

## Part 1 of Court Case Doc - Jan-Mar 1985

This booklet is an effort to capture some of the events that took place during 1985 when the U.S. Government decided that Larry Bassett deserved a bit of special attention for his actions as a war tax resister.

I became a telephone war tax resister in the early 1970's, but it was not until 1980 that I had the courage to resist the federal income taxes that I owed. I was able to overcome that fear just as I was eventually able to overcome the fears of jail in 1985; with the help of many supporters.

It is important for me to say that I do not object to income taxation. In fact, I support a steeply graduated income tax. My problem arises with my awareness of what such a large part of our federal income taxes goes to: the military. My work in the human service field during the 1970's gave me ample evidence that we have many needs to be met in this country. The commitment of so much of our resources to increasing militarization is killing people each day, even if the bombs never are used.

Would I do it again? Yes, I think so. I learned a lot in 1985. I received a lot of support to help me through a sometimes tense period of time. I felt that I was acting for many people and felt the strength of their support.

-Larry Bassett  
May 1986

Judy Weinstein  
United States District Judge  
U.S. District Court  
Eastern District of New York  
225 Camden Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

January 22, 1985

Re: Civil Action No. CV-84-4998  
U.S.A. vs. Lawrence H. Bassett

Dear Judge Weinstein:

I have received your Order to Show Cause that orders me to appear before you on Thursday, January 31, 1985 at 11:00 a.m. I am planning to be there.

I am a war tax resister. When I filed my federal income tax return for 1980, I refused to pay the income tax that I owed. I explained in a letter that I sent to my congressional representatives as well as the IRS, "I am refusing to pay the tax that I owe because most of the money would be used to support a military build up that I feel threatens the life of each person on this planet." I am not opposing taxation: I have paid the self-employment tax to support the Social Security system. I have enclosed a copy of the letter that I sent with my tax return in 1980.

I have not benefited financially from my war tax resistance. I have redirected all of my resisted war taxes to groups working for peace, justice and to organizations meeting basic human needs. I have shared this information with the IRS and other public officials.

Since I have refused to voluntarily pay my federal income tax money because more of my taxes would go to support militarism than everything else combined, I will not cooperate by giving information that will allow forcible collection.

I ask you to support my protest against the unreasonable level of militarism that our government seeks. I hope that you will act in some way to reinforce that message.

Peace,

Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
E. Patchogue, NY 11772

Attachments: April 15, 1981 letter to IRS and Congresspeople  
"Your Income Tax Dollars at Work"

Copy: Robin Greenwald, Assistant U.S. Attorney

April 15, 1981

Senator Moynihan  
Senator D'Amato  
Representative Carney  
U.S. Congress  
Washington, DC

I am claiming a "war tax deduction" on my 1980 federal income tax return that I am sending to the IRS today. I am refusing to pay the tax that I owe because most of the money would be used to support a military build up that I feel threatens the life of each person on this planet.

I believe that spending 52% of the federal income tax dollars for war is a violation of the trust I have placed in a representative government. I cannot believe that you in congress can support an increased military budget when there are so many bombs already. Do you realize that increased military spending will not make this country more secure? That it creates more inflation? Costs us jobs? I have enclosed a leaflet that was passed out at the IRS office in Smitttown on April 11th. I wonder how it can make sense to devote so many of our resources (money and people) to create and maintain a military system that destroys us whether it is used or not.

I did not allow my 1980 tax money to be used to pay for war. Instead I used my tax money to help a number of individuals and organizations in an effort to make a better world and to meet human needs. My taxes amounted to approximately \$800.

I do not object to taxation of income, and I would not object to paying my fair share of taxes for positive, life enhancing government programs. But I will not pay someone to kill in my name or to make weapons whose sole purpose is to threaten life.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the IRS along with my income tax return. Many others are taking actions similar to mine. We are acting with a conviction that something must be done to change the policies and priorities that you routinely support with your votes in congress. We are voting in a way that we think has the best chance to be heard. I act with fear and pride.

