

HISTORY and PURPOSE

CCCCO, founded in 1948 as the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors by peace, church and civil liberties groups, has expanded from one office and two staff members to three offices and forty-five staff members.

Our purpose is “. . .to assist persons who find themselves facing conflict with the power of the State. . .” because of their conscientious objection to war. Our concerns have broadened so that we try to provide assistance to any man confronted by the draft or the military who wants counseling about his rights and alternatives. We believe that every man should have as much information as possible so he can make a reasoned response to the demands made upon him.

CCCCO came to the attention of many people after its backing of Dan Seeger in the important Supreme Court case, *U.S. v. Seeger*, in 1965. The Court's decision redefined and considerably broadened the “religious training and belief” requirement for conscientious objectors.

“A very few, as heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense, and *men*, serve the State with their consciences also, and so necessarily resist it for the most part; and they are commonly treated as enemies by it.”

— *Henry David Thoreau*

“War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.”

— *John F. Kennedy*



SERVICES

The CCCO National Office in Philadelphia serves the eastern and southern states:

- Assisting in the formation of independent, locally-sponsored counseling centers, and in the training of military and draft counselors for these centers.
- Helping attorneys and counselors by answering their inquiries on specific problems.
- Counseling men from communities where there are no readily available counselors.
- Aiding groups which provide counseling to low-income and minority communities.
- Assisting community groups which counsel high-school-age men.
- Organizing and training military and draft counselors in the South through our Atlanta-based fieldworker.
- Distributing the monthly “Draft Counselor’s Newsletter” to help keep over 1,500 draft counselors in the region up to date on changes in Selective Service regulations and procedures.
- Providing speakers for groups interested in counseling or the draft in general.