

Jan 27

Dear Gary,

Good luck. You are surely receiving all the good wishes I can.

I asked people to come to the court hearing and to write letters to the Judge. People came to the hearing from Michigan, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Letters came to the judge throughout the proceedings. The court file is bulging with dozens of letters from across the country. Reading those letters did wonders for my morale! It is impossible to say for certain how they affected Judge Weinstein. I believe, however, that they had a lot to do with his ultimate decision to dismiss the case.

A small sampling of the letters are included here, interspersed in chronological order. Letters arrived regularly, reminding the Judge of my case. I think that he did read them as the case proceeded. And, if he did read them, he could not help but be affected by some of them.

Because of my conviction people tell you in the present + the past. Thanks, Gary! For caring so much about this crazy world.

Love,

Sam

Jan 27

Dear Larry,

Good luck. You are surely receiving all the good vibes I can send your way!! Letters have gone out to the Judge. Wish there was something more I could do...

- Shout from a Rooftop
- Hire a plane to do skywriting
- Arrange for "the Revolution" to arrive before Thursday  
Next time try for a bit longer lead time!

Guess I'll just keep on keepin' on because of my connections to folks like you in the present + the past!  
Thanks, Larry! For carin so much about this crazy world.

Love,  
Edyn

[REDACTED]  
January 26, 1985

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

RE: IRS vs. Lawrence Bassett  
(Hearing 1/31/85 at 11 a.m.)

Dear Judge Weinstein:

I am writing on behalf of my friend, Larry Bassett, who will be appearing before you on Thursday, January 31, in response to a summons brought by the Internal Revenue Service.

Larry's actions stem from deeply held convictions that our government's swollen military budget is not only excessive, but unjust and immoral. I know it is impossible for him voluntarily to support U.S. military expenditures with his taxes. As a war tax resister myself, I share whole-heartedly in Larry's convictions, and appreciate fully the bind in which we are placed: we love our country, but cannot in good conscience support its military policies.

I hope that as you hear this case on Thursday, you will bear in mind that Larry Bassett has acted openly and honestly, and for reasons of conscience.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Schwab

January 28, 1985

The Honorable Jack Weinstein  
United States District Judge  
U. S. District Court  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201

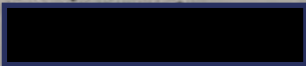
Dear Judge Weinstein:

I am writing to express my support for the action Lawrence Bassett has been taking as a peaceful war tax resister. He exemplifies the position many concerned citizens are now taking. Since our national priorities are being directed toward a massive effort to produce weapons that threaten all life on earth, I embrace all who act in protest to this "madness".

Lawrence's actions since 1981 resulted from much reflection on the issue peace and the consequences of our military spending. His dedication as a peace activist is to be commended.

I respectfully request that wisdom and justice will be reflected during the hearing on January 31st.

PEACE

Joseph H. Bassett  


7/28/85

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

Dear Judge Weinstein,

This letter is to support Larry Bassett and his position of refusing to pay income tax as an action of protest of the escalating U.S. military budget. He has redirected his resisted war taxes to groups working for peace and meeting basic human needs. I consider his action to be moral and thank him for caring so deeply.

What Larry Bassett has done may be illegal by current civil law, but it is just a matter of time before the law is changed to allow for war tax redirection. I dream that it is just a matter of time before the world is changed to allow for peace - Larry does more than dream - he acts - and in so acting, acts for us all.

Thank you for your time and attention to my view.

In peace,

Stephanie Joyce

SAUL FRIEDBERG  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

402 SOUTH COUNTRY ROAD  
BROOKHAVEN, N. Y. 11719  
(516) 286-8161

January 28, 1985

Hon. Jack Weinstein  
United States District Court  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Weinstein:

I am a friend and admirer of Mr. Larry Bassett of East Patchogue, NY, who, I am advised, is to show cause before you on January 31 why he should not give the Internal Revenue Service certain information. I am also a member of the Bar since 1941.

Mr. Bassett is a devoted worker for peace, disarmament and international friendship, and, from what I have learned, takes a principled position that federal income taxes should not be paid because so large a proportion of the collections of those taxes is used for war preparations while the unfulfilled needs of tens of millions of our countrymen continue to mount, hundreds of millions of people throughout the world are hungry, and unemployment at home and abroad continues at inexcusable levels.

Mr. Bassett's position is humane and logically and morally sound, and I respectfully urge you to take the perhaps novel step needed to see its justice and to support it. Our country still celebrates the Boston Tea Party, and, in fact, as it is easy to learn by a clear look, the emperor is naked.

Respectfully yours,

*Saul Friedberg*  
Saul Friedberg

SF:1  
Express mail  
cc: Mr. Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
E Patchogue, NY 11772

Hon. Jack Weinstein  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court  
225 Camden Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

January 29, 1985

Your Honor,

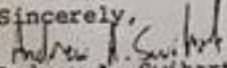
I am writing on behalf of Mr. Larry Bassett, who has been ordered to appear before you at 11:00a.m. on January 31.

