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Frame-Up Victims to Appeal Monroe 'Kidnap' Conviction

By George Lavan

MONROE, N.C. — The all-white jury in the so-called kidnap case that was tried here took only 33 minutes to come back with a verdict of guilty against all four defendants. Since in that 33 minutes they also had to elect the jury foreman, it is safe to say that there was little, if any, discussion in the jury room but merely a quick vote finding all defendants guilty on all counts.

Negro residents of Union County had been predicting precisely such an outcome to the trial.

After the jury rendered its verdict late Thursday afternoon, Judge Walter E. Brock delayed sentencing till the next morning.

At 9:30 a.m. Feb. 28 he sentenced Mrs. Mae Mallory to 16 to 20 years; Richard Crowder to seven to ten years; Harold Reape to five to seven years; and John Lowry to three to five years. Each defendant received two sentences of the above amounts — one for kidnapping Mrs. Stegall and the other for kidnapping Mr. Stegall. The sentences, however, are to run concurrently.

Judge Brock had announced earlier in the trial that his interpretation of North Carolina's kidnapping statute was that it carried no mandatory minimum sentence. It had been widely understood and reported previously that it carried a 20-year minimum; its maximum is life imprisonment.

Before passing sentence Judge Brock asked Mrs. Mallory if she had anything she wished to say. The defendant, who apparently expected the maximum sentence replied in a calm and dignified manner: "That I am innocent. That I am a victim of circumstances. That this trial ended exactly the way that I expected it to end and that I'll probably spend the rest of my life in jail because of my color."

In sentencing Richard Crowder, Judge Brock said: "I am not going to ask you why you undertook to walk armed guard around Robert Williams' house. I'll never know and I'm sure you don't."

"Do you want me to answer that?" said the defendant.

"Go ahead," replied the judge, somewhat surprised.

"Being an American I felt I had the right of self-defense, the right

to defend my community and my property."

"Didn't you think the law-enforcement officers could take care of that situation?" asked the judge.

"I really didn't," replied Crowder. "We had asked before for protection and had been denied."

"I found no threat," the judge answered, "except that which existed in the mind of Robert Williams."

The judge gave defendants Harold Reape and John Lowry, no opportunity to speak. He confined Reape to answering questions about his place of birth and how many doors away from Robert Williams he had lived on Boyte Street.

In sentencing Lowry, a white Freedom Rider from New York, Judge Brock said: "I am sorry you chose to connect yourself with the people you did."

All defendants having signified their intention to appeal, the judge set new and heavier bail. Appeals must be filed within 90 days and each defendant must post an appeal bond of \$1,500. In addition the following appearance bonds were set: Mrs. Mallory—\$15,000; Crowder—\$10,000; Reape—\$7,500; Lowry—\$5,000.

There are a number of grounds for appeal since the trial, though conducted with outward decorum, was a Jim Crow travesty of justice.

Judge Brock, a young, well-educated jurist, had been especially designated to preside at this term of Superior Court in Union County, instead of the somewhat eccentric character who would normally have been sitting. This undoubtedly was to present a better image of North Carolina courts in a case which would have national attention as well as to pro-

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New York Social Workers Strike For Better Wages and Conditions

By David Herman

NEW YORK — More than 1,000 social workers and supporting staff members of Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees Union here are out on the first strike of social workers in more than 30 years of union organization.

The strike is against six non-profit casework agencies affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, which finances them. The six agencies negotiate as a unit.

Professional social workers make up about a third of the strikers. Another third are homemakers, child-care workers and maintenance workers, etc. The others are clerical workers of various types.

Why are these social workers out on strike — and in such a fighting mood — for the first time in the union's history? Negotiations for a new contract to take effect Feb. 1st started last October. The union agreed to mediation of the differences in mid-December. The contract requires mediation to start Jan. 1 if an agreement has not already been

Queries Still Continue on Oswald Case

By Jay Garnett

MARCH 4 — The reversal of policy by the Warren Commission in appointing the head of the Bar Association to defend the late Lee Oswald has done little to dispel the many grave questions and doubts in the public mind. If anything, the move creates more questions than it answers.

The appointment of a defense attorney constitutes an admission of the denied but obvious fact that the Commission is intent not on a truly independent investigation but rather is trying to confirm the FBI and Dallas police claim that Oswald's guilt is an established fact.

The proposal that Oswald be represented at the Commission hearings by counsel was originally made by attorney Mark Lane who has been making an independent investigation of the case; who submitted a brief containing his original findings to the Commission; and who has been appointed by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Oswald, to represent her slain son. Lane's proposal was rejected by the Warren Commission with the assertion that Oswald was not on trial. But the Commission did finally invite Lane to testify before it today.

Previously, commenting on the Commission's reversal of course, Lane had said on Feb. 25:

"... the Chief Justice stated to me personally, and to the press repeatedly, as did Counsel to the Commission, that Oswald was not on trial and that counsel could not be permitted to represent him."

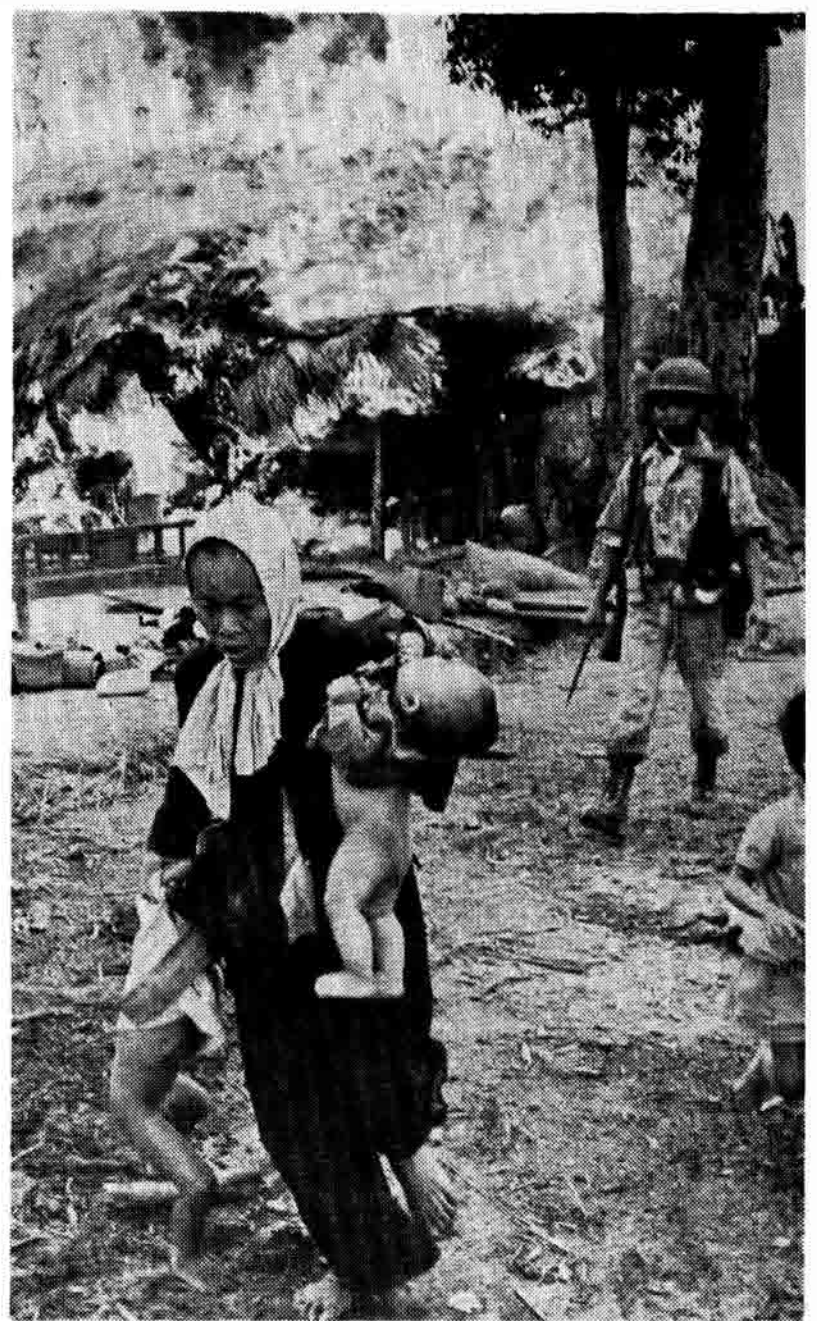
"Since that time, as a result of repeated trips to Dallas, I have secured statements from witnesses and documentary evidence establishing the innocence of Lee Harvey Oswald."

Lane asked: "Will the Commission begin its proceedings anew...? Will counsel appointed by the Commission conduct an investigation in order to adequately perform his function? Has either the Commission or counsel appointed by the Commission yet developed an interest in the evidence in my possession establishing the innocence of Oswald?"

Lane offered his full cooperation to Walter E. Craig, the Commission's appointee.

Meanwhile, other unsavory aspects of the official handling of the entire aftermath of the assassination of the late president were

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VIETNAM "FREEDOM" WAR. This South Vietnamese peasant is forced to flee with her children as government troops burn down her home because they suspect her husband may be a member of the rebel forces. Now Washington talks about extending the war into North Vietnam. This would mean a multiplication of the horrifying practices shown here.

Johnson Lifts Trial Balloon For Attack on North Vietnam

By Steve Graham

MARCH 3 — U.S. bipartisan foreign policy has propped up a dictatorship in South Vietnam for ten years. In defiance of the 1954 Geneva agreements the U.S. has sent in some 20,000 troops and spends \$1.5 million a day trying to keep a corrupt clique of warlords and landlords in power. Now it faces the complete collapse of its puppets and their total military defeat at the hands of the armed people of South Vietnam, who are conducting a revolutionary war like American farmers did after 1776. And now the politicians in Washington have threatened to attack North Vietnam!

There has previously been an undercurrent of such talk coming from the administration, as we reported in the Feb. 11 *Militant*. Now, in a carefully phrased speech on Feb. 21, President Johnson lent his weight to such threats. Speaking of the civil war in South Vietnam he said "those engaged in external direction and supply would do well to... remember that this type of aggression is a deeply dangerous game." Washington officials let it be known to the press that this was meant as a deliberate warning to North Vietnam, which they claim is commanding and supplying the South Vietnamese freedom fighters.

But this is a deliberate lie. The peasant guerrillas have their base in the farming population — the vast majority in South Vietnam. Secretary of Defense McNamara himself admitted as recently as Jan. 28 that in the Mekong Delta where the guerrillas are strongest, the "Communist" hold was established in the 1940s and that the area "has never been under control of anyone but Communists." The charges of "external direc-

tion and supply" are a flimsy pretext for threatening and bullying in an attempt to get out of an impossible situation.

What kind of attacks is Washington threatening?