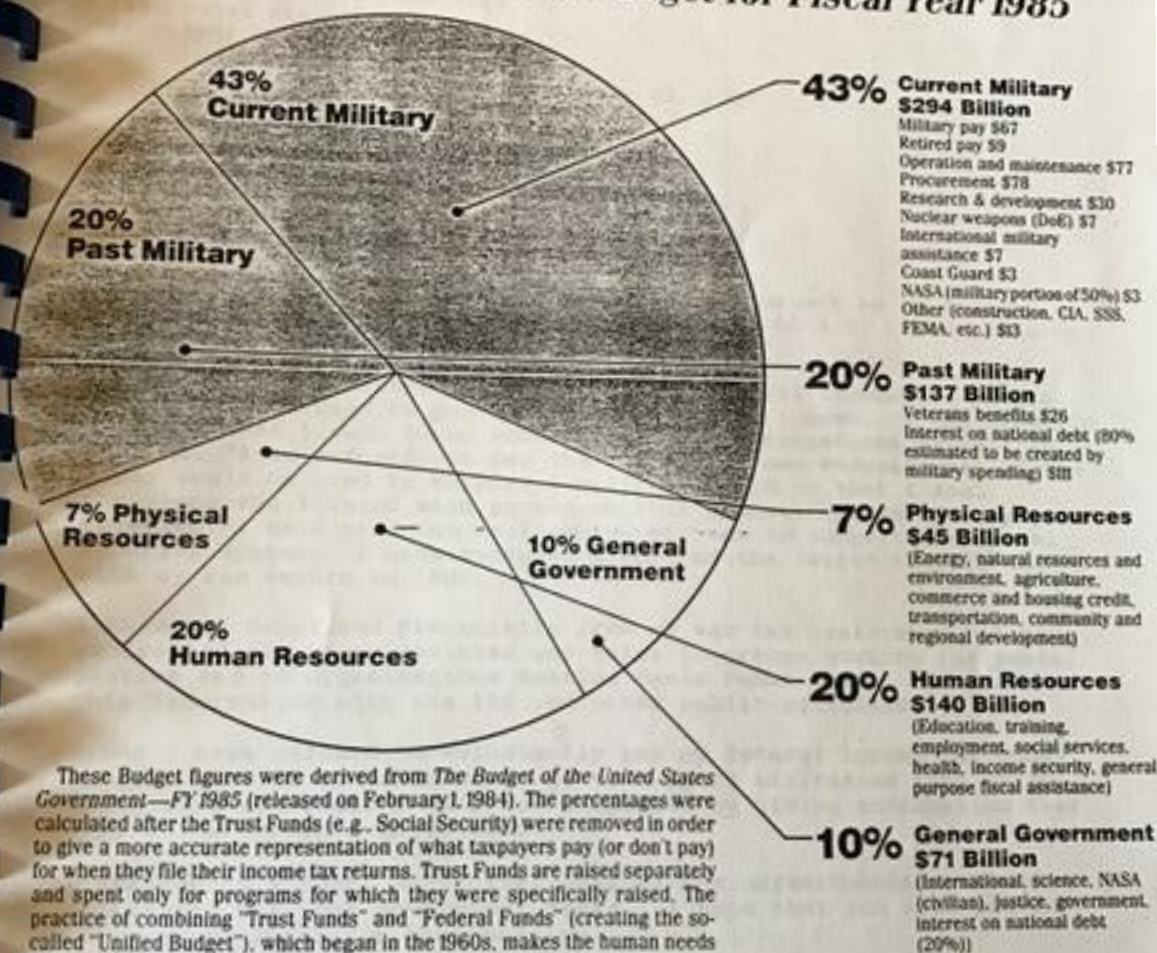
*Lawrence Bassett*

Lawrence Bassett  
10 Woodruff Street  
Bellport, NY 11713



# Your Income Tax Dollars At Work

*The United States Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 1985*



These Budget figures were derived from *The Budget of the United States Government—FY 1985* (released on February 1, 1984). The percentages were calculated after the Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security) were removed in order to give a more accurate representation of what taxpayers pay (or don't pay) for when they file their income tax returns. Trust Funds are raised separately and spent only for programs for which they were specifically raised. The practice of combining "Trust Funds" and "Federal Funds" (creating the so-called "Unified Budget"), which began in the 1960s, makes the human needs part of the Budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

"Current military" spending adds together money allocated for the Department of Defense plus the "defense" portion from other parts of the Budget, as indicated in the figures above. Spending on nuclear weapons (without their delivery systems) amounts to above 1% of the Budget. Including delivery systems, the "nuclear" portion increases to about 10% of the Budget.