Larry Bassett has a deeply held, principled belief that war-making, under any circumstances, is immoral. The "resolution" of conflict through the killing of others is an enterprise which violates Larry's most fundamental moral imperatives. As a necessary and inevitable consequence of such principles Larry finds that he must refuse to pay taxes which will, in large measure, be used for war and the preparation for war. United States federal income taxes are such taxes, and serve such a function.

Larry does not object to taxation per se, nor to our government's right to impose taxes on its citizens for the purpose of supporting its functions, when such functions are other than immoral. As a consequence, Larry taxes himself. Each year he calculates the amount of money our government requires of him as income tax, and directly contributes this amount to organizations directly meeting human needs. In this way Larry attempts to discharge his obligation to support our society in a manner that does not violate his conscientious beliefs.

I would ask that you recognize, and give strong consideration to, Larry's deeply held moral beliefs. A demand that Larry voluntarily and willingly comply with the Internal Revenue Service's tax collection efforts is, of necessity, a demand that violates his most fundamental moral beliefs. The consequences of such a demand will be Larry's refusal, his moral inability, to cooperate with such war tax efforts, and the consequent jeopardizing of his freedom. Incarceration in such an instance serves no useful purpose. Larry will not be compelled to assist in what he views as war-preparation and war-making. He will remain a prisoner, compelled to adhere to his principles, for whatever period of time the court requires. It is in your power to avoid such a senseless and purposeless outcome to this conflict.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter. I earnestly request that you strongly consider the above stated points as you determine the disposition of Larry's case.

Sincerely,  
  
Andrew A. Swihart

January 29, 1985

Judge Weinstein  
United States District Court  
225 Cadmen Plaza  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Weinstein,

I am writing in support of Larry Bassett, whose case you will hear on January 31st. I am also a war tax resister and could just as easily be the person standing before you this Thursday.

Larry, like so many of us who feel that it is immoral to pay income taxes for military spending, is risking his freedom and economic security for his belief that paying taxes that contribute to war and the preparation for war does not build a more peaceful, just world. I know that he accepts the possible consequences of his action.

Our world continues to be threatened by the very possible use of nuclear weapons. Many of us, as responsible citizens of this country, can no longer support the elected, supposedly responsive, officials of this country who continue to vote for, appropriate funds for, and otherwise promote a continued arms race. Because we are not fairly represented by our officials we feel we must use civil disobedience to protest this continued march towards the destruction of a world we hold dear.

There is historical precedence, of which I feel certain you are aware, for resisting that which is unjust. While I understand your position to rule according to the law, I urge you to consider the morality of Larry's case. Without a moral basis our law has no meaning in a democratic society.

Peace,

Kathy Levine



Claire H. Hull

30 January 1985

Dear Larry,

I have just called Judge Weinstein's office with the following message which I asked to be delivered to the Judge before tomorrow at 11:

I am calling to support the case of Larry Bassett, due to appear before Judge Weinstein tomorrow at 11 AM.

Mr. Bassett is one of a minority of sane, very concerned people who are putting their career and living on the line in an effort to save the world. This may sound theatrical, but it is true.

I urge Judge Weinstein to think of his own family and the world before he condemns this man before whom we should be bowing down as a symbol of sanity and concern in a world which seems to be going mad.

Will you please see that Judge Weinstein gets this message before 11 tomorrow?

The reply was, "Yes, maam, I will."

I hope that everything turns out well for you.

Sincerely,

Claire

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

4600 WOODWARD AVENUE  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48201

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
THE RT. REV. H. COLEMAN MCGEEHEE, JR.

TELEPHONE  
(313) 832-4400

February 11, 1985

The Honorable Jack Weinstein  
United States District Judge  
U. S. District Court  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201

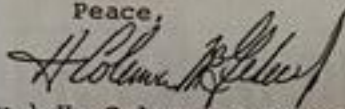
Dear Judge Weinstein:

I am writing in support of Mr. Larry Bassett who is before your court for refusing to pay Federal Income Taxes since 1980 in protest to the escalating United States military budget.

As a former Assistant Attorney General of the State of Virginia, and now a non-practicing member of the Bar, I am aware of the legal requirements which you must address in your capacity as a jurist, but I urge you to give every consideration to this fine young man who in obedience to his conscience is refusing to support that which he knows in the eyes of his God is wrong. The tragic thing about the whole military buildup is that it is in fact wrong. In my opinion, it is contrary to the will of God under any reasonable Christian interpretation and is totally incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ. The question is how do we as a nation bring this madness to a halt? How do we de-escalate the arms race? How do we stop putting our faith and trust in the instruments of death but rather put them in the God we profess? Larry has decided that one way he can try to make a difference is to do what he is doing. I hope that the court will find a way to respect his actions and personhood consistent with the law which we require for the functioning of an orderly society.

