



INSIDE / OUT

Same Struggle, Same Fight

No. 14 VVAW Newsletter for Prisoners Dec 75

Militant Greetings:

As the enclosed copy of The Veteran explains, we have changed the name of the organization; we are now just Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the name with which the organization began back in 1967. There were good reasons why the organization decided to keep VVAW; most of our members (though certainly not all) are Vietnam vets. And, even more important, one of our primary tasks is to use the experience which we went through in Vietnam or in the military to talk about whose interests wars like Vietnam serve. Most of us who were in Vietnam learned quickly that the war was not being fought in our own interests, and it sure wasn't being fought in the interests of the Vietnamese. And we want to take the lesson that we learned-- wars of US aggression are fought for the ruling class and their profits--out to the American people.

Today, when the world superpowers, the US and the USSR, are fighting with each other all over the globe (most recently in Angola) as they attempt to divide up the world for their own interests, we see that there is a real possibility of another war. As veterans we see it as most important to get out what we learned from the last one to as many people as possible.

A couple of years ago VVAW added the name Winter Soldier Organization to the official title of the organization. At that time the organization was operating under the mistaken idea that we could and should actively take up every struggle going on in this country and around the world. Experience proved that approach was wrong-- and showed us that we had a job to do around the struggles of vets. As you can see from this issue of The Veteran, that's exactly what we're doing.

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Once again, it's been a couple of months since the last issue of The Veteran and of "Inside/Out"; same reason--not enough money. And a new reason--not enough people with enough time to get the paper done as quickly as we would like to get it done. In the past, "Inside/Out" has been mostly written by you, the brothers and sisters who read it; while we have never tried to print all, or even most, of the letters we receive, we have tried to print those which seem to us to be of general interest. If we disagree with what is said, we say so. Please give us some help in writing this

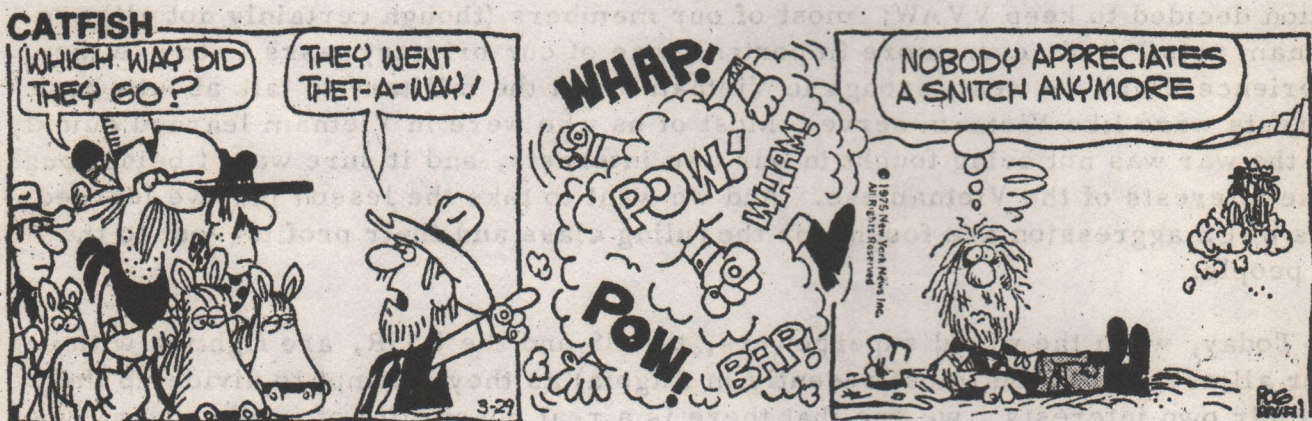
newsletter. We also need your ideas on what kinds of articles or information you would like to see in the newsletter.