"Past military" is represented by veterans' benefits plus 80% of the interest on the national debt. If there had been no military spending, most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated. Analysts differ on how much of the debt is military-created. Estimates range from 50% to 100%. We feel that 80% may even be conservative.

We have used "Outlays," rather than "Budget Authority," figures because we wanted to reflect what is to be spent for FY 1985 alone.

**100% Total Federal Funds**  
**\$687 Billion**

January 23, 1965

Dear Friends,

I am a war tax resister. I need your support.

I have been openly refusing to pay my federal income taxes since 1980 as a direct action protest of the escalating U.S. military budget. During those years I have redirected my resisted war taxes to groups working for peace and meeting basic human needs.

The IRS has been trying to collect my unpaid taxes and has demanded that I give information to help them forcibly collect. I am refusing to cooperate.

I have been ordered to appear before Judge Jack Weinstein at the Federal District Court in Brooklyn to show cause why I should not give the IRS the information they are demanding. I will explain why I am not cooperating. It is likely, however, that the Judge will order me to give the IRS financial information. If I continue to refuse, the court may find me in contempt and jail me.

I ask that you do something to show your support for my position as a war tax resister. I hope that you can do one of the following:

- \*\* Come to the hearing Thursday, January 31st at 11 a.m. in Brooklyn
- \*\* Write a letter of support to Judge Weinstein
- \*\* Telephone a message of support to Judge Weinstein
- \*\* Share this information with friends who might be able to offer support

Jack Weinstein  
United States District Judge  
U.S. District Court  
225 Camden Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Telephone: 718/330-7569

Directions: From Long Island: LIRR to Flatbush; Subway - M train - to Borough Hall/Court Street.  
From New York: 7th Ave. or Lexington Ave. train to Borough Hall/Court Street.  
U.S. District Court is on Camden Plaza East at Tillary and Court Street

I would sincerely appreciate whatever support you can provide.

Peace,

*Larry*  
Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
E. Patchogue, NY 11772  
516-654-8227





United States Attorney  
Eastern District of New York

RLB:RLG:msj  
F.#

Federal Building  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

January 29, 1985

Honorable Jack B. Weinstein  
United States Chief District Judge  
United State District Court  
Room 651  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: United States of America v. Bassett,  
Civil Action No. CV-84-4998 (EDNY)

Dear Judge Weinstein:

This letter responds to Mr. Bassett's written response to the Petition to Enforce Internal Revenue Service Summons of the United States in the above-referenced action. Mr. Bassett objects to the use of revenues obtained through federal taxation for military purposes and thus refuses to comply with the Internal Revenue Service Summons. Mr. Bassett's objection is without merit.

Federal courts uniformly have rejected taxpayers' objection to the payment of federal income taxes or portions thereof because such money is used by the Government for military purposes. Randall, II v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service, 733 F.2d 1565 (11th Cir. 1984); Graves v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, 579 F.2d 392 (6th Cir. 1978), cert. denied, 440 U.S. 946 (1979); Lull v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, 602 F.2d 1166 (4th Cir. 1979), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 1014 (1980); First v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, 547 F.2d 45 (7th Cir. 1976); Autenreith v. Cullen, 418 F.2d 586 (9th Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 397 U.S. 1036 (1970); Drefchinski v. Regan, 589 F.Supp. 1516 (W.D. La. 1984); United States v. Haworth, 386 F.Supp. 1099 (S.D.N.Y. 1974). Cf. United States v. Lee, 455 U.S. 252, 260 (1982). As the above-cited cases demonstrate, Mr. Bassett's refusal to comply with the Internal Revenue Service Summons because "more of [his] taxes would go to support militarism than anything else combined" is not a

valid defense to the Petition at issue here. Accordingly, the United States respectfully requests that the Court grant petitioner the relief requested in its Petition.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND J. DEARIE  
United States Attorney

By:

Robin L. Greenwald  
ROBIN L. GREENWALD  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

cc: By Express Mail  
Mr. Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
East Patchogue, New York 11772

# 'War tax' resistor faces judge Jan. 31

Larry Bassett has not paid his income taxes for five years to protest war and the escalating arms race. Bassett, 38, of East Patchogue, has been ordered to appear before Judge Weinstein in Federal District Court in Brooklyn on January 31 to show cause why he should not give the Internal Re-

venue Service information that would enable them to forcibly collect the more than \$1,000 he owes.

