

THE MILITANT

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Five Ga. Rights Fighters Convicted of "Perjury"



FACE JAIL. Leaders of the Albany Movement, from left to right: Slater King, acting president of movement and recent candidate for mayor; Rev. Sammie B. Wells, chairman of voter registration drive; Thomas Chatmon, chairman of voter-education committee and recent candidate for city commission; Robert Thomas, community leader and strong supporter of movement; Mrs. Elza (Goldie) Jackson, recording secretary and movement's only full-time employee.

Five of six civil-rights workers under federal indictment for "perjury" in Albany, Georgia, have been found guilty by all-white juries and will be sentenced in Macon, Ga., two days before Christmas.

The trial of a sixth defendant, Mrs. Elza Jackson, secretary of the Albany Movement, is scheduled for mid-January. The following is a background report on the case from the National Committee for the Albany Defendants, P.O. Box 922, Albany, Ga., Hosea Williams, co-chairman, and Gladys Hill, corresponding secretary.

ALBANY, Ga. — "Even the federal government is a white man," said an elderly Negro lady upon hearing of the indictment of Negroes involved in the Albany movement struggle for Freedom.

The Albany Movement came into being in 1961 as a result of repeated denials of redress for inadequacies and wrongs, and finally because of the refusal to even consider petitions which had been presented to the city commission from as far back as 1957.

The aim of the organization is to totally desegregate all city facilities and secure equal educational and economic opportunities for all. In an attempt to gain these ends, the Albany Movement has petitioned, attempted to negotiate and protested.

In protest demonstrations, thousands of local Negro citizens have been arrested over a period of two years and, as a result, hundreds of cases of police brutality reported to the federal government.

An example of such cases are: 1) Mrs. Slater King of Albany was beaten and kicked by police causing the death of her unborn child. 2) Albany movement Attorney C. B. King had his head cracked open by Dougherty County Sheriff D. C. Campbell. 3) Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee worker William Hansen's jaw was broken and several

ribs cracked. 4) Walter Harris was shot down in cold blood in the streets of Albany by police. There have been no indictments in these and other cases which have been reported to federal authorities.

But there has been an indictment against the leaders of the Albany Movement. This is the background: There was a trial of Ware vs. Johnson on April 8, 1963 involving a Negro, Charlie Ware, who sued in federal court charging that Baker County Sheriff L. Warren Johnson shot and beat him. On April 12, a federal jury found in favor of the sheriff. Carl Smith, a white grocer whose store received 99 per cent Negro patronage, was a juror.

It is alleged in the federal indictment that at the Movement's Monday night meeting on April

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BEHIND THOSE SCARE HEADLINES

Why the Bolivian Miners Seized Hostages

By Jay Garnett

Bolivia, that landlocked country where "the beggar sits upon a mountain of gold," has recently filled the headlines about the kidnapping and finally the release of 17 hostages, including four U.S. citizens, by the tin miners of the Siglo XX Mine.

Behind these events is a unique social and political situation. In Bolivia's 1952 Revolution the miners' militias seized control of the tin mines and forced their nationalization. Similarly peasant militias began the *de facto* expulsion of the semi-feudal landowners and forced a land reform. Though the middle-class liberals and nationalists who took over the government after the revolution had to go along with these measures forced on them — and even pretended to be in favor of them — they nevertheless refused to make any

real break with the Bolivian capitalists and U.S. imperialism.

After 300 years of slavery and misery for the Indians, who comprise 80 per cent of the population, and the exploitation of tremendous mineral resources all Bolivia had to show for it was mass poverty, three millionaire families and a small middle class.

Recent decisions by Washington to dump onto the world market some of its "surplus tin" stockpile aggravated the already bad situation of Bolivia's nationalized tin industry, which was already selling tin ore for less than production costs. To qualify for U.S. aid in modernizing the industry, Bolivia was told that it must add some \$800 million of its own funds. But the whole of the country's non-military budget is only \$40 million.

The leaders of Bolivia's ruling

party, the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR), sought loans from the U.S. and West Germany to finance the so-called "Triangular Plan," which the imperialists recommended for modernizing the mines and making them profitable. COMIBOL, the government agency running the mines, fired thousands of miners and demanded that those still employed bear the costs of "rehabilitation" by surrendering some of the gains in working conditions, bonus pay, etc., they had made during and since the 1952 Revolution.

The most recent struggle, which led to the holding of the four Americans as hostages, began with a work stoppage in the Siglo XX Mine. In retaliation, COMIBOL suspended over 1,000 miners, expelled two local union leaders

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HANDWRITING ON LANDLORDS' WALL?

Harlem Rent Strike Gains

By Leroy McRae

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 — A question being put to New Yorkers by the Negro ghetto is: Who will succeed in taking over this city — the rats or the rent strikers?

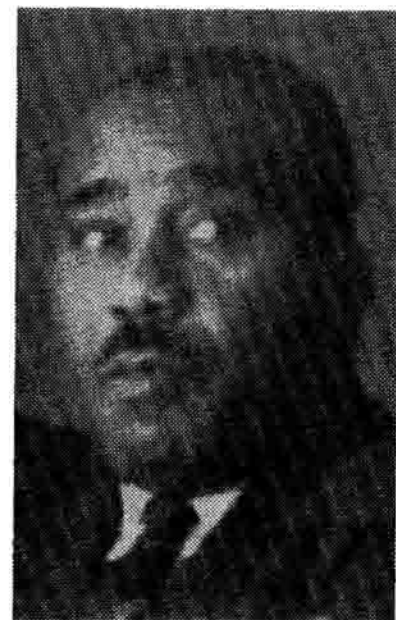
From Brooklyn's slum-ridden Bedford-Stuyvesant district to Manhattan's overcrowded, under-repaired Harlem, Negro and Puerto Rican tenants are declaring — "No service, No Rent!"

Though New York's rent strike is in its infancy, it has national implications and has already evoked echoes from other parts of the country.

In Cleveland, for example, the Congress of Racial Equality has begun a rent strike in that city's Hough area. According to Ruth Turner, CORE's local executive-secretary, improvements must be completed — not simply promised — before rent money being held in escrow by CORE is paid.

The Dec. 7 *Carolina Times*, which is published in Durham and is one of the South's leading Negro newspapers, declares in an editorial:

"While the present rebellion against merciless landlords is presently confined to the city of New York there is every indication that it is certain to spread to other large Northern and Western



Jesse Gray

cities and eventually to rental areas in Southern cities . . . Before the rent strike spreads into the South we would advise all landlords in this area to begin now to put their houses in order. Once the fury is aroused, against the type of houses for which many of them are now being paid, it will be no easy task to calm it. To

be forewarned is to be forearmed."

In Harlem the Community Council on Housing has organized the people in some 60 buildings. These tenants have committed themselves to withholding their rent money. Their object is to force city agencies, such as the Buildings Department — which have adequate legal powers — to clean up completely the unhealthy and dangerous housing conditions in the city's ghettos.

Jesse Gray, director of the Community Council, emphasizes that rent-strike demands are not primarily concerned with reductions of rent: "Rent strikes have been defeated in the past by slumlords reducing rent while the strike is going full steam, and then raising rents once the excitement dies down."

Strike to Continue

Mark Brown, Gray's assistant, says: "Tenants are on strike for a decent place to live, for heat and hot water, and painting and repairs. And we intend to let landlords know the rent strike will continue until these demands are met."

A recent leaflet of the Community Council calling a rent-strike rally, stated: "Let the landlords know, we are not going to pay rents for rats to eat our children, no heat and no hot water, stopped-up toilets, leaking ceilings, or any other violation."

The rally, held at Milbank Community Center on Dec. 15 was attended by some 200 people, mostly women rent-strikers. They were addressed by strike leaders and a number of political and religious leaders who wished to indicate their solidarity with the action.

Jessie Gray opened the meeting by stating, "For years we have been given great promises to correct conditions. I think the time has come, as it has in the South and elsewhere, to correct the problems ourselves."

The Reverend O. D. Demsey, Minister of Park Avenue Baptist Church, explained how "the people in Harlem pay higher rents for the poorest service anywhere in the state of New York." Demsey, who has been active in fighting the narcotics racketeers, called Harlem "the dumping ground for the narcotics racket in this country." He blamed slumlords for allowing racketeers access to apartments for peddling their goods. He also said: "I charge these slumlords with murder, with the muggings that occur in poorly lit hallways simply because landlords deprive people of service."

Assemblyman Lloyd Dickens told how the Receivership Law, which he had helped sponsor in the state legislature, empowered city officials to collect rents from buildings with violations and to

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Falling Ceiling Almost Kills Mother, Child

Mrs. Dorothy Brodie, a young Negro mother and her three-month-old infant, Gladys, were both admitted to a Philadelphia hospital Dec. 12 in serious condition with head, shoulder and body bruises. A ceiling, weakened by leaky water pipes, in her apartment at 1512 W. Diamond St., had crashed down on Mrs. Brodie as she was feeding her baby. A neighbor, hearing their cries, had pulled them out from under the fallen plaster and lumber. He said Mrs. Brodie told him before the ambulance arrived that she had been "begging" the landlord for months to "repair the ceiling" but that he had just ignored her.

Two Different Ways of Life

The SNCC and the AFL-CIO Gatherings

By Fred Halstead

As a reporter for *The Militant* I was privileged to attend two important gatherings recently which deserve to be compared. One was the Fifth Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO, held in New York City in mid-November. The other was the Fourth Annual Conference of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, held two weeks later in Washington, D.C.

The most striking difference between the two gatherings was that common people — union members or otherwise — were nowhere to be seen at the AFL-CIO confab, while at the SNCC meeting they were present in significant numbers and played the key role in the conference.

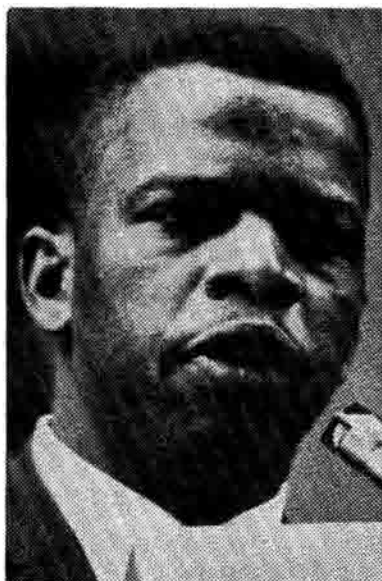
Indeed, to look at the AFL-CIO delegates, you wouldn't know they had anything to do with labor at all. Except for their convention badges, they were indistinguishable from the well-heeled businessmen attending other meetings in the same hotel. The laundry and cleaning bills for the crisp white shirts and fine suits worn at the AFL-CIO convention would probably have paid the costs of the entire SNCC conference.

SNCC leaders wore blue jeans and denim jackets, partly as a demonstration of solidarity with the Negroes of the rural South, but partly also because it is cheaper that way.

Some of the AFL-CIO delegates lunched in the hotel's lounge, where a single meal and a cocktail cost about \$8. Eight dollars is the sum charged at the SNCC conference for meals at the Howard University cafeteria, and lodging at friendly homes for the entire three-day affair.

