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N. Y. Rent Strike Spreads From Harlem to East Side

By Fred Halstead

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 — Taking inspiration from Harlem, tenants of the Lower East Side of Manhattan — a mixed neighborhood with Puerto Ricans present in large numbers — have started a rent-strike movement. There are now rent strikes against slum conditions going on in Harlem, the Bronx, Brooklyn and the Lower East Side.

Another 60 buildings in Harlem — in addition to the 168 already on strike — are scheduled to withhold rent from the landlords Feb. 1. There have been no evictions. So far only one eviction has even been ordered by a court, and that involved a tenant in Harlem who was not part of the organized rent-strike movement. The Community Council on Housing — which has sparked the rent strike in Harlem — took up the case when it heard about it and the tenant was not evicted.

Landlords, however, have served some 100 dispossession notices on rent strikers in Harlem. These will go to court soon and rulings favorable to the tenants are expected. In any case, said Jesse Grey, chairman of the Community Council on Housing, "there will be no evictions."

The effects of the rent strike have spread far beyond the buildings which are actually withholding rent. For years the city administration has claimed that its hands were tied when it came to enforcing the various health and building regulations. Involved red tape, with different agencies for each type of violation, and court procedures were necessary, it was claimed. Now the rent strikers have turned the whole argument around.

The landlords and the city are responsible, they declare, and they stop paying rent until violations are corrected. If the landlord wants his rent, he has to fix up the building. If he has a grievance,

he must wait on the red tape and court proceedings, not the tenant.

This has created a new atmosphere in the city generally. Tenants not on strike report getting much faster action when they call landlords about complaints. These landlords are afraid if they don't do something the strike will spread to the buildings they own. In addition, the city last week made a breach in its former policy when it declared the Health Department could bypass the courts in complaints dealing with rats.

What is more, there has never been more public attention paid to the slum conditions. The question is discussed on radio and TV. The *New York Times* this week devoted a full-page spread to it. The rent strike movement is getting results, but it has a long way to go.

Deteriorated Buildings

There are still more than a million New Yorkers living in deteriorating buildings which should be replaced. But there is a shortage of an estimated half million decent low-rent housing units in New York. And there are only some 3,500 such units now being built or planned. At that rate, even if there were no further deterioration, it would take a century and a half to solve the problem. The rent-strike movement is throwing light on the fact that "private enterprise" has utterly failed to provide decent housing and that the Democratic and Republican politicians have no plans whatever to solve the slum problem in the city.

The movement on the Lower East Side is being co-ordinated by the Lower East Side Rent Strike, a united front of over a dozen local tenants', civil-rights and neighborhood groups. The strike in the area will be kicked off at a rally Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. on Stanton St. between Christie and Forsythe.

HOW ZONIANS FAN THE CRISIS

Panamanian People Treated Like Dirt

By Jay Garnett

Recent outbreaks in the Canal Zone, the ten-mile-wide strip across Panama occupied by the United States since 1903, have lifted the veil of silence which concealed from the U.S. public the colonialism and segregation existing there.

Panamanians, the international press, and even some American businessmen in Panama have decried and denounced the colonialist mentality of the 36,000 Zonians (U.S. citizens permanently residing in the Zone). Their colonialist mentality is honestly come by, for the Canal Zone is the only outright U.S. colony in continental Latin America.

The U.S. colon personify the 19th Century "white-man's-burden" ideology. They righteously proclaim that, by virtue of their upper-middle-class living standards and 200 per cent American attitudes, they have brought law and order, hope and light to a benighted region. The Panamanians, the vast majority of whom have Indians or Africans among their ancestors and who now live

as squatters in the countryside or in city slums often within sight of the Canal Zone suburbia, do not appreciate the "contribution" of the arrogant or patronizing Zonians.

The Zone's colonial conditions date back to 1904 when the U.S. authorities imported thousands of black West Indians as laborers to dig the canal. U.S. Jim Crow conditions were imposed upon them and racism has festered there since. Whites working on the canal were given the best houses. Negroes were assigned rough barracks; the whites were paid in gold, the Negroes in less valuable silver.

In time "gold" and "silver" replaced the terms "white" and "colored" or "U.S. citizen" and "Panamanian." In U.S. post offices in the Zone there were segregated windows marked "gold" and "silver" for the purchase of stamps. Similar racist labels were to be found on hospitals, department stores, toilets, hotels, railroad waiting rooms, seating sections in ball parks, etc.

Two-thirds of the Panamanians

who are employed on the Canal are not even allowed to reside in the Canal Zone. The degree to which the Panamanians are regarded as intruders in their own country was well expressed to a *New York Herald Tribune* correspondent (Jan. 13) by a Zonian youth who attends Balboa High School. Speaking of the more than twenty deaths which followed the flag-raising incident at his school, he said: "I'm sorry for the rioting because the three Army guys are dead, but I couldn't care less about the Panamanians: They have no business here anyway."

The angry Panamanian masses forced their millionaire President Roberto Chiari to pressure the U.S. for concessions. And although two U.S. Presidents have tried to soothe Panamanian feelings by allowing their flag to fly alongside the U.S. flag in the Zone, the Zonians themselves denounce this as a sell-out.

The chauvinist attitude of the Zone students is but a reflection of the attitude of the community as a whole, an attitude which has

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Texts of Speeches

By James Baldwin and John Lewis
At Harlem Rent-Strike Rally

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Jailing of 78 Fails to Stem Atlanta Anti-Bias Protests



PROTESTING JIM CROW JAILING. Marching in front of prison in snow-bound New York, eleven-year-old Douglass Bibuld (front, left) and his father Jerome lead pickets protesting jailing of his mother, Douglass' picket sign reads: "My mother fights for civil rights in this jail."

New York City Jails Woman Who Protested Hiring Bias

NEW YORK — A double standard of law enforcement was exposed here last week as members of the Brooklyn Congress of Racial Equality and sympathizers picketed the city prison for women in Greenwich Village.

The pickets were protesting the jailing of Mrs. Elaine Bibuld on a ten-day sentence which began

Jan. 14. Her crime was that she was one of some 800 demonstrators who were arrested last summer for sitting down at the gates of the construction site of the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Blocking a gate to a construction site with your body, it seems, is against the law.

But Mrs. Bibuld and the other demonstrators had sat down in an attempt to get the state of New York to enforce the law — the law which clearly states that racial discrimination in employment shall not be practiced on projects financed by the state.

The state of New York was not enforcing the law against discrimination at the time of the sit-downs last summer. Despite promises made by Gov. Rockefeller, Mayor Wagner and the heads of the building trades unions — promises which caused the demonstrations to be called off — the law is still not being enforced. Many of the skilled building trades for all practical purposes still bar Negroes.

But the law-enforcement agencies have moved relentlessly against the demonstrators who were trying to get the law against discrimination enforced.

Mrs. Bibuld — a pregnant Negro mother of three children — and her husband, Jerome, were the first of the Downstate demonstrators to be convicted and sentenced. Mrs. Bibuld refused to pay the \$50 fine and took the ten days in jail. Her husband paid the fine so he could mind the children — and picket the prison.

The pickets demanded the freeing of Mrs. Bibuld and the dropping of the cases against the re-

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ATLANTA, Ga. Jan. 21 — Racial protests continue here daily as high school and college students sustain their struggle to make Atlanta an "open city."

Seventy-eight demonstrators were arrested Saturday night, Jan. 18, after an integrated group of students tried to get into a Krystal hamburger stand in downtown Atlanta. Ten hooded, white-robed Ku Klux Klansmen had occupied the seats at the counter in a move to prevent a sit-in. But they didn't scare anybody and the student demonstrators organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Committee On Appeal For Human Rights, chanted and sang outside. Some of their number attempted to enter the restaurant, and the police began arresting them.

Other demonstrators lay down beneath the wheels of a patrol wagon and were themselves arrested. SNCC Chairman John Lewis and SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman were among some 30 persons arrested outside the restaurant.

Later a group of Negroes demonstrated outside the police station in protest against the arrests. They were themselves arrested. All 78 have been released on bond.

The next day, SNCC Chairman Lewis announced a demonstration for Jan. 24 for the edification of a delegation from a human rights subcommittee of the United Nations. The group is headed by Morris B. Abram, formerly of Atlanta. Lewis said Abram had asked SNCC not to demonstrate while the UN committee was in Atlanta because that would "embarrass the nation."

In announcing the demonstration, Lewis said Negroes had been embarrassed a long time by segregation.

The demonstrators have succeeded in integrating 20 eating places in the Dobbs House chain and several smaller eateries since the campaign began here just before Christmas. The SNCC and COAHR members have also picketed the home and office of Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen Jr., the Board of Education, and evangelist Billy Graham, who was in Atlanta.

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Mae Mallory Wins Release on Bail

Authorities in Monroe, North Carolina, released Mrs. Mae Mallory on \$10,000 bond Jan. 18. The Negro defendant in the framed-up "kidnap" case was extradited from Ohio to Monroe Jan. 10.

Defendants, Richard Crowder and Harold Reape, Negro youth leaders in Monroe, and John Lowry, a Freedom Rider from New York, have been out on bail for almost two and a half years. In all that time the prosecution refused to bring the case to trial.

Trial of all four defendants is now expected in the court term beginning Feb. 17.

New York Minimum Wage Fight

Poverty on Rise in Area

NEW YORK — A. Philip Randolph, president of the Negro American Labor Council and leader of last summer's March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, says he is "deeply disappointed by Governor Rockefeller's failure to propose immediate action by the legislature to establish a statewide minimum wage of \$1.50 per hour."

Earlier, in proposing that Rockefeller introduce a \$1.50 minimum-wage bill on the first day of the legislative session Jan. 8, Randolph declared: "The problem of substandard wages and mass poverty in New York State is worsening rather than improving. There is a growing under class of people in the state, of whom Negroes and Spanish-speaking persons constitute an increasingly larger and disproportionate segment, who do not share in the abundance of our so-called 'affluent society' and who apparently are considered peculiarly eligible for sacrifice to the sweatshop employers whom New York State encourages and whom the people of the state are required to subsidize."

