

THE MILITANT

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Washington Presses Hate-Cuba Campaign

By George Lavan

FEB. 7 — Unable to coerce or cajole the major Latin-American nations at the recent Punta del Este conference into endorsing its plan for diplomatic and economic

sanctions against Cuba — which would pave the way for a new invasion — the Kennedy administration has been working feverishly since that setback to bring about the same result by different means.

Meetings Honor Natalia Trotsky

Mourners from all parts of the world gathered at a funeral service for Natalia Trotsky in Paris Jan. 29. The services, attended by some 800 people, were held at Père Lachaise cemetery where martyrs of the Paris Commune are buried. Her ashes were placed there temporarily and will later be sent to Mexico for burial along side those of her husband, Leon Trotsky, in the garden of their home in Coyoacan.

Speakers at the funeral included many notables representing a broad spectrum of the international radical movement, including militant Communists, Socialists, Trotskyists and Anarchists.

Speakers included Professor Laurent Schwartz of the Sorbonne; British historian Isaac Deutscher; Pierre Naville, leader of the French Unified Socialist Party; the famous French writer and artist, Andre Breton and Marguerite Bonnet, speaking for the veteran French socialist, Alfred Rosmer.

Joseph Hansen, editor of *The Militant*, spoke for the Socialist Workers Party. Livio Maitan of Italy and Pierre Frank of France spoke for Trotskyist groups in those countries.

The Socialist Labor League of Great Britain was represented by its national secretary, Gerry Healy.

NEW YORK — A memorial meeting in honor of Natalia Trotsky was held here Feb. 2. The meeting was chaired by Farrell Dobbs, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

"In her own right," said Dobbs, (Continued on Page 3)

Negro Boycott Halts Bus Line In Albany, Ga.

The bus line in Albany, Georgia has shut down as a result of a Negro boycott which cut daily receipts to 18 per cent of normal. Negroes ordinarily make up 80 per cent of the riders.

The bus company agreed to end segregated seating after a week of the boycott, but shut down Feb. 1 after the City Commission refused to permit such a settlement. The mayor opposed the City Commission's stand.

The bus protest was organized by the Albany Movement which is demanding desegregation of transportation and public places, and equal employment opportunities for Negroes. A boycott of downtown businesses is also in progress. The movement has set up car pools and holds regular mass meetings which average 2,000 persons.

Dr. W. G. Anderson, a leader of the Albany Movement, says that "on any given day we can call a mass meeting and fill any two churches on two hours notice."

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 27 — The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has asked the Justice Department immediately to investigate the "whipping by two policemen of 19-year-old Miss Bessie Turner of Clarksdale, Mississippi."

The beating took place Jan. 21 after Miss Turner had been taken to the city jail for questioning. She was later released and ad-

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N. Y. Rally to Hear Monroe Defendants

NEW YORK — All the defendants about to go on trial in Monroe, N.C., on framed-up "kidnap" charges will tell their stories to a New York meeting Feb. 15.

Also to address the protest meeting, sponsored by the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants, are Norman Mailer, the famous author; William Worth, Afro-American correspondent; and civil-rights attorney Conrad Lynn who will have just returned from Havana where he is presently getting evidence for the trial from Robert F. Williams and Mable Williams. The North Carolina Negro leader, his wife and children fled North Carolina KKK terrorists and police, and were granted political asylum in Cuba.

The meeting is Thursday night, Feb. 15, at 8:30 p.m., at Riverside Plaza, 253 West 73rd St., (near corner of Broadway).

The three defendants are scheduled to go on trial Feb. 19. They face possible life sentences. All are young men whose only crime is devotion to the struggle against Jim Crow. They are:

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ANTI-BOMB SIT-DOWN. Undaunted by rain, these sit-downers at the New York office of the Atomic Energy Commission provided one of the highlights, Jan. 30, of a week-long series of anti-war demonstrations called by a General Strike for Peace committee. The sit-down was buttressed by a picket line of several hundred.

Ultra-Rights in Los Angeles Resort to Bomb Terrorism

By Della Rossa

LOS ANGELES — A series of bombings and bomb threats against prominent opponents of the ultra-right have erupted here. Science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, actress Rita Moreno and Jessica Ryan, wife of actor Robert Ryan, are among the targets.

All are participants on a program over radio station KPFK-FM critical of the John Birch Society. Mrs. Ryan and the station have received telephoned threats of bombings if the program continues.

The homes of two ministers, Rev. Brooks Walker and Rev. John Simmons, were bombed Feb. 1 while they participated in a panel discussion on the subject "The Extreme Right — A Threat to Democracy?" The meeting was sponsored by a local professional branch of the American Jewish Congress. A third member of the panel, actress Marsha Hunt, announced after the bombings that

a protest meeting is being planned by religious and civic groups "to give the people of Los Angeles a chance to answer threats to peaceable assembly."

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 29 — The current atmosphere of anti-Communist hysteria was blamed here for the middle-of-the-night bombing yesterday of the entrance to the downtown office building where the newspaper *Peoples' World* is on the second floor and the Communist Party headquarters is on the fifth floor.

Dorothy Healy, local Communist Party chairman, said she believed the blast was definitely directed against the Communist Party headquarters. "I think this should make shivers run down everybody's back," she continued. "It's comparable to what the OAS Secret Army Organization is doing in Algeria and France."

"I think the anti-Communist schools and the anti-Communist (Continued on Page 2)

Interview With a Nicaraguan Revolutionist

27 Years of U.S.-Imposed 'Tyranny and Murder'

By Joseph Hansen

In Mexico City, our last stop on a tour of the principal Latin-American countries, we met Dr. Ram6n Romero, one of the outstanding leaders of the anti-imperialist struggle in Central America. He was acquainted with *The Militant* and gave me, as its editor, a most cordial welcome.