The AFL-CIO delegates roughed it through the convention on expense allowances ranging upward from \$25 per day, plus their regular more-than-ample salaries. The standard SNCC field worker's expense allowance is \$10 per week, and no salary.

In spite of this, there was no starvation evident at the SNCC conference. The SNCC workers



SNCC Chairman John Lewis

rely on the hospitality of the people they organize. And they get by, though sometimes they have to take time out from voter-registration work to pick vegetables or chop cotton for a little extra money. As for the AFL-CIO delegates, it has been a long, long time since any number of them broke bread or slept on the couch in an ordinary worker's home.

Some might say that I have chosen superficial and unimportant differences to dwell upon. But I don't think so. These differences in the personal way of life of the trade-union bureaucrats and of the most militant civil-rights leaders go a long way in explaining their differences in policy regarding the course a labor-Negro alliance should follow.

In his opening address to the New York convention, AFL-CIO President George Meany entertained the delegates with a sarcastic attack on the school of pro-labor intellectuals who have become critical of the labor movement for losing its sense of mission.

Mockingly, Meany declared: "To really shake up the complacency of our officers and members, it would be wonderful if

we could find some way to get back to that great golden age of the 1930s, back to the sitdown strikes, the soup lines, the apple stands, the eviction notices, the country poorhouses, 40-cents-an-hour wage, and all the other happy features of those wonderful years."

"I regret very much," Meany said, referring to these critics, "that I know of no way to recapitulate for our old friends the romance and excitement and adventure of those good old days, but life being what it is, we will just have to grin and bear the trials and tribulations and tortures of success."

The well-paid, well-housed, job-secure, self-satisfied audience of union officials roared with laughter at this. But frankly, being one of several hundred thousand people who live in a New York slum where housing conditions are worse than they were in the 1930s, I didn't think it was funny.

I don't think the Appalachian miners who have lost their jobs would think so either. Nor would the Negro and Puerto Rican garment workers who get minimum wages and whose dues money keeps some of those labor "leaders" in the audience so well-fixed. Nor would the several million agricultural workers in this country. I know the Negroes in the South — where the young SNCC workers face danger every day — wouldn't get the joke.

Movement With Mission

All these people, and many millions more in this country, still have need of a labor movement with a mission, and with a leadership that will fight the power structure instead of joining it.

One of the self-satisfied bureaucrats who laughed with Meany that day — Jack Conway, executive director of the Industrial Union Department and a crony of UAW President Walter Reuther — later showed up at the SNCC conference to make a speech.

He warned the young veterans of Southern jails there assembled that they shouldn't get "crossways" with society. He advised them to learn from the AFL-CIO leaders, like himself, who had found a place for themselves as "leaders" doing "useful things" within the existing power structure. His recommended solution to the civil-rights crisis was a labor-Negro alliance which would get behind the Democrats and President Johnson in the 1964 elections.

For Conway, as for Meany, the present leadership of the labor movement is a great "success." From the point of view of the privileges and flattery accruing to the union officials, I suppose it is. But Conway's speech was not well received at the SNCC conference. I may be wrong, but I don't think those young, battle-tested, civil-rights leaders are going to take Conway's advice to sell their revolutionary birthright for a mess of personal privilege or to secure for Conway, Meany, and their ilk the overwhelming honor of being occasionally invited to tea at the White House.



George Meany

... Georgia Rights Fighters

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15, Dr. W. G. Anderson, president of the Albany Movement, mentioned Carl Smith in the course of his remarks.

Saturday, April 20, some high-school students set up a picket line at the Smith store. They demanded that Smith upgrade Negro employees to responsible positions, such as cashiers, instead of confining them to menial jobs. Similar campaigns had been started against employers throughout Albany during the previous 18 months.

No picket sign made reference to Smith's service on the jury. The line lasted about an hour, during which time several pickets were arrested, effectively breaking the picket line. The line was never renewed.

Monday, April 22, Smith began to move out of the store, contending that he had been driven out of business by the boycott. His attorney, B. C. Gardner, member of the legal firm of Smith, Gardner, Kelly and Wiggins, requested immediate government investigation. The U.S. Department of Justice conducted the most vigorous prosecution effort yet seen in the history of the civil-rights movement.

On August 9, the Albany Movement leaders were indicted. Nine altogether were charged. Anderson, Luther Woodall and Robert Colbert were charged with conspiracy to injure a juror for assent to a verdict in a federal case.

Six others were charged with perjury in connection with the case. They are Slater King, Goldie

Jackson, Rev. Samuel Wells, Thomas Chatmon, Robert Thomas, and Joni Rabinowitz, a summer field worker for SNCC.

Slater King is now acting president of the Albany Movement and was a recent candidate for mayor of Albany. Mrs. Jackson is recording secretary and the only full-time employee of the Movement. Rev. Wells is one of the most active voter-registration workers and led a protest march last July. Chatmon works in voter-registration and was a recent candidate for city commissioner.

Commenting on the indictments, the noted civil-rights attorney William M. Kunstler of New York said it appeared to be "a bone thrown to segregationists" by the federal administration. "I am afraid they are looking toward the 1964 elections," said Kunstler. "This is a sinister and dangerous trend."

The conviction of the Albany Movement leaders and Miss Rabinowitz came as no surprise. In advance of the trials it was felt by many that a Southern jury would not render a fair and impartial verdict. It further seems to sustain the allegation by many Albany citizens that there has been and is now a systematic attempt to exclude Negroes from jury duty. Out of 90 jurors impaneled for hearing of cases, there were only three Negroes — and all of these were stricken by U.S. attorneys.

Of the eight defendants who have been tried so far, all have been convicted except Dr. Anderson, whose trial ended in a hung jury.



A mass march by 2,000 Detroit school teachers, on Dec. 10, resulted in a partial victory when a meeting of the Detroit School Board agreed to listen to their demands for a collective-bargaining election and new pay raises. Last May, the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT) presented the Board with a petition signed by 70 per cent of the city's 10,000 teachers requesting such an election. Their request had gone unanswered.

This time the militant teachers were not to be denied. Many of them crowded the anteroom to the Board hearing and loudly demanded that DFT President Mary Ellen Riordan be given a hearing. She got the floor.

School Board President Leonard Kasle, who had earlier threatened to deny the teachers a voice, indicated the Board would stall on the collective-bargaining election "because it is a decision of such importance that discussion might go on for some time."

Outside the meeting, a teachers' rally heard David Selden, director of organization for the N. Y. Federation of Teachers, which recently won a new contract for New York City teachers. In explaining how it was done, Selden said, "We had to picket and sometimes do a little more than picket."

300 Bridgeworkers walked off their jobs on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge which will connect Brooklyn to Staten Island, N. Y., early this month. Their work consists of helping to hoist into place 400-ton sections of steel roadway which are fastened to the cables of what will be the world's longest suspension bridge.

The members of Locals 40 and 361 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers were protesting the lack of rope safety nets

on the 230-foot-high structure, which has been under construction since 1959. During this time three bridgeworkers have fallen to their deaths.

After five days the American Bridge Division of the United States Steel Corporation, which is in charge of construction, finally yielded to the unions' demand and agreed to hang the safety nets.

An analysis of the federal job-retraining program reveals that those who most need help — the unskilled jobless — receive the least retraining. Instead, those chosen by the state employment agencies for retraining are mostly the better-educated jobless in the prime working ages.

The Labor Department, seeking to improve the manpower act under which the retraining program was set up, has suggested various amendments which would step up training assistance to disadvantaged groups. What these "special training projects" are is not specified, but in any case, the House Rules Committee has shown no signs of acting on any of the amendments.

Students were quick to catch onto the meaning of a course in U.S. labor history at a Red Bank, N. J., high school. History teacher T. H. Perry reported that 31 students organized United Slaveworkers Local 211 and presented him with seven demands for negotiation.

The first successful attempt to organize white-collar workers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula has been reported by the UAW's Technical, Office and Professional Dept. (TOP). Sixty-five office workers, employed by Harnischfeger Corp., Escanaba, Mich., are now covered by a new union contract.

Paul Dennie, Pioneer Socialist And Unionist, Is Dead at 88

DETROIT — The many friends of Paul Dennie, veteran socialist, are mourning his recent death at the age of 88 in an army hospital in Texas, where he was visiting during the cold weather.

Paul was born in Toledo in 1875 and ran away to Chicago at 13, where he became a worker in a candy factory and a member of the Knights of Labor. Thus started what became 75 years of militant activity in the labor and radical movements.

As a teen-ager he became a boxer, in the days when boxing was illegal. He fought scores of bouts all over the country and abroad, including championship contests as a flyweight.

He also was a migratory worker, following the wheat harvests; a tailor; an artists' model; a probation officer; a bar owner; a leather finisher. He was a soldier in the Spanish-American War, serving in the army of occupation in Cuba, and later a marine in the Philippines and China.

Paul belonged to several unions, and was proudest of his membership in the Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies). He joined the Socialist Party in the early days of Debs, and ran for governor of Georgia on its ticket 50 years ago. He withdrew from the SP after the expulsion of its left wing in 1912. He knew Debs and Big Bill Haywood and worked with them.

He actively defended the Wobblies and other class-war victims during and after World War I. He fought against the Ku Klux Klan

in Detroit in the 1920s. He was involved in getting Clarence Darrow to defend Dr. Sweet and his brother when they were indicted for killing a member of a white mob that attacked their home in Detroit. He was a leader of one of the early unemployed marches to Washington during the big depression.

During the New Deal period, he "weakened and blackslid" for a while, as he put it, and supported liberal Democrats. But in 1957 he applied for membership in the Socialist Workers Party on the ground that it was the only force he could see in Michigan that was continuing the traditions of the IWW and Debs Socialists.

In 1961, at the age of 86, he actively campaigned on the Michigan Socialist Workers Party ticket for constitutional convention delegate, getting around 2% of the vote.

Paul did not like being called "a white man," because of his partial Indian ancestry, and identified himself with the Negro struggle all through his life. Because of his military service in Cuba and China, he was happy to live long enough to see those countries emancipate themselves from imperialism.

Always on the side of the oppressed and exploited, with an instinctive sympathy for every underdog, Paul Dennie represented many of the best qualities of American radicalism during its earlier days and deserves to be remembered with affection by all who fight for a better world.

Labor Officialdom Can't Seem to Cope With Problem

Automation a Key Factor in Studebaker and Government Cutbacks

By Tom Leonard

Two major lay-offs have just been scheduled which will add over 15,000 workers to the ranks of the unemployed in America's "affluent" society. In both cases the workers involved are the victims of improved technology, or automation.

One lay-off is the result of the Studebaker Corporation's decision to close down its auto-producing plants in South Bend, Ind., and transfer this operation to Canada. At least 7,000 workers will be thrown out of work in this move.

Major reasons for the transfer are outmoded plant and equipment and lack of funds for expensive tools and dies required for the yearly model change-overs. An example of this cost is the \$300 million spent by Ford in remodeling for its 1964 line. In addition, Studebaker hopes to exploit lower labor costs in Canada, where auto workers make 50 cents an hour less and get fewer fringe benefits than U.S. workers.