Bassett is planning to appear in court accompanied by friends and supporters sympathetic to his position, he said this week. Many of the supporters, like Bassett, will be war tax resisters.

They are part of a rapidly growing movement of people who refuse to pay all or part of their federal income taxes or telephone excise taxes because they believe that paying for military spending is morally indefensible, and that paying for nuclear weapons that threaten the world's destruction is insane, according to Bassett.

Bassett has stated that he will refuse to obey the expected court order to provide financial information to the IRS. He is aware that such a refusal could result in contempt charges and jail.

In a 1980 letter to Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato and Congressman William Carney, Bassett explained his views as follows:

"I am claiming a 'war tax deduction' on my 1980 federal income tax return that I am sending to the IRS today. I am refusing to pay the tax that I owe because most of the money would be used to support a military build up that I feel threatens the life of each person on this planet."

"I believe that spending 52 per cent of the federal income tax dollars for war is a violation of the trust I have placed in a representative government. I cannot believe that you in Congress can support an increased military budget when there are so many bombs already

Do you realize that increased military spending will not make this country more secure? That it creates more inflation? Costs us jobs? I have enclosed a leaflet that was passed out at the IRS office in Smithtown on April 11th. I wonder how it can make sense to devote so many of our resources (money and people) to create and maintain a military system that destroys us whether it is used or not.

"I did not allow my 1980

tax money to be used to pay for war. Instead I used my tax money to help a number of individuals and organizations in an effort to make a better world and to meet human needs. My taxes amounted to approximately \$800.

"I do not object to taxation of income, and I would not object to paying my fair share of taxes for positive, life enhancing government programs. But I will not pay someone to kill in my name

or to make weapons whose sole purpose is to threaten life.

"I am sending a copy of this letter to the IRS along with my income tax return. Many others are taking actions similar to mine. We are acting with a conviction that something must be done to change the policies and priorities that you routinely support with your votes in Congress. We are voting in a way that we think has the best chance to be heard. I act with fear and pride."

1/30/85  
Suffolk Life



# Dissident courts jail on war tax

Larry Bassett of East Patchogue has not paid his income taxes for five years. Today, he may go to jail.

Bassett, 38, was formerly a printer, and is now a full-time staff member of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. He said he stopped paying his taxes when he realized more than half of everything he gave to the Internal Revenue Service was going to military purposes.

"I've spent a lot of my life working in human resources. When I became aware that funds to support human needs were being cut to fund war projects, I informed the IRS that I was going to give my tax money to groups doing things I could, in good conscience, support." The receipts for these monies did not sway the IRS.

Therefore, Bassett has been ordered to appear before Judge Jack Weinstein at the Federal District Court in Brooklyn today.

January 31 at 11 a.m. to show cause why he should not give the IRS information that would enable them to "forcibly collect" the more than \$1,000 he owes in taxes.

Bassett, without benefit of attorney, but with the support of friends and believers, will appear, but he says he will refuse to obey the expected court order to provide financial information to the IRS that would identify his assets. Such refusal may result in contempt charges and jail.

"Rarely do people go to jail for non-payment of taxes on moral grounds. Since WWII, maybe only a dozen have," he said. "This court order is relatively unusual. The IRS doesn't want to send people to jail; they want to collect the money in the quietest way possible."

He contends, "They want me to give them information about my assets so they may seize them and collect. I'm not going to give them that information and I am prepared to go to jail."

Bassett, who is divorced and shares the support of his two children who live with their mother in Virginia, said that some resisters have taken their cause to the United States Supreme Court. "None of these, so far, has been successful," he added.

With such precedents Bassett feels that he will likely lose, in a legal sense, but enjoy a moral victory.

