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(David Eberhardt was a member of the Baltimore 4 1st Draft Board Raid. Check out the movie "Hit and Stay" <http://www.hitandstay.com/>, a documentary of the Draft Board Raids of the 1960's. And visit David's website <http://davideberhardt.webs.com/> or e-mail him at moz...@yahoo.com)

Agreeing totally with Ciaron O Reilly's statement re the Cornell piece (which contains many great points and arguments) may I add 1, We blood pourers did not use "a pitcher of blood" at the Customs House"; 2 some property INDEED has no right to exist- such as rail lines to Auschwitz or nuclear storage facilities; and in order to turn swords into plowshares, the swords have to be addressed practically, 3 such actions as the draft actions (see DVD documentary "Hit and Stay" and several books (including mine)- are hard to undertake and need more, not less, practitioners; they are one more tactic, arrow in the non violent quiver; 4 going to prison is a helpful endeavor, as helpful as soup kitchens; 5 there were simply NOT, as Tom claims, "many" spies in the actions- I can think of Hardy in the Camden 28- that was ONE! Activism is a good- and I for one love philosophizing such as Tom's.

To me Tom is quibbling, straining at gnats, e g

"From the Christian point of view, weapons that are intended to kill the innocent may surely be destroyed in justice. Justice may even demand it. But is it nonviolence? Is it disarmament? Disarmament occurs when people lay down their weapons, not when their weapons are taken from them. That only moves belligerents to procure more and better weapons if they can. When activists destroy weapons, do they effect any conversion or change of heart in their opponents? Do they lead any to lay down their arms? Are such actions what we need?

There are practical concerns as well. The secrecy involved in Plowshares activities invites infiltration by spies and agents provocateurs. Openness and truth must be laid aside. Secrecy breeds suspicion within the group and creates a class system of those "in the know," the "serious," and those who merely attend to chores or lend moral or financial support. At trial, too often, it has come out that many "in the know" were actually spies.

David Eberhardt