"Frugality"

The other layoff, which will result in over 8,000 Defense Department employees losing their jobs during the next three years, came after a call by President Johnson for "frugality" in government spending.

Significantly enough, advance information given Washington correspondents about the Defense Department lay-offs was that 75,000 jobs would be involved over an 18-month time span. Protests from local politicians apparently persuaded the Johnson administration hastily to revise this figure downward — at least until after the elections.

Most of the laid-off defense workers are victims of an efficiency campaign at military sup-

ply depots. According to Defense Secretary McNamara, over 70,000 workers have already been laid off in this campaign. He further warned that in the next 12 months, lay-offs could be expected at 12 naval shipyards.

Despite the efficiency lay-offs, over \$50 billion will still be spent on "defense," with main emphasis on rockets, nuclear devices, and other sophisticated weapons of slaughter. These require a highly technical production process rooted in automated plant equipment capable of holding tolerances as close as a millionth of an inch.

One reaction to both the Studebaker and "defense" work lay-offs was a request to the federal government for aid. The mayor of Rome, N. Y., led a group of civic leaders to Washington to meet with air force officials in an attempt to forestall the lay-offs in Rome. In South Bend, the UAW is demanding help from Washington to aid the ex-employees of Studebaker.

A New York Times report from Washington says "the U.S. is pessimistic over South Bend." The Labor Department expects unemployment in that area to rise from its present 2.5% to about 10%.

Basic Shift

Both lay-offs are a reflection of a basic shift away from manual labor toward the accelerated introduction of labor-saving machinery — that is, automation. Further affirmation of this trend is contained in a recent report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics which states that the AFL-CIO lost over a half-million members in manufacturing industries during the two-year period, 1960-62. Many of these former union members are now in the ranks of more

than five million chronically unemployed who are among the 77 million Americans living in poverty or deprivation.

This figure was arrived at by economist Leon Keyserling, president of the Conference on Economic Progress, in a pamphlet entitled *Poverty and Deprivation in the U.S.* An average family income of \$6,000, he finds, is a "moderate but adequate budget" in today's "affluent" society. Accordingly, he finds that 21% of Americans live in poverty and another 43% suffer deprivation.

Rome Layoffs

With fully two-fifths of Americans living below accepted standards, it is not surprising that one of the reactions to the Defense Department lay-offs was fear of general economic stagnation. In Rome, N. Y., where some 4,000 workers will be laid off in an area already hard hit by unemployment, one resident commented, "In five years this will be another Appalachia." He was referring to the economically depressed mining areas from Pennsylvania to Alabama in the Appalachian Mountains. In this connection it should be noted that appeals for federal aid to the impoverished miners have gone virtually unanswered.

The cynical disregard of the victims of an abused and mismanaged introduction of automation is exposed by the \$4.4 billion public-works bill just passed by Congress. Of this, only \$33 million — less than one per cent — is to be used to "ease unemployment in depressed areas." Compare this pitiful sum to the more than \$50 billion arms budget to appreciate how big business and its hired hands in the Democratic and Re-

publican parties plan America's future.

If the amounts spent on armaments and the cold war were used for a giant public works program, with the workers getting top union wages and enjoying top conditions, the growth of poverty and privation in this country would be stopped in its tracks. The building of hospitals, schools, housing and other facilities for a decent life and for enriching life would give employment to those workers displaced by automation. Young people, who are graduating to joblessness, could be provided with worth-while, well-paid jobs in a far healthier society.

Despite George Meany's remarks at the recent AFL-CIO convention, automation need not be a curse. It has become a curse because its

introduction and application have been left entirely in the hands of big business, which has never had a social conscience and which is motivated solely by greed for profits. That big business has been allowed this free hand to automate regardless of the resulting unemployment is due to the impotence of the labor movement under its present cowardly leadership.

The solution lies in the union movement producing a new leadership which, acting both on the economic and political fronts, will control the introduction of automation, reduce the work week accordingly — with no losses in take home pay — to absorb displaced workers, and which will organize labor's own party independent of the big-business-owned Republican and Democratic parties.

WINTER BOOK LIST

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS ON NEGRO HISTORY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

- BLACK JACOBINS** by C. L. R. James. The classic on Toussaint L'Ouverture and the slave revolution which established the Republic of Haiti. Revised edition. Paper, \$1.95.
- LIFE AND TIMES OF FREDERICK DOUGLAS**, The complete autobiography of the slave-born abolitionist leader. Paper, \$1.50.
- BLACK BOURGEOISIE** by E. Franklin Frazier. Paper, .95.
- BLACK MUSLIMS IN AMERICA** by C. Eric Lincoln. A history of the group and its origins. Paper, \$1.75.
- NEGRO SLAVE SONGS IN THE UNITED STATES** by M. M. Fisher. Paper, \$1.95.
- SOULS OF BLACK FOLK** by W. E. B. DuBois. Paper, .50.
- LAY MY BURDEN DOWN** (A Folk History of Slavery) edited by B. A. Botkin. Paper, \$1.65.
- REVOLT IN THE SOUTH** by Dan Wakefield. One of the first surveys of the current civil-rights upsurge. Paper, .95.
- FACING MOUNT KENYA** by Jomo Kenyatta. A study of the Kikuyu tribe by the man who is now Kenya's Prime Minister. A classic of anthropology and African nationalism. Paper, \$1.45.
- FREEDOM RIDE** by James Peck. The story of the first freedom rides by a participant. Paper, .50.
- JOHN BROWN** by W. E. B. DuBois. Paper, \$2.25.
- NEGROES ON THE MARCH** by Daniel Guerin. A survey of the Negro struggle in the U.S. to 1964 by the noted French Marxist scholar. Reduced price. Cloth, \$1.50. Paper, .50.
- THE WEST INDIES AND THEIR FUTURE** by Daniel Guerin. Cloth, \$4.
- LABOR PARTY AND FREEDOM NOW PARTY** by Tom Kerry. Paper, .15.
- FREEDOM NOW** — Socialist Workers Party resolution on the current stage in the struggle for equal rights. Paper, .25.
- WHY WE NEED A FREEDOM NOW PARTY**. Answers to questions by Michigan supporters of Freedom Now Party. Paper, .15.
- REUNION AND REACTION** by C. Van Woodward. Scholarly work on the agreement between Northern capitalists and Southern Bourbons that ended the Reconstruction period. Paper, .95.
- THE STRANGE CAREER OF JIM CROW** by C. Van Woodward. Paper, \$1.50.
- 100 YEARS OF LYNCHING** by Ralph Ginzburg. Paper, \$75.
- MONROE, N.C. — TURNING POINT IN AMERICAN HISTORY** by Conrad Lynn. Paper, .25.
- THE WALL BETWEEN** by Ann Braden. The story of courageous white Southern integrationists, Carl and Ann Braden. Paper, \$1.85.
- NEGROES WITH GUNS** by Robert Williams. The case for self defense by the militant Afro-American leader from Monroe, N.C. Paper, \$1.95.
- PEOPLE WITH STRENGTH** by Truman Nelson. The noted novelist on the Abolitionist movement upholds the right of Negroes to self-defense. Paper, .35.
- BLACK MOSES — THE STORY OF MARCUS GARVEY** by E. D. Cronon. Paper, \$1.95.
- BLACK RECONSTRUCTION** by W. E. B. DuBois. The classic on the revolutionary period following the Civil War. Cloth, \$7.50.
- DOCUMENTS ON THE NEGRO STRUGGLE**. Texts of discussions with Leon Trotsky and Socialist Workers Party convention resolutions. Paper, .65.
- WE SHALL OVERCOME**. Songs of the Southern freedom movement compiled for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee by Guy and Candie Carawan. Words and music. Paper, \$1.95.

BOOKS BY LEON TROTSKY

- LITERATURE AND REVOLUTION**. Cloth, \$2.98. Paper (Special price) \$1.
- IN DEFENSE OF MARXISM**. Classic exposition on the class nature of the Soviet state and dialectical materialism. Written in 1940. Paper, \$2.50.
- THE STALIN SCHOOL OF FALSIFICATION**. Paper (Special price) \$2.50.
- DIARY IN EXILE**. Cloth, \$4.00.
- MY LIFE**. Paper, \$2.45.
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... Harlem Rent Strike Gaining Support

(Continued from Page 1)

use that rent money for repairs. He noted that so far only two of the buildings hit by the rent strike had been placed in such receivership by the city.

Following a brief speech by Ramos Lopez, assemblyman from the district affected by the rent strike, Chairman Jesse Gray introduced three of the strike organizers.

The first, Ted Golez, told the audience: "We must give up some of our time in the evenings to help organize this strike. I understand the landlords are devoting more time to collecting rent now that the strike has begun."

Want 'the Man'

Major Williams, strike co-ordinator for the Community Council on Housing, said: "We are finding that every time a landlord gets hit by a notice for violations, a different agent appears that we have to deal with. Well, we're through dealing with agents of the landlords. We're going to hold our rent money until we get 'the man.'"

Rudolph Jones, another rent strike organizer, told of one woman, "who informed her landlord he would get no rent money until he fixed up her apartment. When he said he would take care of her place, she asked what about her neighbor downstairs. The landlord told her that was none of her business." Jones emphasized to the tenants at the rally that, "We are our neighbor's keeper. We're not going to make any deals with the landlords about our place. We want the entire building fixed up."

The rally was enthusiastic when Rev. Richard Hildebrand, president of the New York branch of the NAACP, pledged that organization's support. "People don't do right unless you make them do

right," he said. "This goes for landlords as well as for politicians." Hildebrand also pledged the support of many Harlem ministers, adding, "Ministers have to stop preaching so much about mansions in heaven when we are living in rat holes in Harlem."

The Democratic Party was represented at the rally by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell and Hulan Jack, district leader of the 14th A.D. Jack advised the tenants to "let no legislator stand before you and say 'I am helpless.' Let no judge fail to get behind the will of the people."

Congressman Powell proposed "a march on city hall." He further declared that "1963 was the year of the Black Revolution in the South. Let's make 1964 the year of the Black Revolution in the North."

Union Aid

Joseph Overton, business agent of local 338 of the Retail, Wholesale and Chainstore Food Employees Union and a representative of the Negro American Labor Council, informed the audience that "the NALC National Office has decided it must play a part in other areas than jobs. We understand that our members must support all the economic struggles of our people, including this rent strike."

Chairman Jesse Gray told the rally: "The landlords are fighting back by using Section 52 of the Rent and Rehabilitation Law. This section allows landlords to toss out tenants they regard as 'nuisances.' And who is a 'nuisance tenant?' Why, it's anyone who demands proper service . . . When you stand with the power of the vote and your money, nobody can resist you, and therein lies the freedom you are looking for."

"We will tell Mayor Wagner we

will boycott the Democratic Party until they decide to help us. We have to let the Democratic administration know we will not continuously vote Democrat while rats are in our buildings . . . That doesn't mean we are in love with the Republican Party either. Even if we have to elect one of the rats who will run against Mayor Wagner for vice-president, we don't have to sit it out.