And, if the only acceptable alternative is jail, it will serve to publicize the cause for which he is working.

by Jo Ann McGrath



Advance

26/ The Long Island ADVANCE / January 31, 1985

Larry Bassett  
U.S. District Court  
Brooklyn, NY  
January 31, 1985

I am a war tax resister. I am here today as a result of my unwillingness to cooperate with a government that asks me to contribute to the destruction of the earth. Even if the bombs for which I refuse to pay are never used, they cause death every day as more and more of the resources of this country are devoted to war rather than to meet basic human needs. I do not object to income taxes, but I will not pay someone to kill in my name or to make weapons whose sole purpose is to threaten life.

I feel the strength of a growing number of war tax resisters and supporters. I act with the conviction that I must take some direct, personal actions to change the policies and priorities of the government of the United States. I act with an awareness of the consequences: the Courts have found little justice for war tax resisters. But I do what I think is right.

I ask you to consider the moral issue rather than the legal one. I have stated my inability to pay my taxes to kill. I will not give information to the Internal Revenue Service that could allow them to forcibly collect the taxes that I have refused to pay. I feel that U.S. military spending priorities are morally wrong. Cuts in human service spending to fund a massive military build-up have created human suffering and a world that is militarized to a point of potential self destruction. I cannot support those priorities with my tax money.

# Tax Resister Faces Jail

by Daniel H. Aug

East Patchogue's Larry Bassett could become the first American since 1968 to be jailed for refusing to disclose personal financial information or pay federal income tax in protest of military spending by the government.

Kathy Levine, a staff person for the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTCC), said Bassett could become the first person since New London, Conn. printer Neil Haworth to serve time for the charges.

Appearing before U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein in Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 31, Bassett asked that moral rather than legal issues be considered.

"I feel that U.S. military spending priorities are morally wrong," Bassett said. "Cuts in human service spending to fund a massive military build-up have created human suffering and a world that is militarized to a point of potential self destruction. I cannot support those priorities with my tax money."

Judge Weinstein said he had no choice but to act on legal issues, however. The judge ordered Bassett to comply with

an Internal Revenue Service summons to provide information about personal finances.

Contacted by Pennysaver News after the court session, Bassett said he does not intend to comply with the order, which would allow the IRS to forcibly collect the more than \$1,000 he has refused to pay.

"There is a disturbing discrepancy between the amount of tax money spent for human need and that spent for military purposes," Bassett said. "So I gave the money to peace groups and charitable organizations instead of the government."

The 38-year-old former printer was accompanied to the court hearing by about 15 supporters from war tax resistance and peace groups from Long Island, the New York metropolitan area, and Boston. His mother also was present, and Bassett said both his parents support his actions.

Judge Weinstein issued an order in early February giving Bassett 20 days to give the IRS the information demanded.

"At this point it's not my intention to comply," Bassett told Pennysaver News. "The

current federal budget process...only serves to strengthen my determination."

The war tax resister was asked whether he could already see himself behind bars. "Not necessarily, but I'm prepared if that happens," he said.

Levine, the NWTCC staff member, said Bassett could be a term "as long as or short as the judge wants" because the withholding of taxes is "not a punitive action."

Bassett would be the first Long Islander to serve time for war tax resistance-related charges, Levine said. She added that no one has been jailed for the charges since Haworth (who served 60 days), although three similar cases in the past ten years were dropped when the tax resisters "took the 5th amendment" during litigation.

Both Bassett and Levine said it was unusual for the Internal Revenue Service to carry out a court action against war tax resisters.

Bassett said he wonders whether the IRS is trying to make an example of him "to keep people aware they have enforcement ability" for use against tax evaders. U.S. Attorney Robin

Greenwald, who represented the IRS at the January 31 hearing, would not comment on the case when contacted by Pennysaver News. She said she had been randomly selected from a pool of attorneys to handle the case.

Levine said the NWTCC is a coalition of over 50 organizations from across the country, funded by donations by the member organizations.

The organization has been formally united for less than three years, but Bassett said his concern about high military spending goes back to the Vietnam War.

The war tax resistance movement was prevalent at that time, Bassett said, but when the war ended many resisters did not continue to withhold their taxes or speak out for the cause.

Bassett has openly refused to pay the federal tax on his telephone bills since 1970, and he has not paid the federal tax on his income since 1979.

Levine said she has not paid her federal income taxes for six years. The money, she

said, is more than \$1,000 but less than \$1,500.

