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MADISON VETERANS FOR PEACE PRESENTS "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE WAR"

QUESTIONS ASKED TO CANDIDATES:

1. Do you think that the war in Southeast Asia is relevant to local issues?
2. What immediate action would you favor in Viet Nam?
3. Do you consider the war legal under the U.S. Constitution?
4. Do you consider it moral?
5. Do you consider the war justifiable?
6. Would you stake your political future or public office on making a stand on the war?
7. Will the war issue play an important role in your campaign?
8. Do you consider yourself a "peace candidate"?

ANSWERS	Relevant?	Action favored?	Legal?	Moral?	Justifiable?	Political future?	Role in campaign?	Peace candidate?
CANDIDATES FOR U.S. SENATOR *****								
John Erickson (REP)	yes	accelerated Vietnamization	Yes	Not certain any war moral	?	Yes	Yes	We must stop killing
ED Hou-Saye (AMER)	no	A strong push for military victory	Yes	Morality is relative	I have the Viking spirit	Quite likely	No	I do not
Betty Boardman (WIS ALLI)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS *****								
Bob Kastenmeier (DEM)	Yes	Immediate or phased withdrawal	Don't know	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR *****								
Pat Lucey (DEM)	Yes	-----	A question for the courts	No	Not on moral grounds	Yes	Yes	Yes
Don Peterson (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	Absolutely	Yes
Leo McDonald (AMER)	No	Block Haiphong	Questionable	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes-Honorable
CANDIDATES FOR LT. GOVERNOR *****								
Ted Kotke (AMER)	Yes	Block Haiphong	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Peace by victory
Jay Sykes (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
John O'Malley (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL *****								
T. Jacobson (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Among other issues
CANDIDATES FOR STATE TREASURER *****								
George Jacobson (AMER)	Yes	Phased withdrawal ending in [97]	No, but neither was Korea	No war is moral	The Communist threat is here	?	Not as such	Define "peace candidate"
Shirley Walker (DEM)	Yes	Continued withdrawal	No	No	?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rohn Webb (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	Waste of lives	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chas Smith (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	questionable	no	Absolutely not	Yes	Yes	Yes
CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE *****								
Thomas Fos (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	Questionable	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

	Relevant?	Action favored?	Legal?	Moral?	Justifiable?	for future?	campaign?	Candidate?
Candidates for STATE ASSEMBLY*****								
Norman Anderson (DEM) First District	No	Phased withdrawal	Questionable	impossible to Answer	No; excessive cost	Not for this office	no	No; nor am I a "war candidate"
Ed Nager (DEM) Second District	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No, but is any war?	No	Yes	Questionable	?
Lorraine Wilkie (DEM) Second District	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	-----	-----	Yes
John Wiley (DEM) Third district	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	along with State issues	Yes
Midge Miller (DEM) Third District	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	Probably not	No	No, it costs too much	Yes	Along with other issues	Yes
John Morris (DEM) Third District	Yes	Phased withdrawal	?	No	No, in terms of lives lost	Along with other issues	Yes	I am in favor of peace
Brad Mitener (DEM) Fourth District	Yes	Hatfield-McGovern or similar plan	No	No	No	Yes	NO	Yes
Merton Walter (REP) Fifthe District	Yes	Phased withdrawal & Vietnamization	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Candidates for Sheriff*****								
Robert Hodge (DEM)	No	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	Yes, Communism Must be stopped	No	No	No
CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY CLERK*****								
John Hilton (REP)	Yes	Vietnamization	No	No	No, war not declared	Yes	No	Yes
CANDIDATES FOR CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT*****								
George Alderson (REP)	No	Phased withdrawal	don't know	Is killing moral?	Yes, when it started	Yes	Yes	No
CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY TREASURER*****								
Martin Gunnulson (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	Questionable	No	No	-----	doubtful	Yes
CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT ATTY.*****								
Ed Elson (REP)	God damned right	Let the sheep kill the sheep	Yes, but the Constitution stinks	Yes, by pig religious standards	In a "Pigs eye	No, I'M too close to winning	If it doesn't stop first	No; my hero is Samson
Harold Fager (DEM)	Yes	Immediate withdrawal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Not all candidates chose to respond. Among those who declined to face the issue were Sen. William Proxmire, Democratic candidates for Lt. Governor Martin Schreiber and Frank N. Olney, Atty. Gen. Robert Warren, Sec. of State Robert C. Zimmerman, candidates for Dist. Atty. Gerald Nichols (R) and Andrew Somers (D), and Second Cong. Dist

candidate Norman Anderson. Republican candidates for Gov. and Lt. Gov. Submitted a statement supporting present war policy but refused to answer specific questions.

