

THE MILITANT

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HUAC Inquisitors Subpoena N.C. 'Kidnap' Case Attorney

NEW YORK — The Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants announced April 29 that its counsel, Conrad Lynn, the well-known civil-rights and civil-liberties attorney, has been served with a subpoena by the House Un-American Activities Committee, ordering him to appear before it in Washington, D.C., on May 6.

Lynn ascertained by telephone from the HUAC staff counsel that Chairman Walter intends to inquire about Lynn's trip to Cuba.

Attorney Lynn went to Cuba a year ago to get depositions of the testimony of Robert F. Williams, his wife Mable Williams, and one of their sons, all of whom were witnesses to the racial disturbances set off by a police-encouraged mob of white supremacists Aug. 27, 1961 in Monroe, North Carolina. The CAMD has undertaken to aid all defendants in the framed-up "kidnap" case which local authorities concocted out of those events against Negroes and a white Freedom Rider. Lynn is not only the attorney for two of those now awaiting trial in that case, as well as defense attorney in related cases in Monroe, he has also long been the attorney for Robert F. Williams, the former president of the Union County (N.C.) branch of the NAACP. Williams, who was forced to flee Monroe, his native town, with his family finally was granted political asylum in Cuba.

The CAMD points out that in view of local racists' attempts to smear the Monroe defendants and those who have come to their aid, it is no coincidence that the date Lynn has been ordered before HUAC, is also the date of the opening of the retrial in Monroe of 18-year-old Jayvan Covington who is being defended by CAMD.

Carefully Timed

The CAMD also points out that the HUAC hearing comes at a moment best calculated to prejudice adversely the fight of Mrs. Mae Mallory, another Monroe "kidnap" defendant, against extradition from Ohio to North Carolina. Mrs. Mallory's long fight against extradition has all but exhausted further recourse in the courts and may very shortly be up for final determination by Ohio's governor.

Conrad Lynn, who in the course



Conrad Lynn

of a long career as a civil-liberties champion has never concealed his abhorrence of the methods of the House Un-American Activities Committee, declares that he will tolerate no attempt by that committee either to infringe on any of his own constitutional rights or to damage the efforts to secure justice for the framed-up Monroe defendants.

In Memory of William Moore

'Freedom Walkers' Face Jail in Alabama

By William Bundy

MAY 1 — The William L. Moore memorial "freedom walk" began today as a group of 12 members of the Student Non-violent Co-ordinating Committee and the Congress of Racial Equality started walking from Chattanooga, Tenn., headed for Jackson, Miss. The route — along U.S. Highway 11 — goes through a corner of Georgia and then into Alabama where state officials have threatened to arrest the marchers.

Alabama's "safety director," Al Lingo, who has earned a reputation for harassing civil-rights fighters said yesterday of the marchers: "They will be arrested, placed in jail and charged with breach of the peace." James Forman, SNCC executive director and James Farmer, national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said the march would go on anyway.

Low Bail

The man accused of murdering Moore has been released on \$5,000 bail. He is Floyd Simpson, a grocery-store owner, who is charged with shooting Moore with a .22-caliber rifle while Moore walked along Highway 11 outside Attalla, Alabama, with two signs draped over him. The signs read: "Equal Rights for All," and "Eat at Joes, Both Black and White."

Moore, who was born in Chattanooga and raised in Mississippi, had written a letter to President Kennedy before starting his walk. In it he said he was making the walk "for the South and hopefully to illustrate that the most basic of freedoms of peaceful protest is not altogether extinguished down

Charges by Cuba Confirmed On Guantanamo Base Killing

By Fred Halstead

MAY 1 — The case of the U.S. Marine Corps officers and the killing of a Cuban bus driver at Guantanamo Bay is further proof of the serious moral decay within the U.S. government which has been exposed repeatedly in the confrontations between Washington and revolutionary Cuba.

The case has just begun to receive coverage in U.S. newspapers. But there has actually been no secret elsewhere about many of the major facts, which Cuban Armed Forces Minister Raúl Castro revealed a year and a half ago at the funeral of the murdered man, Rubén Lopez Sabariego. That funeral, on Oct. 20, 1961, was attended by the largest gathering ever seen in the city of Guantanamo.

The case came to light in this country last week when an article by Jack Anderson appeared in the April 26 syndicated column of Drew Pearson. Anderson claimed that four officers had been "unjustly" forced out of the U.S. Marine Corps because one of them had killed a Cuban suspected of spying on the base and the others had helped bury the body.

