

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Vol. 28 - No. 7 Monday, February 17, 1964 Price 10c

U. S. Seizure of Cuban Boats Was Deliberate Provocation

Feb. 12 — Washington has backed off sharply from its original belligerence and pose of outraged virtue in the most recent crisis with Cuba. By Feb. 11 Johnson was saying publicly, "We are sorry that they [the Cuban fishermen] were in our waters but we don't think they are justified in cutting off our water [at Guantanamo] . . ."

This change to sweet reasonableness from the fire-eating jingoism which marked U.S. statements at the opening of the crisis indicates that the Johnson administration discovered that throughout the world the incident was regarded as phony and a deliberate provocation against the Cuban government.

It began when the U.S. Coast Guard on Feb. 2 seized four small Cuban fishing boats and their 38 crewmen off the Dry Tortugas, a group of uninhabited U.S. islands 65 miles west of Key West, which in turn is 60 miles off the Florida mainland.

U.S. spokesmen declared the boats had been within three miles of the Dry Tortugas and hence within U.S. waters. The Cubans denied this. Cuban Foreign Minister Raúl Roa informed the UN Security Council that "the four small fishing boats from Cuba engaged in their peaceful operations on what are known as the Dry Tortugas fishing banks, in international waters, with respect for all regulations."

Territorial Waters

To make it appear that the Cubans "admitted" being within U.S. territorial waters and were there for some sinister purpose U.S. agencies gave the press alleged radio conversations between the boats and Havana. Columnist Drew Pearson came out with the theory that the boats were there to spy on a CIA "spy base in a decrepit old pirate's fortress from which agents were being smuggled into Cuba with fake passports."

When federal authorities completed their investigations of the 38 Cuban fishermen they had no evidence that they had been doing anything but fishing. Normal procedure in such cases is to confiscate whatever fish are aboard the boats and allow the fishermen to go their way. But, instead, the federal authorities turned them over to Florida which has passed a law, aimed at Cuba, providing prison sentences up to a year for "illegal fishing."

Cuba's Retaliation

As soon as this was announced Cuba retaliated by cutting off the water supply to the Guantanamo Naval Base. Washington sputtered and fumed though Cuba is under no treaty obligation whatever to supply the base with water. Moreover, the Cubans announced the water would be put back on after the fishermen were released.

The spokesman for stone-age capitalism, Barry Goldwater demanded that Cuba be ordered to restore the water supply or "we will march out with a detachment of Marines and turn it on ourselves." Fidel Castro replied: "Let Goldwater come in the first line of combat. It's easy to stand back and send the Marines to die instead."

Castro justified the water shut-off (except for one hour a day for basic needs) until the fishermen



Barry Goldwater

were released, by saying: "If we permit this sort of thing we will not be able to fish to supply our population."

President Johnson vowed to the press that Cuba could not drive the U.S. out of Guantanamo and ordered immediate retaliatory steps be taken including the firing of 2,500 Cuban employees of the base who reside outside its limits.

U.S. officials admitted on Feb. 8 that Cuba informed them two months ago through Swiss diplomats that its fishermen were planning to return to the Gulf of Mexico near U.S. territory to seek the red snapper in a traditional fishing area. Fidel Castro said the same in a recent Havana news conference and added, "If the United States had asked that the boats keep ten miles away, we would not have objected. A mile more or a mile less makes no difference if incidents can be avoided."

REPORT FROM NORTH CAROLINA RIGHTS FRONT

Chapel Hill Cops Jail 544 in 2 Months

CHAPEL HILL, N.C., Feb. 8 — Intensified demonstrations in this small university town today led to 108 arrests, bringing the total arrested since Dec. 13 to 544.

The day's action began at 1:30 p.m. with a march of about 325 people through the main business section to the town hall. The march returned to the church and a smaller march set off from the church at 2:45, again to the downtown area. The group sat in the town's main intersection until ordered to move on by police. The march then separated, with groups of 20 "peeling off" for action assignments.

Groups sat on the sidewalk in front of the town hall and in front of four segregated eating establishments. When police ordered these groups to move on, they got up and proceeded to regroup.

While this action was going on, seven other groups left the church and traveled to their assigned action points.

One of the groups attempted to demonstrate on the basketball court of the University of North Carolina, where a nationally televised game was in progress. They planned to protest segregation and

Police Club Sit-Downers In Cleveland

CLEVELAND — This city's police department, under severe criticism for permitting a racist mob to beat Negroes and smash automobiles in Murray Hill last week, went into action Feb. 4. On the receiving end of police attention were non-violent, sit-in demonstrators in the Cleveland Board of Education Building. Twenty-two Negro and white demonstrators were cursed by stick-wielding cops, dragged and thrown down three flights of stairs, loaded into police vans and taken to jail.

Mrs. Hazel Little, a member of the Hazeldell Parents Association which began the protest against the School Board's failure to integrate transported pupils, was taken to St. Vincent's Charity Hospital. She stated:

"I was dragged down three flights of stairs by the police and when they got me to the bottom of the stairs, they threw me into a corner. At the hospital I was treated for numerous bruises and abrasions."

Mrs. Mary Ann Myrick, said: "While in the cell, I was treated horribly, the matrons wanted to remove my clothing so that they could examine me while policemen and other males were present." Mrs. Myrick suffered back and leg injuries and is now on crutches.

Seventeen demonstrators were released after being taken to the police station. Two were charged with assault and battery on a police captain and three others with obstructing and abusing patrolmen. Among those released after being booked were a white minister, Rev. Paul Younger, co-chairman of the United Freedom Movement and Miss Ruth Turner, executive secretary of Cleveland CORE. Miss Turner suffered bruises and abrasions and her clothing was badly torn.

A battery of lawyers from the United Freedom Movement, including CORE lawyers Stanley Tolliver and Bruce Warshal, and NAACP attorneys James A. Haynes, Josephine Trevathan and Louis Stokes, descended on the police station securing immediate release of all the arrested on personal bond.

While the five charged demonstrators appeared before Judge Hugh Brennan the next morning, a picket line of 80 people picketed

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School Boycotts Being Organized In Major Cities



Photo by Priscilla Ring

YOUTHFUL PROTESTERS. These youngsters were among the several thousand opponents of racial bias who picketed City Hall during record-breaking Feb. 3 New York school boycott.

By Adam Knox

NEW YORK — Another school boycott here and a number of co-ordinated boycotts across the nation are being planned. The Feb. 3 boycott in this city, in which school absences zoomed to 365,000 above the normal rate, greatly increased the self-confidence of the Negro and Puerto Rican communities and quickened the tempo of the civil-rights struggle.

Rev. Milton-A. Galamison, chairman of the Citywide Committee for Integrated Schools which co-ordinated New York's boycott, announced on Feb. 10 that there would be another one-day school boycott sometime between March 9 and April 17. In a dig at Chairman James B. Donovan of the Board of Education, who had predicted the boycott would be a "fizzle," Galamison said the new boycott would be called "Fizzle No. 2."

Meanwhile, a co-ordinated Feb.

25 school boycott is being planned in Chicago, where 225,000 children stayed out of school last Oct. 22, in Boston, where the Massachusetts Freedom Movement has taken the lead, and in Cleveland, where preparations are being made by the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations. These demonstrations will be preceded by boycotts on Feb. 11 in Cambridge, Md.; Chester, Pa.; and Wilmington, Del.

All these developments indicate the growth of a natural, but previously non-existent, national linking up and co-ordination of mass civil-rights struggles. The need for this was foreseen by the leadership of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and called for as early as the March On Washington last August. Now a conference of leaders from the boycott organizations of the active cities is slated for March 14 in Chester, Pa.

Besides the charting of a nationally co-ordinated boycott, the New York protest initiated other processes of long-range significance. For one, it brought the oppressed Puerto Rican community into the struggle with its own demands and began the work of forging a Negro-Puerto Rican alliance. Along with the "new" Negro leadership which is emerging with the boycott movement, the New York spotlight has focused partly on Gilberto Gerena Valentin, key figure in the two-month-old National Association for Puerto Rican Civil Rights.

At a Feb. 6 meeting of the association — three days after more than 100,000 Puerto Rican school children joined the boycott — a five-point slate of demands was drawn up. It called for 1) abolition of the vocational high school system in its current form, 2) a program to integrate all junior high schools by February 1965, 3) abolition of the general course diploma, 4) reduction of classes to no more than 25 children, 5) introduction of courses that would offer a positive image of the Latin and African cultures to enhance the child's desire for learning.

Of 40,000 teachers in the metropolitan system, only 230 are Puerto Rican, the association pointed out. It demanded an intensive campaign to locate teachers with a working knowledge of Spanish and

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Harvey O'Connor Explains How It's Done

If You Want Your Child to Be Sec'y of State

By Alex Harte

NEW YORK — Harvey O'Connor, authority on the great American fortunes and the oil industry, and one of the country's leading defenders of civil liberties, spoke at the Militant Labor Forum here Jan. 31. His subject was "The State Department in the Service of Standard Oil."

By way of introduction of the subject, O'Connor gave some hints to those who might be educating a child to become Secretary of State. First, he pointed out, Jews need not apply, nor Catholics, nor Negroes, nor even agnostics. A one-time Catholic once became Secretary of State, but he had changed his religion and so was acceptable.

Send your child, he advised, to Groton, then to Harvard, Yale or Brown, the best prep school and colleges on the road to the secretaryship. Also, it's best to be a Presbyterian or, if not that, then an Episcopalian. And belong to Washington's Chevy Chase Club. Occupation? The best bet is to be a corporation lawyer with a Wall St. address.

And work for Standard Oil!

Acheson "Favorite"

"My favorite Secretary of State is Dean Acheson," O'Connor told the forum. "He meets all the qualifications." He quoted two memorable statements of Acheson: "We're willing to help people who think the way we do"; and, "The American people cannot consume what we produce. You must look to foreign markets."

O'Connor, whose book, *The Empire of Oil and World Crisis in Oil*, have established him as the outstanding authority on the subject, told how Acheson had censored a report on the international oil cartels because it touched on dealings which Standard Oil did not want known to the public. As Secretary of State, Acheson pushed the rearmament of Germany and Japan right after the bloodiest war in history, and O'Connor quoted him as saying, "All we require of Russia is unconditional surrender."

The speaker explained the interchangeability of parts between Standard Oil and the State De-



John Foster Dulles

partment. A Standard Oil employe is usually Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, for example. Also the Assistant Secretary for Latin American Affairs usually comes from — and returns to — the oil industry. That's how Nelson Rockefeller got his start in political life.

Charles Evans Hughes, O'Connor related, was an attorney for Standard Oil before and after he ran for President in 1916. He worked for Standard Oil before and after he was Secretary of State, and up until the time he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. And he was the executor of John D. Rockefeller's estate.

