A Letter of Resistance

PEACE

FREEDOM SURVIVAL

William French Smith, Attorney General
of the United States of Amerika
James Bond, Acting Director of Selective
Service
Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the Supreme
Court
Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of AmeriKKKa
George Bush, Vise-President of the U.S. of A. and the President
of the Senate
Thomas P. O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Edward M. Kennedy, United States Senator
Paul Tsongas, United States Senator
Margaret Heckler, Representative in Congress

Agents of the Government of the United States of Amerika, and of the violence for which it stands:

According to reports in the public press – reports which I have neither reason nor inclination to doubt – you are now preparing to begin prosecuting some men who have not registered for the draft. I call to your attention the irrelevance of any such persecutions.

Draft registration was instituted by President Jimmy Carter's proclamation of 2 July 1980, and continues with the collusion of President Reagan (who has let stand Carter's proclamation), the Congress (which authorized registration and funded Selective Service), and the Supreme Court (which approved registration).

I was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 11 January 1960, and, with those other men of my age who you claim as your citizens (subjects) was supposed to register on one of the six days 22-26 July 1980. On 17 July 1980, at a press conference in Chicago, Illinois, I announced my intention not to register and urged others to do likewise. I contnued to publicize my non-registration and to advocate non-registration at Post Offices in Chicago, Boston, and Wellesley, Massachusetts throughout the July 1980 and January 1981 mass registrations. Needless to say, I did not then nor have I since registered, and my statements to that effect have been published and broadcast out Amerika. I informed Brayton Harris, Ass. Director of the SS, of my intent not to register on the air in the studios of WBEZ radio, Chicago, on 22 July 1980.

The SS, meanwhile, continues to evade the draft. Although legislation and a Presidential commission report for a draft are pending, SS propaganda given to all registrants states that "there are no plans at this time for a draft." A less obvious lie – and therefore a more intimidating one – is the SS claim that non-registrants will be prosecuted. There are nealy a million non-registrants thus far, by SS estimates. But neither the federal judicial system (now at capacity – 40,000 cases/year) nor the federal prisons (also at capacity – 25,000 people) will be multiplied twenty-fold, nor will they be dedicated exclusively to registration resisters. Knowing this, the SS knows that only a token fraction of those who don't register can or will ever be prosecuted.

You are now preparing fro just such token prosecutions of fewer than 200 selective non-registrants. This letter is an expression of my solidarity with all those who may be prosecuted. They are not alone: I shall place myself with them, and I pledge what ever non-violent action that solidarity may require. In proscecuting any, you prosecute all, and I shall act accordingly.

I expect to be prosecuted for writing this letter. There are numerous constitutional, legal, administrative, and procedural defects in the registration laws, proclamation, and regulations, but I will offer no legal defenses. I do not expect rule-makers to follow their own rules. I have not registered, I have conspired not to, an I have conspired to aid and abet others not to. I owe you no apology. You are not my judges.

Judgement, in the end, is inherently introspective. I would no more enforce my opinions on you than have you enforce yours on me. I can only hope that you will judge yourselves by the test I appy to myself: Am I acting in the interest of survival? My life is being transformed by the realization that no life on EArth is likely to outlive what would have been my natural lifetime. There will be revolutionary change, or there will be nuclear omnicide.

In the spirit of survival, I urge you to act as I hope I would act in your place: not to use your authority for "better" purposes (i.e., to redirect your violence) but to *renounce your authority* and organize anarchically.

This is not to say that all draft resisters are anarchists (or pacifists, or communists, or atheists). Nor is it to say that I "advocate" anarchy, chaos, or violence. Anarchy – the absence of authority, the illegitimacy of violence – is a fact, a charactersitic of reality. Our lives, in accepting authority, deny their nature, and in so doing have produced a chaotic and violently suicidal world. *Realism demands anarchic organization* -– nonviolent, nonauthoritarian, cooperative, and loving.

Join me. Ronounce your authority, throw down your instruments of violence (convert them to creative uses if you can, destroy their potential for violence if you can't), smash the doors of the jails, skools, psychiatric prisons, and military Live Free Anarchically.

Yours In Peace,
With Love,
For Revolution,

Edward John Hasbrouck

LOVEREVOLUTION

SOLIDARITY

Sitting in Washington, D.C., with the Post as our source of international news, it's extremely hard to figure out exactly what is going down in Poland. Especially since the "news" we do get is almost entirely a barrage of selected facts. So all we really have to go on is the quotes of workers and others there.

Solidarity has stated it is not heading for a restoration of private ownership. Indeed many have even identified themselves as Marxists. While Western diplomats and the Soviet Union label them "anarchists".

This charge that the new unions are anarchist, of course, excites us all here at "Emancipation". But before we break out the champagne, let's take a look at the manner in which Solidarity is organized in comparison to anarchist ideals.

The Polish workers not only want a pay raise, but they want it in a fixed sum across the board, not in a percent of the worker's wage which would create a greater disparity between the highest and lowest paying jobs. In other words, they want to bring the wages of all workers closer together making the society equitable. Solidarity also wants an end to the priviledge enjoyed by both the police and party members.

When Proudhon originally used the word "Anarchy" he suggested a system where one person's day of work was equal to another's, despite their trades, when exchanging goods or services. Proudhon called this system mutalism.

Despite the western press's view of Solidarity led and ruled by Walesa, the union is organized from the bottom up, without a ruling elite, as independent, self-managing, and even decentralized unions. Walesa certainly has a great deal of influence and both the east and west would like him to be in charge, but he simply isn't. (As has been demonstrated by the continuation of strikes, etc., which are decided upon locally despite his pleas.)

The fundamental principles upon which the CNT (Spain's Confederacion National De Trabjadores with 300,000 members) and the IWW (America's Industrial Workers of the World active from 1905 to present) is direct worker control from the bottom up, organized in decentralized leaderless unions. That is, all decisions are made from the factory floor and the union's General Secretary is only a clerk.

The most important question for anarchists is whether a movement is anti-authoritarian. And this is the one area which we really have little to go on. But in the words of the one person who the Western press sees as the strong man, Lech Walesa, "I'm aganist direction, against centralization, against decision imposed from above...Each factory and institution, each region, every town, knows best what its needs are. You alone right there at the bottom can say what needs to be improved and how to do it..." "You must stay with your factory, committees, places of work, and Inter-factory committees, but do not let them tell you what to do and do not leave the responsibility in the hands of someone from Solidarity so that he ends up telling you what to do...You must not believe in anyone, you must believe in your strength. Otherwise, in a few years' time, people will say: 'So what did he achieve this Lech? He promised a whole lot and look what happened.'" Certainly, Lech is not making a statement against authority. But then again he sure isn't making one *for* authority, and speaking for myself, his statement sits a lot better with me than anything I've heard out of the A.F.L.-C.I.O.

No matter what statements Solidarity makes, it's the action they take that matters. And this union's record – so far as liberty, equality and faternity go – is matched by few unions. They may not be all anarchist, but they seem to be anarchist; and it may not be time for champagne, but it's certainly time for a beer.

Scott M. Rodell