U.S. officials in Saigon reportedly want permission for "retaliatory sabotage" against North Vietnam. "They see this as the only way to break through pressures that are closing in on Saigon's war effort," reports Peter Grose in the Feb. 23 *New York Times*.

In an ominous report, Feb. 25, syndicated columnist Joseph Alsop revealed that "a sea blockade of... the North Vietnamese Communists, is one of the measures being studied and staffed out, albeit only on a contingency basis. If ever ordered, moreover, the blockade will probably be combined with air interdiction [bombing] of the main road and rail lines entering North Vietnam from China... Such expedients as a sea and air blockade of North Vietnam were never before considered even theoretically."

Alsop said there was no chance of such measures being used immediately, but the fact they were being considered was a "great change." This change had come for two reasons. "The need to adopt bold measures seems to be increasing," because the war is collapsing. And secondly, many policy makers speculate that Moscow would not and Peking could not effectively help Hanoi, if it were attacked.

Why the airing of these threats to Hanoi if, in fact, the guerrilla war does not depend on North Vietnam? There are a number of reasons. The main one is that the

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Mae Mallory

N.Y. Blue Cross Out to Get A New King-Size Rate Hike

By Marvel Scholl

NEW YORK — Blue Cross of New York (Associated Hospital Services) has asked for increased premium rates. The requested hike is so drastic that, if granted, it will not only make this form of voluntary hospitalization impossible for thousands of its 7.4 million subscribers, but will destroy the basic idea upon which Blue Cross itself was originally founded — equal group premiums spreading the cost of necessary hospital care among sufficiently large numbers to make such care possible.

During the Great Depression in the '30s, the Baylor University Hospital in Dallas, Texas, pioneered the first voluntary group health plan with the teachers of that city. For \$6 per year per teacher, it offered 21 days hospital care, including all the auxiliary costs — operating room, medication, therapy, surgical dressings, etc.

So successful was this first plan that it was soon expanded to include other employed groups. From Dallas the idea spread across the country and in 1937, 38 independent groups organized themselves into a national Blue Cross Hospitalization plan. Since that time the number of "Blues" has grown to 76, with a total enrollment in excess of 60 million.

Each Blue Cross (there are eight in New York state) is completely autonomous, setting its own standards, benefits, premium rates and contractual relations with participating hospitals. One thing was common to all groups — equal premiums for group policies for specific benefits, and equal benefits for all group members depending on the type of plan selected by the subscribers themselves. The differing benefit plans depended on the annual income of the subscribers.

Now the Associated Hospital Services (Blue Cross) covering 17 downstate New York counties, is asking for new premium rates based on the use each member group has made of the services during the past few years. Rates for groups with a high incidence of hospitalization would be higher than for those groups with a low rate. The hardest hit would, of course, be the people who need hospitalization protection the worst — the "older groups and women."

For these categories, Mr. J. Douglas Coleman, president of Associated Hospital Services, says the rate increase asked for is 40 per



Rockefeller
He promised a probe

cent! For other groups the rate increases would range from 22 to 25 per cent.

Mr. Coleman, in an interview in the *New York Times*, blames the need for rate raises on ever-increasing hospital costs. The per diem average costs in New York hospital have risen from \$31.94 in 1960 to \$44.05 in 1963. He charges most of this stupendous increase to "high labor costs."

This is indeed an irony. Hospital workers in this area have fought and won several bitter strikes during the past few years — to increase their wages to a miserable \$47 a week! These maids, porters, attendants, food handlers, nurses aids live in an economic underworld so deep most of them must ask for supplementary city welfare in order to feed their families. Even supervisory personnel — registered nurses — get an average of only \$4,000 a year.

There are two facets to this prism of skyrocketing medical cost which Mr. Coleman does not mention — the five-digit salaries it pays its own executive personnel and the ease with which participating hospitals have been able to defraud Blue Cross by padding payroll and other expense bills!

What Does He Get?

It might be "un-American" to ask Mr. Coleman what his salary is, but it certainly should be legitimate to ask him how closely Blue Cross audits the books of hospitals with which it is signing contracts! Per diem service payments by the insurance organization are based on a four-year projected budget of the contracting hospital. Five board members and two officials of Forest Hills General Hospital are under indictment for thus bilking Blue Cross out of \$92,000. The Queens District Attorney estimates that the three-year audit of other hospital accounts has already revealed more than \$1 million in fraud!

The Blue Cross demand for these new premium rates has raised a bit of a storm. Governor Rockefeller announced on March 2 that he was appointing a commission to investigate the whole question of medical costs.

John J. O'Rourke, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, said his organization (which spends an average of \$20 million a year through the Blue plans) would take a "hard look at Blue Cross."

Charles S. Zimmerman, a vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers and a member of the board of directors of New York's Blue Cross said:

"Blue Cross cannot meet the problem... we in the labor movement will have to bring pressure on the Federal government to provide hospitalization for the people of this country."

We couldn't agree with Mr. Zimmerman more.

... Monroe

(Continued from Page 1)

duce convictions that would be as appeal-proof as possible.

But despite his courtly manners, Judge Brock's anti-Negro prejudice shone through. Thus to defense objections during the prosecutor's summary to the use of the epithet "nigger," the judge pretended that only a matter of pronunciation was involved.

Though Robert F. Williams, former leader of the Negroes in Union County, was not formally on trial since he is a refugee in Cuba, it was evident that Brock considered association with him grounds for conviction of kidnapping. A note of bitterness entered Brock's voice whenever he referred to Williams. This was noticeable in his remarks at the time of passing sentence which are recounted at the beginning of this article. This was also evidenced at the very beginning of the trial. During the questioning of prospective jurors one had replied that he would consider it evidence of guilt if it were shown that a defendant had stayed and eaten his meals at the home of Robert F. Williams. The defense thereupon asked the judge to dismiss that prospective juror for cause (i.e. bias). Judge Brock refused, saying "You've just given the prosecution's case."

Lilly White Jury

But the most obvious mark of the prejudice permeating the trial was the fact that the jury was lilly white and that all the prosecution witnesses were white. Needless to say, all the court officials and prosecutor's staff were also white.

There had been a token representation of Negroes on the jury panel. One of these was excused for cause. The prosecutor got rid of the other five with peremptory challenges, i.e. dismissing them without citing any reasons.

Though outwardly reprimanding the local newspapers for the prejudicial articles they were printing during the trial, Judge Brock actually contributed to the witch hunt they were trying to whip up. When the predicted invasion of Monroe by leaders of the Communist Party failed to materialize, he managed to furnish the press with some tangible evidence of "Communist" activity in the courtroom. He called a young salesman of the Progressive Labor group who was carrying an armful of radical literature up to the bench, impounded the literature and read the titles and tables of contents

Ga. Refuses Cash Bail For Imprisoned Minister

ATLANTA, Ga. — A county superior court judge has rejected \$5,000 in cash offered as bail to free an elderly white civil rights fighter being held behind bars here since Aug. 28, 1963.

Superior Court Judge Durwood T. Pye asserted that state law requires an appeal bond be made with unencumbered real estate.

Pye, who tried and sentenced the minister, the Rev. Ashton Bryant Jones of San Gabriel, Calif., had originally set the 67-year-old clergyman's bail at \$20,000. The Georgia Supreme Court ordered it reduced last month. The new bail of \$5,000 is the maximum allowed by the higher court.

Jones, who has been jailed, beaten and tortured in a number of Deep South areas, was arrested here last summer when he and two Negro teen-agers tried to enter all-white First Baptist Church of Atlanta. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison, six months on the public works, and \$500 fine.

His time in jail since Aug. 28 — six months — is "dead time" an attorney said, since he is appealing his sentence and it will not be counted in his favor.

The church where Rev. Jones was arrested has since voted to accept Negroes.

"Kidnap" Convictions



FRAME-UP VICTIMS. Monroe defendants John Lowry (left), Harold Reape (center) and Richard Crowder.

into the official trial record. Among the literature impounded were 19 copies of the *Marxist-Leninist Quarterly*, and some pamphlets including one by Lenin.

Over defense objections, the prosecution on the next to last day of the trial strewed over the floor in front of the jury box rifles and ammunition allegedly taken from Richard Crowder's attic. Defense attorney William M. Kunstler quickly pointed out there were more rifles than police had testified they had taken from the attic. Apparently the police had brought to court all the weapons and ammunition confiscated from the Negro community following the Aug. 27, 1961 events. But the police were unable to identify which rifles had come from Crowder's attic and the judge was forced to uphold Kunstler's motion that all be removed.

The judge, however, refused to declare a mistrial. He did offer to reiterate to the jury that they should disregard the weapons' display. Kunstler replied: "Whatever your honor does is immaterial now since the jury has already seen the inflammatory display of firearms and ammunition."

2 Witnesses

The defense proffered the testimony of two witnesses concerning the situation in Monroe out of which the Aug. 27, 1961 rioting and the alleged kidnapping had taken place. This testimony was proffered, that is, it was presented first to the judge with the jury absent. The judge then ruled that it was not competent so the jury never heard any of it.

The first witness was Harry Boyte, a white man who lived in Union County until he was driven out by the racists. He was a friend of Robert Williams. He is at present employed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as a special assistant to Martin Luther King.

Boyte told how he had met Robert Williams and what Williams' views were. He said that he was convinced Williams was not a man of violence. He also related that he personally knew of three or four instances in which bullets had been fired in front of Williams' home. Boyte also described a rape case in Union County in which the victim was a Negro woman and the rapist a white man. The white jurors in the case had joked and smoked and then brought in a not-guilty verdict.

James Forman, executive secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, testified that he had come to Monroe on Aug. 7, 1961. He first went to the home of Robert F. Williams and then two days later, accompanied by Paul Brooks of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference,

had gone to speak with Police Chief A. A. Mauney. The judge ruled out his telling what conversation had taken place with the police chief.

Forman then skipped in his narrative to Aug. 26, 1961 when the pickets, marching back to the Negro community, were attacked by a woman wielding a butcher knife and by others hurling bottles. He said he had complained in vain to Chief Mauney about lack of police protection.

He also told about a phone call that night to Hugh P. Cannon, assistant to the governor, concerning attacks on Freedom Riders, who were missing and whose safety was in doubt. Forman said that he was listening on the extension when Paul Brooks put Robert F. Williams on the phone. The governor's assistant said to Williams: "What, aren't you dead yet?"

Identified Photos

Forman also identified photos of an insecticide-spraying truck used against the picket line and a car driven round and round the courthouse square by white-supremacists bearing the sign, "Open Season on Coons."

Forman also told about the beginning of the police-encouraged rioting on Aug. 27, 1961. It began when a policeman prevented Constance Lever, an English girl, from leaving the square in a car containing Negroes. The policeman had handed a member of the mob a shotgun to hold on Forman, who was standing with Constance Lever. This man, Forman testified, struck him over the head with the gun, causing him to bleed profusely. Another member of the mob threatened him with a knife holding it opposite his genitals.

