

Outlook

Day of Reckoning

Tax Revolt: Refusing to Pay for the War

By Wade Greene

(Newsweek Feature Service) AS the mid-April day of reckoning approaches, most taxpayers are studiously calculating how much to turn over to the Internal Revenue Service.

In the latest, and perhaps the ultimate, form of antiwar protest, hundreds and possibly thousands of taxpayers are preparing to hold back, or have already held back, anything from a symbolic few dollars to the 10 per cent war-born Federal surtax on their whole income tax for the year.

At the very least, these irate citizens hope their actions will register as formal protests against the Vietnam war. The more optimistic among them envision the war effort's being actually affected, should enough people hold back on their taxes.

It all began last summer, with an organization of New Left and pacifist opponents of the war called War Tax

Resistance. WTR's headquarters is a littered office on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The group also claims 62 resistance centers around the country, a number that has more than doubled since early February. And it plans nationwide demonstrations at IRS offices on April 15.

The group's "coordinator" is Bradford Lyttle, a seasoned pacifist who led a peace march through the U.S. and Europe to Moscow a decade ago. WTR dispenses the usual paraphernalia of protest — buttons, newsletters and posters.

ONE poster shows a sprawl of dead children under the pronouncement "Your Tax Dollars at Work." But mostly the propaganda treads a careful line between evangelic encouragement to defy the tax-collector and occasional cautions that doing so could land the tax resister in a heap of trouble, perhaps jail.

The tax resisters also point to respectable historical precedents. Quakers and Mennonites refused to pay taxes for the

French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. And Henry David Thoreau is spiritually summoned forth from his night in jail in 1849 for refusing to pay taxes in protest against the U.S. invasion of Mexico.

"If a thousand men were not to pay their tax bills," Thoreau said, "that would not be a bloody and violent measure, as it would to pay them and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood."

But tax-resistance leaders warn that Thoreau's imitators cannot be sure of getting off as lightly as he did.

"As we develop a broad movement of tax resistance," cautions a Chicago-based WTR group, "we must anticipate a certain number of criminal prosecutions, and many merciless attempts to collect from tax resisters. Here is a good rule of thumb for all would-be resisters: if you can't stand heat, don't put your hand in the fire."

Such warnings generally are played down in tax-resistance circles. Instead, there is a tendency to emphasize that the

IRS so far has shied away from criminal action in favor of attaching salaries or seizing bank accounts.

There are, of course, other frustrations. WTR guidance on how to go about not paying taxes inevitably confronts the fact that a good many people already have — through payroll withholding, taxes, and that getting tax money back is obviously a more difficult matter than not paying up to begin with.

ONE tax resister from Minneapolis claims to have at least temporarily beaten the withholding system. He listed 40 million Vietnamese as dependents on his 1040 form; and the IRS, he says, has already sent him a refund.

He hopes this was one more example of the fallibility of computers, but tax resisters expect the human arithmeticians at IRS to be after the refundee soon enough. All the same, stretching the definition of dependents is one of the main tactics tax resisters are proposing.

"We must explicitly reject the standards defined by a blind bureaucracy and affirm instead definitions that spring from our own consciousness of human solidarity," goes a bit of neo-Orwellianism from the Chicago WTR center.

The resisters are also zeroing in on other Federal taxes, most notably the 10 per cent Federal excise on telephone charges. According to telephone officials, many tax resisters have already begun subtracting the 10 per cent before paying their bills.

The telephone tax resisters evidently feel somewhat encouraged by telephone company policy: to accept the truncated payments, to continue service and to leave the collection of the 10 per cent tax up to the IRS.

Income-tax resisters have been a smaller band in recent years than telephone tax non-payers. But their numbers have been growing of late at a greater rate.

IN 1967, when the IRS first

began to keep tabs on tax protesters, some 375 were counted. In 1968, there were 533, and last year, 848.

Resistance leaders feel that even if the amounts of non-payment are small, symbolic sums, they could have significant impact by snarling the tax-collecting machinery. In a hand-lettered flyer, titled "No money, no war," poet Allen Ginsberg asserts:

"If money talks, several hundred thousand citizens, refusing payments to our war government will short-circuit the nerve system of our electronic-bureaucracy."

The IRS has already formed a group of agents to go after conscientious non-payers, but an IRS spokesman stolidly denies that the electronics of the tax-collecting machinery can be jammed or ultimately evaded by the resisters. With the folk wisdom of civilization on his side, he says: "You can't avoid your tax bill."

To which WTR coordinator Lyttle, portentously replies: "We'll find out."