After several lengthy informal discussions about the political situation in Latin America, we arranged a more formal interview. My questions and Dr. Romero's answers follow:

Q: I know that before the Somoza dictatorship you were a public figure in Nicaragua. A member of Congress wasn't it?

A: Yes. I was a deputy, a member of the National Congress. I was also active in educational

work, was a magistrate and, of course, belonged to various workers organizations

Q: How long have you been in exile?

A: During the government of dictator Anastasio Somoza Garcia, that is, during 27 years of tyranny, crimes and murder, I was condemned to exile twice. I spent five years in Venezuela and another five years in various Central American republics. On Somoza's death, the dictator's two sons seized power and one of them, Luis Somoza Debayle, proclaimed himself president. He was supported by the army — the National Guard — and the U.S. Department of State. He appointed his brother, Anastasio Somoza Debayle, to head the National Guard. This brother is a sinister

figure, a monster in the annals of crime. I was condemned to exile again and for the past five years have lived here in Mexico City.

Q: Most of your work in exile, I suppose, has been of a literary character. Any books that might be of special interest to readers of *The Militant*?

A: I think they would be interested in *Somoza Asesino de Sandino* and *Sandino y Los Yanquis*.

Q: Are they available in English?

A: Not yet. *Sandino y Los Yanquis*, in fact, has just been published in Spanish.

Q: Did you know Sandino personally?

A: I knew Sandino personally; and I was, I am proud to say, one of his intimate friends. When he

began his campaign in the jungles of Nueva Segovia I was a member of Congress and naturally utilized this position to defend Sandino's program. He stood for national freedom, the sovereignty of Nicaragua, which had to be defended arms-in-hand against the U.S. Army.

Q: The Nicaraguan government today is among those seeking "collective action" against Cuba. Do you consider this position to be in accordance with the wishes of the Nicaraguan people?

A: The government of Somoza — that is, Luis and Anastasio and the National Guard — organized and trained at Puerto Cabezas 2,500 anti-Castroites who invaded Cuba with consequences the whole world knows about: ridicule for the Somozas, for the puppet

Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes of Guatemala, for Mr. Kennedy and for the Central Intelligence of the United States. The Nicaraguan people were happy at the defeat of the mercenaries on the beach at Cuba. They are on Cuba's side and oppose any so-called "collective action."

Q: Do you have evidence of this opinion?

A: Well, there have been public demonstrations; but we also know it through our own sources who are in very close touch and know what is going on in Nicaragua.

Q: How long has the Somoza family been in power in Nicaragua?

A: About 27 years.

Q: Is it a family with an old tradition?

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Mexican Widow in Colorado Scores Key Legal Victory

By Tom Leonard

DENVER — Every year thousands of Mexican farm workers (braceros) enter Colorado to plant and harvest the sugar beet crop. Braceros are contracted to work through an agreement with the Mexican government and are not to be confused with so-called "wet-backs" or Mexican workers who "illegally" enter the United States looking for jobs.

They work long hours for low pay. In most cases they are forced to live in shacks, often without running water or other sanitary facilities. The fact that few of them speak English places them more at the mercy of unscrupulous beet ranchers.

Two years ago, Manuel Ramirez, a bracero employed by the Great Western Sugar Co., was killed in a head-on auto-truck collision outside Greeley, Colo. His widow and mother of four children, Mrs. Maria Guadalupe Palacios de Ramirez of Torreon, Mexico, filed a suit for damages.

On Jan. 25 the U.S. District Court in Denver awarded Mrs.

Ramirez a settlement of \$25,000. This is the maximum amount allowable in a death case according to Colorado law and establishes an important legal precedent.

The Jan. 26 *Denver Post* reported that Hector R. Jara, Mexican consul hailed the decision and said: "The case was the first of its kind in Colorado in which a Mexican citizen has won a maximum judgment. He also noted that the verdict was returned by a jury composed entirely of Anglo-Americans."

When asked to comment on the favorable decision brought in by the jury, Mrs. Ramirez's attorney, Harry Nier, Jr., observed: "It reflects a developing sense of public opinion that we Americans have something more in common with our brother-Americans south of the border than their function as cheap labor for our industry."

As an example, Nier who is chairman of the Colorado Fair Play for Cuba Committee, explained how his two visits to Cuba after Batista's overthrow had changed his opinion of Latin America. He said: "My experiences in Cuba have been the most profound of any in my life."

In granting the maximum legal award to Mrs. Ramirez, the District Court established the fact that braceros are equal under the law. In the future this legal victory will enforce their efforts to combat violations of their work agreements by profit-hungry sugar beet ranchers in Colorado.

Rent Strike Is Won By Detroit Tenants

DETROIT—The recently formed Community Tenants League here has won a victory against a landlord who raised rents when Negroes moved into his apartment house. The League's victory is expected to set a precedent for future struggles against a vicious practice which is very common in Detroit.

Because of the severe shortage of apartments where Negroes are welcomed, landlords often raise rents and reduce maintenance when they start renting to Negroes. They also often break up large apartments, while charging more for the smaller units. The white tenants then tend to leave because they can get better conditions elsewhere.

The result is a Negro Ghetto, with buildings deteriorating as a result of the fact that the landlord has doubled up tenants and neglected the maintenance.

The Community Tenants League was formed by five families in an apartment building at 3201 Rochester. The building was integrated last October, and the rents raised from \$65 to \$90.

