

# the catholic peace fellowship

An educational service conducted by Catholic members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

5 BEEKMAN STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10038

WO 4-8367

January 17, 1966

CO-CHAIRMEN  
Fr. Philip Berrigan, S.S.J.  
Martin J. Corbin  
Thomas C. Cornell  
James H. Forest

Dear Tom:

Jim is in California for two weeks on a field trip for the FOR. Pity California! Jim has a lot of very promising contacts there, so we are looking for all kinds of good things to come out of this trip. Jim's absence leaves me with the full burden of this mad-house, with 25 or 30 c.o.s coming in for counseling every week, publications, and a conference, which brings me to the meat of this letter.

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Fordham University has offered us the use of its facilities for a conference on Vietnam and the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World! Isn't that something! I'm working with Fr. Herb Rogers on setting it up. Have contacted Fr. John McLaughlin, S.J., at Fairfield U., my alma mater, who will probably be a respondent. We are calling ~~Ed~~ Ed O'Brien of the Catholic Assoc. for International Peace to give a paper analyzing the Vietnam history from a more or less Administration point of view. I have asked Staughton Lynd ~~to~~ to participate. He just returned from Hanoi. Went there with Herbert Aptheker of the CP and Tom Hayden of the "New Left" on an independent fact-finding mission. I have great respect for Lynd's integrity. He ~~gave~~ gave me the distinct impression that he is confused by what he learned in Vietnam. He is a scrupulously honest man and would not want to mislead his audience. He told me he felt too confused at the moment to say yes or no to our invitation. You know, his trip was illegal in that it was not authorized by the State Department. He went via Prague, Moscow and Peking. He could be prosecuted, but I doubt it.

From his writings and his public utterances one gets the impression of a "political" man, not concerned primarily with the morality of the matter, but with political factors. From my personal knowledge of him, gained recently, I ~~firm~~ know him to be a deeply religious man, recently converted to Quakerism, and considered a saint by some of his colleagues at Yale.

But getting to the point of this letter, and the inevitable request: could you give us a paper on the Constitution which could be read for you at the Fordham conference? I don't have the foggiest idea if this is at all possible. If the idea is inappropriate, forgive me and forget the whole thing. I know you are working on the Constitution with the expectation of publishing something and I would not want to complicate things for you in any way.

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Dave McReynolds of the War Resisters League, who joined us in burning his draft card on November 6, our lawyer and Congressman Pike of N.Y. who sponsored the draft card burning law ~~was~~ were on t.v. together a few days ago. It was a very good confrontation, fairly relaxed but very pointed. It seems more and more clear to me that this law will fall in the courts. It's so clearly designed to stifle protest. Personal support has been very gratifying. I've got another t.v. interview next week. I've never had such exposure. It's exhausting. Both t.v. networks in England, even! We go to court for the presentation of motions to dismiss. The judge will look at them for a week or so, call us to court again, and deny the motions. Then he will call us in again a couple of weeks later to set a trial date. It takes a long time. We might lose on the district court level, but I just can't believe we will lose our appeals. If the ACLU wants to pay for appeals, it's ok with me. But I don't want them to try to get us off on technicalities. We all want to confront the moral issue.

Best luck with the work on the Constitution. It's desperately important, I think we all feel, to bring the meaning of this document to the full attention of our fellow Catholics and the American public. Too bad the Center isn't doing the same with this document as with Pacem in Terris. And it's disgusting that the Center had so little RC support for that venture.

My wife Monica is much better. You may know that she had a very serious bout with colitis recently; her blood count went dangerously low. She improves slowly, and the baby is very healthy, beautiful and bright.

Things, in all, are going well, exhaustingly, great promise everywhere, great dangers as well, so we rely on your continued prayers and assure you of ours, and ~~our~~ of our continuing affection,

In our Brother,

Tom