

## MY APOLOGIES FOR THE LONG SILENCE

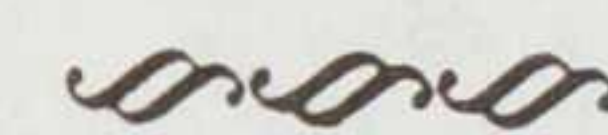
by Bradford Lyttle

I would like to apologize to readers of the United States Pacifist Party Report for suspension of publication of the Report after the 1984 national elections. There were two reasons why this happened, one mainly personal, the other more "political."

The personal reason flowed largely from the circumstances of my life in Chicago. For the past 11 years I've been living in Chicago taking care of my elderly parents. My father died in 1980. My mother, at 94, is still in remarkably good health. However, the responsibilities of caring for my mother have narrowed my range of activities almost entirely to our neighborhood. Since we live close to the University of Chicago, it has seemed to me that the best use of my spare time would be to pursue graduate degrees in political science at the university. This I've done since 1978. Since the University has exceptionally high academic standards, I'm a somewhat pedestrian scholar, and my responsibilities at home have reduced the time that I've had available for studying, my progress at the University has been spasmodic, and probably slower than that of the average graduate student. In addition, my first attempt to be admitted to the school's Ph.D. program, made about 1981, was unsuccessful. Late in 1982 I made a second attempt, based on the mathematical analysis of the failure probability of deterrence that's been described in previous issues of this newsletter. Since I had grave doubts that this second attempt would be successful, and I would be involved in further work at the University, I founded the United States Pacifist Party in March of 1983. In June of 1983, the University admitted me to its Ph.D. program. That placed me in a dilemma. On the one hand, I was involved in promoting the USPP and running for office. On the other hand, I was in the University's Ph.D. program that I knew was fashioned on the assumption that students would sustain a continuity of application. I couldn't both develop the USPP and seriously work on the degree. Since work for peace and justice always is pre-eminently reasonable, and abandoning the USPP barely three months after I'd founded it seemed a testimony to weak commitment, I decided to continue

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS UNEASY ABOUT DETERRENCE

There's evidence that members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops are becoming uneasy about the ambiguous position that the Conference took in regard to nuclear deterrence in its 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace." When the pastoral was being drafted, a number of bishops wanted to condemn deterrence, but strong pressure from the Reagan administration caused them to adopt instead "a strictly conditional moral acceptance of nuclear deterrence." Apparently partly because Reagan has shown so little interest in achieving arms control agreements, a number of bishops now want to take a fresh look at deterrence and their official position in regard to it. This movement is examined in the article "The Bishops and Deterrence: What Next?", by Russell Shaw, that appears in the September 7, 1985 edition of America (pp.101-103). Copies of this article are available from the USPP office for \$.50.



working on the Party, and postpone work for the degree. At the same time, I realized that if I was to have any chance at all of obtaining the degree I'd have to resume work on it as soon as possible. Since the USPP didn't win the election, I had no occasion to move to Washington, and in November of 1984 returned to working on the degree. Had this work gone smoothly, it's possible that by May of 1985 I might again have been able to devote a substantial amount of time to the USPP. As it was, I made two mistakes in approaching the program that cost me about half a year's time (not entirely wasted, fortunately). Since June, I've probably been on the right track, which mainly has meant preparing to take a Ph.D. "preliminary exam," a grueling, two week test requiring the writing of 17 essays in four different areas of political philosophy and science. The exam took place early in November of this year. I don't know yet if I passed it, but, for awhile at least, it's behind me.

The more political factor had to do with some doubts that I had about the USPP. I founded the Party because I believed that a pacifist party was the key element needed in the humanitarian movements in this coun-

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