Pay and Pay

The head of the Linden Management Co., which runs the building for its owner Walter Vashak, explained the raise by saying that if Negroes wanted better housing, they would have to pay for it.

At the same time, Mr. Linden sharply reduced the general care and maintenance, and conditions in the building became deplorable.

Instead of moving out, the white tenants in the building joined with the Negroes. The League, co-chaired by Howard Crum and Art Fox, was formed, and they all went on a rent strike.

They got legal counsel from attorney John Conyers of the American Civil Liberties Union who said the withholding of rents would force the landlord into court. Conyers was interested in creating a legal theory to combat future cases of racial rent raises.

The landlord sued for the rent, but after much embarrassing testimony and publicity, he made an "out of court" settlement in mid-January reducing the rent to \$70. About 40 spectators were present at the trial, most of them Negroes from the neighborhood where the dispute began, and they felt they had gained a major victory. The League plans to fight more cases in this fashion.

...LA Bombings

(Continued from Page 1) hysteria have created such an aura that crackpots think they can be allowed to carry on this type of activity," the CP spokesman declared. She said it is "up to every citizen to insist that this type of lawlessness be halted. It's not going to stop with the Communist Party."

Oscar G. Coover, local organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, said his party "joins in protesting the bombing of the Communist Party headquarters building. We feel that the current anti-communist hysteria is behind this act and that all organizations interested in democracy must be prepared to take a united stand in defense of the Communist Party's civil liberties."

This reporter was in the *People's World* office this afternoon when an anonymous telephone caller threatened to "explode a bomb in your office in half an hour." A report was made to police and the work in the office went on as usual. I talked to John Kykyri, editor of the paper, for the next half hour and no bomb went off. "We've been receiving these threats regularly for some time," he said, "and they are not going to scare us."

Leadership of Communist Party Attacks New Radical Magazine

By Farrell Dobbs

A new monthly magazine, *Progressive Labor*, began publication in January under the editorship of Milton Rosen and Mort Scheer. It has been greeted by a Communist Party attack in *The Worker* of Jan. 28 denouncing the editors as "disrupters" and "deserters."

Rosen and Scheer are held to be "influenced ideologically by the bourgeoisie, petty-bourgeoisie and Trotskyites" and to be "speculating on the stand of the Albanian Party." Their writings in *Progressive Labor* are labeled "anarcho-syndicalist" policies that "can only isolate left forces from the broad masses."

The CP indicts them for being opposed to "forming an anti-monopoly coalition" and for not working "to influence issues, candidates, and movements..." They are accused of fighting "only" Kennedy and of opposing the need to fight "both the Administration and also the Ultra-Right which represent the most dangerous elements..."

An actual reading of the first issue of *Progressive Labor*, which deals with union problems, cuts through the fog of the CP diatribe and reveals an attempt to do some serious political thinking. The editors examine the union leadership crisis under Meany and Reuther and find a key error in "adherence by labor to the cold war policies initiated during the Truman administration." They explain that the witch hunting of

socialists "robbed the trade unions of much of their ability to develop an independent program in the interests of their membership..."

Collaboration of union heads with big business "has put the labor movement into conflict with its most logical ally, the Negro people." With full union support to the civil-rights struggle, "The Negro worker and his special relationship to the entire Negro Freedom movement can bring into the labor movement a new quality of struggle, can enliven the labor movement with his revolutionary vitality, and can therefore tend to move the whole labor movement along."

One of the "basic weaknesses in the labor movement today is the virtual absence of a Socialist outlook." Without such an outlook a challenge of the monopolies becomes harder for the labor movement which is the "pivotal force in American society." When labor is "strong, militant and forward-looking all other mass movements flourish as well."

Concerning Kennedy, "Labor had best look away on such an administration that has unity in the cold war as its credo... The hard, simple truth of the matter is that Kennedy is hell-bent on burdening the expenses of a monstrous, never-satiated cold war on the back of labor... What the labor movement needs today is a thorough appraisal of the Kennedy administration, one which not only lauds Caesar but also damns him when the occasion arises."

An editorial on the New York mayoralty elections takes up the Brotherhood Party initiated by the AFL-CIO. "The Brotherhood Party had no independent program... It put forth no candidates of its own. And it never established its independence from the Democratic Party and remained, in the public eye, but a part of the Wagner campaign operation. The idea of a labor party never became a reality."

The elections revealed that "there is no more room in New York City for yet another do-nothing party with a liberal, pro-labor facade. And that any political movement, no matter what it calls itself, that ties itself to the big business controlled parties, will end up being swallowed by them without even a thank you for its efforts."

As this brief account shows — the CP factional assault, notwithstanding — the editors of *Progressive Labor* are searching for class-struggle answers to the crisis of American labor. They are to be commended for their fraternal attitude in announcing that the magazine "will open its pages to a frank exchange of experiences and viewpoints..." Their open-minded approach to serious class political questions is in keeping with the needs of the times.

People wishing to read the magazine may secure it (25 cents a copy, \$2.50 per year) by writing: *Progressive Labor*, G.P.O. Box 808, Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

Special Offer To New Readers

A four-month trial subscription to *The Militant* for only 50 cents. Send this coupon with payment to: *The Militant*, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

Name
Street
City Zone.....
State

Weekly Calendar

DETROIT

Celebrate Negro History Week with the Friday Night Socialist Forum. Films, Songs, Refreshment. Fri., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward.

