

LOWER EASTSIDE MOBILIZATION FOR PEACE ACTION

105 Avenue B • New York, N.Y. 10009 • Tel. 477-9749

Mar.-Apr. 1969 No. 19

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

Saturday, March 22: Street action
(see page 2 for details)

Monday, March 24: GUEST SPEAKER
Mrs. Mary Kochiyama

"Concentration Camps in the USA --
World War II and Today"

(based on Mrs. Kochiyama's experiences in a
"relocation center")

Saturday, March 29: Leaflet distribution for
April 5th city-wide march

Saturday, April 5: PEACE MARCH (see page 4)

Monday, April 7: GUEST SPEAKERS on the
Middle East crisis

Business Meetings: March 31; April 14 and 28

Anti-Draft Committee: meets every Tues. evening

LEMPA
NEWS

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1969

DRAFT BOARD SEEN ALLENATING PUBLIC

According to a study by two political scientists, the local-board principle may be a major factor in undermining public confidence in the Selective Service System.

The study, by Kenneth M. Dolbear of the University of Wisconsin and James W. Davis Jr., of Washington University, concludes that draft boards are unrepresentative, biased and out of touch with the community. They are designed to serve, they are designed to serve.

They studied the composition of draft boards in several states, and in one, Wisconsin, surveyed public opinion toward boards.

Their study, begun in 1966, indicates that nearly half of all draft board members are over 60 years of age, two-thirds are veterans, only 9 per cent blue-collar workers and just 1.3 per cent Negroes.

The Wisconsin research, they report, shows that draft board members tend to be elderly, self-perpetuating, and drawn from a narrow segment of the middle class — particularly retired persons, farmers, retailers and Government employees.

"The implications of all these findings is clear," the authors write in *Trans-Action*.

In this case, of course, the local board system boils down to a cynical grant of power to the middle class to draft the sons of the working class in the least visible manner possible.

WEEKEND STREET MEETINGS TO LAUNCH

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

BY DRAFT BOARDS

Lempa's Anti-Draft Committee, whose program was a highlight of the March 15th Conference, is embarking on a campaign to get public hearings at Draft Boards.

While acknowledging that "the Selective Service system (the draft) is itself an evil which no amount of reform can fundamentally change," the Committee believes that "it is possible to eliminate some of its most glaring injustices and discriminatory practices." It is therefore calling on community leaders to endorse an open letter to Local Boards 1, 2, 3, and 4 (see full text on page 3) and is also taking to the streets -- with the support of all LEMPA activists -- to obtain additional signatories.

Street Meetings Schedule

Saturday, Mar. 22

Grand & Clinton Ave. D & 3rd St.	noon-12:45
Ave. C & 10th St.	12:45-1:30
Ave. A & 14th St.	1:30-2:15
St. Marks & 2nd Ave.	2:15-3:00
	3:00-4:30

Join us at one or more of the corners. Call Morris Goldin (233-5953) for further information. In addition to collecting signatures, leaflets on the April 5 City-wide Parade will be distributed.

DRAFT OF OPEN LETTER TO LOCAL BOARDS 1, 2, 3 and 4

Over thirty thousand American youth have been killed in the Vietnam War, ten thousand since peace negotiations began. Countless thousands have returned alive, but maimed in body and mind. The majority of these young men were brought to the military by means of the Selective Service System (the draft).

As it now operates, the draft system is faceless, anonymous, and unaccountable. Youngsters appearing before local boards have no right to legal counsel, there is no stenographic record of proceedings kept, and friends, relatives and concerned citizens are not permitted to observe. The draft is a process that condemns many of our young men to death and does so without the barest glimmer of public accountability or scrutiny.

We of this community demand that the local draft boards exercising authority over our youngsters account to us for their actions and decisions. We demand free and open hearings in all local board affairs concerned with classification and induction. We demand an end to the faceless process which carries our youth to their death.

I ENDORSE THE ABOVE STATEMENT.

SIGNED.....

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(Please detach and mail to LEMPA)

