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MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES BAKER

MAY 26, 1981

FROM: KARNA SMALL *KS*

RE: VIETNAM VETERANS PROTESTS

I am concerned about the various protests taking place regarding Vietnam Veterans and I understand that Elizabeth will bring up the subject at tomorrow's staff meeting. Since we will all be at West Point, I wanted to bring a few matters to your attention so you would be aware of the latest developments.

1. According to wire stories (attached) there are 8 hunger-strikers -- some who have not eaten for 10 days. They seem to be supporting another group of Vietnam Veterans who are staging a simultaneous sit-in at the VA hospital there in California. (The hunger-strikers are out on the lawn)
2. The organizer of the sit-in sent a mailgram to the White House - to the President (attached). Morton Blackwell, of Elizabeth Dole's shop had it and has been coordinating with "our" man at the VA (the only Reagan appointee over there running the place: Nick Longworth) The demands in the mailgram are lengthy and absurd, but Nick Longworth is working up a reply. Longworth feels that someone should GO TO CALIFORNIA to talk to these people to end the sit-in and hunger strike...he has offered to go himself. (I'm not sure that would be necessary, but obviously, that is something you all must decide). The VA has been waiting for some sort of direction from the White House evidently. You should know that in the mailgram they refer to the late James Hopkins....he had believed his hearing was impaired by agent orange and had demanded a device for his telephone. The VA hospital staff tested him, found no pronounced impairment. Hopkins was so mad he crashed his car into the front of the hospital and later took an overdose and died. You should also know that the leader of the hunger-strikers has, according to physicians who have treated him, suicidal tendencies and has been a psychiatric patient.
3. Another veterans group, organized by David Belding (who originally was with Vietnam Veterans against the war) called today. They had presented a Modonna plus 10 demands, or areas of concern, to the gate at Santa Barbara yesterday and wanted a response. I gave him a lengthy analysis of the budget (cuts restored for vets etc.) and what we're doing on agent orange. He was actually pleasant and said we should get that word out because his people did not know that.
4. There are POSITIVE things we should get out about Vietnam Veterans funds etc. and the story has not been told:
 - (a) Gramm-Latta restores virtually ALL veterans monies -- no medical personnel will be cut, no regional offices cut - and we probably will not oppose funds for store-front centers.
 - (b) We have an inter-agency task force examining scientific evidence on agent orange.
 - (c) On-going budget expenditures will insure research on agent orange. In 1981 we're spending 3.1 million, in 1982, we will spend \$9.5 million on this.

VETERANS 5-26

IN, HUNGER STRIKES TO PRESS FOR BETTER VET TREATMENT

LOS ANGELES (UPI) -- ACTORS JON VOIGHT AND MIKE FARRELL JOINED PROTESTERS SEEKING BETTER TREATMENT OF VETERANS IN PLACING A SYMBOLIC CASKET IN THE LOBBY OF A VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL.

SIX VIETNAM ERA SERVICEMEN STAGED A SIT-IN IN THE LOBBY OF THE MADSNORTH VETERANS HOSPITAL AND EIGHT OTHERS CONTINUED A HUNGER STRIKE ON THE FRONT LAWN. A MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE WAS HELD FOR A VETERAN PLAGUED BY TERRIFYING FLASHBACKS WHO DIED OF UNDISCLOSED CAUSES.

THE PROTESTERS ARE DEMANDING BETTER MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR VIETNAM ERA VETERANS AND PROTESTING PROPOSED VA BUDGET CUTS.

MONDAY THEY WERE JOINED FOR THE DAY BY A CROWD OF SUPPORTERS INCLUDING VOIGHT, WHO WON AN OSCAR FOR HIS ROLE AS A DISABLED VET IN THE MOVIE "COMING HOME," AND FARRELL OF THE "M-A-S-H" TELEVISION SERIES.

THE PROTESTERS CLAIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS IGNORED VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS AND DOES NOT PROVIDE PROPER CARE FOR PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ILLMENTS ALLEGEDLY CAUSED BY THE AGENT ORANGE JUNGLE DEFOLIANT.

TWO OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS CLAIMED THEY HAVE NOT EATEN FOR 10 DAYS AND VOWED TO STARVE UNLESS THEIR DEMANDS ARE MET. ANOTHER SAID HE WOULD ALSO GIVE UP INSULIN MEDICATION HE NEEDS.

"IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT TO TRY TO GET THESE FELLOWS THE PROPER ATTENTION," VOIGHT TOLD REPORTERS. "I DON'T THINK THESE GUYS WERE SUPPORTED WHEN THEY CAME BACK BECAUSE OF OUR DOUBTS AND FEARS."

VOIGHT PREDICTED THAT AS MANY AS 500,000 VETERANS WILL BE "SUFFERING FROM ACUTE VIETNAM SYNDROME" BY 1985.

JAMES HOPKINS, 32, A VIETNAM VETERAN WHO CRASHED HIS JEEP IN THE HOSPITAL LOBBY EARLIER THIS YEAR AND DIED AT HIS HOME OF UNDISCLOSED CAUSES LAST WEEK, WAS REMEMBERED IN A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE NEARBY VETERANS' CEMETERY. HIS WIFE HAS SAID HE SUFFERED FROM VIETNAM FLASHBACKS.

HIS WIFE SUZANNE AND SON CHRISTOPHER, 10, LED A GROUP OF ABOUT 250 MOURNERS, INCLUDING VOIGHT AND FARRELL, ON A MILE-LONG MARCH BACK TO THE HOSPITAL, SINGING, "WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME."

"TRAGEDIES LIKE THE ONE THAT HAPPENED TO JAMES HOPKINS WILL BE RATHER RAMPANT AT THAT TIME," VOIGHT SAID "UNLESS WE CAN CURB IT IN SOME WAY. I THINK WHAT THESE GUYS ARE SAYING IS, GIVE US SOME HELP SO WE CAN HELP OURSELVES."

THE GROUP USED THE SAME RED JEEP HOPKINS HAD DRIVEN INTO THE HOSPITAL TO CARRY AN EMPTY CASKET THAT THEY PLACED IN THE LOBBY. CAST MEMBERS OF THE PLAY "TRACERS," BEARING M-16 SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES, MARCHED ALONGSIDE AS AN HONOR GUARD.

THE CASKET IS NOW WHERE THE JEEP WAS ...

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"THE CASKET IS NOW WHERE THE JEEP WAS," MRS. HOPKINS SAID. "TO ME THAT MEANS, LET'S GET ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE, TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSIS OF PROBLEMS, DISABILITY BENEFITS AND COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR OUR VETERANS."

MRS. HOPKINS ALSO SENT A TELEGRAM TO FIRST LADY NANCY REAGAN ASKING HER TO INTERCEDE WITH HER HUSBAND AND PERSUADE HIM TO CANCEL THE "UNCONSCIONABLE" BUDGET CUTS HE IS SEEKING FOR VETERANS' HEALTH CARE.

THE HUNGER STRIKERS OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL HAD ASKED ALL AMERICANS, INCLUDING REAGAN, TO GIVE UP THEIR MEMORIAL DAY PICNICS AND JOIN THEM IN A ONE-DAY FAST TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE NATION'S FIGHTING MEN. THE VETERANS INSIDE SAID THEY WOULD STAY IN THE HOSPITAL UNTIL REAGAN EITHER MET PERSONALLY WITH THEM OR SENT AN AIDE.

THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM THE FIRST FAMILY, WHO SPENT THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND AT THEIR RANCHO DEL CIELO NEAR SANTA BARBARA. THE PRESIDENT ISSUED A MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE URGING AMERICANS TO PRAY FOR AN ENDURING PEACE "WITH LIBERTY AND HONOR."

OUTSIDE THE RANCHO GATES, FOUR VIETNAM VETERANS FROM SANTA BARBARA STAGED A TWO HOUR PROTEST AGAINST VA BUDGET CUTS.

"WE'RE ASKING THE PRESIDENT NOT TO FORGET THE LIVING WHILE HE REMEMBERS THE DEAD TODAY," COMBAT VETERAN DAVID BELDINA SAID.

THE VETERANS LIMITED THEIR PROTEST GROUP TO FOUR BECAUSE THEY "DIDN'T WANT TO LOOK CONFRONTATIONAL," SPOKESMAN STEVE SCHLAK SAID. THEIR GRIEVANCES INCLUDED NEARLY \$1 BILLION IN PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS FOR THE VA.

ONE CAME OUT OF THE RANCHO TO TALK TO THEM

CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS R BIT
514 WEST ACAMS BLVD
LOS ANGELES CA 90007

Mailgram
western union



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Motor Blackwell

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Scheduling

VIETNAM VETERANS ARE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DURING YOUR MEMORIAL DAY VISIT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AT THE SITE OF THE MARCH 14, 1981 PROTEST BY THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS TO INHUMANE TREATMENT BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL TO THE SICK VETERANS OF THE NATION.

THE REASONS FOR THE NECESSITY OF THIS PERSONAL VISIT, WHICH SOME VIETNAM VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS ARE STRESSING BY OUR WAIT-IN THERE, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

DELAYED STRESS AMONG VIETNAM VETERANS
"THERE ARE NO FEATURES, COMPLAINTS OR CLINICAL FINDINGS TO SUPPORT ANY RELATIONSHIP TO AGENT ORANGE, OR THE POST-VIETNAM STRESS SYNDROME, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS SPECIFICALLY EXPLORED" FROM THE APRIL 7-8, 1981 CASE REVIEW OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS AT THE BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITAL BY DOCTORS CYRIL BARNERT, RAMZI KIRIAKCS, GERALD MCKENNA AND MANUEL STRAKER.