LOS ANGELES

Negro History Week Symposium — Which Way to First-Class Citizenship for Afro-Americans? Moderator, Frank Greenwood. Speakers, Earl Walters (CORE), Erroll Banks (SWP), John Shebazz (Rep. of Messiah Elijah). Sat., Feb. 17, 8:15 p.m. Forum Hall, 1702 E. 4th St. Collection for Monroe Defendants. Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

MINNEAPOLIS

V. R. Dunne analyzes Kennedy's Attack on Labor. Sun., Feb. 18, 2:30 p.m. 704 Hennepin Ave., Room 240. Contrib. 75c. Aup. Socialist Workers Party.

NEW YORK

The Creative Personality in Contemporary Life — A symposium led by Bill Ward, editor of *Provincetown Review*. Fri., Feb. 16, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. \$1. Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

Guerrilla Warfare, Cuba and National Liberation. An appraisal by Joel Oppenheimer, student of military history. Mon., Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m. Adelphi Hall, 74 Fifth Ave. Contrib. \$1 (students and unemployed, 50c.) Aup. Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Hear 3 Defendants in Monroe Kidnap Frame-up, plus novelist Norman Mailer, attorney Conrad Lynn and journalist William Worthy at protest rally, Thurs., Feb. 15, 8:30 p.m. Riverside Plaza Hotel, 237 W. 73rd St. (Off 8dwy.) Contrib. 99c. Aup. Committee to Aid Monroe Defendants.

WHAT MAKES LATIN AMERICA EXPLOSIVE? — A First-Hand Report by Joseph Hansen, editor, *The Militant*. Just returned from four months in principal South American countries. Fri., Feb. 23, 8:30 p.m. Henry Hudson Hotel, 353 W. 57th St. (Off 8th Ave.) Contrib. \$1. Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

PHILADELPHIA

The Yale & Towne Strike and the Need for a Labor Party. An analysis by Morris Chertov. Sat., Feb. 17, 8 p.m. 1303 W. Girard Ave. (2nd floor.) Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

SAN FRANCISCO

The Negro Struggle — Which Road Is It Taking? What Lies Ahead? Hear proponents of differing viewpoints. Fri., Feb. 16, 8 p.m. 150 Golden Gate. Contrib. 75c. (Students 50c.) Aup. Symposium Committee to Celebrate Negro History Week.

Wendell Phillips, college instructor under attack by followers of John Birch Society, and William Mandel, lecturer and radio commentator, discuss the New Threat to Civil Liberties. Sat., Feb. 17, 8 p.m. 150 Golden Gate. Contrib. 75c (students, 50c.) Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

W. Germans Protest U. S. Communist Ban

Over 100 West German anti-Nazis have written President Kennedy to express strong criticism of the McCarran and Smith Acts, which in effect outlaw the Communist Party in the U.S. The letter's signers include a Catholic priest, Franciscus Ulrich.

The letter, sent from Munich on Dec. 22, 1961, recalls the signers' years of suffering under fascism. The Supreme Court decisions upholding both acts, the German writers aver, cast a "deep shadow upon the much-praised American freedom..."

"When German anti-fascists warn us against two laws which purport to be aimed at Communists, but can ultimately strangle all critical and independent political thought, we would be wise to take heed," said Reuben W. Borough, chairman of the Constitutional Liberties Information Center which released the letter.

"They know from their own bitter experience that failure to protest and combat Hitler's initial suppression of Communists helped the ultimate suppression of all dissent to the program of war and mass murder. I personally hope that the President will ask Congress to repeal both of these dangerous laws, and that in the meantime he will pursue no prosecutions under them," said Reuben.

Hard Facts About 'People's Capitalism'

Have you groped for facts to refute the argument that class lines have vanished in the U.S.? Then don't miss *The Myth of "People's Capitalism,"* a fact-filled, incisive analysis by veteran labor journalist Art Preis in the winter issue of *International Socialist Review*. Send 35 cents for a copy to:

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Monday, February 12, 1962

Back on the Firing Line

The movement for civil rights and civil liberties will certainly benefit from the return to the firing line of Frank Wilkinson and Carl Braden who were released from prison Feb. 1. They had served a year, less time off for good behavior, for their refusal to answer questions put to them by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Carl Braden went directly from prison to his home in Louisville, Ky., to see his family before plunging back into his work as field secretary for the Southern Conference Educational Fund, a south-wide organization fighting for integration.

Frank Wilkinson, a leader of the National Council to Abolish HUAC, made an overnight stop in New York before returning to his home in Los Angeles. He was guest of honor at a reception attended by more than a thousand supporters. Before boarding a plane the next morning he was interviewed at a press conference where he spelled out his views on civil liberties in the same forthright way that earned him the hatred of the House witch-hunters.

The most ominous development in the civil-liberties field during the time he was in prison, he said, was the Supreme Court's approval of the McCarran Act prosecution of the Communist Party.

Noting that the act was the sole piece of legislation for which HUAC could really claim credit, Wilkinson said he was convinced that the campaign to abolish HUAC must be joined with a drive for the repeal of the McCarran Act.

We believe this is an eminently sound approach and hope it will be shared by all other fighters for civil liberties. In the meantime, warmest "welcome home" to Wilkinson and Braden.

... Meetings Honor Natalia Trotsky

(Continued from Page 1)

"Natalia was a sterling revolutionist and a heroic fighter for a better world." He pointed out that to the end she was a participant in the fight for socialist justice, referring to her demand to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union — following the 22nd Congress — that Leon Trotsky be officially cleared of the Moscow Trial frame-up charges and that his works be published in the Soviet Union.

Nora Roberts, editor of the *Young Socialist*, spoke of the meaning to herself and to the younger generation of the lives of such figures as Natalia Trotsky, who despite all personal tragedy remained true to herself and the revolutionary ideals of her youth.