Press Conference

The story was further elaborated by former Lieutenant William A. Szili, one of the officers involved, at a news conference in Washington April 27. The conference was arranged by Congressman Richard S. Schweiker (R-Penn.) who said it was a shame the officer was forced out of the Marines for such a minor infraction.

The attitudes of both the congressman and the lieutenant on this matter are shocking and il-



Raúl Castro

lustrate how distorted human values have become in the U.S. as a result of the hysteria built up against the Cuban Revolution. But the totality of facts now available indicates something even more serious — the accuracy of Raúl Castro's 1961 charges. These accused the administration of the naval base and the U.S. government of covering up the brutal murder of an innocent man by U.S. personnel stationed at Guantanamo.

First, let's look at the story as told by former Lieutenant Szili: He claims that Captain Arthur J. Jackson, his company commander, found Lopez in a "restricted" area and so informed the base police. They told him to escort Lopez off the base and turn him loose in Cuban territory. Szili said that he and Jackson then took Lopez to an

isolated and seldom-used gate but found it "stuck." Then he went to get a hammer, Szili said, but in his absence Jackson got the gate open and walked off the base with Lopez. By the time Szili returned, Jackson had shot and killed the Cuban.

Szili said Jackson told him that Lopez had lunged at him and he had been forced to shoot. (Jackson, a husky combat infantryman, holds the Congressional Medal of Honor reportedly for having singlehandedly killed some 50 Japanese soldiers in one World War II battle.)

Szili said further that after the body lay hidden for several days, he, two other officers and Jackson had fetched it back inside the base and buried it. They were afraid a Cuban patrol would find it and "make an international scandal," the former Lieutenant explained. He said that the body was discovered by base police after someone let the secret out and that all four officers involved were finally forced out of the Marine Corps.

A reporter at the press conference asked: "In other words, the only thing you did wrong here was getting caught?" Szili replied: "That's right."

The Facts

Now here are the facts previously cited by Raúl Castro: Far from being a sinister or threatening figure, Lopez was a slightly-built, father of nine children. He had been working at the U.S. naval base for 14 years. He drove a bus there. Like the overwhelming majority of Cuban workers, including those working on the U.S. base and living outside it, he was loyal to the Castro revolution and made no secret of that fact.

He was last seen by his wife, Georgina, when he left for the weekend shift on Saturday, Sept. 30, shortly before noon. He would ordinarily have returned home around 3 P.M. the next day. When he did not, his wife asked his fellow workers about him. Several of them had been with Lopez in a workers' rest barracks on the base when Lopez was arrested there at 10:40 P.M. Saturday night by a Marine officer. The Cuban workers said they heard his name as "Captain Johnson."

Lopez's wife inquired at the base several times and was referred to the base chaplain, Father Thomas J. Hailsberthy, who told her Lopez had been arrested and expelled from the base. On Oct. 18 she was informed by an employe of the Swiss consulate — which handles U.S. relations in Cuba — that her husband's body had been found three days earlier.

(Continued on Page 5)

Money to Mississippi

Meanwhile the NAACP countered President Kennedy's rejection of the proposal to withhold federal funds from Mississippi by reaffirming a request for such action. NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins declared April 26 that U.S. Treasury Department reports indicate Mississippi received \$154,000,000 in U.S. grants-in-aid alone during 1961. Wilkins said Mississippi should get "not a dime" until civil rights are protected there.

The Kennedy administration had also come in for strong criticism from CORE leader James Farmer the week before. Speaking over a New York radio station Farmer said the administration should stop trying to appease the segregationists in Congress. Farmer also predicted that Negroes might elect a mayor in Greenwood, Miss., when they complete their voter-registration drive. He said Negroes should be elected as sheriffs and police chiefs in a number of Mississippi counties.

Some Things They Manage to Learn

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology student who participated in the unsuccessful April 25 bombing raid on a Cuban oil refinery near Havana told the Boston Traveler he had made the bombs which proved duds. "We had trouble with the fuses," he complained.

While the MIT student may not have learned much technology he apparently has learned well how to echo the cynicism of his government. The Kennedy administration, for example, blandly insists that the GIs fighting and dying in South Vietnam aren't at war — they're merely "technicians" and "advisers." The would-be bomber from MIT said he didn't believe he was violating the law in participating in the raid. He was, he said, merely a "technician" and not engaged in "direct warfare."