JOHN STEWART

Stewart Aids Indian Tribe With Mission

By REASONS and PATRICK

John Stewart founded the first Methodist mission in America. He built a log meeting house near Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in 1816 to bring Christianity to the Wyandot Indians.

Stewart's success among the Indians led to the formation three years later of the Methodist Missionary Society and to the recognition of him as the "father" of all Methodist missions.

Raised a Baptist, Stewart was a humble, poorly educated man who turned from life as an alcoholic to carry the word of God into the wilderness.

Stewart was born of free parents in Powhatan County, Va., probably in the last decade of the 18th century. His brother was a Baptist preacher.

He was skimpily educated in a country school and worked as a dyer in his early years.

Stewart was ill and stayed behind when his parents moved west to Tennessee, but when he recovered he set out to join them.

IT was this journey which led Stewart into service as a missionary. He was robbed on the way and in a fit of despondency settled in Marietta, Ohio, and drowned his sorrows in drink.

After repeated attempts to quit drinking, Stewart was converted to Methodism at a prayer meeting and became a sober and fervent Christian.

He was praying in the fields one day when he said he heard voices telling him to "declare My counsel." Moved by the experience, Stewart strapped a knapsack on his back and struck out through the woods and across rivers to the northwest.

He stopped briefly and preached to the Delaware Indians but the voices exhorted him to push further north.

In October, 1816, Stewart arrived in the territory of the Wyandots. An Indian agent, who at first thought Stewart was a runaway slave, sent him to a man named Jonathan Pointer — who, reluctantly, agreed to serve as Stewart's interpreter.

SLOWLY Stewart gained the trust and respect of the Indians and converted many of them to Christianity. He was a forceful preacher, and a gifted singer which delighted the Indians.

After he was granted a preacher's license the church gave him financial support and 53 acres of land on which he built his home. Stewart married a mulatto girl named Polly in 1820. He died three years later, telling her and the Indian chiefs at his bedside to "Be faithful."

(Collected in the new THEY HAD A DREAM book are 53 inspiring stories and portraits of Negro men and women. For your copy, send \$1 in cash, check or money order to They Had A Dream, in care of the Niagara Falls Gazette, P.O. Box 1111, Los Angeles, Calif. 90053.)

They Had a Dream

Politics by Karate

Tough Tony Wages Campaign for Mayor

By TOM MATHEWS

Newsweek Feature Service NEWARK, N.J. — The violent world of the urban poor has spawned its violent leaders, but none has been able to achieve real power — thus far.

Come May 12, the record may be changed. On that day, 410,000 citizens of Newark, N.J., may very possibly elect Anthony Imperiale as their mayor.

Tough Tony Imperiale has set himself up as a sort of militant white answer to the militant black. As such, he exudes violence in the way other politicians exude charm or respectability or fraudulence.

"When I'm the mayor," he says, "I intend to get rid of the appeasement policy. If any militant comes in my office, puts his can on my desk and tells me what I'm supposed to do, I'll throw his can off the wall and out the door."

And to a wildly cheering crowd in a tavern parking lot, he said:

"I didn't see any flags lowered to half mast in Newark when Gov. Lurleen Wallace died. Why not — when they could do it for that Martin Luther Coon?"

By any normal standards, in any normal period of U.S. history, Tony Imperiale, 38, would have to be judged as one of the least likely men to become mayor of a major city. He has never, to put it mildly, been a success in any of the dozen or so jobs he has held in the past. Among them: counterman in a delicatessen, old-clothes salesman, private detective specializing in shadowing people involved in divorce cases.

HIS education is scanty — he dropped out of a trade high school in Newark — and his appearance is something less than classically handsome. At 5 feet 6, he weighs in at a cool 250 pounds. His shoulders are enormous; so is his belly. On his balding head is a jaunty brown toupee.

But Tony has force; he awes people physically, and, despite

the blubber, when he talks about knocking heads, he manages to be very convincing. Partly, this is due to his karate mystique. He is an expert — he picked it up during a hitch in the Marines — and still maintains a karate school in the same building he now uses as his unofficial "city hall."

Tony also has the politician's knack of shining at almost any kind of gathering:

"I went to a picnic once. The kids got me in a hotdog-eating contest. I ate 27 in half an hour — and boy, was I sick. Then I went to a German affair. Have you ever tried to tell a German you didn't want a beer? They carried me home. And I went to a Polish affair recently and ate so much kilbesei (sausages) I had to have an enema."

BUT most of all, Imperiale is at one with the needs and fears and daily life of his constituency. And quite clearly, he is not on the take.