Iraq Oil Deposits

"The allies floated to victory on a sea of oil," Clemenceau, the World War I Premier of France, had said. Then for a while it looked as though World War II would be fought between Britain and the U.S. over the oil deposits discovered in Iraq.

Hughes and the State Department declared an "Open Door" policy for all. It turned out, however, that the door was open only for Standard Oil and Socony (Standard Oil of N.Y.).

Going back to the critical days of the expansion of American imperialism at the turn of the century, O'Connor described John Hay, the then Secretary of State. Hay once said about a strike, "The very devil seems to have entered the lower classes." He labeled the Spanish-American conflict, "a splendid little war."

Having seized the Phillipine Islands, U.S. imperialism wanted all of China for investment. The State Department was "indignant about the partition of China amongst the European powers." Senator Beveridge of Indiana declared: "Just beyond the Phillipines are China's illimitable markets" and "The Pacific is our

W.E.B. DuBois Tribute Scheduled in New York

NEW YORK — A memorial tribute to the late Dr. W. E. B. DuBois will be held here Sunday evening, Feb. 23 at 8:30 at Carnegie Hall. The meeting, sponsored by the DuBois Memorial Committee, will feature a dramatic presentation of the life and writing of Dr. DuBois by Ossie Davis, Beah Richards, Clebert Ford, Ruby Dee, Godfrey Cambridge and Eva Jessye Choir. Tributes will be paid to Dr. DuBois by Dr. John Pope Franklin, Rev. William H. Melish, Arna Bontemp, Arthur B. Spingarn, Bishop Steven G. Spottswood, and Nadyne Brewer.

Dr. DuBois, who died last year in Ghana, was one of America's greatest scholars and historians, a founder of the NAACP, and a fighter for the rights of the Negro people.

ocean." He asserted the white man's "duty" to intervene in China, "It is elemental, it is racial."

In Secretary of State Hay's view, "Whoever understands China has the key to world history for the next five centuries."

He "Lost" China

No wonder then, said O'Connor, that even Dean Acheson could not get away with "losing China." McCarthy called him "soft" on Communism and declared there were "207 or some such number" of Communists in the State Department.

When John Foster Dulles (counsel for Standard Oil, member of the firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, attorneys for Standard Oil of N.J.) became Secretary of State, he tried to out-McCarthy McCarthy and fired the last expert on China in the State Department. "If you're not going to recognize 600 million people, it's obvious you don't need any experts," was O'Connor's comment.

With wit and a multitude of facts, the speaker painted such a panorama of the interlocking business and political directorates which run this country's foreign policy that many names and otherwise inexplicable political events fell into place for the listeners. Thus explained, to cite a few brief examples, were the following: 1) Allen Dulles' appointment as head of the CIA and that agency's overthrow of the Mossadegh regime when it nationalized Iran's oil; 2) The role of Cromwell, head of the law firm which John Foster Dulles later joined, in greasing the skids for the Panama "revolution" of 1903; and 3) Secretary of State Hull's permitting the sale of oil to the Japanese just prior to World War II so they wouldn't attack oil-rich Indonesia.

"No fool is a perfect fool until he has learned Latin." — Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)

... Map New School Boycotts

(Continued from Page 1)

the appointment of a Puerto Rican to fill the next vacancy on the school board.

The association has charged that Puerto Rican pupils have been given "second-class education" so that eighth-graders suffer a two or three-year lag in reading levels; that classes for non-English-speaking pupils kept them "year after year playing with dolls and making statues with soap." It declared that teachers, not parents, should be responsible for the teaching of English.

These statements highlight the most glaring aspect of New York's segregated schools, their qualitative inferiority. Both Negro and Puerto Rican demonstrators on Feb. 3 took special care to emphasize this very real, concrete fact. They demanded quality integrated schools. They have thus arrived at a synthesis of the old demands for "integration" for democratic reasons and the demand of the black nationalists for an opportunity for self-improvement.

The raising of demands for appointment of Negro principals and representatives of minority peoples on the school board have struck fear into the hearts of powers that be. For such demands not only have wide appeal, they point up the simple fact that only undemocratic, unrepresentative institutions could so ignore the discriminatory treatment of the urban Negroes and Puerto Ricans.

The leading figure of the opposition to the boycott, James B. Donovan, has become more and more outspoken in his chauvinist attacks on the leadership of the

Farm Leader Raps Policies Of Both Big Business Parties

MINNEAPOLIS — Fred Stover, president of the U.S. Farmers Association, the Iowa Farmers Association and editor of the *U.S. Farm News*, spoke at the Friday Night Socialist Forum Jan. 31 on the plight of the farmers and what can be expected from the turbulent farm situation. His talk was entitled "What's Ahead for The United States Farmer?"

Stover, who has been a farmer all his life, was connected with the Department of Agriculture under Roosevelt. Since then he has rejected the Democratic and Republican Parties and has supported independent political action by the farm population. He is also well known as a strong advocate of peace and as a foe of the witch-hunt.

In his speech Stover explained that the small farmer is being pushed off the land because of the meager prices farmers are receiving for their produce. These prices result from monopoly (corporate farm) control of agriculture. The monopolies control everything and are "rapidly gobbling up the good farm land." "They are deliberately choking out what remains of small enterprise . . . and . . . they planned it that way."

Stover condemned both major parties for their role in aggravating the farm crisis. He said that Secretary of Agriculture Benson (under Eisenhower) cut price supports and the Democrats cried the loudest. But when the Democrats came into office they dropped price supports even lower. Stover claimed that these price supports are being fought precisely because they have been somewhat successful. He called for 100 per cent parity. (Parity is a price level by which it is calculated the farmer would get a "just price" for his produce and labor.)

A farmer-labor alliance is seen by Stover as a way out of the farm crisis, but thus far all the farm 'leaders' and the labor bureaucrats have done, is to come up with a program for the status quo. Peace is the only way to good

price supports and to a solution to the farm situation, Stover feels. "Peace and parity go together, and war and disparity go together." Ultimately, he is for a society which would "reward men according to what men contributed to society, not by how they wrest things from society."

On the near future in the United States, Stover stated, "The big monopolies are having tough going. Their maneuverability . . . is being limited. They're getting a little scared." Moreover, "If profit making ability is limited elsewhere, wouldn't it be likely that they might be more hungry for domestic meat?" If so, he expects more witch-hunts as well as increased anti-labor legislation.

In conclusion Stover advised the predominately young audience to study all the books on display in the meeting hall and by virtue of that knowledge, "someday you'll save the world."

ACLU Challenges Postal Censors

NEW YORK — The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a suit challenging the constitutionality of a law under which the Post Office acts as censor of unsealed mail from 26 countries.

The suit was filed in federal court here on behalf of David McReynolds, a prominent figure in the peace movement and in the Socialist Party-Social Democratic Federation.

Under the law being challenged, the Post Office does not deliver mail which it deems to be "Communist political propaganda." Instead, it sends a card to the addressee asking whether he wants the "Communist political propaganda" delivered to him. Unless the addressee sends back a written, affirmative reply within 60 days, the mail is destroyed.

The ACLU complaint states that a copy of the *The Crusader*, Robert F. Williams' newsletter, now published in Cuba, was not delivered to McReynolds. Instead he received a communication from the Post Office stating *The Crusader* was being detained as "Communist political propaganda."

Williams, Negro leader from Monroe, N.C., formerly published *The Newsletter* in that city. When he was forced to flee into exile because of attempts on his life and the now celebrated "kidnap" frame-up, he continued publication from Cuba. An irony of the situation is that both Williams and his newsletter are targets of bitter blasts from Communist Party publications.

The suit was prepared on McReynolds' behalf by Melvin L. Wulf, ACLU legal director, and Nanette Dembitz, general counsel of the New York CLU.

New York Panel Slated On Negro Vote in '64

NEW YORK — A panel discussion on "The Negro Vote in '64 — Where Is It Going?" will be held at 116 University Place on Friday night, Feb. 21 under the auspices of the Militant Labor Forum.

The following speakers will participate in the symposium:

Clifton DeBerry, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president. Marshall England, representative of New York CORE.

James Monsonis, representative of the New York Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee.

Daniel Watts, editor of *Liberator* magazine, representing the Manhattan Committee for an All Black Freedom Now Party.

Following the presentations by the speakers there will be a period for discussion and questions for the audience.

Weekly Calendar

CHICAGO

FOUR GREAT FIGURES IN NEGRO HISTORY. Presented by a panel of fighters for Freedom Now. Fri., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 302 S. Canal St. A usp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

DETROIT

"How a Minority Can Change Society." Speaker, George Breitman, writer and former editor of *The Militant*. Fri., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. A usp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

MINNEAPOLIS

Youth's Stake in Academic Freedom. Speaker, Barry Sheppard, nat'l chairman Young Socialist Alliance. Fri., Feb. 21, 8:30 p.m. Friday Night Socialist Forum, 704 Hennepin.

America's War Program. Speaker, Richard Roberts. Fri., Feb. 28, 8:30 p.m. 704 Hennepin.

NEW YORK

THE NEGRO VOTE IN '64 — Where Is It Going? Panel discussion by Clifton DeBerry, Socialist Workers candidate for president; Marshall England, chairman New York CORE; James Monsonis, rep. New York SNCC; Daniel Watts, spokesman for Manhattan Committee for an All-Black Freedom Now Party. Fri., Feb. 21, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Pl., Contrib. \$1. A usp. Militant Labor Forum.

FEB. 28 — Conrad Lynn on Why a Freedom Now Party.

THE SHARK AND THE SARDINE

Seek to Bury Panama's Grievances in OAS

By Jay Garnett

FEB. 7 — After almost four weeks of haggling, the Organization of American States has "accomplished" nothing in the Panama-U.S. dispute.

Panama is demanding a renegotiation of the 1903 treaty which leased the Canal Zone to the U.S. "in perpetuity." The U.S., like a true colonial master, refuses to discuss the basic question, and tries to lose it in the labyrinthine channels of OAS grievance procedures. The remaining OAS members too are doing all they can to dodge the issue, because they fear to offend the mass sentiment in their countries or the financial interests of the U.S. by voting either with the U.S. or Panama in a showdown.

In 1947 the Shark made a treaty with the Sardines, or as one writer put it, "the Shark made a treaty with himself." The United States sent Secretary of State George Marshall to Rio de Janeiro; he came back with the document that laid the legal basis for the OAS and for the military "aid" pacts that prop up unpopular governments throughout the Americas.

An article of the Rio Treaty provides that the American States shall confer when the independence of one is threatened by an aggression that is not an armed attack or by any situation imperiling hemispheric peace. Measures the OAS Council can take include the voting of sanctions — ranging from a break in diplomatic relations to military measures — against a country found guilty of aggression. (Washington has tried to have these sanctions invoked against Cuba.)

