



BRUCE BAECHLER AT MORGANTOWN FEDERAL PRISON

Why is this man in prison?

Who is this man?

Bruce Baechler is a 20 year old Quaker pacifist who has long been active in peace and social justice causes. He is a member of the Hartford (Conn.) Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Did he commit some crime against society?

No, he's in prison because he refused to commit what he considered to be a crime under God's law. Believing that God calls upon all to live in peace with each other, Bruce found he could not in good conscience cooperate with the draft. So he openly announced that he would not register for the draft.

But hasn't the draft ended?

While involuntary inductions under the draft have been halted, the Selective Service System continues to operate in readiness for future use. Young men are still required to register and local draft boards continue to classify them.

Hasn't the President amnestied draft resisters?

President Ford did have a "clemency" or "earned re-entry" program, which expired on March 31, 1975. People who had violated the draft law (plus many military law violators) could ask to receive "clemency" in return for signing a demeaning statement and agreeing to perform up to 24 months of federally-ordered labor. This only applied to "offenses" committed during the so-called "Vietnam era" - August 4, 1964 through March 28, 1973. There has never been any program for "post-Vietnam" resisters.

Is Bruce Baechler's 26 month prison sentence unusual?

Although the Military Selective Service Act provides for sentences of up to five years, most draft law violators have received only probation in recent years. Bruce is apparently the first American to be imprisoned for "post-Vietnam" draft resistance.

How can I show support for Bruce Baechler?

- 1) By engaging in nonviolent resistance against the war machine - refusing to cooperate with the Selective Service System and the Armed Forces; and refusing to pay federal taxes.
- 2) By joining Bruce in silent worship wherever you are - 7 PM Eastern time each night.
- 3) By writing to Bruce: Bruce A. Baechler, Morgantown Federal Prison, Morgantown, WV 26505.
- 4) By writing your Senators and your Representative urging immediate repeal of the Military Selective Service Act and total, unconditional amnesty for all draft resisters.

Is someone coordinating support activities for Bruce Baechler?

Yes, the Bruce Baechler Support Committee (BBSC), 120 Maryland Ave., N.E., basement, Washington, DC 20002. You can write the BBSC for further information and to be added to its mailing list. Expenses are low, but small donations (checks may be made payable to "William Samuel - BBSC") will be accepted as needed.