"This is my castle," he says, walking into the six-room house he bought for \$8,000 a few years ago and shares with his wife ("She's a wonderful Irish girl") and five children. The living-room furniture is covered with clear plastic; only the color TV looks expensive — that and the contents of the gun rack.

Tony admires guns and keeps them in quantity — Rifles, handguns, shotguns. And other weapons, too. "This is what I love," he says, showing off a 12-inch knife. Then he picks up a bayonet. "It's old, but it sticks beautifully."

The artillery is not just for show. There have been two attempts on Tony's life. His wife and children have been threatened.

"The only fear I have is that they might hurt my woman and my children," he says. "I'll tell you this — if they do, they'll never get to court. I'll kill them with my hands."

THEN a strange thing happens — at any rate it seems strange to an outsider. Two of the Im-

periale children come in with the Negro children who live in the house across the street. Tony accepts this kind of neighborhood integration quite casually.

"Anyone who says I'm a bigot is a liar," he declares. "We never used to fight with Negroes when I was a kid. With Irish, maybe, with Germans, but never with Negroes. Why, I never used the term 'nigger' until I was in the Marine Corps."

Still, his campaign speeches are based clearly on the racial "war" as it is being waged in Newark, and his organization developed out of black-white tensions. During the Newark riots, three years ago, he organized a group of white vigilantes to patrol the city's North Ward.

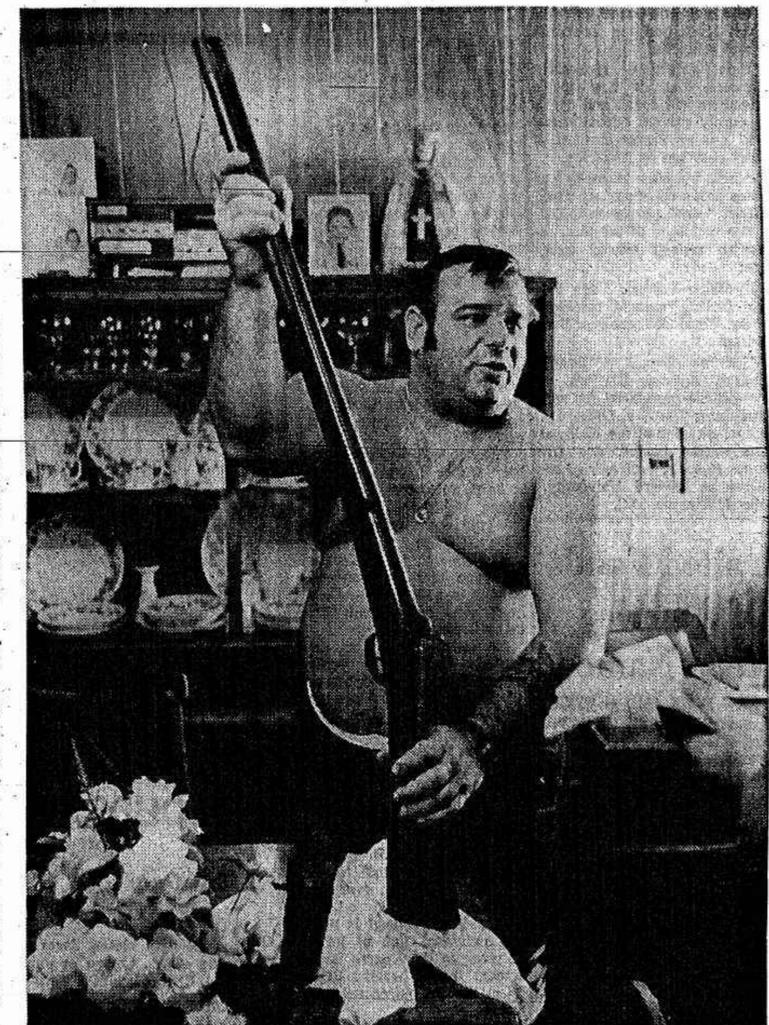
Today the group has 72 radio cars, a red ambulance and a disarmed armored car. The steel was taken off, due to public criticism, but Imperiale says it wouldn't take long to put it back on.

Tony's vigilantes now claim a membership of 5,000. Of these, 4,000, according to their leader, are "armed pretty well under the law."

NO ONE is predicting a winner yet in the mayoral race. Though Tony, a registered Republican, led 12 candidates to win election to the City Council in 1968, he is too far out for most of the party and probably for most citizens of Newark. Indeed, he would be considered an underdog, except for two factors.