Constance Weissman, a personal friend of Natalia's, gave a warm and sensitive description of the Old Bolshevik's personality. She told how during her latter years

concern and feeling for her comrades was uppermost in Natalia's life. From the speaker's reminiscences, members of the audience came to feel that they, too, knew Natalia as a personal friend.

A sketch of Natalia's life was given by George Lavan, editor of *The Militant*. During the 1930's, he said, when the personal blows against Trotsky and Natalia were the heaviest — both their sons and almost all their old friends and comrades fell victim to Stalin's murder campaign — Natalia was a rock of moral support for her husband. It is doubtful that without her he could have carried on and produced during that period what history may well regard as his greatest work.

Had it not been for Trotsky's work in the 1930's, so much credit for which goes to Natalia, Lavan declared, the degeneration of the Russian Revolution, the rise of Stalinism, could have destroyed faith in Marxism. Trotsky rendered the process of degeneration explicable while it was occurring, demonstrated that it was not due to some fatal flaw in the nature of workers' revolution itself and pointed out the social forces already beginning to stir which would cleanse and regenerate the USSR and the international workers' movement.

"In saying farewell to Natalia," Lavan continued, "we are saying farewell to our last personal friend and collaborator among those who made the October Revolution. We are, moreover, saying farewell to the Russian Left Opposition — those who remained true to the Revolution they had made . . . it is our farewell to the whole generation of Bolsheviks."

"Every generation must pass," he concluded, "but Natalia and those of her generation who remained true to their original course, have left an invaluable heritage, not only for us, not only for the socialist movement, but a heritage for all humanity."

... Bus Boycott

(Continued from Page 1)

monished by the policemen not to tell anyone about the beating.

Dr. Arron Henry, Mississippi NAACP President, told the SNCC office in Atlanta that Clarksdale officials would not investigate the case "because they don't believe it happened." Dr. Henry said he had sent affidavits relating to the beating to John Doar of the Justice Department on Jan. 23.

A telegram from SNCC chairman Charles McDew to Burke Marshall, civil-rights chief in the Department of Justice, said: "We urgently request that you investigate the inhuman, insane, and brutal belt whipping by two policemen of 19-year-old Miss Bessie Turner of Clarksdale, Mississippi. She was forced to take off her clothes, to lie on the floor, and to submit to their brutal attacks. There is no excuse for the federal government not to intervene in this case."

...Interview With Nicaraguan Revolutionist

(Continued from Page 1)

A: Anastasio Somoza Garcia came out of the streets. He was a descendant of Bernabé Somoza, a killer notorious in Nicaragua from 1835 to 1845. He was a highwayman who enjoyed watching the suffering of the women, children and old people he killed. Anastasio studied finance at a commercial school in Philadelphia, Pa. He met a gangster named Phillips Lamb and joined him in counterfeiting U.S. bonds. When he came back to Nicaragua he continued this type of activity in the city of Leon, counterfeiting money in collusion with a friend named Camilo Gonzales. One of the gang turned stoolpigeon and Somoza was sentenced to some years in prison. I should mention that before he was caught he stabbed to death a person named Filadelfo Roberto, an honest ordinary citizen.

Q: How did a figure like Somoza come to the fore in Nicaraguan politics?

A: When General Feland invaded Nicaraguan territory at the head of U.S. troops, Somoza, as a traitor to his own country, helped the invaders and thus won the protection of the North American command.

In 1930 the U.S. ambassador, Mr. Matthew Hanna, took Somoza under his wing. Hanna's wife is known to have taken an intimate

interest in Somoza and it may have been her influence that was decisive.

It was at this time that the National Guard, in accordance with State Department policy, was organized under a North American command. With the aid of Ambassador Hanna and his wife, of General José María Moncada and of Dr. Juan Bautista Sacasa, who was president of the republic, Somoza succeeded in getting himself named chief of the National Guard. Later Somoza murdered General Augusto César Sandino after he had signed a peace agreement with President Sacasa. As a reward for this crime, the State Department, the National Guard and some Nicaraguan traitors made him president of the republic. In this post Somoza became a multimillionaire, a murderer of many Nicaraguans and destroyer of democratic rights. During his rule Somoza received money, arms, tanks, modern rifles under supervision of the State Department.

Q: Would you draw a parallel between the way Anastasio Somoza and Batista, or, say, Trujillo became dictators?

A: The rise of the three dictators, Trujillo, Batista and Somoza follows the same trajectory. They came to the fore in an army organized and supplied by the State Department, the so-called National Guard, alike in Santo Domingo, Cuba and Nicaragua.

Q: Is there any parallel in the way they ran things?

A: The aid which the dictators received was utilized in slaughtering the people.

Q: Why would the United States be interested in meddling in the affairs of a small country like Nicaragua?

A: Simply because Nicaragua happens to have a possible canal route. The North American politicians have always kept their eyes on the construction of inter-oceanic canals that would facilitate free trade; and so for more than a hundred and fifty years Nicaragua has suffered armed invasions and attempts to destroy its sovereignty. At the end of 1910 they compelled Adolfo Díaz, a president imposed on Nicaragua by the State Department, to sign the Bryan-Chamorro canal treaty, conceding to the United States the right to construct an inter-oceanic canal on Nicaraguan territory. In addition there are the interests of the North American companies like United Fruit and they favor putting in and maintaining dictators in order to get all kinds of concessions.

Q: What about the claim that the United States has brought many modern benefits to Nicaragua?

A: The exploited people haven't obtained any benefits. On the contrary. They have been sinking deeper into misery, into ignorance, a life of pain. This can be seen in Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua. The U.S. policy is imperialist.

Q: I agree on that. But what would you say in reply to the argument that while the U.S. may once have been imperialist, this changed with Roosevelt's "good neighbor" policy?