With appreciation for the difficulties with which you must administer your work,

Peace,



(The Rt. Rev.) H. Coleman McGehee, Jr.  
Bishop of Michigan



FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE *of the Religious Society of Friends*

An association of Baltimore, Canadian, Illinois, Lake Erie, New England, New York, Northern, Ohio Valley, Philadelphia, South Central, and Southwestern Yearly Meetings, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, Central Alaska Friends Conference, Manhattan (KS), Minneapolis (MN), Morgantown (WV), and Oread (KS) Monthly Meetings.

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General Information 215-241-7270  
Publications 215-241-7276  
Elizabeth H. Muench, Clerk

Second Month 5, 1985

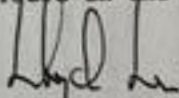
Larry Bassett  
30 Pine Gate  
East Patchogue, NY 11772

Dear Larry:

Thanks for your letter of 1/23/85, bringing me up to date on your experience as a war tax resister. I'm happy to read that you have been able to maintain this clear witness against military taxes, although disappointed that the federal government has chosen to create this confrontation with you. I would like to know more about what happened at the hearing on 1/31/85, and what your immediate plans are as a result. I would be glad to share this information with Friends who are tax resisters or who are sympathetic to the tax resistance position.

I hope to hear from you soon. In the meantime, you have my prayers and best wishes for internal strength and clarity of mind that will enable you to maintain this clear witness against war and the seeds of war in our lives.

Yours in the Faith,

  
Lloyd Lee Wilson  
General Secretary

LLW/ca

February 14, 1985

U. S. District Judge Weinstein  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: Lawrence Bassett 1/31

Dear Judge Weinstein,

During World War II, I was a youngster in the U.S. Infantry and my wife Pat was selling war bonds in junior high school, making the "bomb fall down the chart," onto a German or a Japanese city.

In the heat of our youthful patriotism, we paid little heed to the ramifications of what we both were doing, but were moved by the Nuremberg Trials following the war, and the "Good German" syndrome there revealed.

Today, along with many other Americans, we are profoundly troubled to see where we've come as a nation, particularly with nuclear weapons in our arsenals, and those of the Soviets. Shocked at Hitler's delivery of millions to the ovens, we "Good Americans" have now paid the taxes, done the research, deployed the nuclear weapons, and raised and trained our children to push the button and literally send the ovens to the victims, by the tens or hundreds of millions. . . . likely with suicidal as well as genocidal consequences.

We salute and support such courageous patriots as Larry Bassett, in their principled efforts to stand against the tide, and help us understand the disastrous course we pursue, before our time has run out.

The will of people the world over to reduce and abolish nuclear weapons is clear through both opinion polls and the ballot box. Heads of state, including our own president, publicly claim to seek the abolition of all nuclear weapons, all the while adding thousands more to the 50,000 or so already in existence. The initiative must begin somewhere. Where better than in the USA, a free society with choice? How better than from the conscience of a free people, graced with facts and the courage to act in that knowledge?

As you weigh the evidence and ramifications of Larry's and others' similar actions, we urge you to look inward, and ask how you would have ruled were you to have heard the trials of dissenters in Hitler's Germany . . . and how you may one day wish you had ruled in America, today.

With peace and love,

*Respectful  
Pat Sant*

Judge Jack Weinstein  
U.S. District Court  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: USA vs BASSETT, CV-84-4998

Honorable Judge Weinstein:

Although I am at the other end of the continent, looking at the Pacific Ocean as I write this, I feel very close to the case being tried in your courtroom, USA vs BASSETT. I waited a long time to write to you because I have been using my energy to get settled after more than two years of traveling, mostly on foot.

In that time, I've met and talked with thousands of ordinary people, throughout the United States and Japan. I hardly ever meet anyone who wants war and weapons, and yet our country and our world grow more deadly each day. Mostly, I find people are discouraged and unhopeful and/or trying to bury their concerns in material comforts and security. It's rare to meet a person like Larry Bassett - it's an honor. I imagine that Your Honor has already recognized how special his case is. That as an individual he upholds his ideals, historical ideals upon which our country was founded and international ideals, upon which our world depends in this age of shrinking space and accelerating time.

Larry Bassett not only has deep convictions, but he's put his life behind them, often at considerable sacrifice. For me, he is a model of what an American citizen should be. I hope that Your Honor will hear his case fully, not merely with the idea of upholding the law, but with making the law live and change. People dedicated to non-violent social change are closely following this case. Larry Bassett is willing to take a risk to make a positive change in laws regarding the funding of war and preparation for war, against all moral imperatives. I hope that Your Honor is willing to risk as much in the consideration of this case.

Thank you for your time and attention to my remarks. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address given in the heading.

In peace and struggle,

  
Barbara Hirshkowitz

cc: National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee