



National
Council to

REPEAL THE DRAFT

245 2nd Street, N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002

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Chairman

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Secretary

James E. Bristol
*Chairman, Executive
Committee*

Dear NCRD Supporter:

This comes as a letter of deep appreciation to you for all that you have done to push the draft repeal effort so close to total abolition of military conscription. The contrast between 1969 and 1973 is hard to overstate. You have helped in many ways in the struggle over the past four years, and we are very grateful.

If you gave in response to the December appeal or the January follow-up, we want again to thank you. We had hoped those would be the last appeals, but we are still \$13,000 short of \$48,750. If you can help to close the gap, we will be indebted to you.

If you were unable to respond affirmatively to the earlier appeal, we very much hope that you will find it possible to share generously with us now. Only with your support can we complete the work that must be done before the end of June.

Please keep in mind these salient points:

- (1) On July 1 only the induction power expires. If Congress fails to repeal the Selective Service Act, the entire conscription system remains intact and operational with deferred men still liable for induction.
- (2) A stand-by draft can be activated quickly and easily. Another Vietnam becomes more likely. Congress and the people exercise very little control over the President.
- (3) A stand-by draft makes certain the enlargement of the Selective Service computerized registration bank of millions of young men. 1,900,000 men will be required to register in Fiscal 1974.
- (4) The new budget includes \$55,000,000 for Selective Service. Hidden costs such as rent and law enforcement expenses increase the real costs for this drafting agency, which says it does not plan to draft anyone, to well over \$100,000,000.
- (5) Total draft abolition bills have been introduced by Senator Hatfield (S.J. Res. 54), by Senator Proxmire (S.1187), by Representative Abzug (H.J. Res. 51), by Representative Matsunaga (H.J. Res. 382) and by Representative Helstoski (H.J. Res. 456). The number of co-sponsors increases; support is mounting steadily.
- (6) We are working to eliminate Selective Service from the budget. NCRD is lining up people for May 3 and 4 to speak authoritatively on the budget matter, as well as on hidden costs of a stand-by draft, before the Senate Appropriations Sub-committee which Senator Proxmire chairs. Similar testimony will be needed for the corresponding House Sub-committee, chaired by Representative Edward Boland, later in May.

To make our maximum impact between now and the end of June, we must continue to work at our present level. Please make a special effort to contribute generously at this crucial time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James E. Bristol

Gerald E. Shenk

John Hancock

John Hancock
Executive Secretary

Katharine F. Wall
Associate Secretary

Robert J. Crossgrove
Associate Secretary

Richard Malishchak
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