



#### THE UNJUST TREATMENT OF TWO ANTI-CONSCRIPTION DEMONSTRATORS

Two young workers, Ken Mansell and Adrian Desailly, were arrested early on Saturday morning the 1st of March, for painting a slogan on a railway bridge in Urquhart Street, Northcote. The slogan 'FREE ZARB', referred to the unjust imprisonment of Vietnam war protester and conscientious objector, John Zarb, the twenty year old postman who has been gaoled for two years at Pentridge.

At Northcote Police Station, they were charged and threatened by one of the officers with physical violence and forced to sign a statement written by one of the policemen. They asked repeatedly from their cell to phone friends so that bail could be provided. Permission was refused and they spent the night on a cold concrete floor, with no facilities provided. The blankets were filthy, stinking of urine and excrement.

At 10 a.m. the following morning they were transported to Pentridge, and stripped, shaved and shorn. Questioning the warders authority to order that their hair must be cut by one of the prisoners, both young men were threatened with injury by the insertion of scissors in the anus. Mansell's tetanus abscess was kicked four times and Desailly hit in the stomach with a board by the same warder. Further, they were again refused permission to phone for bail. They were finally bailed at 4 p.m.

At court on Tuesday, Desailly and Mansell, who had been unable to obtain legal representation in the time, were given no chance to make a defence, and were fined 200 dollars each in default three months gaol. One officer said that he would oppose their attempt to seek an adjournment, suggesting that the fine would be approximately ten dollars.

Mansell, who had not actually painted the slogan, was not allowed to make a statement. Neither was Desailly. Mansell's case was not even mentioned.

The distributors of this pamphlet see this treatment as unjust and an expression of political suppression, far exceeding the bounds of fairness and impartiality for such a trivial act.

The offenders do not retract from their position. They will be witness to this demonstration, after which the slogan will be publicly completed.