1. WHY DID THE BRENTWOOD V.A. CASE REVIEW FOR JAMES R HOPKINS COMPLICATE THE CRITERIA FOR A DIAGNOSIS OF DELAYED STRESS BY ADDING SYMPTOMS IN ADDITION TO THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (REFER TO SEE DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUALS OF MENTAL DISORDERS, 3RD EDITION)?
2. WILL YOU ORDER AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE FAILURE OF WADSWORTH AND BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE EVALUATION AND TREATMENT TO THE LATE JAMES HOPKINS?
3. WHY ARE VIETNAM VETERANS, SPECIFICALLY SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES IN SAN FRANCISCO, QUESTIONING THE MODIFICATION OF THEIR CRITERIA FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION TO VIETNAM VETERANS FOR DELAYED STRESS BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, SO THAT FEWER VETERANS QUALIFY FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.
4. WILL YOU ORDER A NATIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING FOR VIETNAM VETERANS BY A TEAM OF NON-V.A. EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF DELAYED STRESS?

HEALTH PROBLEMS RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE HERBICIDE EXPOSURE
"IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BE SHAKEN FROM THEIR LETHARGY TOWARD ALL VETERANS," FROM THE MARCH 19, 1981 STATEMENT OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS FROM THE LOCKED WARD OF THE BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITAL.

1. WHY HAS THE V.A. FAILED TO INSTRUCT THEIR EXAMINING PHYSICIANS IN

THE DIAGNOSIS OF CHLORACNE DESPITE THE V.A. SO-CALLED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR AGENT ORANGE THAT THE V.A. HAS ADMINISTERED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AND THE MORE THAN 40,000 VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE REQUESTED SUCH AN EXAMINATION FROM THE V.A. HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY?

WHY IS THE V.A. ONLY ABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS CONCERNING THIS IMPORTANT MATTER WITH THE APRIL 27, 1981 STATEMENT FROM DR BARCLAY M SHEPARD THAT "THE TASK FORCE (ON AGENT ORANGE) IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF REFINING DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO CHLORACNE?"

2. WHY HAS THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTRAL OFFICE REFUSED TO ALLOW OR DENY THE MARCH 31, 1980 REQUEST BY THE CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS FOR THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL DISABLED VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA IN CALIFORNIA UNDER 38 U.S.C. SECTION 3301(F) FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUTREACH TO THEM CONCERNING THE AGENT ORANGE SERVICES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION?

3. WILL YOU APPOINT AN EXPERT PANEL OF NON-V.A. INDIVIDUALS TO EVALUATE THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DELAYED RE-ENTRY PROGRAM FOR ALL 4.2 MILLION VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE LACKED INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIETNAM RELATED PROBLEMS OF DELAYED STRESS AND USE OF TOXIC HERBICIDES?

4. WHY ARE VIETNAM VETERANS PLANNING TO PICKET THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE V.A. IN WASHINGTON DC ON FRIDAY MAY 22, 1981 CONCERNING V.A. LACK OF ACTION ON THE AGENT ORANGE ISSUES?

BUDGET CUTS IN THE V.A.

"I CALL ON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO STOP SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON INAUGURAL BALLS AND TO UTILIZE THE MONEY FOR WHAT THE DEFENDERS OF OUR FINE COUNTRY ARE ENTITLED TO," FROM THE MARCH 19, 1981 STATEMENT OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS.

1. WHY HAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ORDERED A 743 MILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE V.A. SYSTEMS WITHOUT ANY EVALUATION OF THE COSTLY MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATION IN THE V.A. SYSTEM WHICH DRAINS UP TO 60 PERCENT OF THE MEDICAL BUDGET INTO TRAINING COSTS (SEE JULY 3 1979 V.A. DEPT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY LETTER 1L-14-79-4)?

2. HOW WILL V.A. HOSPITALS BE ABLE TO OPERATE AT ALL WITH THE PLANNED REDUCTION OF 20,000 PHYSICIANS IN THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM BY 1986?

PLEASE RESPOND
CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS
RONALD BITZER
TEL 213-746-6315
514 WEST ADAMS BLVD
LOS ANGELES CA 90007

13125 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

...schools chief in Stockton.
...d of running a small system in
...of the parents and students are
...lthy or famous, Handler is in

...volved in the day-to-day operation of the
...district and is less likely to delegate as much
...authority as Johnston did.

...Harry Handler after selection as L.A.
...schools chief. After interviewing candi-
...dates from across the country, the board
...promoted its deputy superintendent.

Please see SCHOOLS, Page 5

L.A. Times May 24, 1981

Vigil Continues as Vets Await Reagan

Protesters Say They Will Discuss Their Complaints About VA Only With President

By KRISTINA LINDGREN, Times Staff Writer

More than 30 Vietnam veterans sat out the fourth day of their protest at the Veterans Administration's Wadsworth Hospital in West Los Angeles Saturday, waiting in vain for a response from President Reagan.

On the lawn outside, three hunger strikers—two of whom are patients at the nearby Brentwood Hospital, a VA psychiatric complex—staged an independent protest of conditions there.

Both groups insisted that the issues—from hospital mistreatment to cuts in veterans programs—that motivate their protest are broader than the death last Sunday of the emotionally troubled ex-Marine James R. Hopkins. In fact, two of the hunger strikers said they began their fast two days before Hopkins died, triggering the Wadsworth "wait-in" protest.

'I Want Respect'

"People are not aware of a lot of things that go on here," said John Keaveney, 31, who said he stopped eating solid food May 15 along with Marlin Adkins, 37.

"It's a warehouse for people, that's why I'm here," said Keaveney, who served two tours of duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. "I want the respect of the American people, the respect they owe us."

"If not, I'll die."

Michael McCarthy, co-director of the Center for Veterans Rights and one of the "wait-in" leaders said, "We are staying in the hospital until

we have a meeting with Reagan," whose proposed budget cuts threaten veterans' programs.

Wednesday, the veterans sent the President a telegram detailing their grievances against the VA and the proposed budget cuts, then took over part of the Wadsworth lobby, vowing they would not leave until Reagan met with them.

But White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes, who was with Reagan at the President's ranch near Santa Barbara, said Saturday that the matter is being handled by the VA in Washington. Speakes said the White House is not directly involved.

Insist on Seeing Reagan

McCarthy said his group has had no contact with VA officials in Washington, adding that, in any case, the protesters would discuss only hospital complaints with the VA. Of their broader grievances, he said:

"We aren't talking to anyone but the President."

As demonstrators planned a symbolic Memorial Day funeral march for Hopkins, whose body was found in his Calabasas home lying next to a liquor bottle and an empty pill vial, Vietnam veteran leader Ron Kovic predicted, "This protest is going to be big, very big."

Kovic led a 17-day hunger strike in Sen. Alan Cranston's (D.-Calif.) Los Angeles office seven years ago to publicize the plight of Vietnam

Please see VETERANS, Page 5



JOHN OLIGNY / Los Angeles Times

...them to camp, but thousands of needy
...summertime experience with their peers.

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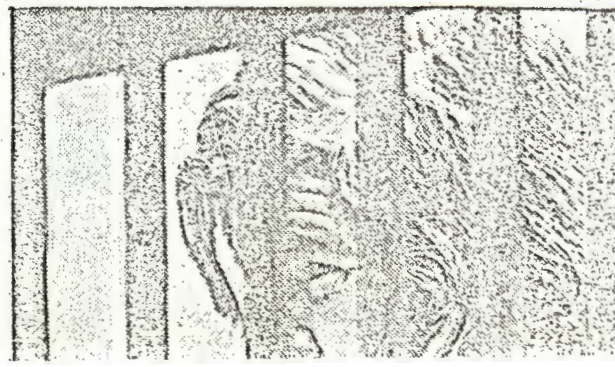
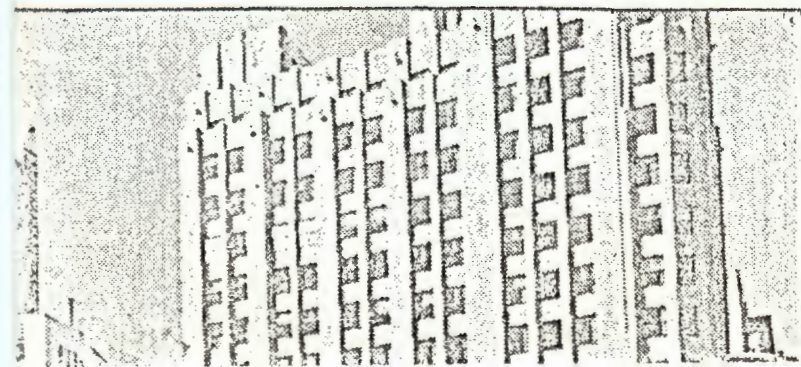
...shed the average cost of a week of camp to
...re than \$100, the generous support of Times
...aders is more important than ever. Without
...s support, many children will miss an invalua-
...experience.

Each child assisted by the Camp Fund has
...ed difficult personal circumstances—broken
...nilies, poverty, physical or emotional prob-
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Many of these children work to earn a portion
...their fee by mowing lawns, selling peanuts or
...dy, baby-sitting or doing odd jobs. But with-
...help from the Camp Fund, their savings can
...ely pay the whole bill.

Thousands of disadvantaged young people are

Please see CAMP FUND, Page 6



VETERANS: Protesters Await Reagan

Continued from First Page

veterans. He said Saturday that their gains under the Carter Administration after years of protests were being eroded under Reagan.

