

COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF PFC. HOWARD PETRICK
Box 569, Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

June 2, 1967

Dear Friends,

In only a month-and-a-half support for the case of Pfc. Howard Petrick has grown tremendously. This letter is to inform supporters of the defense effort of the progress of the case.

The campaign to defend Pfc. Petrick has found wide-spread support from the antiwar movement on a national scale. Howard Petrick was able to obtain a leave May 13-14 in order to attend and speak at the Student Mobilization conference in Chicago. He also spoke at a meeting of the Chicago Veterans for Peace. The Student Mobilization Committee passed a motion to support the case of Howard Petrick as well as all other cases of soldiers who dissent from the Vietnam war.

More than 200 prominent individuals and antiwar leaders have become sponsors of the Committee to Defend the Rights of Pfc. Howard Petrick. These sponsors are members of more than 70 antiwar organizations, including six veterans groups, 22 Committees to End the War in Vietnam, pacifist groups, church groups, 4 draft resistance unions, high school groups, professional groups, and political parties.

Prominent sponsors include: Prof. Germaine Bree (U. of Wisconsin), Prof. Eric Bentley (Columbia Univ.), Franz Schurmann (U. of California, Berkeley), Mrs. Donna Allen (Women Strike for Peace), Ruth Gage Colby (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), Staughton Lynd and Grace Mora Newman (Fort Hood Three Defense Committee), Prof. George L. Mosse (U. of Wisconsin), Prof. Sidney Peck (Spring Mobilization Committee), Paul Sweezy (Monthly Review), Thomas Gardner (Southern Student Organizing Committee), John Gerassi (journalist), Murray Kempton, Henry Bucher (University Christian Movement), Franklin Alexander (W.E.B. DuBois Clubs), Prof. Maxwell Primack (Chicago Peace Council), Judy White (Socialist Workers Party), Denis Berger from the Paris Secretariat of the Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal, and many others.

Statements of support have come in from antiwar committees and Spring Mobilization committees in most major cities, as well as from CORE, the Chicago Peace Council, the New York Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee, and groups against the war in Alberta, Vancouver, and Toronto in Canada, and in Japan. Several inquiries about the case have come in from soldiers.

Several antiwar organizations have formed subcommittees to publicize the case and support the defense committee. In Madison, Wisconsin supporters of the case have formed a local defense committee at the Univ. of Wisconsin. This group sent out a mailing to the entire faculty of the University, signed by four prominent professors, asking them to become sponsors of the defense committee and to make contributions. Already around 30 sponsors have come in from this mailing. The Madison group also plans to pass out leaflets on the case to 5,000 soldiers who eat at the University cafeteria on the way to their maneuvers during the summer.

The defense committee still needs many more prominent sponsors, however. Supporters of the case are urged to ask their friends and associates to become sponsors. Any group which would like to send out fact sheets on the case to their mailing list should send in an order for leaflets and sponsor cards. Organizations with newsletters can include an article on the case with an appeal for funds.

An important article on the case appeared in the May 19 New York Post. Murray Kempton, for many years a featured columnist for the Post, devoted his May 19 column to the Petrick case. The defense committee is reproducing this article on a leaflet, which will be available soon for use in publicity.

The legal state of the case has not changed, but there has been one development. Howard had written to his Senator, Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania, asking that Clark intervene to assure his civil liberties. Senator Clark made an inquiry into the army about Howard's case. Senator Clark recently mailed Howard a copy of a letter sent to Clark from an officer at Ft. Hood. The letter stated clearly that Howard's literature, which was confiscated, was not being returned because of a continuing investigation of him. Howard still doesn't know what will happen to him. The

army is continuing its attempt to intimidate him, and the threat of court-martial has not been removed.

Meanwhile, Howard has continued speaking against the war and handing out literature. He has found no hostility whatsoever from other GIs. On the contrary, GIs who hear about his case agree that he should fight back and are more interested in reading literature on the war.

Another case, very similar to the Petrick case, has just arisen. Pvt. Andrew D. Stapp, from Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, faces a court-martial for refusing to obey an order to open his locker and turn over "reading material" against the Vietnam war. Victor Rabinowitz, Howard Petrick's attorney, has also been provided by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee for Pvt. Stapp. Stapp points out that army regulations uphold a soldier's right to "acquire commercial publications for his own personal use."

Finally, the financial situation of the defense committee has not kept pace with the wide support for the case. Many people have made small contributions, but we need to raise approximately \$2,000 to cover the heavy initial costs of publicity and establishing the defense committee. This publicity is the one way we can mobilize public opinion behind Howard's right to free speech and show the army that it can not get away with denying constitutional rights to GIs.

Following is a list of fund-raising suggestions:

1. Mailings of the fact sheet or of a fund appeal letter to antiwar groups, college faculties, civil libertarians. Results are better if the letter is signed by a professor or prominent individual in the area.
2. Well-to-do organizations and individuals may be approached to give larger contributions.
3. Folk concerts, with donated talent.
4. Movie showings, art auctions, rummage sales.
5. Parties--ask for donations of refreshments and entertainment.

Please send copies of any publicity the case receives in local newspapers.

Yours,
Caroline Lund
 Caroline Lund
 Secretary