Shortly after the outbreak of violence in the Canal Zone, Panama broke relations with the United States. The Inter-American Peace Committee then met to "work out" the differences which had arisen in the hemispheric "family." Almost from the start Panama insisted that no fruitful results could be expected unless the United States would agree to discuss a revision of the 1903 Canal treaty.

After more than two weeks of meetings, Panama rejected a vaguely worded statement in which the U.S. had "hinted willingness" to renegotiate the treaty. Said one diplomat: "Our experience has been that whenever there was ambiguous language, the United States would always find a loophole to get out of negotiating a better treaty."

Panama representative Miguel J.

How Zonians Treat Panamanians

A group of wives and children of U.S. military personnel evacuated from Panama were interviewed by Homer Bigart in the Feb. 1 New York Times. They painted a quite unappealing picture of the snobbish social structure of the U.S. residents in the Canal Zone. "Some Zonians have lived there for 20 or 30 years, cannot speak a word of Spanish, and treat the Panamanians like scum," said one army wife.

They themselves had been forced to live outside the Zone where their husbands were stationed because the privileged U.S. civilians took up most of the housing inside the 500 square mile Zone, the wives explained. But many were glad of the experience because it had given them a knowledge and understanding of the Panamanians, among whom they had made warm friends.

The Zonians, they said, had egged on the American high school students during the flag incident which set off the crisis.

Moreno Jr. said, however, that if no progress were made in the Peace Committee, he would revive the aggression charges against the United States before the OAS Council. A member of the Peace Committee observed that it would be "a catastrophe for the Inter-American system."

On Jan. 31 Moreno charged the United States with the "infamy of deliberate armed aggression" in the Canal Zone on Jan. 9 and 10 before the Council of the OAS. He demanded hemispheric measures to protect his country's security.

"We shall live under the constant threat of an armed North American attack," he said. "The armed forces of the United States are there in a state of alert to halt the people of Panama in the exercise of its rights."

And he asked, "Can the sister countries of America leave Panama abandoned to her own fate, at the mercy of the will of a power . . . that has demonstrated that it is disposed not to recognize the rights of the Panamanian nation and, what is worse, to make it submit by force?"

Behind the scenes the other Latin nations tried to pressure the Panamanian delegates to "adopt a more conciliatory approach," to accept the establishment of a "fact-finding committee" to investigate the questions or the appointment of a "neutral" Latin American chairman over a joint Washington-Panama commission. But Panama insisted on the Rio Pact procedure: Stop the aggression.

On Feb. 3 Washington played its trump card. Mexico, the one Latin American country which still has a "liberal" image, came

out with a plan for the establishment of a "special committee" to find a "peaceful solution" to the dispute. "Because of Mexico's influential position both with the United States and Panama, the belief [in U.S. circles] was that the proposal would be accepted," commented one reporter.

But the hopes of the delegates were torpedoed when Panama vetoed the Mexican plan on Feb. 5. "Most Latin American governments," noted the N.Y. Times, "are always ready to mediate but abhor the idea of becoming involved in an investigation that must result in the passing of judgment on the attitudes of the United States."

As the OAS proceedings droned on, Panama chief delegate Aquilino Boyd indicated the depth of his people's impatience with the phony OAS procedure. If the OAS came up with nothing satisfactory soon, he said, Panama would call for a special session of the UN Security Council. "Otherwise there will be new explosions of popular feelings and the whole status of the Canal will have to be changed."

Once upon a time, the Sardines lined up at Punta del Este to vote condemnation of one of their brothers, because he had offended the Shark with whom they had made their "sacred" treaty. That Sardine had accused the Shark of aggression. Now, another Sardine faces the same lonely battle, while his brother Sardines act no more bravely than he had earlier.

But Fidel Castro, leader of that first independent Sardine, pointed out once that real life differs from the fable: For Sardines, transformed into prickly sea urchins, can destroy the Shark who attempts to eat them.



HARRIET TUBMAN (1820-1913). Commemorating Negro History Week, we are offering a free 8x10 print of this picture with each one-year subscription (new or renewal) to The Militant. Or, if you prefer, you may select a print of Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth or Nat Turner. A combination sub to The Militant and International Socialist Review brings all four.

By Constance Weissman

Harriet Tubman was the greatest heroine of a great age in United States history — that of the Abolitionist movement. Born a slave in 1820 on Maryland's Eastern Shore, she worked from the age of five as a field hand. When she was 15, in trying to protect a fellow slave, she was severely injured by the overseer, and hovered on the edge of death for many months. By the time she was able to work again she had determined to do something about the suffering of the slaves.

"I had seen their tears and sighs, and I had heard their groans, and I would give every drop of blood in my veins to free them," she said.

She had long known of the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes by which Negroes escaped, helped by sympathizers along the way. In 1849, she made her way alone to free territory. She immediately made plans to return and bring out her family and other slaves. She became the most famous conductor on the Underground Railroad, guiding more than 300 slaves to freedom. On each one of her journeys, Harriet had to travel 500 miles and cross six states. Making her way through swamps and forests, she carried a gun and threatened to shoot any passenger who thought of surrender or attempted to turn back. She never lost a passenger. A reward of \$40,000 (a huge sum for that day) was offered for her capture by the slaveowners, who

thought she was a man, because the slaves talked about her as "Moses."

John Brown, who called her "General Tubman," confided to her his plans for the freeing of the slaves in Virginia, and she helped him with her knowledge of the terrain and information about the Underground Railroad.

Once, on her way through Troy, N.Y., she learned that a fugitive slave had just been captured. At once she aroused the Negro community. A huge crowd gathered in front of the courthouse. When police tried to transfer the prisoner, Harriet was the first to wrest him from his captors. They rushed him across the river and when he was recaptured on the other side, she and some other Negro women again rescued him and started him off successfully on the road to Canada.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman was attached to the Union Army and besides acting as a guide in guerrilla warfare, she formed a spy service of freed slaves which operated behind the Confederate lines. She also worked as cook, laundress and nurse for the troops.

After the war, Harriet Tubman worked to establish schools for freedmen and managed to finance a home for poor and aged Negroes in Auburn, New York. She died there at the age of 93, after conducting her own farewell services, leading those at her bedside in the singing of spirituals.

Union Backing Brings Victory In 70-Day Ceylon Port Strike

An important section of Ceylon's working class, organized in the Ceylon Mercantile Union (whose general secretary is Bala Tampoe, a leading figure of the Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party), emerged triumphant Jan. 20 after a protracted 70-day struggle. This marked the first significant victory of the organized working class in Ceylon since the Bandaranaike government began operating its wage-freeze policy two years ago.

Early in November some 1,500 employees of the nationalized Ceylon Port Cargo Corp (PCC) struck for wage increases, such as had been granted to all workers in the commercial sector, and for investigation of certain government appointees' inflated salaries.

The PCC management and government refused to negotiate until on Dec. 31 the 15,000 strong Ceylon Mercantile Union, to which PCC employes belong, came out on sympathy strike. But no agreement could be reached.

The government then issued an ultimatum that strikers must re-

turn to work by 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 11. The strikers unanimously refused. The government alerted all police stations, posted an army guard at the radio station, and requested the army to stand by in case of emergency.

At this point several big unions, including the Ceylon Trade Union Federation, Ceylon Bank Employees' Union, the Petrol Corporation, Insurance Corporation, and United Motor Workers Union expressed complete solidarity with the CMU and declared readiness to defend it should the government attempt to crush the strike.

The government then capitulated and the strike was ended. This was the first time in Ceylon that a general strike was launched by any section of the union movement, not for their own demands, but in support of a section of its members. It is a demonstration of the workers' readiness to fight the government's wage-freeze policy in face of steadily deteriorating economic conditions which have brought the cost of living to an all-time high.

MUST READING

The Road To Revolution In Latin America

BY FIDEL CASTRO

Complete text of major policy speech delivered on tenth anniversary of the historic July 26 attack on Fort Moncada.

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THE MILITANT

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Published weekly, except during July and August when published bi-weekly, by The Militant Publishing Ass'n., 116 University Pl., New York 3, N.Y. Phone CH 3-2140. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. Subscription: \$3 a year; Canadian, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.50. Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Vol. 28 - No. 7

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Monday, February 17, 1964

BOOK REVIEW

The Freedom Fight Is World-Wide

THE STONE FACE. By William Gardner Smith. New York: Farrar Strauss & Co., 213 pp. \$4.50.

William Gardner Smith has written another very fine and timely novel (his first was the extremely moving *Last of the Conquerors*). This new novel, his third, reveals that the author grasps the world-wide scope of today's struggle against oppression.

Simeon Brown, the novel's hero, is a young Negro artist who learns that the face of the oppressor is the same the world over. The lesson commences with his arrival in Paris — an exile determined never to return to the

racist U.S., continues through his shattering experiences in France, and culminates in his decision to return to America prepared to take his place in the mounting struggle of the American Negro.

As a young boy, Simeon had lost an eye at the hands of a vicious racist youth. The cold face of this maniac haunted him all through his youth. He saw this face everytime he was confronted by humiliating prejudice. He saw this stone face on the cop who beat him senseless because he wouldn't answer to the name Joe Louis. He saw it on a sailor who threatened him because he was having a drink with a white woman. He realized that unless he left the country he would kill the next stone face and he didn't want to die for an act that would accomplish so little.

In Paris, for the first time he begins to breathe freely. His whole being responds to his acceptance by the French and other Europeans. Private clubs, good restaurants and hotels are open to him. People walk and talk freely with him — even the authorities treat him as a human being.

He is just beginning to thaw out when he goes through a traumatic experience involving a young Algerian man, a French girl and himself. The three are hauled before the police and Simeon discovers that the Algerians are the black men of France. The police make derogatory remarks about the Algerian but treat Simeon with great respect. The Algerian is locked up without being allowed to say a word in his own defense. Later when they meet this Algerian calls him "white man."

Life had become so pleasant for him. He was writing silly articles for an American magazine. He had a French girl friend whom he loved. He was eating and living in fine style. But he searches out the Algerian community and discovers that the Algerians live and

are treated in the same way as Negroes in the U.S. He learns the truth about the Algerians' war for independence and of the tremendous sacrifices the Algerians in Paris were making for this struggle. He becomes close friends with them.

His friends in Paris, many of them American Negroes, try to discourage him. Some repeat the same prejudiced remarks whites make about Negroes in the U.S. Others are too afraid and embarrassed even to discuss the question. His key to a private club is taken away because he brings his Algerian friends there for dinner.

Finally comes the moment of truth. He participates in a demonstration of the Algerians and sees a policeman beating a woman who is holding a child. He flings himself on the cop whose face he recognizes as the same stone face which had haunted him all those years in the United States.

