

Report to the NEC on Petrick Defense Work, June 16, 1967, by Susan

Support for the Petrick case is growing, as locals have begun defense projects. It is clear that the case can get support from broad layers of the antiwar movement.

The most successful project tried so far has been mailings to antiwar lists. In Boston, a letter sent to antiwar professors was signed by Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn; in New York a letter was signed by Murray Kempton and Eric Bentley; in San Francisco a mailing of 1000 will be paid for by the professionals in the Spring Mobilization Committee. These mailings always bring a steady stream of contributions and sponsors into the Committee.

The defense committee now has more than 260 sponsors, including Julian Bond, Jean-Paul Vigier (Sec. Gen. of the International War Crimes Tribunal), Harvey Swados, as well as many professors, and a member of the Berkeley City Council.

Subcommittees on the Petrick case, or GIs in general, have been set up in Boston, Berkeley, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and in the national Student Mobilization Committee.

Madison has begun leafletting thousands of GIs who come through the campus on their way to maneuvers, and has gotten a good response. Washington D.C. Spring Mobilization Committee has also distributed to GIs.

All locals report that the pamphlet sells quickly. Berkeley reported selling 55 in 15 minutes! Minneapolis held a street meeting on the case. The speakers drew a crowd and helped sales of the pamphlet.

At Fort Hood, Howard has been running into even more antiwar GIs. He spoke at a "peace picnic" in Austin to 50-100 people, and discovered one or two other Ft. Hood GIs there. The defense committee has received a number of letters from GIs who support Howard's case.

The Committee will no longer charge for bundles of the fact sheet because its financial situation is steadily improving. Locals are urged to pay their present bills, however, through fund-raising projects.