"I'm warning the President of the United States and the Republican Administration," Kovic said bitterly. "We can only take so much. The death of James Hopkins is symbolic, indicative of how desperate the Vietnam veteran is becoming. How many more time bombs must go off."

Hopkins, a 32-year-old ex-Marine who drove a jeep through the glass doors of Wadsworth and sprayed the hospital lobby with machine gun fire on March 14, was awaiting a federal court appearance on charges of destruction of federal property when he was found dead.

The cause of death has not been determined, but Los Angeles County Coroner Thomas T. Noguchi has ordered an investigation into whether Hopkins died as a result of exposure to Agent Orange, a powerful defoliant used in Vietnam.

When Hopkins, in camouflage battle gear, surrendered to police

after crashing into the hospital, he told them he was suffering from exposure to the herbicide.

Subsequently, Hopkins was examined by a team of VA doctors, who wrote in his case file, "There are no features, complaints or clinical findings to support any relationship to Agent Orange, or the post-Vietnam stress syndrome," according to Ron Bitzer, co-director of the Center for Veterans Rights.

That finding, Bitzer complained, was typical of the VA's failure to address the special needs of Vietnam-era veterans.

"We are dealing with a bureaucracy that's out of control," Bitzer charged. "The VA . . . is incapable of providing readjustment services to the Vietnam-era veteran. We have special problems: emotional disturbances, exposure to toxic herbicides and an inability to deal with institutions and authority."

All the veterans in the Wadsworth lobby complained bitterly about the planned elimination of the more than 90 veterans outreach centers recently established across the country specifically to deal with

the problems of Vietnam veterans.

"We just got a place to go to and they're cutting it off," said Virgil Niegel. Niegel said he has been unable to hold a job or get proper treatment since his discharge and survives by donating plasma and getting food stamps.

Keaveney said he began his hunger strike March 15 because he was tired of being tranquilized instead of treated for what he called "delayed combat neurosis."

Keaveney said he had tried to admit himself as a patient at Brentwood about six weeks ago because he was "tired of the nightmares, of the mortar shells dropping in on me and seeing my friends dead." He said he was only admitted after he threatened to "pull off the doctor's head."

"The last time I saw a doctor was two weeks ago for 10 minutes."

The Memorial Day march in honor of Hopkins was scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Monday in front of the Wadsworth Hospital lobby.

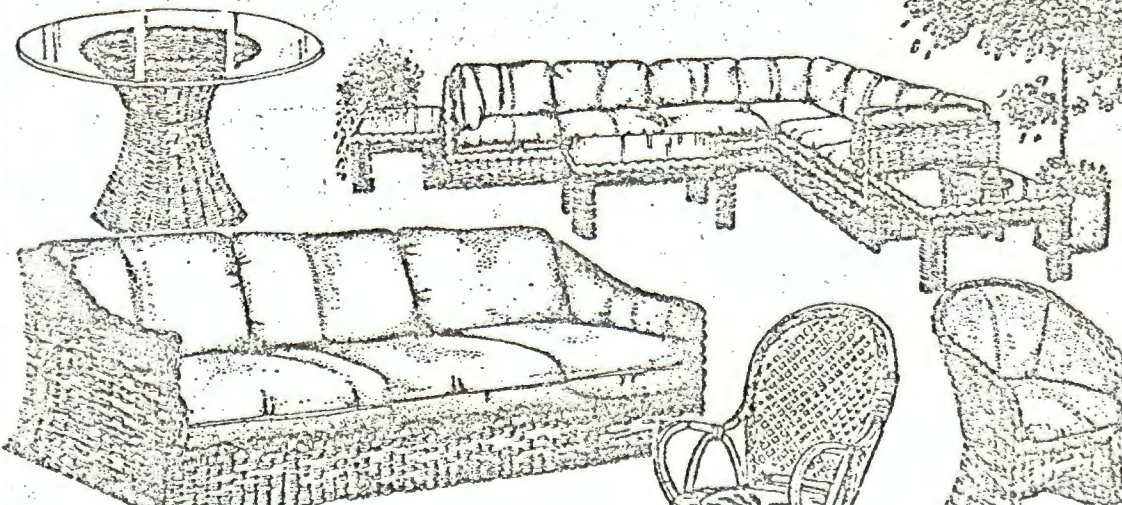
A separate rally in support of the hunger strikers was planned today at 2 p.m.

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is apt to be out more in conservative

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n West Los nd daughter. en attending gnet schools, day she will e school next used to dis-

It is a pleasure for Nancy and me and a great privilege to be here today to congratulate you who have successfully completed your education and training at the U.S. Military Academy.

We honor you for the responsibility you are willing to accept. Today you become officers in the Armed Forces of the U.S., guardians of our freedom, protectors of our heritage. But more than that you become the keepers of the peace.

Those shrill voices that would have us believe the defenders of our Nation are somehow the enemies of peace are as false as they are shrill. A Chinese philosopher Sun Tsu 2500 years ago said, "Winning 100 victories in 100 battles is not the acme of skill -- to subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill." A truly successful army is one that, because of its strength and ability, will not be called upon to fight for no one will dare provoke it. There have been four wars in my lifetime and none of them came about because we were too strong.

At the end of World War II we alone were at the peak of our military strength. Our great industrial capacity was untouched by war's destruction. Pope Pius XII said, "America has a genius for great and unselfish deeds. Into the hands of America God has placed an afflicted mankind."

We set out to repair the war-ravaged lands of erstwhile enemies as well as friends. We prevented what could have been a retreat into the Dark Ages. Unfortunately another

great power was marching to a different drum beat, creating a society in which everything that isn't compulsory is prohibited. Citizens in that society have little more to say about government than a prison inmate has to say about prison administration.

About 10 days ago I addressed another graduating class at the University of Notre Dame. Young men and women of your generation facing a future in which they wonder what jobs will be available and who their employers will be.

You don't have that problem. You know what your job will be and your employers will be those Notre Dame graduates as well as the rest of your fellow citizens. Now, of course, they won't be directly and personally in charge; that will be left to those of us they have chosen to represent them.

Speaking on behalf of the latter may I say we intend that you shall find better working conditions, tools adequate to the tasks you are expected to perform and pay somewhat more commensurate with the responsibility you assume than has been the case in recent years.

Now you may have heard rumors to the effect that increasing Government spending is not something I'm prone to do. And to tell the truth there is a certain substance to those rumors. At the same time, however, I accept without question the words of George Washington, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." It isn't true that he told me that personally; still, I'm in full agreement and believe he did say it.

But let me speak seriously about your employers. We've been through a period in which it seemed we'd forgotten that Government is a convenience of, for and by the people. While we were busy with our own affairs Government began to grow beyond the consent of the governed. Its growth was nourished by an ever-larger share of the people's earnings that it took by taxation which became more and more confiscatory. At the same time Government neglected one of its prime responsibilities, national security, as it engaged more and more in social experimentation.

Our margin of safety in an increasingly hostile world was allowed to diminish and for a time it seemed there was an erosion of respect for the honorable profession you have chosen.

All of this led to an economic crisis. Deficit spending and an almost trillion dollar debt resulted in runaway inflation, lowered productivity and great unemployment. The tools of your trade were given a low priority.

I'm happy to tell you the people of America have recovered from what can only be called a temporary aberration. There is a spiritual revival going on -- a hunger to once again be proud of all that America is and can be.

The first step in restoring our margin of safety must be the rejuvenation of our economy. A vibrant and expanding economy is necessary if we are to have the research, the technology and the industrial capacity to provide you with what you need to practice your profession.

Reflecting the will of the people the Government has returned to our long-time tradition of bipartisanship not only where national security is concerned but with regard to the economic needs of the people. In recent weeks one could say there were no Democrats and Republicans in the Congress -- just Americans.

Yes, there are and will be disagreements but they are legitimate differences of opinion on how best to reduce Government costs, what tax changes will provide incentive to increase productivity and how best to restore our defense capability. Already the Congress has voted the greatest reduction of a budget ever attempted. At the same time it has mightily increased spending for the military.

The argument, if there is any, will be over which weapons and not whether we should forsake weaponry for treaties and agreements. My good friend Laurence Beilenson authored a book a few years ago entitled, The Treaty Trap. It was the result of years of research and it made plain that no nation that placed its faith in parchment or paper and gave up its protective hardware ever lasted long enough to write many pages in history. This is not to say we shouldn't seek treaties and understandings and even mutual reduction of strategic weapons. The search for peace must go on but we have a better chance of finding it if we maintain our strength while we're searching. Mr. Beilenson has recently authored a new thought-provoking book, Survival and Peace in the Nuclear Age.

But weaponry alone does not mean security. General George Patton said: "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory." Today we make only one change in that statement. We say: "the men and women who follow and lead." There are 58 women in this graduating class and women constitute 9.1 percent of the Army today.

The indispensable factor for the protection of all that we hold dear is the leadership you and young men and women like you offer this Nation. You will be the individuals who must inspire and lead those who are called upon to do a hard and sometimes thankless job.

James Warner Bellah, sometimes called our Rudyard Kipling because of his stories of the Army on our frontier as we pushed westward, described a poignant scene in one of his stories. A commanding officer lay dying on the field of battle. As he passed the command to a younger officer he said, "There may be only one time in your life when your country will call on you and you will be the only one who can do the nasty job that has to be done -- do it or forever after there will be the taste of ashes in your mouth."