END THE WAR-VOTE FOR PEACE

Read this table carefully, mark your choices and take it to the polling booth with you.

PLEASE-----VOTE FOR THOSE WHO WILL
VOTE FOR PEACE



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Capital Times photo by Bruce Fritz

2ND ANNUAL REPORT

MADISON VETS FOR PEACE LTD.

20 South Franklin
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: 608-251-0822

Officers

Chairman:	Bruce Lloyd 20 South Franklin Madison, Wis. 53703 608-251-0822	Secretary:	Carolyn Black Portage, Wisconsin
Vice-Chairman:		Treasurer:	Loren Lewis 1407 Chandler Street Madison, Wisconsin

A Report and a Preview

In the last year the Vets for Peace movement has come a long way. Members of scattered local groups finally met together to plant the seeds of a national organization and started realizing the broad influence which they could assert to end the Viet Nam war and encourage peaceful government policies.

The Madison group has been increasingly active and we hope that this report will give an indication of what we have been trying to accomplish.

1970 REVIEW

WINTER 1970:

In January 1970, Vets for Peace was still recovering from the shock of President Nixon's total rejection of the November Moratorium actions. That the President could watch a football game in the face of over half a million persons protesting Viet Nam policies was almost more than many peace activists could bear. The question constantly raised was whether any dissenters could in fact have their views as citizens heard by the administration.

In February, under the direction of Chairman Dave Myhre, Madison Vets for Peace began to re-organize itself. We decided on a membership drive and made plans to incorporate on a State level as well as seeking a national charter. In a number of long meetings a set of by-laws were hammered out for use in the incorporation application.

SPRING 1970:

In April, 1970, Madison VFP received formal papers of incorporation in the State of Wisconsin, officially becoming Madison Veterans for Peace Ltd. At that time we began discussing plans which eventually led to the National Steering Committee meeting in Madison.

April 18 was the date of a MAPAC march on the State Capitol. VFP led and marshalled some 6,000 peaceful protestors to a rally on the Capitol grounds.

In May Vets for Peace began participating in the VA hospital volunteer program. Members assisted on wards, talked with patients, and helped with essential jobs in the hospital. This has been planned as an ongoing function of the group.

Memorial Day (May 30) was marked by two sharply contrasting parades with participation by a large number of VFP members. The first parade was the traditional observance, marked by a march around the Capitol Square. Fifty-five peace vets stood out as the largest contingent, not counting members of high school bands and the Cub Scouts.

The second parade, sponsored by MAPAC, was led around the square by members of VFP and ended with a rally in James Madison Park. Later in the day the annual VFP picnic was held at the home of Loren Lewis.

MEMORIES OF 1970: THE SILENT MAJORITY

Whatever happened to the Silent Majority?

One of the features of 1970 was the discovery by President Nixon and Spiro Agnew that a formerly untapped group of "true" Americans were quietly supporting his Viet Nam policies somewhere out in middle America.

This did not come as a surprise to Wisconsin State Architect, Don Schraufnagel, who had apparently felt that way all along and was determined to show it...So Don organized a group which he called the Silent Majority and started having weekly rallies outside of City Hall.

Feeling as patriotic as the average member of the silent majority and somewhat more vocal about it, Vets for Peace decided to join in the fun, so we unfurled our banners and went to see what it was all about.

The first rally which we attended featured the presence of the late Captain Joseph Bollenback (USAR, Retired) who with all due respect was one of those people you could always count on to be present when flags were waving.

Joe and some of his friends did their bit by attempting to knock two "Nam vets down the stairs.

A featured speaker (along with Don) was Arch MacIntyre, another civil servant who seemed mostly irritated at students. MacIntyre called Bascom Hill "Baboon Hill" and Madison "the baboon capital of the state," referring to hippies, protesters, and demonstrators. He called for a return to traditional middle class values and said he was proud to be a "white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant." "We've got to get together and go out there and hit them," he said.

After about three rallies which we attended, Don announced the ultimate in rallies, to be held in Law Park on a Saturday afternoon. He said he wouldn't be surprised if 10,000 people attended the rally."

