

Texas Local Board 57
Selective Service System
Rm 907, 201 Fannin Street
Houston, Texas 77002

2LT Robert M. Hunter
Co A, 339th Engr Bn (Const)
Fort Lewis, Wash 98433
11 May 1970

Dear Members of Local Board 57,

I submit this statement in support of Richard Kokemoor's petition for conscientious objector's status. Rich and I have been friends for three years and we were roommates for two school years and one summer. I am now a second lieutenant on active duty in the United States Army and will be serving in Vietnam for a year starting this August. I feel that I am a competent witness to Rich's beliefs in that we were as close as brothers while we lived together in the Delta Chi Fraternity house at Stanford.

Throughout college Rich participated regularly in church activities. He also sang in the Stanford choir. But Rich was more than just a "church goer." He was also vitally concerned with many of the ethical and religious problems that beset Christians today. For as long as I have known Rich, he has been wrestling with the problem of military service. For Rich the decision to apply for conscientious objector status has not been easy or hasty. Rich has one of the sharpest minds I know. He is a very gifted thinker and he has delved deeply into the many implications and responsibilities of this act. After much thought and consideration Rich has decided that he conscientiously objects to participation in war in any form by reason of religious training and belief. I sincerely believe he has made an honest decision and I find this decision congruent with his past actions and training.

I respect deeply the courage he has shown and the ideal he upholds in asking his country not to force him to participate in violence by joining its military. I pray that the country I am now serving lives up to its promise of freedom of religion and grants this very sincere and, I think, legally justified petitioner his plea.

I know your job is a tough one, but if I can help make it any easier in this case, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Robert M Hunter

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