New Year's Resolution

"City Hall had better get it straight. We don't want marshals coming up to Harlem to evict tenants. Our New Year's resolution will be: 'No Service, No Rent!' And let's serve notice to the chief justice of the civil courts that the judges not issue anymore dispossessiones. They shouldn't have the power to do this.

"We are asking the churches to set up rent-strike committees. As a matter of fact, we hope all organizations in Harlem will set up committees. We intend to set up a rent-strike co-ordinating committee which will meet every Thursday, including all organizations supporting the rent strike.

"The Community Council On Housing has three basic demands: 1) Cut the rent of all buildings out on strike to \$1, as according to the Rent Control Law. 2) Let the city take over all buildings on strike, under the Receivership Law. 3) We pledge ourselves to organizing 1,000 buildings on a rent strike.

"And out of this meeting we may add a fourth demand. We raise the demand of boycotting the Democratic Party until they come across with some support of the rent strike. And we needn't worry. We expect 15,000 buildings eventually, and 15,000 of anything can't be stopped."

THE MILITANT

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Vol. 27 - No. 46



Monday, December 23, 1963

Birchers Seek to Fan Hysteria

That nightmare-product of a sick culture, the John Birch Society, has placed full-page advertisements in many newspapers in an attempt to deepen and capitalize upon the witch-hunt atmosphere which followed the assassination of Kennedy.

The ad brazenly opens with an assertion that Kennedy was "murdered by a Communist" and that "when a Communist commits murder he is acting under orders." Cited by the Birchites to support their warped logic are Martin Dies, the original chairman of the infamous House Un-American Activities Committee, and J. Edgar Hoover, the great white father of America's witch-hunt.

In the Birchites' irresponsible and irrational language even former President Eisenhower and Chief Justice Warren are "conscious or unconscious" Communists. In their vocabulary the terms "Communist" and "Communist dupe" include all liberals, the whole civil-rights leadership, the labor movement, anyone who advocates any measure of social progress or merely disagrees with the Birchites' ultra-reactionary views.

Nor was President Kennedy exempt from their wild charges. In fact they withheld, for reasons of "taste" the last issue of their magazine because of what it says about him. This underscores their effrontery in calling for an ultra-right "crusade" to avenge a man whom, only yesterday, they were denouncing as a pro-Communist.

In the search for an explanation of the senseless, violent events in Dallas, conscientious observers have almost unanimously pointed to the growing atmosphere of blind hatred in this country. The two forces most responsible for that sinister development are the white-supremacists and the ultra-right. The current John Birch ads aim at transforming that hatred into a lynch spirit.

The State Dep't China Declaration

The State Department's "long-held but rarely articulated" China policy was recently made public in a speech by Roger Hilsman, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. Though his reference to an "open door" policy for normalization of relations was greeted with fanfare, there is nothing new in the statement.

The State Department for years dared not specify its China policy because the McCarthyites and China Lobby had made it such a sensitive domestic issue. While the State Department now dares state it openly, the policy gains nothing by its mere enunciation. It is still aggressive and imperialist. It is a policy of military intervention and threats, of embargo and non-recognition.

All this is justified by the claim of China's hostility toward the U.S. But the true origin of present relations with China lies in U.S. attempts to smash the Chinese Revolution. In the course of its intervention in China's civil war, the U.S. backed Chiang Kai-shek and his reactionary clique, later installed him on Formosa with the U.S. Navy to guard him, and armed his forces for counter-revolutionary forays and a hoped-for invasion of the mainland.

The real reason for U.S. involvement in the Korean civil war was this anti-China policy. It is why GIs are now dying in defense of the dictatorship in South Vietnam and why Washington gleefully rushed arms to India during the border clashes there with China.

Normalization of relations with China depends on the U.S. The prerequisites are: withdrawal of U.S. naval forces from Chinese waters, an end to the support of Chiang's dictatorship in Formosa, no further obstruction of China's admission to the UN, diplomatic recognition of China and establishment of normal trade and travel relations.

Local Directory

BOSTON. Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.

CHICAGO. Socialist Workers Party and bookstore, 302 South Canal St., Room 210. WE 9-5044.

CLEVELAND. Eugene V. Debs Hall, Room 23, 5927 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 3, Ohio.

DENVER. Militant Labor Forum, Telephone 825-2779.

DETROIT. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. TEmple 1-6135.

LOS ANGELES. Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily and Saturday.

MILWAUKEE. 150 E. Juneau Ave.

MINNEAPOLIS. Socialist Workers Party and Labor Book Store, 704 Hennepin Ave., Hall 240. FEderal 2-7781. Open 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

NEWARK. Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, New Jersey.

NEW YORK CITY. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place. AL 5-7852.

OAKLAND-BERKELEY. Labor Book Shop and Socialist Workers Party, 563 18th St., Oakland 12, Calif. TE 6-2077. If no answer call 261-5642.

PHILADELPHIA. Militant Labor Forum and Socialist Workers Party, P.O. Box 8412, Philadelphia 1, Pa.

SAN FRANCISCO. Militant Labor Forum meets second and fourth Fridays at Pioneer Book Store, 1438 Fulton St. WE 1-9967.

ST. LOUIS. Phone Main 1-2669. Ask for Dick Clarke.

SAN DIEGO. San Diego Labor Forum, P.O. Box 1581, San Diego 12, Calif. For labor and socialist books, Sign of the Sun Books, 4705 College Ave.

SEATTLE. 3815 5th N.E. Library, book store. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Phone ME 2-7449.

The Jean Daniel Interviews

A Kennedy-Castro Dialogue

By William Bundy

An extremely interesting pair of interviews — constituting an indirect sounding out of views between the late President Kennedy and Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro — has been published in the Dec. 14 issue of the liberal magazine *The New Republic*.

The interviews were granted by President Kennedy on Oct. 24 and by Premier Castro on Nov. 20 to Jean Daniel, foreign editor of the noted French weekly *L'Express*. Kennedy invited Daniel to see him again after he had returned from to Havana.

But the assassination of Kennedy cut short this unofficial diplomatic probe, so Daniel has published the interviews. Their importance is indicated by the fact that the *New York Times* chose to print them in its Dec. 11 issue after they appeared in *The New Republic*. (*The New Republic* version is more complete, however.)

Daniel reports that Kennedy told him that he deeply regretted the U.S. role in Cuba before and during the time of Batista and that he had approved of Castro's overthrow of that regime. "The great aim of the Alliance for Progress," said Kennedy, "is to reverse this unfortunate policy."

But, he continued, Castro has become a "Soviet agent in Latin America" and "I am the President of the United States and not a sociologist; I am the President of a free nation which has certain responsibilities in the Free World." Kennedy said of Castro: "Through his fault — either his 'will to independence,' his madness, or Communism — the world was on the verge of nuclear war in October, 1962 . . . I don't know if he realizes this, or even if he cares about it . . . You can tell me whether he does when you come back."

Daniel quotes Kennedy as saying: "The United States now has the possibility of doing as much good in Latin America as it has done wrong in the past; I would even say that we alone have this power — on the essential condition that Communism does not take over there."

Daniel inquired what the U.S. government expects to gain from the blockade of Cuba. Kennedy replied: "Are you suggesting that the political effectiveness of the blockade is uncertain? . . . You will see when you go to Cuba whether it is or not. In any case we can't let Communist subversion win in other Latin American countries . . . The continuation of the blockade depends on the continuation of subversive activities." That ended the Kennedy inter-



Fidel Castro

view. Daniel comments: "I could see plainly that John Kennedy had doubts, and was seeking a way out."

The Castro interview took six hours. As quoted by Daniel, Castro's discussion is an exceptionally astute attempt to leave the door open for a relaxation of tensions without sacrificing Cuba's sovereignty or revolutionary principles. Throughout, Castro distinguishes between his role as a revolutionary and his role as a state official.

Castro said he thought Kennedy was sincere in probing a possible relaxation of tensions because Kennedy "is a realist: he is now registering that it is impossible to simply wave a wand and cause us, and the explosive situation in Latin America to disappear."

Castro explained the missile crisis by saying the Cubans had positive information that a U.S. invasion was being prepared. They became alarmed when they received a report from the Soviets of a conversation between Khrushchev's son-in-law, Aleksei Adzhubei, and Kennedy in which, according to Castro: "Kennedy reminded the Russians that the United States had not intervened in Hungary, which was obviously a way of demanding Russian non-intervention in the event of a possible invasion." (Castro's emphasis.)

The Cubans, said Castro, thereupon asked the Russians to "do whatever is needed to convince

the United States that any attack on Cuba is the same as an attack on the Soviet Union." Daniel said Castro told him the idea of installing missiles as the way to forestall the invasion originated with the Russians. (This point is reiterated and emphasized by Daniel in a clarifying note in the Dec. 21 *New Republic*).

Castro said that "in a way," the Alliance for Progress, "was a good idea, it marked progress of a sort." But, he added, Kennedy's idea of social progress in Latin America on a liberal capitalist basis won't yield results because it is being sabotaged by the Latin American oligarchies, the trusts, and the Pentagon. It is this refusal of the outmoded forces to change which is causing the revolutionary explosions in Latin America and not Cuban subversion.

Daniel asked Castro how he thought the crisis would end, since, whether it is a U.S. alibi or not, "it still remains true that you have chosen Communism," and upset the international balance in a world "where peace depends on mutual respect for a tacit division of zones of influence."

Castro replied: "I refuse to dwell on this point, because asking me to say that I am not a pawn on the Soviet chessboard is something like asking a woman to shout aloud in the public square that she is not a prostitute."

It is true, said Castro, that if the U.S. government views the problem only in that light, there is no way out of the tensions. But the tensions, including the blockade, don't stop the revolutionary developments. They accelerate them.

But, said Castro, as a statesman "I cannot help hoping . . . that a leader will come to the fore in North America (why not Kennedy, there are things in his favor!) who will be willing to brave unpopularity, fight the trusts, tell the truth . . . As far as we are concerned, everything can be restored to normalcy on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty."

In conclusion, Castro told Daniel: "Since you are going to see Kennedy again, be an emissary of peace, despite everything. I want to make myself clear. I don't want anything, I don't expect anything, and as a revolutionary the present situation does not displease me. But as a man and a statesman, it is my duty to indicate what the bases for understanding could be."

Daniel returned to see Castro two days later and was with him when the news of Kennedy's assassination broke. Daniel wrote an article on this in the Dec. 7 *New Republic*. "This is bad news," said Castro when the shooting was reported. When Kennedy's death was announced he said: "Now they will have to find the assassin quickly, but very quickly, otherwise, you watch and see, I know them, they will try to put the blame on us for this thing."

Campaign for New Militant Readers Was Our Most Successful in Years

By Karolyn Kerry

Congratulations are in order for the members of our Militant Army, our friends and supporters, who made possible the most successful three-month subscription campaign we have had in many years.

By making an extraordinary effort, our sub campaigners fulfilled the original quota of 5,000 new subscribers one month in advance of the Dec. 15 deadline. The extra effort was pegged to the 35th anniversary celebration which fell on Nov. 15. After reaching that goal there was the inevitable let-down with the pace-setters tapering off.