The stone face can even be black, he realizes, when he sees a photo of laughing Congolese officials announcing the death of Lumumba.

He decides to return to the U.S., when he sees a picture of the little black girl walking to school in Little Rock, surrounded by the vicious, taunting crowd. He must return to fight the stone face, as his Algerian friends were doing, where he could do so most effectively.

The story is fast moving and the characters are all true to life.

—Ethel Block

Our Rational Society

Millions of people in the world may go hungry but showman Billy Rose has been "earning" \$9,000 an hour recently. That is, his stocks in AT&T and other corporations brought a profit of \$4 million since Oct. 15 or \$9,000 for every hour the Stock Exchange was open.

The 'Times' Complains About the Cuban 'Bullies'

By Art Preis

Is there anyone more detested on the block than the doting mother who screams to high heaven when her big, fat, bullying slob of a son — who's been picking on all the little kids — gets his nose bloodied by some small, desperate urchin who decides it's better to stand on his feet and flail away than to whine for mercy on his knees?

This may be a rather clumsy simile but it's the best I could think of to describe the complaining editorial of the Feb. 7 *New York Times* on the action of the Cuban government in cutting off the water supply to the U.S.-occupied Guantánamo naval base until 38 Cuban fishermen seized by the U.S. Coast Guard are set free. The U.S. turned them over to the Florida state authorities who claim they violated a state law against foreigners fishing within 20 miles of the state's coast.

The part of the editorial that had me reaching for the bicarbonate of soda avers that "this procedure [cutting off the water supply] ignores questions of right and wrong" and "Moreover, even supposing the United States is wrong, two wrongs would not put things right."

This piece of impudent hypocrisy, aside from the question of the federal government acting as cop for Jim-Crow Florida, the resort of millionaire sporting fishermen, ignores something less abstract than the moral question of whether "two wrongs would put things right."

A Petty Reprisal

The seizure of the 38 fishermen to begin with was another petty, mean reprisal by the mightiest capitalist military power on earth against a tiny nation that has dared to set an economic and political course at variance with the dictate of U.S. imperialism.

But even more to the point, a fact that the loquacious *New York Times* doesn't even bother to mention, is what the hell right has the U.S. to seize and hold by armed force a portion of Cuban territory? That's the real and only issue behind every other secondary question arising from the Guantánamo naval base.

From the beginning, more than 60 years ago, the U.S. occupation of Guantánamo has been an act of armed robbery, piracy, if you please, just as the Castro government described the grabbing of its four little fishing boats. And don't tell me the Cubans signed Guantánamo away in a treaty. There are blamed few people who would not sign a check to "cash" for all they have in the bank when there's a loaded gun at their head.

But that's only one aspect of the issue. I have re-read the *Times* editorial most carefully and find no reference in it to the "little" facts about the U.S. trying to impose a world embargo on Cuba or sneakily attempting an armed invasion of Cuba behind the smokescreen of the Cuban refugees grown fat on U.S. bounty.

The U.S. can try to starve out and grind to submission a small nation that acts independently and the *Times* doesn't treat us to any pious homilies about two wrongs not making a right.

The *Times* builds its reputation on the myth of sober, impartial, all-sided news coverage. This covers a mastery of hypocritical shadings that rival the color of a Picasso in painting. The famous masthead slogan of the *Times* is "All the News That's Fit to Print." It should read more accurately, "All the Hypocrisy That's Fitted to Print."

Judges Hedge Previous Ruling In SCEF Case

NEW ORLEANS, La. — A three-judge federal court here has taken the unusual action of changing its opinion on the validity of Louisiana's Subversive Activities and Communist Control Law.

Two of the judges had previously held the law to be constitutional, but now they say the state court should decide the issue first. The third member of the court, Judge John Minor Wisdom, had declared the law unconstitutional.

The original majority opinion had opened the way for state indictment of two officers of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), a civil-rights organization based here.

Dr. James A. Dombrowski, SCEF executive director; Benjamin E. Smith, SCEF treasurer; and Smith's law partner, Bruce Waltzer, were indicted Jan. 29 on charges of violating the subversive activities law.

Several days later, U.S. Judges E. Gordon West and Frank B. Ellis vacated their action of Jan. 10 in holding the law valid. They said they will refrain from any action "in advance of appropriate proceedings in the state courts at the state level."

Challenge Law

Dr. Dombrowski and SCEF had challenged the law in the U.S. Court after raids on homes and offices of Dombrowski, Smith, and Waltzer last Oct. 4. All three were arrested at that time but a state judge dismissed the charges three weeks later.

The judge said there was no evidence to support the charges. He also declared that records had been seized from SCEF's offices illegally.

The Louisiana Un-American Activities Committee (LUAC), which had instigated the raids, then turned the records over to U.S. Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi.

Eastland, as chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, ordered the records moved out of Louisiana into Mississippi and then to Washington. This was done while a suit was pending in U.S. Court to have them returned.

Will Be Questioned

Eastland is scheduled to be questioned about this by SCEF's attorneys in Washington within the next few days. The attorney for the Eastland subcommittee, Julien G. Sourwine, has already admitted several unusual procedures in obtaining the records.

SCEF and Dombrowski have sued Eastland for \$500,000 and return of the records. The questioning of Eastland will be in connection with this suit.

Meantime, Dombrowski, Smith, and Waltzer are free under bond awaiting trial. The charge against Waltzer results from his membership in the National Lawyers Guild.

MOVIE REVIEW

Dr. Strangelove

DR. STRANGELOVE OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB. A Columbia Pictures release. Produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick. Screenplay by Kubrick, Peter George and Terry Southern.

Stanley Kubrick's new film, *Dr. Strangelove*, is providing an impressive theater attendance with 90 minutes of superb satire in the tradition of Jonathan Swift.

The subject of this devastating humor is the so-called "power structure"; the film accurately exposes the morbid clever-idiotcy of the political-military bureaucracies who seem to hold the existence of the human race in their hot little hands. The film destroys the myth of "national security"; its central and recurring theme is: the "security" of the military-political bureaucracy is the greatest cause for the insecurity of the human race.

Satire of this kind is not a vehicle for great artistic achievements in script, acting or cinematography — Rabelais is a master of the subject of sexual mores, but is incapable of exploring the subject of love. The hallmark of great satire is craftsmanship and appropriateness of subject matter. By these standards *Dr. Strangelove* is superb.

Peter Sellers is, of course, a master of the craft of cinematic satire; his performance in three leading roles is a remarkable feat. The supporting roles played by Sterling Hayden, George Scott, Keenan Wynn and Slim Pickens have that quality of style which made the late Charles Laughton's speech, "Mr. Christian . . ." a part of the American popular culture; their passages give life to the narrative and are quotable and reportable.

— Lynn Marcus

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 222-4174.

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

LOS ANGELES. Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9232. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily and Saturday.

MILWAUKEE. 150 E. Juneau Ave.

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

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

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

OAKLAND-BERKELEY. Labor Book Shop and Socialist Workers Party, 563 16th St., Oakland 12, Calif. TE 8-2077. If no answer call 261-5642.

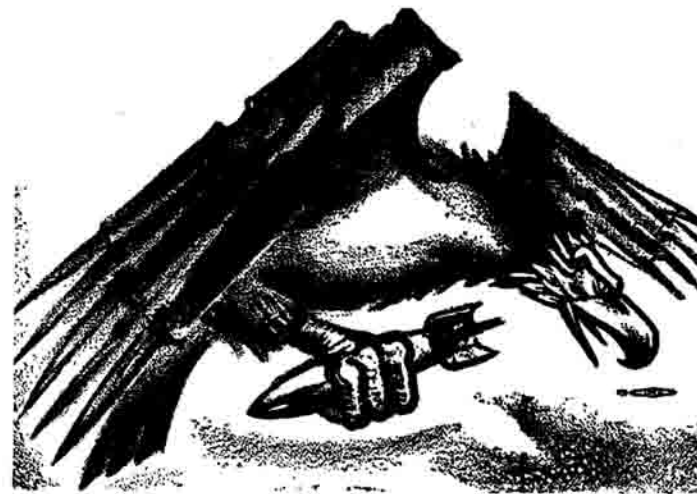
PHILADELPHIA. Militant Labor Forum 3617 North Broad St., Room 9.

SAN FRANCISCO. Militant Labor Forum meets second and fourth Fridays at Pioneer Book Store, 1488 Fulton St. WE 1-9967.

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

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

SEATTLE. 3815 5th N.E. Library, bookstore. Open 12 noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Phone ME 2-7446.



INDIANS INTENSIFY LAND STRUGGLE

Peru Gov't Imposes Martial Law in Cuzco

By Steve Graham

FEB. 12 — As Peru's millions of impoverished Indians continue to press their demand for land, the "moderate" government of President Belaúnde Terry has taken a step back from its policy of reform and concession. It declared martial law Feb. 5 in the province of Cuzco, after a big clash between peasant squatters and police near the town of Sicuani.

Military and police forces have taken control of the province; 200 "assault police" have been flown in from Lima, the Peruvian capital; and over 50 leaders of peasant, student and workers' organizations have been arrested.

The battle near Sicuani was typical of the land occupations — akin to sit-down strikes — which have been gaining momentum for nearly a year. Indian peasants — police estimated 8,000 — occupied a number of large estates and 14 flour mills. Police moved in to evict them.

N.Y. Times correspondent in Lima, Edward C. Burks on Feb. 7 described the battle as follows: "Ragged, landhungry Indians marched onto private farms shouting, 'Tierra o muerte' (land or death). The fighting started when several score of policemen tried to dislodge several thousand Indians from 14 mills in the farm region near Sicuani."

The Indians defended their positions with stones and sling-shots. Police said they first used tear gas but finally "had to shoot to kill." Police killed at least 19; some reports put the number at 22; 41 persons were injured, including 17 Indian women.

Organize Unions

Peasant efforts to occupy land found organized form about a year ago. Under the leadership of Trotskyist Hugo Blanco, peasant unions were formed in the valleys of La Convención and Lares. Last summer Blanco and 60 other union leaders were arrested by the Peruvian military and are still being held without trial on charges that could mean death. Student, worker and peasant organizations and political parties in Peru have called for their release. Similar appeals have come from all over the world.

Despite the arrest of their leaders, the peasants have managed to hold some lands they had claimed. The military junta, which preceded this regime, created a land-reform institute that first set to work in La Convención valley. Its main function was to guarantee payments to those landlords who had lost their lands.

Shortly after the inauguration of President Belaúnde last July, land occupations occurred on a mass scale in the provinces of Cerro de



PERUVIAN PEASANT LEADER. Hugo Blanco (second from left, standing) with fellow peasant union members. Blanco left university studies to form peasant unions among Peru's oppressed Quechua-speaking Indians. Unions led by Blanco began dividing large estates in La Convención Valley. He was jailed and is being held on trumped-up charges.

