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CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE DRAFT

An Announcement by the
EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee recognizes the existence of serious Constitutional problems arising from the current compulsory induction of young men into the armed forces. Many people feel that ethical considerations should be a legitimate basis for exemption from the draft. These considerations were not covered by the recent Supreme Court decision holding that lack of belief in a Supreme Being was no bar to exemption as a conscientious objector.

Many disapprove of certain United States actions in Vietnam which they consider to be crimes against humanity and violations of international law. They honestly feel that their participation in the war, even under military orders, would be unlawful under the Nuremberg Judgment.

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, which is neither a political nor a religious organization, does not take an organizational position on these issues. But it does recognize that these arguments may be made in good conscience, and that they deserve to be presented to the courts with the utmost diligence.

In accordance with its policy of undertaking test cases upon Constitutional issues of importance affecting the well-being of Americans generally, *The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee* through its National Council has agreed to participate in appropriate test cases which raise these vital questions.

Emergency Civil Liberties Committee

Corliss Lamont, Chairman
Mrs. Eleanor Brussel, Vice-Chairman
John M. Pickering, Secretary
John H. Scudder, Treasurer
Clark Foreman, Director

A symposium on the subject of this announcement will be included in the forthcoming issue of *Rights*, official publication of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, 421 Seventh Ave., New York, N. Y. *Rights* is 25c.