A dramatic moment was the reading into the record of depositions made in Havana by Robert F. Williams and his wife, Mabel Williams. They absolved all four defendants of any part in the events that the state calls a kidnapping. They described Mr. and Mrs. Stegall being brought into their front yard by a crowd of Negroes fearful of a Ku Klux Klan invasion. Mrs. Stegall indignantly demanded that Williams lead her and her husband to safety. Williams informed the couple that he could not control the crowd. He turned his back finally and walked into his house. The Stegalls, he said, pressed closely behind him and entered of their own volition.

The phone call, in which Mr. Stegall spoke to Police Chief Mauney, was described as having been made by Mauney, who told Williams: "Robert, you have caused a lot of race trouble in town. Now state troopers are coming and in 30 minutes you will be hanging in the courthouse square."

Weekly Calendar

DETROIT

STRUGGLE OF THE HAZARD, KY., MINERS. Speaker, Richard Tussey, Cleveland unionist active on behalf of mine strikers. Fri., March 13, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Aup. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

NEW YORK

EDWARD SHAW, Socialist Workers nominee for vice president, speaks on The Johnson Administration and Cuba. Fri., March 13, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. \$1. Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

MARCH 20 — Attorney and author Frank Donner discusses An Intelligent Student's Guide to Political Surveillance and Informing.

Trotsky's Permanent Revolution in Theory and Practice. A six-week lecture and discussion series by D. L. Weiss, former SWP candidate for governor of New York. Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. beginning March 15 at 116 University Place. Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

PHILADELPHIA

Hear MARK LANE in A Public Inquiry into the Oswald Case. Wed., March 11, 8:30 p.m. Ethical Society, 1906 Rittenhouse Square. Contrib. \$1.

Prosecutor Vague on Facts In Indiana 'Sedition' Case

New information on the case of James Bingham, Ralph Levitt and Tom Morgan, Indiana University students indicted under a state "subversion" law, has been made available by the Committee to Aid the Bloomington Defendants. The committee's secretary, Paulann Groninger, made a renewed appeal to supporters of civil liberties for support and financial contributions to the committee whose address is P.O. Box 213, Cooper Station, New York, N. Y. 10003.

The following is the text of the statement issued by the committee:

An important legal development occurred recently in the Indiana "subversion" case when Prosecutor Thomas A. Hoadley submitted to the court a legal document, replying to the defense's motion for a bill of particulars, a motion upheld by the judge. Departing from his usual practice, Prosecutor Hoadley was careful not to publicize this legal move, for it brought out a number of points not at all favorable to his prosecution.

Defense Motion

First, Hoadley nowhere referred to the March 25 meeting, for which the defendants were indicted. The motion by the defense attorneys Leonard B. Boudin and Daniel T. Taylor III had requested specific explanation of what the defendants were indicted for, on both the March 25 and the May 2 counts. Hoadley's document only referred to the May 2 count.

Hoadley's failure to mention the March 25 meeting reflects the publicity efforts of the Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students, as well as the legal pressure of the defense attorneys' motion to pin him down to specifics. The wide distribution of the text of Leroy McRae's March 25 speech and of factual materials and comments on the case have made notorious the fact that three students were indicted in Bloomington for attending a campus meeting where a Negro spoke on civil rights. Hoadley's reticence on that subject now indicates he does not feel he can get a conviction on that absurd charge. Yet the indictment still stands.

Pretext for Smear

Second, although the other indictment refers to a specific date, May 2, Hoadley says his case is "not based exclusively upon any one 'meeting' . . . or 'speech'", but upon a vague "totality of events constituting a conspiracy." With no respect for due process of law, Hoadley wishes to drag in activities of the defendants over a period of several years, activities for which no criminal charges have been preferred.

This is a naked admission by the prosecutor that he aims to use the specific indictment as a pretext to smear the defendants in a



Prosecutor Hoadley

political show trial and try to penalize them for nothing else but their political affiliations. This corroborates what CABS has said from the start: that the students are being tried for their political beliefs rather than any concrete illegal acts.

Several other points are brought out in Hoadley's document. He wishes to introduce as evidence testimony by a nosy landlord of what he supposedly overheard by eavesdropping on a private apartment, including an alleged "violent anti-capitalistic speech" by a "person from New York."

Tape Recording

He wishes also to introduce a tape recording of conversations picked up from that same private apartment more than a week after the alleged "crime" of May 2 was committed. He also mentions Jack Barnes, who is midwest organizer of the Young Socialist Alliance. This is the first time the Prosecutor has mentioned a YSA national officer in a legal document.

A big section of the evidence Hoadley wishes to introduce consists, by his own admission, of stolen material. He states in his document that this landlord, one Harold Wilkes, acquired certain pamphlets, etc., from the above-mentioned apartment by "private search and seizure." Wilkes has admitted his act of theft in testimony under oath before the House Un-American Activities Committee . . .

Credit for drawing out these admissions goes to the legal pressure applied by the carefully prepared motion-to-suppress-evidence-illegally-obtained, submitted by the defense attorneys.

State of Indiana

Lastly, Hoadley declared he would confine his arguments to the question of violent overthrow of the State of Indiana. The indictments, however, refer to the violent overthrow of the federal government as well as the state government. The Monroe County Prosecutor obviously feels shaky legal grounds in handling the question of sedition against the federal government. Yet that part of both indictments still stands.

The absurdity of Hoadley's case is amazing. The very idea that three students could conspire to overthrow the government of Indiana by reading such pamphlets as "Too Many Babies?" and "Why Can't Everybody Have a Job," singing the American trade union song "Solidarity" and holding "informal business meetings" is like a sick man's nightmare. Prosecutor Hoadley has demonstrated once again that witch hunts are never based on facts or concrete deeds.

But they can destroy our constitutional freedoms just the same. And the difficult legal battle with the threat of years in prison still remains for the three indicted students.

From the Notebook of An Agitator

A Chaplin Film They Couldn't Kill

By James P. Cannon

[As part of a Charley Chaplin Festival, New York's Plaza Theater has scheduled the film, *Monsieur Verdoux*. Many of those who saw it when it was first shown 17 years ago will want to see it again. Those who were too young, certainly shouldn't miss it. As an assist in that direction, we are reprinting the review of the film by James P. Cannon which we published in our issue of May 10, 1947. The review is also a part of an anthology of Cannon's writing, *Notebook of an Agitator*, which is available from Pioneer Publishers for \$4.]

About a year ago I made a firm resolution to boycott all movies unless the picture has a horse for the hero. And I have stuck to it much better than to some other firm resolutions I have made. My heart was in this one. Hollywood double-crossed me once too often. I am no student or critic of cinematic art, but I know what I don't like — and that is the unappetizing and indigestible compound of tripe and syrup which the movie moguls and bankers dish up to the defenseless, amusement-hungry people in the name of art. And I like it still less to come out of a theater, after a three-hour bout with a double feature, with that let-down, sticky feeling of having been played for a sucker once more.

Hatchet Job

Dominated by this mood, I was fully prepared to remain indifferent even to the announcement of a new movie by Chaplin, until I noticed the hatchet job most of the critics of the big press were doing on the picture. With almost one voice they denounced Chaplin for introducing social criticism — and deadly serious social criticism at that — into a medium which has become almost universally dedicated to the pretification and falsification of life, and maintained that he wasn't even funny anymore.

The vicious over-zealousness with which Chaplin and his new film were being attacked, with the obvious design to "kill" the picture before the mass of people had yet had an opportunity to see it and judge for themselves, aroused suspicions that there might be some ulterior purpose behind the lynching campaign; that the movie critics might be giving a false report of the picture, as most Hollywood pictures give a false report of life.

Word-of-mouth testimony from some friends who have crossed the critics' picket line to examine the picture for themselves gave support to my suspicions, with the result that after more than six months' total abstinence, this reformed movie addict fell off the wagon and went to see *Monsieur Verdoux*. And I thanked my lucky stars for one of the most enjoyable and satisfactory Saturday afternoons I have had in many a day. The critics are definitely misleading the public in their reviews of this picture.

In *Monsieur Verdoux* the supreme master of the screen discards the familiar role of the little tramp with the baggy pants and flopping shoes to play the part of a suavely mannered, impeccably dressed sophisticate. Monsieur Verdoux had been a bank clerk for 25 years or so and was ruthlessly dismissed from his position when the depression came. He had to make a living somehow, so he went into business for himself — the business of marrying women for their money and then disposing of them. He does it all to support his family to which he is deeply and tenderly attached.

It is this theme of the picture, this merciless satire on business in general, and the business of war in particular, that has roused up so much antagonism from



Charles Chaplin

those who do not want the truth to be told to the people. Deprecation of war and its mass killing is deemed to be out of season by the powers that be. The bland insistence of Monsieur Verdoux that he is only doing on a small scale what others do on a big scale and are acclaimed as heroes for, has set the subversive critics after him like bloodhounds on the trail.

And the justification he gives for his crimes — that he has a dependent family — that is too much like the plea offered in self-defense by all social criminals in our decadent society to be accepted as a joke. It is the truth that hurts. I personally know a man who betrayed his socialist principles and entered the service of the war-propaganda machine, and then excused his action on the ground that he had a wife and child to support.

I don't doubt that he shrugged his shoulders, perhaps a bit regretfully, when the bomb fell on Hiroshima and destroyed a whole city-full of families who also had a right to live and to be supported. That is what Monsieur Verdoux did when the police inspector read him the list of a dozen or so women whom he had done away with in the line of business. "After all, one must make a living." Killing is a recognized business in the world as it is organized today.

Macabre Thesis

From the beginning of the picture up to its supremely tragic denouement, this macabre thesis is sustained. How, then, could comedy be introduced without disintegrating the whole structure into farce? The answer is Chaplin. The comedy in this film is unsurpassed, even in the movies of the Chaplin of old. But the comedy never runs away with the picture. The somber theme dominated the comedy from beginning to end.

The best comedy parts are those which depict the numerous and always unsuccessful attempts of Monsieur Verdoux to liquidate one of his numerous wives, a dizzy dame with a raucous, rowdy laugh and a lot of money she had won in a lottery. She simply couldn't be liquidated. Luck was with her every time. The unexpected always happened. This part is played by Martha Raye, and she is terrific. The scene where Chaplin tries to poison her, and the wine glasses get accidentally switched around, and he thinks he has poisoned himself instead, is funny beyond imagining.

