

Robinson Released; Still Won't Pay Taxes

With three-fourths of her sentence still unserved, Eroseanna Robinson was released unconditionally on May 20 from the Federal Prison for Women, Alderson, W. Va. She had not asked to be released, had signed no paper of any kind connected with her arrest or sentence, had, in fact, not walked into the institution in the first place. She had not asked for correspondents, would not fill out the forms giving the prison permission to open sealed mail, and named no people for the prison

to contact. She had not asked for visitors, and consistently turned down the opportunity to visit friends instead of compromising with the prison's system by voluntarily going to a special room and visiting under prison censorship. She had accepted none of the food brought by the prison officers, being force-fed from the time she arrived until the time she made what the Associated Press termed her "triumphant exit."

On January 27, Judge Edwin Rob-

son, Federal District Court, Chicago, had sentenced her to what was in effect a life sentence: "until you cooperate with the court in filling out an income tax return and show records." On February 18 he changed the sentence to a year and a day. On May 20 the order came to the prison from him to release her. She had served only 93 days.

Judge Robson gave as the reasons for the release that she had become too great a burden on the medical facilities and that she had already been punished sufficiently. Nine Peacemakers, who had been camped at the prison gates for a week in a sitdown and fast of identification with Miss Robinson and her witness of nonpayment of taxes for war, greeted her in the late afternoon of May 20 when she was conducted by prison officials to the railroad station to board a train. (For this story see "A Week at the Prison Gates.") Though she held in her hand a ticket purchased by the prison for her departure, she joined her friends at the station when they drove up rather than board the train; and the train pulled away without her. The **Huntington Herald-Dispatch** ran a front page story: "Pacifists Give Licking to Uncle Sam."

Miss Robinson, a social worker and an athlete of note, said upon her release that she is more convinced now than before that noncooperation should be given to the government's militarization activities and that she intends to continue to refuse to pay taxes which go for war or fill out income tax returns or show records which may help the authorities to collect money.

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