

# ADVICE COLUMN

4.11  
A28-10.11

Q: What do the three categories of "religious objector" involve?

- A: (1) non-combatant service: serve the normal call-up period doing non-combatant duties in military uniform.
- (2) Non-uniformed non-combatant service: serve  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of each call-up doing non-combatant duties in a non-military uniform.
- (3) Non-military service: serve  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the length of all SADF service outstanding, in one continuous period, in a ~~government~~ ~~or provincial or municipal department~~ <sup>mis</sup> service is under the auspices of the Department of Manpower, serving in a government, provincial or municipal department.

Q: Are many applicants turned down by the Board for Religious Objection?

A: No. Out of the 758 applications ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ dealt with by the Board between late 1983 until the end of 1985, only 11 were refused objector status.

Q: What happens to me if my application is turned down?

A: If your application is unsuccessful, you will be expected to report for military training as outlined in your original call-up papers. ~~xx If that call-up has passed, new call-up papers will be issued~~

Q: What will happen to me if I still choose not to serve?

A: You will then be liable for prosecution and face a prison sentence  $1\frac{1}{2}$  <sup>your</sup> ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ times the length of ~~the~~ SADF service outstanding ~~xx~~ a maximum of 6 years and a minimum of 18 months ~~xx(Sectioxxxxxxkixkxx)~~

## Early Christians did not refuse military service

PLEASE may I reply to H. Taylor's letter of October 30. He appears to speak for a church group and for the End Conscription Campaign.

Mr Taylor should check his facts before putting pen to paper. The early Christians were not sent to their death for being pacifist and refusing to do military service. It is recorded that Christians were in military service in the Roman legions.

The Christians were sent to their death for their faith in Jesus Christ, and because Christianity was making great inroads into the pagan form of worship, insomuch that the temples of the pagans were being deserted. This history and the Bible bear out.

With regard to the new constitution's claim to uphold the freedom of faith and worship. The Government does not inter-

fere in the religions of this country, it does not interfere in their worship.

But the Government has the right to call on the citizens to do military service. This, rulers have done almost since the beginning of time. To disobey is to break the law, for which offenders will be punished.

The Government has laid down the penalty. If the Buddhist or any other religion wishes to stay in South

Africa they must accept the law of the land, and suffer the penalty as law-breakers, without squealing.

Christians have no right spiritually to refuse military service. Paul the Apostle tells them to obey the lawfully appointed authority, the king as supreme or the governors as sent by him.

Paul also has this to say, a Christian should not suffer as a law-

breaker. If Christians refuse to obey the powers of government on earth, how can they obey God whom they cannot see?

All I can tell H. Taylor and his like is to render to the government what is that government's, and unto God what is God's, not mixing the two. God has put the Government in power for his purpose, and he will remove it when it is his will.

V. CRAUSE Greytown

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**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

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