Another scene, where Monsieur Verdoux, in the course of business, has finally arranged a wedding with another moneyed widow, after long and arduous preparation, is a masterpiece of comic frustration. It was to be a fashionable wedding. A host of guests were assembled. The preacher had arrived. The bridegroom was nervously waiting, and the bride was descending the staircase. At this point the pro-

ceedings were suddenly and violently disrupted by a loud pistol-shot laugh on the edge of the crowd — the unmistakable laugh of Martha Raye. She had been brought to the party by some friends she picked up who were telling her a "rough" story, the kind she dearly appreciated. The expression on the bridegroom's face when he hears that unmistakable explosive laugh of one of his other wives, and his frantic efforts to extricate himself from the impossible situation must be seen, but may not be described. After all, it's Chaplin.

From there the hilarious comedy fades out like a dying echo and the tragic drama mounts in power and suspense to the final catastrophe. There is the stock market crash in which all the money Monsieur Verdoux has accumulated in the course of his business is wiped out overnight. Through mortgage foreclosures he loses the home which he had provided for his family. He loses the family. He is apprehended by the police, tried, convicted and executed.

But never once does Monsieur Verdoux step out of character, never does he bend an inch to comply with the Hollywood formula. In court after his conviction he admits his crimes but denies his guilt. "All business is ruthless. I only did on a small scale what others do on a big scale." Then he receives his death sentence and, with ominous reference to the prospect of atomic war, ironically bids adieu with the words: "I'll be seeing you all very soon."

Death Cell Scene

In the last scene of all, in the death cell awaiting the end, Monsieur Verdoux remains true to himself. The inevitable priest comes to hear his confession and administer spiritual consolation. It is a vain errand. There was no repentant sinner waiting for him. Verdoux rises from his cot to meet the priest with the sprightly manner of welcoming a master of ceremonies. "Father, what can I do for you?"

He is taken aback. No Hollywood priest was ever received that way before.

"I want you to make peace with your God."

"I am at peace with God. My trouble is with my fellow men."

The priest is obviously losing ground, but he tries again.

"May God have mercy on your soul."

"He ought to. It belongs to him."

After that, there was nothing left for the priest but to start praying aloud in Latin, which he promptly proceeded to do, as the executional squad solemnly surrounded Monsieur Verdoux and marched him, the small-time, unsuccessful murderer to his doom.

The picture had to end on a note of defeat and despair which was implicitly foreshadowed from the beginning. It is not a call to arms, but only a protest and a warning. The lesson is negative, but for all that, powerful in its indictment of contemporary society. And powerful, too, in its indirect indictment of Hollywood, of its sham and falsity, of its betrayal of the artist's sacred duty to hold the mirror up to life and reflect it truly.

Monsieur Verdoux is dead, but in my opinion, his picture will live; the vindictive and mendacious critics will not succeed in "killing" it. Perhaps they have condemned it to a slow start by their brutal lynching bee. But the truth about *Monsieur Verdoux* will be advertised by word of mouth, and it will make its way. It is a great picture and a brave one, too, hurled in the face of the Truman Doctrine and all the war-mongering. The people will receive it gladly, not only in America, but all over the world.

Jack Scott

Vancouver Sun Columnist

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Monday, March 9, 1964

School Boycott Lesson

The recent school boycotts in Boston and Chicago indicate that many Negroes are no longer willing to listen to the go-slow demands of the power structure even when they are voiced by Negro politicians. In both cities the political machines mobilized their resources to stave off the protests which occurred last week.

Toeing the line for the machine of Chicago Democratic Mayor Richard J. Daley was Negro Alderman Kenneth Campbell, who heads an "Assembly to End Prejudice, Injustice and Poverty." A good measure of this group's commitment to the fight against these social evils is the fact that it spent days before the boycott ringing doorbells to agitate against the protest, trying to impose no-boycott pledges upon Chicago's Negro citizens.

The action of these "Dr. Thomases" was rejected decisively by the Negro people. Because of the official resistance, boycott leader Lawrence Landry expected only 100,000 and Campbell claimed, "They will fall far short of that." But more than 172,000 out of a Negro enrollment of about 230,000 stayed out of school Feb. 25. Schools in Campbell's ward were 90 per cent empty.

In Massachusetts the local machine attempted to sabotage the boycott planned for Feb. 26 through the medium of Negro State Attorney General Edward W. Brooke. He said that boycott organizers could be fined up to \$50 for each pupil "induced" to stay away from school. But the Negro community in Boston was unmoved in its determination to protest the School Committee which had proved deaf to over a year of integration demands.

Over 20,500 students were absent in the first successful boycott in that city. This is 7,000 more than the total Negro school population and indicates some measure of support by white students to the Negroes' protest, despite the fact that School Superintendent William Orenberger hypocritically asserted that the boycott served "to alienate the colored and white children in our schools."

The 'Literacy' Voting Curb

One particularly shabby method of denying minority groups their civil rights is the literacy requirement for voting. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens from Puerto Rico or of Mexican descent are barred from the polls on the grounds that they do not read English even though they may be fully literate in their native language.

Therefore it is welcome to see a fight such as the one being made against the New York state literacy requirement by Mrs. Martha Cardona, a 40-year-old mother of three who came to New York City from Puerto Rico in 1948. She holds that as a regular reader of Spanish-language periodicals her knowledge and understanding of government is at least equal to that of the average New Yorker. She demands that the Board of Elections register her as a qualified voter or provide her with a literacy test in Spanish.

New York City Councilman Paul O'Dwyer, Mrs. Cardona's attorney, estimates that 250,000 Puerto Ricans in the state of New York are now disenfranchised because of their inability to read English. He points out that 19 states employ the literacy requirement and in every single case the requirement is aimed at specific ethnic groups.

In asking the New York State Supreme Court to uphold Mrs. Cardona, O'Dwyer argued that the literacy requirement contradicts the constitutional right to vote. He noted that the federal government sanctions Spanish as a second language in the schools and other public institutions of Puerto Rico.

The fight to eliminate the literacy tests should be supported by every one concerned with civil rights and a free ballot. Every adult American is entitled to a vote regardless of race or language.

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. Temple 1-6135.

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

MILWAUKEE. 150 E. Juneau Ave.

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

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

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OAKLAND-BERKELEY. Socialist Workers Party and Militant Labor Forum: 592 Lake Park Ave., Oakland. Phone 444-8012. Marxist literature available: write to Labor Book Shop at above address.

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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.

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"SILENT MARCH" IN NEW YORK

Puerto Ricans Demand End to School Bias

By Adam Knox

NEW YORK — Members of the Puerto Rican community asserted their determination to press the fight for school integration and quality education in a *Marcha Silenciosa* of several thousand persons Sunday, March 1. Some 10,000 people, according to the top estimate of march leader Gilberto Gerena-Valentin, walked from City Hall in Manhattan across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Board of Education building to raise the demands which the Negro community has been pressing for some time.

The Puerto Ricans entering the struggle raise much more concrete slogans than the Negro people did when they started from scratch. The experience of the black freedom fighters paved the way for the Puerto Ricans of New York to come forth with a richly developed set of demands which their picket signs illustrated.

A majority of the signs were in Spanish. They ranged from "We Demand an End to the Barriers" to "Traditional I.Q. Tests Are Obsolete — We Demand Retesting at P.S. No. 61." They hit the school problem from many sides: "Every Time You Condemn a Child to a Vocational School, You Condemn a Family to Poverty"; "We Want Teachers, Not Babysitters"; "We Demand the Teaching of Puerto Rican History in



Wagner

Pickets asked: How Long?

the Schools"; "We Want a Full-Time Education"; "Mayor Wagner, How Long Can We Wait?" and "Integration in the Secondary and Higher Schools Immediately."

They pointed out the fact that although there were 200,000 Puerto Rican children, there were but 200 Puerto Rican teachers. They demanded Spanish-speaking teachers and the appointment of a Puerto Rican to the Board of Education.

The marchers congregated at

City Hall and by 2 p.m. their line stretched almost completely around the square block in which City Hall is located.

Among the participating Puerto Rican groups were the National Association for Puerto Rican Rights, the Council of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Organizations of the Lower East Side and the East Harlem Rent Strike.

Non-Puerto Rican civil rights groups showed their solidarity. Represented in the demonstration were various chapters of the NAACP, CORE and other Negro groups which support the fight of the Puerto Ricans.

"What About Voting?"

There were sideline critics, too.

A sun-tanned white stood talking to a harassed Puerto Rican picket captain. "You aren't going to get anywhere with these marches. Why don't you vote the school board out? Vote Republican, Communist, anything to change it?" While obviously disagreeing with the belittling of the value of the demonstration, the picket captain nodded with regard to the vote: "We're looking forward to do just that."

He was asked if the Puerto Rican leaders had been to see the representatives of the School Board with their demands. Yes, but the Board seemed to be more antagonistic every time they discussed.

Following the flags of the U.S. and Puerto Rico — the demonstrators filed across the Brooklyn Bridge to the Board of Education. There they were addressed by leaders of the groups supporting the march.

One speaker noted in Spanish, "The March of Silence is a symbol of the unity of the Puerto Rican and Negro community in the fight against the discrimination which corrupts American society." A resounding "Bravo!" interrupted the silence.

Enemy Organized

Others decried the "status crowd" and declared solidarity with the freedom fighters all across the continent. Rev. Milton Galamison, head of the Citywide Committee for Integrated Schools, discussed the opposition to school integration: "The enemy is organized; the enemy is carrying petitions into the restaurants and the supermarkets; the enemy is trying to keep your children in inferior schools, in second-class jobs, in slum housing."

Loud applause greeted Gerena-Valentin as he got up to speak. He said: "The people want to see a change made. We ought to start in the Board of Education." He enumerated the injustices that face the Puerto Rican people in New York. "We can vote in Puerto Rico, but when we come to the United States we have to pass literacy tests!" [See editorial, page 4.]

He declared support for another school boycott. Along with some of the other speakers, he urged those present to join the March on Albany which is scheduled March 10. Among the bills now in the legislature, he noted, were two that "are aimed directly at the Puerto Rican and Negro people." One would allow police to stop and search anyone on the street; the other would allow them to enter apartments with warrants without first giving notice.

As this reporter left the gathering, he passed a white woman pushing a baby-carriage with a little boy walking alongside. The boy was curious about so many people being there. "They're demonstrating for integration," his mother told him.

"What's that?" he asked. And she made a serious effort to answer him. It left the impression that the continuing demonstrations are having a good educational effect on people.

... Social Workers Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

the highest paid maintenance workers, licensed electricians, licensed plumbers and carpenters get paid \$75 a week for a 40-hour week. (The agencies hire many skilled Negroes and Puerto Ricans who can't get into the craft unions covering their trades.) The lowest grade maintenance workers get \$60 a week. The lowest grade clerical workers get \$1.50 an hour. Professional social workers, with an ad-

vanced degree in their field that takes two years of full-time graduate study, start at \$5,700 a year. They get a \$5-a-week increase each year to \$8,300 after 11 years.

The union is especially insistent on a 35-hour week for everyone. Now the hours range from 35 for clerical workers to 44 hours for some of the non-professional staff.

