



National Council to REPEAL THE DRAFT

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Dear Friend:

Nobel Laureate George Wald put it well: "Don't reform the draft - get rid of it." In January 1969 people from 30 organizations established the National Council To Repeal the Draft. Today NCRD has members from more than 40 organizational backgrounds, prominent Americans as sponsors, and a staff of five. It is engaged in lobbying, literature production and distribution, writing and research, advertising, speech making, regional organizing, and national, regional and local conferences and workshops on repeal.

Since NCRD began, the political climate has shifted. There is now widespread determination to reform the draft, and a growing feeling that it should be abolished. We believe that the reforms suggested, whether minor changes or complete overhauls, cannot eliminate the two basic facts that

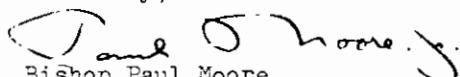
- (1) the draft forces boys against their will to fight and perhaps to die;
- (2) the peacetime draft gives the President unconstitutional powers to escalate manpower to prosecute undeclared wars.


The lottery leaves the basic injustice of military conscription untouched. With draft revision hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee announced for February, the case for draft repeal must be made before Congress in 1970 rather than in 1971 when the present Selective Service Act expires. Congress will not repeal in 1971 a law which has been thoroughly revised six or eight months earlier. Some observers even believe that Congress will enact this year legislation with an expiration date in 1974 or 1975. If the draft is not to continue for years to come, vastly increased repeal efforts must be made now.

Although encouraged to find a growing measure of support in Congress and across the nation for draft repeal we still work with minority support. To change that to a majority will require ever-increasing work and activity, and in turn increased financial support.

We have been forced by the greatly increased tempo of our campaign to find a larger office and to increase our staff from three to five. We must have more financial support now for this expansion. These and other expenses will continue to mount in direct proportion to the effectiveness of the job we do. To liberate our staff from time-consuming fundraising work so that their maximum effort may go toward ending conscription requires new and generous contributions from those who agree with George Wald that we must get rid of the draft. We trust you will want to contribute now to this urgent campaign.

Sincerely,


Bishop Paul Moore
Bishop Coadjutor of New York


Stewart Meacham
Peace Education Secretary
American Friends Service Committee

P.S. NCRD has begun a major research project to study the impact of the draft and draft repeal on American society. The means of assuring civilian control over a volunteer military will be emphasized. NCRD hopes to complete the study by late February, and has found a major publisher. Begun without financial underwriting because of the urgency of such a study the minimum cost is estimated at \$5,000. We hope large contributions for this purpose will be forthcoming.

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