Rockefeller, instead of propos-

ing the \$1.50 minimum wage, proposed a study commission on the question. Randolph, who is chairman of the Citizen's Committee for a \$1.50 Minimum Hourly Wage in New York State, then declared:

"There is absolutely no need and no justification for another study committee to explore the problem of substandard wages and mass poverty in New York State. This problem has been the subject of countless studies: it has been studied by government agencies, universities, foundations, community organizations and concerned individuals; it has been studied by economists, statisticians, sociologists, psychologists, political scientists and by practitioners in other disciplines. There is no dearth of information concerning the dimensions of the problem, its causes, its socio-economic implications and the groups it primarily affects."

"There is no question but that mass poverty exists in this state as a direct consequence of the fact that a major segment of the working population receives substandard wages. There is no question but that both the federal and state minimum-wage laws are totally inadequate; both in the level of minimum wages they establish and in their coverage . . ."

"There is no question but that Negro and Puerto Rican workers and their families constitute an increasingly larger and disproportionate segment of the large under class of persons in our state who live in poverty and deprivation . . . What is needed, therefore, is not another study commission to once again explore the obvious, but affirmative action — during the 1964 session of the Legislature — to establish a statewide minimum-wage of \$1.50 an hour, covering workers both in interstate and intrastate commerce."

"The Negro and Puerto Rican communities of this state, who bear most heavily the burden of mass poverty stemming from substandard wages, will not remain silent while their urgent needs are buried in another of what obviously is an interminable succession of unnecessary study committees . . ."



A. Philip Randolph

NEW DATA ON RURAL POOR

The Key Fact: 'Most Farmers Are Not Really Needed Anymore'

In an article on poverty in the U.S. in the Dec. 21-28 *Saturday Evening Post*, Ben H. Bagdikian points out that the farmer has always been considered the prototype of the self-reliant American, beholden to no man. The facts are that farmers and farm

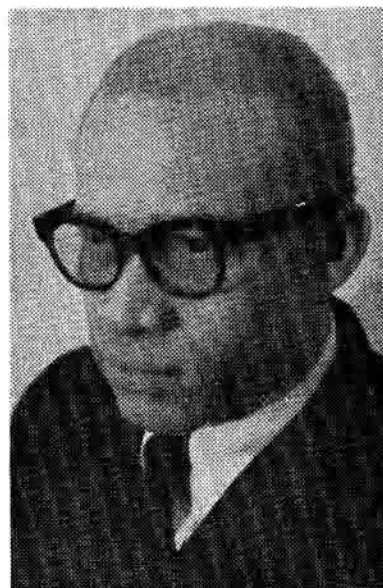
workers are today among the poorest people in the U.S. Not only is it impossible for a farmer to support a family on "40 acres and a mule," he now needs no less than 325 acres, plus heavy investment in fertilizers, weed-killers and complicated machinery.

"The brutal fact is that most farmers are not really needed anymore . . . It is not surprising that in the last ten years eight million Americans left their farms for the cities. At this moment there are over 1.5 million young men between ten and 19 growing up on farms, but in the next ten years there will be only 150,000 openings for farm operators," Bagdikian writes.

"Columbus Cooper is 57 years old. His father owned his own farm and divided the land among his male children. Cooper started clearing his 26 acres when he was 16 years old . . . On a rainy day recently he looked out on his land in Sumter County, S.C., at the sagging tobacco shed, the drizzle glistening on the small tractor and moistening the rust on his six-year-old car . . . 'I'd like to redeem myself but the expenses are growing. Things could break bad for me if I can't stop this expense and pay back my indebtedness . . . Sometimes I can't sleep nights trying to solve my problems.'"

"It is generally agreed that a farmer in the United States, if he wants to live at an ordinary standard of living, needs to gross

SWP Urges Aid In Campaign for DeBerry, Shaw



Clifton DeBerry

The Socialist Workers Party has issued an appeal to friends and supporters to help finance the campaign of its candidates in the 1964 presidential election. The SWP candidates are Clifton DeBerry, the first Negro in American history to be nominated as a presidential candidate by a political party, and Edward Shaw, a printer with a long record in the trade-union and socialist movements.

In a letter to supporters, Marvel Scholl, National Fund Director, said: "In this campaign we intend to have the SWP slate on every possible state ballot. As you know this is no small task. Laws governing listing of minority candidates vary widely . . . Illinois, for instance, requires a minimum of 50,000 petition signatures, Ohio 250,000, California a cool half million! . . . Besides hard work, all this takes money — a great deal of it . . . We are appealing to you, therefore, to make as generous a contribution as possible so that we can carry on this vital preliminary work."

Contributions to the campaign fund should be sent to the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.



The national contract negotiated by Teamster Union President James Hoffa and the trucking industry represents a significant advance for all organized labor. About 450,000 over-the-road and local drivers, employed by 16,000 companies, will be covered by the same contract. This could eventually lead to the elimination of inequities in wages and conditions that exist in different areas of the country — notably in the South.

The new contract will provide yearly wage increases of ten, eight and ten cents an hour over the three-year life of the contract, which will expire March 31, 1967. It also includes increased payments to the union's pension plan with some provisions for eye and dental care.

One serious weakness in the contract is the two-year suspension of a cost-of-living clause, and this at a time when prices are continuing to soar. Another weakness is that no safeguards are provided against the loss of jobs due to increased automation or efficiency campaigns.

From the company point of view, the principal beneficiaries will be the bigger truckers who will undoubtedly put an economic squeeze on smaller competitors.

From the union point of view, the nation-wide contract has been an implicit demand since the Teamsters first began to organize on a regional basis in the 1930s. It remains to be seen, however, whether the new contract will serve the needs and aspirations of rank-and-file teamsters in future struggles, or whether it will provide the companies with a bigger club to control the union.

"Perhaps the women of America need to stage their own March on Washington," observed Leslie Orear in *The Packinghouse Worker*.

According to Orear, "Women are clustered in the lowest paying occupations. Women are not often promoted to managerial

functions. Women are not yet accepted into many occupational fields in which there is no real reason why they could not perform as adequately as men."

He observes that it is precisely those women, who must work to feed and clothe a family, who are specifically exempted from the protection of the Fair Employment Practices Act. As a result several million women are forced to work for less than one dollar an hour.

A protest against acceptance of a new contract negotiated by President Michael J. Quill of the Transport Workers Union and the New York City Transit Authority is continuing inside the transit union.

A central issue sparking the rank-and-file dissatisfaction was Quill's abandonment of the demand for a shorter work week. Immediately following his deal with the transit bosses, the union's headquarters was picketed by 1,000 rank and filers. For several days following, a picket line of 100 or more continued this form of protest. One of the pickets' demands is for a secret ballot rather than the mail-in vote organized by Quill.

Another action proposed by an "anonymous" committee was for all transit workers to call in sick on Jan. 24, unless balloting machines are provided for the voting. The same committee members said they would drop out of the TWU "and form a new union" if they don't get an honest count.

Quill's reaction to these rank-and-file militants was a scurrilous attack over TV. He accused them of being "non-union scum," and "over-age juvenile delinquents."

Pro Basketball player Tommy Heinsohn of the Boston Celtics was accused of being "a number one heel" by club president Walter Brown. The vilification of Heinsohn, who is president of the basketball players' union, followed his attempt to meet with boss Brown to discuss players' grievances.

Meanwhile, another Celtic player, star Bill Russell, charged basketball club owners of using a quota system when hiring Negro players. He also said that sports writers support the quota system.

"With the white, they'll say what his strong points are," observed Russell, "with the Negro what he's not so good at."

N.Y. Forum Slates Talk By Harvey O'Connor

NEW YORK — Harvey O'Connor will speak on "The State Department in the Service of Standard Oil," Friday, Jan. 31, 8:30 p.m. at the Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place.

O'Connor is the author of a number of authoritative books on the role of U.S. in plundering the world's oil resources. The best known of these are *The Empire of Oil* and *World Crisis in Oil*. He is a past editor of the *International Oil Worker*, organ of the Oil Workers International Union, and author of *History of the Oil Workers International Union*.

Biographer of several of America's Sixty Families, Mr. O'Connor has written *Mellon's Millions*, *The Guggenheims* and *The Astors*.

In addition to setting the record straight on the source of some of the large fortunes in the U.S.A., Mr. O'Connor has participated actively in the fight for civil liberties. Until recently he was chairman of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. He is now chairman of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Weekly Calendar

CHICAGO

A lecture on *The Understanding Marxism Brings to Science*. Fri., Jan. 31, 8 p.m. Debs Hall 210, 302 S. Canal St. Ausp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

CLEVELAND

1964 and the Johnson Administration. Speaker, Frank Lovell, Mich. State Chairman, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 1, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 5927 Euclid Ave. Ausp. Militant Forum.

DETROIT

Hear Defendant TOM MORGAN on *The Indiana 'Sedition' Case*. Fri., Jan. 31, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Ausp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

NEW YORK

Author HARVEY O'CONNOR discusses *The State Department in the Service of Standard Oil*. Fri., Jan. 31, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. \$1. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

FEB. 7 — How Cuba Broke the Embargo. Speaker, Harry Ring.

HARLEM TENANTS HEAR FIGHTING SPEECHES

James Baldwin and John Lewis at Rent-Strike Rally

James Baldwin:

I don't have anything to say to you that you don't already know. I was born in Harlem. There were nine of us in a series of horrible apartments. I remember one apartment on 134th Street above the river. [He stops to adjust sound.]

I am only here really as a witness. I was born in Harlem hospital in 1924. That means I was raised in the depression days. Our father — there were nine of us — as far as I know he never made more than \$27.50 a week all the years I was growing up. Many times he didn't work at all. My sisters and brothers and I slept five and six to a bed, catercorner.

I know about the rats and the plaster and the roaches and the lack of heat. I know how hard it is to find the landlord even to complain. I know the intent of the ghetto is to create so many obstacles to getting through a single day that by the time you are 30 you have had it.

It is done deliberately because black people have always played a certain role. Our role has been to corroborate the white man's vision of himself. He can't be what he says and thinks he is unless we are what he thinks we are. In order to keep us where he thinks we should be he has the most brutal set of laws and 'customs' in the South. And a very effective economic system in the North designed to keep us at the bottom of the labor barrel for all our life.

It isn't only the landlord you have to fight. It is also the insurance companies. I'm sure you know something about that... In spite of all the policemen walking in Harlem my brother has been robbed four times in the last six months. And nothing is done about it. One doesn't even call the police anymore. It isn't worth it. This is what we are trying to fight against.

