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WAR IS THE HEALTH OF THE STATE

On August 10th in Hartford, Connecticut, Russell F. Ford was arraigned for knowingly failing to register with the war machine. The fact of the matter is he quite intentionally refused to register on the basis of his anarchist beliefs (see *Emancipation*, no. 36, 19 May 1982).

In the case of Benjamin Sasway of San Francisco who was denied bail while awaiting sentencing on the same charge, the prosecutors stated that Sasway represented a danger "to the community, indeed to the country," comparing him to drug traffickers "who have not conformed their conduct to the dictates of society."

Certainly draft resisters are a danger to the government which wishes to dictate to the community as if it were composed of docile slaves queuing up to be marched off for slaughter. Indeed these young men embody the spirit of freedom and as such are only a threat to tyranny. President Carter's demanding registration is no more a dictate of a free society than General Jaruzelski's military crackdown on Solidarity is.

Our comrade's imprisonment brings to our minds the words of a Wobblie comrade imprisoned for obstructing a war few of us can remember—We're in here for you, you're out there for us.

THE EMANCIPATION COLLECTIVE

The following is a general statement issued by Russell F. Ford:

On Friday, July 30, I was indicted for refusal to register with some group called Selective Slavery. I'm living in Middletown, a student at Wesleyan University, and active with several local groups. My 18th birthday had come July 4th of last year, by which time I had pretty well wised up to what "it's only registration" is really about.

November of last year I wrote to Reagan and Selective Service telling them that I was 18 and that I hadn't and wouldn't regis-

ter. I followed that with another letter and visit to the U.S. Attorney in New Haven, just to make sure I wasn't ignored. They answered with letters threatening prosecution, and with FBI visits to my home and that of my family.

People have got to stop war, by Trident Nein actions, by non-payment of war taxes, by voting or by not voting—by doing our own thinking, rather than putting trust in authority. Draft registration was where I had to draw the line—I am objecting to more than the mere registration process. I am trying to stop the draft, the next war. We need resistance now. When the boxcars are carrying human freight it is too late. War is the health of the state. It is the purest expression of what they believe, that a few ought to profit from the pain of the many, that we owe our allegiance to leaders and institutions rather than to our human and ecological communities, that I have more in common with some U.S. politician than with a Salvadoran student, or guerilla.

And my refusal to register is one part of my struggle as an American man against the violence and exploitative privilege that is my inheritance in this society. For this I face up to five years in prison.

My trial will come some time in September or October. I'll be conducting my own defense, and will be trying to explain the moral reasons for illegal behavior. The reader is invited to join me at the trial, and in prison, if you like. My address is 69 High Street (Ecology House), Middletown, CT 06457. 347-4048. Make checks payable to the Russ Ford Pizza and Beer Fund—\$5.75 buys me one large mushroom and onion.

RUSSELL F. FORD

NOTE: On October 17 there will be training for a CD October 18 in front of the Selective Service. Call Bob Brown at the Washington Peace Center, 234-2000.

