“If a thousand men were not to pay their tax-bills this year”

“How does it become a man to behave toward this American government today? I answer that he cannot without disgrace be associated with it.... In other words, when a whole country is overrun and conquered by a foreign army, and subjected to military law, I think it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize. What makes this duty the more urgent is the fact that the country so overrun is not our own, but ours is the invading army.... There are thousands who are in opinion opposed to the war... who, esteeming themselves children of Washington and Franklin, sit down with their hands in their pockets, and say that they know not what to do, and do nothing.... They hesitate, and they regret, and sometimes they petition; but they do nothing in earnest and with effect. They will wait, well disposed, for others to remedy the evil, that they may no longer have it to regret.... What I have to do is to see, at any rate, that I do not lend myself to the wrong which I condemn. ... If a thousand men were not to pay their tax-bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood.”

—Henry David Thoreau,
Civil Disobedience, 1849,
commenting upon
American involvement in the
Mexican War.
We, the undersigned writers and editors, believing that American involvement in Vietnam is morally wrong, pledge:

1. None of us voluntarily will pay the proposed 10% income tax surcharge or any war-designated tax increase.

2. Many of us will not pay 23% of our current income tax which is being used to finance the war in Vietnam.

[Signature list]

To: WRITERS AND EDITORS WAR TAX PROTEST
P.O. Box 253, 127 West 85th Street, New York N.Y., 10024

I believe American involvement in Vietnam is morally wrong. I do not wish to add my name to the Writers and Editors War Tax Protest. I am not in sympathy with what you are doing. I would like more information. Please send me your fact-sheet on tax refusal.

[Signature]