Mae Mallory

Campesinos Begin Land Reform

A Peru Paper's Interview of Hugo Blanco

Printed below is the translation of an interview with peasant leader Hugo Blanco which appeared in the Oct. 28, 1962, issue of the Peruvian newspaper *Expreso*. We had heard of this interview some time ago but only recently managed to obtain a copy. Though it is old and in some respects outdated by events, such as the sending of troops to La Convención (see articles in Feb. 25 *Militant* entitled "Havana Magazine Hails Peruvian Guerrillas" and "Campesino Unions Press Fight for Land, Liberty"), we are reproducing it now because of its intrinsic interest and because of the dearth of information about Hugo Blanco. — Editor.

Hugo Blanco, the leader of the *campesinos* of Cuzco whom *Expreso* found hiding in the heart of Chaupimayo six months ago, is carrying out his own agrarian reform in the valleys of La Convención, Lares, Ocobamba, as he announced at that time in this newspaper.

Last May, after many adventures, two editors of *Expreso* had succeeded in interviewing Blanco in his almost inaccessible hiding place. At that time he denied being a guerrilla and defined himself as "a labor leader, who would not have to be one if the *gamonales* [big landowners] did not exploit the *campesinos* so much."

Hugo Blanco today is no longer the ragged and almost barefooted ex-student of agriculture whom *Expreso* found six months ago. Now he has a heavy black beard and he wears heavy shoes; he carries a Mauser on his shoulder and two pistols in the back pockets of his blue jeans; he dictates "decrees," ordering the parceling out of the *haciendas* of the area, which are obeyed faithfully by the *campesinos* who follow him as well as by the terrified landowners.

Wherever he goes he is followed by robust *campesinos* armed with shotguns and *machetes*. In every hut in Chaupimayo there is always a bed ready for him and his companions, for he never sleeps two successive nights in the same place.

He justifies such precautions by saying that 200 policemen under the command of Major José Infantes, with orders to take him dead or alive, are hunting for him. Secretary of Agrarian Reform of the *Campesino* Federation of the Department of Cuzco, as he calls himself, Hugo Blanco, a tall man, governs practically all the valleys of La Convención.

Blanco appoints justices of the peace, teachers, communal authorities and the members of the "Agrarian Reform Commissions" of the estates which fall into their hands. Up to the present, according to what he told *Expreso*, 40



BUILDERS OF PERU'S FUTURE. Peasant leader Hugo Blanco (second from left, standing) and fellow-fighters in the struggle to win land for the long-oppressed Peruvian peasants.

of the 380 estates which are in the whole valley of La Convención, are in the hands of the *campesino* unions and have been parceled out. "We want to destroy the system of big estates," he said. "We don't want to kill *gamonales*. We don't feed on blood but on the products of the soil."

The special correspondent of *Expreso* who interviewed Hugo Blanco did not see any other arms. Hugo Blanco was very emphatic when he stated that there are no guerrillas in La Convención. But he added that "there will be when the oligarchies so desire it and when the government sends troops to destroy our agrarian reform." He added, "But we will not be the first ones to fire a shot. But I will not be responsible for what will happen if the police massacre the *campesinos*."

When he was told that he looked like Fidel Castro, he answered, "I may look like him, but my methods are different. Cuba's agrarian reform was the product of the bloody war which was conducted from the Sierra Maestra. It was its outcome. Here the opposite is true."

When he said this he very significantly struck a very small manual of guerrilla warfare written by the famous "Major Bayo," who has been called the teacher of Che Guevara. Hugo Blanco says that he has introduced into the Valley of La Convención the system of cooperative labor, based on the communal working of the lands

which the landowners formerly exploited for themselves. According to Blanco's own statement, the product of the land is used for the expenses of the union, to run several schools controlled by the *campesino* government, and to build a large hospital in Chaupimayo.

While our correspondent was talking with him at Chaupimayo, several delegations from *campesino* unions in Apurimac, Urubamba and other estates of Cuzco came to speak with him. They had come to ask "advice" from "compañero Hugo Blanco." These meetings are held in secret. But invariably the delegations return to their places of origin taking with them three precepts which they are to follow:

- 1) They should take possession of the rented lands which they are working; they should stop paying rents and they should not work for the landowners.
- 2) They should parcel out the fallow lands.
- 3) They should expel the landowners.

This program has been followed on several large estates with great success. As the days pass, Hugo Blanco's fame and renown spread among the *campesinos*. The uncertainty and the discontent which his presence has created may be summarized in what a store owner in Santa Teresa said to the correspondent of *Expreso*: "Only God knows what may happen after."