However, we received some 600 additional subs following the 35th anniversary target date. Judging by the letters we have received from all parts of the country we made many friends among new readers who express their gratitude for having been introduced to our paper.

The introductory subscription rate for new readers will now be

\$1 for four months. Keep the subs rolling in!

Militant Scoreboard Dec. 15, 1963

	Quota	Total
Chicago	1,500	1,562
New York	1,000	1,077
Detroit	650	686
Newark	150	360
Twin Cities	300	304
Boston	250	273
Los Angeles	500	155
Oakland/Berkeley	225	148
Philadelphia	150	147
San Diego	100	138
Madison	100	129
Milwaukee	150	116
Seattle	100	110
Cleveland	100	109
Denver	150	86
San Francisco	250	46
Connecticut	75	44
Ann Arbor	50	40
Baltimore	50	23
St. Louis	15	5
General		154
Total	5,865	5,712

N.Y. Forum Sponsors New Year's Eve Party

NEW YORK — The Militant Labor Forum will be the host at a gala New Year's Eve Party at 116 University Place on Tuesday evening, Dec. 31. In addition to ringing in the New Year, the party will toast the Freedom Now movement with songs of the Southern fighters as presented by a quartet of young participants in the rights fight.

There will be dancing, entertainment and favors. A \$2 contribution includes a hot midnight supper.

Subversion the OAS Didn't Probe

CIA Agent Is Caught Red-Handed in Cuba

By Charles Gardner

A CIA agent caught red-handed, recently admitted to a Cuban court that he had smuggled explosives into the country on orders from Washington. But the American press hardly took note of this. It was too busy screaming about Venezuelan President Betancourt's election-eve charge that a cache of arms, "found" buried on a lonely beach, had been traced to Cuba.

The arms "find" in Venezuela looks very fishy. Suspicion is great that Betancourt's police and the CIA buried the arms for convenient discovery just before the elections; likewise the "proofs" of some of the arms' "Cuban origin" look phoney. But the CIA agent smuggling explosives into Cuba was caught dead to rights and there is no question whatsoever about his guilt.

Nevertheless, the Organization of American States — at Washington's urging — has rushed into a highly-publicized, full-scale investigation of the Venezuelan charges while not uttering a mumbled word about the CIA's terrorist activity in Cuba.

The CIA crime was exposed on Oct. 24 when two Canadian citizens were arrested in Cuba on charges of bringing explosives into the country destined for counter-revolutionaries. The two, Ronald Lippert and William Milne, had flown a two-engined plane to Cuba ostensibly to discuss a contract for carrying air-mail packages. Cuban customs officials happened to check 18 cans of fruit brought in on the plane and found they contained grenades and other explosives packed in rubber.

Brought to trial in Havana, Lippert confessed to being a CIA agent and to having attempted to smuggle in the explosives on CIA orders. He said the CIA paid him \$400 a month. When the CIA had originally approached him with the job offer he had taken it, not out of political convictions, but because he was out of work and had a family to support. Though he was a Canadian citizen and worked from Canadian territory, the Canadian government had no



BRAZEN. This photo of a Cuban counter-revolutionary displaying a U.S. cartridge belt was published in 1960 in the counter-revolutionary exile press. The model, Joaquín Membribe, was later captured in Escambray mountains.

knowledge of his secret employment by the U.S. agency.

Milne, who piloted the plane for Lippert, pleaded innocent to the charges and was found not guilty.

The explosives were flown into Cuba shortly after the island had been devastated by Hurricane Flora. This was in the period when the U.S. press was making propaganda hay out of Washington's offer of aid to Cuba through the U.S. Red Cross. Premier Fidel Castro had welcomed aid from the International Red Cross and from individual U.S. citizens, but had rejected Washington's offer of aid through the government-controlled U.S. Red Cross as "hypocritical" unless the embargo was lifted.

In a televised speech, Castro displayed the fruit cans and contents smuggled in by CIA Agent Lippert, commenting, "This is the aid we get from the imperialists."

Since two Canadians were involved, the Canadian press followed the case very closely. It found the trial was fair and the sentence was justified. An example is an editorial in the *Toronto Daily Star*, one of Canada's leading papers. This editorial appeared Nov. 25, just after the assassinations of President Kennedy and his accused murderer, Lee Oswald. Another editorial in the same issue deplored the fact that Oswald had not been given a fair trial, remarking that "the extraordinary negligence of the Dallas police in protecting their prisoner will ... feed the darkest rumors."

Superior Justice

In contrast was the editorial entitled "Fair Trial in Cuba." It read as follows:

"This weekend at least, Cuban justice was superior to Texan justice."

"Although the one-day Havana trial of the two Canadian fliers accused of spying had a drumhead air, the two freebooters were dealt with fairly."

"There was no doubt they were delivering military contraband intended for counter-revolutionaries. In any nation that feels itself as threatened as Cuba does, this is a very grave offense."

"We really can't complain of the long prison sentence handed out to Ronald Lippert of Kitchener; the state prosecution had asked originally for the death penalty. Lippert admitted that he had knowingly smuggled explosives into Cuba and said he was sorry."

"We can be relieved that the other accused flier, William Milne of Montreal, was allowed to go free. The Cuban court found that he was innocently implicated; he had not known that the plane he was piloting for Lippert was carrying bullets and hand grenades."

"Cuban trials of this kind are not like ours, but at least the accused are given a hearing in a court of law."

...Vietnamese Junta Extends Clamp-Down

(Continued from Page 1)

arrests for political reasons since South Vietnam's Nov. 1 military coup seem to indicate that the ruling junta is settling into the same pattern of arbitrary justice, surveillance and secret-police methods that besmirched the regime the generals overthrew."

Secret arrests in the first month of the junta's existence are estimated at over 500. The same "far-reaching and experienced police network" that functioned under Diem (and which was built up by the French during their colonial rule) is still in operation, according to de Gramont. "Such methods of surveillance as wire-taps and planting special police as cab drivers" have been reinstated, he reports.

The man who heads this police gang, Major General Mai Huu Xuan, "held similar posts in the French colonial regime and under President Diem," reports AP correspondent Malcolm W. Browne from Saigon. "He is regarded as a man interested in running things his own way. Gen. Xuan recently has been appointing many of his closest associates to key jobs in the police and security services, which traditionally have tremendous power over Vietnamese politics," Browne adds.

When the generals first took power they made a number of declarations intended to deceive public opinion throughout the world and especially in the U.S. They said, for example, that popular elections might be held in six months or a year. They have

dropped that now. They announced that some political figures jailed by Diem had been set free. But thousands held as alleged Communists and alleged Communist sympathizers were kept in the prisons and concentration camps. Exiles, it was proclaimed, would be allowed to return home.

But the junta soon showed its basic distrust of democratic rights through which the mass of the people might find a voice. Up to their necks in politics themselves, these generals forbade ordinary members of the armed forces to engage in political activity. Instead of preparing for democratic elections, the junta publicized plans to appoint a "Council of Notables," which could offer advice but would have no powers of decision — a camouflage attempt to make the civilian population believe that it had some representation without allowing it to elect its own spokesmen.

The junta has also begun to restrict the return of political exiles, even former officials under Diem or the French puppet Emperor Bao Dai, on the allegations that they favor "neutralism." Also being reinstituted are Diem's press controls. At first the junta promised to end these. While censorship was continued over English and French-language newspapers, a number of licenses for the publication of Vietnamese-language papers were granted.

On Dec. 11, little more than a month after the coup, however, the junta closed down three such

newspapers — two for criticizing Provisional Premier Nguyen Ngoc Tho, the third for advocating "neutralism." Two papers had been suspended earlier on less obviously political grounds.

Press criticism of Nguyen Ngoc Tho is significant. He was vice premier under Diem. His appointment as premier by the junta angered many Buddhists and student opponents of the Diem tyranny.

Even more significant is the suppression of a paper for "neutralist" views. This paper had printed a front-page editorial "proclaiming a popular desire for peace and the end of the war against the Communist guerrillas," according to a *New York Times* dispatch. The strength of this popular desire to stop the war was expressed in at least one of the recent self-immolations. A young servant girl, Tran Bath Nga, burned herself to death to protest against "Vietnamese fighting Vietnamese." There are indications that other suicides expressed the same protest.

To the generals, "neutralism" is anathema — as it is to the U.S. authorities, who are pressing the junta to "prosecute the war more vigorously" than Diem did. Official U.S. policy in South Vietnam is "to win the war" — whether the people want to fight it or not.

But the Vietnamese people want an end to the bloodshed, to the foreign — i.e., U.S. — military intervention, and to the same foreign control over their governments. They want peace and freedom for a change.

Four Children Burn to Death In a Minneapolis House Fire

By Everett E. Luoma

MINNEAPOLIS — Four small children were burned to death in a fire which destroyed a one-and-a-half story frame house in South Minneapolis Dec. 6. Four other children escaped unharmed.

The fire was blamed on a candle burning in a glass jar on a downstairs table. Apparently the jar cracked and the candle ignited cartons packed with clothing in preparation for the family's moving.

The mother, Mrs. Dorothy Blaylark, was helping a neighbor that night and the care of the younger children had been entrusted to her 16-year-old daughter, Gail. The home is in the Negro neighborhood of South Minneapolis.

Candles and kerosene lamps had been used to heat and light the house since Sept. 16 when the electricity had been cut off because Mrs. Blaylark was delinquent in the payments, according to a Northern State Power Co. spokesman. Gas service had also been shut off even longer for the same reason.

One wonders at the values of a social system which, in one of the richest metropolitan areas of this country, forces children to study

by candlelight at risk of their eyesight and, as it tragically proved in this case, of their lives.

As a subsidy or kickback to industry, utility rates are fixed so small consumers pay the most per volume unit used. To guarantee everyone light and heat, why shouldn't this favoritism in utility rates be reversed? Why shouldn't every family be guaranteed a certain amount of gas and electricity free every month, with rates increasing for quantities used above that basic amount?

This would mean that children need not be burned to death because candles and kerosene stoves were being used for light and heat; nor would they have to study by candlelight. It would also mean that major consumers of electricity and gas were paying their fair share, rather than being subsidized, as at present, by the overcharging of small consumers. This would be only fair since the people who own and control the productive capacity of this country are the very ones who control employment and consequently have brought it about that some people are unable to pay utilities bills.

...Bolivian Miners' Struggle

(Continued from Page 1)

and altered the system of contracts. Even after the union decided the miners should return to work, COMIBOL refused to rescind the punitive measures. The strike thereupon spread like wildfire.

A national leadership, dominated by the left MNR tendency, made up of supporters of Bolivia's Vice President Juan Lechin, took the lead of 25,000 miners after a union congress had decided to continue the fight.

Utilizing the lack of connection and co-ordination between the peasant movement and the miners, President Paz Estenssoro, who heads the right wing of the MNR, mobilized peasant militias against the miners at Catavi and Siglo XX.

The miners were determined to fight back but the strike ran into difficulties when the government blocked all food supplies from reaching the mine district. Its doom was only a matter of time. The strike ended in late August.

