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**WWFOR** seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.

**“Embracing Conflict”**  
Western Washington FOR’s  
21st Annual Spring Assembly

**Saturday, April 6th, 2019, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.**

**Fauntleroy UCC Church, 9140 California Avenue, SW, West Seattle**

We will build on Kazu Haga’s work in determining that conflict itself is neither negative nor positive, but an opportunity to understand others’ viewpoints and actions — if we take the opportunity to listen with care.

**more info coming, 206-789-5565 or [wwfor@wwfor.org](mailto:wwfor@wwfor.org)**

**A Review of Don’t Thank Me For My Service**

by Larry Kerschner

I often say that my political education began in the jungles of Vietnam. I’m sure Brian Willson would say something similar. Using his training as a lawyer his new book **Don’t Thank Me For My Service** (Clarity Press, [www.claritypress.com](http://www.claritypress.com)) reads like a prosecutor building a solid case brick by bloody brick.

Beginning with his vision of “countless human bodies scattered across the ground” Brian dissects what his “service” in Vietnam truly was. Looking back to place this in a historical context, Brian likens the United States to a spoiled child who has never been held to account for the years of genocide, slavery and racism both at home and abroad. This child has inevitably grown into the psychopathic American Empire of today.

The United States was designed from the beginning specifically with Empire As Way Of Life. Especially following the Second World War, government and corporate media propaganda supported a near total indoctrination of the public in the unquestioned hysterical belief in the exceptional nature of the American Way. Americans could not recognize “what would be considered criminally insane behavior if carried out by others.”

Brian chronicles the criminal and barbaric lengths to which the United States has gone to force our industrial “civilization” on people around the world. Brian explains the extent of corporate collusion in the chemical warfare concentrated especially on the men, women and children of developing SE Asian nations with a desire for self-sovereignty.

Brian illustrates the upheaval and resistance to the American War in Vietnam that developed both among among the US public and among those fighting in Vietnam.

Brian states that “our healing as a nation depends on our removing the wool that remains in our eyes – that we seek to understand and grapple with these (deep historical and psychological) forces, these lies that continually drive us to war and violence. We must strive to unravel the pretend US America – its skewed origin stories, its false mythologies, and its phony sense of “exceptionalism” – in an honest pursuit of “liberty and justice for all.”

Reading this book would be a beginning of that journey.

**Jet Fighter Wings into Wind Turbine Blades**

By John M. Repp (abridged and edited for the print edition)

The real security of our society and our world depends upon changing how we produce and use energy. We need to get off fossil fuels, change how we farm and refit our buildings. There is a strong consensus among our scientists that this is necessary to prevent catastrophic climate change.

This is a huge project and contrary to the current thinking in Washington D.C. which demands more and more privatization, this project should be done with government spending on the scale that occurred during World War II because defeating this problem is just as important as the Manhattan Project and far more moral. There is a research paper at the Institute for Policy Studies website entitled “The Green Dividend” which should be better known.

This report explains how the government could move the money it now spends on weapons systems at large companies like Boeing, to projects that help us get off of fossil fuels. Done right, no jobs would be lost and the industrial part of the military-industrial complex would become less dependent on military contracts; instead those companies would become part of the effort to prevent the worst effects of global climate change.

When I worked at Boeing during the Carter Administration, I watched the fabrication of a huge windmill in a building near where I worked in Seattle, the same building where thousands of B-17 bombers were built during World War II. In the 1970’s, Boeing engineers also developed solar cells that generated electricity from the infrared spectrum as well as the visible spectrum, but the company sold the patent when the 1970’s energy crisis and Boeing’s push for diversification ended.

Preventing global climate change would be less expensive than trying to mitigate the effects of climate chaos, e.g. building sea walls around our vulnerable cities. If we do this right, we could have full employment for several generations. There are only two places the U.S. government can get the money to do this: from the super wealthy and the huge Pentagon budget. (It is also possible for the U.S. Congress to just spend the money into the economy, as outlined by economists from the Modern Monetary Theory.) We did not hesitate to use very steep progressive taxation during World War II to fund our mobilization. We must do the same now and we should not hesitate to shift enough funds from the Pentagon to get this job done.