Meeting in Springfield Hears Truman Nelson on Monroe

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., April 26 — An audience at the Holy Temple Church of God in Christ tonight heard novelist Truman Nelson describe the heroic struggle of Negroes in Monroe, N. C.

Nelson gave special emphasis to the case of Mrs. Mae Mallory, one of the defendants, who is fighting extradition from Ohio on the trumped-up "kidnap" charge. He said her crime appears to have been her presence in the home of civil-rights leader Robert F. Williams at the time of his protecting a white couple from possible injury during the racial crisis in Monroe in August 1961.

Rev. Gordon E. Watt moderated the meeting and was one of those who then and there decided to constitute themselves the founding nucleus of a Springfield chapter of the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants.

Asked what could be done to help, Nelson emphasized overcoming the news blackout surrounding the Monroe case by making the story known to friends

and to the public.

To an inquiry about trade union support, he pointed out that whereas in Detroit certain locals of the auto workers were giving backing, New England unions had failed in this duty. He commended the Teamsters union for having put trucks at the disposal of civil-rights groups sending relief shipments to the South.

Urging local support of the Monroe victims despite the existence of problems of discrimination and oppression in Springfield itself, the novelist of the Abolition movement said: "One of the most important things is to demonstrate our solidarity. There is money around just the same. We all know that. If anyone is thinking of buying a Cadillac because they don't have anything better to do with their money, don't hesitate to go to them personally to write out a check for the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants." The CAMD's address is Room 10, 168 W. 23 St., New York 3, N. Y.

THE NATIONAL PICKET LINE

The Teamsters Union in Philadelphia won a landslide victory against the AFL-CIO-backed VOICE group in a National Labor Relations Board election completed April 28. The vote was 4,893 to 2,550 for the Teamsters to continue as bargaining agent for 8,400 drivers and helpers in the Philadelphia area. This was the second try for the VOICE group which had lost an election last year by the much narrower margin of 596 votes. That election was set aside on a VOICE complaint of intimidation.

The VOICE raid was the most serious challenge the IBT has faced since it was expelled from the AFL-CIO in 1957. Rank and file criticism is still high against such Philadelphia Teamster officials as Local 107 president Ray Cohen, but the fear of a government-backed, "soft" union proved even greater. The Teamsters won on promises by IBT president James R. Hoffa of democratic reforms and a tough bargaining policy. The Teamsters Union is demanding an area-wide contract and a 43-cent-an-hour wage increase in the current negotiations. VOICE had opposed both demands.

A "compromise" ruling April 23 by the National Labor Relations Board held that the International Ladies Garment Workers Union was guilty of unfair labor practices in intimidating organizers for the union from joining the Federation of Union Organizers (FOUR). But the board also held that the ILGWU was not guilty of such practices in firing Constantine Sedares, the leading organizer of FOUR among the ILGWU organizers and business agents.

"No contract, no work," was established as a principle of the New York City local of the United Federation of Teachers in a referendum during April. The members voted 12,043 to 2,027 to establish the following procedure: The first offer of the board of education will be put to a membership vote in June. If it is rejected, a strike date is automatically set for September. Such a strike cannot be called off except by approval of a new contract by membership vote.

The last time the local struck, an injunction was issued and the local's leaders — under pressure of top city AFL-CIO officials who didn't want to embarrass the Mayor — called off the strike without consulting the membership.

New York State's Condon-Wadlin law outlaws strikes by public employees including teachers. Teachers point out that the politicians have allowed the school system to deteriorate and they are threatening to strike to reverse this trend. In replying to critics of the teachers' stand on striking in spite of the law, Charles Cogen, the local president said:

"Each man must decide for himself where the balance lies between law and order on the one hand and resistance to undemocratic government on the other."

The Teamsters Union is incurring the wrath of the wealthier sections of the population of Crystal City, Texas, a spinach-growing center near the Mexican border. Earlier this month the incumbent city councilmen — all non-Mexican whites — were defeated in an election by a slate of new candidates, all of Mexican descent. The vote was delivered by the Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations (PASO) which has headquarters in San Antonio. PASO and the Teamsters Union united for an unprecedented voter-registration

and poll-tax-paying drive among the local agricultural workers, almost all of whom are of Mexican descent. The union trucked laborers from the fields to the polls. The "Latino" slate won by 100 votes out of 1,600 cast.