Gritting our teeth on Saturday morning, we considered the prospect of 10,000 raging patriots but decided that it was too good to miss.

In fact it was a nice afternoon. As we mugged at the TV cameras Elmer Ziegler's VFW Band played polkas and marches and the sun was bright

over Lake Monona. An opportunistic vendor sold ice cream to the one hundred or so stalwart Americans and approximately fifteen Vets for Peace who actually were there.

After the rally the silent majority headed for the Capitol Square and all 76 who were left marched around singing "God Bless America." By this time our patriotic fervor had died down somewhat and we contented ourselves with watching from the sidewalk. A member of the press (no doubt a cynic) noted that there seemed to be no marchers of draft age.

The silent majority these days seems to have returned to its former state of silence, but they're still working on some projects! Seems that Don discovered a 13 foot high replica of the Statue of Liberty in someone's garage, so for a long time there was talk of putting it in a park somewhere. Apparently nothing came of it.

SUMMER 1970:

The establishment of meetings on a regular basis led to the first summer of activism for Vets for Peace in Madison. On the 4th of July some 35 members, many with their families, gathered at Warner Park to picnic and pass out 5,000 leaflets to the crowd, neatly coinciding with the "Honor America Day" orgy in Washington. The congenial reception from many members of the crowd encouraged participants.

All through the summer, despite talk about "Vietnamization" and "phased withdrawal," inductees continued to board buses bound for the Milwaukee induction center. Members regularly joined with a number of other local peace groups in picketing outside the station at 6 AM.

In late July a Madison man was arrested in Wisconsin Dells for circulating petitions in support of the Hatfield-McGovern Amendment. Although charges were apparently in the process of being dropped, we felt a need to point out that the right to petition the government was still a viable part of the Constitution.

When members arrived in the Dells they were not harassed by police and in fact found it quite easy to get additional signatures from the crowds of tourists on the street--several hundred within two hours.

VFP shared a crowded booth at the Dane County Junior Fair in mid-July with a variety of organizations--Our Tax Project, MAPAC, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the American Friends Service Committee. Somehow we all managed to fit, much to the frustration of officials at the Coliseum who felt they were losing money. Color slides of 'Nam war scenes attracted crowds. Another exhibit at the fair featured a side-show presentation--"Viet Cong Booby Traps"--which purported to educate the public with some strange statistics and miniature punji stakes. This not-very-authentic display was sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans and received bad response from the public and the press.

FALL 1970

A busy fall season began with the RAW (Rapid American Withdrawal) march on Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Against the War of New York City, the march covered 86 miles between Morristown, New Jersey and Valley Forge. The idea was to dramatize the war to the public through guerrilla theater. To do so, the vets wore their old fatigues and carried toy M-16 rifles. A variety of theater actions were carried out, such as mock "interrogation" of citizens.

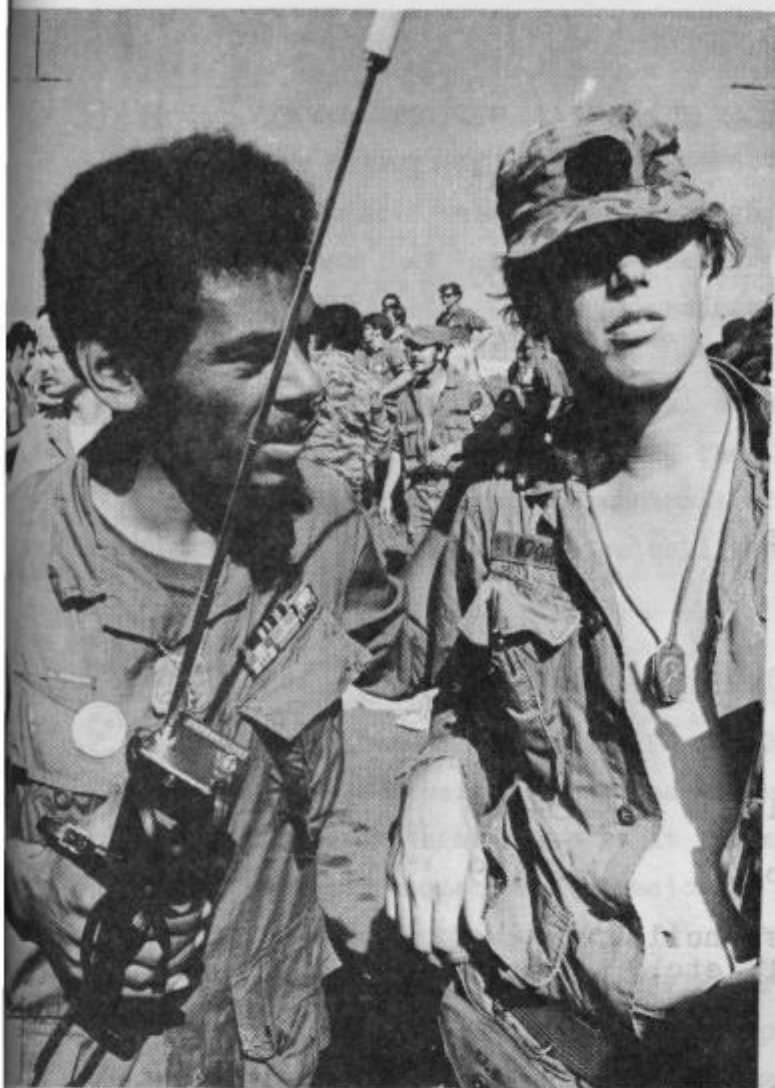
Among the marchers were three members of the Madison group, who drove out in time to participate. One of the three was the only woman to actually make the march.