A: North American imperialism goes back a long time — even before the days of 1849 under Zachary Taylor. It was quite evident in the "doctrine" enunciated by Monroe in 1823. That declaration was not an international doctrine, but a staking out of unilateral tutelage over Latin America. As for Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor" policy, this served to maintain the governments of Trujillo, Batista and Somoza, the three grand men of crime, deceit and murder.

Q: In order to participate in Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" program, won't the Somozas now be forced to liberalize their regime?

A: Let's understand first that

Mr. Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" is nothing else but the return of a part of what U.S. companies, with the support of the State Department, have squeezed out of Latin America. It's necessary to point out, too, that while formerly the companies were backed by U.S. marines in ruling the exploited peoples, today other means, such as loans, are used to breach the sovereignty of countries that receive dollars and armaments. As for the Somozas, they are not independent figures; they are simply servants of the State Department. Consequently the aid they receive simply serves to maintain them in power. But one of these days the Nicaraguan people will demand an accounting.

Q: In the United States it is repeated over and over again that countries like Nicaragua can easily be taken over by "communists" and that it is America's duty to protect them from this danger. What is your opinion?

A: Nicaragua and its people are not committed to any of the ideologies which political parties are trying to import. Their interest is in improving their standard of living, in winning freedom, in cultivating intellectual interests because they understand that life is man's greatest treasure and that it must be enriched, supporting completely the enormous task of moving forward individually and collectively. In this they don't need the aid of any other country. A nation that wants to live is up to this task.

Q: What effect did the victory of the Cuban Revolution have among the Nicaraguan people?

A: Surprise and joy. The Cuban Revolution is the epilogue of the Nicaraguan revolution, a revolution under the banner of a pure nationalism. The credit for being first in line in destroying the power of neocolonialism belongs to Augusto César Sandino. But that was another epoch. Fidel Castro Ruz took up the banner and the doctrine of Sandino.

Q: Has the attitude of the Nicaraguan people toward the Cuban Revolution changed any in the past couple of years?

A: No. They know that Cuba's problem is the same as that of other nations that have suffered armed intervention — Santo Domingo, Haiti, Panama, Nicaragua, the Philippines.

Q: Are the Nicaraguans able to get accurate news about the development of the Cuban Revolution?

A: Yes. One avenue is the radio.

Q: What was their reaction to Fidel Castro's declaration that he has become convinced of the truth of Marxism-Leninism?

A: They took it in the sense of the phrase repeated by Castro from the apostle Martí: "Whatever favors the poor people has human profundity." This doesn't mean that Castro is a "Communist." The Cuban Revolution is, without doubt, a revolution of the oppressed masses and we cannot forget that it re-established the value of human life, the life of the poor, of the pariahs who suffered under the exploitation of their labor and energy.

Q: What is the prevailing feeling among Nicaraguans towards the United States — towards the American government and the American people?

A: The Nicaraguans admire the North American people because they are aware of their culture and their ideals and what they have accomplished. But they reject the blind, stupid policies of the State Department, including the criminal way they have used armed invasion against weak countries.

Q: In what way can Americans help the Nicaraguan people?

A: What we need concretely is moral and economic support in the struggle we have begun to win for liberty, justice and democracy.

...Anti-Cuba Drive

(Continued from Page 1)

sickness and hunger, the Kennedy administration is doing everything in its power to starve the Cubans — the sick as well as the healthy — into submission. Cuban children have been killed and injured, young teachers and others murdered by U.S.-supplied bomb terrorists and counter-revolutionary commando groups landed or airdropped in the Escambray mountains.

That the Washington "humanitarians" are presently restricted to such small-scale bloodletting is due to the ignominious defeat of the large-scale invasion they launched last April. But Washington has now reorganized its Cuban Invasion Agency, new counter-revolutionary and mercenary cannon-fodder has been recruited, and the "humanitarians" live in hope of avenging their failure at the Bay of Pigs in a future invasion.

Mass Revolutionary Rally

Cuba's answer to the intensified U.S. offensive was to rally its revolutionary masses in a demonstration of support of their revolution and a vow to smash any new invasion. A million Cubans assembled in such a demonstration in Havana Feb. 4. There in answer to the resolutions squeezed out of the Punta del Este conference, a Second Declaration of Havana was proclaimed.

In the United Nations, charges that the U.S. was planning "direct and unilateral intervention" were raised by Cuban delegate, Dr. García Inchaustegui. He also condemned the "blackmail" and "arm-twisting" employed by the U.S. to bring about Cuba's exclusion from the OAS. The U.S. has had no right to bar Cuba from the OAS, a regional organization under UN auspices, he said, because it had a different social system. Dr. García renewed previous Cuban offers to negotiate differences with the U.S., adding, however, that Cuba's social system was not a subject for negotiation.

U.S. spokesman Adlai Stevenson almost equaled his memorable performance of last April when he swore the U.S. was in no way involved in the invasion of Cuba. Employing the experienced criminal's rule of "denying everything," Stevenson declared Washington wasn't interfering in Cuba.

A Capitalist Reporter at a Socialist School

LOS ANGELES — If a supporter of capitalism, politically naive but honest, were to spend ten days at a vacation school organized by revolutionary socialists, on an assignment from his newspaper, how would the people and the ideas appear to him?

To Elmer D. Miller of the *San Bernardino Sun* the people at the West Coast Vacation School were warm human beings and the ideas worthy of a thorough and accurate report. The "expose," which ran for 10 issues last October, turned out to be some of the best publicity the school has ever had.

