

THE CASE AGAINST THE NEW DRAFT



By Lawrence Samuels
Feb., 1980

Check One

STUDENT - \$2 one year
 STUDENT - \$3 two years
 NON-STUDENT - \$3 one year
 NON-STUDENT - \$5 two years
 LIFE-TIME MEMBER - \$50
 CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____ ENCLOSED.
 I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON SLL.

THE LIBERTAS STATEMENT

We, as libertarians, affirm:
 That full individual liberty is impossible in any society other than a voluntary one that respects upon no one:
 That men and women require the full and independent use of their own judgment in order to sustain a rational political life, and therefore have a natural right to their own opinions; that they are physically harmed or coercively restricted another individual's liberty, property, or person.
 That everyone is exclusively sovereign, and is a slave to no one.
 That the individual is best served by society when he or she is free from the forcibly imposed controls of others, acting alone or in concert (as a government).
 That all forms of coercion, aggression and fraud are always immoral.
 That the only system consistent with personal freedoms in the economic arena is one that does not interfere with free trade between consenting individuals.
 THEREFORE, we, as libertarians, resolve to oppose all forms of aggression by any State, Government, self-appointed savior, individual, or association of individuals. We further resolve to oppose taxation, conscription, eminent domain, laws which create victimless "crimes", and all programs forced onto individuals without their consent. It is time that the chains of authoritarianism in economics and morally be broken. Individual rights and authoritarianism cannot co-exist. Liberty cannot be compromised, and we will settle for no less than freedom in our time

(adopted on May 5, 1973)



Application for Membership
Society for Libertarian Life
P.O. Box 4
Fullerton, CA 92632 U.S.A.

PLEASE ENTER MY MEMBERSHIP IN SLL.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

AGE _____

SCHOOL OR OCCUPATION _____

PHONE (____) _____

DATE _____

Please make checks payable to Society for Libertarian Life. SLL is a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization founded in 1973. Since SLL is an affiliate of CSUF Associated Students, Inc., donations may be use as tax deductions.

this is a denial of our fundamental right to life, and to self-ownership. It was Auberon Herbert who wrote, "What is a self-owner? He is a man who retains the power of consenting, as regards the disposal of himself and of his property. The man who is not a self-owner has lost this power of consenting. Consent is the distinguishing mark of the self-owner."¹

This is the bottom line, the moral issue. This is where we see who is on which side of the barricades. For if we do not have the right to our own life, no other rights are possible. If I do not have the moral jurisdiction over my own body, then I do not have any rights. The right to life is sacred, is inalienable (as termed in the Declaration of Independence).

INCREASE AUTHORITY

One of the wisest political sages of the Republic, Thomas Paine, wrote in his masterpiece, *The Rights of Man*, that "War is the common harvest of all those who participate in the division and expenditure of public money, in all countries. It is the art of *conquering at home*; the object of it is an increase of revenue; and as revenue cannot be increased without taxes, a pretence must be made for expenditures... Taxes... (are) not raised to carry on wars, but... wars (are)... raised to carry on taxes."²

The draft and draft registration both signifies the government's need to increase its authority. It matters little what the dire incident is, so long as it scare people enough to demand a large military which will, as a result raise taxes and tighten controls over the economy. As military ventures increase and the economy becomes unstable, stronger controls will be enacted. Civil liberties will be restricted, high inflation will rape the nation, and price and wage controls will cause extreme shortages. Government will insure and heavily subsidized big businesses from bankruptcies and poverty will shallow the land. The final sequence will be a totalitarian world or nuclear holocaust.

The chain of events above is frightenly real. It's time to resist both draft registration and the draft. Let's stop the war-drums before they start. Resist the draft.

* A few colonies during the American Revolutionary War tried to employ the draft.

FOOTNOTES

1. Auberon Herbert, *The Free Life*, April 1897, p. 29.
2. Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*, edited by Henry Collins, p. 99.

"... the State claims and exercises the monopoly of crime...It forbids private murder, but itself organizes murder on a colossal scale. It punishes private theft, but itself lays unscrupulous hands on anything it wants, whether the property of citizen or of aliens."

Albert J. Nock

"On Doing the Right Thing and Other Essays"

There's a new *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. It's called the draft and its implications could result in the greatest threat to world peace and personal liberty since World War II.

In the first place, the draft can easily be called "Body Snatching" because it literally snatches individuals and shanghai's them into the military. In the second place, the draft is clearly unconstitutional for two reasons. First, the draft is involuntary servitude, which under the 13th Amendment is a violation of personal liberty. Second, the draft is unconstitutional under the 5th Amendment, which states that all citizens are entitled to "equal protection under the law." Conscription does not give equal protection under the law because only 18 to 26 year-old people are subjected to conscription. And if women are not drafted, then a further point of unequal protection under the law can be made.