When one talks about the white power structure, whites say they are not responsible and say: "We have Negro friends and maids and have not hurt a Negro in our lives." As far as it goes it is true. When the train passes 125th Street over the Park Avenue railroad station they're on their way to Connecticut and all they see is the few housing projects they put up to keep us there and they are very proud of it. There is a contradiction between the lives white people live and the lives we live.

The landlords, the city and the state are responsible. Things can be corrected but only if we force them to act. They will never do it otherwise. In the South, for example, we see some changes have been made. I'm not being cheerful about this. I'm not a liberal... But we know the situation in the South was precipitated by the Negro people in the streets. If not, the situation would be exactly what it was 50-60 and a hundred years ago. It is because



James Baldwin

the people couldn't wait for Mr. Charley to give them their freedom.

It is a more complex situation in the North. It's hard to find the landlord. It's hard to know where the enemy is. I know where he is. He's in the bank. He's in the bank! Harlem is a very lucrative place for a great many people. You don't have to repair the houses and the people have to pay the rent. A great many people live on it, not all of them white.

This is a revolution. It is going to be harder and harder and harder because the revolution has got to revise the entire system in order for us, as Negroes, to live and in order for the country to survive. It connects with the condition of black and dark people all over the world. One must be bold enough to see and say this...

It is important to remember that once we get the vote in the South the Democratic Party, as we know it, and the Republican Party, as we know it, and the South, as we know it, will be different. Now a great many people in power know this, obviously, and are determined with everything that they have in their hands to prevent such a transformation. And that is why the country at the moment is really, spiritually speaking, at the edge of civil war.

It is important not to lose our courage or compromise. Don't believe anyone who says to relax and they will take care of it for us. It is important for us to take care of it ourselves and prepare ourselves for a very long and terrible battle which we can't afford to lose.

About These Speeches

The speeches by author James Baldwin and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Chairman John Lewis published here were delivered at a Jan. 12 Harlem rent-strike rally. The rally, attended by some 600 persons from the area, was held in a basketball gym on 117th Street and was sponsored by the Rent Strike Coordinating Committee.

John Lewis:

Mr. Grey, I must say to all of you here who are involved in the struggle, that this is indeed a great privilege to be here. I got out of jail in Atlanta at 1:30 this morning. A group of us were arrested there last night because we were involved in some protests in public accommodation. People from SNCC, SCLC, NAACP... went to jail last night but I had made a commitment to be here today, so on this one occasion I said I want to be bailed out of jail to make it and here I am.

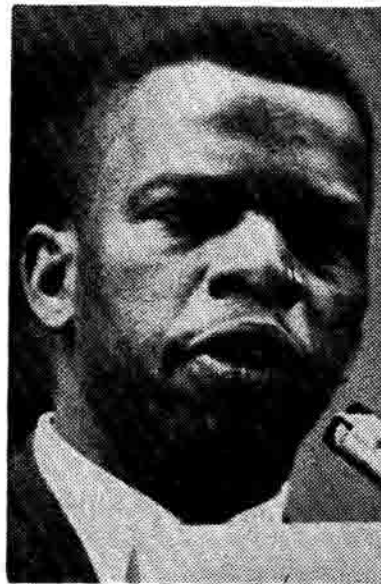
Those of us who live and work in the Deep South have been following the struggle here in Harlem with great interest. This represents something very new and meaningful not only to the state of New York but to the whole nation. Some of us have been saying all along that when the masses get moving in Harlem, the masses in the whole nation will move.

I think 1964 is the year for us to move and you are moving. At the present time, and I think I am right here, this community is the only community in this nation at the present time that is mobilized and prepared to move. We must say not only to this community but to other communities all over this nation — South and North — like Chicago, and Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Birmingham, Atlanta, Nashville and all of these large ghetto communities, that we are not going to pay our rent for what we don't get.

No More

I had a feeling that there would come a time like this in the life of the people. I think it is here in Harlem now that in a real sense the cup runneth over. You are really saying in so many words: "I am not going to take it any longer." You are saying it not only to the city of New York but to a lot of us in the Deep South.

We must rise up and use new means to complete this revolution. In all the ghettos our people are paying rent for nothing. They have no lights in some places, no hot water, they have rats. If all over this nation, if during the next two weeks and February there is born a general rent strike you will see something very beautiful. You will make 1963 look very petty and 1964 will be the year of the civil-rights revolution. It is not just going to come from city hall or Albany or not even from Washington, D.C., but from the people like you. And all of us are going to have to not only refuse to pay our rent but we might be called upon to get in the streets and go to city hall and maybe move out in the summer months because there are too



John Lewis

many rats on the inside, and block up some of these city streets.

The time is now for oppressed people throughout this nation and this world to stop playing. We wanted to be free by 1963. We are not free yet. We keep saying let's fight here and there. If we really want to be free, to put an end to this very system, I think each of you must continue doing what you now are, but intensifying the struggle not only through Harlem but throughout this nation.

In the South we are not free. We must say to the people in Harlem who want to live in a decent home, in Chicago who want a decent meal, none of us are free until all of us are truly and really free. We say in a real sense that it takes the force, the power of our own bodies. In SNCC where people are working in Alabama, they talk about putting their bodies on the line. As someone suggested we don't have money but we have bodies. We don't have a lot of money but we have bodies. If we get together as bodies and move together in a great mass, we would turn this nation upside down.

Will to Struggle

Not one thing is going to be given to us. We are going to have to struggle for it. As the great Frederick Douglass said, there can be no progress without struggle. We must be willing to struggle here in Harlem and throughout every village and hamlet and city of this nation until all the people can say we are really free. If we don't do this then our revolution will come to an end before we gain independence and freedom.

I call upon everyone to do everything possible in your power to carry the revolution further. We in SNCC support and salute your efforts. Today in the cities like Knoxville, Atlanta, New Orleans, people are thinking about the same thing. Maybe during the month of February we will get something going. Thank you very much.

Free Thought Is Debated at Minnesota U

By Sheila Jones

MINNEAPOLIS — The fight for civil liberties at the University of Minnesota attained a new level as Political Science Professor Mulford Q. Sibley confronted St. Paul businessman and councilman Milton Rosen in a debate on the nature and limits of academic freedom.

This was part of a development begun last summer when the American Legion passed resolutions attacking two Minnesota campus groups and the World Affairs Center. Not to be outdone, the Minnesota Baptist Convention then passed resolutions attacking, among others, George Tselos, former Minnesota chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance, Joseph Johnson, Twin Cities organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, and Prof. Sibley himself, because he is faculty advisor to the Student Peace Union and Socialist Club on campus.

In an open meeting Sept. 13 Tselos and Johnson countered the slanders. Subsequently the attacks degenerated into personal insults and a cry for Prof. Sibley's removal from campus.

Enter Milton Rosen, self-appointed defender of decency and Americanism. He was indignant because his tax money was going to support a public institution where a person like Prof. Sibley could "expound his filthy ideas!" He had seen, he said, a letter by Prof. Sibley in the student paper in which Sibley had said he would welcome on the campus "one or two Communist professors, a student Communist club, an Atheist club, a free-love society, a League for the Overthrow of the Government by Jeffersonian Violence, and perhaps a nudist club."

In the course of the campus confrontation, Sibley defended academic freedom on the assumption that there is a truth to be discovered and man, specifically academic man, must have no restrictions in his quest for truth.

Rosen limited his presentation to slanderous attacks on Sibley's character and irrelevant references to his clean business reputation and his clean, God-fearing home.

The attendance consisted of an overflow crowd in a ballroom that could only hold 500. In contrast to scattered, spasmodic applause for Rosen, Sibley received a minute-long standing ovation.

California May Bar Armed Ultra-Rights

LOS ANGELES — State Attorney General Stanley Mosk announced on Jan. 6 that he would ask for legislation against neo-fascist private armies hitherto tolerated in California. He referred specifically to such armed groups as the Minutemen, American Nazi Party and the Rangers.

That these hate-filled, trigger-happy groups are a danger not only to "Communists" and Jews, but to the public at large was illustrated by an incident in San Diego last month. A young woman there narrowly escaped death when her car was riddled with bullets fired by Troy Haughton, leader of the Minutemen. He saw his parked jeep moving behind the car driven by Mary Courtney, 21. Rushing out of his house with a rifle he pumped ten bullets into her car and then held her at gunpoint until the police arrived. He said he thought she was stealing his car. The young woman explained that she wasn't aware that her bumper had become entangled with that of the jeep.

There is no report of any action taken against Haughton for the shooting.

... Zone Residents Treat Panamanian People Like Dirt

(Continued from Page 1)

evoked such resentment from the Panamanians that American seamen, for instance, do not like to go ashore in Panama because of the low esteem in which Americans are held.

Says a Zonian: "We live a damned comfortable existence here. But the Canal Zone needs a stable, steady force of skilled labor to keep these boats coming through, and what we get is no more than what it takes to keep a good group of people happy in a tropical climate under these tense conditions."

About 15,000 Panamanians are employed in the Zone, the vast

majority in low-paying jobs. Only Americans are allowed the top 1,500 positions for "security" reasons. Several AFL-CIO unions there have barred Panamanians from membership, and U.S. employees receive a 25 per cent "overseas" bonus, use of their own commissaries for tax-free goods, and low-rent housing.

"Equal Pay"?

Despite the supposed existence of a U.S. "equal-pay" policy with regard to its employees, a Panamanian receives \$1.30 an hour for the same job for which a North American receives \$2.40.

And, outside the Zone, a for-

mally free nation exists. If Zone conditions are bad, if Panamanian Zone workers are treated like dogs, in Panama at large it is little better. Per capita earning there is about \$300 compared to the \$4,220 per capita of the Zonians. And Panamanian nationalism is constantly irritated, not only by the historical fact that the Zone was signed away to the Yankees by a French financier claiming to represent Panama, but also by the continued presence of the overbearing, contemptuous "Little America" parasitically lodged in their own country's vitals.

Colonialism and segregation

there are supplements to the U.S. neo-colonialism, which ordinarily suffices to control Central America's "banana republics." The Panamanian economy is dominated outside the Zone by the banana and cocoa plantations of the United Fruit Co. Over one eighth of the land is owned by 60 proprietors.