To show that the sacrifices being demanded of the miners were not necessary, the union leaders in mid-September offered to take over the management of the Catavi mine and run it at a profit for the country. For this they were counting not on loans from the U.S. and West Germany but on material and technical aid from Soviet-bloc countries. The government of President Paz Estenssoro refused the offer.

Leaders Arrested

Early this month, two secretaries of the miners' union, Federico Escobar and Irineo Pimentel, were arrested as they were returning from a union conference. They were imprisoned in La Paz, the capital, and numerous frame-up charges were made against them.

Upon hearing this news, the miners retaliated by seizing as hostages — officials and foreigners connected with the "Triangular Plan." Those held by the miners to guarantee the safety of their union officials and to effect their release were mostly Bolivian officials but included Dutch and German technicians and four Americans.

Washington immediately offered to assist President Paz Estenssoro in quelling the miners and freeing the hostages. But Paz moved only Bolivian troops towards the mine area. The U.S. press went into hysterics, denouncing the arrested union secretaries as "Communists," and blaming the kid-

napping on Vice President Lechin and Fidel Castro, Lechin, whose base of support is the miners, has fallen out with President Paz and is planning to run for the presidency in the coming elections.

On Dec. 12 thousands of workers and students in La Paz staged a solidarity demonstration with the miners. Parading through the city they shouted such slogans as: "Paz to the firing squad," "Death to Yankee imperialism," and "Lechin to power."

On Dec. 16 a mass meeting of the miners was persuaded by Lechin to release the hostages even though the government still refused to free the two union officials. The vote was 2,000 to 1,000 and the hostages, who had been held ten days, were immediately set free.

Price Is Re-Convicted Of Contempt of Congress

NEW YORK — William A. Price was again convicted of contempt of Congress on Dec. 11. Although he was sentenced to only ten days of probation, he is appealing the conviction because freedom of the press is involved.

In 1955, Price was subpoenaed by Senator Eastland's Internal Security Committee which had embarked on a witch-hunt investigation of "Communist-infiltration" of the New York press. Price, who at that time was a reporter for the *Daily News*, regarded this investigation as a violation of freedom of the press as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Accordingly, he refused to answer the witch-hunters' questions, citing the First Amendment.

He was subsequently convicted of contempt of Congress and sentenced to three months imprisonment and \$500 fine. This conviction was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court in May 1962. But the high court did not rule on the constitutional issue but based its decision on a legal technicality, namely, that the indictment had been faulty. This decision also applied to five other First Amendment cases.

In August 1962, Attorney General Robert Kennedy reindicted the six original defendants and two additional persons. However, only Price's case is being tried pending a higher court decision. He is confident that his conviction will again be overruled.

THOSE 'BLACK-CLAD' GUERRILLAS

New Revelations on the Vietnam War

By Art Preis

"SAIGON, Dec. 3 (AP) — Two men burned themselves to death in Saigon today . . . The man who committed suicide near [U.S. Ambassador] Lodge's villa apparently had been dressed in a black calico shirt and trousers, normal apparel for a Vietnamese peasant or working man."

What is unusual about this Associated Press dispatch is the phrase, "normal apparel for a Vietnamese peasant or working man." Evidently, these words slipped past the usually alert military censors, both American and South Vietnamese.

In my files I have hundreds of U.S. press dispatches and articles on the civil war and the U.S. armed intervention in South Viet Nam. These contain numerous references to "black-clad guerrillas," "black-clad Vietcong," "black-clad Communists" and even "communist suspects dressed in black."

Not one of these accounts explains that black is the ordinary, everyday dress of the peasants and workers of Viet Nam. "Black-clad" is used to convey a sinister implication and the impression that the guerrillas are distinguished by black uniforms. Hence, everyone so clothed is fair game for the U.S. napalm (jellied gasoline) bombs, rockets, high-explosive shells and other means of modern military slaughter.

Government Troops

Thus, *New York Times* correspondent David Halberstam reported on Nov. 19 from South Viet Nam that "as the Government troops approached one village, the peasants streamed toward them wearing their Sunday white so as not to be confused with the Vietcong's black pajama-like suits." Presumably, if these peasants had been caught in their customary work clothes while toiling in the rice paddies, they would have been shot down or blown up or burned to death.

I am not stressing a picayunish point. I am illustrating how the censored and mangled news from South Viet Nam has to be scrutinized and analyzed to get the truth about the nature of the civil war being waged in that Far Eastern country.

By uncovering the significance of the phrase, "black-clad," I am putting my finger precisely on the real issue. The U.S. is engaged in naked, aggressive, brutal intervention in a civil war on the side of a savagely oppressive regime of mandarins and militarists. The mighty U.S. is ranged against the overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese, the poor and landless peasants, the artisans and the workers.

The reiterated and slick use of the description, "black-clad," is a propaganda trick to conceal the class nature of the war in South Vietnam. U.S. imperialism is attempting to crush a peasants' and workers' rebellion which has a firm popular base in the mass of the black-clad toiling people. That

is the impregnable truth.

Indeed, Halberstam complained at length in a Nov. 23 dispatch from Saigon about the friendly attitude of the populace to the guerrillas, after first telling how the "peasants file from the villages wearing their Sunday best [white] to distinguish them from the guerrillas" whenever government troops approach.

He describes an American, flying over the Mekong River Delta "which stretches out green and lush," who pointed out of the window of his helicopter and said, "Just as far as the eye can see: miles and miles of discontent."

In the same article Halberstam bemoans "the fact of this political war that in many parts of the Delta the Vietcong are not seen as an enemy by the population and sometimes the Government seems more alien and foreign."

Moreover, laments Halberstam, "It is a sad thing, but to the population the Vietcong are the heroes and the revolutionaries and the government officials corrupt and evil."

Fits Formula

This fits exactly the formula for successful guerrilla fighting stated in an Associated Press dispatch from Fort Leavenworth on July 8, 1962. The report summarized the views of U.S. Army officers returned from counter-guerrilla activity in South Viet Nam:

"One axiom of guerrilla warfare is that it cannot succeed without the active support of the people to provide concealment, recruits, food, money, medical aid and intelligence information."

In South Viet Nam, the government armed forces under both the late unlamented dictator Ngo Dinh Diem and the new military junta headed by former Diem appointee Gen. Duong Van Minh, outnumber the armed rebels by almost 20 to 1. The government forces enjoy an incomparable weapons advantage, including the support of U. S. aircraft and pilots. Why has the rebellion survived and spread and grown stronger?

It has the one indispensable and not-so-secret weapon — the active support of the people.

The apologists for U.S. intervention try to explain the popular support and aid enjoyed by the Vietnamese guerrillas as the product of terrorism and intimidation. If terrorism were the decisive factor in the civil war, the government would have won long ago.

After the U.S.-engineered overthrow of the Diem regime last Nov. 2, U.S. correspondents were permitted to reveal some of the facts about the concentration camps and tortures under Diem's rule. One of the most vivid accounts was that of Malcolm W. Browne of the Associated Press. He interviewed several of the "thousands of 'political detainees' who felt the fangs of the secret police" and who "are telling what it was like in Nhu's [Diem's broth-

er] concentration camps." In Browne's Nov. 8 dispatch, he told of one Buddhist girl who described how she had been tortured by electrodes from the generator of a field radio attached to her breasts. "Many United States military advisers and foreign newsmen have seen variations of this torture applied to Viet Cong suspects in the field," Browne added as an aside.

We are thus informed that such tortures were standard operational procedure under the Diem regime and that this was observed by American reporters and military "advisers" who certainly did not tell the American people about it.

Wholesale Slaughter

But the ferocity of the government has been carried far beyond an accumulation of individual atrocities. The government's attempt to suppress the rebellion of the peasants and workers has been accompanied by wholesale indiscriminate slaughter of civilians, of all sexes and ages.

This is continuing under the U.S.-backed military junta. A hint of this was given in an obscure *Reuters* dispatch which briefly reported from Saigon on Nov. 14 that the government, "in preparation for a stepped-up campaign against Communist Vietcong guerrillas," warned "inhabitants of four nearby hamlets today to evacuate their homes" because the area "will be the target of an intense bombing and strafing attack, starting tomorrow."

Hedrick Smith, *New York Times* correspondent, wrote from Saigon on Dec. 6 a description of the response of the government as the guerrillas "strike in the city's outskirts." Smith said:

"... From Saigon roofs, the deep boom of the Government's artillery could be heard. And on clear days patrons lunching in the ninth-floor restaurant of the Caravelle Hotel can watch Government planes dropping napalm on guerrillas across the Saigon River. 'From almost every direction, the guerrillas creep closer to Saigon and their attacks grow bolder. They've drawn a collar right around the city,' one United States military spokesman said."

Fiery Napalm

But it's not only on armed guerrillas that the government is pouring fiery napalm and high explosives.

It seems that the American "psychological-war advisers" in South Viet Nam are becoming highly alarmed because "innocent villagers are often killed and maimed in South Vietnam's vicious war," according to a Dec. 12 AP dispatch from Saigon. The new regime, it seems, isn't doing any more to win over the people than Diem did.

U.S. helicopter-borne troops "in the past" have "poured heavy weapons fire into homes to 'soften up' the enemy. They have found dead women and children when they entered the villages," the dispatch explains.

As a matter of fact, "the Americans still see much work needed to help civilians escape the terrors of war." One of the U.S. officers is quoted as saying that some of the "military objectives" are "only suspected objectives. When the air force goes in, it leaves behind burning houses and wounded and dead civilians."

While this is "an old practice in war," according to the "adviser," this particular war "is as much political as military, so indiscriminate killing may help the Communists."

"This is what makes the protection of civilians of prime importance, because it is from their ranks that the guerrillas come," the "adviser" added.

These are "humanitarian" afterthoughts inspired by the continued successes of the revolutionists who,



REPEAT PERFORMANCE. A peasant hut is razed to ground by GIs during U.S. intervention in Korean civil war. Now South Vietnamese villages are being burned down, also in name of fighting "communism."

according to the Dec. 7 dispatch of Hedrick Smith to the *New York Times*, "in the months before the coup and in the five weeks since . . . have grown more brazen and powerful." Smith reports further:

"With the capture of U.S. weapons the Communists have proven more dangerous for American helicopters — the weapons once expected to give anti-Communist forces unconditional advantage over the guerrillas." He adds that now "rare is the day" that helicopters on combat missions are not hit by ground fire.

In Serious Shape

In fact, says Smith, there is "little disagreement here that the war in the Delta is in serious shape — more serious than officials in Washington have let on . . ." There is feeling, he goes on, that "the generals now ruling South Viet Nam have so far failed to capitalize adequately on the goodwill generated by their coup." On the other hand, "the Vietcong have built up a steady progression of strength and have extended their popular influence . . ."

A Dec. 13 dispatch by the above-quoted correspondent continues this same theme. United States officials are filled with an "uncertainty that has replaced high expectations after the coup." They complain that the new military junta "has failed to capitalize on the momentum generated by the coup d'etat." Washington isn't getting what it paid for.

The U.S. Embassy has been urging General Minh and his junta associates "to travel in the country and make a major effort to bolster popular support." But, sad to say, "General Minh has shown no taste for such a role." With more realism than his American "advisers," it is very likely that Gen. Minh is preoccupied with the fear that before he goes out to meet the people in the countryside, they will be raging into Saigon to meet him.