The union demands impartial arbitration of safety conditions, working conditions and work load. Now these are all arbitrarily determined by management.

The union is seeking a union shop. The agencies insist instead on a 30-day escape clause which permits union members to leave the union during the 30-day period at the end of each contract. This would give the agencies a chance to weaken the union periodically.

A Professional Practices Committee has been set up at union headquarters to handle any emergency services needed by clients of the struck agencies.

Agencies Fight Back

The agencies have callously refused to use these emergency services. They have tried instead to breach the strikers' ranks by contacting the individual workers directly. They have attempted to exploit the issue of the clients' need for services to turn public sympathy against the strikers by running newspaper ads calling the union irresponsible. The union does not have the funds to answer.

Some 14 institutions are being picketed 24 hours a day. The closed offices are also being picketed. The strikers have adopted some of the tactics of the civil rights movement. A 26-hour sit-in at the executive offices of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies was carried out. When a truck tried to cross one of the picket lines, nine pickets, five of them social workers sat down in front of the truck. They were arrested.

The union is in need of financial help. The New York City Central Labor Council has given some money and some union locals have helped. Individual social workers have made contributions. The union, which is able to pay only limited strike benefits welcomes aid from the public. Contributions may be sent to: Social Agency Employees Union, 149 West 28th St., New York, N.Y.

N.Y. Rights Groups Hit 'No-Knock' Law

NEW YORK — Gov. Rockefeller's "no-knock" and "stop-and-frisk" laws are meeting with opposition from civil rights and civil liberties forces.

The New York NAACP has announced a campaign to convince the governor to repeal the two bills which were approved by the state legislature last month and just signed into law by him.

Leaders of CORE have joined the fight against the two bills and so have some 20 other civil rights groups and spokesmen.

The bills are part of Rockefeller's so-called "anti-crime" package. The "stop-and-frisk" law gives cops the sweeping right to stop, question and search any person they "reasonably suspect" of having committed a crime or simply planning to do so. Negroes and Puerto Ricans, long the victims of police prejudice, will be particularly hard hit with the cops given such added power.

Under the "no-knock law," cops with a search warrant would be given the power to break into the home of a suspect unannounced.

The bills have been strongly condemned as a dangerous curb on individual rights by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, whose director, Clark Foreman challenges the constitutionality of the measures.

Both bills have been denounced by the State Bar Association's Committee on Penal Law and Criminal Procedures.

The NAACP has called for demonstrations to win repeal of the bills. Its Political Action Committee will stage a Harlem street rally against the bills March 7 at 125th St. and Seventh Ave.

Md. Cops Use Dogs, Hoses On Student Demonstrators

MARCH 2 — Despite beatings, hosing, attacks by vicious police dogs and mass arrests, 300 Negro college students in Princess Anne, Md., are standing fast in their determination to desegregate the Jim-Crow town's restaurants and lunch counters.

When the students from predominantly Negro Maryland State College began their desegregation demonstrations against the town's five restaurants and lunch counters Feb. 22 they set off a chain of events which swiftly built up to a major battle.

The students were attacked by state troopers who used two police dogs to break up the demonstration. Four students were arrested, one charged with assault and the others with failure to obey police and resisting arrest. Demonstrations were continued the next day, after police had refused to drop charges against the students.

The third day of demonstrations two of the leaders, John Wilson and Rev. Addison Cash, a minister studying at the college, were arrested. They were released on bail. Before the arrests, a 48 hour truce was arranged.

That night, as if in answer to the truce, a cross was burned near the campus and a bomb was exploded in the front yard of Leon Gates, a clerk at the college.

When demonstrations were resumed Feb. 26 student marchers were met by firemen and state troopers. Firehoses were turned on the students to drive them back. They sat down and folded their arms. Police attacked with night-

sticks and dogs. Bricks and rocks were reported thrown at the police and one was said to have been burned by acid intended for the dogs.

By the end of the day, 62 Negroes were injured, four of them seriously enough to be hospitalized. One suffered a possible skull fracture. Fourteen of the injuries were dog bites. There were 28 arrests.

The students answered these attacks by beginning an economic boycott of Princess Anne and by increasing their demands. They insisted on voluntary desegregation of the lunch counters or failing that, a commitment on the part of state legislators to press for the inclusion of Somerset County under the state's Public Accommodation Law. They demanded passage of a town public accommodations ordinance, the hiring of a Negro town policeman and the hiring of a specified number of Negroes by all the businesses in town.

The fight between the recently integrated college of 600 students (60 of them white) and the segregated town of Princess Anne with a population of 1,300 began last summer. Princess Anne along with the rest of the Eastern Shore of Maryland is exempt from the state's Public Accommodation Law which was passed last year.

Sit-ins last summer led to the establishment of a biracial council. Students understood that negotiations with the council had led to an agreement to desegregate the restaurants. When the agreement was not honored the demonstrations began.

South Africa Tortures Defendants in Notorious 'Anti-Communist' Case

The trial of Dr. Neville Alexander and ten others who face the death penalty for alleged violation of South Africa's fascist-like "anti-Communist" laws, was abruptly postponed at the end of December; it was scheduled to resume in February in Cape Town. The defendants, who have been held since last July, include seven men and four women.

The case has been given sensational treatment in the South African press, but has been given the silent treatment throughout the rest of the world except in West Germany where Dr. Alexander, a brilliant scholar, is well known from his student days there.

The defendants are accused of the "political crime" of opposing the racist policy of apartheid. The specific charge is "sabotage," although no act is alleged beyond the distribution of pamphlets. An "alternative" charge is "furthering the aims of Communism."

In an effort to convict them, the prosecution has relied mostly on standard books and pamphlets by such authors as Lenin and Marx found in Dr. Alexander's library.

Even the behavior of the prosecution's witnesses demonstrates what an atmosphere of terror reigns in South Africa. A stool pigeon, stumbling over discrepancies, confessed in court that his evidence was offered under instruction from the police. Other witnesses refused to testify. Three Negroes who declined to take the oath were punished by being placed under charges of "sabo-

tage." Had they given evidence "to the satisfaction of the court" they would have been "indemnified."

The South African magazine *Drum* described the use of torture on one of the defendants in the Alexander case: "Solomons . . . told the Cape Supreme Court on Dec. 10 that he had been hit in the face five times, kned in the stomach about seven times and then painfully sat on by Detective Sergeant Van Wyk of the Cape Security Police."

"Solomons said the torture started after he had refused to tell Van Wyk where a photostat machine was hidden. . . .

"Solomons said that, before the torture started, Detective Sergeant Oliver had told him 'all that you read in the newspapers about torture is true and we will use it on you.'"

A publication called *Liberation*, alleged to have been edited by Dr. Alexander, was introduced by the state as evidence. One of the articles, read into the court record, described the use of torture by South African police and compared it to French behavior in Algeria.

Colin Legum, in the Feb. 2 London *Observer*, mentions six other witch-hunt trials going on in South Africa at this time: "This is by no means a complete list," he adds. "Nor have I mentioned the cases of violence on the part of the authorities against those suspected of working for the violent overthrow of the State."

In Germany student associations have rallied to the support of Dr. Alexander. More than 1,000 West German students signed a petition calling on United Nations Secretary General U Thant to intervene in the case. Miss Irmgard Bolle, secretary of the West German Special Committee for Matters Concerning Dr. Alexander, who has appealed for financial help and is conducting the defense, said that the response has been good among German schools.

SNCC Petitions Att'y General to Drop Case

New Conviction in Albany, Ga., Case

MACON, Ga. — An Albany, Ga., civil rights leader was sentenced to three years probation on perjury charges here Feb. 28.

The woman, Mrs. Elza Jackson, recording secretary of the Albany Movement, was found guilty by a federal jury here Feb. 24.

The jury deliberated for 40 minutes before returning a guilty verdict against Mrs. Jackson, who was accused of lying before a federal grand jury investigating a boycott called against a white grocer.

She and five other Negroes and a white girl were charged with lying in telling the grand jury they were not present or could not recall having been present at a meeting when the boycott was discussed.

Perjury Charge

The others indicted for perjury and tried are: Slater King, Albany Movement president and the Reverend Samuel B. Wells, both sentenced to a year and a day in prison; Thomas C. Chatmon and Robert Thomas, both placed on five years probation; and Joni Rabinowitz, a field worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), now a student at Antioch College in Ohio, given a sentence of four and a half years in the custody of the Attorney General who may either place her in an institution or put her on probation.

All the convictions have been appealed.

NEW YORK — The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has appealed for aid in circulating petitions to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy demanding that his office:

(1) Confess error before the U.S. Court of Appeals and support a motion by the defendants to reverse the convictions and dismiss the indictments.

(2) Direct the U.S. Attorneys in the South to examine their jury lists and to apply to District Courts for the immediate compilation of lists representing a true racial cross-section of the population.

Until the indictments in these cases, it was not generally known that in the South the exclusion of Negroes from federal juries is as common as it is in state courts. The jury list from which both grand and trial juries were drawn in Macon was composed of less than six per cent Negroes and not a single one of the 72 jurors who have sat on the trial juries in these cases was a Negro. Yet over



CONVICTED ALBANY MOVEMENT LEADERS. Left to right are Slater King, acting president of movement; Rev. Sammie B. Wells, chairman of voter registration drive; Thomas Chatmon, chairman of voter-education committee; Robert Thomas, community leader; Mrs. Elza (Goldie) Jackson, recording secretary.

34 per cent of the adult population of the area are Negroes!

The petitions to the Attorney General also point out that his office at the very least should have consented to a transfer of the trial or to waiver of a jury. "Your failure to take these steps forced the defendants to trial by all white juries drawn from an improper jury list in a hostile community. Thus, instead of guaranteeing equal administration of justice in the federal courts, you have adopted the racist practices of the southern states."

Petitions may be obtained from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Room 902, New York, N. Y. 10010 and should be returned by May 1.

In the federal indictments against the Albany Movement leaders and the young SNCC field worker, the U.S. Department of Justice conducted the most vigorous prosecution effort yet seen in the history of the civil rights movement. According to U.S. Attorney Floyd Buford in his prosecution of the Albany leaders, a force of "at least 34" FBI agents were sent in; there was a grand jury investigation and indictments charging conspiracy and/or perjury were brought against nine people.

Charges against the defendants

were brought by a white man who claimed that the Albany Movement had picketed his store because of his service on a federal jury which had ruled against a Negro. Actually, the pickets had demanded the employment of Negroes as clerks in the store. The store owner appealed to the Justice Department and help was promptly sent. This shows that the federal government is ready to prosecute when it wants to, when it feels it can get a conviction, and when it is politically expedient to do so, as it is in an election year.

