Introduction

The first act of resistance against war taxes in the United States was in 1637; Algonquin Indians were opposing a Dutch effort to improve a local fort. For centuries afterward, war tax resistance was a method of protest used primarily by members of the traditional peace churches—Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren—to witness personally against the government's preparation for and prosecution of wars. Tax resistance by secular pacifists increased significantly during World War Two as the percentage of each income tax dollar used to support the military increased dramatically. War tax resistance efforts organized at that time gathered momentum over the years as the military budget steadily increased. During the Indochina War the number of people refusing pay federal taxes of one type or another reached an all-time high. Recently, because of a newly intensified arms build-up, war tax resistance is again becoming more widespread, and there are several national organizations, a few with local chapters, spearheading this activity.

War tax resistance can take many forms. Some people refuse to pay all income tax owed. Others withhold a portion of the amount due, based on the percentage of the federal budget used for military purposes. Some deduct only a token amount from their checks as a symbolic protest. Another

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