Yet President Chiari, local agent of U.S. imperialism and the native oligarchy, has to try verbally to prove himself an anti-imperialist in order to cover up his true role. For the massive demonstrations have begun to crack the dikes of the sacred property rights of the Colossus of the North.

THE MILITANT

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Monday, January 27, 1964

French Recognition of China

French plans to recognize the People's Republic of China open another breach in the wall U.S. ruling circles tried to build around countries where socialist revolutions have occurred. DeGaulle's defiance of the State Department also marks a new stage in the increasing crisis of U.S. bipartisan foreign policy. Since World War II America's rulers have followed the dangerous road of cold war and world expansion. This policy is proving more and more unsuccessful. The failure of the blockade of Cuba and China's breaking out of isolation are striking signs of that.

The French example is a sensible one that Washington should follow. Extension of diplomatic recognition does not imply approval of the Chinese revolution or its regime. It merely acknowledges what exists. The French capitalist government was not impelled, by ideological considerations but by purely practical ones, such as increasing trade.

The U.S. refusal to recognize the Chinese regime's existence has always mirrored the desire to put an end to its existence, a commitment to its overthrow, like Washington's policy toward the Castro regime. Such plans were doomed from the start. We are living in an age of social revolution, when the oppressed peoples of the earth are determined to be free of imperialism and capitalism. The U.S. cannot hope to turn back the clock of history in China or anywhere else.

Establishment of normal, peaceful relations with socialist-oriented countries would be the sensible approach for Washington to the powerful surge of revolution in our time. The U.S. should recognize China, withdraw the fleet from Chinese waters, accept China's entrance into the United Nations and establish normal trade, travel and diplomatic relations with it.

Welcome Civil-Liberties News

It is welcome news that 67 leading figures in the fields of law, literature, labor, and religion have petitioned Congress, urging repeal of the Smith Act, the McCarran Internal Security Act, and the Communist Control Act of 1954. The petitioners include Thurman Arnold, John Ciardi, Harry Golden, Robert Hutchins, Victor Reuther, Reinhold Niebuhr, and lawyers and officers of the American Civil Liberties Union.

This is part of the rising tide of revulsion against the thought-control laws and practices of the witch-hunt era. It reflects the indignation of those becoming more and more aware of the stifling effect of such laws and of their evil inspirers — the inquisitions conducted by the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Time was when the Democratic and Republican politicians figured that shouting against "communism" was a sure-fire way to catch votes. All indications are that that time is passing. But the politicians must be made keenly aware of that fact for the Congressional inquisitions go on. The administration is still trying to label the Advance youth organization a "Communist front." State sedition laws are used to persecute the Young Socialist Alliance in Indiana and the anti-segregationist Southern Conference Educational Fund in Louisiana.

So the message that witch-hunting doesn't pay as of old must be brought home to the capitalist politicians. To this end all socialist-minded groups and individuals and all believers in civil liberties must redouble their agitation for repeal of the Smith, McCarran, and Communist Control Acts and for the abolition of the witch-hunting Congressional committees.

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, TE 1-6135.

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A CANADIAN REPORT

How Cuba Rehabilitates the Handicapped

[On several occasions in the past few years we have reprinted articles about Latin America and Cuba by Canadian journalist Jack Scott, who writes a regular column for the *Vancouver Sun*. The following article appeared in the Jan. 14 issue of that newspaper.]

The surest way to get involved sympathetically with the Cuban revolution, the fundamental cause, I suppose, for my own devotion to it, is to see for yourself what it has meant for the children of that maligned island.

As you drive in to Havana from the José Martí Airport one of the first billboards you see bears the legend, "Children are born to be happy." In a nation given rather excessively to heroic slogans, it is the one that seems to me the most meaningful and the nearest to fulfillment.

So it has been interesting for me to meet Paul and Bella Sheer who have just arrived in these parts from close to two years of working as educational advisors in Cuba.

Ironically enough, considering the scandalous limitations of British Columbia's child welfare services, the Sheers have found that there's no demand for their services here, though Paul is a sociologist with considerable experience in England and on the continent and Bella, a psychologist who trained at Crane college, the University of Chicago and Northwestern, has worked for years with handicapped children.

See for Selves

It was purely by chance that Paul and Bella came to have their Cuban adventure. They were holidaying in Mexico, en route to Vancouver from Toronto when they flew over to Havana "to see for ourselves what it was all about."

The Cubans, learning of their qualifications, asked them to come back on a contract basis and the Sheers, somewhat carried away by the boundless Cuban enthusiasm, returned with their four children, a 17-foot house trailer and a poodle named Corky. It was to be two of the most rewarding years of their lives.

Bella, particularly, having been asked to organize classes for handicapped children, believes that Castro's Cuba may become a model for the world.

"It's not only what they're doing in remedial work," she told me, "but there's an active campaign to break down society's superstition that the handicapped person can contribute little to the community."

"Under the Batista regime the handicapped child was not considered a responsibility of the state. Castro's revolutionaries inherited a staggering problem. Fifty per cent of the deaf children, for example, were kids who could have had normal hearing with treatment."

Rehabilitation Schools

"The blind, the crippled, the mentally retarded or physically abnormal were without teachers or facilities. Today there are some 30 schools for the deaf and blind and two large hospital schools for rehabilitating the physically handicapped."

"When Castro took over there was a single occupational therapist in Cuba. Now there is an ambitious program to train teachers and in our short two years there we saw an almost miraculous transition from complete neglect to genuine rehabilitation."

"Even children who are beyond hope are accommodated in special boarding schools, usually in the Havana mansions vacated by those who left for Miami. It is hard not to think of it as poetic justice."

The Sheers were particularly impressed, as I was, by the sys-



AN EXAMPLE FOR U.S. This scene at a nursery for children of working mothers is in Santiago, Cuba. Despite the difficulties faced by the Cuban revolution, such nurseries have been built throughout the country.

tem of "becados," the scholarship program under which some hundred thousand youngsters are being readied for special training in engineering, medicine, science, economics and other professions.

"Whenever my own work bogged down I took heart from the success of that idea," Bella said. "We lived in an area where many of these students were housed. It was a reassuring way to begin the day to see them marching off to school, all sizes and shapes and all colors from African-black to flaxen-haired, glowing with health and enthusiasm. Most are children from families that had known nothing but deep poverty in the past, yet now

they are the real hope for Cuba's future."

Paul was impressed, too, with education at the adult level.

"At one tobacco factory, for instance," he said, "I spoke to a class of 15 workers who were taking a course in English. Another group stayed after work to study industrial design. Every class that is formed in Cuba, even those in soil enrichment and agricultural techniques, is filled up as soon as it's announced. Thousands of older people are taking regular schooling with an accelerated primary and secondary school curriculum. It's like watching people coming out of the past into the Twentieth Century."

...Atlanta Anti-Bias Protests

(Continued from Page 1)

lanta to speak before a joint session of the Georgia legislature.

Seventy-nine high-school students have been temporarily suspended from classes since demonstrations began, and several college students report their school's administration has threatened to expel students active in the demonstrations.

"We want to make Atlanta an 'open city,'" COAHR Chairman Larry Fox said. "We want jobs, decent and integrated schools, and the right to eat or rent a room wherever we choose."

In another development, SNCC announced its support of a planned multi-city boycott of schools to protest overcrowding and segregation. Representatives from six cities — Atlanta, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, and Philadelphia — met earlier this month in New York to plan the boycott.

In announcing support of the boycott, Lewis said: "This boycott, like the Freedom Day Boycott in Chicago last year, should serve to remind the nation as well as local school boards across the country that conditions in Negro schools, North and South, are still separate and unequal, as they

have been since and before the Supreme Court's 1954 decision, ten long years ago.

"Decent education is basic to our struggle. We are jimcrowed first in the classroom, in the first and second grades where over-crowding and poor facilities conspire to rob us of jobs and other opportunities in later life . . . This situation must be remedied."

...New York Jailing

(Continued from Page 1)

mainder of the demonstrators. Pickets marched in front of the Women's House of Detention each day of the ten days Mrs. Bibuld was in jail. The largest demonstration occurred Saturday night, when the pickets were joined by about 90 friends from New Jersey between 2 and 3 a.m.

Some shopkeepers and residents of the area — a tourist center and a comfortable "middle-income" housing district — complained that the singing of the pickets disturbed them and that the picket line attracted too much attention to the big brick prison. They don't like to be reminded that it is there.

LETTER FROM A LATIN AMERICAN

A Gigantic Storm Is Brewing

[Leonidas is the pen name of a Latin American reader who, in submitting the following article, writes: "The English is not so good, I hope you understand, but our desire is to communicate with those good North Americans capable of understanding our situation . . . It is very important that we tell them about our intentions."]

By Leonidas

People may say that for many and varied reasons a war will never take place in Latin America, but actually a war is going on there now — a class war which in due time will become a bloody struggle.

There is tenseness in the air of Latin America, and an awareness among the people of something taking form and maturing, slowly but surely.

In the large cities, the slum-dwellers sulk inside their rat-infested shacks, unemployed and dejected, feeling forgotten, roaming about in groups, listening carefully to nationalistic speeches and brooding about them.

Unemployment, combined with abject poverty, injustice and oppression without a sign of improvement — this is the daily fare of our humble people there.

Meanwhile the ruling classes who have held power for generations by force of arms, live and rule with a complete and natural indifference molded by hundreds of years of feudal power, luxury and comforts, almost, unaware of the gigantic storm brewing around them. They disregard the desperate frustration and hatred of the people toward them. As always, they count and depend first on the armed forces with their U.S.-supplied weapons and their U.S.-trained officers. Second, they count on U.S. help in bloody struggle against their populations.

Hate the People

The top officers in the Latin American armies are selected not for their abilities but for their hatred for the common people. The truth is that actually we don't need armies in Latin America since we are all of the same ethnic origin, speak the same language and, as people, love each other. The armies there are aimed at our impoverished masses.

Can you imagine this aristocratic and oligarchic class, constituting only eight per cent of the population, presuming to tell

the world that it alone represents democracy and progress in Latin America? That the remaining 92 per cent, composed of Negroes, Indians and mestizos [mixed ancestry] are just a bunch of backward, frustrated pro-Commies and anti-Americans who deserve to be completely wiped out? Shades of the Deep South!