Picket Racists In Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 1 — Fifteen students and older persons today picketed the national convention of the "National States Rights Party," a segregationist group which was meeting at the Sheraton Hotel. Present also at the rightist gathering were W. J. Simmons, head of the White Citizens Councils of America and self-styled fuhrer, George Lincoln Rockwell of the American Nazi Party. The meeting was attended by several hundred persons, no small number in storm trooper uniforms.

The pickets included members of CORE, the Louisville Unitarians for Social Action, the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Students for Social Action, a local student SNCC-affiliate. They picketed for two hours and got much support from passers by on the sunny Sunday afternoon.

Target of Abuse

As the pickets marched, uniformed storm troopers took pictures of the pickets and harassed them with the usual cries of "Nigger-lovers," "Communists," and "Hey Girl, Are You Sure You're White!" Some pickets were spat upon and shoved by storm troopers.

Another incident occurred when the NSRP refused to honor the press card of Sam Shirah, a native white southerner and SNCC field secretary who was covering the meeting for the *Southern Patriot*. He was informed that only "Americans" were allowed in the meeting.

The pickets carried signs saying: "Racists Killed 6,000,000 Jews; Don't Let It Happen Here," "No Nazis In Louisville," "No Dough To Let Jim Crow Grow," and "This Is Louisville — Not Mississippi."

... Questions on Oswald Case

(Continued from Page 1)

at least partially aired when Mrs. Marina Oswald dismissed the lawyer and business agent obtained for her by the Secret Service.

Her former attorney, John Thorne, who has been threatening to sue her for breach of contract disclosed that he had been given complete power of attorney by her and that she had signed a contract which he admitted had not been translated into her native Russian.

According to press revelations, the agreement gave the lawyer ten per cent of all her income resulting from the case, 15 per cent to her business agent and, completely unexplainedly, ten per cent to her brother-in-law, Robert Oswald.

Personal Appearances?

This income was to be derived from the sale of movie, television and book rights on her "story."

It was even planned to have her make personal appearances at movie houses where a film supposed to be made in Italy about the case would be shown.

A further indication of the elements involved in the handling of the revelations concerning this case came with disclosures about

various copies being peddled of the photo of Lee Oswald that appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine and, on the same day as *Life* appeared, on the front pages of all papers subscribing to the Associated Press. This was the picture which purports to show Oswald holding a gun and what is said to be a copy of *The Militant*. (Southern papers described it as a copy of *The Worker*. Dallas police originally described the photo as including both papers.)

Now the March 2 issue of *Newsweek* reveals that *Life* bought an allegedly exclusive copy of the photo from Mrs. Marina Oswald's business agent for something in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Meanwhile a reporter for the *Detroit Free Press* obtained what was described as a packet of such photos from some other unnamed source for \$200. It was one of these that was turned over to AP by the *Free Press*.

While *Life* was talking of suing the *Free Press*, Oswald's mother was talking of suing *Life* on the ground that the photo may be a fake with her son's head imposed on someone else's body. "The legs do look very long," she said.

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Anti-Cold-War Notables Speak Out

Protest Treatment of Soviet Jews

By Charles Taylor

A variety of cold war voices have seized upon the death sentences meted out to Soviet Jews and others for "economic crimes" as an opportunity to intensify their anti-Soviet propaganda. Meanwhile prominent figures here and abroad who are not party to such propaganda have also spoken out against the treatment of Jews by the Soviet regime. Most prominent of these are British pacifist and philosopher Bertrand Russell, U.S. playwright Arthur Miller, scientist and A-bomb foe Linus Pauling, and Dr. Otto Nathan, economist and executor of the estate of the late Albert Einstein.

Before making a public statement on the issue, Lord Russell wrote a number of personal letters to Soviet Premier Khrushchev. Last spring he wrote a letter to the Soviet paper, *Izvestia*, which refused to publish it. In that letter, which he later made public, Russell declared:

"I am a passionate opponent of the cold war and of all attempts to increase hostility, exploit differences and add to the terrible dangers facing mankind today... I hope, therefore, that you will appreciate the spirit in which I am writing is one of concern for the Soviet people and not one of condemnation."

"During the last years of Stalin's life," Russell wrote, "Soviet Jews were deprived of their national culture and means of expressing it. Leading intellectuals were imprisoned or executed by extra-legal practices which have since been condemned."

"I am concerned that the process of restitution of Jewish cultural activities has been slow. The journals and theaters of much smaller groups are more plentiful and closure of synagogues and shortage of religious facilities have impaired the Jews in the pursuit of their beliefs."

"I am troubled that there should be articles in Soviet journals of many republics expressing hostility to Jewish people as such. I understand the objection to economic offenses such as were expressed in the letter to me by Premier Khrushchev. I feel, however, that the death penalty upon the citizens accused of these crimes harms the Soviet Union and allows those hostile to her unjustly to malign her."

"I consider the fact that 60 per cent of those executed are Jews to be gravely disturbing. I fervently hope that nothing will take place which obliges us to believe that Jews are receiving unjust treatment in contradiction to the law and that those who break Soviet laws concerning economic offenses will be rehabilitated instead of being put to death."

The letter by Russell, Pauling, Nathan, and nine other public figures, dated Dec. 2 and made public Feb. 18, declared in part:

"We are deeply troubled that there should be articles in Soviet journals... using terms such as 'vermin,' 'blood suckers,' 'parasites,' in combination with caricatures of Jews..."

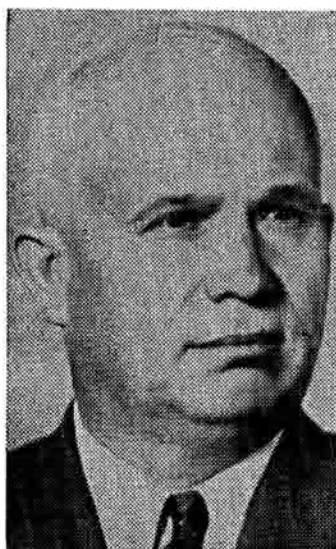
"We consider the fact that 60 per cent of those executed are Jews to be gravely disturbing..."

"We are troubled by the prison sentences imposed for the preparation of unleavened bread."

"We believe that the freedom to practice religious views should be allowed Jews of the Soviet Union in the same manner that such freedom is granted people of other religious persuasions."

Arthur Miller made his views on the question known in a speech in New York last fall, the text of which appeared in the November 1963 issue of *Israel Horizons*. Miller declared:

"I speak as one who wants peace with Russia; more, I want



Khrushchev

friendship between our two countries. I think it is time to put as frankly as possible what I think can become an important source of friction between us. So I address myself here to a great nation and a valorous people, and not as one who is unaware that perhaps the most explosive race struggle in the world is taking place right here in America, and right now, as I speak."

Stating that he did not think the Soviet leaders were consciously anti-Semitic, Miller continued:

"It is no good writing these vile things in your press about Jews, and then denying that you are practicing anti-Semitism. An anti-Semite who cannot conceive he is an anti-Semite is an anti-Semite if he does anti-Semitic things. You say that in fact a large portion of the criminals you have caught happen to be Jews. I am not prepared to deny or affirm it, but I do affirm that you have made a point that they are Jews, and this is anti-Semitism."

De Gaulle Declares Policy: Armed Intervention in Africa

The deGaulle regime served notice Feb. 26 that its naked colonial intervention to reimpose it Gabon puppet Leon Mba on Feb. 19 was intended to set a pattern for its policy in former French colonies in Africa. Alain Peyrefitte, Minister of Information, said France was prepared to intervene at any time "to maintain political stability."

Seeking to justify the French move, Peyrefitte declared: "It is not possible that a few men carrying machine guns be left free to seize a presidential palace at any time."

What he does not say, is that France herself has long ruled her African territories with "a few men carrying machine guns" and that in order to uphold Mba, whose suppression of all opposition made him very much unloved in Gabon, they had to return these "few men."

Peyrefitte said that France would "meet her obligations" with regard to "mutual defense" pacts with the former French territories. As the O.A.S. pact says in relation to the Latin American states, these treaties provide that the imperialist country may respond to "requests" for help against "internal and external threats." The nature of the "threat" is the same in both hemispheres: hungry peoples demanding control over the resources of their countries.

The following statement was issued by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International Feb. 20: "DeGaulle's intervention in the internal affairs of Gabon through the use of French troops in Libreville yesterday is a brazen revival of gunboat diplomacy."

"The swiftness with which French imperialism reacted to the attempt in Gabon at a military coup d'etat, casts a most revealing light on the servile character of the government of Léon Mba. This is obviously a puppet government entrusted with preserving French exploitation of Gabon's rich mineral and forest wealth at the expense of the Gabonese people. "As justification for this brazen intervention in the internal af-



De Gaulle

fairs of a country granted its independence in 1960, reference is made to the recent British intervention in the internal affairs of Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya where imperialist troops were employed to bolster the neo-colonialist governments there.

"The question that is really raised, however, is whether the use of French troops in Gabon, following the use of British troops in East Africa, does not signify a new phase in imperialist domination of Africa — the resumption of naked use of force on an increased scale."

"Another grave question is implied — if France and Britain can get away with it in Africa, won't this encourage the U.S. to try it in Cuba and elsewhere in Latin America?"

"Freedom fighters in Africa and throughout the world must consider the ominous implications of these recent imperialist power plays, and step up their own struggles accordingly."

"Get the imperialist troops out of Gabon, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya!"

"Hands off the newly independent countries!"

World Events

Zanzibar Labor Backs Gov't

In Zanzibar, the two trade union federations have united into a single organization, the Federation of Revolutionary Trade Unions, and expressed full support for the revolutionary government. The sultan's former palace has been renamed the "People's Palace" and the 30-member Revolutionary Council meets there.

An example of the popular measures of the new government, was the taking over of the "Sir Taya-bali Karimjee Club" on Jan. 28. This exclusive club was opened in 1959 by the big East African capitalist of the same name. It has been renamed the "People's Club" and workers, peasants and students can now freely enjoy its luxury recreational facilities.

Close Off Congo Province

The reactionary regime of Kasavubu-Adoula in the Congo took the extraordinary step Feb. 20 of forbidding all travel to the province of Kwilu, where guerrilla forces under the leadership of Lumumbist Pierre Mulele recently have scored victories.

For the past month a special pass was required to enter the province. Now even these special passes have been suspended. Apparently the neocolonialist regime is afraid to let even the most thoroughly screened persons enter the guerrilla-held territory lest they help the freedom fighters.

Works of Trotsky in Italy

Books by Leon Trotsky are now circulating extensively in Italy and publishing houses are bringing out new editions quite frequently. Even the official publishing house of the Italian Commu-

nist party brought out a general volume last year that included writings by Zinoviev, Bukharin and Stalin, and the complete text of Trotsky's *Lessons of October*.

Samonà and Savelli, a leftist publishing house, has just issued an Italian translation of Trotsky's *Lenin* in a beautifully bound edition with a cover reproduction of a Diego Rivera mural, showing Lenin and Trotsky. Sugar, a Milan publishing house, will release an edition of *Terrorism and Communism* very soon. And a new edition of the *History of the Russian Revolution* is expected to appear before the end of the year.