The basic moral question concerning the draft is that it is slavery. Those drafted did not give their personal *consent* to be placed into the military. If ordinary citizens cannot draft, snatch or kidnap other citizens to do their bidding, then, certainly, neither can a government. How can Americans speak of liberty at home and cheer freedom fighters in foreign lands when the U.S. government makes slaves of its citizens.

WORLD LEADERS & AFGHANISTAN

There is an old saying among political leaders. If the national leader's popularity sags, the quickest remedy is to exploit a crisis.

In the case of President Carter, whose popularity was one of the lowest recorded for a President, the 1979-80 Iran/Afghanistan crisis was a blessing. Prior to the Iran/Afghanistan crisis, Carter attempted to exploit the suddenly-discovered Russian troops in Cuba. This ready-made crisis did not excite the public nor uplift Carter's sagging popularity, especially when a U.S. military leader announced that Russian troops have been officially observed in Cuba for almost a decade.

The Russian invasion of Afghanistan is similar to the Russian troops-in-Cuba crisis. Afghanistan has clearly been a client-state of Russia since 1955. U.S. military leaders have recognized this for years,

and no attempts have been made to ally Afghanistan with the West. In other words, the Afghanistan crisis is a bogus. The Russian government is only retaking what it considers as its own territory. This is similar to America's past actions towards South Korea and pre-Communist Vietnam.

The crisis for the Russians in Afghanistan has been building for years. Four Soviet-backed governments in Afghanistan have fallen since 1974, and they were about to see another revolt. Only this time the Russians were in danger of losing Afghanistan to the West. Russia was protecting its sphere of control as would the United States.

The Russian invasion of Afghanistan is, of course, another example of Soviet imperialism. But it is not a threat to the security or liberties of the United States. It is a threat to dictatorial nations, notably the right-wing dictator of Pakistan, General Zia Ul-Haq. But it is no threat to the American shoreline. It does, however, give unpopular, inflation/recession-ridden leaders a great opportunity to increase military spending (higher taxes) and whip up nationalistic fervor to secure blind loyalty to the *savior* government. This war fever allows a government to continuously rob most civil liberties in the name of *National Security*. Men are forced to fight in unwanted wars, protesters are arrested and free speech and movement are restricted because one dictatorial land has invaded another dictatorial land on the other side of the world.

THE LIBERTY ISSUE

It should be stressed that the founding fathers of America warned that we must never become involved in entangling alliances with other nations or we would be involved in endless and senseless wars. For almost 140 years, the United States had no foreign policy. In fact, after the Revolutionary War, some 80 officers comprised the total U.S.

"Governments do not protect people; people protect governments."

L. & M. Tannehill
"Society Without Government"
1969



military forces that were to defend America. Public opinion of the era was against any standing army, since a standing army was dangerous to the liberty of every citizen. However, today, with some two million men and women in uniform, the U.S. government believes it needs more soldiers.

Most Americans of the 18th Century would be horrified to see a massive standing army of two million men (or of equal proportion to the time period). Today, people do not question the standing army, but question whether we need an offense army built on involuntary servitude--conscription. The most crucial war in American history was the Revolutionary War of 1776. Yet, the Continental Congress had no authority to draft men or tax citizens to fight the war against England.* Liberty was the issue, and to draft or tax men, like England would be absurd. No one would shed blood just to replace one ruler for another.

AMERICAN TRADITION OF DRAFT RESISTANCE

America has a long tradition of individual resistance to the draft. In the War of 1812, President Madison's administration pressed for a draft, but Congress refused to enact a draft calling conscription a "fabric of despotism...a Magna Carta of slavery." In fact, Americans threatened the U.S. government with "internal revolution" if the draft was enacted. The response in New York and Pennsylvania to the draft during the Civil War was rioting and draft dodging. Both World Wars and Vietnam saw thousands of Americans sent to jail (or flee the country) before they would be drafted.

It is time to move in another direction. We must re-discover the strength of our American tradition of liberty and non-interference in other lands. And our strength is strongest in our moral fervor of principled action. We must never forget that our example led the way for revolutions in Europe and the Americas in the nineteenth Century. We did not amass great armies or train secret agents to create revolutions in these foreign nations. Leaders of these foreign nations saw the tremendous liberty and wealth in American, and most important, that we practice what we preached. America's strength was its dedication to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We did not let our actions conflict with our principled goals. However, today, we seek military escapades to "force people to be free" by enslaving young men and taxing citizens for military conflict, which will prove to the world that we are no better than Russia and Russian imperialism.

The War-Lords of Washington are eager to register men and women for a new draft. Obviously,