But after being so brutal, they march into church, shielding themselves behind the bishop's mantle and try to buy their way into heaven with large contributions. This shows how un-Christian they really are, how hypocritical and cynical they are; how little they know about the early Christians and Jesus, who used to walk barefoot among the humble, giving love and care to them, not lashings and bullets which these rich, so-called Christians dispense so freely. Shades of Madame Nhu!

The humble people in our countries watch and wait, each day getting more and more restless. The natural process of osmosis is doing its work and the spirit of revolution is emerging and taking shape.

The desire for social-economic changes is enveloping all the progressive social strata in our Latin American society, winning over the honest intellectuals and students. Only the small percentage of our population composed of the feudalistic and oligarchic element, which owns most of our land, natural resources and industries, remains aloof and isolated.

This aristocratic class has a highly developed hierarchical code. It is a code in which social standing depends first of all on race, place of birth, and ancestry. After that, a person's importance is judged by the size of his landholdings, real estate, bank account and political influence.

A perverted sense of solidarity guides all the actions of members of the small upper class. Thus they take the side of, and give support to, their equals in any argument, lawsuit or legal action where the other party concerned is not one of theirs.

This oppressive and stagnant ruling class lives completely indifferent to, or unaware of, the tremendous social changes taking place all over the world. Thus, they still pay our peasants from three to 38 cents for 12 to 14 hours of hard labor in the fields — exactly the same wages they were paying a hundred years ago. In places like Peru, half of a man's wages (3½ cents a day) is given to him in coca leaves, which is a narcotic.

In High Stations

Where are the "God-fearing" upholders of injustice and exploitation of the poor to be found in Peru? They are stationed in every position of importance in the government and in the church, always scaring the people with God while they themselves laugh at Him. Shades of Mephistopheles!

Their absolute intransigence to badly wanted social-economic changes borders on tragic and stubborn stupidity. Their unwillingness to reconcile their policies with bitter reality borders on delirium.

Besides, they think that any giving in now would be considered an admission of weakness and a confession of defeat after all their years of resistance to such changes.

The Mexican Revolution served as a warning of the dangers ahead and a demonstration of the people's power. But they reacted to it only by removing billions of dollars from their own countries to banks in Europe and United States.

The recent Cuban Revolution was another shock to most of them. Again in panic they are

transferring most of their remaining valuables to places of safety abroad rather than plowing their gigantic profits back into the economy which desperately needs new industries capable of creating new jobs, greater national wealth and a better standard of living.

All this selfishness, this lack of love for people or country on the part of the ruling class, paralyzes any honest approach to the peaceful solution of the chaotic situation.

By delaying and seeking to frustrate the inevitable changes, by becoming irreconcilable adversaries of the people, and finally by puncturing all illusions of peaceful settlement, the wealthy minority has engendered great hostility among the majority. Because of this, explosive and revolutionary forces are already banging hard on their doors.

This is the ruling class which has kept most of Latin America over 200 years behind the rest of the world.

A Warning

In such a fast-moving and modern world these social parasites live just as their ancestors used to in the 1800s. Contributing nothing of cultural, social or economic value to the people, they constitute a plague or a malignant tumor, which must and will be eradicated.

What right has this aristocracy to ride herd on our humble people as if we were cattle? Why should we be ruled and led by an oligarchy that holds back the clock, holds back progress, which still lives and maintains the feudal customs and privileges of the days of the kings of Spain? Why should we be led and ruled by such scum?

Such is the tragic and gruesome situation in which the Latin American people find themselves. Whole countries will be aflame with revolt. We know how to take care of ourselves against our enemy.

To any outsiders presuming to wage a war against our masses by siding with our exploiters, we say: beware! stay out of this and don't mix into affairs which are a matter of life and death for us; and most of all, don't kill a single one of our peasants, don't touch one of our workers, don't touch one of our Indians or any of our Negroes. Because if you do, you will have to wage war against every man, woman and child in our countries. You will have to kill us all one by one and then you will be a greater assassin of people than was Nazi Germany. You will be hated and despised by the whole world.

That is what we shall say. And we shall say to outsiders that all treaties signed by any of our exploiters giving them the right to interfere in our internal affairs are illegal and void because those treaties were weapons of our exploiters for use against the exploited. Therefore they don't have the backing of the people and are illegal.

For many generations the average Latin American peasants and workers have been subjected to intolerable repression and degradation by the oligarchies and militarists of our hemisphere.

The sordid shacks in which our people have lived for many generations — in a world so rich and so progressive — no longer satisfy them.

The way in which our peasants are abused and exploited, kept illiterate and ignorant like beasts of burden, on the plantations of the hinterland is coming to an end.

All their lives these peasants and their families have lived as serfs of the landowners, subjected



MADE IN USA. A Sherman tank batters down gate of Buenos Aires, Argentina, meat-packing plant held by striking workers. Such aid to reaction has deepened opposition to U.S.

to legalized slavery in complete violation of their rights as citizens and as human beings.

They live in a permanently unequal status; the landlord exercises a life-and-death power over them and their families.

They suffer flagrant abuses, arbitrary and unjustified eviction, arrest or punishment at any time and any moment. They see their children ravaged by diseases which could be cured; children who have been compelled to work since the tender age of four — for no wages — three days a week, for the powerful master of the land.

What do these people know about democracy? "If this is democracy we must struggle against it," they say.

The word "democracy" and the word "communism" mean nothing to our humble people since they have never lived under one or the other.

How could any imperialist nation presume to deceive the world by bragging about these military-supported juntas and dummy governments in Latin America as democracies? How could any imperialist nation presume to keep our people enslaved under these military juntas forever? How could any powerful imperialist nation presume to drown in blood any genuine intent of revolt by our people should their struggle for real liberty take shape today or tomorrow?

A Despicable Pretext

By automatically branding all popular revolts as "communist-inspired," they are using a cheap and despicable pretext to deceive themselves and the people of the world so they can send their troops to destroy our villages, our little corn patches and our poor people. By again using this "communist-inspired-revolt" pretext they really think they can go there and start hunting our peasants with tanks, planes and helicopters — as if it were a super-colossal turkey shoot.

Our humble people don't know much nor do they care about political terminology, but they know hunger and they can feel it. They know anger and they can feel it. They can see and they can hear. And what they see and what they hear they never forget.

Our Indians are becoming aware of the tide of expectations surging all over the underdeveloped nations of the world. Empty promises no longer satisfy them.

They are raising their voices louder and louder, getting organized and learning that only through revolt will those changes so badly wanted ever be satisfied. There is no other way. They want concrete actions and they want their needs — which are gigantic — satisfied now! They want actions aimed at improving their standard of living and their rights as citizens. For this they are gradually consolidating all their forces into a solid, monolithic block.

On the March

The masses of Latin America are on the march — united, locking arms and preparing for the struggle against abuse and exploitation. Nothing can stop them now. Battles will be lost and battles will be won, but no nation in the world has the power to keep our people enslaved forever. It has to come to an end. Abuse, injustice, ignorance and exploitation are four horrible monsters any place in the world. Our war is aimed only against those four words and what they represent.

Any nation willing to side with those four monsters against 92 per cent of our people deserves to be the most hated, the most despised and the most attacked nation in the world. No "red-inspired" baloney about these four words! It is too important for all our people that we eradicate them from our midst forever and it shall be done.

To our enemies we say: you are enemies of the poor of the world and they are with us. Don't interfere in our affairs, don't try to hold us and scare us with your armies. This is a just war — all revolutions against abuse, injustice, ignorance and exploitation always are. If you make war against us, yours will be an unjust war and also a stupid war, because the Latin American aristocrats and their hirelings don't have a chance of winning. You will spend hundreds of millions of your money, but you will bleed to death in our vast jungles and mountains. Not only that, our enmity will be eternal, our hatred ferocious and maybe we will never have peace in the hereafter.

One thing cheers us. The people of the world, who love liberty, justice and culture and who believe in honor and dignity, will side with us, help us and even fight on our side. Reason is on our side and love is on our side. Because of this we know we shall win.

MUST READING

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BERTRAND RUSSELL PROTESTS

Socialist Languishes in East German Jail

In a gesture of protest, Bertrand Russell on Jan. 7 returned a medal which had been awarded to him by the East German Peace Council. The famous British philosopher and peace advocate said he could not keep the medal while socialist Heinz Brandt was in prison in East Germany. Russell, who is an unflinching champion of frame-up and witch-hunt victims — Morton Sobell, for example — in the capitalist countries, is thus trying to draw world attention to the case of a frame-up victim in a Soviet-bloc nation.

In the spring of 1961, East German officials announced that Heinz Brandt had been sentenced to 13 years imprisonment at hard labor. The verdict was pronounced behind closed doors, no account of the "trial" has been published. But the pertinent facts are contained in the following selection from an article by Willy Estersohn in the Belgian left socialist newspaper *La Gauche* of June 8, 1962.

* * *

Who is Heinz Brandt?

A German who, in 1929 at the age of 20, joined the Communist Youth. At 22, he entered the Communist Party. At 25, the doors of a Hitler concentration camp — Sachsenhausen — opened before him. Then it was Auschwitz and finally Buchenwald — from which he emerged in 1945. Eleven years of the Nazi prison hells!

But the horror of the concentration-camp world did not defeat his hopes, his convictions. His will to construct a society of brotherhood and equality on the ruins of a barbarous world came out stronger than ever.

Brandt became one of the leading figures in the Secretariat of

the SED (Communist Party) for East Berlin.

June 1953: The working class of the German Democratic Republic openly expressed its anger against the bureaucratic oppression and police methods of Ulbricht & Company. On the 17th the workers walked off their jobs and poured into Berlin's Leipzigerstrasse in an immense demonstration. But there were Soviet tanks —

Brandt didn't approve of the anti-working-class repression of 1953, but still didn't consider it necessary to break with the Communist Party.

October 1956: After the "liberalization," came Poznan [workers of that Polish city engaged in a three-day general strike and uprising which was put down with troops and tanks] and then Budapest. "Revisionists" were being persecuted in the German Democratic Republic. It was then that Brandt went over to "the other side." But not to swell the ranks of the vicious pro-capitalist "exiles." No. He carried on the struggle with the most militant wing of the working-class movement in West Germany as editor of the newspaper *Metall*, organ of the metal workers union.