It was a rough three days of blisters and fatigue, but the participants felt that they had successfully made the point to the public that not all vets are docile supporters of Viet Nam policies.

Later in September a representative of VFP who was defending our application to join the city Veterans Council, was kicked out of a secret meeting held in the City-County building. Although the application received unanimous rejection, the ensuing publicity may have given second thoughts to some of the members who voted on it.

Despite the snubbing which we received, members participated in the dedication of a "Veterans Fountain" later in the month, which was built under the auspices of the Dane County Veterans Service.

With the fall elections impending members of Vets for Peace searched for candidates who they felt would advance the cause of peace. They were hard to



Picketing the Induction-Express Bus at 6AM
(above). Capital Times photo by Carmie Thompson.

Operation R.A.W. (left). Photo by New York V.V.A.W.



God bless the Silent Majority.

Capital Times photo by Bruce Fritz

MADISON VERMONT FOR PEACE FINANCIAL REPORT--1970

Categories	Spent	Received
Incidental sales		
Hats	\$120.00	\$125.00
Buttons	77.46	124.00
Peace greeting cards	75.00	85.00*
National Steering Comm.	60.46*	68.00
Membership contributions		412.40
Other contributions		100.00
Peace promotions		
Newspaper and T.V. ads	113.29	73.58
Flags and banners	15.24	
Booth at Dane Co. fair	34.00	
Photo work (slide show)	20.79	
Office supplies(paper, stencils, phone, typewriter rental, etc.)	108.45	
Postage	266.50	
Transportation and related expenses	55.00	
Printing	70.62	
Incorporation fee	30.00	
Bank service charge	<u>4.10</u>	
Total--1970	\$1050.94	\$987.98
Bank balances(Dec.31, Jan.1)	<u>134.54</u>	<u>197.50</u>
TOTALS	\$1185.48	\$1185.48

* Further disbursements were made in 1971.

find. VFP sent out a questionnaire to all candidates who would appear on Dane County ballots and discovered that most of those replying considered themselves "peace" candidates, although they varied widely in their interpretation of what that meant. Some members worked for candidates of their choice, others decided that the choices in general weren't worth it.

In 1970 VFP had one successful experience with fund raising. Membership Chairman, Chuck Goranson conceived the idea of VFP Christmas cards. With artistic assistance from Robin Carnes of Madison we finally got them produced and found we were able to sell the bulk of them.

Vets for Peace found new friends in 1970. One day in July we discovered that the members of VFW Post 10203 had voted not to join the Veterans Council. One of their reasons was the refusal of the council to accept Vets for Peace as a member. As it turned out when we contacted Mr. Mel Cohen, the post commander, the majority of members of the new group had spent time in Viet Nam, somewhat explaining their feelings on the war.

During the fall, members of VFP were frequent guests of the VFW and formed friendships with members of the post. We eventually agreed that we would have our own Veterans Day Ceremony rather than participate in the traditional one sponsored by the Vets Council.

Meeting at night on November 11 in the soldier's plot in Forest Hill cemetery, the groups conducted a brief ceremony and then proceeded with a candlelight march to Nakoma Plaza. It was the first separate observance of Veterans Day and made an impression on many members of the public.