**just another massacre**

by Larry Kerschner

February 1, 1968

we were securing 15s (engineers)  
 on the road to the Oasis  
 as they cleared it of mines  
 there was radio report of rocket sites near us  
 so we went to take a look

we spotted some movement  
 in the bushes off the trail  
 and surrounded  
 a bunch of Yards, men and women  
 (French named mountain people now  
 but fishers before the Chinese came south  
 over a thousand years ago)  
 moving through the area  
 some of the men had canteens and suspicious webbing belts  
 we were searching them when a call came in  
 a chopper had small arms ground contact  
 about 600 meters north of us

we left the Montagnards we were searching  
 and went to investigate  
 using our APCs to knock down trees and brush  
 (stoned we pictured ourselves in some movie  
 leaping like a large cat over the land)  
 we cut an LZ for a reactionary squad  
 (Aero-rifle platoon from the O)  
 we had opened up with our .50 caliber machine guns  
 (bullets longer than my middle finger  
 in some martial fuck you)  
 although there was a question  
 of whether we had been fired upon

when the shit was over  
 we had captured 100 and killed 65  
 (later adjustment of body count said  
 we had killed 110 and captured 140-  
 139 of whom absolutely confirmed VC/NVA)

in the midst of this shooting shit  
 I threw a track from my APC  
 the driver gets to fix such breakdowns  
 I kept waiting to get shot  
 although I didn't hear any rounds near me  
 I killed some by running over them  
 which caused the track to come off  
 (the smell and the body parts confirmed this)

February 2, 1968

we swept the area again

February 4, 1968

we went back with bulldozers to bury  
 the bodies.

**1968**

I lost 1968

somewhere in the hot and moist jungles  
 of the central highlands of Vietnam  
 when I wasn't paying attention

Edgar came out of his closet  
 long enough to murder and jail  
 young black leaders  
 who caused his scrotum to shrivel  
 afraid that someone might learn that he was  
 passing as white himself

his FBI assassinated Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee  
 on the second floor balcony of room 306 at the Lorraine Motel  
 so that a black messiah would not lead to the mountain top  
 after civil rights christianity unexpectedly demanded justice

rebellions in 125 American cities put down  
 by 69,000 US military troops with 46 citizens killed

details of My Lai massacre by US troops  
 published in French language magazine *Sud Vietnam en Lutte*

Robert Kennedy announced his candidacy for President  
 with strong anti-Vietnam War platform

the CIA killed Robert Kennedy on television  
 at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles

LBJ allowed Nixon to commit treason  
 for the good of the 4.378 billion people  
 who were waiting to die  
 or for the revolution to be televised

LBJ announces on television that he  
 "will neither seek, nor accept" nomination for President

16 year old Bobby Hutton the first and the youngest  
 Black Panther Party Member to be murdered  
 by the Oakland Police Department

American medalists Tommie Smith and John Carlos  
 raised their fists during the National Anthem  
 at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City

**Apollo 8 was the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon**

American Indian Movement formed in Minneapolis  
 to address issues of Indian sovereignty

the Democratic Party elite was laid bare  
 the streets of Chicago saw riots and bloodshed  
 involving protesters, police and bystanders

when I returned to the world in 1969  
 it was a whole different thing

**The Seattle 7 Conspiracy**

a review of Protest on Trial: The Seattle 7

Conspiracy (Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press, 2018) by Kit Bakke  
 by John M Repp

In Seattle in January 1970, after the factional split of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), the main national organization against the Vietnam War, a new antiwar organization was formed, called the Seattle Liberation Front (SLF). By April 1970, eight leaders were indicted for conspiracy. One of the activists went underground before he was arrested and that is why there were seven. The more famous Chicago 7 conspiracy indictments came out of the antiwar demonstrations in Chicago in 1968 at the Democratic Convention. Those demonstrations were later declared to be “police riot(s)” by the Walker Report. While the jury was still deliberating in the Chicago 7 trial, the judge ordered contempt sentences for the defendants. In response, the national antiwar movement organized TDA (The Day After) demonstrations all over the country.

Even though some of the TDA demonstrations in other cities were bigger than in Seattle, only in Seattle did the Federal Government convene a Grand jury and issue conspiracy indictments against organizers of Seattle’s TDA demonstration. Author Kit Bakke contends that Seattle was singled out because the SLF was a growing community, not just campus-based organization, was multi-issue and cooperated well with the Seattle chapter of the Black Panther Party. The only group the Nixon Administration and J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, hated worse than SDS was the Black Panther Party.

