

# THE MUSIC BAG

## Give Peace a Chance

BY THE MISSION SINGERS

This past November we were in Texas to appear on a television music show. Edwin Starr was on the same program with us, and he told us about his newest song — unreleased at that time — Stop the War Now.

He said this song was much stronger than his last hit, War, and when we asked him what the main point of the new song was, he quoted a line, "This is a message to the leaders of the world: give peace a chance."

Let's be honest: Motown Records, with groups like the Temptations and the Supremes, and Edwin Starr, are making a mint on message songs.

As one writer put it, "Doing good is becoming — has already become — a growth industry, like the other forms of mass communication." In short, righteous indignation sells.

But there's nothing wrong with that. It's important that everyone has the opportunity to say what he believes. Pop music is the most-listened-to medium, so everyone gets the chance to listen to The Ballad of the Green Beret and An Open Letter to My Teenage Son as well as to War and Stop the War Now.

Music can never take the place of thinking, but certainly it can provide a sting, a spur. And if the contrasting voices and songs seem to become a little garbled, that's all right. A little organized chaos is a good thing. Better than repression of expression.

One of the best ways to get some people upset is to act like a "peacenik." "If I refuse to



EDWIN STARR

fight they'll say that that ain't right." If you think such a statement is an overgeneralization, consider the incidents surrounding Muhammad Ali and his legal fight against the draft. When there was some talk that Ali might fight Frazier in Texas, representatives of the American Legion tried to pressure the governor to prohibit the fight.

Reason for the opposition to Ali, is that in the eyes of many people he is a traitor, a disloyal American. We believe that people can sincerely disagree with Ali's reasoning and motives, but it seems fair to question people who are so quick to shout, "Traitor!"

Stop the War Now is full of passion, but there is much that is solid and hard-hitting in this song. Perhaps the most powerful verse is the one that speaks of asking soldiers who were killed in battle if they would like to fight again, were the opportunity offered.

### STOP THE WAR NOW

Stop the war now,  
Don't put it off another day.

A knock on the door, a letter from the boss,  
and it's saying, "I want you."  
If I refuse to fight they'll say that that ain't right  
and time you'll have to do.

Somebody please tell me what this war is all about.  
Why must I kill against my will, I just can't figure it out.

Chorus:  
Stop the war now, don't put it off another day.  
Stop the war now, don't put it off another day.  
Why can't we just give peace a chance?  
Don't throw another life away.

Think about all the soldiers that are dead and done today.  
If you asked them to fight again, what do you think they'd say?  
I'm not trying to be funny, I'm just trying to get my point across.  
War is this world's enemy number one, and it's time that we called it off.

(Chorus)  
War casualties pile up each day, cemeteries are overflowing.  
Leaders of the world claim victory is near but the death list keeps right on growing.  
What does a momma get in return for the life of a son she's lost?  
A few measly pennies a month, a medal of bravery and a doggone cross.

(Chorus)  
Can't you see enough blood's been shed by the wounded and the dead?  
This is a message to the leaders of the world: give peace a chance.

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### Big Names to Attend Fete

Three National Football League stars and two outstanding American League baseball players have been added to the head table list for the 21st Annual Hickok Press-Radio Club Professional Athlete-of-the-Year Dinner Feb. 1 at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The football players are Ron Johnson, New York Giants half-back who gained more than 1,000 yards rushing in the past season; George Blanda, of the Oakland Raiders; and Gary Collins, Cleveland Browns end.

Boog Powell, most valuable player in the American League and first baseman on the Baltimore Orioles, will join Jim Perry, Minnesota pitcher and

winner of the Cy Young Award for the American League, at the head table. Brooks Robinson, Baltimore third baseman, who was the most valuable player in the World Series, also will attend the affair, according to Press Club president Tom Gould.

