

Three Ways YOU Can Speak Out Against the Draft:

• **Contact your members of Congress!** Tell them that forced conscription WILL NOT prevent the US from going to war, nor will it foster equality in the ranks of the military. Ask them to **OPPOSE HR 163 and S 89**. Call the Capitol Switchboard at **1-800-839-5276** and ask to be connected to your member of Congress. If you do not know the name of your Senators or Representative, or would like their fax numbers, contact the Brethren Witness/Washington Office toll free at **1-800-785-3246**.



• **Get involved on your local draft board!** Service on draft boards lasts 20 years, and positions are currently becoming open. Many believe that the cause of the conscientious objector would be greatly aided by having like-minded individuals on local draft boards to help with reclassification. If you believe that it is vital for an individual to follow his or her conscience in terms of military service AND you would be willing to serve on a draft board, consider applying today. Go to **www.sss.gov/fslocal.htm** for more information.

• **Document your conscience!** Write down your pacifist beliefs and explain why you could NEVER take a life. Include dates and a detailed description of your convictions. Keeping records like this will be helpful in securing your status as a CO in case of a draft. And parents, talk to your children! You're never too young to consider what your conscience says about war. Our office has developed a packet of resources for those interested in exploring their development as a conscientious objector. Ask us to send you a free **Conscientious Objector Church Leader's Packet**.

According to the **1970 Annual Conference Statement on War**, "The Church of the Brethren feels constrained by Christ's teachings to lead its people to develop convictions against war. The church cannot concede to the state the authority to conscript citizens for military training or military service against their conscience. The church will seek to fulfill its prophetic role in this matter in two ways: by seeking to change political structures and by influencing individual members. The church will seek to use its influence to abolish or radically restructure the system which conscripts persons for military purposes. The church pledges its support and continuing fellowship to all of our draft age members who face conscription. We recognize that some feel obligated to render full or noncombative military service and we respect all who make such a decision. We commend to all of draft age, their parents, counselors, and fellow members, the alternative positions of (1) Alternative Service as conscientious objectors engaging in constructive civilian work, or (2) open, nonviolent noncooperation with the system of conscription."

-Bryan Hissong *Witness to Washington page 3* www.brethren.org/genbd/WitnessWashOffice.html
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A Little Humor



My grandmother started walking 5 miles a day when she was 60. She's 95 now and we don't know where she is! - unknown

You are getting old when you go duck hunting just to please the dogs. - unknown

Tact is keeping silent while two friends argue, all the while knowing they are both wrong.

- *Pulpit Helps*