A torch of leadership is being handed to you in this commencement ceremony today, a ceremony that is duplicated only in the several other service academies. I know that you have learned the principles of leadership here in this historic place. You know that it requires one to command

the respect of those who follow by deserving that respect; by dedication and total commitment to the defense of our country and all that it represents.

You have had an excellent example to follow. General Goodpastor could almost be said to be a member of your class. He arrived here as Superintendent almost at the same time you enrolled as plebes. He retires now as you graduate.

General Goodpastor had served his country well and retired as a 4-Star General. He left retirement and gave up one of those four stars to return to West Point.

You are part of a great tradition. Overused though it may be, the term the "Long Gray Line" is descriptive of the tradition of which you are now a part. In that line have been men who turned defeat into victory; who stood in the breach until citizen armies could be raised. For a time West Point was the Nation's principal source of professionally-trained engineers. The West was explored and mapped by members of that Long Gray Line. A West Point graduate helped design the Panama Canal and the Holland Tunnel. Two were Presidents. Two are presently Cabinet members in this Administration. Others have become giants of commerce and industry: Henry DuPont, class of 1833; Robert E. Wood, class of 1900.

Dwight Eisenhower stated: "Even in the event of a complete disarmament there is a role for West Point. Even if we just turned our graduates back into the body politic

it would be good. The graduates are trained people who understand duty and do it."

Six astronauts are West Point graduates. Among them the first man to walk in space, Colonel Edward White, who then lost his life in 1967 when a tragic fire swept the Apollo spacecraft.

But let us look ahead to the force of which you will be an important and significant part. I doubt there will be many surprises because in a way you've been "Army" for the last 4 years.

There is little chance that you will be like the young World War II recruit who asked in some bewilderment why the Army did certain things the way it did. A long-time Regular Army Sergeant said, "Let me explain it to you. If you were in charge of a brand new country and creating an Army what would you call the first division you finally got organized?" The recruit said, "Well, I guess I'd call it the 1st Division." The Sergeant said: "When the U.S. put together its first division, it named it the 2d Division. When you understand that you'll know why the Army does things the way it does."

Our country has a unique tradition among the nations. Unlike other powers with armies of conscripts, our military was composed of citizen volunteers. In times past the standing Army was a skeleton force that expanded in wartime to absorb the draftees, the conscripts. We also counted on a National Guard -- a trained reserve to bridge the period

when the new draftees were undergoing basic training. We must still have that reserve and we are taking steps to upgrade it to a state of immediate readiness.

We once had the luxury of time provided by the two great oceans: a luxury we no longer have.

At the end of World War II we continued the draft into peacetime even though a peacetime draft was counter to American tradition. We had always believed that only in the most severe national emergency did Government have a claim to mandatory service of its younger citizens.

We returned to that tradition in 1973 -- a volunteer military. Some proclaimed it a failure from the start. I'm not going to take your time by reciting the pros and cons of the debate which still goes on except to say that some expressed the belief that patriotism alone should be cause enough to serve. George Washington once said of patriotism: "It must be aided by a prospect of Interest or some reward. For a time it may, of itself push Men to Action; to bear much, to encounter difficulties; but it will not endure unassisted by Interest."

It is true that patriotism cannot be bought -- neither can it be coerced. You are here today as living proof of that. Obviously you did not choose this profession with thought of making a fortune. Samuel Johnson, 200 years ago, said, "An officer is much more respected than any other man who has as little money."

Young men and women volunteered for duty in our Armed Forces and then found that too much of their reward was expected to be patriotism. And even here they were short-changed. In much of the 1970's there was a widespread lack of respect for the uniform born perhaps of what has been called the Vietnam syndrome. The result was inevitable, a fall-off of enlistments, but even worse a drop in reenlistment resulting in a great loss of experienced noncommissioned officers.

The cry for a draft rose to a crescendo. I believe there is another way, one more in keeping with our system of rewarding those who work and serve, on a scale commensurate with what we ask of them. I don't suppose we could put an exact price on the sacrifice we ask of those who guarantee our safety, but one thing certain, they deserve better than a bare subsistence level.

I have asked Secretary of Defense Weinberger to form a Defense Manpower Task Force to review the entire military manpower question and make proposals which will increase the effectiveness of the active and reserve All-Volunteer Forces.

Last year's pay increase was a step in the right direction, but we are asking for another in the fiscal year that begins October 1. We seek to channel pay increases and bonuses to those in the most-needed skill areas. We are studying proposals for a merit pay system and increased flexibility in personnel practices.

A few years ago the GI Bill was eliminated and replaced with a program having fewer benefits. At the same time we were expanding Federal aid to college students. The Federal Government in effect provided more benefits to those who were not serving their country and reduced them for those who were. The Defense Manpower Task Force will be studying ways in which we can make enlistment more attractive to the kind of young people we need in our military forces.

Already enlistments are up, so are reenlistments and, surprisingly, or maybe we shouldn't be surprised, many who have already left the service are coming back. There has also been a decided rise in quality as measured by educational and training attainment.

Something other than pay and benefits is contributing to this. I mentioned earlier a new spirit that is abroad in our land. The era of self-doubt is over. We've stopped looking at our warts and rediscovered how much there is to love in this blessed land.

All of us together and you very definitely and the posts you go to can help restore the sense of pride our men and women are entitled to have in wearing the uniform. Let friend and foe alike be aware of the spirit that is sweeping across our land, for it means we will meet our responsibility of the free world. Very much a part of this new spirit is patriotism. And with that goes a heartfelt appreciation for the sacrifices of those in uniform.

You are the prime ingredient that keeps us free; that protects all we cherish and hold dear. You can transmit the historic heritage which is in the very air of West Point. The first Purple Heart medal was awarded here. It was the first decoration ever given to an enlisted man.

At Trophy Point I'm told there are links of the great chain that was forged and stretched across the Hudson to prevent the British fleet from penetrating further into the valley. Today you are that chain holding back an evil force that would extinguish a light we've been tending for 6,000 years.

A few years ago in the sunset of his life a West Point graduate, General Douglas MacArthur, addressed West Point Alumni and Cadets here. No one who heard him can ever forget his words nor his declaration that so long as breath remained in his body he would hear the words: duty, honor, country.

Do your duty, keep your honor, and you will preserve this country for us, for your children and for your children's children.

God bless you and keep you.

1475 - Johnson did not meet with
them
Ron Bitzer - very intelligent
- lawyer?

John Keaveney 10% service connected
psychiatrist

Susan Johnson - got a reading

Get them to

No info on Brown Latta

Jack Powell - Ex. Dir. PVA
- problems in California
- Eastern PVA

Statement useful only if person
could be interviewed

Accorded treatment - if the
50,000 examinations, 40,000 ^{on} computers
No documentable long time

OPD approved statement
pre mature to designate

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. FTS

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Bob Mueller

212-685-3152

WA → we've got a couple
of guys a bunch
of others ^{not members}
Trust & confidence. Growth
in community. Mixed

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

63-109

★ U.S. G.P.O. 1980-311-156/18

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

WILLIE STARK SUPERNUMERARIES

Mark Barnett
Don Brenner
Steven Brummel
Christina Cicala
Mark Cliser
Danon Dastugue

Vincent Doengnes
Cathe Goddard
Joseph Handy
Marty Hayes
David Ingram
Charles Inlander

Walter Kiwala
Kathy Myers
Keith Parker
Joanna Rudel
Maynard Schaus
Mark Selinger

Charles Serio
Ruth Shapiro
Zelta Stanley
Joan Troy
Donald Williams

CHILDREN

Jennifer Johnson
Jonathon Thomas

Jason Kimmel
Bonnie Webster

Jason Moreland

GARDEN PARTY GUESTS

Kimberly Beliveau
Michael Flanagan
Christine Forbes

James Glass
Liza Cookin
Julee Jordana

Jim McCann
Victoria McKernan
Richard McGinnis

Michael Mills
Michael Saunders
Cindy Szady

STAGE MUSICIANS

Banjo.....Fred Karns
Violin.....David Brewster

Piano.....William Huckaby

Cello.....Benjamin Levenson

Give word try & meet here
Inspection Team non U.S.

Inspector (m.)

looking for evidence

Treatment delay

6/18/4 of rights

Not vets come together
Morality & Justice

Work ground - 2 hours

on
Tough
wipe
out
vet
center

Demands one, some body
Mrs Pola, she is send
out on a fact finding
sit in.
Hungen strikers - Go
Mor
Guys inside one
Totally wrong - sit
water
Center for Policy
not funding c
Outside disavowed
inside
Legitimate guys
10 days ago
a doctors
Mrs Pola dispatches
staff person
Objective
Johnny Grant friend
of President

Acting chief of Staff

Starvater

Dr. Susan ~~Foster~~ Josephson

Ron Bitzer - no answer

- L.A. Times was source

1. Staff ~~positions~~ physicians - to give physicals
2. Showers available

Outside medical consultation

Marlin Adkins

John Keveney

Ruth Butcher section

} picked up in Limo
good morning

Have agents
Robert Douglas
212-580-6100

Gloria Miller 213-557-5291 - ABC in L.A.
Dr. Curtis asked to appear tomorrow - no one
psychiatric patients on national Dr. Bricker
of Central
Office

Refer Wilson would advise against
Wilson advised Meese to wait if out.

Acting Director

Murrian Reason - contacts

Chris Noel

213-342-9834

Armed Forces Radio

Decisions under
Inter Agency Task force

CENTER FOR VETERAN'S RIGHTS

May 23, 1981

Mr. Lee Nackman
Assistant Director
Veterans Administration
Hospital Center
Wadsworth
Los Angeles, CA 90073

Dear Mr. Nackman:

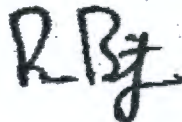
Effective Memorial Day at 6 P.M. the organizers of the symbolic wait-in in the lobby of the Wadsworth V.A. Hospital Center, namely Michael McCarthy and I, will negotiate all future issues with Mr. Nick Longworth of the V.A. Central Office.

