Milton Kramer, Terre Haute:

“I do want to make my personal viewpoint clear. It has evolved from the first abhorrence of techniques and methods used, to the realization that in themselves these are unimportant, that they are simple expressions of power, of a system of absolute authority. Where men are broken, it is not because of any physical deprivations (these are only the tools)—it is because they are under, I might say ‘underneath,’ a system where they have no ‘rights,’ only ‘privileges,’ which depend exclusively on the caprice of myrmidons or worse. Without rights a man cannot keep his self respect, cannot grow. So the real evil—the only one worth taking much energy to eliminate—is the basic framework, the attitude where men are merely wards of another man. The basic thing then is to keep men out of institutions, to get them out when they are in, and to eliminate the institution as such. So I go from a too immediate, sentimental attitude of reform of injustice, to a basic approach to the problems. I do not by any means imply that one should simply let these things go without some expression but they should not become the major point of one’s effort…No one can now judge the effects of one man or group of men maintaining their stand. I can only stick by the principles I believe in, as best I can, and the effects from there on depend on factors that I cannot control. I think that is the most practical and realistic approach. It is the thinking that led me to be a C.O. in the first place and then to walk out of my camp. The mess that is C.P.S. represents the compromise of principle for the false ‘realism’ of immediate activity. The appeasement at Munich is a similar disaster of the shortsightedness of ‘realism.’”

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