Smith reports that since the coup, the "strategic hamlets," into which the government has attempted to forcibly herd millions of peasants after burning down their huts and driving them from their land, have been "deserted by thousands of people or overrun by the Communist guerrillas."

The popular support which the guerrillas enjoy is not merely the result of profound hatred for the government and ruling class which have brought the people so much horror and misery. The civil war of the peasants and workers in South Viet Nam promises them

great rewards and benefits after the decades of exploitation they have suffered at the hands of the great imperialist powers, first France and now the United States.

Once in a while the U.S. press permits us a glimpse at what the Vietnamese people are fighting for. This is suggested in an Associated Press story on June 13, 1962, from My Tho, South Viet Nam. It describes the methods and characteristics of the Vietnamese guerrilla recruits. "The average recruit is fighting because he has been offered social reform or land distribution — or because the Vietcong threatened his life or his family unless he joined up."

As I have already amply documented, the government has had all the advantage when it comes to terrorism. The inducement offered by the revolutionists is the prospect of a materially better future. Here is how Jerry A. Rose described it in the *Sunday New York Times Magazine* of April 8, 1962:

"Soft Side"

"The soft side of the Communist approach is conveyed by mimeographed newspapers, songs and cartoons, printed posters and crudely lettered signs. Above all, it is conveyed by intimate personal contact with the peasant."

"The Viet Cong comes into the field to work with you," a peasant says. "Or if there is no work to be done, he'll even wash out the rice bowls for you. The Viet Cong live like us, look like us, live in our homes. How can we inform on them?"

Rose continues: "The Communists in Vitenam have long recognized the value of an immediate land reform, and though many of their promises are disbelieved by the skeptical Vietnamese peasant, he does put credence in the promise of land distribution — for in fact, the Communists do take land from the rich and give it to the poor."

One man quoted by Rose said that the reason some of his friends in the Mekong Delta had gone over to the revolutionists was: "They seize the rice fields from the absent owners and divide the land among the working farmers."

That is reason enough for any poor peasant to back a revolution. It is the reason why the revolutionary fighters of South Viet Nam have defied the awesome might of U.S. imperialism and tightened a ring around Saigon, the very center of the South Vietnamese ruling class. That is why every day they approach closer to power.

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Letters From Our Readers

[This column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters under 400 words. Writers' initials will be used, names being withheld unless authorization is given for use.]

1949 Events in Bolivia

New York, N.Y.

To get an idea of what the ruling class of Bolivia might have had in mind for the tin miners, who seized the four Americans as hostages to win the freedom of the jailed unionists, it is only necessary to recall what happened in May of 1949 when a similar incident occurred.

At that time the government also provoked the miners by arresting some of their leaders. On

May 28, 1949, the miners took several mining company supervisors as hostages to force the freeing of their fellow unionists.

The government stuck tough, sent troops into the mining region. The hostages were shot and the government opened a series of battles that resulted in the massacre of some 2,000 miners.

If they don't use the same tactic now its only because the workers' movement of Bolivia, and of Latin America generally, are so much stronger today. And, also, the Latin American ruling classes have been given a lesson that makes them act more cautiously — the lesson of the Cuban Revolution.

Peter Camejo

Growth of Infant Mortality

Long Island City, N. Y.

"We Could Save 40,000 Babies a Year," was the title of an article in a recent *New York Times* Sunday magazine section. It should be read by every American.

It states that the U.S. has fallen from sixth to eleventh place among the nations of the world in preventing infant mortality; that eight of our ten largest cities showed an increase in infant mortality in the past decade, and that, "In fact, we have two distinct rates: among whites, 20-25 deaths per 1,000, and among Negroes 35-40 per 1,000." Almost double for Negroes!

Incredibly worse is the situation in New York's Negro ghettos. In central Harlem, the rate is 48.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births and in Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn it's 43.6 per 1,000.

In contrast, the lowest rates — 16 to 19 per 1,000 were recorded in overwhelmingly white, predominantly middle-class districts in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. So in New York, the infant death rate for poor Negroes is two-and-a-half to three times as high as that of middle class (not to mention wealthy) whites.

The writer says: "... the major reason is poverty — especially the desperate poverty of the city slum."

This, mind you, in the richest country in the world, with the highest standard of living in the history of mankind.

Need more be said to illustrate the need to change a system that has such contempt for the most precious single thing in society — its children. No, I'm mistaken — not all children are unimportant in this society — only poor children, and especially poor Negro children.

E.S.

A Criticism

Detroit, Mich.

I always look forward to getting *The Militant* each week. It is especially good in its coverage of events not reported in the capitalist press.

However, in reporting such news, when it is about something very horrible, it is not necessary to give every detail.

A recent article on persecution of Spanish miners told exactly how each of a group of men were tortured. Readers of *The Militant* already know that the capitalists will go to any lengths to preserve their privileged positions. *The Militant* doesn't have to tell exactly how torture is applied.

Even if the idea behind such writing is to shock the reader into awareness of what goes on and some detail is wanted for this purpose, isn't it enough to list the

instruments of torture? Such as saying, "The prisoners were viciously tortured with knives and electric prods?"

I found the precise detail in the Nov. 25 story of the peace marchers in Georgia particularly offensive. I realize that it would be difficult to get across the full impact of their horrible treatment without some concrete description. But I think it could have been just as effective to describe the treatment of one or two of the marchers and say something like, "Such inhuman acts were repeated on each member of the group."

I don't say this is a habit in *The Militant*. The two articles I have cited are the only ones in which I've seen this fault but I hope it will be avoided in the future.

N.L.

[We don't want to shock our readers unnecessarily (although there are new readers who may not be aware of the extent to which the powers that be will go to preserve their rule.) In the matter of the two articles cited it was not simply a question of our deciding how to report an event. The story about the Spanish miners was smuggled out of Spain by the victims themselves. It was their own account of what happened to them. In reprinting it from *World Outlook* we felt we did not have the right to substantially alter it. Similarly, the story about the CNVA Peace Walkers tortured by the Georgia cops was their own collective account of their experience and here too we felt the obligation to report the story as they told it.—EDITOR.]

An Open Letter

Philadelphia, Pa.

This is an open letter to President Johnson.

When a star in the sky dies

everything in the universe is a little darker. When a human life is snuffed out, our life on earth is that much darker. No one can but sorrow that John F. Kennedy, human being, is dead.

I am enclosing an article from the paper, *The Militant*, about a group of U.S.-to-Cuba peace walkers who were victims of Georgia police torture. When such acts of official injustice occur in our country how can we hope to prevent individuals from spilling over into acts of insanity?

Can anyone not be outraged at what happened to these young people in Georgia? Were not their rights assassinated when the cattle prods were applied to them?

If Oswald had lived and had he been found guilty your office would have done everything in its power to bring him to justice. What is your office going to do to bring the Georgia perpetrators of Nazi-like brutality to justice?

Will you speak out on the acts that are being committed in the South? Will you go on television to specify town by town what is happening to peace walkers, SNCC workers, Negro students? If you did a mighty roar of outrage would emanate from each American's home and find its way into the South. Then "Americans" committing such atrocities might sit up and take notice, if only for reason of self-preservation.

Mr. President, respect should obtain for the leader of a country whether one agrees with him or not. But the degree of such respect is inevitably related to the effort made by that leader to obtain an atmosphere in society where respect is shown to each and every American, regardless of their position.

Lawrence H. Geller

For Esperanto

Paterson, N. J.

American radicals wishing to break through the "paper and air-wave curtain" which until now has so effectively filtered the flow of information between the socialist and capitalist countries, would do well to inform themselves about Esperanto, the international language. Esperanto is easy to learn. It is the perfect tool for internationally-minded radicals, enabling direct person-to-person contacts beyond language barriers and socio-economic frontiers. Most important, it makes possible the free and rapid flow of information between countries, with no problems of translations and no language imperialism, in which the most widely spoken languages dominate the others.

Such publications as *Nuntepa Bulgario* from Bulgaria, *El Popola Ĉinio* from People's China, *Hungara Vivo* from Hungary, and others, give an inside picture of life and socialist construction in those lands.

In addition, Radios Prague, Pyongyang, Warsaw and Sofia broadcast via shortwave programs in Esperanto. The 48th World Esperanto Congress was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, recently; it was one of the most successful ever held.

How long must American radicals allow language barriers to prevent their having contact with the socialist countries? The Esperanto Education Center, Box 406, Cooper Station, New York 3, N. Y., will supply complete data on Esperanto to all who are interested. It is a non-profit non-political foundation whose only aim is to convince more people of the benefits deriving from a knowledge of Esperanto.

Allan E. Fineberg

It Was Reported in the Press

And Ne'er the Twain Shall Meet

A correction in the news section of the Dec. 15 *New York Times* explained that the financial and business section of the paper, which was printed prior to the news section, contained an erroneous headline. The headline, the paper said, should read: "Personality. He Has Iron Hand on Expenses. Harold P. Goodbody's Knowledge Helps Wall Street." Examination of the financial section reveals that the incorrect headline read: "Personality. His Purpose Is to Help People. Head of U.S. Vitamin Seeks to Assist Undernourished."

imminent now than ever these days." A statement was later issued by the federal government in Bonn explaining that the ration cards were merely a "precautionary" measure to cope with future emergencies.

American-Type Operators

Two Greek Army officers searching for treasure they believed was hidden by Alexander the Great 2,000 years ago were sentenced to eight and a half months in jail for using soldiers under their command to do the digging. They were also charged with unauthorized use of army explosives.

Non-Taxing

An oil operator with an income of \$28 million in 1960 "paid not one single cent in federal income taxes for that year," according to Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois. Douglas told the Senate Dec. 12 that five other oil barons with incomes ranging from \$1 mil-

lion to \$4.5 million paid little or no taxes in 1960. Douglas said that if this kind of a tax set-up continued "the ordinary person will lose faith in this government and in the fairness of his tax system."

Welfare State

The Mississippi Director of Public Welfare, Fred Ross, acknowledged Dec. 13 that the Welfare Department had used public funds to print and distribute one of his segregation speeches. The speech was published as a pamphlet with his picture on the title page and mailed throughout the state. It predicted that Mississippi's schools might be shut down to avoid integration.

The Monitors — The New York Fire Department which presently has all it can do to get through the jammed-up streets to a fire has been assigned the chore of monitoring fallout after an atomic bombing of the city.

20 YEARS AGO

"In two and a half years the Fair Employment Practices Committee has never gotten beyond the stage of holding hearings on discrimination in war industries. It has never had the power to act against one violator of Roosevelt's executive order 9346. Last year, for instance, the FEPC found the Capital Transit Company of Washington, D.C., guilty of refusing to hire Negroes. Today that same company is still rejecting Negro applicants for jobs without fear of punishment.

"A few weeks ago the FEPC found 16 Southern railroad companies and seven railroad unions guilty of discriminating against Negroes. But no one was surprised when the 16 Southern railroad corporations told the FEPC they would refuse to comply with its orders to hire and upgrade Negroes to do skilled work. Again the bosses were showing their contempt for the FEPC." — Dec. 25, 1943.

