November 4, 1996

Dear Friends,

One of the great things about working at the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute has been getting to know the Muste family: A.J.'s son John and his daughter Nancy Baker, John's wife Jean, their sons Peter and Christopher, Peter's wife Patricia and, of course, the newest Muste, Peter and Pat's son, John James, now almost 2 1/2.

Whenever I've needed help tracking down some detail about A.J.'s life, John has always been available to assist. He may be a retired college professor, but his interest in the Institute is more than "academic." All the Mustes support the Institute's work and they put their money where their principles are by contributing regularly.

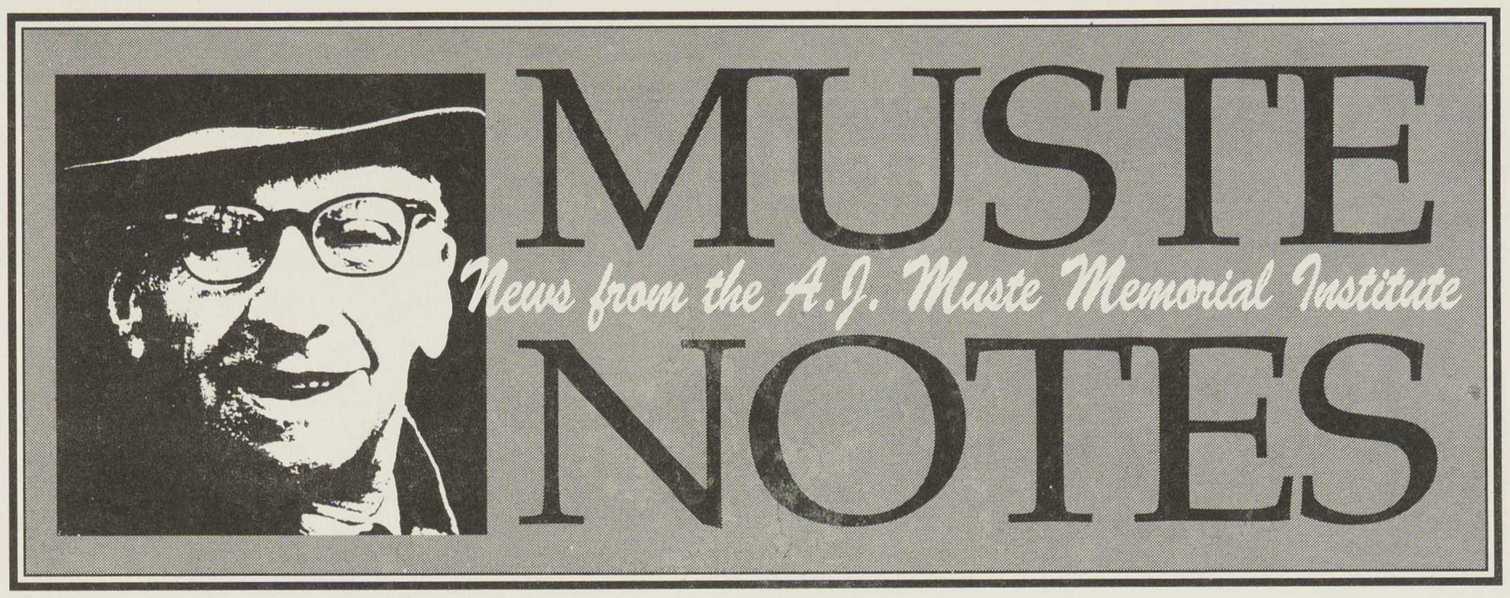
Enclosed with this issue is a letter from the Mustes. We thought you'd like to hear from them directly about how important your support, along with theirs, is for the Institute. I hope you'll find it interesting to read and that you'll make your donation now to help us build a stronger base for the challenges we'll be facing in 1997 and beyond.

As we head toward the end of this year, we're making our plans for more grantmaking next year, new pamphlets and expansion of our services to nonviolent groups. We've also gained a new slate of officers and several new board members who are introduced in this issue. We trust you'll enjoy reading about our work and will continue to support nonviolent social change with your donations to the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute.

Sincerely in peace,

Murray Rosenblith

Murray Rosenblith
Executive Director



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A.J.'s Final Arrest

On December 15, 1966, about 60 people, including A.J. Muste, were arrested for "disorderly conduct" at a protest at the Whitehall Street induction center in New York. In the photo below, A.J. (third from right) seems to be looking straight at the camera from the back of the police van. It was probably the last time he was arrested. When the court date came on January 3, A.J. was in Hanoi on a peace mission (see *Muste Notes*, Winter, 1994). Just over a month later he was dead at age 82.

The Whitehall Street action was described by Mark Morris and Suzanne Williams in the January 13, 1967 edition of WIN Magazine. Beginning at City Hall, the protesters marched down Whitehall Street during the noon rush. Mark notes in his account of the action that the anti-war signs carried by protesters provoked little hostility from onlookers, compared with the reaction such a protest would have brought a year earlier.

About 100 people picketed in front of the draft center for 40 minutes. Peter Boehmer was the first to climb the steps, as he tried unsuccessfully to enter the building to return his discharge papers. Then A.J. and Beverly Sterner, A.J.'s secretary, joined Peter on the steps. The others ducked under police barricades and "stood there in the cold singing Christmas carols" in front of the building, wrote Mark.

Police arrested everyone on the sidewalk ("singing Christmas carols must be illegal in New York City," noted Suzanne), and announced that they could not arrest anyone on the steps because Selective Service refused to press charges. Because the purpose of the protest was symbolic, and many wanted to be arrested in an act of civil disobedience, those remaining on the steps moved down to the sidewalk and were arrested. A.J. and most of the others were released later that day with no bail.

A holiday reminder:

Pamphlets from the Muste Institute's Essay Series on Nonviolence make great gifts! Introduce a friend or relative to the inspiring words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Emma Goldman, Henry David Thoreau, Barbara Deming, Paul Goodman, Jessie Wallace Hughan, A.J. Muste and many others. You can order our entire Essay Series of 12 pamphlets for $10 postpaid, or write or call for a free catalogue so you can pick and choose. You can also order *Peace Agitator*, Nat Hentoff's biography of A.J. Muste, for only $5 postpaid. Send orders to the Muste Institute at 339 Lafayette St, New York, NY 10012.

PHOTO BY ELI FINER