

COMMITTEE IN DEFIANCE OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT

P.O. Box 247,
Haymarket, 2000.
Telegraphic address:
"Acficodis", Sydney.
Telephone: 26 6201.

25th June, 1969.

AN ACT OF CONSCIENCE IN DEFIANCE
OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT

Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed you will find a facsimile reduction of an advertisement which appeared in yesterday's "AUSTRALIAN" (24/6/69). You will note that over three hundred citizens from N.S.W. and the A.C.T. have taken the opportunity of joining Professors Birch and Martin in their defiance of the Crimes Act by declaring their support for young men who refuse to register under the present National Service Act. Included in the advertisement is an appeal for nation-wide support to be expressed in a further advertisement. To this end I have taken the liberty of writing to you with a request for your assistance.

It is intended that the second statement will appear as a full-page national advertisement in the "AUSTRALIAN" on Thursday, 3rd July. It will thus be necessary to assemble the list of signatories by next Tuesday evening, 1st July, or at the very latest by 10.00 am, Wednesday 2nd. I am thus hoping that you will not only consider placing your own name on this statement, but may also be able to collect the names of several other people and pass them on to me.

The proposed text of the second statement is attached. If, as I anticipate, you desire to associate yourself with this public demonstration of opposition to conscription, please advise me by "Special Delivery" return mail, telegram, or phone. The only information required now is name and occupation. Contributions and your postal address can be forwarded to this address at your own convenience. But please remember that all names must be in by 10.00 a.m., this Wednesday, 2nd July at the very latest.

The first advertisement was paid for on the basis of a \$5.00 contribution from each signatory. The response received has left us with some finance in hand and would lead us to believe that, with the anticipated number of signatories, the cost per signature for this second ad. would not be far in excess of \$2.00. I would therefore suggest that this figure be regarded as the minimum contribution, while those able to give more be invited to contribute up to \$5.00.

The Committee in Defiance of the National Service Act sees these advertisements as essential steps towards open expression of contempt of the Act. It is vital that this second ad. should receive the widest and strongest community support that is possible. I therefore appeal to you not only to declare your own commitment, but to gather as many signatures from others as you can.

Yours faithfully,

K. J. McLeod
K.J. McLEOD.

Spokesman, Committee in Defiance of
the National Service Act.

COMMITTEE IN DEFIANCE OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT.

The Committee in Defiance of the National Service Act is an ad hoc committee that has come together in response to the stand taken by Professors Birch and Martin against the National Service Act.

Its Executive Committee comprises of:-

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ken Thomas, Company Director and convenor of the Australian Movement against Conscription for Overseas Service.

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Murray Sime, Lawyer and Chairman of the Sydney July 4th Committee.

SPOKESMAN: Mr. Ken McLeod, officer of the Association for International Co-operation and Disarmament.

SECRETARY: Mr. Simon Townsend, journalist and former victim of imprisonment under the National Service Act.

TREASURER: Mr. Les Waddington, Company Director and Secretary of the Ex-Servicemens' Human Rights Association.

The text of the statement for the second advertisement to appear in "The Australian" on Thursday, 3rd July :-

"WE BELIEVE THAT NO GOVERNMENT HAS THE RIGHT TO FORCE AN INDIVIDUAL TO ACT CONTRARY TO THE DICTATES OF HIS CONSCIENCE.

WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT, AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, TO BE AN UNJUST LAW IN ITS LACK OF PROVISION FOR YOUNG MEN WHOSE CONSCIENTIOUS BELIEFS DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO ENGAGE IN A PARTICULAR WAR.

WE HAVE SEEN CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO SECURE THE AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT, BUT TO NO AVAIL.

WE HAVE ALSO SEEN A GROWING NUMBER OF YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO GO TO PRISON RATHER THAN TO ACT AGAINST THEIR CONSCIENCES.

WE ARE NO LONGER PREPARED TO STAND IDLY BY WHILE THESE YOUNG MEN ARE HELD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN ALL MEN OF INTEGRITY MUST STAND UP AND BE COUNTED, EVEN IF THIS MAY INVOLVE PERSONAL SACRIFICE: THE TIME WHEN THIS UNJUST LAW MUST BE DEFIED IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM.

WE THUS DECLARE OUR SUPPORT FOR YOUNG MEN WHO, IN CONSCIENCE, DECIDE NOT TO REGISTER UNDER THE NATIONAL SERVICE ACT AND WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASSIST AND DEFEND THEM."

Signatures must be returned to K. McLeod, P.O. Box 247, Haymarket, 2000. (Phone 26 6201; telegraphic address, "Acficodis", Sydney) by 8.00 p.m., Tuesday, 1st July. Each signatory will be asked to contribute from \$2.00 up to \$5.00 towards the cost of the advertisement, according to his means.

THE ADVERTISEMENT WILL ALSO DRAW ATTENTION TO PROTEST RALLIES TO BE HELD IN MELBOURNE, SYDNEY AND BRISBANE ON JULY 4TH.