I regret that the wait-in must continue and that I cannot negotiate issues with you further. I would be glad to explain the reasons for this policy change with you in person.

Mr. Longworth can contact me at the wait-in, telephone 213-479-9616. My office telephone number is 213-746-6315.

I will make clear to Mr. Longworth that the Center for Veteran's Rights will insist on discussion of the May 20, 1981 mailgram questions with President Reagan.

Sincerely,



Ron Bitzer/Co-Director



swords to plowshares: a veterans' organization, inc.

education/training

systems/services

vets affairs

FALLACY OF THE VA POSITION

ON

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS NEUORIS (DISORDER)

Though the VA position (as expressed in the letter signed by J.C. Peckarsky and dated 12 January 1981 (page 2) that inclusion of the "life threatening episodes" clause has not modified the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Neurosis (Disorder) as expressed in DSM-III (page 236)) sounds reasonable, the VA position ignores several factors. The VA position is based on the assertion that all of the examples listed in DSM-III (page 236) are life threatening in nature, however, this assertion totally disregards (1) that the examples in the DSM-III provide no basis for the primary criterion and (2) that the criteria listed are relative, objective indicia of neurosis, psychosis and personality disorder, in a complex hierarchy of mental disorders. Finally, the VA position makes no mention as to who is to evaluate the recognizability of a stressor, the VA adjudication division (i.e., rating officer) or the evaluating psychiatrist.

The primary criterion, or essential feature, as it was expressed in the Director's letter, of Post Traumatic Stress Neurosis (Disorder) is a traumatic event that is "both more severe and outside the range of human experience considered to be normal." (Draft, DSM-III). The official publication of DSM-III continued this same wording. In DSM-III, in the section discussing the primary criterion, examples of experiences were given which would be considered traumatizing and could also be considered life threatening, depending upon interpretation. However, the DSM-III left unclear whether the required experienced had to be traumatizing only, life threatening only, or both. The VA has interpreted this lack of clarity as requiring both traumatic and life threatening components.

life) and the recent explosive outburst against Wadsworth VA Medical Center, as an institution and a symbol of the VA. His social and vocational performance is far below his intellectual capacities.

(3) There are no features, complaints or clinical findings to support any relationship to Agent Orange, or the Post-Vietnam Stress syndrome, although this was specifically explored. (The DSM III diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder include the following:

- a. Existence of stress provoking stressor;
- b. Reexperiencing the trauma by recurrent and intrusive recollections of the event or sudden acting or feeling as though one is back with the original experience;
- c. Numbing reactions, i.e. feelings of detachment, constricted affect, diminished interest in other activities;
- d. At least two of the following: startle response, survival guilt, sleep disturbance, trouble concentrating, avoidance of anything that increases recollection of the traumatic event, intensified symptoms when exposed to events that remind about the traumatic event.)

(4) The collective findings support the diagnosis of Personality Disorder - Antisocial type. The DSM III diagnoses criteria for this follow:

1. Current age over 18,
2. Onset before age 15 of three or more of the following:
 - (a) truancy (b) expulsion from school (c) running away
 - (d) persistent lying (e) repeated drunkenness
 - (f) school grades below expectations in relation to estimated I.Q.
 - (g) chronic violations of rules at home or school
3. At least four of the following since age 18:
 - (a) inability to sustain consistent work behavior
 - (b) lack of ability to function as a responsible parent
 - (c) failure to accept lawful norms (as evidenced by multiple arrests, thefts, illegal occupation)
 - (d) irritability and aggressiveness
 - (e) impulsivity, recklessness, etc.
4. A pattern of continuous antisocial behavior in which the rights of others are violated.
5. Antisocial behavior is not due to mental retardation, schizophrenia or manic episodes.

RELEASED WITH THE CONSENT OF MS. SUZANNE HOPKINS FROM THE BRENTWOOD MEDICAL FILE OF JAMES R. HOPKINS

COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS RIGHTS
514 N. Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, California
90007

March 31, 1980

Mr. Conrad Hoffman
Controller
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Sir:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act as amended and Title 38 of the U.S. Code, Section 3301 (f).

I hereby request the names and addresses of all Vietnam veterans in California who are now receiving V.A. disability compensation or pension benefits and all Vietnam veterans who have purchased a government-issued insurance policy. The purpose of this request is to provide Vietnam veterans with information pertaining to the Agent Orange herbicide issue and to disseminate information about utilization of V.A. benefits, including the priority in hospitalization now accorded to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

This information will conform to the conduct of programs and utilization of benefits in the Veterans Administration. Additionally, the mailing of information will complement the current efforts of the Veterans Administration to insure that Vietnam veterans know about the V.A.'s Agent Orange projects and general benefits (see Time Magazine, March 24, 1980 letter to the editor and attached news release dated March 4, 1980).

I am making this request on behalf of the Committee for Veterans Rights, a state non-profit, tax-exempt organization (see attachment) and myself, a V.A. certified claims agent (see attachment).

I hereby state that I will be the only person with access to the names and addresses in the released information

May 26, 1981

Acting Administrator (001)

Acting Assistant Administrator, Information Services (06)

Sit-in at Wadsworth VAMC

1. On Wed., May 20, we were advised by our Los Angeles ISAD of plans by local group -- Center for Veterans Rights, led by Ron Bitzer -- to hold a "wait-in" at Wadsworth VAMC, i.e., a silent vigil for veteran James R. Hopkins. Hopkins was found dead previous weekend; suspected drug overdose. He was person who drove jeep into VAMC lobby several months ago firing more than a dozen pistol shots into glass and walls.

2. This group has previously used Wadsworth as site for press conferences, protest walks, etc., and VA has allowed portion of grounds for these assemblies. Group on this occasion, however, sought permission to use VAMC lobby (one of three).

3. ISAD advised that VAMC would likely grant permission based on group's previous record of good behavior. VAMC reportedly felt confident it could control the lobby area and limit size of group. CO advice via ISAD was to reconsider lobby access for this purpose. We offered concern and doubts about group's behavior, about establishing precedent for future demonstrations, about disruption of VAMC routine, media access, etc. Suggested dealing with "worst possible outcome" scenarios and among these suggested what-if they decide on a hunger strike. VAMC apparently weighed all factors and allowed group of six veterans to hold "wait-in."

4. At last word, another faction of this organization had established itself outside over the weekend. Both were circulating a list of "demands" dealing with many VA issues and centered on insistence that President Reagan himself meet with them. Media accounts received over the weekend report that both groups are now on hunger strike and refuse to eat until the President responds.

5. Situation as it now exists suggests VA review status and again deal with "worst possible outcome" possibilities, e.g., eventuality that group member may need medical attention.

6. Attached is an Los Angeles Times clip and an outline of the press conference which details their demands to the President.

LARRY R. MOEN

Atts.

cc: N. Longworth (00TT) ✓ S. Appleman (063)

SOURCE

Los Angeles Times

CITY AND STATE

Los Angeles, CA

DATE

May 21, 1981

Veterans Invade Hospital, Ask to Talk With Reagan

Demanding that President Reagan come personally to discuss their grievances when he visits California during the Memorial Day weekend, a group of Vietnam War veterans took over the hall of the Veterans Administration hospital in West Los Angeles Wednesday.

Before marching into the hospital, the veterans told a press conference they had sent the President a message detailing demands for better and more humane medical treatment for veterans.

"If the President doesn't reply within 34 hours setting up a time for

the meeting, we plan to begin a hunger strike," said Michael McCarthy, co-director of the Center for Veterans' Rights.

The press conference began with a minute's silence in memory of James F. Hopkins, a veteran who died Sunday, two months after he crashed a Jeep into the same hospital and fired 14 shots at the walls.

The body of the 22-year-old ex-Marine was found on the bed of a mobile home in Calabasas next to an empty liquor bottle and a container of pills. Coroner's officials are still trying to determine the cause of death.

Hopkins' wife, Susanne, told the press conference that her husband, winner of three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star, was one of thousands of victims of shock from the Vietnam War, who has been unable to obtain treatment.

"How long does a veteran have to scream before the Veterans Administration will do something for him?" she asked.

MAY 26 1981

COPIES TO	
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12	100

PRESS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

1. Moments of Silence for James R. Hopkins.
2. Scene from "TRACERS" with John DiFusco, Richard Chaves, Eric E. Emerson, Rick Gallavan, Merlin Marston and Harry Stephens.
3. Statements from Suzanne Hopkins, widow of the late James Hopkins, and Michael McCarthy, co-director, Center for Veteran's Rights.
4. Personal Testimony concerning medical treatment from Southern California Veterans Administration medical facilities

*** ~~Jeanne Andrews of Burbank, whose husband, Ben Andrews died on May 13, 1981, following medical complaints related to treatment at the Wadsworth V.A. Hospital Center and health problems similar to exposure to toxic herbicides. The late Ben Andrews earned several medals, including the Bronze Star, following military service as an infantry officer in Vietnam and Cambodia in 1969.~~

*** Steve Suwalsky, 35, Vietnam veteran who served in Vietnam in 1967 and is presently a service-connected disabled veteran living in Sherman Oaks and receiving medical treatment from the Sepulveda V.A. Medical Center.

