

On the Right . . .

by John A. Racek

"I am an American fighting man. I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense. . . ."

This is the first of a six part "Code of Conduct" for the Armed Forces of the United States.

These men who are sworn to die for their country are often the object of jokes and ridicule. The American fighting man is in a position of honor and trust, yet there are those who tend to destroy this honor, this sense of responsibility and trust.

Recently it has become fashionable to burn one's draft card in protest of military service and American involvement in Viet Nam. One must then ask himself if it is right to serve in the military or to support the military at all? Must a nation at any time become involved in war?

It is inconceivable for this writer to imagine the United States today without such so called "imperialistic warmongering tactics" which occurred in 1775, 1917, and 1941 to mention just a few.

It is contended by pacifist elements of the society, that the war in Viet Nam is not being fought for "liberty" but rather to impose United States domination on a foreign people, therefore we have no reason for being in Viet Nam. These people have no conception of the nature of communism. Communism is a form of government which imposes slavery on the people which it controls, it gives them no individual liberties or freedom! What is more, the Communist State has no intention of "withering away" as was taught by Marx.

Communism is like a cancer, if it is not stopped, it will spread, and eventually take over the entire world.

The men who are fighting in Viet Nam are our brothers, cousins, and friends. Would you turn your back on them? They are there fighting not only for themselves, but for us, so that we may go to school, or work, and live a peaceful and productive life. What has happened to the American Spirit, which has bound the nation together in times of need and strain! Have today's young adults been infected by ideas and acts which border on treason, yes treason! Burning a draft card is no less a sin than burning an American flag, yet why does one become more disturbed from hearing of a foreign mob that burned our flag, than of hearing of a citizen who burned his draft card. Those foreigners never tasted the fruits of the great American Republic as has the citizen.

Can one look at his country with a state of apathy? Can one throw up his hands and turn his back on his country?

It doesn't take much ability to burn a draft card, its really very simple, all one does is strike a match and place the draft card in the flame. After all, it may be the easiest way to avoid the draft. Once a person has been in jail for any length of time, the Armed Forces won't accept him unless absolutely necessary.

It is hopeful that these "mad burners" get the maximum penalty, as far as this writer is concerned at least.

Return now to the sixth point of the "Code of Conduct" which was referred to earlier.

"I will never forget that I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."