Units of the Texas Rangers — an arm of the state police which in the past was associated with "keeping the Mexicans in their place" — have moved into Crystal City. The District Attorney said he was investigating alleged irregularities in the balloting. Replied the new head of the city council, Juan Cornejo: "My people don't have enough money to buy votes."

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union is having trouble in Israel. Rhoda Lee, a blouse manufacturer in the U.S. which was struck by the ILGWU ten weeks ago, is trying to break the strike by having its blouses produced in Israel. Objections from ILGWU leaders here to Histadrut, the state-connected federation of labor in Israel, have apparently not been answered satisfactorily. ILGWU General Secretary-Treasurer Louis Stulberg flew to Israel this month to "investigate" the production of Rhoda Lee blouses in Israel. The ILGWU is a heavy financial contributor to Histadrut.

Complaints of racial discrimination in employment and advancement have been filed by the NAACP against a number of corporations with government contracts. Also cited in the complaints are four AFL-CIO unions, which have cooperated with the racial policies of the corporations. One of these is the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks. "The union, in clear violation of an anti-discrimination pledge signed by its president, George M. Harrison, with the president's Committee, maintains more than 100 Jim Crow locals," said NAACP labor secretary Herbert Hill.

The NAACP will hold a conference on unemployment in June. On the basis of estimates by economists, the association said, the country faces a permanent unemployment rate of 4½ to 5 per cent. "This means 10 to 12 per cent of the Negro work force is doomed to joblessness," said NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins, "in view of the fact that the present unemployment rate among Negroes is two to two-and-a-half times that among white workers."

Peace Strike Group Calls for May 8 Actions

The General Strike for Peace movement has called for worldwide stop-work demonstrations May 8. On that day, three million Belgian workers — members of the Belgian trade unions — will stop work in commemoration of V-E Day, May 8th, 1945, when World War II ended in Europe. "They have chosen this day to protest the continuation and intensification of the Cold War by their government and all the NATO and Warsaw Pact governments," according to the Committee for a General Strike for Peace.

In New York, the committee has announced a vigil at Duffy Square (North end of Times Square) between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. there will be picketing at the offices of the Internal Revenue Bureau and the Atomic Energy Commission at W. Houston and Hudson Streets. At 8 p.m. a strike rally will be held at Community Church, 40 E. 35th Street.

Weekly Calendar

CHICAGO

VIETNAM-AMERICA'S DIRTY WAR — Speaker, Daniel Rosenshine, vice-chairman, Detroit Student Peace Union. Fri., May 10, 8 p.m. 302 South Canal, Debs Hall 210. A usp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

DETROIT

The Henry Ford Centennial — Who Was Right, Ford or Marx? Speaker, Evelyn Sell. Fri., May 10, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. A usp. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

NEW YORK

WHICH ROAD TO PEACE, A Symposium. Panelists: David Dellinger, editor of Liberation; Fred Halsted, staff writer, The Militant; Judith Malina, of Living Theatre and General Strike for Peace; Harry Purvis, candidate of Voters for Peace; and a representative of Women Strike for Peace. Fri., May 10, 8:30 p.m. 116 University Place. Contrib. \$1 (students, 50c). A usp. Militant Labor Forum.

The Peace Walks

Why No Stand on Vietnam?

By Fred Halstead

Two points of considerable importance stand out about the recent Easter Peace Walks which took place in several major cities in the U.S. First, and on the good side, the walks generally had larger turnouts — particularly among high-school and college youth — than they have had since they became an atomic-age tradition.

Second, and on the bad side, the leaders of most of the peace groups defaulted on their most important duty — to protest and expose the war that their own country is involved in right now. The "recommended" signs of almost all the peace groups did not include any protest against the war in Vietnam. In addition, in at least three cities, attempts were made by persons within the leadership of some peace groups to have signs protesting the war in Vietnam removed from the demonstrations.

This raises a question. Of what use is a peace movement which refuses to protest a war of aggression and atrocity being perpetrated by the government of the country in which that movement exists? The answer is that if it continues to remain quiet on that war, it is a sham and a farce.

It is no secret that the reason for this scandalous state of affairs is that a small minority of the leaders who participate in the united front committees calling the demonstrations object to "embarrassing" the Kennedy administration. To make the Vietnam war an issue in these demonstrations would mean that the peace movement would no longer be "respectable," according to these leaders.

The Justification

They insist that unless such slogans are excluded, through one device or another, they will refuse to join the demonstrations. The other leaders then agree to exclude the "embarrassing" slogans in order to keep the pro-cold-war leaders in the united front.