Introduction

In his introduction Miller noted that "oppressed peoples are reacting in a none-too-favorable manner toward the U.S. . . as an individual, my mental reaction implied that possibly the citizens of the U.S. are not being properly informed."

First Miller visited the Los Angeles headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party, which organizes the annual vacation school. Here he met two "quite likeable" young men and described one as "brilliant, soft-spoken, articulate, and friendly."

Next he attended a debate between Theodore Edwards of the SWP and Earl Browder, former Communist Party leader. Here he was disappointed in finding no verbal fireworks and noted that Browder seemed to be soft on capitalism while Edwards would accept no half-way measures.

Warm Welcome

When he appeared at the West Coast Vacation School camp Miller did not reveal that he was on a newspaper assignment. As a stranger "who just happened to hear about the camp" he was greeted cautiously at first, he said, but this soon changed to a warm welcome.

In the first days of the School, Miller heard representatives of the Young Socialist Alliance tell about fights for legal recognition on campuses up and down the

Coast, and of the youth's support of the Fair Play For Cuba Committee.

"My ears heard them utter avowed dedication," Miller reported, "to 'removing exploitation' of the working class from this earth. They spoke of bringing about equality in mankind. And they were intent on doing it via the theory of 'scientific socialism.'"

Students at the school would be amused at Miller's comment that "No one, during the entire series of presentations, disagreed with anything that was said by any of the speakers." They would probably also disavow his too laudatory comments, such as, "Their

knowledge of geography was limitless . . . Many of them seemed to be able to cite any figure desired from the U.S. budget (you name the year)."

Thousands of *San Bernardino Daily Sun* readers got accurate although simplified definitions of surplus value from Miller after he had listened to Murry and Myra Weiss, and such one-paragraph lessons as: "Capitalism, during the course of the lectures, was chided for going into foreign countries, exploiting backward, native labor, depleting natural resources, paying graft for the privilege of conducting business and encouraging slave labor."

—Della Rossa

Did Hitler Really Exist?

The Bonn government of Konrad Adenauer not only provides high official posts for former Hitler lieutenants but it would like the German people and the world to forget that such a thing as the Nazi regime ever existed.

For example, a 1959 Austrian publication, *Die Furche*, of Vienna, published a little-noted analysis of two editions of a widely used West German textbook for history students of the impressionable fifth and sixth grade levels. Here's how the coverage of the period of Nazi tyranny declined in this book:

History from 1914 to the present — The 1949 edition devoted 71 pages to this subject. In the 1958 edition it was down to 54 pages.

History of Hitler's Reich — 41 pages in the 1949 edition, 15 pages in the 1958 edition.

The Reichstag Fire — This fire — set by the Nazis and blamed on "Communists" — was covered in 2½ pages in the 1949 edition and was completely deleted from the 1958 edition.

Anti-Nazi Resistance Movement — Eight pages in the 1949 edition. None in the 1958 edition.

Nazi Persecution of the Jews — Three pages in the 1949 edition and 14 lines in the 1958 edition.

It Was Reported in the Press

Dep't of Unassuring Assurances — Deputy Under Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson said Jan. 27 that the U.S. has "tens of thousands" of nuclear weapons on hand. He assured that the government would not start a general war "while any honorable alternative remained."

Prolonging the Agony — A hair oil company is planning to introduce serialized television commercials.

Note to Shelter Fans — Dandridge M. Cole, of General Electric's missile and space department, says that by 1970 either the U.S. or the USSR may have a missile which could propel a small asteroid planet out of orbit and send it crashing to a predetermined spot on earth. "A single asteroid bomb striking Kentucky," he said, "would knock out the entire eastern half of the United States . . . It appears probable that an explosion of this magnitude would topple buildings all over the North American continent."

"Free World" Report — In ten years Spanish dictator Franco received an estimated \$1,125,000,000 in economic aid from the U.S. plus another \$442,644,000 in military aid.

Put Them in Storage? — Nearly a thousand people classified as employable are on the public relief rolls in Ramsey County (St. Paul and environs), Minn., a recent survey showed. Most of them were found to be in the prime years of life but largely without any employment skills. Since there is

no market for their labor, a welfare department spokesman said, these people could be described as "surplus commodities."

Rights Progress — Atlanta, Ga., authorities are pondering a reversal of policy that would permit Negro policemen to arrest white offenders.

The Wheels of Justice — Isidore Zimmerman, 42, was one of seven young men convicted of murdering a New York detective 24 years ago. Five were electrocuted and one died in jail. After two years in a death cell Zimmerman, who was charged only with supplying the gun that the cop was killed with, was granted a commutation of the death sentence. Now, on Feb. 1, General Sessions Judge Dickens agreed Zimmerman had been convicted on the basis of perjured testimony and ordered him released.

Equality, USA — A University of Wisconsin employment placement official estimates that starting salaries for women in professional fields this year will lag \$50 to \$100 a month behind offers to men for equivalent positions.

Fly Now, Serve Later — Pepsi-Cola and Panagra (Pan American-Grace Airways) ran a joint contest in Latin America to promote the sale of the soft drink and trips to the U.S. The person who collected the most Pepsi-Cola bottle tops was supposed to get a free jet trip to the U.S., with the stipulation that the trip be made within one year. The winner is a prison inmate in Peru

who handles the commissary soda counter. He has four years to serve.

In the World's Richest City — " . . . take the walk we did the other day along a general medical ward at Harlem General Hospital . . . beds lined the drafty hall, full of patients placed head to foot, without even the comfort of a bedside stand or a chair for visitors. One patient, we were told, had been put to bed in the corridor at the dividing line between nursing stations. Somehow his record went astray between the admitting office and the ward, so for 48 hours he got no medical attention at all, each nursing station assuming the other was taking care of him." — From a *New York Post* series on *What's Wrong with Our Hospitals*.