Lenin was presented to the public at a Feb. 5 meeting in Rome, sponsored by Samonà and Savelli. A large crowd, made up mostly of young Communists and left-wing Socialists, heard Livio Maitan, member of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International, speak on the book.

Cypriotes Want Britain Out

With the arrival of fresh contingents of British troops Feb. 20, anti-British and anti-American sentiment rose to a new pitch in Cyprus.

The semi-official newspaper *Phileleftheros*, in an editorial entitled "The Imperialists," made a biting comparison between the speeches of Soviet representative Federenko and U.S. representative Stevenson at the Security Council on the Cyprus situation. "Each word of the former," said the editors, "is the voice of justice itself, while each word of the latter is the voice of the voracious imperialist appetites."

The attitude of the majority of Greek Cypriotes appears to have been summed up succinctly by Dr.

Aristotle Dervis, leader of the Opposition: "It will be necessary, sooner or later, for Great Britain to evacuate its bases."

Socialist Party in Quebec

A French Canadian socialist party, Le Parti Socialiste du Quebec, was founded recently at a two-stage convention attended by 150 delegates in November and December 1963. This new formation reflects the rising national consciousness of the French Canadian people. The new party has not been recognized by the leadership of the labor-based New Democratic Party, although the NDP itself has no Quebec branch. Many elements in the NDP officialdom are hostile or indifferent to the strong national sentiments in Quebec. Nevertheless, English-speaking NDPers in Montreal have affiliated with the PSQ.

The PSQ is also significant as the first labor-oriented party to enter politics in Quebec, which has been the scene of Canada's most militant and explosive strike struggles in the recent past.

Juliao on Crisis in Brazil

Francisco Juliao, the well-known leader of the Brazilian Peasant League, declared in Havana Feb. 21, that a "prerevolutionary situation" has opened in Brazil "due to the growing radicalism of the masses and the worsening situation in the country."

The Brazilian socialist made the statement at a press conference while on a several-weeks visit to Cuba.

Juliao also said that if the present government does not succeed in solving the acute financial crisis, there might well be no elections next year.

... Johnson on Vietnam War

(Continued from Page 1)

administration is divided over what policy course to take as an alternative to the bankrupt course now being followed. So the hints of expanding the war are intended to test out public opinion. How would the American people take the idea? Would Washington's allies go along with it? Would Moscow and Peking back up Hanoi? Would the North Vietnamese leaders themselves try to influence the southern guerrillas to "cool off" when faced with the threat of U.S. attack?

The warlike talk puts "psychological pressure" on the enemy; it supposedly bucks up the morale of the South Vietnamese puppets and the GI's facing bullets, bombs and a hostile population in the cities and jungles of Southeast Asia. And in an election year it shows domestic critics that the administration is not "soft on Communism."

But the response hasn't been very favorable. By Feb. 26 officials were "downgrading" Johnson's warning. The reason? "Barring a 'grave crisis' in South Vietnam, it appears that President Johnson will be very reluctant to allow any build-up of troops in Vietnam, or to risk an expanded war," wrote Robert R. Brunn in the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Both actions are seen by the Democrats as political liabilities. The Korean war is much in the minds of Johnson aides at this point."

That was the most unpopular war in U.S. history. Obviously, the pollsters let Johnson know that

getting the American people into another such war wouldn't win votes.

Nevertheless, the danger remains that the powers that be might expand the war into a Korean-type conflict or even into a Cuban-blockade-type crisis, with the danger of nuclear confrontation between great powers. "Barring a 'grave crisis,'" said Brunn. Yet every reliable report from South Vietnam indicates the political and military crises of the pro-U.S. regime grows graver every day.

On Feb. 27 Secretary of State Rusk repeated the warnings of a "dangerous game" to North Vietnam, but ruled out immediate expansion of the war. He called that "a question for the future."

And Johnson in his Feb. 29 press conference, while he deplored all the speculation about military moves in the Vietnam crisis — speculation he himself had set off — repeated the ominous phrases about "a dangerous game" and said he had meant just what he said when he first used the phrase.

The bipartisan politicians got into this mess in Vietnam without ever consulting the American people. They realize more war will not be popular either here or abroad. Even their European allies are cool to the idea of expanding the war; one can imagine how public opinion in Asia and other ex-colonial areas would react. Still, U.S. imperialism has staked its prestige in this fight. It has tried before, when its interests were at stake, to frighten opponents by rattling the H-bomb.

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 Southern Booster

The South
Besides circulating the several copies you send me and simultaneously urging other interested persons to subscribe, I and a couple of friends occasionally are able to each chip in on a subscription for someone else whom we think would profit from receiving

the paper. We find that *The Militant* is great for challenging the right-wing and Establishment clichés about the two-party hoax, U.S. foreign policy, etc., and driving home truth about the civil rights struggle and other mass social movements.

This tends in a miraculous way to counteract the effect of the press, TV, etc., which dulls revolt and demoralizes liberal and radical students, if that is all they are exposed to.

I can't say whether you've received a lot of new subscriptions as a result of our distributing the paper, but believe me, the ideas and analysis contained in *The Militant* have been getting circulated and are paying off in influence among students in the peace and civil rights movement down here, many of whom are rapidly losing their illusions about working inside the Democratic party, the Johnson administration's role, etc., and becoming convinced as to the necessity of mobilizing masses of people to get out and struggle for their rights, the leading role the working class must play and so on.

We are constantly working for wider circulation of *The Militant* and its ideas, and we hope to have continually increasing success.

Reader

Fan Mail

Winston, Montana

Here is my renewal and with it goes my eternal gratitude to all those who make such a fine paper possible; thanks to George Lavan who sent me that first sample copy; to you Art Preis for dedicating so much of your life to such a good cause and your headline, "Our Single Precious Commodity — The Truth," is so timely; to you Tom Kerry; Fred Halstead and all the rest to whom never have so many owed so much to so few.

Joseph Hunsinger

From Indiana Defendant

New Haven, Conn.

As a defendant in the Bloomington "subversion" case and one who is quite familiar with the publicity and news coverage that has appeared in relation to this crucial civil liberties issue, I would like to comment on the treatment accorded the case by *The Militant*.

It has been gratifying, to say the least, to read *The Militant's* coverage of the case. The quality of the articles has been first rate, factually accurate at every turn. But more than that, *The Militant* takes sides: for the Bloomington students and the cause of freedom of speech and against Prosecutor Hoadley, his witch-hunt tactics and the reactionary views and social forces which he represents.

Of course, it is only natural for *The Militant* to take this stance. I know that it has always been its tradition to support just causes, both of civil liberties and in every phase of social life. But I and all those involved in the defense are grateful for this fine newspaper's coverage. I would only ask that *The Militant* continue this course, as many of the most difficult hurdles still lie ahead.

On March 20, our attorneys will argue, in the Bloomington court, our contentions that the Indiana "anti-subversion" act is unconstitutional and that much of the prosecution's "evidence" should be dismissed because it was illegally obtained.

We are hopeful that victory

over the witch hunt will be achieved at that time. If not, the next stage will be the jury trial in Bloomington. And that trial will be of interest and significance to all Americans.

Keep up the good work.

Ralph Levitt

On the Need for Change

Santa Cruz, Calif.

Maybe I'm an American citizen by birth, but I'm ashamed of the way my fellow Americans have and have not acted against the evils that have existed and do exist in our lives. Today I hear grumbling all around me but people have no picture in their minds of how we could live in a socialized society. So while we can blame them for their lack of action in the past, we can't condemn them because we have not made them understand how they could live in a socialist society where everything would be owned and operated by all for the benefit of all.

The working class operates everything now for the profit of the 60 families that own everything including us. Our population is divided by only one line: capitalist owners five percent and working class 95 percent — that's us. And it shouldn't really require too much to reverse the power picture.

There is much admiration for the reversals in Russia, China and Cuba and whether people understand fully or not, they better be ready to decide as our economy is forcing a decision in the not too distant future. Thousands of well-meaning groups of "do-gooders" want changes, but by way of reforms — or "gradual changes for betterment" for human rights and welfare, but they do not affect the cause of all the evils in our society.

It is not a matter of electing "honest" men to office that will make the needed changes, as that only prolongs the delay in the "change of system" from a profit motive to a Cooperative Commonwealth.

Under a socialized economy of abundance, every present evil can and will be wiped out. Space is too short here, but there are thousands of descriptive books, pamphlets, and picture magazines at the *Militant* book shops and libraries. Wake up and read 'em.

China is flooding the world in 47 languages; and short wave is also very educational on all the aspects of how "one world can live like one big family." The U.S. is the biggest drawback to the success of workers democracy, because of our extremely wealthy imperialists. But they will prove

extremely weak when the workers and soldiers decide on the change.

Let's let the theoreticians worry about the confusion in the red bloc, but give us the correct tactics (from world experiences) how we in this country can discard our chains and dispose of the American rat race and set up a really free and happy international family.

H.C.B.

More on Fund Raising

San Diego, Calif.

Just finished reading the "Letters from our Readers" page in the Feb. 17th issue.

To some extent I agree with our Los Angeles friends about our fund raising activities. But let's not forget that these social doings not only raise the much needed funds but also serve as a valuable means of making contact with our friends for Marxist discussion.

As to ideas, we could spend some of the partying time (three to four hours) in making personal calls on our friends, explaining our need for funds and at the same time increase their political consciousness by giving a Marxist view of the world situation.

Again, why not ask our friends (in their homes) to give larger amounts of money but spread out over several months?

J.H.

It Was Reported in the Press

Maryland, USA — Four bills have been introduced in the Maryland legislature aimed at controlling newspapers, radio and television stations. The bills would make it illegal for these media to carry accounts that "reasonably tend to incite persons to commit an offense against the laws of the state." The author of the bills was prompted to act after civil rights demonstrators were attacked by national guardsmen in Cambridge, Md. He felt news reports incited the demonstrators.

Alienated — The following is a Feb. 25 UPI dispatch from Chelmsford, England: "Keith Rogers, the Essex County Council cashier who burned \$1,302 worth of five pound notes at work because he was 'sick of the sight of money' has been fired."

Where's He Been? — New York's Gov. Rockefeller professed to be "shocked" at revelations that a lobbyist had keys to Capitol offices of state legislators. The lobbyist had boasted to the *New York Times* that he had keys to the offices of ten legislators and had the run of their offices. State police are investigating.

Preaches Freedom — Copies of the novel, *Fanny Hill*, which was banned as obscene by the New York State Appellate Court, will be distributed in church by Rev. William Glenesk of New York's Spencer Memorial Presbyterian Church. "No one has the right to preside over my right to read or buy a book," he said. He added that he intended to compare parts of the novel with "certain sections" of the bible.