*** Sarah Herring, 59, of North Hollywood, is the mother of the late George Edwin Herring III, a Vietnam combat veteran and draftee who committed suicide on January 18, 1981, following his involuntary discharge from psychiatric treatment by the Sepulveda V.A. Medical Center four days earlier.

*** Eric Smith, 33, of Redondo Beach, is a service-connected disabled Vietnam-era veteran whose relative, the late Leroy Jones, committed suicide in July 1980 following denial of psychiatric treatment by the Long Beach V.A. Medical Center.

*** Virgil Neigil, 30, of Riverside, served as a door-gunner in Vietnam from 1972 to 1973 and currently received medical treatment from the Loma Linda V.A. Hospital.

*** Larry Howard, 37, of Van Nuys, is a volunteer counselor with the Van Nuys Vet Center and the Center for Veteran's Rights. He has health problems related to a lower back injury and possible toxic herbicide exposure following combat service in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

CENTER FOR VETERAN'S RIGHTS

TEXT OF MAY 20, 1981 TELEGRAM TO

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Vietnam veterans are requesting a meeting with the President of the United States during your Memorial Day visit to Southern California at the site of the March 14, 1981 protest by the late James R. Hopkins to inhumane treatment by Veterans Administration personnel to the sick veterans of the nation.

The reasons for the necessity of this personal visit, which some Vietnam veterans and supporters are stressing by our wait-in there, are the following:

DELAYED STRESS AMONG VIETNAM VETERANS

"There are no features, complaints or clinical findings to support any relationship to Agent Orange, or the post Vietnam stress syndrome, although this was specifically explored" from the April 7-8, 1981 case review of the late James R. Hopkins at the Brentwood V.A. Hospital by Drs. Cyril Barnert, Ramzi Kiriakos, Gerald McKenna and Manuel Straker.

1. Why did the Brentwood V.A. case review complicate the criteria for a diagnosis of delayed stress by adding symptoms in addition to the minimum requirements of either the American Psychiatric Association (see Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 3rd Edition) or the V.A. Department of Medicine and Surgery (see V.A. Program Guide 21, Section 0-12, Change 282) in the evaluation of the late James Hopkins?

2. Will you order an immediate investigation into the failures of Wadsworth and Brentwood V.A. Hospitals to provide evaluation and treatment to the late James Hopkins?

3. Why are Vietnam veterans, specifically Swords to Plowshares in San Francisco, questioning the modification of the criteria for ~~disability compensation~~ to Vietnam veterans for delayed stress by the Veterans Administration, so that fewer veterans qualify for service-connected disability and rehabilitation from the government?

4. Will you order a national investigation into the Veterans Administration programs of psychological counseling for Vietnam veterans by a team of non-V.A. experts in the field of delayed stress?

HEALTH PROBLEMS RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE HERBICIDE EXPOSURE

"It is high time that the Veterans Administration and various government agencies be shaken from their lethargy toward ALL veterans," from the March 19, 1981 statement of the late James R. Hopkins from the locked ward of the Brentwood V.A. Hospital.

1. Why has the V.A. failed to instruct their examining physicians in the diagnosis of chloracne despite the V.A. so-called physical examination for Agent Orange that the V.A. has administered for more than two years and the more than 40,000 Vietnam veterans who have requested such an examination from the V.A. hospitals throughout the country?

Why is the V.A. only able to respond to questions from the Center for Veteran's Rights concerning this important matter with the April 27, 1981 statement from Dr. Barclay M. Shepard that "The Task Force (on Agent Orange) is currently in the process of refining diagnostic procedures relative to chloracne?"

MORE MORE MORE

2. Why has the Veterans Administration Central Office refused to ALLOW or DENY the March 31, 1980 request by the Center for Veteran's Rights for the names and addresses of all disabled veterans of the Vietnam era in California under 38 U.S.C. Section 3301 (f) for the purpose of outreach to them concerning the Agent Orange services of the Veterans Administration? (see attached letter to Mr. Conrad Hoffman.)

3. Will you appoint an expert panel of non-V.A. individuals to evaluate the need for a national delayed re-entry program for all 4.2 million Vietnam veterans who have lacked information about the Vietnam-related problems of delayed stress and use of toxic herbicides? (See March 8, 1981 press release of the Center for Veteran's Rights, which is attached.)

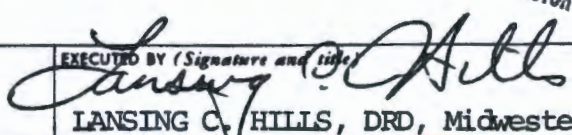
4. Why are Vietnam veterans planning to picket the Central Office of the V.A. in Washington, D.C. on Friday, May 22, 1981, concerning V.A. lack of action on the Agent Orange issues?

BUDGET CUTS IN THE V.A.

"I call on President Reagan to stop spending millions of dollars on Inaugural Balls and to utilize the money for what the defenders of our fine Country are entitled to," from the March 19, 1981 statement of the late James R. Hopkins.

1. Why has the Director of the Office of Management and Budget ordered a \$743 million reduction in the next fiscal year budget of the V.A. system without any evaluation of the costly medical school affiliation in the V.A. system which drains up to SIXTY PERCENT of the medical budget into training costs (see July 3, 1979 V.A. Department of Medicine and Surgery letter IL-14-79-4)?

2. How will V.A. hospitals be able to operate at all with the planned reduction of 20,000 positions in the hospital system by 1986?

<h2 style="text-align: center;">REPORT OF CONTACT</h2> <p><i>NOTE: This form must be filled out in ink or on typewriter, as it becomes a permanent record in veterans' folders.</i></p>	VA OFFICE <p style="text-align: center;">VACO</p>	IDENTIFICATION NOS. (C, XC, SS, XSS, V, K, etc.) <p style="text-align: center;">10</p>
LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print)	DATE OF CONTACT <p style="text-align: center;">5/25/81</p>	
ADDRESS OF VETERAN	TELEPHONE NO. OF VETERAN	
PERSON CONTACTED <p style="text-align: center;">Lee Nackman</p>	TYPE OF CONTACT (Check) <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE	
ADDRESS OF PERSON CONTACTED <p style="text-align: center;">Assistant Director VAMC Wadsworth, CA</p>	TELEPHONE NO. OF PERSON CONTACTED	
<p>BRIEF STATEMENT OF INFORMATION REQUESTED AND GIVEN</p> <p>Lee said as of yesterday, he had talked with Dr. Custis for Rufus Wilson. There were five hunger strikers at the station. The regular memorial day morning ceremonies went smoothly with no interruptions or problems. In the afternoon, the Veterans Group and 150 other participants had a procession carrying an empty casket from the hospital grounds to the cemetery grounds where they had their ceremonies in memory of Jim Hopkins. After that, they returned to the medical center without any particular problems.</p> <p>City tactical police groups were available for ground control, etc., if necessary. Some plain clothesmen from LAPD and at least 3 of the plainclothesmen were known to the demonstrators.</p> <p>Prior to the morning ceremonies, Lee was interviewed by NBC-TV. They had about a 20 minute discussion where they wanted to know what was going on here, asked about Agent Orange, Outreach, effective budget, are Vietnam veterans different, and what would happen if we lost Outreach. He gave Dr. Shepard's phone # in Washington.</p> <p>As of 9:00pm last night, there were six people staying at the hospital. The spokesman for the group told Lee they had invited people from all over the country to sleep-in with them starting today. He was also told that Nick Longworth was to take over negotiations (I did not get the source whether it was the demonstrator or NBC).</p> <p>If there is a large group, the sheriff's department will not handle. They want the Federal Marshall to become involved. Mr. Nackman needs guidance from CO.</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">Distribution: 10A (Orig. & 4) 10BA6</p>		
DIVISION OR SECTION <p style="text-align: center;">DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR</p>	EXECUTED BY (Signature and title)  LANSING C. HILLS, DRD, Midwestern Region	

RECEIVED
 MAY 26 1981
 DEPUTY CHIEF MED. DIRECTOR

(MEMORIAL DAY)

(BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL)

FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN KILLED IN WAR JOINED RELATIVES OF THE EIGHT MEN KILLED IN THE HOSTAGE RESCUE ATTEMPT IN SOLEMN MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES, BUT VIETNAM WAR VETERANS PROTESTED WHAT THEY CALLED GOVERNMENT NEGLECT. //

FOR THOSE NOT TOUCHED BY WAR, THE LONG WEEKEND SEEMED AN ENDLESS STRETCH OF GOOD TIMES.

IN LOS ANGELES, SIX VETERANS STAGING A SIT-IN IN THE WADSWORTH VETERANS HOSPITAL AND EIGHT VETERANS IN THE 10TH DAY OF A HUNGER STRIKE ON THE FRONT LAWN WERE JOINED YESTERDAY BY HUNDREDS OF VETERANS AND MOVIE AND STAGE STARS SEEKING INCREASED FEDERAL AID TO HELP VIETNAM VETS.

"IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT TO TRY TO GET THESE FELLOWS THE PROPER ATTENTION," SAID ACTOR JON VOIGHT, WHO WON AN OSCAR FOR HIS ROLE AS A DISABLED VET IN THE MOVIE "COMING HOME."

THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED VOIGHT AND MIKE FARRELL OF THE "M-A-S-H" TELEVISION SERIES, SANG "WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME" IN THEIR MARCH FROM A NEARBY VETERANS CEMETERY TO THE HOSPITAL TO MOURN THE UNEXPLAINED DEATH OF JAMES HOPKINS, 32, A VIETNAM VETERAN.

