



[NCRD]

Perhaps the holiday rush you overlooked this (or a similar letter). Strong forecasts are in the new Congress. You have a fight on your hands. Please give as you can.

Abbi Frank Fisher  
Howard Maxwell, Vice Chairman  
Naomi Goodman, Secretary  
James E. Bristol, Chairman, Executive Committee

# National Council to REPEAL THE DRAFT

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Yes, 1973 is the year, and July 1<sup>st</sup> the last possible date!  
December 1972  
Jim Bristol - 1/25/73

Dear NCRD Supporter:

Many thanks to you for making draft repeal a priority in your peace efforts. You now face your final opportunity to repeal military conscription in America when the present law expires next June. Consider these two facts:

(1) The draft has not ended. The Pentagon is pushing hard for an active draft. The Army Times of September 6 predicts that in the spring President Nixon will change his mind. Even without that the President's conditional pledge to end the induction authority means a stand-by draft!

(2) At the same time we have made significant strides since passage of the current law in 1971. The Presidential induction authority can be ended in 1973; there is even an outside chance that the entire "Selective Service" System can be abolished.

Consider also this solemn footnote: if you do not succeed by the end of June, you have "had it". We will then return to the 1948-1968 mind set where conscription, quietly accepted by most Americans, is renewed almost casually by Congress.

Faced by these facts, your NCRD Council on November 15 made the agonizing decision to adopt a budget of \$48,750 for the final push from January to June, slightly more than \$8,000 a month. This provides for five people working in Washington, all at subsistence income, and four volunteer field secretaries, with NCRD covering expenses such as travel, telephone and repeal materials.

We are greatly encouraged by the fact that John Hancock, a professor at the California State University at Hayward, has secured a leave of absence to work in the Washington office from January to June. John and his wife, Connie, have done a tremendous repeal job in the past two years, organizing the vigorous Parents Against the Draft, placing full page ads in the Washington Post, and testifying before both the Democratic and Republican Platform Committees. Since the Hancocks have three children, NCRD will assume a considerably heavier financial responsibility to a staff member that we have ever done before.

NCRD has a specific job that can be done only in the next six months. We shall be most grateful if you can give generously for this final stretch drive.

You wish, we are sure, that the task of raising money be behind us, and that you and we expend our total energy to end conscription. Will you release us to do our part?

Sincerely,

*Gerald E. Shenk*  
Gerald E. Shenk

*James E. Bristol*  
James E. Bristol

John Hancock  
Executive Secretary

Katharine F. Wall  
Associate Secretary

Robert J. Crossgrove  
Associate Secretary

Richard Malishchak  
Associate Secretary

Gerald E. Shenk  
Assistant Executive Secretary