

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 15 OF 16

FOLDER 16

NAVY REFORM PAMPHLET

**JOIN  
US!**



*Phil  
Wright*

# **THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**Box 1492**  
**Norfolk, Va. 23501**  
**(804) 625-3004**

*1849807-1  
23505*

### WHAT IS THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE?

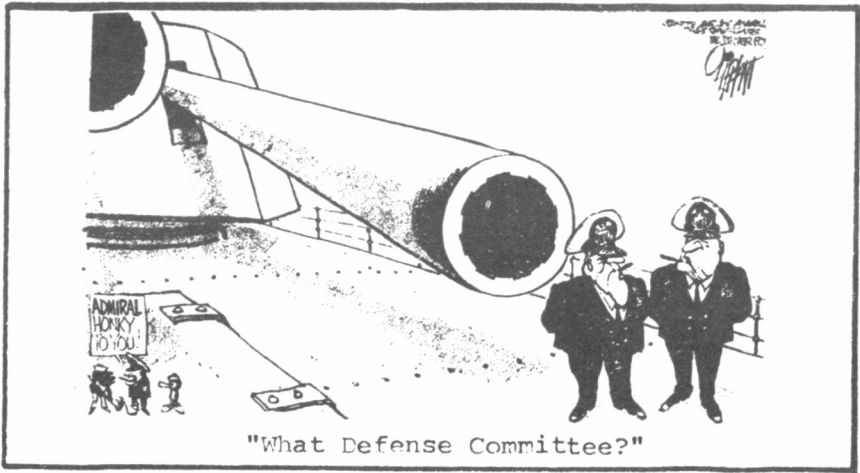
It's an organization of, by, and for enlisted people and their families. We're like a union, working for the rights and betterment of all enlisted men and women in the military, and especially (right now, at least) East Coast sailors, Waves, and "dependants".

### HOW DID THE COMMITTEE GET STARTED?

After Jeff Allison, a Norfolk sailor, was framed in the \$7.2 million Forrester fire trial, a number of the people working for him in the "Jeffrey G. Allison Defense Committee" decided to try and build an organization that could help all enlisted people in trouble, and make some real changes in the military.

### WHAT HAVE YOU DONE SO FAR?

After Jeff's trial, we worked to build public support for the Camp Allen Brothers, a group of Black enlisted men accused of "rioting" in the Norfolk brig. We got a Congressional Investigation of the incident by Rep. Shirley Chisholm, and focused local and national attention on the trials. We've distributed hundreds of copies of the "Little Red Book of Military Law", our handbook on GI rights. We publish a monthly newspaper called "Grapes of Wrath", written by and for enlisted people. We run workshops on GI rights and organizing against harassment, bad conditions, and the Navy's involvement in other countries that could lead to more wars like in Vietnam. We've counseled many, many individual sailors and dependants who needed legal advice, and trained a number of other people to do the same thing. We supported in a number of ways the struggles of Jim Fields (a Norfolk Naval reservist accused of sabotaging the USS CHILTON), Rich Holder, Bill Jordan, and Joe Ethridge (Three Norfolk Naval reservists activated for trying to fight the haircut regs), Brothers Against Legalized Degradation (B.A.L.D., a group of 80 Norfolk Marine reservists fighting haircut regs), the Portsmouth, New Hampshire brig prisoners fighting against harassment and bad living and working conditions (they had a two-and-a-half week food strike), and we're working on a number of pamphlets dealing with things like dependants' rights, dope busts, and the Navy's involvement in Puerto Rico.



#### WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MONEY?

We don't need too much money, since we don't pay any salaries and don't have an office. But the newspaper gets more and more expensive as it expands, and we usually run up a good phone and postage bill. We raise the money we need from our different chapters, from sympathetic civilians, from selling the "Little Red Book of Military Law", from selling ads in our paper, and from donations from the American Friends (the Quakers), United States Servicemen's Fund (a GI fund-raising group), and RESIST (a group that raises money for people trying to organize themselves against all kinds of harassment, oppression, racism, etc.) We are entirely independent, and are responsible only to ourselves and other enlisted people for what we do.

