

# YCAC

# NEWSLETTER

Secretary: Trevor Ashton, 118 Orrong Rd., Armadale.

'Phone 50 5925

FOR AUSTRALIA - AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

VOTE NO TO CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY

Dear Supporter,

Most of you will have heard by now of the meeting held at Unity Hall on Friday, 23/9/66. Representatives from a wide range of organisations attended - from the Connolly Association (Irish), to the Italians Against Conscription. Groups from Ballarat to Geelong, Y.C.A.C., V.C.N.D., V.D.C., A.N.Z., S.O.S., Y.L.A., etc. Delegates unanimously pledged their support for the programme (see leaflet enclosed), both financially and physically. Of the \$12,500 required for financing the programme, Y.C.A.C. pledged to raise \$1,000 before 21st October.

As you can see by glancing at the leaflet, the intention is to make effective use of mass media - T.V., RADIO, PRESS - divorcing conscription from other issues, and highlighting the inhumanity of conscription, so that people can vote according to their conscience.

The immense significance that this programme can play in Y.C.A.C.'s future is obvious. Accordingly, I urge you to show this leaflet to your friends, workmates, relations, and the bus driver. Take it to your church, neighbours, school friends and 'phone me for extra copies.

FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION TO CONSCRIPTION DURING THE ELECTIONS IS INDISPENSABLE IF CONSCRIPTION IS TO BE STOPPED. THE "VOTE NO TO CONSCRIPTION" CAMPAIGN CAN INDEED BE FORMIDABLE.

## Y.C.A.C.'S PART IN THIS CAMPAIGN

As detailed in the programme, we are handling speakers' groups and election day and also have to raise at least \$1,000.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Contact me if you can arrange for a speaker to explain the programme at your place of work, church, school, home or public meeting.
2. Volunteer for manning of polling booths on election day.
3. Send a direct donation to Y.C.A.C.
4. Hold evening social functions. Mothers - Direct Donation Afternoons in your home - we will arrange speaker to attend.
5. Approach people you know who may be prepared to make a donation.
6. Contact me if you can assist on a bottle-drive this weekend. If you have any bottles which you can deliver to 118 Orrong Rd., Armadale, or for Northern Suburbs - 30 Urquhart St., Northcote, or arrange to have them picked up, 'phone 50 5925.

Trevor Ashton.

THE "VOTE NO TO CONSCRIPTION" CAMPAIGN IS URGENT AND CRUCIAL. PLEASE ACT NOW, AS AUSTRALIAN LIVES AND HUMAN LIBERTIES ARE AT STAKE.

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 7 Friday, 8 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING: S.O.S.  
BEAUMARIS COMMUNITY CENTRE, RESERVE ROAD,  
Speaker: Dr. J.F. Cairns (Fed. M.P. Yarra).  
"South-East Asia Report"  
Chair: Glen Tomasetti.

OCTOBER 10 Monday, 8 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING  
ANTI-CONSCRIPTION LEAGUE  
Debate on Conscription at BETH ANICLEWICZ HALL,  
214 Inkerman Rd., St. Kilda.  
Speakers: Max Teichman (against)  
John Radvanski (for) Others to be announced  
Chair: Rev. John Alexander.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE:

OCTOBER 12 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Y.C.A.C. GENERAL MEETING  
UNITY HALL, 636 Burke St., (Close to Spencer St.)  
Report on progress in the campaign to defeat  
conscription in the forthcoming elections.

Speaker: Prominent Catholic and/or Advertising  
Executive.

OCTOBER 14 Friday

Y.C.A.C. DINNER  
EMBASSY RESTAURANT, 221 Chapel St., Prahran.  
'Phone 51 4141.  
Speaker: Niall Brennan  
Tickets: \$4 single; \$8 double.  
Sherry: at 6.30 p.m.  
Dinner: commences at 7 p.m.

If you wish to attend this special dinner contact Trevor  
Ashton for further information.

OCTOBER 15 Saturday, 10 a.m.

MASS CITY DEMONSTRATION  
MELBOURNE TOWN HALL.  
Speakers: Sen. J. Wheeladon, W.A.  
Bishop Moyes (Unconfirmed)  
Glen Tomasetti to sing.  
11.30 a.m. March through the streets to  
Southern Gate Plaza.

NOVEMBER 8 - 25.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION REVUE  
EMERALD HILL THEATRE, Dorcas St., South Melbourne.  
Producer: George Whalley  
Script will be written by some of Melbourne's top  
professionals.

For further information ring Glen Tomasetti - 26 5138  
or S.O.S. - 99 2514

NOTE: This is a special Newsletter to aid the "Vote No Conscription" campaign

HE SAID IT!

Harold Holt, replying to Mr. Calwell:

"YOU CALL THEM CONSCRIPTS. I WOULD SAY THEY ARE RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF THIS PARLIAMENT FOR A REQUISITE COMMITMENT OF THE DEFENCE FORCE OF THIS COUNTRY TO PROVIDE THE MOST EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE ON A LIMITED SCALE IN THIS WAY."

HELP THE "VOTE NO" CAMPAIGN

AMERICAN ATROCITIES IN VIETNAM

By ERIC NORDEN

We re-produce here extracts from this publication, which compels us to stress again "No Conscripts for Vietnam".

"Despite the barrage of official propaganda, reports in the American and European press reveal that the United States is fighting the dirtiest war of its history in Vietnam. The weapons in the American arsenal include torture, systematic bombing of civilian targets, the first use of poison gas since World War One, the shooting of prisoners and the general devastation of the Vietnamese countryside by napalm and white phosphorous. Not since the days of the American Indian wars has the United States waged such un-remitting warfare against an entire people.

"Torture of prisoners and 'suspects' by Vietnamese troops and their U.S. advisers is a matter of public record. 'Anyone who has spent much time with Government units in the field,' writes William Tuohy, 'Newsweek's' Saigon correspondent, 'has seen the heads of prisoners held under water and bayonet blades pressed against their throats... In more extreme cases, victims have had bamboo slivers run under their fingernails or wires from a field telephone connected to arms, nipples or testicles.' (New York 'Times' magazine, November 28, 1965.)

"Donald Wise, Chief foreign correspondent for the London 'Sunday Mirror', reports that such torture is condoned and even supervised by U.S. officers. 'No American is in a position to tell his 'pupils' to stop torturing,' Wise writes from Saigon. 'They are in no mood to either...' Some of the standard tortures described by Wise include 'dunking men head first into water tanks or slicing them up with knives... Silk stockings full of sand are swung against temples and men are hooked up to the electric generators of military HQ's.' (London 'Sunday Mirror', April 4, 1965.)

"Less sophisticated methods than electrical torture are also used. According to Beverly Deepe:

Other techniques, usually designed to force onlooking prisoners to talk, involve cutting off the fingers, ears, fingernails or sexual organs of another prisoner. Sometimes a string of ears decorates the wall of a government military installation. One American installation has a Viet Cong ear preserved in alcohol. (Op. cit.)

"There is apparently no attempt to disguise such atrocities, even for public relations reasons. Writes Malcolm Browne (A.P. correspondent who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting of the war):

Many a news correspondent has seen the hands whacked off prisoners with machetes. Prisoners are sometimes castrated or blinded. In more than one case a Viet Cong suspect has been towed after interrogation behind an armored personnel carrier across the rice fields. This always results in death in one of its most painful forms. Vietnamese troops also take their share of enemy heads... (Op. cit.)"

VOTE "NO" TO CONSCRIPTION

N.B. Change of date for Y.C.A.C. General Meeting - page 2.