1970: National Organization

An idea which members had been talking about for a long time--the formation of a national organization--finally went beyond the planning stage when the Madison group sponsored the first national meeting of peace vets in November.

It was a hectic weekend as representatives from 13 states and 17 groups arrived for the steering committee meeting. It was a first time event for everyone attending and no one was quite sure at the outset what the result of the meeting would be. Procedure was a problem which presented itself to the delegates immediately and, as usual, was not resolved to the

satisfaction of anyone until the final sessions of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting had been to solve the problems involved in creating a national organization before attempting to form one and to discover what various groups around the country had in mind for such an organization.

After long and grueling sessions through the weekend, the delegates were agreeable to compromise at the Sunday morning meeting. A preamble to the proposed constitution was adopted for the consideration of a national organizing convention to be held, hopefully, in Washington, D.C. in the Spring of 1971. The preamble reads as follows:

"As veterans, we have seen the forces of war, hatred and violence and we reject them. We therefore dedicate ourselves to work for a viable and lasting peace.

Peace is not only the absence of violence, but is also the presence of justice and brotherhood."

Five co-ordinators from various groups were selected at the final session to develop plans for the spring national meeting.

A further resolution supported the "Winter Soldier Investigation" of war crimes in Viet Nam, to be sponsored by Viet Nam Veterans Against the War of New York City.

1971: A Preview by Chuck Goranson

Madison Vets for Peace will start the new year off right by demonstrating at the appearance of Secretary of War (sic) Melvin Laird at the Field House on January 27th. Good news coverage is guaranteed and we will be able to show the nation that the war is not a dead issue in Madison, Wisconsin.

Membership Drive:

February will see a month-long membership drive. An effort will be made to reach influential members of the community. Plans call for letters to be mailed to doctors, lawyers and other professional people soliciting support. Posters and other inexpensive media available to us will be used.

(6)

Viet Nam Referendum:

On April 6 Madison voters will again have a chance to express their feelings on the war. Right-wing organizations will again attempt to discredit supporters of this anti-war resolution as they did in 1968 when a similar referendum was narrowly defeated at the polls. We aren't going to let it happen again. As the leaders of the anti-war movement in Madison, we can't let it happen.

Political Pressure:

Members have been talking about putting the political screws to major politicians and newly elected Governor Pat Lucey is at the top of the list. We will probably ask him to introduce a Massachusetts-type resolution, requiring the State to take the war issue to court. Subtle (like a club) reminders will also be given to national representatives so that they won't forget that we are watching.

Vets Council:

They kicked us out in 1970, but they'll have a hard time forgetting it in 1971. We'll soon make application for membership to determine whether or not they've learned anything.

Memorial Day 1971:

Memorial Day will be a busy time for everyone. Madison VFP will participate in the memorial day parade, and as usual, will have the largest contingent of vets present.

National Convention:

Memorial Day weekend is also the planned time of the full-scale national convention of Vets for Peace in Washington, D.C. It will be a follow-up to the planning session held in Madison last Thanksgiving and may be the most important meeting of the year. A large Madison contingent is expected to go.

MAYBE THIS YEAR?

?



THOU SHALT NOT STAND IDLY BY

History of the MADISON VETERANS FOR PEACE, LTD

The Madison Veterans for Peace in Vietnam was organized in the fall of 1967 by members of Madison's "Committee to End the War In Vietnam",--the first such committee in the nation,--who were veterans and who recognized the need for former servicemen to so identify themselves in speaking out for peace.

Veterans from all over the country, who were concerned about the prostitution of patriotism by "my country, right or wrong" elements, and who were anxious to let the public know that not all those who had served their country in uniform were automatic supporters of our insane intervention in someone else's civil war, had been getting together almost since the beginning of the war in Vietnam. There was no national organization of veterans for peace as such, but the Chicago veterans designed a cap which they distributed nationwide and began to publish the Veterans Stars and Stripes For Peace which took on the function of a national clearing house where groups could remain in touch.

In September, 1967, a spokesman from Chicago came to Madison and provided pointers on getting organized. Some twenty veterans from the Madison community formed a nucleus and within a few weeks the Madison Veterans for Peace In Vietnam was functioning on its own, in close cooperation with other peace groups.