It was in this capacity that he attended a union conference in West Berlin where, on the night of June 16, 1961, he was kidnapped by East Germany's secret police. Four days later the ADN (press agency of the German Democratic Republic) announced his arrest — it said nothing about the kidnapping — while on a "mission in the service of a Western intelligence service."

The irony is this: The man who

was commissioned by the Ulbricht regime to vilify Heinz Brandt (in a letter addressed to the union officials in Frankfurt) is one Kurt Blecha, a notorious former Nazi functionary.

After almost a year's silence, on May 11, 1962, ADN announced the sentence [13 years' hard labor] that had been meted out to Brandt. What had happened to him during all this time? No one knows. Yet they had formally promised unionists from India, who were visiting the German Democratic Republic, that foreign jurists and unionists could be present at the trial, as had been allowed in Poznan in 1956.

And that's the story. Assuming that Brandt lives, he will have served more time in prison in the German Democratic Republic than he did in Hitler Germany.

It is absolutely necessary to do something for this militant worker before it is too late.

Let the labor unions demand a retrial, in the presence of a commission composed of unionists from all over the world.

Let left-wing intellectuals from all over the world launch a powerful movement for this purpose.

We would like to believe that communists would join such a movement, as we have joined the movements protesting the cruelties suffered by Glezos [in Greece], by the Egyptian and Iranian communists, etc.

Heinz Brandt is one of those militants who are the pride of the working class. We must not permit secret police and torturers, even if they call themselves "communists," to dirty his name and make him disappear into the night and fog.

Peasant Upsurge Deepens Crisis of Peru's Oligarchy



Photo by Mary Belfrage

JOINING THE UNION. Peasants in Cuzco, Peru, discuss with a peasant union organizer. Union in Cuzco just led a 24-hour general strike. This photo is from Cedric Belfrage's new book on Latin America, "The Man at the Door With the Gun."

By Steve Graham

A general strike that paralyzed Cuzco, Peru's third largest city; increasing conflicts and arrests as peasants occupy large landed estates; an agrarian reform bill bogged down in Peru's parliament; and a vote of no-confidence in the governing party's prime minister. Such are the powerful repercussions on Peru's political life of the Indian peasants' growing demand for "Land or Death."

Cuzco, ancient Inca capital, was shaken Dec. 20 by a militant 24-hour general strike. The strikers' central demand was the release of Hugo Blanco and 60 other peasant leaders held prisoners by the government, according to an *Agence France Presse* report.

Hugo Blanco is a Trotskyist leader whose role in organizing the peasantry into unions made him a national figure. Seized by government troops last summer, his renown has grown as he calmly awaits trial at Arequipa on frame-up charges that may mean death. Appeals for his release have come from all over the world.

Cuzco's general strike, organized by a united front of peasant, student and workers' organizations, underscored a hunger strike by imprisoned peasant leaders, including Blanco. The hunger strike was begun by Antonio Cartolin and Máximo Molina, president and vice-president of the Peasant Federation of Ayacucho, arrested after the violently-suppressed land occupations in Ongoy last October.

Blanco joined the hunger strikers when their demand for immediate release from unjustified detention was not met. They had not been present at Ongoy but were arrested when they went to Lima to plead the peasants' case to Peruvian President Belaúnde.

The power and success of the Dec. 20 general strike spurred peasant militancy. The Chinese press agency *Hsinhua* reported Dec. 23 that 6,000 peasants took control of a town 30 miles south of Cuzco and detained eight local police as a further protest.

A few days later, on Christmas,

seven peasants were killed as they occupied the estate of landowner Miguel Luna Oblitas. It was reported that Luna Oblitas' "family and friends" opened fire on the squatters. This was probably a band of armed killers such as landlords have been organizing to keep peasants off their huge estates.

The landlords' desperation over continuing land seizures by peasants and their disillusionment with President Belaúnde's attempts to head off the peasant movement by introducing a token land reform were expressed by a parliamentary vote Dec. 31. The reactionary landlords' views are represented in parliament by a majority coalition of two parties, the Odristas and APRA.

That coalition voted Dec. 31 to censure Belaúnde's prime minister over the "new bloodshed in Cuzco," contending the government had not tried to keep "Communism" from invading estates. The censure vote was followed by a vote of no-confidence in the government, which augurs poorly for the Belaúnde government's ability to put through even a token land reform.

Meanwhile, the peasant movement gains momentum. A Jan. 17 *New York Times* dispatch from Lima describes large-scale land seizures in the far north of the country and restlessness among peasants in the central highlands, who earlier held off on land occupations when Belaúnde promised land reform.

In Cuzco the *Times* dispatch reported a tense situation:

"The peasants responded [to the Christmas killings on the Luna Oblitas estate and the arrests of peasants who occupied it] on Thursday [Jan. 16] in the Plaza de Armas at Cuzco with a big meeting led by Communist and leftist speakers. They threatened the landowners with death for having fired on peasants, and at the finale two United States flags were burned . . . as the Communists sought to link Washington directly with Peru's small but powerful landowning class."

World Events

Bolivia Gov't Hits Union

The pro-U.S. Paz Estenssoro regime has issued a decree claiming to dissolve the Bolivian trade-union federation, the COB [Central Obrera Boliviana], and canceling recognition of it as bargaining agent for Bolivia's tin miners, thus stripping the union of legal rights and defenses. This provocation comes in the wake of the arrest of Bolivian miners' leaders, Pimentel and Escobar, which provoked an international incident when miners seized hostages in retaliation.

The Paz regime is bent on wresting from the workers the rights they gained in the 1952 Revolution. Not only is it pushing a U.S.-sponsored plan to cut down the labor force in the tin mines, it also seeks to break up the miners' militias and to turn the peasants' militia against the miners.

The AFL-CIO leadership, instead of aiding the Bolivian workers under government attack, is actually helping the Paz regime to set up a phony union that would enjoy government recognition. Head of this government-front union is Hugo Paz Torres, who according to the *AFL-CIO News* studied last spring at the "Institute for Advanced Trade Union Studies" sponsored by ORIT (In-

ter-American Regional Organization of Workers). ORIT is, the AFL-CIO's foreign policy arm in Latin America.

How closely the AFL-CIO is working with U.S. imperialism in this venture is suggested by the fact that Paz Torres visited the U.S. after his "studies" on a State Department "leadership grant."

Women Workers in Cuba

According to a *Tass* report from Havana there are now 92,000 Cuban women working in public education, 36,000 in industry and 83,000 in agriculture.

W. Germany Gags Press

A West German court has sentenced Ernst Aust, editor and publisher of the Hamburg working-class paper *Blinkfuer*, to one year in jail for "imperiling the state." *Blinkfuer*, a leftist journal with the largest circulation (100,000) of any local West German paper, committed this "crime" by consistently exposing former Nazis in the Bonn government, supporting democratic rights and trade-union demands, and opposing the government's arms policies.

The decision came on Jan. 6 after three months of hearings that reeked of witch-hunting. Aust was accused of following the line of the banned Communist Party of Germany. The sentence ignored demonstrations by Hamburg workers in defense of *Blinkfuer* and freedom of the press, and statements of support for the paper by such prominent international figures as Nobel Prizewinner Bertrand Russell.

The sentence against *Blinkfuer* is a precedent that can be used to stifle any criticism of the West German government. It comes after the 1962 *Der Spiegel* affair, in which former Defense Minister Strauss had the editors of that conservative news weekly ar-

rested for supposedly revealing military secrets. The paper had in fact hinted at corruption in arms contracts by the military.

Already the *Blinkfuer* decision has been followed by the indictment of Hans Fladung, head of the publishing house "Progress," likewise for alleged "imperilment of the state." Fladung has dared to publish such "subversive" authors as Upton Sinclair, Thomas Mann, Heinrich Heine and Nehru.

In "Democratic" Venezuela

Some 50 university students, peacefully demonstrating in Caracas in support of the Panamanian students' struggle for national sovereignty over the Canal Zone, were brutally dispersed Jan. 14 by cops using clubs and bayonets.

Food-Dumping in Jamaica

Jamaican police used tear gas on poor citizens recently at a warehouse in east Kingston from which food was being trucked to the city dump.

An insurance company had ordered large quantities of slightly damaged rice, flour and canned foods destroyed. An appeal by local citizens that the usable food be distributed to needy persons was refused by those in charge.

When dumping operations began, the people set up a roadblock and stopped a truck loaded with rice. The driver departed and the angry people helped themselves to thousands of pounds of food.

On the next day of operations, cops were on hand to "escort" the food-dumpers. They drove off the crowd of thousands at the warehouse, using tear gas and injuring women and children. Some people retaliated by stoning the trucks.

During the dumping operations, police were seen tucking away large amounts of flour, rice and sardines for themselves.

Yours for the Asking

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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.]

Letter to DeBerry

Brooklyn, N. Y.

I would like to pass on to your readers a letter I received shortly after the *New York Times* announced my candidacy for President on the Socialist Workers Party ticket. The letter and the contribution that was enclosed with it has more meaning, I think,

than all the vast sums poured into the two billionaire parties.

Clifton DeBerry

Dear Friend DeBerry,

I was born of hard-working German immigrant parents on Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn [The same street where DeBerry now lives. — Ed.] on the fifth floor of a tenement walkup.

My father was a union organizer. He was beaten, we starved.

I am an old man, but please accept the enclosed \$1 for your campaign. I wish I could kiss your hand that still carries the torch of liberty and a decent life for us workers. Have courage and faith. We are winning in the world.

I won't be long — I started work at 10 years — 70 hours a week — I never went to school because the worker could not afford to send his children.

Mr. DeBerry, you have my prayers and hopes with you. Fight on for decent homes, parks, end of poverty, decent pay, decent jobs, communal ownership of all production, medical care for us all.

You are my brother. You carry my burden, now that I am too old.

R.B.

Detroit Teenager

Detroit, Mich.

The reason I am sending this letter in to you is because in the issue of January 6, 1964, I was reading a poem by Edwin Castro Rodriguez which I thought was very interesting. I am sending to you a poem written by my father. In writing this poem I could tell that my father had a real strong, hard feeling on his mind.

Of all the things I want to have

Or things I want to see,
I staunchly wish for most
of all

A land where I am free.

They want me to fight for the colors

What colors, I can't see
When they deny me privileges
In a land where all are free.