Pasco and Junín. Belaúnde personally tried to persuade peasant leaders to hold off for a year while he passed an agrarian reform law. He then rushed such a bill before the Peruvian Congress, calling it the "last dike" against land occupations.

Belaúnde aimed to roll with the punch, to legalize and limit peasant take-overs and provide compensation to landlords. He hoped to stem the tide without mass repressions which might provoke guerrilla warfare with its unforeseeable consequences.

Big landowners, however, opposed the land-reform bill. They advocated bloody suppression. Belaúnde's bill was stalled in congress by the majority coalition of conservative parties — that of former dictator general Odría and the one-time "leftist" APRA party.

A representative of the Sheep Raisers' Association, an organization of big proprietors, blamed the outbreak of land seizures on the government's 'kid-glove' handling of peasants. Ex-dictator Odría supported the charge. The Odristas and APRA, it was reported, planned to join with the landowners to form a conservative front to control the economy and oppose Belaúnde's reform schemes.

Meanwhile, peasant land occupations continued, both in Cuzco and Ayacucho in the south and in the far-north province of Piura. In Piura in mid-January some 12,000 Indians occupied six estates (57,000 acres), their claims to which date from colonial times.

Faced with the continuing land occupations, landlords put no faith in Belaúnde's reform maneuvers. "In the explosive department of Cuzco," said the December *Hispanic American Report*, the landowners' association "accused the government of failure to protect private property and demanded that the 'Communist element' be kept from agitating among the peasants."

Military Reinforcements?

"Since demands for additional military reinforcements went unheeded landowners in the department of Cuzco began forming self-protection leagues. They also recruited members from all sectors of society to organize anti-Communist groups to break up peasant unions."

Late in December, on the occasion of a clash similar to the recent one in Sicuani, the conservative coalition voted no confidence in Belaúnde's prime minister, forcing him to appoint a new one.

This kind of conservative pressure has now forced Belaúnde to impose martial law and open a witch-hunt against the peasant unions of Cuzco. Only three

months ago, Belaúnde replied to the 'kid-gloves' charge by saying that his government "would exercise its authority without bullets and without pitting Peruvian against Peruvian."

Belaúnde's new premier, Lopez Aldaña, tries to straddle the policies of suppression and reform. According to a recent news report he admits that peasants barely subsist on earnings of a few cents a day, yet he says "communist agitators" are taking advantage of the Indians' misery.

The following description from the November *Hispanic American Report* gives some idea who these "communist agitators" really are and how much they — unlike the government officials — are doing for the peasants.

Students Speak Quechua

"Some volunteer Quechua-speaking University of Cuzco students, pledged to a common front of students, peasants and workers and promoting the slogan 'land or death,' were teaching language fundamentals and organizational techniques for effective peasant unions. Government literacy personnel, often unable to speak adequate Quechua, were not having as much success and complained that they had not received their salaries."

Student leaders at Cuzco University, including Alejandro Olivera Villa, president of the student federation there, were among those arrested in the current round-up.

In the Feb. 6 and 7 N.Y. Times, Edward C. Burks, that paper's correspondent in Peru, describes the condition of the Indians as follows:

"Today's miserable Indian walks bowed with incredibly heavy loads and sullen look. Now the airplane, the transistor radio, the various modern articles in the stores and the contact with the growing stream of American tourists are making him aware of his low station in life . . ."

"Until now the government has been extremely reluctant to act against the Indian peasants. But both landholders and government officials are now accusing Communists of deliberately trying to cause chaos and hatred and of having no real interest in land reform. On the other hand, independent observers note a tendency of national and regional officials to blame everything on Communists.

"These observers point out that angry Indians may in most cases be led by extreme leftist firebrands, but note that they have long struggled to obtain land or to recover land they consider their own."

Louis Shoemaker Dies at 75; Was Long-Time Socialist

Louis Shoemaker, veteran socialist and a charter member of the Socialist Workers Party, died at the age of 75 in Perkasi, Pa., Feb. 7.

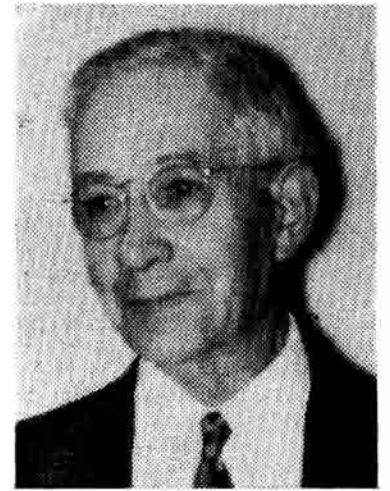
Born in Philadelphia April 22, 1888, he was apprenticed at the age of 16 as a machinist. He worked at this trade as a man and was a member of the International Association of Machinists. When, however, he began to have more and more trouble with his eyes he decided to become a farmer and moved with his family to the country.

During the presidential election of 1908, he heard the Socialist Party candidate Eugene V. Debs speak. That started him off on a life time of socialist activity.

The Socialist Party of Pennsylvania ran him as its candidate for Congress in Bucks and Lehigh Counties.

In 1938, the left wing of the Socialist Party was expelled and constituted itself as the Socialist Workers Party. Louis Shoemaker was then a member of the Quakertown branch of the Socialist Party which had declared for the left wing and was thus expelled. He participated enthusiastically in the founding of the SWP and remained a devoted member of it for the rest of his life.

As recently as the 1958 elections he was on the SWP ticket as candidate for Secretary of Internal Affairs (a Pennsylvania office comparable to Secretary of State



Louis Shoemaker

elsewhere). As candidate he directed his attention towards elaborating a program which would appeal to working farmers.

He was a tall, quiet-spoken, reserved man. When he did speak it was with well-chosen words and to the point. He had a remarkable instinct for the correct revolutionary socialist position on international, national and internal party matters. The purity of his motives and his ability to think clearly won him the respect of comrades, friends and neighbors.

His death is a sad loss not only to wife and children but to all his political comrades.

... Club-Happy Cleveland Cops

(Continued from Page 1)

ed police headquarters with such signs as "CORE Charges Police Brutality," "Where Were You On Murray Hill?" and one directed against "subversive squad" head, Sergeant John Ungvary who stood idly by as ministers were shoved, hit and spat on by racists at Brett and Memorial Schools the week before. This sign read: "J. Edgar Ungvary — Subversive of the Year."

At a hearing, Police Prosecutor Richard Matia complained that the trial date of March 18 set by Judge Brennan was too far off. Attorney Tolliver pointed out that one of his clients, Mrs. Myrick, might have to be hospitalized and would not be available for early trial. Tolliver added: "Cleveland's Police Department should be on trial and not these five demonstrators."

Ungvary and the local newspapers tried to red-bait the United Freedom Movement's campaign to end segregation patterns in Cleveland's schools. Several UFM and NAACP members and supporters in the demonstrations and picket lines were said to have been subpoenaed in past years by the House Un-American Activities Committee. One of the pickets at the police station was "exposed" as having been in the Communist Party some 30 years ago. A member of the UFM Steering Committee, Baxter Hill, Jr., who is also head of a local civil-rights group, Defenders of Rights, said: "I am not a Communist but if any Communists are dedicated to our cause they are welcome." Hill made this statement as he was picketing outside of Central Police Station with representatives of UFM, Hazeldell Parents, CORE and others. He described one demonstrator charged by police and labeled in the newspapers as a "professional picket," as "just a follower, not a leader of our demonstrations."

Indignation was widespread over the brutality against civil-rights fighters in contrast to the police's complete failure to make any arrests during the racist violence on Murray Hill the previous week. At a UFM rally at Cory Methodist Church Feb. 5, Rev. Paul

Younger called for a federal investigation and detailed an eyewitness account of the brutal conduct of the police. He also called for the formation of a citizens' review board to police the activities of the police.

The Cleveland chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on Feb. 6 called for an immediate investigation of police action during the local school-integration crisis. The statement said in part:

"It is reported that at Brett, Memorial and Murray Hill schools last week the police failed to protect peaceful integrationists against the violence of opposing mobs. The Constitution requires that peaceful protest be protected by whatever means are required, including such force as is necessary, no more.

Needless Violence

"On the other hand, this week when the integrationists staged a sit-in demonstration at the Cleveland Board of Education, engaging in civil disobedience, courting arrest to dramatize their protest, the police not only arrested and removed the demonstrators, which we do not doubt was the duty of the police, but in the course of doing so are reported to have committed unnecessary violence, seemingly taking punishment into their own hands.

"It is not the function of police to punish, but only to protect and arrest. Force beyond what is necessary is intolerable.

"Police should be, like our Constitution, color-blind, and all persons should be protected against unlawful violence, even 'trouble-makers.'"

The school board is to meet Feb. 10 to implement its promise to the UFM this past week to afford pupils transported from overcrowded schools the opportunity to participate in all student activities in the receiving schools. The Hazeldell Parents Association, from the area most directly involved, accepted the settlement offered by the school board. Most local civil-rights leaders, while viewing this as a partial victory, recognize that it is just the first step toward ending patterns of segregation in Cleveland's public schools.

How Cuba Uprooted Race Discrimination

By Harry Ring

16 pages 15 cents

Pioneer Publishers
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

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(Speech of Dec. 2, 1961)

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SOUTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE DEEPENS

Racists Seek to Frame Negro Scholar

By Jay Garnett

While the chasm between the apartheid policies of the South African Nationalist regime and the ever-stronger freedom sentiments of the African peoples increases, the Afrikaner tyranny has increased its persecution of all domestic critics.

A recent and important case is that of Dr. Neville Edward Alexander, one of South Africa's most distinguished black scholars, who — with ten others — is on trial in Cape Town on a "main charge" of "conspiring to overthrow the government by means of violent revolution, guerrilla warfare, and sabotage."

Three "alternative" charges have been entered against the defendants. The first charge is based on the same allegation as is the main charge; the other two charges come under the notorious Suppression of Communism Act which equates efforts for racial equality with Communism. The indictment claims that the defendants furthered the aims of Communism or incited others to do so by devising or supporting a doctrine or scheme which aimed at bringing about a political, social or economic change in South Africa by the promotion of disorder. The penalty can be up to the death sentence.

Dr. Alexander, who received his Ph. D. in Tübingen, West Germany, in 1961, was widely admired by his fellow students there. Great indignation has been aroused in Germany by his arrest.

The Confederation of German Students, the self-governing student bodies of four major German universities, the big German trade

union of metal workers, the IG-Metall, have publicly protested his arrest. Several groups sought to raise money in order to get him released from prison on bond.