One more request: because we know there are individuals on the mailing list who have no use for the paper, who don't have time to read it, and, in some cases, simply are not getting it, we have included a form at the end of this page; if you want to continue to get The Veteran and "Inside/Out," please let us know.

Finally, to all of you, our collective wishes for a New Year filled with growing struggle against that class and its system which oppresses us all; in Unity there is Strength.

In Solidarity,

The VVAW National Collective



IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE VETERAN AND "INSIDE/OUT," PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM.

Name: _____ # _____

Mailing Address: _____

Is this address the same as the one we are now using? _____

(Please send this form to: VVAW, P. O. Box 20184, Chicago, IL 60620.)

The following article is reprinted (with a few minor additions) from the Milwaukee Area and Wisconsin WORKER; the same story also appeared in other Workers' papers around the country.

MEDIA-MADE REVOLUTIONARIES!

Recently, quite a series of events has been paraded across the papers and on TV. First, on Sept 5, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a member of the "Manson Family," attempts to assassinate President Ford, but there is no bullet in the gun's chamber. Then, on Sept 18, Patricia "Tania" Hearst, a member of the Hearst family and heiress to its millions, and 3 other members of the SLA were captured by the FBI. The press starts making a big deal out of the adventures and antics of Patty Hearst both before and after her arrest. A few days later, on Sept 22, Sara "Sally" Moore, an informer for the FBI (who had tried to infiltrate VVAW among other organizations), and "close friend" of the San Francisco Police Dept attempts to assassinate President Ford and fails.

Ever since, stories of these events have continued to be publicized and built up. There have been spectacular feature articles, and there has been an unending stream of comments by politicians and other upper class authorities. With the conviction and sentencing of "Squeaky" and the acceptance of the guilty plea from Sarah Moore, there's been another spurt of publicity, and the avalanche of "news" will start at the time of the trial of Patty Hearst in January.

Why the big build-up? It's certainly more than just a way to sell newspapers. It's more that this series of events is useful enough to the rich class of rulers that, if they didn't stage large parts of it, they sure have been playing it for all it's worth.

While Ford, the rest of the politicians, and big capitalists they represent have earned the hatred of large sections of the American people for all they have come to stand for, they realize that the working people have no use for this bunch of stupid acts and the well-off "alienated" types who are involved in them, and view the whole scene with a healthy amount of disgust. So they've done their best to use this to take some of the heat off themselves and to further their attacks on those they really fear and hate--the workers of this country and their growing struggles, organizations and revolutionary understanding.

They are moving both openly and indirectly on this. Once again they've stepped up their demands for gun control, control over the masses of ordinary people who own them. And they are taking advantage of the situation to push the need to beef up their army of scabby spies, stool pigeons, and snoopers that fell into such disrepute during their Watergate fiasco. And along with all of this, they are demanding the strengthening of the various armed police forces, the FBI and all the rest.

Right alongside this immediate attack, there has also been a real barrage of propaganda from the ruling class press about what revolution and revolutionaries are all about. And needless to say, they've been telling us that it's all about weird kooks and spoiled well-to-do types, totally alien to the people.

From the ruling class' point of view, it makes good sense; when the struggle of

workers is growing because there is no choice by the way they force us to live, when in the course of this, people are questioning what the hell kind of system this is and does it have to be this way, when still small but growing numbers of workers are organizing to build revolutionary struggle against the system, why not toss a little sand into the eyes of the masses and try to confuse the pictures of what revolution is all about?

They never tell the truth about the things they really fear. That's why around the country they both hid and lied about the recent strike of 80,000 miners. That's why the truth about the year and a half of long strike of the Farah workers in Texas, and about workers around the country who took up that battle as their own, was hardly to be found in their papers.

Neither was the fact that revolutionary communists have been involved in building these struggles, and in spreading the understanding that the strength and determination shown in these battles pointed to the day when workers would rid themselves of the exploiter they were fighting. All this they wrote about only in their journals like Business Week or Fortune, where the capitalists are writing to each other about what to watch out for.