**9,000 GIs KILLED IN VIETNAM SINCE
THE PARIS TALKS STARTED MAY 5, 1968!**

**MANY MORE THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE LIVES
LOST WHILE U.S. DIPLOMATS STALL!**

**HOW MUCH LONGER WILL IT GO ON?
THE TIME TO STOP IS NOW!**

**JOIN TENS OF THOUSANDS—
GIs AND CIVILIANS
IN A MASS MARCH AND RALLY**

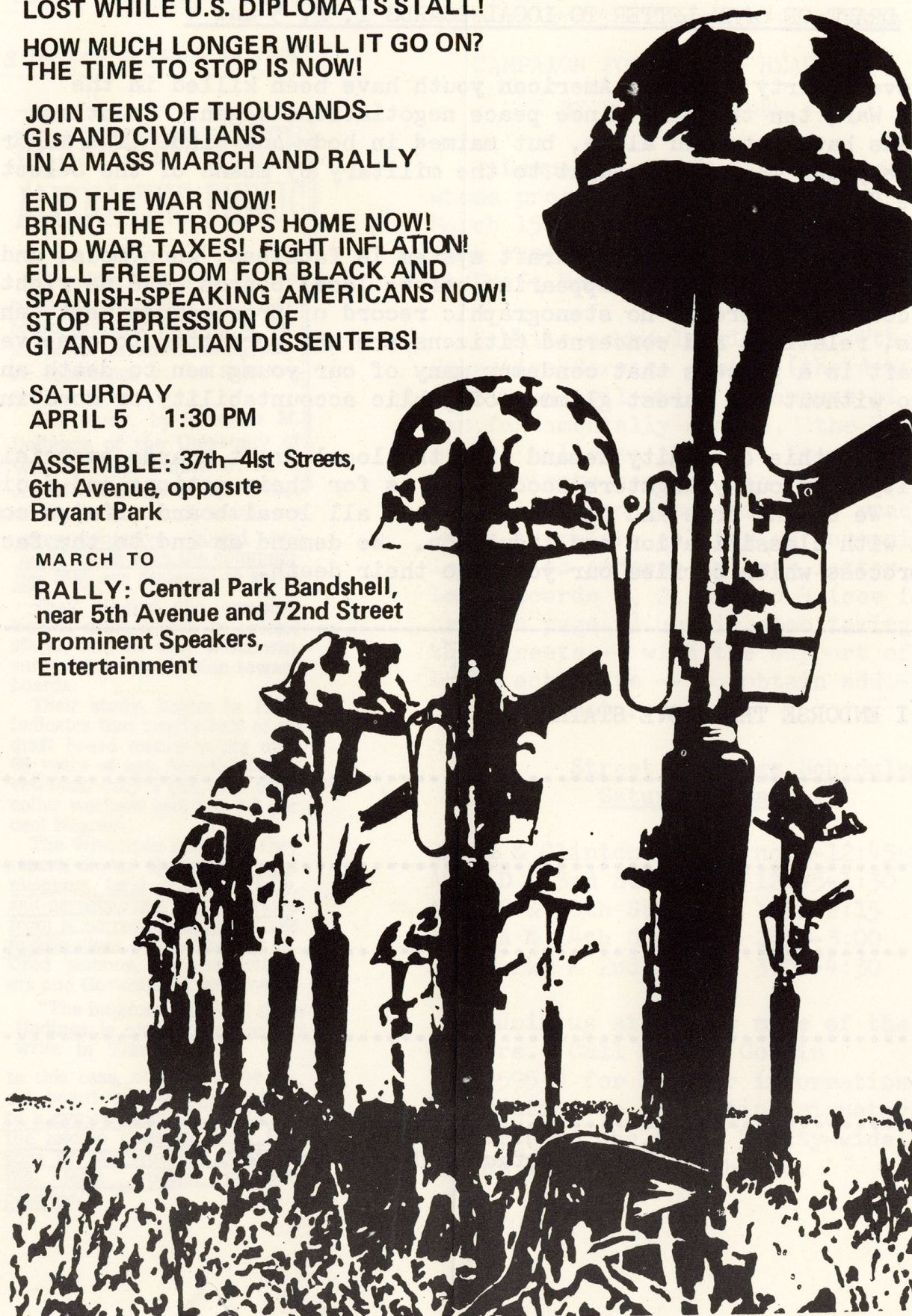
**END THE WAR NOW!
BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW!
END WAR TAXES! FIGHT INFLATION!
FULL FREEDOM FOR BLACK AND
SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICANS NOW!
STOP REPRESSION OF
GI AND CIVILIAN DISSENTERS!**

**SATURDAY
APRIL 5 1:30 PM**

**ASSEMBLE: 37th—41st Streets,
6th Avenue, opposite
Bryant Park**

MARCH TO

**RALLY: Central Park Bandshell,
near 5th Avenue and 72nd Street
Prominent Speakers,
Entertainment**



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Feb.-Mar. 1969 No. 18

LEMPA
NEWS

LEMPA CONFERENCE TO MAP FUTURE COURSE

On Saturday, March 15, LEMPA will launch its fourth year of anti-war activity with a conference at St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery Church, East 10th St. and 2nd Ave.

Where do we -- and the peace movement -- go from here? How can we work with other community groups? Can LEMPA's headquarters be a gathering place for neighborhood youth? How can we develop new leadership?

These are some of the ideas being considered for Conference reports. LEMPA's Planning Committee is lining up reporters (including a guest speaker from National Mobilization) for a one-hour roundup. But the emphasis will be on audience discussion: ideas, criticism, action proposals. The \$1.00 registration fee (see coupon on page 2) includes a Brunch that is guaranteed to be up to the usual LEMPA gourmet standard.