It is understandable that an organization which does not claim to oppose the cold war would not want to protest the war in Vietnam. Such an organization, for example, is the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy. Its leaders and many of its prominent members are open supporters of the Kennedy administration and its cold-war policies. The organization is limited to opposing nuclear tests and the nuclear arms build-up. It is not necessarily opposed to other warlike acts by the Kennedy administration. Indeed, some of its prominent members openly support many such acts.

This does not mean that SANE should not be welcome at any general demonstration of the peace forces, where it can put forth its own point of view and add its weight to the demand for an end to nuclear armaments. But

the leaders of SANE do not own the peace movement. Its leaders represent only a tiny part of the movement. The vast majority of those who are active in peace organizations, and who turn out at demonstrations, are adamantly opposed to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war.

The most disgraceful aspect of the situation is that leaders of other peace and radical organizations — which do oppose U.S. involvement in Vietnam — have allowed the pro-cold-war elements to dictate action policy for the whole movement. This has been particularly true of individuals associated with the Socialist and Communist parties. They do this, they say, to maintain "unity," but actually they run the danger of turning the peace movement into its opposite. The practical result of this policy is extremely dangerous. A general peace demonstration in the United States which does not mention the war in Vietnam actually gives cover to the perpetrators of that war. It makes it appear as if there is no opposition in the U.S. to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. This is a tremendous asset to the Kennedy administration, which even now is reported to be considering escalating that war and the U.S. involvement in it.

"Good Sense"

Fortunately there were a few organizations and individuals with the responsibility, the practical good sense, and the courage to refuse to submit to the attempt to keep the Vietnam issue out of the Easter Peace demonstrations. In New York, the New York City chapter of the Student Peace Union carried signs with quotations from Bertrand Russell's recent statement opposing U.S. aggression in Vietnam. As the marchers entered the UN plaza, where the parade terminated and a meeting was held, an attempt was made to remove these signs. Later, Bayard Rustin of the War Resisters League and chairman of the meeting, stopped the proceedings to demand the removal of the anti-Vietnam-war slogans. The crowd, however, sided with the holders of the signs, and the slogans remained.

In Chicago, members of the Student Peace Union of Northwestern University carried signs which said: "Stop the War in Vietnam," and "No War Over Cuba." Certain officials of other organizations on the march attempted to have these slogans removed. But here, too, the attempt failed.

In Minneapolis, members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance carried signs calling for negotiations with Cuba and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam. "Officials of the Minneapolis Peace Walk Committee," reports the *Minneapolis Tribune*, "first tried to ban them from the walk, then implored them to congregate at the end of the line. They refused to comply."

These incidents, small in themselves, point up a serious crisis in the U.S. peace movement. The movement is still attracting significant numbers of young people. In their vast majority, these young people are not simply interested in an individual moral stand against war in the abstract, but want to oppose the causes of war, and above all want to take action against the specific acts of war when they are threatened or occur.

These young people will not be satisfied with a movement that refuses to oppose and expose the war of aggression and atrocity being perpetrated by the Pentagon in Vietnam. They owe no loyalty to leaders who default on the duty to organize effective protests against this war. They should not be expected to follow "recommendations" to refrain from making this war a major issue at peace demonstrations.

LONDON LETTER

British Telly No Idiot Box

LONDON — With almost a dozen TV channels within a turn of the knob, all setting off a flow of Madison Avenue-made twaddle, I imagine it is difficult for more sensitive Americans not to be overwhelmed by the apparent omnipotence of this instrument for influencing people. The nightmare presented must be more prodigious than all the fictional versions conjured up by Aldous Huxley or George Orwell. Particularly so when the government of the day brazenly proclaims its right to manipulate the news media. And especially when all this happens to coincide with the brinkstrutting Cuba mania.

For the American rebel who has somehow managed in the past ten years to hit British shores, and to have a look at television, or listen to the BBC (British Broadcasting Company) the contrast with the home product proved so favorable — simply because there was less of everything obnoxious, and less blatantly proffered — that a critical attitude almost seems cantankerous.

There have been many fine, enlightening programs of the BBC and on occasion even of the commercial ITV (Independent Television), not to speak of the publicly owned radio system, over all those years. Nonetheless these media, along with the press, have on the whole been ranged to hold up the "affluent society," its masters and their tools, no less pervasively, albeit more unobtrusively, than their American "hidden persuader" counterparts.

Created Attitudes

The British instigated the "I'm all right, Jack" attitude that seeped down into the pores of society — to replace the magnificent wartime and early postwar spirit of social responsibility and co-operation that was reflected in the labor landslide of 1945.