His German colleagues recall his words at a seminar on the developing countries which Alexander gave in 1961, and they cannot believe that the charges against him are justified.

He had spoken of the history-consciousness of the African. "Only renunciation of revenge, only the placing of oneself in the service of history can render unnecessary the apocalyptic image of mutual destruction and race murder," he said. "The realization of the African's freedom the negation of subjective ideas of supremacy of one race on the historical plane, is the African's necessary contribution, in my opinion, to the ensuring of peace and the conscious history of modern man."

Now the African is awakening, Alexander had told them. "The giant is breaking his chains, and the white man is beginning to realize the Lilliputian character of his selfishness. Those of them who cannot deny themselves their privileges tremble and suffer anxiety for their parasitical existence."

Having declined professorships at several African universities, he informed the Cape Town Colored University that he could not accept the racist policies and education techniques of South Africa. Instead, he worked until his arrest as a simple teacher of German and history at the High School for Coloreds in Cape Town.

In the middle of last summer, at the same time that 18 func-

tionaries of the banned African National Congress were seized, he was arrested at his parents' home in Cape Town. He was "interrogated" for 76 days without counsel.

All the defendants are colored.

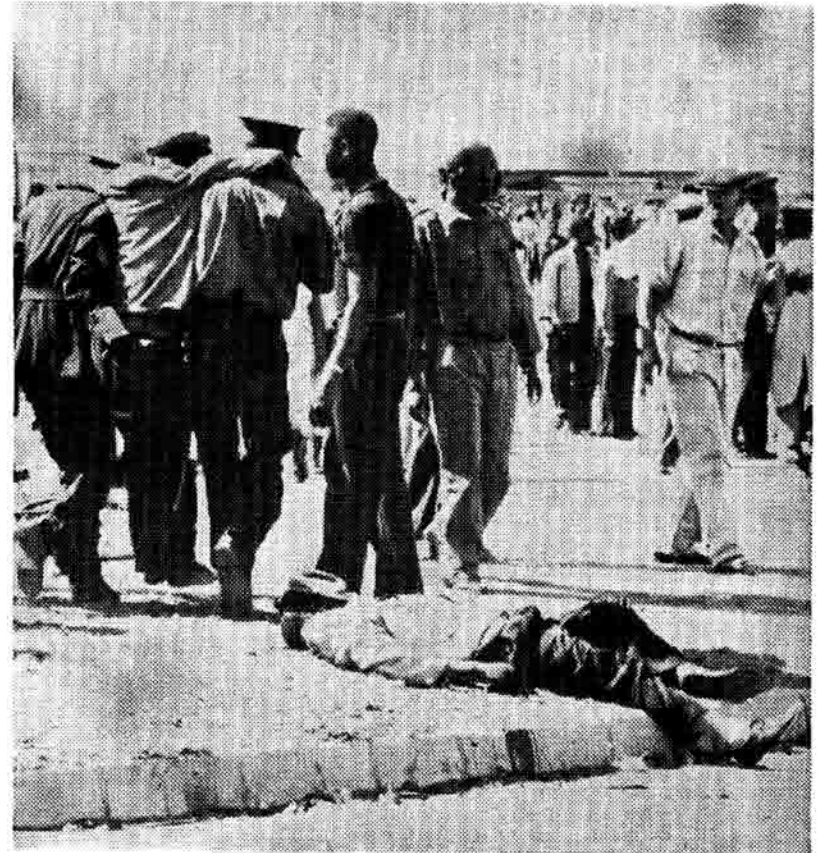
According to the Deputy-Attorney General, "The State will attempt to prove that all of the accused belong to the Yu Chi Chan Club (YCCC), also called the National Liberation Front, whose objects are to overthrow the Government . . ."

The "conspiracy" supposedly occurred at meetings held by this organization. Part of this consisted of seeking to raise funds through the "South African Students' Bursary and Loan Fund."

According to the testimony of the prosecution's first witness, the policeman who had arrested Alexander, the defendants had been arraigned on the basis of literature found at his home.

The following books were handed in as exhibits, many of them to be read into the court record: Mao Tse-tung's *Strategic Problems in the Anti-Japanese Guerrilla War* and *Yu Chi Chan Guerrilla Warfare*; *The Paris Commune* by Lenin; two copies of a book *Partisan Warfare*; a German newspaper; and several booklets, reports, and pamphlets, a number of them allegedly having to do with the activities of the National Liberation Front.

Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare* was read into the record. It was, according to one witness, found in the home of defendant Don Davis, who "was a preacher in our church, the Assembly of God." Another witness testified



RACIST BUTCHERY. Scene from infamous Sharpeville, South Africa, massacre March 21 and 22, 1960 where cops admitted to killing 72 and wounding 148 when they opened machine-gun fire on unarmed demonstrators during two-day protest against apartheid.

that Davis had said the whites had a laboratory at Cape Town in which they destroyed colored babies.

The defense counsel sought to show that Davis had spoken about two different matters: 1) a laboratory at Cape Town and 2) the high rate of deaths among colored children due to malnutrition and gastro-enteritis.

On Nov. 20 the government put a witness on the stand, who later admitted under cross-examination being a paid police spy. He claimed that Alexander had come to his home July 8 and given him a bundle of pamphlets "about Cuba."

The government continues with its array of stool pigeons and "experts." One such "expert," on "South African non-European politics," held that guerrilla warfare

and violence are "quite inapplicable" in a "modern country." He said he felt Dr. Alexander was under the influence of "European political thought" and admired the type of struggle conducted in Algeria. He felt it was clear that Dr. Alexander "had a group going that was fascinated by black nationalism."

Whatever the political views of the defendants may be, it is clear they are victims of a witchhunt designed to extinguish all thoughts frowned upon by the Verwoerd government and to imprison all those who read literature banned by this quasi-fascist regime.

Everyone concerned about democratic rights in the world today must help spread the facts about South Africa's thought-control laws and the crucifixion of political opposition.

World Events

Kids 'Surprise' TV-man

"Soviet children are not convinced that Communism will prevail by war, but will because it is right . . ."

"Ask Soviet children to name the greatest men in history, and the first one named is Lenin. Ask them the greatest living men and they answer with Khrushchev, which is to be expected, and then — surprising to me — they name Fidel Castro. They look on him as a hero because he is spreading Communism to the Western world."

These were among the observations of television producer Jules Power, who spent five weeks in the Soviet Union, filming children in all aspects of their life and interviewing some 600. Power will present a two-part documentary about Soviet children on his TV show, "Discovery," Feb. 23 and March 1.

Bonus for Algeria Farms

Peasants on Algeria's nationalized farms are to receive a "symbolic" share of over-all 1963 pro-

fits, President Ben Bella announced Feb. 7. Workers on profit-making farms would get bonus payments of about \$46; those on the minority of unprofitable farms would still get about \$22, because — Ben Bella emphasized — failure to earn a profit in the first year was not their fault.

The payment constitutes a "stinging refutation of the detractors of socialism," Ben Bella said, — an answer to critics of the self-management committees that have taken over some seven million acres of former French and Algerian-owned lands.

Housing Fight in Jamaica

Squatters who put up shacks in the "Kingston Pen" area of the Jamaican capital of Kingston have been fighting attempts by Prime Minister Bustamante's government to drive them from their dwellings. The government "slum-clearance" scheme apparently serves as a convenient means of political victimization. The poor people of the area voted heavily against the government party in the last election.

A politician was heard to threaten to have their homes bulldozed because they voted for the opposing party.

Originally the 3,600 settlers of Kingston Pen were told to move by Sept. 30. When they refused, bulldozers were brought in to start clearing away shacks. The settlers replied with a demonstration Oct. 4, which drew attention to their struggle. The daily press took note of it for the first time and printed citizens' views sympathetic to the settlers.

The government retreated, extending to Jan. 15 the date for settlers to vacate. The government also altered its scheme, now providing for three stages, instead of clearing the entire area all at once. This partially recognized demands of the protesting settlers. Other demands are that settlers be rehoused and that settlers in the area being cleared get top priority in jobs provided by the clearance program.

At the same time the government has taken measures against the Unemployed Workers Council, whose militant participation in the settlers' struggle the authorities apparently wish to stop. Police barred the Council from holding public meetings in the area for more than a month and harassed known leaders of the Council who had been in the area. It was the work of the Council in exposing the government's aim that led to the successful Oct. 4 protest.

Second Latin Youth Parley

The Second Latin American Youth Congress will be held March 9-13 in Santiago, Chile. Five hundred delegates are expected to attend. National committees in each country are preparing for the congress whose main theme will be the liberation of Latin America. The First Congress was held in Havana, Cuba, in summer 1960.

Detroit-Area Students Hear Morgan on "Sedition" Case

The speaking tour of Tom Morgan, Bloomington student defendant, is continuing to alert Midwest campuses to the issues of the Indiana "subversion" case.

Morgan — along with Ralph Levitt and James Bingham, his fellow officers in the Young Socialist Alliance chapter at Indiana University — was indicted last July on trumped-up charges of assembling to advocate the violent overthrow of the federal and Indiana state governments.

Morgan drew a responsive audience at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Jan. 29. A generous collection for the defense was taken up and some 30 people volunteered to help with the work of a local chapter of the defense committee.

The previous night, Morgan spoke at Michigan State University. He is scheduled to speak also at Wayne State University in Detroit. Over 20 Wayne State faculty members have become sponsors of the national Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students, which is raising funds for the defense and publicizing the civil-liberties issues in the case.

Last October, the Wayne Federation of Teachers, Local 1295 of the American Federation of Teachers, passed a resolution condemning the indictment of the three Bloomington students.

Meanwhile, ACTION, the liberal student party at Carleton College in Minnesota declared in the civil-liberties plank of its platform that

it supports "the Carleton Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students in their fight for academic freedom. We support all efforts to have the Indiana Anti-Communist Act of 1951 and similar legislation declared unconstitutional."

The issue of the constitutionality of the McCarthy-era law under which Tom Morgan, Ralph Levitt and James Bingham were indicted last July, will be argued in a Bloomington court March 20. The defense attorneys — constitutional authority Leonard B. Boudin and trial lawyer Daniel T. Taylor III — have filed a motion to quash the indictment on the ground that the law is unconstitutional. This will be the first test of the law's constitutionality.

Two U.S. Supreme Court precedents point to its unconstitutionality. In the case of *Pennsylvania vs. Nelson* (1956), a state sedition act comparable to Indiana's was ruled unconstitutional on the grounds that existing federal legislation pre-empted any such state laws. In the *Yates* case (1957), the Supreme Court ruled that advocacy of the violent overthrow of the government as an abstract doctrine, rather than as an incitement to action, is protected by the guarantees of the First Amendment. Hence such a sedition law as Indiana's should be unconstitutional.

