

2 YEARS GAOL - THE PRICE OF CONSCIENCE

Yesterday John Zarb was put into prison for two years. He was convicted for not having complied with the Government's National Service Act.

John Zarb does not agree with the Vietnam war. He does not believe that Australian soldiers should be fighting there, and therefore he will not be a part of the army. John claims that he is prepared to undergo his basic training, but he is not prepared to render actual military service because he believes this is helping the army in its war in Vietnam. When John applied for exemption as a conscientious objector in November last year the Magistrate, Mr. W.J. Cuthill, SM, said that he had a "sincere and conscientious objection" to serving with Australian armed forces while this country was fighting in Vietnam.

The court says that John Zarb is a conscientious objector but the Government does not allow this kind of conscientious objection. The Government only allows exemption from National Service for conscientious objectors if they can prove they are Pacifists. John Zarb is not a Pacifist, he says he is prepared to undergo his basic training. But he is not prepared to be a part of the army while they are engaged in an unjust war in Vietnam.

So now John Zarb has to spend the next two years in gaol.

For the Government to deny people the right to act according to one's conscience is a blatant denial of individuality and democracy. The fact that a man has to spend two years of his life in gaol because his beliefs are not quite the same as those of the few men who run this country sets Australian freedom and democracy back 100 years!

The Law should protect the individual's right to act according to his conscience, not destroy it.

If you believe in democracy and individual freedom then send this leaflet to the Minister for Labor and National Service, Mr. Bury, c/- Parliament House, Canberra.

I hereby demand that the Government release John Zarb from prison and either completely repeals the National Service Act or amends it to make allowances for selective conscientious objection, that is, for objection against a particular war.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

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OCCUPATION: