

GI CIVIL LIBERTIES DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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TO ALL LOCAL GICLDC'S:

This summer has been a hectic one for the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee, to say the least. In addition to the fight to keep Joe Miles from being sent to Alaska, we have had new cases at both Ft. Jackson and Ft. Bragg = courts martial for Tommie Woodfin at Jackson and Jack Riley at Bragg. The Army has discharged Joe Cole and Ed Glover (Ft. Benning) as "undesirable", and has given notice to Jose Rudder and Tommie Woodfin that they will be receiving undesirable discharges as well. All this indicates a number of appeals to be made, plus we are pursuing the injunctive suits at Ft. Jackson and Ft. Bragg.

Andrew Pulley was discharged on May 23rd and has been visiting some local areas this summer. He has appeared on numerous radio and television shows and has addressed literally thousands of people with an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. This is a good indication of what we can anticipate from an organized tour this fall.

Our immediate and most pressing need lies in the area of finances. The top priority for the coming months is to raise as much money as possible; this responsibility must be assumed by each local area. If we are to continue the work we are already involved in, as well as make allowances for new cases, it is imperative that we be on a sound basis financially, which entails raising thousands of dollars in the next five months. This task will be easier now with the GIs being discharged and available for personal appearances.

Our perspective for the fall is a major speaking tour by one of the Ft. Jackson GIs. While we are anxious to publicize the Ft. Jackson victory and the continuing work of the Defense Committee, we feel that major emphasis must be put on raising money. The presence of one of the Ft. Jackson Eight in your area should be taken full advantage of.

For those areas which haven't established a local GI CLDC with active sponsor participation, there are several ways this may be approached. Now that we have the victory of the Ft. Jackson case behind us, it should be relatively easy to impress upon people the significance of the GI CLDC. Taking Los Angeles as an example, they reported, "A list of key activists were asked to help the Defense Committee in three areas: individual contributions, organizational contributions and mailings to membership of their organizations with information about the committee and an appeal for funds. In the case of key people, we visited them personally, asked for their sponsorship, and tried to involve them organizationally in our work..." Los Angeles followed this up with a call for a sponsors meeting, and found that a number of people were willing to work on raising funds for the Defense Committee - either by holding a benefit function in their home, through donations, or by helping to organize a money-raising event.

Los Angeles has reported such a tremendous response to the GI CLDC, especially when one of the GIs was there, that we are confident there are a multitude of possibilities for the Defense Committee in other areas - both in broadening our base of support and securing sound financial backing.

As a concrete example of these possibilities, Los Angeles has raised a total of \$2,300.00 in a period of three months for the Defense Committee!!! Included in this is the cost of a full page ad on the back of THE NEW REPUBLIC which will be in either the September or October issue.

We can all feel proud of the part the GI CLDC has played in the struggle for GI rights. But the fight has just begun, and the Defense Committee intends to remain in the forefront of that struggle. In order for the GI CLDC to be successful, it is absolutely necessary that it be a national effort. This means that local areas must increase their financial support to the national office and continue to publicize GI CLDC cases and get sponsors.

To facilitate this goal, we are in the process of updating our literature and producing some new material. The first thing off the press will be a reprint of Robert Sherrill's article "Must A Citizen Give Up His Civil Liberties When He Enters the Army?" which appeared in the May 18 NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE. This will be \$5.00/100, and you should send in your orders now. Secondly, we are updating the brochure to cover the entire scope of the GI CLDC, not just the Ft. Jackson case. We will also have a July-August printed newsletter by mid-August.

The exact tour dates have not been set up yet. However, in addition to the one full scale tour, a couple of our ex-GIs will be available for special events. It must be kept in mind that any event involving one of the GI CLDC speakers must not only pay for itself, but make every effort to raise money.

In closing, we would like to remind you that it is extremely important that the GI CLDC national office receive regular reports on activities in your area. We would like to hear about what you are planning for the fall and what your activities have been up to this point.

Sincerely,

Ruth R. Blackstock
GI CLDC National Office