Contributions for the defense or inquiries about the case should be sent to: Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students, P.O. Box 213 Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

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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.]

A U.S. Concentration Camp

Indianapolis, Ind.

David Brinkley's Journal, a regular TV feature, had an informative program on Feb. 2 called, "Our Man on the Mississippi." It was a travelogue about life on

America's most important river.

Included was a matter-of-fact description of life in Plaquemine Parish in Louisiana, the fief of the notorious political boss and segregationist, Leander Perez.

NBC showed the American public the newly constructed concentration camp, built by the Parish to "house" all civil-rights demonstrators. Those who protest against segregation there are taken, in a special boat, to this prison which can only be reached by water since the land approaches are snake-filled swamps.

To be absolutely "safe," the racists have surrounded the camp with electrically charged barbed wire. The cells themselves are actual dungeons, built below ground, as part of a pre-Civil War fortress. NBC calmly explained that cattle can't live in this area because of the density of insect life. But, fit indeed for Louisiana's Negro citizens.

The final "treat" is a lecture by Perez, the architect of this U.S. version of Dachau. He tells Brinkley and the TV audience that his motivation and prime concern is to fight the threat of "communist subversion and infiltration."

U.S. "justice" and "anti-communism" of the Southern variety — these film clips should be made widely available for their educational value.

Reader

The American Indian

New York, N. Y.

As a member of the Socialist Workers Party, I would like to comment on the letter by J.C. in your Feb. 10 issue about the SWP's announcement of its 1964 presidential ticket not mentioning the plight of the American Indian. While the SWP has not yet issued its 1964 platform, there is no question that the brutality of the white power structure toward the U.S. Indians should be attacked in such a program.

The reason for the oversight in the original announcement lies in the fact, I think, that the SWP leaders and members are so overburdened by work and involvement during these days of upturn in the class struggle (which can be seen most clearly in the civil-rights field) that only what seemed to be the most pressing issues were dealt with.

The SWP is stretched thin in trying to keep up with all the developments on the scene and could use a great deal of help from readers of *The Militant* in carrying on its work. If J.C. would, like to agree with us 100 per cent instead of 99 per cent, he should join our ranks and pitch in. Then he would have the opportunity not only to add a point on Indians to our election program, but could assist in shaping a special socialist program around the Indian "problem." He would find a ready assistant in this in myself, a lifelong admirer of the Indian who likes to think he has some Indian blood in him.

Like the Negro, the Indian is ghettoized — on reservations — and therefore has a united way to act against the white exploiter. But Indians have the advantage of not only having race consciousness, but also tribal consciousness which is an even deeper factor in contributing to unity in fighting the common enemy. Added to this

is that the Indians are "natural socialists," not having developed capitalist concepts of property.

These factors, despite the numerical weakness of the Indians, should contribute toward the rapid development of (modern) socialist consciousness among Indians, and convert them into a strong section of the vanguard of oppressed people that will help lead the white and black working masses to socialist consciousness in turn.

George Payne

A Bargain

Millbrook, N.J.

Thanks for your letter with the offer for the special renewal rate.

I am enclosing \$3 for a regular one-year renewal, which I think is cheap enough considering how your paper covers and interprets the most important news. Good luck.

S.O.

Police Wiretapping

Minneapolis, Minn.

The Duluth, Minnesota, police have announced the purchase of wiretapping, eavesdropping and recording equipment to be used in the city jail. Their stated aim is to use this equipment to coerce prisoners during and after incarceration. The City Council has authorized the purchase.

This would allow the cops to

gather "evidence" illegally as well as to develop blackmail techniques. And, of course, it would further their continual attempts at developing stool pigeons.

The Minnesota Civil Liberties Union has protested, contending that "the use of wiretapping equipment is illegal *per se* and an unqualified threat to the civil rights of every citizen."

Unfortunately the MCLU has done nothing more than issue a public statement. And that did not mention the other flagrant violations, such as electronic bugging in the case in Bloomington, Indiana, where three college students who are members of the Young Socialist Alliance are being persecuted in the same way for their political ideas.

It is interesting to note two other cases where wiretapping was ruled illegal. One involved the federal government recently when an agency officer was fired for wiretapping. In another case the St. Paul police chief was charged with using wiretapping on the rank and file of the police force and he was compelled to resign.

This is real subversion of civil rights. But, like everything else in our sick capitalist society, "it depends on whose ox is being gored," or on whose civil liberties are being subverted, for the courts to rule these "Big Brother" tactics illegal.

J.K.

Impressed

Yellow Springs, Ohio

I am impressed with the thoroughness with which you treat the news. Would you please send me the paper for the next four months beginning as soon as possible.

M.W.

Fund Raising

Los Angeles, Calif.

The capitalist's underestimation of mass brainpower is used exactly the same way by the Marxists. It is an insult to the very dignity of the worker to tell him he can only contribute money in the degenerate ways used by capitalists. The bourgeois thinking of so-called Marxists is reflected in their fund-raising activities. A worker is capable of contributing in much more constructive ways than through cocktail parties, rummage sales, picnics, auctioneering-bazaars and various other degrading time-wasters.

The rank and filers are thirsty for constructive participation while contributing financially. They have enough of a wasteland thrust on them by the evil maneuverings of the ruling class.

How about some write-in suggestions from rank and filers for more esteemed fund-raising methods.

H.K.

R.G.

10 YEARS AGO IN THE MILITANT

"Only direct U.S. military intervention, including large-scale use of American troops, can now prevent defeat for French imperialism's bloody eight-year attempt to seize Indo-China and enslave its people. A new offensive by the 500,000-man independence army of Ho Chi Minh's Vietnam republic is sweeping across the province of Laos, in Western Indo-China, and simultaneously retaking new territory in widespread areas throughout the rest of the country.

"Last Jan. 4, Joseph Alsop of the *N.Y. Herald Tribune* reported from Paris that the position of the French in Indo-China was 'highly precarious' and that 'the turbulent currents of French political opinion' reflected 'a strong impulse to escape from the long and seemingly hopeless Indo-Chinese war at almost any price.'

"The brutal assault on Indo-China has continued largely at the insistence of Wall Street's government in Washington. However, not even the recent shipments to Indo-China of more than a billion dollars of new U.S. military equipment — plus at least 200 American air force technicians and flyers, as it has now leaked out — have been able to turn the tide for the French invaders." — Feb. 15, 1954.

20 YEARS AGO

"A moralist would forgive the action of the original Uncle Tom on the grounds of his ignorance of the methods of political struggle. No one can forgive the modern type whose role becomes the more vicious when we realize that according to past experiences he should be entirely conscious of the uselessness of this type of action. There is not one single instance in history of the Uncle Tom policy accomplishing any material good for the masses of the people. The final solution of the problem of chattel slavery of the Negroes was accompanied by a Civil War. If we could forget that event, we still do not have to look far to see that militancy and radicalism instead of appeasement are what pay off in results.

"For example, Roosevelt, the 'humanitarian,' although repeatedly receiving Negro support, only once moved his hand to do anything to erase the injustices perpetrated upon this minority. That was when he issued Order 8802, the FEPC. This was a direct move to stall off the projected March On Washington, the only occasion during this period when Negroes had actually planned and threatened the government with militant action. As further proof that the militant method was responsible for the FEPC we need only review its record since the March was called off by Randolph. At first hailed as a measure that 'had teeth in it,' it has since been openly defied by employers in both the North and the South. These facts are known to all." — Feb. 19, 1944.

It Was Reported in the Press

Protest Okinawa Jim Crow — Fifty Negro GIs stormed a police post in Naha, Okinawa, to protest the arrest of a Negro serviceman by a white MP Feb. 9. Rocks were thrown, reports the *New York Times*, and shots were fired by the police. No injuries were reported.

Pass the Bicarb — Always interested in the social doings at Palm Beach, we gleaned the following intelligence from the *New York Times*: Mrs. Frederick Weissman threw a party recently and the menu featured seafood in aspic, barbecued chicken, chicken mousse with cream sauce and truffles, both fruit and vegetable salads, six different kinds of cake and Sangria, a wine and fruit drink. We are further informed that Mrs. Stephen (Laddie) Sanford is having a phone installed in her library that will be trimmed with leopard skin. But Mr. and Mrs. S. Joseph Tankoos Jr. already have a telephone that plugs into a palm tree.

Problems, Problems — A government official in Ecuador, which is currently ruled by a military junta, says one of the difficulties of such rule is that it creates problems of internal discipline in the army. He told a newsman: "As long as the lieutenant only sees the colonel giving orders like 'quick march' and 'present arms,' there is no problem. When the lieutenant sees the colonel making an ass of himself as Director of the Budget, it's only a matter of time before things start falling apart."

State Department Morality — Just in case you think that GIs have been sent to fight and die in Vietnam to preserve "freedom," "truth," "justice," and other such

ideals, consider the following excerpt from a Feb. 8 *New York Times* Saigon dispatch: "Diplomatic sources said that United States officials had urged Gen. Minh and Gen. Khanh to devise a working relationship that would give an appearance of stability and legitimacy to a regime established simply by military power. Installing of Gen. Minh as chief of state, even without power, seemed to be a satisfactory solution."

Health Conscious? — What with the recent growing switch from cigarettes to cigars, it may be significant that a trailer loaded with \$140,000 worth of cigars was hijacked in New Jersey.

For Spiritual Redemption? — Author Vance Packard told University of Minnesota students that "changing values in America life are reflected by the fact that some churches in Florida are giving green stamps."

No Strings? — Six major tobacco companies, which have already spent a fortune trying to debunk medical findings linking smoking to cancer and other diseases, have contributed \$10 million to the American Medical Association for research on the relation of smoking to disease. The AMA said there

were no strings attached to the offer. Its official announcement didn't use the word "cancer" or mention the U.S. Surgeon General's report on the hazards of smoking.

Stylish Fringe — New York State Attorney General Lefkowitz says his office has been flooded with complaints about fraudulent practices by wig shops and salons. A typical complaint, he said, was from a woman who paid \$200 for a wig which she charged turned from black to red and proved to be horse hair, not human hair as advertised. Lefkowitz said "a fringe element has jumped into the industry to capitalize on the current fad."

Politicians, Please Note — When the Beatles and their thousands of enthusiastic young supporters left New York's Penn Station a veteran railroad man commented: "I've never seen anything like it, and I was here when Castro arrived, when Khrushchev came in, but this topped them all."

Wanted Him to Eat Well — Two guards at the Brooklyn House of Detention were charged with felonious assault against a prisoner who refused to leave his cell to eat breakfast.

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Thought for the Week

"An exile source with credentials that merit respect estimates Cuba's current sugar crop will sell for \$650 million and the island's 1964 export income will be about \$700 million. Cattle and hog production is up and mining has been intensified. 'Make no mistake,' says this source which would certainly prefer the opposite to be true. 'Fidel Castro is stronger all the time.'" — The Feb. 1 *Miami Herald*.

