

Whereas, N.Y.U. has shown a continual expansiveness into residential and commercial areas of the Greenwich Village community by purchasing numerous populated buildings (87 West 3rd Street, 89 West 3rd Street, 104 West 3rd Street and 230 Sullivan Street), as well as several buildings which are now de-populated (102 West 3rd Street, 106 West 3rd Street and 114 West 3rd Street)\*, and

Whereas, many of these buildings' tenants are elderly residents on fixed income who have lived in their apartments for many decades, and

Whereas, N.Y.U. has tried to subvert tenants' rights by attempting individual negotiations; and

Whereas, it has been alleged that N.Y.U. has harassed and violated the rights of tenants in the past, and

Whereas, we understand that N.Y.U. intends to empty these buildings to put up new administrative and dorm buildings, and

Whereas, we are opposed to the expansion of the N.Y.U. academic and dormitory plant at the expense of residential housing in Greenwich Village,

Be it resolved that the V.I.D. opposes any tenant harassment, relocation or eviction and demolition of any of these buildings by N.Y.U., and

Be it further resolved that V.I.D. urges executive and legislative investigations into allegations of past harassment and strongly opposes any future expansion plans by N.Y.U. which would remove any residential housing units in our community, and

Be it further resolved that N.Y.U. re-rent all vacated apartments in buildings that it owns in the West 3rd, Sullivan, and Mac Dougal Streets area.

V.I.D. Housing Committee--passed November 3, 1982  
Rick Braun, Chairperson

V.I.D. Executive Committee--passed as modified, November 15, 1982  
*VII) General membership - passed December 8, 1982*

\*This is not meant to be an all-inclusive listing.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE MIDEAST

Whereas: The Village Independent Democrats has sponsored a forum on the current situation in the Mideast, reviewing all major aspects of the controversy. And

Whereas: The recent war in Lebanon has made it imperative that immediate action be taken to restore and insure peace in that country, and throughout the Mideast. And

Whereas: The U.S. has a large number of troops stationed in Lebanon. And

Whereas: The U.S., as a supplier of arms, economic aid and diplomatic mediation exerts a profound influence on the region. And

Whereas: The Village Independent Democrats has a duty to educate the community and elected officials about matters concerning U.S. foreign policy.

Be It Resolved That: The Village Independent Democrats calls for the U.S. government to take the following actions and positions:

1) To work for the rapid and orderly withdrawal of all contending foreign forces -- including those from Israel, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization -- from Lebanon, in order that the nation be freed to return to its state as a historically unified national entity.

2) The Village Independent Democrats calls for the U.S. government to work to persuade all nations and national groups to recognize Israel's right to exist. ~~to urge all nations at the Mideast to sign peace pact with Israel~~

3) The Village Independent Democrats calls for the U.S. government to work to secure the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

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Sponsored by Lawrence Joseph, Mitchell Redman  
Approved by VID Executive Committee, 12/9/82

WHEREAS the VID has long been committed to full employment in the United States;

WHEREAS the VID has struggled for nuclear disarmament and reduction of the military budget;

WHEREAS the VID believes that a significant part of the tax monies the federal government now uses for military weaponry should be used for education, transportation, housing, health care, human services and other socially productive industries; and

WHEREAS the VID believes that our constituents ought to be educated more fully as to the feasibility of creating socially productive jobs through a peace budget

Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the VID co-sponsors the JOBS WITH PEACE campaign in New York City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VID will undertake to plan and implement educational activities during the week of April 10-16, 1983 to examine the impact of military spending on jobs and domestic programs and to study the job-creating potential of social programs.