In October, 1967, we began to circulate our newsletter and by the end of the year had the names of well over a hundred veterans who would contribute financially as needed, and a smaller group who could be counted on to play an active role. Our initial activity was the leaf-letting of a concert of the Marine Corps Band at the Dane County Coliseum on October 7, 1967. After this attempt to communicate with the community, we began to get coverage in the local press, invitations to local radio shows, and by the end of 1967, were one of the better known peace groups in the area.

Also in October 1967, three Madison vets for peace rode the busses to Washington to confront the warmakers at the Pentagon in a national mobilization effort. Beginning in November, 1967, we served as ushers and honor guards at a number of peace rallies including a mass rally at the Coliseum featuring Dr. Benjamin Spock. We marched for peace for the first time on Veterans Day, November 11, 1967, much to the chagrin of the traditional veterans groups.

At our meetings in 1967 and 1968, we debated what our tactics should be; some favored supporting any and all efforts for peace, others counselled caution and the strategic use of our reputation in an effort to persuade the public that it was respectable to be for peace. The issue was never resolved to the satisfaction of all, but a majority did at one point agree on a "statement of purpose" which included the following declaration:

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"Therefore be it resolved: That dissent having come to be unfairly and unfortunately confused in the public mind with lack of concern for democratic processes, lack of patriotism, lack of support for our fighting men, and lack of fortitude, that we, as veterans who oppose the war in Vietnam, should deal with the situation as it is realistically, and not as it should be in some wholly idealistic framework. We see little purpose in talking solely to ourselves or to others who share our views; we see the real potential to be in leading the uncommitted and confused portions of the public to recognize that dissent cannot be categorized in this unfortunate manner... we as veterans should take every possible advantage of the special consideration our society holds for those who have served their country in the armed forces, in order to communicate our concern to the community at large. We see as potentially very harmful to our acceptance by the community any action which would associate members of Madison Veterans For Peace in Vietnam with other forms of protest, however righteous and justified these protests may be, but which have objectives other than persuasion of the public through education and discussion."

In support of this conviction that the war could be stopped electorally, our most ambitious and concentrated effort during the early months was our active support for the "peace referendum" which brought a national spotlight to Madison during the weeks preceding the election of April 2, 1968. We managed to turn out large groups of veterans for peace every weekend during the Spring of 1968 for leaf-letting on the Square and at shopping centers throughout the city. In March we ushered a mass rally for Senator Eugene McCarthy which also featured Madison's Reserve Brigadier General Robert Hughes who was an early outspoken critic of the war. About the same time we sponsored a large ad in the local papers urging "vote yes for peace" and this exposure attracted many new veterans to the cause.

The peace referendum campaign was seriously hurt a few days before the voting when a Texas congressman flooded the city with a red-baiting attack on Veterans for Peace In Vietnam. Also, the American Legion and the VFW, in a show of misguided patriotism, spent four times as much as peace groups trying to sell the war in Vietnam and trying to discredit our organization. Despite these low blows, over 40% of the citizenry voted in favor of a strongly worded resolution for peace, but the principle result was a lot of public education and the demonstration that it was respectable to oppose killing.

In the Summer of 1968, another of several attempts was made to formally organize a national federation of veterans for peace groups, but nothing came of it. We continued to appear at every Veterans Day and Memorial Day march, usually with the largest contingent. We picketed the "Green Berets"-

had a peace booth at the County Fair, a table in the Memorial Union during university registration, had dozens of letters published in the local newspapers, spoke on radio programs, at high schools and to civic groups. In the fall of 1969, many Madison Veterans for Peace again journeyed to Washington for November's massive Mobilization. The Madison Area Peace Action Council (MAPAC) came into being in 1969 and the Madison Veterans for Peace played an integral role from the outset.

The membership in the early days was predominately comprised of veterans of World War I and II, Korea and the Cold War. Now we have an active group of Viet Nam Veterans as well.

In 1970, with the spread of the war into Cambodia and Laos, the group has dropped the "in Viet Nam" part of our name. Our organizational name is now simply Madison Veterans for Peace Ltd. 1970 has been a busy year for the group. In the spring we formulated our organizational guide lines and by-laws and received an official charter from the State of Wisconsin. We are presently seeking a national charter, which would make it possible to organize on a national level.

On April 18, Vets for Peace led and marshalled two separate parades of some 6,000 peaceful protesters who converged on the Capitol building.

In May, a local VFW post invited the group to a meeting at which we had a chance to exchange views which were sometimes quite different.