War tax resistance goes back to the historic peace churches including the Quakers, Levine said. She pointed out that Henry David Thoreau was a war tax resister in opposition to the Mexican War of 1846-48.

Bassett said he hopes that an interested and sympathetic attorney will come forth to represent him, free of charge, for the duration of the current litigation.

Some war tax resistance supporters at the January 31 hearing felt that Judge Weinstein had been as supportive of Bassett as legally possible, at one point telling him "I don't want to send you to jail."

Levine said it would not be possible to determine Bassett's fate until the next court hearing, which could take place in mid-to-late March.

Whether or not Bassett gets jailed depends on who the judge is for that court appearance," Levine said. "Putting someone in jail for conscientious (beliefs) is not an easy decision to make."



March 1, 1965

Dear Friends,

This letter is going to over 100 people who have supported me in many ways during the past month. I am sorry that it is not as personal as it might be. It has been a month since the hearing and people want to know what has happened! Here is some of the story.

You are such an amazing group of folks! The letters that many of you sent (and are still sending) to Judge Weinstein are fantastic. At the hearing on January 31st, I wanted to say: "You have read these letters, Judge. What more can I say?" Our sense that we must do something to control the arms race comes across clearly in those letters. Thank you for supporting my effort of war tax resistance.

Events moved quickly from January 21st (when I was first served with notice of the hearing) to January 31st, the hearing date. I hope most of you received my summary of the hearing. (Write me for one if not.) Now a month has passed since the hearing at which Judge Weinstein indicated he must order me to cooperate with the IRS collection of my resisted war taxes in spite of my moral position.

The Assistant U.S. Attorney Robin Greenwald mailed me a copy of the proposed order that I "comply with the IRS summons within twenty days of the service of this order." I must be personally given a copy of the order by the IRS or a federal marshal for the 20 days to begin but so far that has not happened. If I do not comply by the end of the 20 days, there could be another hearing to determine if I should be held in contempt of court. It is contempt of court that could result in jail. I am not planning to cooperate with the collection process. As I said to the judge: "I will not give information to the IRS that could allow them to forcibly collect the taxes that I have refused to pay. I feel that U.S. military spending priorities are morally wrong. Cuts in human service spending to fund a massive military build-up have created human suffering and a world that is militarized to a point of potential self destruction. I cannot support those priorities with my tax money."

There has been some publicity in the local newspapers and in peace movement publications in the area and region (and beyond, apparently, given where some of you live). We are looking into the benefits to the peace / war tax resistance movement of raising a legal defense. I have been talking with several lawyers familiar with war tax resistance issues about possible legal arguments. The good reputation of Judge Weinstein gives some encouragement of a fair hearing of the legal and moral issues. A decision whether to go ahead with a legal defense will depend, I hope, on a judgment that such a defense will benefit the war tax resistance movement rather than just me personally. I am prepared to accept the consequences of my action. A legal defense will require some additional time and expense. I would like to assure that the time and money are both available and well spent. A strength of civil disobedience is its moral roots and a willingness to suffer the consequences. If a legal defense is to be undertaken, I do not want to lose sight of the moral issue.

What do I expect in the coming weeks? The court order will be served on me one day soon. A decision will be made about a legal defense. If there is a legal defense, motions may be filed with the federal district court which may delay the next hearing to allow preparation time. The length of the delay may depend on the scope of the legal issues to be raised. If no legal defense, then the IRS or the court may schedule another hearing after the 20 days to determine if I am in contempt of court. What would contempt of court mean? I understand that the judge could put me in a federal jail until I comply with the court order or until the judge determines that keeping me in jail is futile. There is no maximum time length.

What can you do? This is what you have all been asking. Keep thinking of me. Do what you can to work against the military build-up. Continue to ask people to write to Judge Weinstein (Civil action No. CV-84-4998, USA v. Lawrence Bassett) since he and I will undoubtedly meet again. Write your congresspeople too. (I have written mine.) If you have thoughts about a legal defense or other ways to help my situation work for peace, share them with me in a letter. If you feel strongly about a legal defense and are willing to pledge some financial support for that effort, should it materialize, let me know the amount you would like to pledge.