Thought for the Week

"Lack of evidence that Marxist Lee Harvey Oswald was linked to a Castro or Kremlin conspiracy is not pertinent." — Henry J. Taylor, ultra-right Scripps-Howard columnist in a Dec. 6 *New York World-Telegram* article entitled: "Red Spider Plays a Willy Game."

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U.S. Bars Milk to Cuba



CUBAN CHILDREN. One of the great accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution has been its program to provide each child with a quart of milk a day. The heavy damage inflicted by Hurricane Flora has made the program particularly difficult.

NEW YORK — An attempt by the Emergency Committee for Disaster Relief to Cuba to send powdered milk to areas of that island devastated by Hurricane Flora has been prevented by the U.S. government. Although medicine and food are supposedly excepted "for humanitarian reasons" from the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, the Commerce Department rejected the relief committee's application to ship powdered milk on the flimsy pretext that it might be used otherwise than as a food. The committee is appealing the ruling.

This week the committee — among whose sponsors are Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling, his wife Ava, Carleton Beals and Waldo Frank — sent its sixth weekly shipment of medical aid. Last week it sent 75 cases of medical

supplies, including blood-transfusion equipment, penicillin for 50,000 injections, assorted antibiotics, vaccines and antitoxins.

In a recent letter, Dr. Jose Rodriguez Gonzalez, Director of the Hospital Nacional in Havana, acknowledged receipt of over 100 cases of relief supplies. "Your first shipment . . . has already been sent to Camaguey and Oriente under our strictly supervised distribution," he wrote, and expressed his warmest gratitude for these contributions.

Reporting generous contributions from citizens and groups in some 35 states, the Committee has renewed its public appeal for "A Shipment of Relief Supplies Each Week to the Disaster-Stricken in Cuba," to meet the continuing public-health crisis resulting from Hurricane Flora which caused the loss of 1,200 lives, ruined half the agricultural crop and destroyed tens of cities.

The address of the Emergency Committee for Disaster Relief to Cuba is 41 Union Square West, New York, N.Y. 10003.

DeBerry Completes Western Leg of Tour

Clifton DeBerry, Socialist Workers Party spokesman, has completed the West Coast part of his national speaking tour on the civil-rights revolution. DeBerry, who was SWP candidate for Brooklyn councilman-at-large in the last election, spoke on radio and TV in San Diego, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and Seattle, as well as at forums and symposiums in those cities. He also addressed campus meetings at San Diego State, UCLA and in San Francisco.

Speaking in Minneapolis, on his way back East, DeBerry urged Negroes to turn to independent political expression in their fight for equality. He said he supports the Freedom Now Party idea as "a beginning" toward this end.



Clifton DeBerry

Stick-Tough Stand of Racists Spark New Actions

2,500 Negroes Demonstrate in Atlanta

Over 2,500 Negroes marched in Atlanta, Georgia, Dec. 15 to protest that city's failure to go beyond token desegregation of schools, public accommodations, hospitals and housing. It was the first major civil-rights demonstration in the South since President Kennedy's assassination Nov. 22.

The march — in below-freezing weather — concluded with a rally in a downtown park. It was sponsored by a coalition of Negro leaders dissatisfied with negotiations with the city's white officials. Rev. Martin Luther King spoke, declaring: "There will be neither peace nor tranquility" in Atlanta until discrimination has been eliminated.

Larry Fox of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights, a direct-action youth group, said the white officials "will not give anything they are not forced to give or is not to their advantage." The younger civil-rights fighters have been urging renewed picketing, boycotts and sit-ins.

DAWSON, Ga. — The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has wired President Lyndon B. Johnson concerning the Dec. 8 bombing of the home of Mrs. Carolyn Daniels. Mrs. Daniels, a Dawson beautician, suffered a bullet wound in her foot when shots were fired into her home. While she was seeking treatment at a hospital, a bomb exploded in her home, "making it a total wreck."

Mrs. Daniels has housed voter-registration workers and has set up citizenship schools to give Negroes instruction in Georgia's voters' qualification test. Her home was also fired upon last September, and three SNCC workers, Jack Chatfield, Prathia Hall and Chris Allen, were wounded at that time. Working with local people like Mrs. Dawson, SNCC workers have been able to raise the number of Negroes registered in Terrell County from 51 in 1960 to some 140 as of last summer. Some 60 per cent of the county's population of about 13,000 is Negro.

In nearby Albany, Slater King,

Dallas Morning News Rejects NAACP Ad

An advertisement seeking contributions through purchase of NAACP Commemorative Christmas Certificates has been rejected by the Dallas Morning News. The Texas daily informed the agency placing the ad for the NAACP that the text would have to be approved by the Dallas police department before the paper would accept it.

The News is the Dallas paper which on Nov. 22 published the now notorious ultra-right ad attacking President Kennedy who was assassinated there later that day.

president of the Albany Movement, also protested the attack on Mrs. Daniels to President Johnson. King predicted "the shooting and bombing will be repeated unless strong presidential action is taken."

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 13 — Six members of the local NAACP branch last week defied a state court injunction, issued this summer against demonstrations, and resumed protest picketing against the segregationist policies of the city administration.

Police promptly arrested the demonstrators and charged each with violating ordinances commonly used to discourage peaceful protests by advocates of equal rights and justice — blocking the sidewalk and parading without a permit. The six — all Negro residents of Jackson — were: the Misses Stella Harrington, 22; Theresa Easley, 31; Nina Mae Benson, 38; Mattie Mae Jackson, 21; Geneva Rucker, 41; and Minnie Jewel Eiland, 29.

State NAACP chairman Charles

Evers, brother of the assassinated Medgar Evers, said: "We are going to demonstrate until the mayor meets with us." Mayor Allen Thompson, however, issued a verbal attack on the NAACP in which he called it an "agitator group." He said the city would fight all "agitators" and that he has ordered additional personnel hired "to protect Jackson business firms and customers from threats or intimidation by agitator groups."

OXFORD, Miss., Dec. 11 — Five Mississippi law officers, charged by the U.S. Department of Justice with seven counts of conspiracy to deprive Negroes of their civil rights, were set free here by an all-white federal jury.

The five white policemen were accused of beating civil-rights workers arrested in Winona, Mississippi, after four of them entered a white rest room at a bus station there last summer. The defendants, who pleaded innocent, included State Highway Patrolman John L. Basinger, Montgomery County Sheriff Earle Wayne Patridge, and Winona Police Chief Thomas J. Herod, Jr.

The Justice Department called six witnesses, including four of the Negro complainants and two FBI agents. The FBI men introduced photographs showing injuries to the five. One agent testified he had examined a blood-stained shirt worn by one of the Negroes, Miss June Johnson, while she was under arrest. She testified that she had been beaten in the Winona jail.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer told the court she was kicked by Sheriff Patridge after he yanked her off a bus in front of the bus station because her friends had entered the white waiting room. Others, who testified to having been beaten by one or more of the law officers, included Euveste Simpson, Rosemary Freeman, SNCC worker Lawrence Guyot, Annette Ponder, a field worker for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and SNCC worker James Harold West.

VICTORY FOR WAITERS UNION

Operators of Swank New York Restaurants Get a Lesson

By Catherine Landau

NEW YORK — A significant victory has been won here by waiters and waitresses in their strike and lock-out battle with the Restaurant League of New York. There were 150 restaurants in the League — the major establishments under contract to Dining Room Employees Union Local 1, now there are 95. The union was able to break the employers' united front because the strikers and locked-out workers remained strong and united and because the unionized cooks and bartenders supported them.

The contract of Local 1 (AFL-CIO International Hotel and Restaurant and Bartenders Union) with the Restaurant League expired Oct. 31. From then until Dec. 7, when three restaurants — the Lobster, the Press Box and Keen's Chop House — were struck, the only thing the League negotiators would say was, "No!" This employers' association, which for years has held back industry conditions, would agree to nothing more than a one-year extension of the old contract with no improvements.

On Nov. 21 the union held a joint meeting at which several thousand members voted unanimously to authorize the executive board to call a strike if the League remained adamant.

While many New York restaurants do not belong to the League, the union contract with it is crucial because it sets the standard for all Local 1 shops. The union contract with the League in general covers the "cream" of the city's restaurants, such as 21, Voisin, the Colony, Lindy's, Sardi's, etc. Jobs there are among the best in the trade.

Under the old contract a waiter's salary was \$40 a week. In addition to minor fringe benefits, the union demanded an \$8 increase over three years — \$2, then \$3, and \$3; also time-and-a-half vacation pay for waiters. This latter demand may seem odd to straight hourly workers but it stems from the fact that waiters and waitresses get no consideration in vacation pay for that part of their weekly earnings which comes from tips. While a two or three week vacation is a wonderful thing, a family can't do much vacationing on \$40 a week. An across-the-board increase of 15 per cent was demanded for captains plus lesser amounts for cashiers and checkers.

Local 1's demands were modest, especially in view of the fact that the period to be covered by the new contract will extend over the World's Fair. Some 70 million people are expected to visit New York then and one of the principal beneficiaries of this tremendous

tourist trade will be the restaurant owners. They will profit much more than the waiters because, while out-of-towners must pay full price for the meals, their tips tend to be much smaller than those of New Yorkers.

A group of waiters and waitresses at the Nov. 21 meeting tried to have the union demands include a guaranteed 15 per cent gratuity to be added to restaurant patrons' checks, as is common in Europe. This was not only to solve the problem of out-of-towners' tipping but to relieve the workers from depending on tips (which are considered part of their pay) and to guarantee them the money they rightfully earned by their service. The union leaders, however, opposed raising such a demand at this time. But enough pressure was generated to insist that a committee be set up to study the proposal as a possible demand for the next negotiations.

The three restaurants were struck Saturday, Dec. 7. The next day the League locked out the workers in 150 restaurants.

The Colony — one of the swankiest restaurants in town — told reporters that upon calling up their reservation customers on Sunday to inform them the restaurant was closed, several Park Avenue matrons had volunteered to turn into the kitchen to help. (This was reminiscent of the so-

ciety ladies queuing up cafeteria-style during last year's strike at the Waldorf.) There were also harrowing tales about widespread hunger on Manhattan's Upper East Side until some sufferers discovered it was possible to cook at home — even on the servants' night off.

By Monday, restaurants began defecting from the employers' association and reopening. By the week end the League caved in and came to an agreement with the union negotiators. The settlement is being presented to a Dec. 19 union meeting for ratification.

The settlement is reported to contain the following: 1) a \$4 weekly pay increase over the three-year period — \$2 the second year, \$2 the third; 2) time-and-a-half vacation pay for both waiters and captains; 3) a \$6 pay increase for captains — \$3 the second year, \$3 the third, and in some cases more; 4) cashiers and checkers — who get no tips — to get a \$9 pay increase — \$3 each year.

Cracking the employers' united front is a major victory for the union and, when the next contract comes up, should facilitate the union's getting down to the very important issue of working conditions which tend to be very bad throughout the industry — particularly in the kitchens.