Conference Timetable

11:30-12:30	Brunch and registration
12:30-1:30	Reporters and guest speaker
1:30 -3:30	Audience discussion
3:30 -4:00	Election of new Planning Committee

E V E N T S C A L E N D A R

Monday, February 24

ANDY STAPP
(The Bond; American Servicemen's Union)

"GIs and the Anti-War Movement"

* * * * *

Monday business meetings: March 3, 17, and 31
Monday discussion meetings: March 10 and 24

Saturday, March 15
LEMPA Conference at St. Marks Church
11:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Fill in reservation form below

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Conference Registration Form

—	I will attend the Fourth Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15, at St. Marks-in-the-Bowery Church.
—	Count me in for the LEMPA Brunch (11:30-12:30 P.M.)
\$	enclosed.
Name	
Address	
Phone	

FLASH!
THE SIXTH STREET THEATRE will provide topical entertainment in a satirical vein at LEMPA'S conference, March 15. Registration form above.

PEACE MOVEMENT PREPARES FOR BITTER BATTLES

AGAINST NIXON'S IMPERIALIST POLICIES

The warmakers who rule the USA (no matter who's in the White House) are hoping that Nixon's "new image" will whip the American people into line for aggression in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, wherever the oppressed fight for independence.

The peace movement, despite the momentum of past years, has become confused while it waits for NIXON TO ACT or for "decisions" to come from Paris. This is a grave error, and the movement must again arouse the American people to realize that Nixon's seeming inaction is actually the continuation of LBJ's war of genocide -- at home and abroad.

The War Goes On

The war goes on against Blacks in every ghetto. The war goes on against working people: tax, rent, and cost-of-living increases; legislation to curb the right to organize and strike; the preparation of concentration camps for dissidents; the harassment of militants and resisters. And the war goes on for the Vietnamese people, maimed and killed by GIs who die by the hundreds -- while Lodge and the Saigon puppets sit in Paris, hoping to trick the NLF and North Vietnam into ceding what the aggressors cannot win on the battlefield -- victory.

At the Counter-Inaugural Mobilization in Washington on Jan. 19-20, sponsored by the National Mobilization Committee, young people turned out in impressive numbers, but adults were conspicuous dropouts. Apathy and a wait-and-see approach by peace activists are victories for the Pentagon. There must be renewed action, locally and nationally, against the phoney Paris negotiations, against the drive for profits through war at home and abroad, and for BRINGING OUR BOYS HOME NOW!

The Fifth Ave. Peace Parade Committee is considering proposals to expose the latest grab-bag of Nixon and his capitalist partners: the anti-ballistic missile system. LEMPA will participate in developing action proposals. Come to our meetings and join us in making and carrying out local action.

LEMPA FORUMS ATTRACT LARGE AUDIENCES

LEMPA's floors were crowded with an overflow audience that came to hear Dixie Bayo of the MPI (Movement for Puerto Rican Independence), who gave a stimulating talk on draft resistance in Puerto Rico.

Two weeks later, at a panel discussion on community control, local parents and teachers joined LEMPA activists for an informative evening.

As we go to press, we expect an impetus to our peace work from Bruce Jacob's talk (postponed because of the snowstorm) on Feb. 17 about his Paris interview with Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh, deputy head of the NLF delegation.

The Events and Education Committee deserves our thanks for its A-1 batting average for the alternating Monday discussion meetings. The topics are timely, the speakers are good, and the attendance testifies to both.

Do you have any suggestions for a forum topic? Contact Committee Chairman Evelyn Wiener, at GR5-7918 or Ruth Bloch at GR3-2624.

NEWS FROM ANTI-DRAFT COMMITTEE

Last year's campaign to call on Local Draft Board members to resign or stop drafting Lower East Siders for the war in Vietnam brought hundreds of people out for street action and leaflet distributions.

While condemning the draft, we must continue to challenge its procedures and counsel those who want to know their rights under the Selective Service Act.

Draft counseling is available at the Center weekday evenings, 5-7:30 P.M. The Anti-Draft Committee meets every Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.

The Committee is preparing an OPEN LETTER TO LOCAL DRAFT BOARDS 1,2,3, and 4, demanding open hearings. "Youngsters appearing before local boards have no right to legal counsel, there is no stenographic record of proceedings, and friends, relatives and concerned citizens are not permitted to observe," the letter points out. "We demand open hearings for all affairs concerned with classification and induction, and an end to the faceless process which carries our youth to their death."

Community Action

LEMPA observers attended two city-wide conferences on community control of schools. An Albany delegation (date not set) to lobby for an effective decentralization bill is planned.....Locally, the Committee to Kill the Lower Manhattan Expressway is working on a protest campaign.