Compromise — Since the above item was written it is reported that Rev. Glenesk will not distribute copies of *Fanny Hill* because the Kings County District Attorney notified him he would be

violating the law if he did so. Instead, the reverend announced, he will display the book along with other books that have been banned in the past. He will also deliver a sermon of protest.

Accenting the Negative — As its means of coping with current publicity on the hazards of cigarettes, Kent's will launch an advertising campaign pointing out that no medical evidence or scientific endorsement has proven any other cigarette superior to Kent's.

The Glamour Boys — Leading officials of the American Automobile Association charged auto manufacturers with "organized resistance" to making cars safer. Panelists at an AAA conference in New York said safety shortcomings in cars today include lack of fail-safe brakes, faulty tires, poor interior design, poor steering design and weak and thin construction. They said "efforts to give cars a low look and a soft, boudoir ride have made them unsafe." The problem is, they commented, that the manufacturers look upon cars as "glamour merchandise."

The Very End — In case you think the hucksters have already dreamed up everything that can be peddled, feature this: A corset company is marketing a line of panty girdles in navy blue that are supposed to suggest cowboys' blue

jeans. Elastic is stitched in red to simulate the side and hip pockets of the cowpoke's pants. To round out the outfit there are red cotton bandana bras.

Where Your Taxes Go — The government never seems to have much money for such things as schools and hospitals but this year it will spend \$18,700,000 in subsidies on airports that are used for sporting and business planes rather than airliners.

Break in Card Wall — Greeting cards designed especially for Negroes are becoming more widely available, reports the *Wall Street Journal*. A California firm is reported test marketing a 24-card line featuring Negro figures in San Francisco and hopes to offer them in the East and Midwest later.

Note to Taxpayers — Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois says that some tax-free foundations which profit by the "contribution" gimmick engage in propaganda against the very tax laws by which they and their contributors profit. "In fact," says Douglas, "it is not unfair to say that there are millionaires paying no taxes whatsoever who are making so-called charitable contributions to their personal and private foundations for the purpose of complaining about the high tax rates . . ."

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Thought for the Week

"In the wake of my recent visit to Cuba and after anguished and prayerful pondering, I have reached the following conclusion: The American blockade of Cuba is morally reprehensible, pragmatically futile and politically disastrous." — Dr. John A. Mackay, retired president of Princeton theological seminary, and a leading figure in international Protestant affairs.

Negroes Defy Martial Law, Win Surplus Food in Md.

Special to The Militant

CAMBRIDGE, Md., March 1 — A resumption of demonstrations here by the Cambridge Non-violent Action Committee despite the existence of martial law brought speedy results in the form of federal surplus foods for welfare recipients.

Mrs. Gloria H. Richardson, militant leader of the Negro protest movement in this area, has been demanding that the Dorchester County Board of Commissioners avail themselves of these surplus foods for the benefit of the area's unemployed and needy.

A county may obtain such foods merely by requesting the federal government for them. But the reactionary, anti-Negro, county officials rejected the proposal last January.

On the afternoon of Feb. 25 pickets appeared on the streets of Cambridge. Carrying signs demanding jobs and the surplus food, they paraded in front of the welfare office and the employment security office.

National Guard General Gelston



Gloria Richardson

and a number of military vehicles quickly arrived at the scene of the picketing. The general informed the demonstrators that they were acting illegally and that, under the special powers given the guard commander when state troops were sent into Cambridge to "keep the peace" last summer, he was taking them into custody.

Eighteen pickets were loaded onto a national guard bus and taken 80 miles away to the Pikesville armory near Baltimore. They were freed on a writ of habeas corpus the next day.

The picketing came after a seven-month moratorium on demonstrations in Cambridge.

Mrs. Richardson said that despite the military arrests, the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee would continue the demonstrations. The organization, which gained national renown for its militant campaign to desegregate restaurants in Cambridge last summer, has shifted its aims now to jobs for Negroes and surplus food for welfare recipients.

Requested Surplus

Before the end of the week Governor Tawes announced that he had requested federal surplus foods for welfare recipients in Dorchester County and that distribution of the foods would begin there the following week.

The announcement averted further scheduled demonstrations in Cambridge by the Nonviolent Action Committee.

In dealing directly with the federal authorities, the governor bypassed the county officials and arranged for the storage and distribution of the surplus foods by the national guard units stationed in Cambridge, the seat of Dorchester County.

The current list of surplus foods includes butter, cheese, corn meal, dried eggs, flour, lard, chopped meat, non-fat dry milk, rolled oats, peanut butter, rice, shortening, and rolled wheat.

Dorchester county officials, who had turned down Mrs. Richardson's demands for the surplus food as not needed in the area, were furious with state officials for giving the Negro movement in Cambridge such a swift and clear-cut victory.

M. Baker Robbins, president of the Dorchester County Board of Commissioners, fired off a telegram to Governor Tawes accusing him of usurping county governmental powers and stating: "As long as I stay in office and represent the people of our county, please don't try to tell me how to run our county affairs."

Whether you work by the piece,
or work by the day —
Decreasing the hours, increases the pay.

AFL song.

Wisconsin Farmers Organization In Boycott of Oscar Mayer Co.

By Ann Leonard and Dick Roberts

Madison, Wisc., Feb. 28 — The growing strength of the National Farmers Organization (NFO) was demonstrated here this week when over 2,000 farmers conducted a "holding action" against the local Oscar Mayer meat-packing plant. The action, backed up with picketing, saw pickets come from 22 counties, and as far away as 150 miles. The line has been maintained around-the-clock with an average of 75-150 farmers on the scene at any one time.

The farmers' demands are simple. "It costs us 21 cents a pound to raise beef," said one farmer, "but all we can get from Oscar is anywhere from 16 to 21 cents a pound. We don't even make the cost of production," he added. They are asking 33 cents a pound for choice beef, with a scaled-down price for lesser qualities and grades of meat.

The aims of the NFO are to contract for meat prices directly with Oscar Mayer. In this way, the farmers will not be subjected to price fluctuations set in Chicago. They are using the principle of collective bargaining to attain their goal, and are the first national farmers organization to utilize this technique so valuable to the union movement.

The NFO is organized into local districts. Each district democratically agrees upon a minimum price for the produce in that district. The organization then approaches the local companies to sign a contract. NFO includes all areas of farming, such as meat, dairy products and grain, and is active nationally in 25 states.

NFO contracts work two ways. Not only are farmers guaranteed a minimum price for their products, but the NFO guarantees to regulate their own production so as to insure a continuous supply of produce to the companies.

"Holding actions," the major weapon of the NFO, means the withholding of produce from the companies until the price is met. This can be done, by simply not selling to the particular company and diverting produce to markets further away — or by holding back all produce on the farms. The success of a holding action, like the success of a strike, thus depends upon the involvement of most of the farmers in a given district.

The NFO defines two types of holding actions, one a test holding action, and the other an all-out action. The first is done to test the

N.Y. Benefit Scheduled For Appalachia Miners

NEW YORK — A benefit concert for the jobless miners of the depressed Appalachian area will be held at the Village Gate night club in Greenwich Village on Monday evening, March 9. The performers will include such outstanding artists as Ronnie Gilbert, Judy Collins, Dave Van Ronk, the Ragtime Jug Stompers, Phil Ochs and the New Strangers.

Berman Gibson, leader of the jobless miners in Southeastern Kentucky, will speak on the plight of the miners and their fight to win jobs, food and justice. Gibson and a number of other members of his movement are now under federal indictment in cases related to their strike against scab-operated mines in the Hazard, Ky., area.

Proceeds of the benefit concert will go to the Committee for Miners, which is supporting the miners' struggle against poverty, injustice and official indifference. The committee's New York office is 96 Greenwich Ave., New York 11, N. Y.



Photo by Tom Angell

ADOPTS CIVIL RIGHTS TECHNIQUE. To indicate his feeling that farmers should not accept the unreasonably low prices paid them by the Oscar Mayer plant in Madison, this farmer just sat down in front of a truck trying to make a delivery to the plant.

strength of a given district NFO, how much sympathy and cooperation they will receive from non-members in the area. The all-out action is not undertaken until the organization is assured of the support of a majority of the farm producers.

The present action in Madison can be described as a test situation, and is the second within the past year. This action has shown a great deal of increased support over the last one. Clearly, the major concern of the farmers at this time is to recruit to their membership. The NFO goal is to sign up 60 per cent of U.S. farm production. They claim they now have two thirds of this quota.

One of the major grievances is the increasing purchase of imported beef at lower than American prices, from Argentina, New Zealand, Mexico and Canada. Evidently this amount is increasing. According to the farmers, imported beef rose from 12 per cent in December, 1963, to nearly 17 per cent in January, 1964.

"If we produced that imported beef," one farmer said, "we could also use up a lot of the American wheat and corn surpluses in feeding the stock."

The NFO was founded five years ago and has been growing steadily in strength. Wisconsin membership has doubled within the last year. Evidence of its potential power can be seen in the fact that both Minnesota Sen. Hubert Humphrey and Wisconsin Sen. William Proxmire have recently sought to indicate sympathy regarding the problems of American farmers and pointed to NFO as the logical direction of militant farm movement.

Proxmire exposed the inability of the recent tax cut to aid the farmers. "We cannot give them increased income through a tax cut," he said. "They will get nothing from it. The overwhelming majority of American farmers do not have enough net income to pay any federal taxes."

The average NFO farm in this

area is 200-300 acres. But this evidently represents a wide range. "I have a thousand-acre farm," said a farmer, "but my vote in the NFO is no smaller or bigger than the guy with 80 acres." When asked who was the leader of the picket line another man replied, "We're all leaders."

An attitude of militancy derived from the current Negro civil rights struggle was expressed on the picket line. "If the colored people can get what they want by sitting down, why can't we?" was the attitude expressed by one farmer. At the time, he was seated in the Oscar Mayer driveway six inches in front of an entering truck. "Carry me away, I can't walk," challenged a younger man to the several policemen who were trying to get the truck through the picket line.

The picketers have called upon the railroad workers and Teamsters to aid them by not carrying stock. "Most of the workers seem to be sympathetic to our problems, but their leadership says no," a farmer commented.

SWP Nominee to Speak On Cuba at N.Y. Forum

NEW YORK — Edward Shaw, vice presidential nominee of the Socialist Workers Party, will speak here on "The Johnson Administration and Cuba." Sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, the meeting will be held Friday evening, March 13, at 116 University Place.

Shaw will discuss the administration's efforts to enforce the embargo of Cuba on its Western allies and the possible effects of the election campaign on administration policy toward Cuba. He will also deal, with recent political and economic developments in Cuba.

As a merchant seaman, Shaw made a number of trips to Cuba during the Batista regime. Since the revolution he has made three extensive tours of the island.



Dick Gregory