Our Rational Society — Federal storage bins are currently bulging with 150 million pounds of butter and 54 million pounds of cheese.

Big Paradox — "President Kennedy is proving this political paradox: A 'liberal' administration can frequently, with almost no criticism, take 'conservative' actions for which a 'conservative' administration would be roundly denounced by liberals. In a variety of fields, the president and his fellow New Frontiersmen are doing and not doing things for which their leading liberal-labor supporters would have long and loudly lambasted an Eisenhower or Nixon administration. Now, however, these groups criticize in muted rumblings, if at all." — The Feb. 5 *Wall Street Journal*.

West Indies Federation

New York, N. Y.

The *New York Times* of Jan. 14 and 16 carried articles on Trinidad and the West Indies Federation. As is known, Jamaica recently withdrew from the federation and the precedent was set for the complete disintegration of the federation.

I would say the federation was too loose from the beginning. If it had a strong central government for the first 15 years it would have been the best means for some real achievement. I think that what prompted Jamaica to leave the federation was fear that Britain would abandon them and Trinidad and Jamaica would have to stand the cost of upkeep of the other eight islands.

This point was a bone of contention even before the federation was set up. It's quite true that these islands are no longer profitable to Britain. In this highly complex and industrialized world these islands are very backward, and having to import their basic needs is a heavy drain on their limited economies.

Recently the People's National Movement of Trinidad, headed by Dr. Eric Williams, who also heads the government, adopted a resolution urging immediate steps to establish national independence. The resolution said Trinidad should go along with a federation provided the other islands agreed to a centralized government under Trinidad and Tobago. The other islands could be in the federation only on these terms.

A centralized government would be able to remedy two of the main ills of the islands — lack of food and proper housing. A government program could help young people study new agricultural methods and develop dairy farming to cut the cost of food imports. Cuba was able to help itself by such a program.

Alford Peltier

On 'Lenin vs. Stalin'

New York, N. Y.

In reference to the letter in your Jan. 1 issue by C.B.B. on "Lenin vs. Stalin," I would like to make the following comments. The clarification requested can't be given without answering, first of all, the question: What is Leninism?

The fact is that Leninism has never been a "theory" of "peaceful" coexistence of classes in whatever form they may appear. On the contrary, Leninism is the Marxist theory of the struggle of classes and the dictatorship of the proletariat; a Marxist theory of the revolutionary disciplined organization of the proletariat as opposed to the state machinery of the possessing classes; a Marxist theory of the negation of war (the instrument of which is the militarist state) among the nations in favor of the class war (the instrument of which is the proletarian organization) within every nation.

All of this, of course, is anything but "peaceful."

But besides that, Leninism is the Marxist conception of the bureaucratic state machinery as an instrument of the possessing class for its protection against the non-possessing class — the proletariat.

These essentials of Marxism are what is essential in Leninism. Therefore, as far as Marxism-Leninism is concerned, the next questions which still warrant ex-

tensive discussion are: Which class is ruling in Russia? Or, of which class was Stalin a tool?

It is around these questions that all the "clarification" rotates and, unless these questions are answered in a clear-cut Marxist-Leninist way, this rotation will be "permanent" and shall never bring any clarification.

Moreover, it is our belief that unless the nursery (actually bourgeois-liberal) tales about Stalinism being an outgrowth of the "centralized organization of the Leninist party" are opposed by real criticism of Stalinism from the standpoint of the Marxist-Leninist vanguard party itself, the late Generalissimo will continue to enjoy the "hegemony" in the "practically revolutionary" opposition to capitalist classes.

In addition, I would like to re-emphasize that Lenin was completely free of papal infallibility because, above all, he was a Marxist, an advocate of a scientific theory.

M. Main

Scourge of Cancer

New York, N. Y.

The writer recently lost a loved one though the scourge of cancer and was impressed by a unanimous comment of friends and relatives. This was to the effect that the government should put some real money into medical research instead of wasting billions on so-called "defense" space adventurism, buying of huge agricultural surpluses, foreign "aid," etc. This is an opinion that is widely shared among the population and may be considered part of the anti-war mood of the masses.

Some chemotherapeutic agents are now available that temporarily slow up or halt the spread of malignancies and in specific instances have actually affected a few cures. It is obvious to anyone of normal intelligence who has followed the development of nuclear energy that a crash program of scientific research would soon solve the riddle of this dread disease.

Kennedy has just asked for an additional \$1.5 billion for the coming year, to be blown into outer space. But cancer research is still to be financed by the miserly token contributions of the government and private charity. It may well be that only a socialist government, with a planned economy for the production of value for the many rather than for the private greed of a few, will be able to eradicate this curse on humanity.

William Wallis

Whose Freedom?

Los Angeles, Calif.

Mass media propaganda continuously shouts of preserving the American Way of Life with its "freedoms." However it fails to point out the motivations behind these so-called freedoms.

Freedom for whom? For the ruling class to exploit the working people for profit? For one country to exploit another country's labor and resources for its own gain?

True freedom for all and not for one man over another or one class over another will be won when the exploited class all over the world awakens to the realization that they are the ones maintaining the precious freedoms of the ruling class with their sweat and tears and without receiving any of the rewards.

H. K.

Thought for the Week

"Unionism, though good in itself, must find some way to provide its members opportunity for promotion and advancement to management levels. Thus they can make it possible for each one of its members, given the ability, to become president of the company. Assurance of this opportunity can easily become more important than immediate financial gain." — Ex-President Eisenhower in a Jan. 31 speech.