Johnson's Housing Program Equals 2 Nuclear Submarines

By Clifton DeBerry

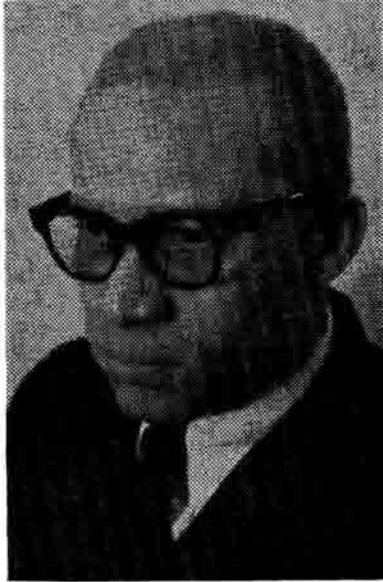
One thing we already know about the Johnson administration is that it is long on promises. The budget proposed by the president indicates it will also be very short on deeds as far as social welfare is concerned. Lyndon Johnson's plan is to promise the Negro and other deprived people a token share of what they are rightfully entitled to and to make as much noise about it as possible in preparation for the November election.

However, his programs to resolve the critical housing problem and to eliminate slums and poverty are not only inadequate, they are prize lessons in hypocrisy and tokenism.

Johnson's program to meet the critical need for low-income housing is to add 50,000 units a year over four years to the present virtually non-existent program. How much help is this to Negroes and other low-income groups nationally when New York City alone needs between 325,000 and 500,000 new low-rent housing units now?

Private industry does not construct low-rent housing units because it makes more profit on other kinds of construction. Yet President Johnson appeals to private industry to solve this problem. This is ridiculous. The federal budget calls for only \$222 million to be spent in 1965 on the whole "public-housing program" nationally. That is just about what two nuclear submarines cost.

The other part of Johnson's anti-slum program is the so-called urban renewal for which \$300 million is allocated. The purpose of this, however, is not to replace slums with decent low-rent housing, but to guarantee profits to private builders in relocating downtown slums elsewhere. This



Clifton DeBerry

is done by shoving Negroes and other racial minorities out of such areas to make centrally located land available for office buildings and the like.

As the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, I propose that to meet the critical housing need, a state of national emergency in housing be declared. On this point, I think, the New York City Metropolitan Council on Housing had a good idea when they asked President Johnson to declare the slums disaster areas.

And under this declaration of emergency a program should be begun to erect — not 200,000 units in four years — but 25 million permanent low-rent housing units in a few years. That's what a real "war on poverty" would look like, and it could easily be financed with the billions of dollars now poured down the drain of "over-kill" armaments production.

New York Cops Help Slumlord Put Rent-Strike Family on Street

NEW YORK — A blitzkrieg attack by massed police forces from Harlem's 28th Precinct Feb. 7, forced the illegal eviction of a tenant involved in this city's rent-strike movement. Strike supporters from Harlem's Community Council on Housing (CCH) and from other sections of the city were delayed in their efforts to move the tenant back by a fire set in the emptied apartment. Jesse Gray, director of CCH and leader of the rent strike, has demanded police and fire department investigations of the blaze.

In a leaflet distributed shortly after the eviction-fire, the CCH declared:

"The police department in Harlem is here to protect the slumlords, not the tenants. These facts clearly show why: 1) when the slumlords are guilty of no heat, no hot water, and the rats biting our children, the police department does nothing. This goes on year in and year out. 2) When tenants are being robbed, or when apartments are broken into, where are the police? Somewhere drunk? In some woman's apartment? In a garage asleep? Collecting graft and payoffs from prostitutes? Payoffs from number men or dope peddlers?"

Must Act Now

"But when it is time to illegally evict a tenant for a slumlord, the whole police department acts with great speed. WE MUST ACT NOW TO PROTECT OUR HOMES."

The tenants against whom the eviction was attempted — Luther Brown, his sister, Laura, and her five children — were on rent strike and had been paying their rent money into a court escrow account as ordered by a court proceeding, according to rent-strike organizer Horace Small.



Photo by Bob Fletcher

COPS A'PLENTY. This gang of New York cops turned out at Harlem apartment of Luther Brown (center) to evict him for non-payment of rent. Brown had joined rent strike in protest against failure of landlord to provide essential services. Cops show no such zeal in dealing with law-breaking slumlords.

The warrant for the illegal eviction was obtained by the landlord swearing that he or his agents had served a dispossession order on the tenant. Actually, the first warning the tenant received came late the night before the actual eviction was to be carried out.

Strike leaders Gray and Major Williams and nine other persons who had barricaded themselves inside the Brown's apartment at 35 W. 118th St. were arrested by police who chopped the door down. Gray said he was kicked by Patrolman Joseph Farino. All were later released without bail for a hearing Feb. 19.

Moving Van

A new twist in the slumlord-police attack was that the city marshal brought a moving van along and instead of leaving the furniture on the street, moved it into city storage. This made it more difficult to move the evicted family back in after the marshal had left. Following their release, the arrested strike leaders were assembling borrowed furniture to move back in with the family when the fire broke out in the apartment.

The day before, four such illegal evictions on the Lower East Side were stopped by quick court action by supporters of the rent strike. This action, however, saw the temporary arrest of a student strike helper, Douglas Hainline, on a trumped-up charge of "attempted robbery." Hainline was serving legal papers on the slumlord who made this charge. After strike supporters threatened to begin organizing massive demonstrations against the arrest, the police induced the slumlord to drop the charge and the student was released.

Illegal Eviction

The people in Harlem believe that the police knew that they were attempting to carry out an illegal eviction. They find it impossible to believe that the police at the 28th Precinct didn't know that the tenants in the building involved were on rent strike in accordance with their legal rights. Any policeman with the brains to button his uniform, they maintain, knew that he was simply acting as a stooge for the slumlord.

In the Lower East Side incident, the police sergeant, who arrested the strike supporter on the phony "attempted robbery" charge, was fully aware that the accused had

actually been serving a legal paper in the presence of five witnesses, including a photographer who was taking pictures of the action.

Picket lines were held Feb. 8 outside the 28th Precinct station in Harlem and outside the police commissioner's office in downtown Manhattan. The pickets demanded an end to illegal evictions and dismissal of Patrolman Farino. They carried such signs as: "Cops Are Helping Slumlords," and "Jail the Slumlords, Not the Tenants."

Grace Cade, chairman of the Lower East Side Rent Strike, issued the following statement on the events:

"We of the Lower East Side Rent Strike committee are shocked by the arrest of Jesse Gray and the cruel, inhuman treatment of tenants by the police department. Jesse Gray and the Harlem rent strike have shown the city how to fight for decent housing. The rapid spread of rent strikes throughout the city has forced the slumlords to retaliate.

Protect Slumlord

"Once again the city and Mayor Wagner have used the police to protect the slumlord and violate the tenant. We on the Lower East Side say that while rats eat our children, while we are without heat and wash with cold water, our rent strike will continue. We will protect our homes from rats, cold, filth, city marshals and police. We will not be evicted for fighting for our legal human rights."

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Council on Housing — a group of tenant organizations — sent a telegram to President Johnson urging that the city's slums be declared "disaster areas."

Announce Cancellation Of New York Meeting

A meeting about the Monroe, N.C., "kidnap" case scheduled for Feb. 19 at Community Church in New York has been postponed, the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants announced. A new date will be announced later this month if, as expected, the case goes to trial at the term of court in Monroe which begins Feb. 17.

In the meantime contributions are still needed and should be sent to CAMD, GPO Box 1314, New York, N.Y.

THE BECKWITH MURDER TRIAL

The State Could Look Like It Was Trying

The trial of Byron de la Beckwith for the assassination of Medgar Evers ended Feb. 7 in a mistrial and Beckwith now faces a new trial. The all-white jury had deadlocked seven to five.

The fact that even a minority of a white jury in Mississippi favored any sort of punishment for a white man accused of killing a Negro "agitator," is being taken in some liberal circles as a sign of significant progress. Similar illusions were aroused by the judge's effort to appear impartial and the prosecutor's seemingly working for a conviction.

Does this mean things are improving in Mississippi? If the authorities there are left alone, will they continue to improve so that next time a Negro is lynched or a Negro leader assassinated, the guilty will be punished? Or have the Mississippi authorities put on a show?

The realistic view is that judge and prosecutor acted as they did because they knew that no all-white Mississippi jury would convict Beckwith. Therefore it cost the state nothing to improve its "image" by the simulacrum of a serious trial.

A Conservative Body

Since the proposal by the Civil Rights Commission — a very sober and conservative body — last year that all federal funds be cut off from Mississippi, authorities there have been concerned about the state getting too far out in front of the racist bloc. True Kennedy and Congress ignored the cut-off proposal, but who knows what might happen if the Negroes and civil-rights forces became really aroused and started demanding it

or planning retaliatory action against Mississippi on their own?

At the trial District Attorney Waller presented evidence clearly proving Beckwith's guilt. The murder weapon was traced to him. He admitted owning such a rifle, but claimed it had been "stolen" from him two nights before the murder. A scar from the telescopic sight on his forehead and his fingerprint on the sight further connected him to the weapon.

His car had been seen parked near the scene of the crime less than an hour before the assassination and a witness described a man of his appearance driving the car around that area shortly before the slaying. Two cab drivers testified that Beckwith had asked their help in finding Evers' home

four days before the murder.

The prosecution also supplied the motive. Beckwith was an avowed segregationist ready to do anything to stop what he considered the "evil" civil-rights movement.

Testimony revealed that Beckwith practiced with the murder weapon regularly at the police shooting range in Greenwood, his home town, doing so even two days before the murder.

The prosecution implied that two cops and a businessman from Greenwood perjured themselves when they testified he had been 100 miles from Jackson the night of the assassination.

The prejudice of the authorities was revealed even while they asked for a conviction Waller repeatedly used the term "nigger" — and the judge "slipped" once, too, and looked guiltily at the two Negro reporters covering the trial. Jackson authorities were putting on quite a show to get good press coverage on their handling of the case.

Beckwith was visited in the courtroom with great fanfare by ex-Gov. Ross Barnett. Ultra-rightist Gen. Edwin Walker also visited Beckwith in court and in jail.

One of Beckwith's attorneys was Hardy Lott, influential ex-president of the Citizens Council in Greenwood, where a White Citizens Defense Fund was started for Beckwith. After the mistrial was declared, Robert Patterson of Greenwood, president of Mississippi's Associated Citizens Councils, spoke up for Beckwith. Racist Senator James Eastland, a power in Mississippi, is the darling of the Citizens Councils.



Eastland