In May, members of the group began doing part time volunteer work at the local VA hospital--a program which is still continuing. This work has consisted of assisting on the wards, talking with patients and doing necessary jobs around the hospital. It has been a way for members to help out people who rarely have a chance to speak with anyone outside of the hospital staff.

On May 30, Vets for Peace participated in two parades. The first was the traditional Memorial Day parade around the Capitol square, at which, with a contingent of 55 marchers we were by far the largest veterans group present. The second parade, led by us, was sponsored by MAPAC and converged on James Madison park.

In the latter part of May, a group calling itself the "Silent Majority" began holding a series of weekly rallies on the steps of the City-County building. Not such a "Silent" majority we discovered when we showed up to counter-picket, which was supporting President Nixon's

move into Cambodia and protesting the behavior of students. The group advertised a "rally of 10,000 people" to support the administration and encourage flying the flag. Unfortunately, only 73 people turned out to march around the square despite pleasant weather. At this point we decided that it wasn't worth continuing to counter-picket.

During the summer the group remained active on a local level. Members turned out at the local bus station in June and July to support the inductees on their way to Milwaukee. During the 4th of July fireworks at Warner Park some 50 members picnicked and passed out leaflets opposing the war. Other members traveled to Wisconsin Dells to circulate petitions supporting the McGovern-Hatfield amendment to cut off funds for the war after a Madison man was arrested there for similar action.

The group shared a booth with other peace workers at the Dane County fair, which netted a good deal of interest.

We've been continuing to find new members all along and anticipate many more for the future.

Possibly some day we will be able to burn our caps and dissolve the group, but it doesn't seem likely now. We all know that our duty to our country doesn't end when we sign our separation papers. It will take the combined effort of all conscientious citizens, including veterans to achieve peace, not only in Indochina, but everywhere.

MADISON VETERANS FOR PEACE IN
VIETNAM

PREAMBLE:

The membership of Madison Veterans for Peace in Vietnam is made up of persons who have served their country in the armed forces in all the wars of modern times--from World War I, which saw the introduction of armor, automatic weapons, chemical warfare, and air power--to Vietnam with its mixture of the primitive and the supersonic. It has members who have served in that peculiarly modern institution, the cold war, with its momentous confrontations over Berlin and Cuba.

The veteran-members of Madison Veterans for Peace in Vietnam, understanding something of the complexity and difficulty of Vietnam as an issue facing American democracy, nevertheless offer no single, agreed-on solution. Because the issues involved are difficult and often ambiguous, because the prosecution of modern warfare is grievously destructive of life, limb, and property, and because the vitality of a democracy resides precisely in its ability to deliberate and decide for itself the most difficult and distressing questions, then we as veterans vigorously affirm the need for serious, democratic discussion by all of our nation's citizens of all aspects of our nation's involvement in Southeast Asia.

In a democracy no man may claim ignorance as an excuse from the responsibilities of citizenship; no man may avoid responsibility by complacently saying that the administration knows best. We cannot afford to give a blank check against the national conscience to the very leaders who are the chief architects of the credibility gap and the perpetrators of managed news in government affairs.

Dissent has been stigmatized. Earlier attempts to maintain a dialogue were met with silence. One of the great reasons why large numbers of those who oppose the war have turned to civil disobedience is their frustration over this breakdown in communication. To them this policy of silence seemed to be nothing more than a ploy of news management aimed at shutting off debate on the issues of the war. The resulting frustration led some citizens to resort to extreme actions to register their dissent.

Without wishing either to condemn or support such extreme responses, we must point out that the situation has thereby been improved, if only slightly. In place of indifference in the majority of the people, the discussion of the war now invokes an angry and emotional response, and instead of silence from the administration, a rush of bewildering and conflicting defensive responses. An opportunity has been created to channel discussion to more productive levels.

But in the meantime dissent in the public mind has been increasingly come to be equated with extremism and the rejection of the usual democratic channels for dissent; a desire to encourage deescalation and negotiated withdrawal has

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has been related to cowardice in the face of enemy aggression; opposition to the methods of the war has come to be associated with an unpatriotic lack of support for our fighting men; and the very voice of dissent has come to be identified with beatniks, hippies, and draft dodgers.

