

REPORT ON MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE IN PRISON

December 14, 1973 --Sharon Cabaniss

1. We have a total of 322 prisoner subscribers at this time. We give each of them six month subscriptions, and then ask if they want to renew for another six months. 239 of the subscribers are new, and 83 have renewed at least once. (Attached chart shows breakdown on how long the renewals have been subscribing.) We also have 3 or 4 paid prison subscriptions. At the end of 1972, we had 290 subscribers.
2. The subscriptions go out to 91 cities in 29 different states. (See attached chart for state breakdown.) They go to both state and federal prisons.
3. We receive the names from word of mouth among prisoners, SWP campaign activities, and special visits (i.e. as when Baxter went to Attica.) Also, the Midnight Special advertises that we give out free subscriptions, which many prisoners respond to.
4. We receive many letters from prisoners each week. Many of them are printed in the letters column. The letters usually request a subscription or renewal, ask for information about some particular subject, ask for legal help, ask us to run personal ads (which we write and explain we don't do), or convey some information that may be of interest to the paper. Often we receive full-length articles or cartoons or requests to write for the paper. We answer any of these inquiries appropriately.
5. The prisoners indicate that they enjoy the paper. Some have written to us that they pass it around or use it in study groups. We have contact with the Fortune Society and exchange papers with them. Also, we send a bundle to a prison group in Canon City, Colo., and to a group in prison there. We used to send a bundle to a prisoner in Maine who would pass it out, but the prison notified us that he could only receive one copy and that he had agreed to that. *One former subscriber from Leavenworth bought a 1-year sub to The Militant & took when he was released. He now has a bundle of 100 militants to sell in Milwaukee.*
6. We know only of two legal cases which involve the right of prisoners to receive The Militant. One is the Federal Prison Project sponsored by the national ACLU which lists The Militant in some of the plaintiffs complaints. We are in contact with the Project and keep them informed of any information we have for them. Also, a prisoner in Mississippi is suing for his right to receive The Militant and two other papers. When we have problems with the paper not being delivered to prisoners, we have written complaints to the wardens. In most cases, especially the state prisons in New York and Pennsylvania, we have been reassured that delivery of The Militant will not be interfered with unless a specific issue violates their "guidelines." We only know of one issue in New York where The Militant was held up for that reason. Although the federal prison officials are not cooperative and often don't answer our letters of complaint, we notice that recently The Militant seems to be getting into federal prisons.
7. The prisoners subscriptions are financed by donations to the Prisoner Subscription Fund. In June and July, 1972, we raised \$1,554 from 160 individuals for this. Since that time we have collected another \$99, plus receive \$44-54 in monthly pledges.

LENGTH OF PRISONERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

New subscriptions: 239

Renewed subscribers have been subscribing since the following dates:

DATE	NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS	TOTAL FOR THAT YEAR
1973 July	2	
June	1	
May	5	
April	25	
March	5	
February	5	
January	5	<u>48</u>
1972 December	7	
November	5	
October	3	
September	4	
August	1	
July	4	
June	1	
May	3	
February	1	
January	1	<u>30</u>
1971 December	1	
November	1	
October	1	
July	1	
June	1	<u>5</u>

BREAKDOWN OF NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS IN EACH STATE

Alabama	1	New Jersey	11
Arizona	1	New York	82
California	37	North Carolina	7
Connecticut	1	Ohio	32
Georgia	4	Pennsylvania	35
Illinois	9	Rhode Island	1
Indiana	4	South Carolina	2
Iowa	3	Texas	5
Kansas	18	Virginia	6
Kentucky	4	Washington	5
Louisiana	4	West Virginia	3
Maine	3	Wisconsin	2
Maryland	3	TOTAL	<u>322</u>
Michigan	10		
Mississippi	3		
Missouri	13		
New Hampshire	3		