

stirred up. This isn't India. We aren't staffed to cope with this sort of thing."

Three of us were placed in solitary at one point. Another prisoner was already there. He was glad to have someone to talk to. I said to him that if enough prisoners were down in the "hole", everyone would have company and there could be no solitary. Later the Sheriff came to transfer him from solitary and he refused to go! He preferred to stay in the "cooler" to sing songs with us and to refuse the bread and water. Finally the Sheriff was able to remove him. The press reported later that our friend was removed to "protect" him from us.

BOAT ACTION AND CONSEQUENCES

by Victor Richman

The events observed by Bill Henry are typical of the treatment accorded the rest of us. When we approached the launching area for the Ethan Allen on Nov. 22, the Coast Guard gave each of us a mimeographed order not to enter the restricted area after 11 AM. The canoe and the dory entered before 11 AM and were apprehended at the stroke of 11, efficiently and courteously. Ed Leites, refusing to cooperate, dove into the cold, forbidding water to continue his attempt to reach the Ethan Allen. A Guardsman apprehended him in the water. Larry Orenstein and I approached the area after 11 in a rowboat, and were given the same mimeographed order. We were, it seemed, risking a \$10,000 fine and ten years in prison. We continued forward. The boat was seized by the C.G. and I dove into the water with all my clothes on. Another boat was sent which physically blocked my progress toward the sub. I was in the middle of the Thames River, staying afloat with difficulty and feeling the cold numb my senses, far from the sub. The C.G. begged me to get aboard their boat; then they maneuvered their screws toward me saying they would try to kill me. After 20 minutes a Guardsman dived in and physically transferred me to their boat.

We witnessed, while under arrest, the launching of the Ethan Allen, and were then driven to New Haven in a Navy bus with a State Police escort. Bill and I were sufficiently warmed up to join in quiet peace songs and airs of solidarity during our journey to the New Haven Federal Court building.

NONCOOPERATION

Ed Leites and I were not cooperating. It is always curious to observe a policeman's reaction to the information that one cannot bring himself to obey official orders. Why an officer insists that a person be the instrument of his own confinement, I will never understand. They angrily carried us to the various offices where we were wanted. The charge was violation of a Federal statute giving the President authority to restrict, at his discretion and through his subordinates down to Coast Guard officials, the movement of all kinds of boats during a national emergency which is said to be in effect now.

Federal Commissioner Alcorn set bail at \$3500 each for the men and at \$1000 for Madeline Gins, after a vigorous speech by the prosecutor denouncing us as criminally dangerous and "mentally incapacitated", and after some of us argued to be set free on our word alone. In the evening of Nov. 22 Ed was released on the recognizance and assurance of \$200 given by three Yale professors. Next morning Larry and Madeline were bailed out by their fathers.

The six who remained in jail, Peter Friedlander, Dick Zink, Roger Aarons, Don Martin, Bill Henry and I, embarked upon a truly moving experience. We were met by a sneering, hostile group of prisoners, unable to accept us, and within a few days we were living with a group who understood the nature of nonviolent resistance and who knew us as fellow "cons". One told me, "If they had 300 of you guys here, they couldn't hold any of you." Sheriff Slavin was quoted in the New Haven Journal-Courier as saying, "They've got to stop preaching nonviolent resistance to the other prisoners. Some of the inmates are getting

Don Martin led the most steadfast protest against prison authority. At this writing he is still on a hunger strike after five days, refusing even water. Along with Dick and Bill he refuses bail which has been repeatedly offered by Louis Zemel. Don went to solitary with Roger Aarons and me when we refused, while on hunger strike, to go to the dining room. (We were protesting a newspaper article, probably inspired by the Sheriff, which said we had broken our fast for the Thanksgiving meal. We had actually given the food to other prisoners.) Don continued to hold out against bail while Roger and I agreed to it after four days.

Dick and Bill have been quietly accepting prison life. Neither expects to accept bail and they both have supported Don in his resistance. Everyone has been talking to the prisoners about our program for peace. Peter has been the latest to go out on bail.

RELUCTANT PARENTS

One interesting, unfortunate aspect of the civil disobedience has arisen out of the youth of the participants. Bill is 27 and none of the others is over 20. This has brought parents into the picture, arriving in varying degrees of nonviolence. A meeting was held in New York to allow them to exercise the full amount of their protective authority which in some cases opposed the wishes of their children. The meeting became a forum for those who insisted that every means be used to get their children "off the hook", for those who claimed their children could not possibly know what they were doing, and that somebody had better make up their collective mind for them. Perhaps the parents might best help by not making a mockery of their conscientious action. They might protest the arrests which they believe to be so injurious by writing to newspapers and Congressmen or by picketing and leafleting for their children. (One mother did leaflet in front of the court house.)

On Monday, Nov. 28, a probable cause hearing was held in New Haven for six of the nine disobedients (Larry, Don and Bill waived the hearing.). There were about ten supporters picketing outside the court and perhaps 40 friends within. Commissioner Alcorn's function was to determine whether to hold us for a presentation to a grand jury which might indict us for the alleged felony.

Mr. Pollack, an attorney representing Madeline, made a two hour speech in an effort to show that we would be most advisedly held under a less serious statute with a maximum penalty of one year and \$5000. Roger Aarons and I conducted our own defense, as it were. Our aim was not to bring legal technicalities to light, nor to challenge witnesses, which Mr. Pollack was doing quite well. We desired to depict for the court the nature of a nonviolent demonstration by cross-examining the Coast Guardsmen who comprised the prosecutor's case. They adequately described, under our questioning, the behavior of the pacifists involved. The Commissioner found probable cause to exist, and has bound us over for possible indictment. Bond was lowered to \$1500 in each case where it had been \$3500. CNVA has retained an attorney, Catherine Roraback, for those who request her services.