HOPKINS, CLAIMING HE WAS SUFFERING FROM EXPOSURE TO THE CHEMICAL DEFOLIANT AGENT ORANGE, CRASHED HIS JEEP IN THE HOSPITAL LOBBY EARLIER THIS YEAR AND DIED AT HIS HOME OF UNDISCLOSED CAUSES LAST WEEK.

THE VETERANS SAID THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR PROTEST UNTIL PRESIDENT REAGAN MEETS WITH THEM OR SENDS AN AIDE TO DISCUSS FEDERAL AID FOR VIETNAM VETERANS SUFFERING PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AILMENTS CAUSED BY AGENT ORANGE.

THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM REAGAN.

FIFTEEN FORMER HOSTAGES PRESENTED MEDALS YESTERDAY TO THE FAMILIES OF THE EIGHT SERVICEMEN KILLED IN THE APRIL 1980 ABORTED RESCUE ATTEMPT IN IRAN AT A CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON'S ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

"THIS SERVICE IS SPECIAL AND UNIQUE," SAID FORMER HOSTAGE LT. COL. DAVID ROEDER. "WE ARE HERE TODAY TO WITNESS A CHILDREN'S SALUTE TO THOSE FALLEN AMERICANS. THIS IS A CEREMONY OF HONOR, NOT OF TEARS; A CEREMONY OF PRIDE, NOT OF APOLOGY."

EACH FAMILY WAS PRESENTED WITH A MEDAL, INSCRIBED WITH THE CREED OF NO GREATER LOVE. THE GROUP THAT SPONSORED THE CEREMONY: "WE BELIEVE THAT NO GREATER LOVE CAN BE SHOWN THAN WHEN MEN AND WOMEN SO LIVE AND DIE THAT THEIR FRIENDS MAY BE FREE."

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES ALSO WERE HELD IN PHILADELPHIA; VALLEY FORGE, PA.; HAWAII'S PEARL HARBOR; DETROIT; CHICAGO; BOSTON AND QUINCY, MASS., AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

AN ESTIMATED 75,000 PEOPLE GATHERED ON THE CAPITOL STEPS IN WASHINGTON LAST NIGHT TO WATCH THE FIRST CONCERT CONDUCTED BY SOVIET DEFECTOR MAXIM SHOSTAKOVICH SINCE HE LEFT THE U.S.S.R.

UPI 05-26-81 10:22 AED

SOURCE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

CITY AND STATE

DENVER, COLORADO

DATE OF PUBL.

MAY 22 1981

56 - Rocky Mountain News

Fri., May 22, 1981, Denver, Colo.

Reagan administration mum on vets occupying VA lobby

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A group of Vietnam veterans occupying the lobby of a Veterans Administration hospital said Thursday they felt the protest was "going very well" despite a lack of response from the Reagan administration.

The half-dozen veterans, who began the sit-in at the Wadsworth VA Medical Center on Wednesday to protest VA health care, sent a telegram listing their complaints to President Reagan.

But David Levi, spokesman for the "Inside Six," said no administration officials had responded.

If there is no response soon, he said, "we will discuss ... what we will do as far as staying beyond Memorial Day or what further action we will take."

Levi, a 34-year-old security guard, said he thought the vigil was "going very well." He said it was getting attention from veterans across the West and more protesters were expected Friday.

The demonstrators, who slept in sleeping bags and ate food brought in by supporters,

began their sit-in after a gathering on the hospital lawn in memory of Vietnam veteran James Hopkins. The ex-Marine was found dead at his home Sunday with an empty bottle of liquor and pill bottle nearby.

The coroner's office is performing tests to determine the cause of his death, but his widow, Suzanne, says she believes it was accidental.

But March Hopkins made headlines when he crashed his Jeep through the hospital's glass doors and fired shots at the lobby walls, apparently to protest the red tape he had encountered trying to get hospital officials to certify him as hearing-impaired.

After his arrest he said he was suffering from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used in Vietnam.

The protesting veterans urged Reagan to meet with their representatives while he is in California for the Memorial Day weekend. They want to discuss the VA's diagnosis and treatment of illnesses relating to Agent Orange and the psychological problems that surface after combat.

MAY 26 1981

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igii Continues as ets Await Reagan

rotesters Say They Will Discuss Their omplaints About VA Only With President

KRISTINA LINDOREN, Times Staff Writer

ore than 80 Vietnam veterans
out the fourth day of their
est at the Veterans Administra-
's Wadsworth Hospital in West
Angeles Saturday, waiting in
for a response from President

gan. In the lawn outside, three hun-
-strickers—two of whom are pa-
its at the nearby Brentwood
pital, a VA psychiatric complex
aged an independent protest of
ditions there.

both groups insisted that the
es—from hospital mistreatment
cuts in veterans programs—that
ivate their protest are broader
in the death last Sunday of the
otionally troubled ex-Marine
mes R. Hopkins. In fact, two of
e hunger strikers said they began
r first two days before Hopkins
d, triggering the Wadsworth
"sit-in" protest.

'I Want Respect'

"People are not aware of a lot of
ings that go on here," said John
eaveney, 31, who said he stopped
ring solid food May 15 along with
arlin Adkins, 37.

"It's a warehouse for people,
at's why I'm here," said Keaven-
y, who served two tours of duty
th the U.S. Army in Vietnam. "I
ant the respect of the American
ople, the respect they owe us.
"If not, I'll die."

Michael McCarthy, co-director of
e Center for Veterans Rights and
ne of the "wait-in" leaders said,
We are staying in the hospital until

we have a meeting with Reagan,"
whose proposed budget cuts threa-
ten veterans' programs.

Wednesday, the veterans sent
the President a telegram detailing
their grievances against the VA and
the proposed budget cuts, then took
over part of the Wadsworth lobby,
vowing they would not leave until
Reagan met with them.

But White House Deputy Press
Secretary Larry Speakes, who was
with Reagan at the President's
ranch near Santa Barbara, said Sat-
urday that the matter is being han-
dled by the VA in Washington.
Speakes said the White House is not
directly involved.

Insist on Seeing Reagan

McCarthy said his group has had
no contact with VA officials in
Washington, adding that, in any
case, the protesters would discuss
only hospital complaints with the
VA. Of their broader grievances, he
said:

"We aren't talking to anyone but
the President."

As demonstrators planned a sym-
bolic Memorial Day funeral march
for Hopkins, whose body was found
in his Calabasas home lying next to
a liquor bottle and an empty pill
vial, Vietnam veteran leader Ron
Kovic predicted, "This protest is
going to be big, very big."

Kovic led a 17-day hunger strike
in Sen. Alan Cranston's (D.-Calif.)
Los Angeles office seven years ago
to publicize the plight of Vietnam

Please see VETERANS, Page 3

VA INFORMATION 303

EXT. 7694

VACO EXT 6028

SOURCE

Los Angeles Times

CITY AND STATE

Los Angeles, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 24, 1981

VETERANS: Protesters Await Reagan

Continued from First Page

veterans. He said Saturday that
their gains under the Carter Ad-
ministration after years of protests
were being eroded under Reagan.

"I'm warning the President of the
United States and the Republican
Administration," Kovic said bitter-
ly. "We can only take so much. The
death of James Hopkins is symbolic,
indicative of how desperate the
Vietnam veteran is becoming. How
many more time bombs must go
off."

Hopkins, a 33-year-old ex-Mar-
ine who drove a jeep through the
glass doors of Wadsworth and
sprayed the hospital lobby with ma-
chine gun fire on March 14, was
awaiting a federal court appearance
on charges of destruction of federal
property when he was found dead.

The cause of death has not been
determined, but Los Angeles Coun-
ty Coroner Thomas T. Noguchi has
ordered an investigation into
whether Hopkins died as a result of
exposure to Agent Orange, a power-
ful defoliant used in Vietnam.

When Hopkins, in camouflage
battle gear, surrendered to police

after crashing into the hospital, he
told them he was suffering from ex-
posure to the herbicide.

Subsequently, Hopkins was exam-
ined by a team of VA doctors, who
wrote in his case file, "There are no
features, complaints or clinical find-
ings to support any relationship to
Agent Orange, or the post-Vietnam
stress syndrome," according to Ron
Blitzer, co-director of the Center for
Veterans Rights.

That finding, Blitzer complained,
was typical of the VA's failure to
address the special needs of Viet-
nam-era veterans.

"We are dealing with a bureauc-
racy that's out of control," Blitzer
charged. "The VA . . . is incapable
of providing readjustment services
to the Vietnam-era veteran. We
have special problems: emotional
disturbances, exposure to toxic her-
bicides and an inability to deal with
institutions and authority."

All the veterans in the Wads-
worth lobby complained bitterly
about the planned elimination of the
more than 80 veterans outreach
centers recently established across
the country specifically to deal with

the problems of Vietnam veterans.

"We just got a place to go to and
they're cutting it off," said Virg
Niegel. Niegel said he has been un-
able to hold a job or get proper
treatment since his discharge and
survives by donating plasma and
getting food stamps.

Keaveney said he began his hun-
ger strike March 15 because he was
tired of being tranquilized instead of
treated for what he called "delayed-
combat neurosis."

Keaveney said he had tried to ad-
mit himself as a patient at Brent-
wood about six weeks ago because
he was "tired of the nightmares, of
the mortar shells dropping in on me
and seeing my friends dead." He
said he was only admitted after he
threatened to "pull off the doctor's
head."

"The last time I saw a doctor was
two weeks ago for 10 minutes."

The Memorial Day march in hon-
or of Hopkins was scheduled to be-
gin at 1 p.m. Monday in front of the
Wadsworth Hospital lobby.