The author of this book review was at the Seattle TDA demonstration on February 17, 1970, having started to hang out with the SLF a week before. The plan was to enter the Federal Building, occupy it, and stop the courts. Several thousand people showed up. The front doors were locked so we could not get in. I spent a few minutes talking to the Federal Marshall in charge. I did not know at the time who he was. He seemed completely unafraid of us. He was walking around asking demonstrators “who are your leaders?” Then, writes Bakke, “a rock was thrown from the edge of the crowd” (p.46) and Seattle police came out of the Federal building and out of the Seattle City Library across the street and started attacking the demonstrators. I was in the front facing the Courthouse and could not back up because of all the people behind me. I was hit on the head several times with a police baton, my head bloodied. The Medical Committee on Human Rights, a group of young medical workers against the war, pulled me out and took me to the Open-Door Clinic and stitched up my head.

Later that spring at another demonstration in downtown Seattle, protesting Boeing who had laid off 50,000 workers, I saw a “demonstrator” named Fred throw a rock. The night before, several women talked to me about their suspicions that Fred was an undercover agent provocateur. I did not know what to do. But we watched him the next day. With hindsight, it looks like that thrown rock was a signal for the Seattle Police to attack the demonstration. The demonstration was dispersed and some of us were chased by police all the way up to Volunteer Park. We never saw Fred again.

So a Federal Government agent provocateur may have started the “riot” that the Seattle 7 were being accused of organizing. To tell a bit more of a complicated story, after I was taken out, more than a few of the demonstrators went downtown

and broke store windows. Ninety-seven were arrested. The SLF had a Weatherman contingent in it, including several of the defendants, who believed property damage, i.e. specifically breaking windows was justified as a tactic to protest the war. This idea was debated constantly that spring.

The trial was in Tacoma in November of 1970. Stan Pitkin, an inexperienced young prosecutor was taking his orders from the Nixon White House and the FBI. Pitkin wrote later that the case was based on 4 informants (a memo from Pitkin, p 186).

At the trial, Chip Marshall, one of the defendants who acted as his own attorney, got the prosecution’s star witness to say in court that he hated antiwar people and he would lie to put them behind bars. After that the prosecution did not seem to know what to do and did not call another witness. The judge declared a mistrial and issued contempt citations for behavior of the defendants, behavior that he had been ignored earlier. Many of the defendants, years later, told Bakke that they played right into the hands of the authorities by their courtroom behavior. They paid with prison time.

The author Kit Bakke did a masterful job in writing this book. When SDS split, the Weatherman faction destroyed a viable student organization and moved to the bombing of symbolic targets. Bakke explains that the reason the Weather Underground leaders were not prosecuted when they surfaced years later was because of the secret and illegal wiretapping of so many antiwar and civil rights activists in the 1960’s and 1970’s. The government did not want that to come out in new trials (p.187). Protest On Trial tells us that the tactics of the government went way beyond tapping phones. They infiltrated the movements and encouraged illegal behavior, including bombing. They also planted stories in the press. And they tried to frame some good activists using the courts.

It is also true that the antiwar movement was for the most part unable to pivot to using an electoral and legal strategy which could have been combined with nonviolent direct action. To be sure, Gene Sharp had not yet published The Politics of Nonviolent Action (1973). Above all writes Bakke, the movement radically underestimated the strength and adaptability of the government.

After the Vietnam war ended in 1975, the United States was not involved in active warfare for several years. Establishment politicians considered this hiatus a problem they named the “Vietnam syndrome” The U.S. resumed active warfare in Grenada in 1983 and again with the invasion of Panama in 1989. In spite of mistakes, the student movement against the war in Vietnam along with the G. I. resistance and the fierce fighting of the Vietnamese played a role in what was a setback for the American empire.



