

IRS MOVES AGAINST ACTIVISTS

In July, 1969, the Nixon administration ordered the IRS to set up the Special Services Staff (originally called the Activist Organizations Committee). The SSS secretly collected files on more than 11,000 individuals and groups, and attacks began against many of them. This was done, the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights explained, "to stifle and control the growing political dissidence." Sen. Sam Ervin, Chairman, emphasized that "little if any of the SSS activities were legitimately tax-related... The purpose of the IRS... is not to enforce political orthodoxy. The SSS operations represent a dangerous abuse of the enormous powers Americans have given to the tax collection arm of government."

After Senate hearings in 1973, IRS Commissioner Alexander said the SSS would be disbanded. But its "enemies list" has never been made public, and attacks continue!

IRS ATTACKS PEACEMAKERS & BROMLEYS

Peacemakers is a nationwide pacifist group, dedicated to active nonviolence and involved in war resistance for more than 25 years. Since its beginning in 1948, Peacemakers has strongly encouraged non-payment of federal taxes for war and armaments, and non-cooperation with conscription, and many individual Peacemakers have taken these positions. Because of our opposition to war and to government policies, Peacemakers was targeted by the SSS. Several individual Peacemakers--particularly Ernest Bromley, former editor of "The Peacemaker"--were also targeted.



In 1972, IRS secretly copied the bank records of the Peacemaker Movement, and used them to make an assessment against Gano Peacemakers, Inc., a tiny, nonprofit corporation formed in 1952 by Ernest and Marion Bromley and several friends to hold title to the house they had purchased together. The two groups, Peacemakers, and Gano Peacemakers, Inc., have always been absolutely separate organizationally and financially. By falsely linking the two groups, neither of which legally-owed any taxes (and even if they had, wouldn't have owed each other's taxes), IRS was able to create a fraudulent claim and use it to seize and auction off the Bromley family (Gano Peacemakers, Inc.) home--they are to be driven into the street.....and pose a serious, continuing threat to the existence of the political group, Peacemakers.

At first we allowed that IRS might have made an honest mistake (we try to trust everyone). Hundreds of letters of explanation and protest--from Peacemakers and friends of the Movement--were sent to IRS. Daily leafletting and demonstrations have been carried on in Cincinnati (where the house is located) for more than five months--and now in Washington as well. Personal conversations have been held with IRS officials. Still IRS persists in its attack! The Cincinnati City Council and various Congresspeople and committees have expressed concern. Still IRS persists! Reporters and a religious group investigating the case were denied access to the IRS files, even after presenting IRS's own authorization form, properly signed. The Cincinnati Enquirer reporter who wrote the first news story about the case was soon after audited by IRS.

NOW IS TIME TO ACT...

These actions threaten not only the Bromleys (and others of Gano Peacemakers, Inc.), and the Peacemaker Movement.....they are a direct threat to politically-active individuals and groups, and to all who would think and feel and speak and act freely, according to their consciences.

WHO WILL BE NEXT?

Send letters of protest to Donald Alexander, IRS Commissioner, 12th & Constitution, Washington, D.C.....JOIN US ON SEPT. 3!

For more information contact: local Peacemakers, 1345 Euclid St. N.W., Wash.D.C.
ph. 202-667-6407