### HOLY ANGELS GUILD

The monthly meeting of Holy Angels Guild will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 26. Members are asked to meet at the Rochester Gas & Electric Building at 7:30 p.m. The annual membership drive will open at this time according to Miss Clara Terrotto, president.

You have to remember that the song is talking about the war we're fighting now. It never denies that there are many things worth dying for. A peace advocate once said: "Many people call me a pacifist. But that's a pretty big word. It's true: I'd never go out and attack another people. But if the enemy ever landed on the shores of my country, I'd be on the front line to help push them out again." But as one US soldier in Vietnam told a TV newsmen recently, "None of us knows why we're here."

Some people say the end is near. The war is winding down, and now only 40 young American lives are lost every week. Maybe Stop the War Now is a violent over-reaction. After all, in two or three years, maybe only 20 Americans will die each week in a foreign war. Let's see: 52 weeks in a year, 156 weeks for three years; 156 times 40 is 6,240. A new way for a child to learn multiplication? "I'm not trying to be funny, I'm just trying to get my point across. Give peace a chance."

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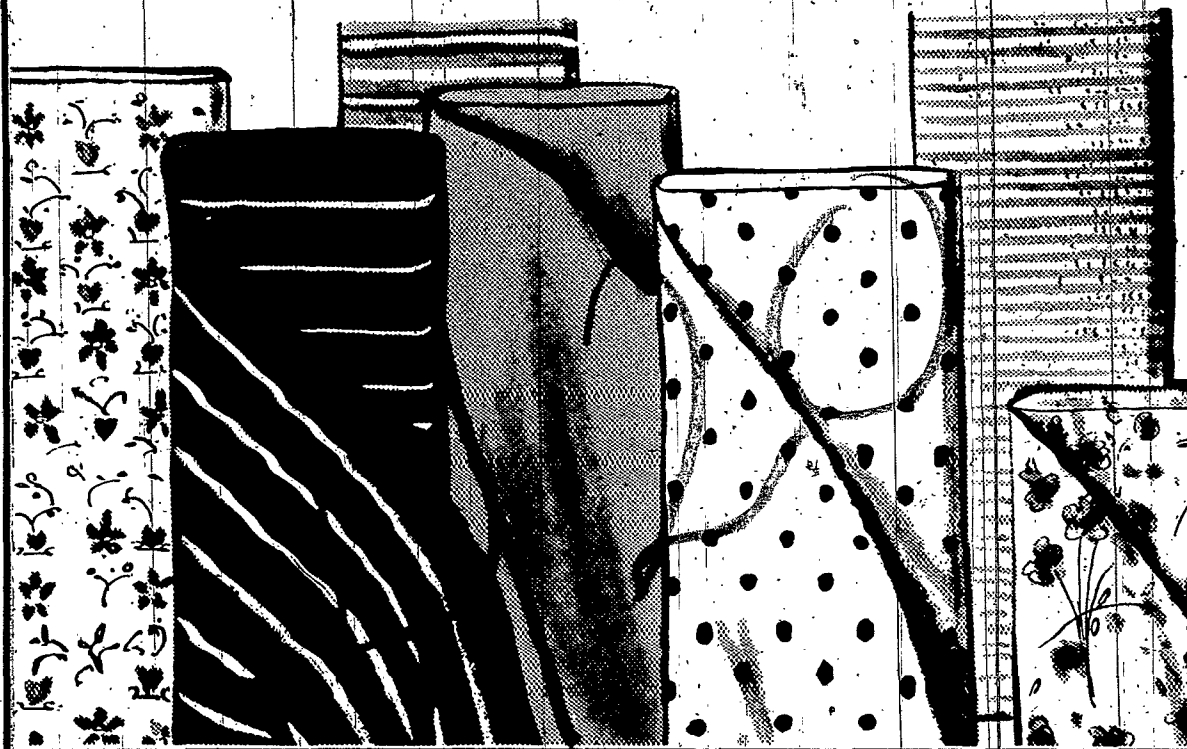
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