Through most of this I have been feeling good emotionally and physically. I feel ready to go to jail if that is what is required of my action. This is a very busy time of year in the war tax resistance organizing that I am doing, so from that point of view the timing of this is not particularly good. I was plenty busy without this coming up right now! But I feel good.

I will try to keep you up to date about what is happening. It is possible that things will go slowly. I would not have guessed that a month would go by without getting the court order. I guess Judge Weinstein knew what he was talking about when he suggested that I "let the wheels of justice grind slowly." But I am sometimes impatient for change.

Your support, in all the ways you have offered it in these past weeks, has made this effort possible for me. I could not have done all this alone. Thank you all so much.

Peace and love,

Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
East Patchogue, NY 11772

An additional note about war tax resistance: Most of you may know that I work fulltime doing national organizing for war tax resistance. I have enclosed a brochure from NWTRCC, the coalition for which I work. I want to emphasize to those of you who are thinking about becoming war tax resisters or who are war tax resisters that it is most unlikely that you will ever reach a situation as a war tax resister where jail is possible unless you want it to be possible. Jail or even court is extremely unusual in war tax resistance. I or a war tax resistance counselor near you would be glad to talk to you about this.



United States District Court  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
135 CADMAN PLAZA EAST  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

JACK B. WEINSTEIN  
CHIEF JUDGE

March 20, 1985

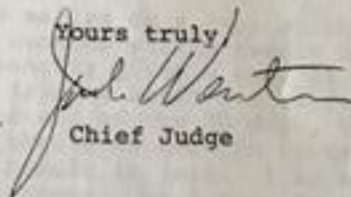
Mr. Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
E. Patchogue, New York 11772

Re: MDL No. 381

Dear Mr. Bassett:

Thank you for your letter of March 18th.  
I appreciate your keeping the court informed with  
respect to the status of the matter.

Yours truly,



Chief Judge

cc: Robin Greenwald, Esq.  
Assistant United States Attorney



PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
March 28, 1985

For More Information:  
Kathy Levine or Larry Bassett 516-654-8227

# WAR TAX RESISTER TO ASSERT LEGAL RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE IN COURT

This April 15th Larry Bassett will be openly refusing to pay his federal income taxes for the fifth year to protest war and the escalating arms race. Bassett, age 38 of East Patchogue, NY, says, "I have chosen this course of nonviolent, civil disobedience because I feel a strong sense of personal responsibility to do what I can to stop the arms race. The bombs we are building today are killing people even if they are never used because they represent tax money that should be used to meet basic human needs."

As a result of his war tax resistance, Bassett is being prosecuted by the U.S. government in Federal District Court in Brooklyn, NY. At an initial hearing on January 31st before U.S. District Court Chief Justice Jack Weinstein, the Internal Revenue Service tried to force Bassett to provide information that would enable them to forcibly collect the more than \$1000 in federal income taxes he has conscientiously refused to pay. Bassett refused to provide that information in spite of threats of jail for contempt of court.

In a statement to the court, Bassett said, "I ask you to consider the moral issue rather than the legal one. I have stated my inability to pay my taxes to kill. I will not give information to the Internal Revenue Service that could allow them to forcibly collect the taxes that I have refused to pay. I feel that U.S. military spending priorities are morally wrong. Cuts in human service spending to fund a massive military build-up have created human suffering and a world that is militarized to a point of potential self destruction. I cannot support those priorities with my tax money."

Bassett has appealed to his U.S. Senators Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato and Representative William Carney for their assistance. He has asked them to help him as he is forced to choose between following his conscience and going to jail.

Encouraged by friends and supporters in the war tax resistance movement, Bassett has also decided to make legal arguments to the Court regarding his rights to maintain his conscientious position of war tax resistance. Supported by a legal team that includes Mitchell Gittin (Brentwood, NY), Cora Glasser (Centereach, NY), Peter Goldberger (Los Angeles, CA), Harry Kresky (New York, NY), Vicki Metcalf (Colorado Springs, CO), and Jay Rosner (Philadelphia, PA), Bassett is expecting to establish his legal right to maintain his moral position based on First and Fifth Amendment rights as well as International Law.

A legal defense fund has been established to assist with the expenses of this case. Donations are being sent to Bassett Defense Fund, c/o Kathy Levine, P.O. Box 2236, East Patchogue, NY 11772.