford's program, its inherent injustices; and the effective boycott of his "non-solution" led to its eventual dissolution.

President Carter is following some strikingly similar patterns. While making some of the war prosecutors part of his administration, we all know his first step was to separate out draft resisters from the rest of the million war resisters.

Once again, to offset the resulting public confusion and to press for a truly just solution, veterans, resisters, and supporters from the U.S. and abroad joined together in Toronto and Washington, D.C., as well as locally, demanding unconditional amnesty for all.

President Carter's recent second step fails once again to offer a just solution. While giving a blanket pardon to most draft resisters (who come from largely educated and middle class homes), he has set up a case-by-case review by the military for some veterans. Besides excluding hundreds of thousands, this form of review is inherently discriminatory.

Again, the public needs to know that President Carter still has neither closed the book on amnesty, nor did he "bind up the divisions of the Vietnam era."

The veterans at the January "International Conference of Veterans and War Resisters" in Toronto reaffirmed this in an Open Letter to President Carter:

"Your partial pardon has not divided us against one another. On the contrary, we are more determined than ever to carry on our common fight until you or another President gives us a truly just and total amnesty."

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CARTER'S SECOND STEP:



NOT JUSTICE —

NOT AMNESTY

President Carter has made his second move. Unlike his blanket pardon for largely middle class and educated draft resisters, it requires veterans with less-than-Honorable discharges—disproportionately poor and minority—to apply to the military within six months for review.

For some it may mean an up-grading and veterans benefits, but all will have to submit to a case-by-case review by military discharge boards which past experience has shown are inherently discriminatory against poor and minority people. Many veterans are not eligible even for this review process, and civilian resisters are not included in any program at all.

We urge you—amnesty supporters, veterans, deserters, pardoned draft resisters, and families of resisters pardoned or not—once again to not permit another non-solution to be billed as justice. More than ever our insistence that we will continue to struggle together must be made clear.



ACTION!!

I. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE to President Carter's Second Step:

A. Write letters or send telegrams to the President outlining the problems with the program as highlighted in the brochure "Carter's Program: Not Universal, Unconditional Amnesty" enclosed. (Be sure to state your negative comments first so that your letter won't be put in the "Gee Mr. President, thanks alot!" pile.)

B. Write letters to the editor trying to offset public misconceptions about the program and calling for a total and equitable amnesty for all.

C. If your organization can write a statement or put together an ad, try to get it into local papers, newsletters, and magazines.

D. NCUUA has available for circulation copies (in petition form) of the "Open Letter to the President" which was issued by veterans at the Toronto "International Conference of Veterans and War Resisters" in January. Order today! Set up tables on street corners or in a shopping center; have people sign the letter and send it to the White House.

E. Have a statement calling for amnesty—justice—for all read at a church or synagogue service. Have literature available and have a meeting planned to enable interested people to become involved.

F. Get on local talk shows and discuss the issue of amnesty for those not adequately covered, using the enclosed outline.

G. If you are not already in touch with veterans groups in your area, contact the national NCUUA office. We have lists of contacts around the country and can assist in getting you together. Organize a meeting on the issue of those left out of Carter's action as a first step in this effort. Allow for plenty of time to organize joint efforts if you have not worked together before.

II. ARMED FORCES DAY (May 21st) & MEMORIAL DAY (May 30th):

Begin planning actions now for one of the above dates which demonstrate to the public and to President Carter that the two-step pardon does not begin to deal with the demand for amnesty and the enormity of the problems involved.

Either of these occasions can be used as a focus point for building cooperative relationships between amnesty activists and veterans.