I can't live here, I can't go there

But yet I must be true.
If this were a true America
I could go wherever I choose.

Oh Lord! Of all the things I want

Or things I want to see
I pray you make America
The place where all are free.

J.M.

Age, 14

Panama's "Agitators"

New York, N. Y.

Senator Aiken's anguished cry that the trouble in Panama is caused by the Communists seems to me as crazy as the Southern racists who complain that "if those outside agitators would only leave 'em alone, our Nigras would be happy and satisfied."

There was trouble in Panama long before Fidel Castro was born; long before there were any Communist countries to send in "outside agitators." As a small boy in 1903, I remember my father, a staunch anti-imperialist Debs Social Democrat, thundering against President Theodore Roosevelt conniving to start a revolu-

tion down there. The plot was rigged up, said my father, by a slick foreigner whose unforgettable name sounded to my childish ears like "Bruno Vanilla."

Let Senator Aiken learn that Panama was born to trouble — and revolution. Communism is Johnny-come-lately there, like the rash that breaks out on a man who's long been ill with a serious disease of malnutrition.

If there are any "outside agitators" riling up the underprivileged Panamanians, it's those female Zonians who strut around Panama's streets in slacks and pedal pushers, according to a dispatch by Richard Eder in the *New York Times* of Jan. 16th.

Taylor Adams

Appalachian Distress Area

San Diego, Calif.

Our dear President Johnson seems to bypass the complete area that the Appalachians cover by not defining its territory. The average American is not knowledgeable of this vast distress territory.

Probably the greatest amount of people in need of help live in this territory which is controlled by the mine operators who control the courts and the news media. There is no justice for the miners who do not have sufficient funds to defend themselves by due process of law. Therefore we have the mine operators dictating the kind of law and order for the territory.

The people with full bellies cannot and do not want to see these conditions. But it is hard to

overlook and push to the side. We want justice now, now, now.

Mrs. P.Z.

P.S. We dislike the sad news in your fine paper, but thank goodness we get the truth.

Inside a Hotel

New York, N. Y.

As a hotel worker in one of New York's newest and finest hotels I am able to appreciate firsthand the glaring weaknesses of this society. I will just relate a few of the contradictions I see every night.

(a) Vacant hotel suites and crowded tenements. The overwhelming majority of the workers are Puerto Ricans and Negroes who live in the most depressed of New York's many slums, yet each night they come to work in a hotel that has the newest and most modern apartments going vacant and unused on a continuing basis. Many of these workers live in houses that are involved in the rent strikes going on around the city, and it will not take too long for them to realize that it is not the lack of good dwellings that is the problem but the lack of any planning for the needs of the working people.

(b) Well-fed garbage cans and hungry people. Each and every night after a banquet for any number of groups, we throw out hundreds of pounds of the best of foods and vegetables, meats such as filet mignon, choice roast beef, turkey, Virginia ham, dumped into cans and thrown out. Many of the foods dumped have

never been seen by a hungry family of Harlem or the East Side; at best they are delicacies tasted only on rare holidays like Christmas or Easter. Yet the same workers with families that scrimp at tables each day, are forced in the course of their work to throw away food that their children could and would be glad to eat. The hotel forbids even the saving of it after the banqueteers have been glutted and gone. It must be thrown out. And thousands of children exist on beans and rice not because of a lack of steak and chops, but because of a lack of a human scale of values in a dollar-hungry society.

(c) Spacious dining rooms and tight working space. The architecture of the hotel again points up to the total lack of feeling toward the most necessary group of hotel dwellers, its workers. Go behind the kitchen doors into the dish pantries and the clean-up areas. You will find areas where six men are working and the area is built to hold only two. The layout is equally bad throughout the work areas of the hotel. This not only makes the work uncomfortable but makes it harder and also cuts heavily into the efficiency of the work being done. Serving of diners and cleaning up are prolonged and awkward due to lack of room and personnel. The workers themselves could build a hotel much better than the so-called experts, not only for the benefit of the workers but for the benefit of the hotel itself.

W.E.M.

It Was Reported in the Press

Puzzled — A Department of Agriculture employe attached to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo was permitted to resign rather than face charges after allegedly being caught in an Egyptian currency smuggling operation. Senator Williams of Delaware charged the State Department was trying to cover up the case. A spokesman replied that the department was "at a loss" to understand what the Senator was talking about. The State Department had merely referred the problem to the Agriculture Department which permitted the man to quit.

Gamut of Revolution — A local New York commentator noted that the rising world revolutionary tide now runs from A to Z — Algeria to Zanzibar.

Divorced from Reality — John Gardner, head of the Carnegie Corp., says top executives in business and government are losing touch with reality by relying too heavily on second-hand, processed data. He says the "men at the top" understand each other but don't understand the world around them. He feels this is due to their long training to "see reality through the same distorted glasses."

Givers and Non-Givers — The Jan. 12 Santa Barbara News-Press reported: "Who are the most generous people in Santa Barbara? March of Dimes 'Mother Workers' who worked on last year's drive... disclosed at a meeting yesterday... that nearly everyone in the Haley

Street and lower east side area gave when the mothers called at their homes... The Montecito and Hope Ranch areas were among those areas where the fewest percentage of people contributed, they disclosed." The Haley Street, lower east side area is a slum-ridden Negro, Mexican-American ghetto. The Montecito and Hope Ranch areas are where the wealthy people of Santa Barbara live.

Serve With Fresh Horseradish — Federal officials have seized 140,000 pounds of meat falsely labeled "boneless beef." They believe it's really horsemeat. It was stamped "inspected and passed" with a counterfeit federal seal. The meat came across the border from Mexico and was stamped "boneless beef from Ireland."

Note to Taxpayers — As you get ready to fill in your income-tax form consider this item: Nine years ago construction was begun on a luxurious new Senate Office Building. Today the structure is still not complete and more than \$100,000,000 has already been poured into it. The "architect" in

charge of the project, J. George Stewart, 74, is a former landscape gardener with an "honorary" architect's degree. He got the job through Congressional influence. An aide commented: "Many persons object because the architect of the Capitol is not an architect. But this is silly. He has lots of assistants who are."

Leisure Class Theory — The Jan. 10 Chamber of Commerce Washington Report says: "Many observers have indicated that we now have in the United States a leisure class composed of the unemployed, the underprivileged, and the indolent... More thought should be given to finding ways of making constructive use of this leisure time... The difficulty, of course, is that although there are jobs which need doing, the work is not sufficiently productive to justify paying the minimum wage. But society is already supporting the leisure class; perhaps welfare payments could be made contingent on able recipients doing some amount of useful work." Why pay welfare? Just pass a law making them slaves.

10 YEARS AGO IN THE MILITANT

"The Washington State Legislature's Interim Committee recently conducted a public hearing over television on a riot last summer in the Washington State Reformatory at Monroe...

"The Monroe riot began over the disciplining of a Negro inmate, but was a protest against racial discrimination in the institution..."

"Earnest Taylor, a Negro youth, was beaten over the head by a Captain Smith as the latter was forcing the protesting boy into 'Deadlock' — a solitary-confinement type of punishment.

"The institution doctor who treated Taylor after several hours in 'Deadlock' testified that the youth was hysterical, protesting the discrimination he and his race were subjected to. The doctor testified that he told the lad, 'You are playing the racial prejudice problem too strong for your own good.'

"But Taylor's fellow prisoners thought otherwise. All that day they gathered in little groups, very agitated over the treatment given Taylor..."

"The riot involved about 200 of the younger inmates of Monroe, who demonstrated against one of the greatest injustices of the American capitalist system in or out of prisons — namely Jim Crow." — Jan. 25, 1954.

20 YEARS AGO

"The duPont chemical and munitions trust, known as the 'Merchants of Death,' and its sister trust in England, the British Imperial Chemical Industries, have been named as defendants in a Department of Justice anti-trust suit, for maintaining an international cartel agreement aimed at securing world monopoly control of the manufacture and sale of chemicals, firearms and ammunition.

"This cartel, according to the government charges, has been maintained in deliberate violation of federal laws. It included as a partner, at least until several months after Pearl Harbor, the huge Nazi chemical trust, I. G. Farbenindustrie. These international trusts sought to establish 'spheres of influence' where each would have exclusive control of markets, raw materials and manufacturing facilities. They limited production, fixed monopoly prices and attempted to eliminate all independent competition. They exchanged patent and trade secrets, acting to protect each other from outside competitors.

"That the duPont dynasty, which is said to have received the largest volume of government war contracts, deliberately planned to violate the anti-trust laws and continue the cartel agreement 'irrespective of Governmental Action,' was indicated by the Justice Department." — Jan. 29, 1944.

Thought for the Week

"So the Panama rioters were Castro-trained. It raises some interesting questions. Like who trained Castro? No, not Batista. No revolutionary is ever trained on native grounds. Ask the CIA. It could only have been Herbert Matthews and the international edition of the *New York Times*. It raises another question. Or three. How come we don't get any result from those who have been anti-Castro trained? We've been dropping them on Cuba for a couple of years, and they haven't even raised a single riot. Over-trained? Time to change the coach? Who trains the trainers?" — Joseph Barry in the Jan. 19 *New York Post*.

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Indicted I.U. Students Gaining Campus Support

JAN. 22 — The response to the tour of two defendants in the Bloomington case indicates growing student concern for the defense of academic freedom and civil liberties.

Ralph Levitt, one of the three students indicted for "sedition" in Bloomington, Indiana, spoke Jan. 9-10 at four colleges in the Boston area — Brandeis, Boston University, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At the two latter he shared the platform with spokesmen of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Permanent Student Committee for Travel to Cuba. The MIT meeting is said to have been the largest of the year there on a political subject.

Mrs. Dorothy Zellner, New England director of SNCC, recounted some of the prosecutions her organization has faced in the South. She especially attacked the role of the federal government in prosecuting young freedom fighters in Albany, Georgia.

Ralph Levitt explained the essentials of the Indiana case.

It was his opinion, he said, "that the fight for socialism is the most effective way to attain meaningful democracy. But we must all come to our own conclusions on this subject. I can only urge all students to enter the fray, fight for the essence of the constitution, but above all, enter."

Levi Laub, speaking for the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba, outlined the issue of freedom to travel, likening it in importance to the freedoms of speech, press and assembly.