They built up Macmillan and his insipid "You never had it so good" slogan into a semblance of believability. They stimulated a brief rash of gadgetry that almost threatened to bring Americanization to these shores in its worst form. They even built up Hugh Gaitskell as an acceptable alternative to Macmillan with a "streamlined," "modernized," no-class-struggle-nonsense, nationalization-proof, harmless sort of Laborism.

They turned what was originally a joke about the tweedle-dee, tweedle-dum politics of the time into a plausible political system: Butskellism (produced by joining the first syllable of the name of the moderate Tory policy-maker [R.A.B.] Butler to the last in Gaitskell) was the thing so far as the mass media went.

Looked Substantial

And it looked, indeed, as though the whole thing had substance, as if it were here to stay.

Only the maturing economic crisis, and the simmering mass struggling quietly but persistently to keep it off their backs, finally burst through this whole facade — and right through the television screen, so to speak. The collapse of the Common Market, the industrial battles led by the shop stewards, the resurgence of the Labor Party have swept the whole smug show away.

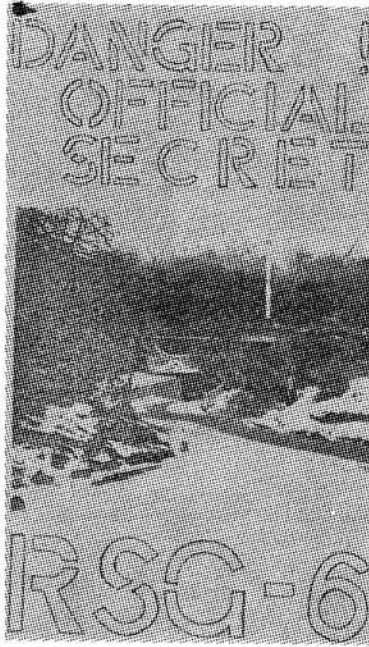
The most popular television program is now "That Was The Week, That Was" — a satirical show that has turned Supermac into Minimac, as the cartoonist Vicky tagged and re-tagged the premier. It is a program with the highest rating in audience size and leaves no sacred cow in British life unscarred.

Nor is satire and spoofing about the ruling class and its hangers-on the only expression of this revolt of the mass media. Coverage of live issues and personalities in the news (for example, Cuba, Algeria, real-estate tycoons, oil

We Know a State Secret

From our secret agent in Tahiti we obtained a copy of the pamphlet distributed by the Spies for Peace at this year's Aldermaston March in Britain.

The accompanying photograph shows the pamphlet which caused such an uproar in the newspapers and in Parliament. The flyleaf states that it is a "First Edition" issued on "Good Friday, 1963" and is copyrighted by Spies for Peace. It is handsomely illustrated with maps and among other things contains lists of secret phone numbers. Without permission of the publishers (since they are a bit difficult to locate), we print a few excerpts:



"The Government has secretly established a network of Regional Seats of Government [centers of military government in event of nuclear war.] "RSG-6 is near the USAF Strategic Air Command and the RAF Bomber Command underground headquarters in High Wycombe . . . Even the clocks in RSG-6 are labelled 'Zulu Time'—the international NATO system based on the U.S. Strategic Air Command."

In a nuclear war exercise held by NATO in Sept. 1962, Sir Charles Cunningham, a Permanent Under-Secretary of State and "one of the most powerful men" in Britain, "reported direct to the Cabinet on what he saw in RSG-6." "Heads of departments were officially known as 'players' (people like players) and unofficially as 'gauleiters.'"

millionaire Paul Getty, problems like unemployment and the plight of old-age pensioners, labor people like Wilson and trade-union leader Frank Cousins) is presented in a new, penetrating fashion that really permits the television viewer to use his own judgment and develop his own values. The same holds true for radio. It is as yet feebly reflected in the press, but those papers like the *Daily Mirror* and the *Sunday Pictorial* — whose formula is based on cashing in on the mood of their huge working-class circulations — are fast catching the drift.

TV Leads

The revolt breaks through particularly on television, which is the most popular of the media, on long-established and hitherto innocuous if not inane programs. Here are a few random examples:

Meeting Point, a peak-hour religious program devoted to making the opiate more palatable for moderns, has recently given an hour to "Objections to Christian Belief." It was full of outside shots of crowd interviews, in which the overwhelming majority of the workers and housewives interviewed expressed forthright atheist opinions. Sample answer to a question about "life after death" from a working-class housewife: "When you're dead you're just cold meat, mate. Let's get more of the goodies while we're alive." The bland and smiling Archbishop of Canterbury, commenting to a *compère* in the studio while watching these goings on, became somewhat less composed and lost his smile for a flicker.