But when it comes to Fromme, Moore, and Hearst, they write endless pages of "inside scoops on the revolution," to spread confusion and to divert hatred away from themselves.

They really have to stretch it to call "Squeaky" Fromme a "revolutionary": "I tried to kill Ford," they quote her as saying, "to save the trees." Then they make a big deal about her supposed assassination list and an "International Court of Re-tribution," all of which are part of the fantasy world of some drug-ravaged brains.

Alongside "Squeaky" and her pals, the ruling class is parading around their stories about the so-called "convert to Marxism," Sally Moore--a bored suburbanite turned police informer who was on the FBI payroll when she took a shot at the President and missed. And the day after this informer's attempted "assassination," Chicago Mayor Richard Daley goes before the TV cameras to announce that all this proves the need for more infiltrators and informers. The commentators and the rest of the politicians and rich types, of course, nod approvingly.

As for Patty Hearst, the capitalist press can try to portray her as a revolutionary, but in reality she is more like a modern day Maid Marian who flees her family's castle to join Robin Hood and his merry men in Sherwood Forest in order to steal from the rich and give to the poor. It is true, of course, that anything she may have done seems downright admirable compared to the crimes of her newspaper tycoon father. But in spite of her noble ideals, in the final analysis she's been acting like a spoiled bourgeois kid who finds playing with a gun and "going underground" a titillating substitute for holidaying in Europe.

Although Patty left her family, she brought along with her to her underground life a lot of their bourgeois ideas toward the millions of working people in this country. In fact her whole idea of "revolution" had the masses playing the role of spectators and grateful beneficiaries of the SLA's heroic acts, occasional pawns to their exploits or



or even obstacles to their guerrilla life.

But while Patty Hearst and her friends were running back and forth across the country, it was the workers of this country who were really taking on the capitalist rulers, against their layoffs, speed-ups--against all kinds of intolerable conditions and threats of worse.

It is the struggle of the millions of workers that is the real revolutionary force in the country, and it is the millions of workers who will eventually take up arms to overthrow the capitalists and end capitalism. Because Patty Hearst looked down on the struggle of the masses, refused to join it, learn from it, and build it towards its revolutionary goal, she has ended up a romantic story for her father's newspapers, but far from a revolutionary.

Hearst... Moore... Fromme--all these add up to a pretty freaky idea of revolution, one that is remote, alien or downright sick to the masses of working people. No wonder the ruling class has built them up and used them to spread confusion and provide a cover for the masses of people.

The ruling class is not particularly afraid of maniacal mystics like Fromme, bored middle class suburbanite informers like Moore, or romantic heiresses like Patty Hearst. It is the working class that the ruling class fears and whose growing movement it tries to suppress. But it's the working class and the masses in their millions--armed with revolutionary understanding and revolutionary organization--who the ruling class can't stop.

INFORMATION NEEDED: A lawyer in Chicago is filing suit against the Veterans Administration over one of their stupid regulations--this time, the one that says that the VA is not obligated to treat any veteran who is out on bond. The suit grows from a case the lawyer handled where her client, a veteran with an honorable

discharge, was refused treatment for drugs by the VA because he was on bail at the time. Later, after the suit was filed, the vet concerned did in fact get the treatment from the VA which caved in under pressure.

The lawyer is now filing suit to get the regulation thrown out. However, since her ex-client did get treatment, she needs to find other vets who were refused VA treatment for the same reason--that is, they were out on bond at the time, and that was the reason the VA refused to treat them. This suit is due to come to trial in the near future. If any vet has been through that experience and is willing to give the lawyer the necessary facts of the case, please get in touch with us at the VVAW National Office and we will pass that information along to the lawyer. It needs to be done quickly.

"Thy body is in jail
But thy spirit, never.
For the great cause to prevail,
Let thy spirit soar, higher!"

....Ho Chi Minh