A Cuban counter-revolutionary tried to break up the Harvard meeting by hitting a member of the student travel committee. After the meeting, right-wing students, who had been a vocal faction in the audience of 100, felt impelled to apologize for the extreme rudeness of the Cuban. Apparently some conservative-minded American students learned something about the "democratic" Cuban exiles whose side they had taken.

Tom Morgan, 22-year-old Bloomington student defendant, has had a successful opening leg of a Midwest tour to publicize and raise funds for the case. Last semester Morgan toured some 30 Midwest and western campuses.

His talk on the Indiana witch-hunt drew a crowd of 75 students at the University of Wisconsin at Madison Jan. 9. The audience contributed \$35 and several students joined the local chapter of the Committee to Aid the Bloomington



Ralph Levitt

ton Students, which is handling the defense. The talk received excellent coverage in the campus and local town newspapers and was reported by UPI.

At Rockford College, Rockford, Ill., Morgan found himself in the middle of a controversy. College President John Howard had just imposed a ban on Communist speakers. The resulting interest in the issue of academic freedom brought a crowd of 80 to Morgan's Jan. 10 talk on a campus with only a few hundred students.

Several students agreed to form a CABS chapter at Rockford. A similar response followed Morgan's talk at Shimer College in Mt. Carroll, Ill. Such groups to support the fight for student liberties at Indiana University have now been formed in Kentucky, Kansas, and Arkansas, as well as in most big cities of the East, Midwest and West Coast.

At Roosevelt University in Chicago Morgan addressed a student meeting as well as the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors. His next stop is Duluth, Minnesota.

Contributions, messages of support and inquiries on how to start a local Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students, should be sent to CABS, P.O. Box 213 Cooper Station, New York, N.Y., 10003.

REPORT FROM MISSISSIPPI RIGHTS FRONT

Court Victory Spurs Voting Drive

HATTIESBURG, Miss., Jan. 21 — Negroes here are mobilizing to put some meaning into a court victory by forcing a showdown between the federal government and local officials on the registration of Negroes to vote.

Forrest County Registrar Theron Lynd had been convicted of contempt of a federal court order to register Negroes to vote. On Jan. 6, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider Lynd's appeal. Thus, federal court litigation, which began in 1960, should be ended and there should be no further stalling. But Lynd is still County Registrar.

Lawrence Guyot, head of voter-registration here for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Council of Federated Organizations, said Jan. 18 that Negroes would line up to register at the county courthouse on Jan. 22. Guyot said that if they are arrested, they will stay in jail, and the federal government will be asked to intervene.

In Jackson, Robert Moses, SNCC's Mississippi project direc-

tor, said that a "showdown" between Mississippi state officials and the federal government will be necessary before Mississippi will permit large numbers of Negroes to vote.

Testifying last week before the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Moses said the federal government must decide if it will enforce laws in Mississippi even if this means sending troops.

Less than seven per cent of voting-age Negroes in the state are registered. In Forrest County, only 12 out of 7,406 Negroes of voting age are registered according to the Commission report.

Oscar Chase, 23, of Queens, N. Y., was arrested last week when he entered the Negro waiting room in the bus station here. Chase, a white Yale Law School graduate, was doing legal research for SNCC on the Lynd case. In a telegram sent from jail, he asked Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to come to Hattiesburg to defend him.

Another SNCC worker, Peter

CORE Pickets Bring Message to Suburbia

Cleveland Rent Strikers Visit Slumlord

By Jean Simon

CLEVELAND, Jan. 12 — Suburban University Heights residents yesterday had the Cleveland slum housing problem literally brought home to them. Pickets of the Congress of Racial Equality marched for several hours in front of 4050 Washington Boulevard, home of William Ross, owner of a building at 1838-44 East 81st St. where 17 tenants Friday refused to pay rent until demands for improvements are met.

After the demonstration, CORE representatives met with the mayor and law director of University Heights, at the request of the city officials.

CORE first filed a protest against molesting of the pickets by three teen-age youths who had pelted them with a sandwich and smeared their cars with shaving cream.

Asked why they didn't stay in the Hough area where the conditions they were protesting existed, the CORE spokesmen pointed out that the landlords, like Mr. Ross, don't live there, and that if communities like University Heights had fair-housing regulations, the ghetto problem in Cleveland might be less acute.

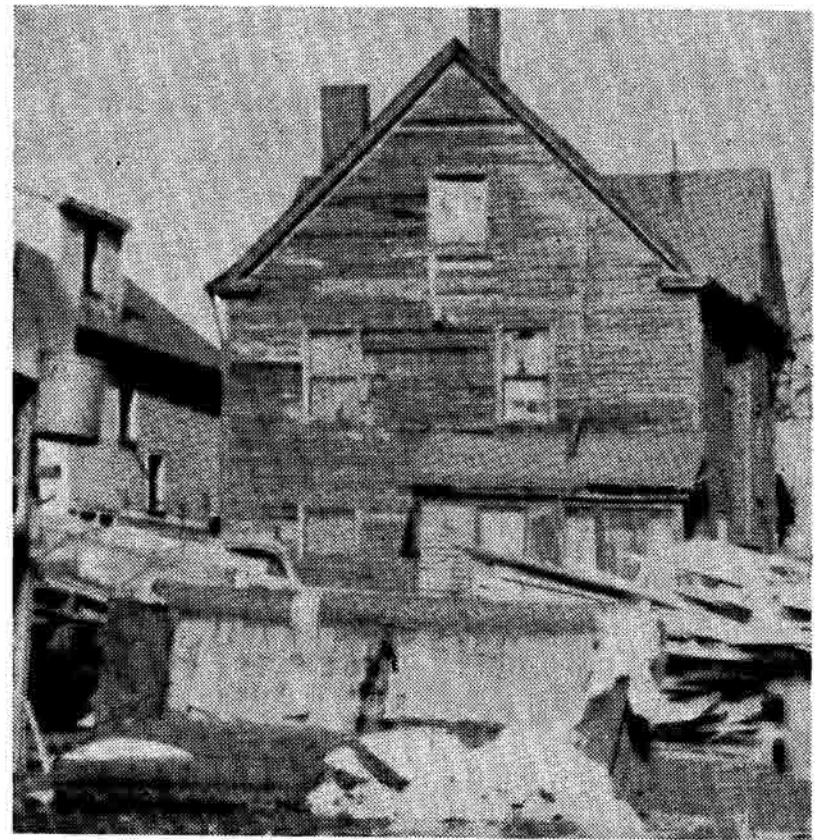
The University Heights officials made it clear they did not want to discuss fair housing, according to Miss Ruth Turner, executive secretary of CORE.

The law director said that Mr. Ross had called his office, claiming he had tried unsuccessfully to reach Miss Turner to negotiate.

"There is nothing to negotiate," Miss Turner said. "All Mr. Ross has to do is repair the neglected, unsafe and unsanitary condition of the apartments and keep rents down to the amount provided for rent in the relief allotments of some of his tenants, and he'll get his money."

After a few more exchanges, in the course of which the law director reportedly charged: "All you want is publicity," the CORE delegation decided nothing useful could be accomplished by such discussion, and walked out.

The Ross slum property on East 81st Street was the second to be hit by a rent strike last week. On Monday a group of tenants at 1784-86 Crawford Road refused payment to the owners, Tri-Lee Investment Co., until a detailed list of complaints is acted on. These included:



RENT-STRIKE TARGET. Urban renewal in Cleveland's Woodlawn area is not removing buildings like this one fast enough for residents of the city's slums. Nor is such renewal planned with consideration for effect on general ghetto problem. Rent strikes are proving more effective in getting immediate improvements for those forced to live in slums.

Inadequate heat and light; "three families per bath and the condition of the bathrooms is bad ... dirty and available to the public"; poor custodial service; "mail goes to the custodian and tenants have to 'catch' him to get it; tenants sign checks and he keeps the money. He does not give service because he is rarely in the building"; "Refrigerators are very bad; food spoils in them, there are no handles, they are supported by chairs, no insulation and they are roach infested"; and many more.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 17 — Three rent strikes in the Hough area resulted in Mayor Ralph S. Locher setting up an eleven-man committee, including property owners and welfare workers, to seek answers to social problems creating rent strikes. The Mayor told the committee, "The sanctity of the rental contract must be observed by both sides."

The Cleveland Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, which had been invited into the committee, declined to participate and submitted instead an "Open Letter to the Power Structure." The opening paragraph reads as follows:

"This letter is directed to you because you and your office share in the responsibility for the perpetuation of slum-housing conditions in the city of Cleveland. So that you are clearly aware that this responsibility is shared to varying degrees by a whole complex of social-political-economic institutions in the city of Cleveland, all of your associates in this conspiracy against decent housing are listed."

Letter for Mayor

The letter was presented to the mayor's committee by Miss Ruth Turner, Executive Secretary of Cleveland CORE. The letter was directed to the mayor, Cleveland City Council, the city's Housing Department, Sanitation Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Urban Renewal Department, slum landlords, the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department, banking and financial institutions, the East Ohio Gas Company, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, the Municipal Light Plant, the Cleveland Board of Education and the Cleveland Welfare Federation.

In other developments CORE charged that the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority has in the past and is presently depriving Negroes, solely because they are black, of the housing they desperately need.

Specific CORE complaints with the Housing Authority list 1) Pre-application screening. 2) Waiting lists for Negro applicants. 3) Post-application screening. 4) Post-application discrimination and segregation. 5) Auxiliary complaints including lack of relocation facilities, failure of reports by Housing Authority investigators of building violations in prospective tenants prior dwellings to appropriate city building authorities.

Meanwhile ghetto-area tenants are saying that one rent strike is worth years of complaints for getting landlord action on improvements and rent reductions.

Peace Walkers Let Out of Ga. Jail

JAN. 22 — The Quebec-to-Guantanamo Walk for Peace is still trying to get through the city of Albany, Georgia. Twenty-one participants and supporters of the integrated walk were released from jail Jan. 15 and 16 after completing sentences. Eight had served 25 days, fasting all the time. The demonstrators were arrested Dec. 23, as they peacefully walked through Albany, on charges of parading without a permit. This is the charge used against civil-rights demonstrations in Albany. The walkers have presented seven alternate routes to city police and asked for permission to use one of them. If they don't get it, they may go to jail again.