

CAN WE STAND IDLY BY?



NEXT WEEK: STOP the DRAFT --- OAKLAND

The War has escalated sharply: the Pentagon is moving close (30 second air time) to a war with China; the last chances to stop it are rapidly slipping away; Pres. Johnson reiterates his will to stand firm ...

Protest has moved to Resistance; draft refusal is growing; black Americans realize that the struggle for self-determination is here, not in Vietnam; they call for support from the anti-war movement ...

Millions of Americans have expressed opposition to their government. They have marched, vigiled, written letters, rung door bells, signed petitions. Is it not now clear that to affect the course of our government's actions we will need to take risks and be willing to pay the price of principled resistance?

On October 16th hundreds of young men across the country will publicly return their draft registration cards to the government. They challenge its right to draft any American men for its atrocious war against the people of Vietnam. They face five years in prison.

The rest of us, who are not subject to the draft or are willing to accept deferred status, must now ask ourselves, "Can we stand idly by? Are we to leave the burdens of conscience and risks involved in resisting the draft solely to these young men?"

Beginning at 6 am on October 16th hundreds of determined citizens, led by Joan Baez and including many from the mid-peninsula, will sit down in the doorway of the Oakland Induction Center. They will initiate a week-long series of legal demonstrations and non-violent civil disobedience which aims to close the Center down.

Day after day, they will say by their presence, "If you wish to continue forcing confused and frightened young Americans to kill and be killed, you must deal with us first". Across the nation others will take up the Resistance, culminating in a mammoth confrontation at the Pentagon on October 21st.

Participation at Oakland is not limited only to those able to commit civil disobedience. Those who cannot risk arrest should join in the fully legal picketing nearby in visible support of the right and responsibility of all men to refuse to obey those orders of their government which are immoral and in violation of international law.

We cannot be certain that acts such as these will stop the war. We do believe that nothing less has any chance of stopping it. We seek to build that movement which will ultimately deprive the government of the men, the taxes, and the silent acquiescence it must have to pursue aggressive wars in Vietnam and elsewhere.