The Peacemaker

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Ray Arvio Gets Year and a Day
Raymond Arvio, administrative assistant for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and field representative for the War Resisters League was sentenced January 23 to serve a year and a day in prison for refusal to report for induction into the army.

Arvio declared his opposition to any cooperation at all with the draft law. He pled nolo contendere to the charges. In a statement to the court he said, "I cannot cooperate with war or selective service, because they are based on wrong principles of action, and my conscience demands that I refuse to participate in both. I believe that men can and do respond to the good will in all men. I believe that, even under the threat of dictatorship and tyranny, we must still use the way of non-violence, the weapon of the strong. War has failed to end war. I believe the course of action I have taken is the only moral one left to peace-makers."

Copies of Arvio's statement were handed out to spectators in the hall of the Federal Court Building following the sentencing. Arvio is married and the father of a three-months old daughter.

Arvio was a student at Rutgers at the time he registered. Subsequent to his registration he decided that he could no longer cooperate with conscription, even to the extent of seeking C.O. classification (continued on page 4)

Danish WRI Member Arrested, Sentenced on Draft Charge
Jens Vestergaard, a member of the Danish Section of the War Resisters' International, on being called up for Military Service, applied to be allowed to do the recognized alternative work in Denmark. Instead he was called up for Civil Defense work which he would not accept.

He was arrested, tried and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. The Danish Section "Aldrig mere Krig" engaged a lawyer on his behalf and his case was brought before an Appeal Court, with the result that the sentence was reduced to 60 days' imprisonment. The Danish Section of WRI is now considering whether they will make an appeal to the High Court.

The case of Jens Vestergaard was mentioned in the Danish Parliament by a Radical Member who protested against this treatment and asked the Danish Minister of the Interior to transfer Jens Vestergaard to the alternative service work for which he had applied, and which, of course, is open to those in Denmark registering as war resisters.

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Peacemaker Participates in Latin-American Picket Against Trujillo; Asks if Non-Violence Could be Taught to the Group
BY ROBERT S. AUERBACH
Carrying a coffin bearing the name of one of Dictator Trujillo's murder victims, groups representing united opposition to the Santo Domingo ruler picketed him at the hotel where he is staying in Washington, D.C. The pickets hoped to thwart Trujillo in his efforts to carry favor with President Eisenhower.

The bulk of the pickets arrived at the Mayflower Hotel a little after 10 a.m. and a top policeman greeted Nicholas Silfa and courteously informed him that regulations prohibited picketing within 500 feet of the hotel (presumably because a foreign diplomat was in residence there). Mr. Silfa made no objections to the police then or at any time during the picketing. The police led us more than a block north of the hotel where we began picketing. A higher brass in the police department arrived and pointed out just where we could walk. A still higher brass arrived who was an inspector I recognized as one of (continued on page 4)

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