A separate rally in support of the
hunger strikers was planned today
at 2 p.m.

SOURCE

DENVER POST

CITY AND STATE

DENVER, COLORADO

DATE OF PUBL.

MAY 19, 1981

6*

Dead Agent-Orange Vet Will Be Honored

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Veterans backed by Hollywood celebrities are planning a memorial demonstration Wednesday to honor James Hopkins, a veteran who protested alleged neglect of Vietnam War defoliant victims by driving his jeep through a hospital lobby.

Hopkins was found dead at his home Sunday. An autopsy was scheduled Tuesday. The 32-year-old Vietnam veteran maintained exposure to Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used in Vietnam, had destroyed his brain and his hearing.

"I hope to God some good comes of it," Suzanne Hopkins said of her husband's death, "because when you're a widow you've got to find all the good you can."

Hopkins gained notoriety in March when he crashed his jeep through the plate glass foyer of the Veterans Administration hospital in west Los An-

geles. No one was injured. Hopkins was charged with destruction of federal property and was awaiting trial at the time of his death.

Michael McCarthy of the Center for Veterans Rights said veterans from across the country would gather at the hospital at noon Wednesday in a demonstration to honor Hopkins and back their demands for government programs to help veterans.

"The government has to realize that there is a major, major crisis coming," Mrs. Hopkins warned.

Mrs. Hopkins appeared at a news conference on the hospital lawn Monday with "Coming Home" film star Jon Voight and "M+A+S+H" co-star Mike Farrell to speak up for veterans' rights.

She said she lost her job because of absences stemming from her husband's problems and is virtually destitute.

MAY 26 1981

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SOURCE

Los Angeles Times

CITY AND STATE

Los Angeles, CA

DATE OF PUBL.

May 26, 1981

Service Honors Troubled Veteran

By LEONARD GREENWOOD, Times Staff Writer

With more than 300 mourners following, a red jeep bearing an empty, symbolic coffin drove to the Westwood Veterans' Cemetery Monday for a Memorial Day service honoring James Hopkins, a Vietnam veteran who died at his Calabasas home May 17.

The jeep was the same one Hopkins crashed through the glass doors of the Wadsworth Veterans Administration hospital two months ago to dramatize his demand for medical treatment for nervous disorders he claimed were brought on by his experiences in Vietnam.

The procession left the hospital for the mile walk to the cemetery

after Ron Kovic told participants he and five other veterans would continue their hunger strike—now in its ninth day—until President Reagan guarantees better medical treatment for Vietnam veterans such as Hopkins.

Kovic, who won the Bronze Star in Vietnam, was so badly wounded in the conflict he is confined to a wheelchair.

The symbolic casket was draped with an American flag. Behind it walked Hopkins' widow, Suzanne, and their 10-year-old son, Christopher.

Then came Kovic and another paraplegic Vietnam veteran and an

honor guard of six more Vietnam veterans, each carrying M-16 rifles such as they bore in the war.

Suzanne Hopkins told a press conference earlier that she had asked the U.S. Marine Corps, in which her husband once served, to provide an honor guard but was told it would not be possible.

The cortege walked in silence to a grassy spot among the rows of headstones in the cemetery. Then the bearers placed the casket on the ground and mourners covered it with flowers.

The mourners, who included women, children and older veterans

Please see VETERANS, Page 3

See Over



Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic speaking at demonstration. At right are Suzanne Hopkins, widow of

veteran who died recently, and son Christopher. Rear, honor guard of veterans carrying rifles.

BOUS TANO / Los Angeles Times

VETERANS: 'Coffin'

Continued from First Page

of other foreign wars, joined in singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Korean War veteran Richard Praglowski, from the Gardens chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, played "The Last Post" on a harmonica.

Then the bearers lifted the coffin back onto the jeep and the procession walked back to the hospital, where the coffin was laid in the entrance hall a few yards from where the hunger strikers are camped.

Hopkins' body cannot be buried yet because it is still undergoing coroner's tests to determine the exact cause of death.

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PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

VIETNAM VETERANS ARE REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DURING YOUR MEMORIAL DAY VISIT TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AT THE SITE OF THE MARCH 14, 1981 PROTEST BY THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS TO INHUMANE TREATMENT BY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL TO THE SICK VETERANS OF THE NATION.

THE REASONS FOR THE NECESSITY OF THIS PERSONAL VISIT, WHICH SOME VIETNAM VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS ARE STRESSING BY OUR WAIT-IN THERE, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

DELAYED STRESS AMONG VIETNAM VETERANS

"THERE ARE NO FEATURES, COMPLAINTS OR CLINICAL FINDINGS TO SUPPORT ANY RELATIONSHIP TO AGENT ORANGE, OR THE POST-VIETNAM STRESS SYNDROME, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS SPECIFICALLY EXPLORED" FROM THE APRIL 7-8, 1981 CASE REVIEW OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS AT THE BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITAL BY DOCTORS CYRIL BARNERT, RAMZI KIRIAKOS, GERALD MCKENNA AND MANUEL STRAKER.

1. WHY DID THE BRENTWOOD V.A. CASE REVIEW FOR JAMES R HOPKINS COMPLICATE THE CRITERIA FOR A DIAGNOSIS OF DELAYED STRESS BY ADDING SYMPTOMS IN ADDITION TO THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (REFER TO SEE DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUALS OF MENTAL DISORDERS, 3RD EDITION)?
2. WILL YOU ORDER AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE FAILURE OF WADSWORTH AND BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE EVALUATION AND TREATMENT TO THE LATE JAMES HOPKINS?
3. WHY ARE VIETNAM VETERANS, SPECIFICALLY SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES IN SAN FRANCISCO, QUESTIONING THE MODIFICATION OF THEIR CRITERIA FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION TO VIETNAM VETERANS FOR DELAYED STRESS BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, SO THAT FEWER VETERANS QUALIFY FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT?
4. WILL YOU ORDER A NATIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING FOR VIETNAM VETERANS BY A TEAM OF NON-V.A. EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF DELAYED STRESS?

HEALTH PROBLEMS RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE HERBICIDE EXPOSURE
"IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BE SHAKEN FROM THEIR LETHARGY TOWARD ALL VETERANS," FROM THE MARCH 19, 1981 STATEMENT OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS FROM THE LOCKED WARD OF THE BRENTWOOD V.A. HOSPITAL.

1. WHY HAS THE V.A. FAILED TO INSTRUCT THEIR EXAMINING PHYSICIANS IN

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT;

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES

OF YOUR TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL FREE) 800-257-2241

(EXCEPT IN NEW JERSEY 800-632-2271)

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S INFOMASTER SYSTEM DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX.....6161

FROM TWX.....910 420 1212

THE DIAGNOSIS OF CHLORACNE DESPITE THE V.A. SO-CALLED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR AGENT ORANGE THAT THE V.A. HAS ADMINISTERED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AND THE MORE THAN 40,000 VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE REQUESTED SUCH AN EXAMINATION FROM THE V.A. HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY?

WHY IS THE V.A. ONLY ABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS CONCERNING THIS IMPORTANT MATTER WITH THE APRIL 27, 1981 STATEMENT FROM DR BARCLAY M SHEPARD THAT "THE TASK FORCE (ON AGENT ORANGE) IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF REFINING DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO CHLORACNE?"

2. WHY HAS THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTRAL OFFICE REFUSED TO ALLOW OR DENY THE MARCH 31, 1980 REQUEST BY THE CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS FOR THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL DISABLED VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA IN CALIFORNIA UNDER 38 U.S.C. SECTION 3301(F) FOR THE PURPOSE OF OUTREACH TO THEM CONCERNING THE AGENT ORANGE SERVICES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION?

3. WILL YOU APPOINT AN EXPERT PANEL OF NON-V.A. INDIVIDUALS TO EVALUATE THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DELAYED RE-ENTRY PROGRAM FOR ALL 4.2 MILLION VIETNAM VETERANS WHO HAVE LACKED INFORMATION ABOUT THE VIETNAM RELATED PROBLEMS OF DELAYED STRESS AND USE OF TOXIC HERBICIDES?

4. WHY ARE VIETNAM VETERANS PLANNING TO PICKET THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE V.A. IN WASHINGTON DC ON FRIDAY MAY 22, 1981 CONCERNING V.A. LACK OF ACTION ON THE AGENT ORANGE ISSUES?

BUDGET CUTS IN THE V.A.

"I CALL ON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO STOP SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON INAUGURAL BALLS AND TO UTILIZE THE MONEY FOR WHAT THE DEFENDERS OF OUR FINE COUNTRY ARE ENTITLED TO," FROM THE MARCH 19, 1981 STATEMENT OF THE LATE JAMES R HOPKINS.

1. WHY HAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ORDERED A 743 MILLION DOLLAR REDUCTION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE V.A. SYSTEMS WITHOUT ANY EVALUATION OF THE COSTLY MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATION IN THE V.A. SYSTEM WHICH DRAINS UP TO 60 PERCENT OF THE MEDICAL BUDGET INTO TRAINING COSTS (SEE JULY 3, 1979 V.A. DEPT OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY LETTER 1L-14-79-4)?

2. HOW WILL V.A. HOSPITALS BE ABLE TO OPERATE AT ALL WITH THE PLANNED REDUCTION OF 20,000 PHYSICIANS IN THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM BY 1986?

PLEASE RESPOND

CENTER FOR VETERANS RIGHTS

RONALD BITZER

TEL 213-746-6315

514 WEST ADAMS BLVD

LOS ANGELES CA 90007

13:23 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

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