#### HOW BIG IS THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE NOW?

As of this writing (July 1, 1973), the Defense Committee as an organization is about three months old, and has functioning chapters on the Norfolk Operating Base, the Little Creek Amphibious Base, and on six ships. We have Defense Committee representatives in Portsmouth, N.H. and Newport, R.I., and "Grapes of Wrath" is also being distributed in Boston, Mass. and Philadelphia, Pa. (Plus Puerto Rico, Spokane, Wash., and Tidewater.) Defense Committees similar to ours have also been organized at the Charleston Naval Base in South Carolina and at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina, and we're staying in close touch with them.

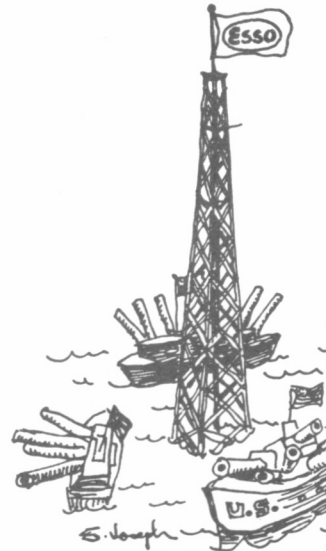
WHAT ARE YOU REALLY WORKING FOR?

That's best expressed in our "Statement of Principles":

# STATEMENT OF

ALL OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE AS ENLISTED MEN AND WOMEN AND DEPENDANTS HAVE IN THE MILITARY COME FROM THE FACT THAT, AS A GROUP, WE HAVE NO POWER. IF WE ARE EVER GOING TO CHANGE THINGS LIKE UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS, LONG HOURS, THE LACK OF JUSTICE IN THE MILITARY LEGAL SYSTEM, INFERIOR LIVING CONDITIONS, OUTDATED DRESS CODES, IF WE AS ENLISTED PEOPLE ARE EVER GOING TO WIN CONTROL OVER OUR OWN LIVES, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ORGANIZE. WE ARE THE WORKING-CLASS OF THE MILITARY, AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STRUGGLE FOR OUR RIGHTS TOGETHER, JUST AS THE CIVILIAN WORKING-CLASS HAS HAD TO DO.

I WE STAND FOR A MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT IS NOT PART OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND, AND THAT GIVES US FULL CONSTITUTIONAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS, WITHOUT WHICH WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LEGALLY OR-



WE CAN  
CHANGE

# OF PRINCIPLES

GANIZE.

II WE STAND FOR AN END TO MILITARY RACISM AND SEXISM, BOTH THE KIND THAT IS BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM, AND THE KIND THAT COMES FROM OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE.

III WE ARE AGAINST FIGHTING ANY MORE WARS LIKE THE ONE IN VIETNAM THAT ARE NOT FOR OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE, BUT ONLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF BIG BUSINESS.

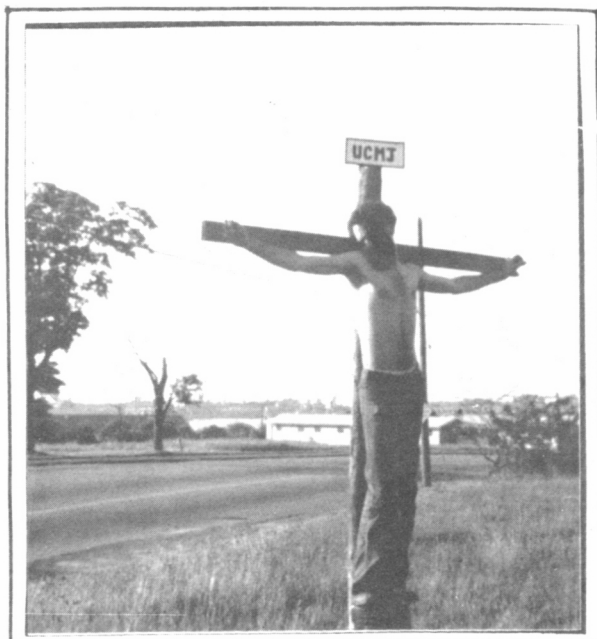
IV WE ARE AGAINST BEING USED AS STRIKEBREAKERS, RIOT COPS, OR SCABS AGAINST OTHER WORKING PEOPLE.

V WE RESOLVE TO STAND TOGETHER AS AN ORGANIZATION, TO DEFEND EACH OTHER, AND TO FIGHT FOR THESE PRINCIPLES.

SSO



CAN  
E THIS!