We deplore these confusions that have been more-or-less cultivated in the public mind, but we recognize them as for the most part sincerely held. And we believe that much of the opposition to the war, though effective in other ways, is not serving the purpose of persuading the community in general to face up to, think about, and discuss the issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That dissent having come to be unfairly and unfortunately confused in the public mind with lack of concern for democratic processes, lack of patriotism, lack of support for our fighting men, and lack of fortitude, that we, as veterans who oppose the war in Vietnam, should deal with the situation as it is realistically and not as it should be in some wholly idealistic framework. We see little purpose in talking solely to ourselves or to others who share our views; we see the real potential to be in leading the uncommitted and confused portions of the public to recognize that dissent cannot be categorized in this unfortunate manner, that in fact the issues remain to be debated, and that it is their duty to begin the discussion.

That we as veterans should take every possible advantage of the special consideration a grateful society holds for those who have served their country in the armed forces, in order to communicate our concern to the community at large. We see as potentially very harmful to our acceptance by the community any action which would associate us as members of Madison Veterans for Peace in Vietnam with other forms of protest, however righteous and justified these protests may be, but which have objectives other than persuasion of the public through education and discussion.

That in pursuit of these ends the Membership reserves the right to pass on projects as a regular item of business to be duly voted on--except that when time is of the essence, the Steering Committee, as polled by the Chairman, may approve interim projects.

That nothing in this resolution is intended to limit the political activities and associations of members. The intent of the Membership is that the individual take care that the identity of the organization does not become involved in projects and commitments not sanctioned by the Membership or by the Steering Committee.

Questions and Answers about Madison Veterans For Peace

Q: "Is Madison Veterans For Peace a student organization?"

A: No. Only about one-third of the membership lists their occupation as student. This is proportional to the general adult (over 18) population of Madison.

Q: "What are the membership requirements?"

A: Any veteran who has served more than 180 days, has received a discharge (or release from active duty) which is other than dishonorable, and supports the goals of MVFP, is welcome to join.

Q: "Is Vets For Peace a nation-wide organization?"

A: Not really. Most major cities and small towns have chapters, but they are not linked to any national policy-making body. Madison Vets For Peace maintains an informal correspondence with some other chapters, especially those in Wisconsin.

Q: "What percentage of the members have served in Viet Nam?"

A: About 30%. Almost half of the membership is made up of veterans of WWI, WWII and Korea.

Q: "On what issues has MVFP taken an active stand?"

A: Immediate withdrawal from Southeast Asia and the deglamorization of war have been the major concerns of MVFP.

Q: "Is MVFP a service organization?"

A: No, although many members are active in the Veterans Hospital Volunteer Service Program.

Q: "Is MVFP a social organization?"

A: No, although members, friends and families do get together several times a year for a picnic or a party.

Q: "What is the purpose of MVFP?"

A: The purpose of the organization as included in its articles of incorporation is "to work for peace through educational programs which seek to eliminate violence and repression as political tools."

1. Madison Veterans For Peace is an organization dedicated to the pursuit and preservation of peace and the general welfare of the whole world.

2. We believe that a person is never discharged from duty, honor and respect to all mankind.

Don
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3. We should work for the elimination of violence and repression as political and economic tools.
4. We should use public education to sway opinion in order to achieve peace.
5. We should advocate effective public review and control of military policy and spending.
6. We should work to insure the Constitutional rights of all individuals.
7. As veterans, many of whom have witnessed the true horrors of war, we oppose the glorification of war by our society. We must work to convince our fellow citizens that political, economic and social problems must be solved by more rational and humane methods than those employed by the military.
8. We should work for the general welfare of all veterans.

Q: "Who may I contact for more information?"

A: The current officers of MVFP are:

Chairman:
Bruce Lloyd
20 South Franklin
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Phone: 251-0822

Secretary and
Ship Chairman:
Chuck Goranson
708 Seymour St.
Madison, Wis. 53715
Phone 255-1937

Vice-Chairman:
Carolyn Black
312 W. Emmett Box 304
Portage, Wis. 53901
Phone 742-3464

Treasurer:
Loren Lewis
1407 Chandler St.
Madison, Wis. 53711
Phone 257-2427

Q: "Why is there a need for 'another' veterans organization?"

A: Many veterans oppose the Vietnam war, but have not effectively demonstrated their opposition. Further, many veterans feel that their views on Vietnam and war in general have not been accurately reflected by traditional veterans groups. Madison Veterans For Peace offers a sane and peaceful way to express these views publicly.

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