

STATEMENT ON FORCED LABOR IN PRISON

I am serving a 26 month sentence for refusing to register for the draft. I was sentenced to "the custody of the Attorney General." It is my claim:

1) That I was sentenced to custody, therefore the terms of my sentence are fulfilled by my confinement for the specified time. No other sanctions, such as forced labor, may be imposed.

2) That as a condition of my confinement, the government is required to provide me with adequate shelter, food, and clothing.

3) That any labor I am required to provide to the institution is involuntary servitude; and that any labor I am required to provide that I am not paid for, in cash or cash credit, is slavery.

4) That the government may set up any voluntary employment program it wishes. Such a system may be used to fill the maintenance requirements of the prison, but if sufficient labor cannot be obtained in this manner, the institution must turn to the general labor market.

Since I have been here I have provided labor voluntarily to the institution. In reception cottage the voluntary nature of this work was recognized, at least to the extent of asking me to do things, rather than telling me. Now, however, I find that it is being assumed that the institution is entitled to my labor. I must resist this assumption.

I will provide, voluntarily, an amount of my labor equal in value to the food and cash I receive.

I have been informed that I receive \$5.00 per month cash credit. The food I receive may be valued at \$14.00 per week, for a total weekly value of \$15.25. A common wage for unskilled labor is \$2.25 per hour. I will, therefore, provide 7 hours of work to the institution each week.

I emphasize that this labor is voluntary, and that I have the right to increase or withhold this labor at any time, for any or no cause.

- Bruce Baechler, July 28, 1975

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Refuse to cooperate with the Selective Service System or the Armed Forces.
- Refuse to pay war taxes.
- Join Bruce in silent worship nightly at 7 PM Eastern time wherever you are.
- Write to Bruce Baechler, 1046-103, Box 1000, Morgantown, WV 26505.
- Write your Senators and your Representative urging immediate repeal of the draft and total, unconditional amnesty for all draft resisters.
- Write President Ford urging commutation of Bruce's sentence.

The BRUCE BAECHLER SUPPORT COMMITTEE serves to coordinate support activities. It is in frequent contact with Bruce. Additional copies of the enclosed leaflet can be supplied. To meet expenses, small donations (checks may be made to "William Samuel - BBSC") will be accepted.