### WHO RUNS THE COMMITTEE?

Everybody in it, through a system of elected representatives. These representatives, one or two from each chapter, make up the "Steering Committee" that makes the major decisions for the organization. There are some problems when ships go out to sea and can't keep in close touch with the Steering Committee, but it still works out pretty efficiently and democratically.



### CAN I GET IN TROUBLE FOR JOINING THE COMMITTEE?

DoD Directive No. 1325.6, Sect. III-A, as well as the Constitution of the United States, guarantees you the right to join any organization of your choice.

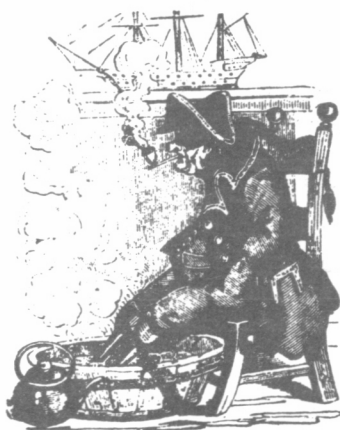
### HOW CAN I JOIN?

Just fill out and send in the form on the back page, and we'll put you in touch with the chapter nearest you. "Joining" the Defense Committee means understanding and supporting the "Statement of Principles", reading the "Little Red Book of Military Law", distributing "Grapes of Wrath" each month, and hopefully getting involved in our day-to-day work, as far as you are able.

HOW CAN I START A DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAPTER ON MY SHIP, IN MY SCHOOL, OR IN MY BARRACKS? (OR IN MY BRIG?)

Find one, two, three, or more people in your command who also relate to the idea of forming a chapter. Get together and read through the "Statement of Principles", trying to see how the different points apply to your day-to-day life in your command. Write and tell us how many people there are in the chapter, and what the particular problems are where you're at, and we'll send you a package of "Red Books" and other information on GI rights and struggles. Then you select one person from the chapter to keep in regular touch with us, in person (by joining the Steering Committee), or by mail or phone, especially sending in news articles, letters, opinions, cartoons, or pictures for "Grapes". Let us know how many copies of "Grapes" you want to distribute each month. When you decide what particular problem of your command (or the military as a whole) you want to work on, we'll do all we can to support you with advice, lawyers, publicity, experience, facilities like typewriters, mimeograph machines, a printing press, books and pamphlets, and the force of numbers. Maybe you've already been fighting back against the military machine, but now you can do it with the strength of an active and growing organization behind you.

**An ounce of prevention**



**is worth a pound of cure!**

I HAVE AN EXTRA \$10 THIS PAYCHECK. CAN THE COMMITTEE USE IT?

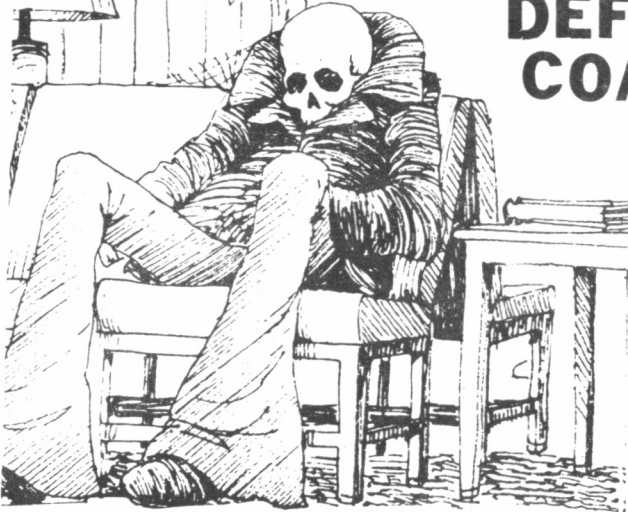
Can the "Kennedy" use gasoline? And you can also send us a check, made payable to "The Defense Committee".



**DON'T WAIT  
FOR THE  
CHANGES...**

**JOIN THE  
DEFENSE  
COMMITTEE**

**AND  
MAKE  
'EM  
HAPPEN!**



( ) Yes, I would like to join the Defense Committee.  
Please put me in touch with the nearest chapter.

( ) Yes, I would like to start a Defense Committee  
chapter in my command. Please send me a packet  
of "Red Books", "Grapes", and other materials for  
\_\_\_\_\_ (how many?) people.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RATE \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send in this form to:

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Box 1492  
Norfolk, Va. 23501