Introduced by Jerry Goldfeder and  
passed by the Executive Committee  
on December 27, 1982

1-10-82

WHEREAS, the presently existing building at 97 Horatio Street was used for storage of paper rolls until September 1981 and before that for chicken refrigeration; and

WHEREAS, the present owner Rockrose has applied for a variance to convert 97 Horatio Street to residential zoning from its present M1-J designation; and

WHEREAS, Rockrose's plan is to renovate the building to 52 apartments to be connected with the Rockrose-owned West Coast apartments; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Committee of Community Board Two has resolved that there are substantial questions relating to whether the property could be employed in a conforming use and opposed the variance application; and

WHEREAS, The Horatio Street Association has voted to support Rockrose's variance application with the proviso that the apartments be created solely for occupancy by senior citizens on limited fixed incomes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Independent Democrats supports the aforesated variance request only if the building will be used to house senior citizens on limited fixed incomes; and otherwise opposes any variance which would lead to use of the property for luxury housing or any use other than that conforming to the present zoning designation.

WHEREAS, Mayor Edward I. Koch has appointed a commission, chaired by John F. Keenan, the City's criminal justice coordinator, whose purpose is to examine alternatives to the present criminal justice system whereby the Legal Aid Society, an independent organization, provides indigent defendants with free representation and whose ulterior purpose as stated by Mr. Keenan, is to ensure that a legal aid lawyers' strike will never be allowed to occur and

WHEREAS, this action has been justly described by the Legal Aid Lawyers' Union as the latest in a series of efforts by City officials to try to break the union and is merely a link in the chain of anti-union actions and statements on the part of the Mayor and the entire City administration and

WHEREAS, the Legal Aid Society has a long and proud history of providing free representation for indigent defendants free from government control and political influence and exemplifies what the U.S. Supreme Court intended when it held that an indigent defendant must be provided with effective legal representation in accordance with the Constitution and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that a city run defenders' system could not be run more economically than is the existing Legal Aid Society and

WHEREAS, such an alternative system would deny its workers the right to strike, a right which is basic to any employee-employer relationship.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Independent Democrats go on record as:

- (a) expressing our most strenuous disapproval of this attempt to dismantle the Legal Aid Society as an independent entity and
- (2) expressing our disapproval of this latest of Mayor Koch's attempts to limit the right of workers to strike and his attempts at dismantling the Legal Aid Lawyers Union,
- (3) reaffirming our support of and solidarity with the striking Legal Aid Society Lawyers whose strike we went on record as supporting at the November 9, 1982 General Meeting and
- (4) reaffirming V.I.D.'s proud tradition of support for the right of workers to express their labor grievances by means of a strike.

Whereas the Village Independent Democrats has gone on record in support of the strike by the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, and

Whereas the Legal Aid Society is renowned for providing free legal services for indigent defendants and for being an advocate on behalf of the rights of the poor in the area of criminal justice in both the courtroom and the legislature, and

Whereas the Legal Aid Society has been able to provide these constitutionally mandated services and to play an active role primarily because it is free from any form of governmental control, a status which allows it to bring suits on behalf of indigent defendants against governmental agencies, and

Whereas the "Keenan" report has come out in favor of a Legal Aid Society which would not allow its employees to strike and would require binding arbitration and favors the creation of a public defenders' agency which would bar its employees from striking pursuant to the Taylor Law in the event that the Legal Aid Society is not able or willing to implement no-strike and binding arbitration clauses in its contract, and

Whereas Mayor Koch has gone on record in support of a Legal Aid Society which would prohibit its employees from striking and has recently requested attorneys to take over the caseload of the striking lawyers on behalf of the New York Legal Aid Society,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Independent Democrats:

1. Reaffirms our support for the Legal Aid attorneys' strike, particularly in view of the union's recent overwhelming vote in favor of continuing the strike instead of accepting a contract which was neither in their interests nor in the interests of their clients.
2. Goes on record in strenuous opposition to any change in the format of representation of indigent defendants and in support of an independent Legal Aid Society free from any form of governmental control - an organization whose work epitomizes the intent of the United States Supreme Court when it required indigent defendants to be provided with free and effective counsel at all levels of the criminal process.
3. Goes on record in opposition to the enclosure of a no-strike clause in the contracts of Legal Aid Society employees and in opposition to the Mayor's call for attorneys to be strikebreakers and to his attempt to use the organized bar to break the Legal Aid Attorneys' strike. The right to strike is at the bedrock of any employee-employer relationship.

Introduced by Carol Feinman and passed by the Executive Committee on December 27, 1982.