Incumbent Mayor Hugh Addonizio, who is running for reelection, is under a Federal grand jury indictment for extortion and income tax evasion. And the main black candidate, Kenneth Gibson, is hampered by black opposition and the fact that though Newark is approximately one-third Negro, only about 14 per cent of the blacks can be counted upon to come out and vote.

"You are looking," says Tony Imperiale beaming confidently, "at the next mayor of Newark."



TONY IMPERIALE AT HIS HOME IN NEWARK

BY TOM TIEDE

Nation's Elderly Asking For Break in Money Bind



WASHINGTON (NEA) — A vast group of disenchanted people in the land are (1) frustrated by lack of communications with government, (2) angered by the apathetic cold shoulder of the population bulk and (3) increasingly prone to, somehow, strike back.

No, they're not the young kids. They're the old adults.

Call them what you will. Senior Citizens. The Aged. Retirees. They make up 20 million people 65 years or older, they have problems that rival even the most deprived of minority groups, and they are beginning to realize that they have to shout if they are ever to be heard.

SAYS one of their representatives: "Old people are becoming more and more militant because their problems are becoming more and more severe and because less and less effort is being made to find solutions. They have gotten a raw deal traditionally. Now they are at the end of patience. They are beginning to group together to demand justice from a position of numerical strength."

The speaker is William Hutton, executive director of the National Council of Senior Citizens — with 2.5 million members and 2,500 clubs, the largest and strongest of the nation's many oldest organizations.

HUTTON doesn't imply that the nation are about to Molotov cocktails to

protest their plight, but he does insist they are beginning to use muscle. And with good reason:

"You talk about poverty and starvation. Well, who is poor and who's starving. The old people, that's who. I travel around the country and I see them — shriveled-up men and women, living with nothing, weak from malnutrition, waiting to die. Just one statistic tells their story: three out of every 10 older people in this nation live in poverty, and many of them became poor — only — when they became old."

Hutton, whose National Council was formed in 1961 — with 41 senior citizens — believes the treatment of the old is shameful, particularly in four areas:

● Retirement income. Hutton says the average social security income for a single retiree is \$108 a month. The average for a retired couple, \$190 a month. Both fall woefully below the national poverty level guideline.

● Health care. Hutton says Medicare, blessing that it is to the aged, still only provides an average of 40 per cent of total health care. And money spent toward 100 per cent is food out of an older's mouth.

● Housing. Hutton says one-third the dwellings for older people are in need of major repair. Uncounted others are being forced to move by ever-increasing rents and property taxation.

● Meaningful retirement. Hutton

says there is a small pilot program now which employs oldersters in 20 cities as part-time community social workers. "Mostly, however, the nation is resigned to letting its aged waste idly to the grave."

Deplorable as conditions are, Hutton says some light is beginning to shine. A new bill in Congress would increase minimal social security benefits by 50 per cent over four years, lessen the financial burden of Medicare, and make it easier for a retiree to earn outside money, without being penalized with an equal reduction in social security benefits.

Officials say there is a reasonable chance some of the bill might make it. Oldersters feel Congress (which has members over the age of 65 itself) is beginning to soften — and the nation is beginning to shame.

BUT, says Hutton, one bill can't right centuries of wrong:

"There are so many problems and so much neglect. Even an immediate 50 per cent increase in social security benefits, you know, would only put an average couple, without outside income, at the poverty line. And each year it gets worse. Because each year more people retire. "No, the only chance for the old is to use their power. They are 20 million voters, you know. They have to become more vocal, more mobile and more vehement. They can't afford to be docile any more. Let's face it, the nation has left them on the edge of disaster."

The Almanac

By the Associated Press

Today is Sunday, April 5, the 95th day of 1970. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On this date in 1792, President George Washington established a precedent when he vetoed a congressional bill dealing with representation.

On this date — In 1614, the Indian Princess, Pocahontas, was married in Virginia to the English colonist, John Rolfe.

In 1621, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, Mass., on its first return trip to England.

In 1827, the English surgeon who founded modern antiseptic surgery, Sir Joseph Lister, was born in London.

In 1841, Vice President John Tyler was preparing to take over as president after the death of President William Henry Harrison.

In 1939, all German children between the ages of 10 and 13 were ordered to serve in the Hitler Youth Organization.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of New York City were sentenced to death as atomic spies for the Soviet Union.

Ten years ago: President Alberto Lleras Camargo of Colombia arrived in Washington on a 13-day state visit to the United States.

Five years ago: U.S. Army Sgt. Robert L. Johnson and a former soldier, James A. Mintkenbaugh, were arrested on charges of having sold U.S. defense secrets to the Soviet Union.

One year ago: A British expedition reached the North Pole after a 14-month trek by dog sled.