**Federal Courthouse Seattle Feb 17, 1970**

**We Don't Feel Better Off Because We Are Not.**

**Dear trade experts: Cheaper consumer goods don't make up for lost jobs, lower living standards, and diminished opportunities.**

<http://www.thestand.org/2018/12/we-dont-feel-better-off-because-were-not/>

By Stan Sorscher

Dec. 4, 2018) — Earlier this year, trade experts explained to two audiences in Seattle how workers should adjust to the global economy. Workers displaced by global competition could learn computer skills and move to Boston, San Francisco, and Seattle.

One of the experts expressed disappointment at her failure in reassuring workers that our free-trade approach to globalization made us better off.

At a third meeting a few weeks later, two trade experts from Mexico said their country's biggest problem was inequality. One, an economist, said he was "agnostic" about whether free trade made inequality in Mexico better or worse.

The level of faith regarding that question is probably stronger among the million Mexican farmers displaced from their homes by imports of U.S. corn, whose wages have gone down under globalization.

Let me take a short diversion.

A friend of mine knows that I grew up in Flint, Mich. She planned to drive through Flint, and asked me how she could catch a moment of the Flint experience. I recommended Angelo's Coney Island at Franklin and Davison Road, which is actually in Wikipedia. Angelo retired long ago, and the current restaurant is not the Angelo's I remember growing up.

My father's office and a dry cleaning store were just up Davison Road, although both are gone now. Kitty-corner from Angelo's, was Gil-Roy Hardware. That building is empty now. Across the street, the Franklin Pharmacy is also empty. A little west on Davison Road, the old Brown funeral home building is fire-damaged, and grass is growing up through the parking lot.

Zillow says my very nice childhood home sold in 2003 for \$152,000. Zillow recently listed that house and others in good condition on that block at \$39,000. Growing up, Flint had four big public high schools. One is enough now.

I told my friend she should see the historic General Motors factory on Hamilton and Industrial Avenue, where autoworkers staged the first sit-down strike. I sent her a picture of the site from Google Earth. The factory and Industrial Avenue are an open field, overgrown with tall grass.

[On the plus side, the Flint Farmer's Market is really cool. One remaining factory on Bristol Road is busy making pickup trucks. We still have the Art Institute, lots of educational resources, museum, performance center, and a planetarium that I enjoyed, growing up.]

Imagine those first two trade experts making their argument to my friends and family who grew up decades ago in an industrious, productive community. GM workers in Flint worked hard at difficult, sometimes unpleasant jobs to provide economic security for their families. Under the social values of the time, we all did better when we all did better. In that economy, workers shared in the gains they created in the automobile industry, not the least because the United Auto Workers negotiated their

terms of employment.

One of the trade experts I heard in Seattle is a consultant, who advises corporate clients operating in China. In her remarks, she said she could not understand why her message didn't connect with people. In the Q&A, I asked her what change we might make in our trade policy that would improve the lives of people whose lived experience was so discouraging that they had lost confidence in the way we manage globalization? Someone in the back of the room asked her to repeat the question, so he could hear it. She said, "The question was, how can we do a better job of explaining the benefits of globalization?"

I said, "That was not the question."

This trade expert said we just needed to remind those who felt left behind that they paid lower prices for TVs and other household goods.

After some thought, I realized her argument does reach listeners with great clarity and force, just not in the way she had intended.

Many of us understand exactly what she is saying and we are insulted.

Trade, more than any other policy, is disruptive. In the 20-plus years since NAFTA, our establishment policymakers decided millions of workers in the U.S. and Mexico should run a race to the bottom. Now they are telling us our way of life is in decline, but "it's OK," because we can get T-shirts on sale at JC Penney's for \$7, and workers in Mexico can get cheap corn.

Our trade expert can't imagine how patronizing that sounds to millions of workers — to be told to invest in a STEM degree, leave what you've known all your life, and join establishment elites on the east and west coasts.

We should be sending a better message.

First, we can agree that the purpose of an economy is to raise living standards, build stronger communities, invest in our futures, and improve the quality of life. This means sharing the gains from globalization, productivity, and innovation more broadly.

Second, every country should recognize its legitimate national interests, and agree that government plays an important role in raising living standards. That means finding strategies for manufacturing, education, workforce training, research and development, infrastructure, and health care. The measures of success for new policies should be well-being and stronger communities.

This may seem radical. It's not. It's what I heard all the time growing up.

**IF U.S. LAND MASS WERE DIVIDED  
LIKE U.S. WEALTH**