The Sunday Play, another regular feature, recently showed "The Big Donkey," a searing, unvarnished account of a few days in the life of a jobless young dockyard worker, who, in the words of author Stewart Love (a Belfast teacher), "wages a bitter struggle to stop his life from disintegrating," a worker for whom "his trade maintains his pride and guarantees his dignity."

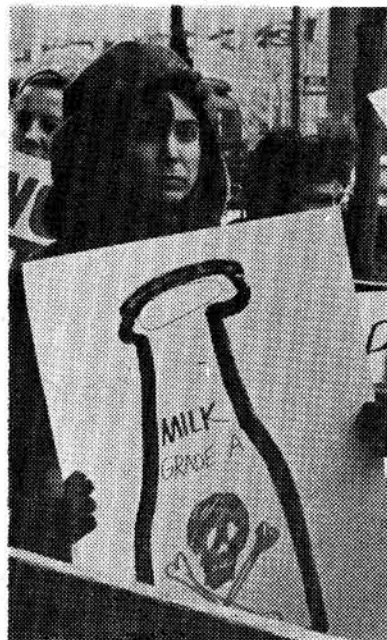
This is *Your Life*, a Tuesday regular, glamorizing the stories of various celebrities, some quite interesting and others superficially contrived, recently took a leap into real life with the story of an

unemployed marine engineer picked out of an unemployment-compensation line. There were shots of one of his brothers, a seaman, holding the helm on a ship at sea, and of a watertender in the boilerroom of another ship addressing words of appreciation and cheer to him. The studio audience's enthusiastic handclapping added to the drama.

Perhaps most indicative of the trend was a recent television play, "There Might Be a Knighthood in It," by Ann Falconer, a young writer. This powerful little drama hit close to the bone: It laid bare the links leading from the smooth British ruling class to their charge-hands in the labor movement — the house-broken leaders, the Jims and Bills who are strung along with the vision of winding up their lives as Sir James or Lord William. More than that, it took up a forthright and poignant defense of the tenacious, honest, quiet-spoken shop stewards, loyal to their fellows, the backbone of British labor, from whom more will be heard in days to come.

So cheer up, all ye who despair of the power of the goggle-box across the seas. The mass media are only *media* after all — means, instruments. They are subject to change. Yes, to revolution like all others. In Britain something like that is already under way.

—T. J. Peters



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Editor: JOSEPH HANSEN

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Vol. 27 - No. 18



Monday, May 6, 1963

Yevtushenko's Autobiography

Eloquent Voice of Soviet Youth

By George Saunders

In his *Precocious Autobiography* published in the Paris weekly, *L'Express*, the young Soviet poet, Yevtushenko, describes how Stalin's death marked a change in the mood of the country. The attitude of blind obedience died away. The youth especially realized that no one was going to solve the country's "grave problems" for them.

With the exposure of the Doctors' Plot, the fall of Beria, the brief rise of Malenkov and the revelations of those amnestied from the prison camps, the mood of independent thinking and skepticism toward the leadership increased. Instead of applauding reforms carried out by the Party, Yevtushenko tends to emphasize the changed awareness of the rank-and-file to which the reforms catered.

It was at that time, significantly, that Yevtushenko decided to abandon purely personal lyrics and take up the great Russian literary tradition of political poetry. "All tyrants," he says, "have held poets to be their worst enemies." His mother warned him against the tragic end that so many Russian poets had met. Yevtushenko mentions some examples in the Soviet period — the suicides of Yessenin and Mayakovsky and the case of Blok, who drank to death.

Nevertheless, his rebellious spirit impelled him to seek poetry that would "speak the truth." This poetic aim paralleled the search of his fellow youth for a new orientation. At that time many tended to fall into cynicism, losing faith in the Revolution. The duty of young poets, Yevtushenko felt, was to revive and purify the revolutionary ideals as an alternative.

This direction met with an enthusiastic response. He had written a poem — that no one would publish — contrasting the official bombast of a May Day parade with the real enthusiasm of its youthful participants. On an impulse, he read this poem to a turbulent student crowd at a poetry reading. The tremendous applause that greeted it showed Yevtushenko that he was taking the right path.

But not only did he bring his message to the youth. He was also influenced in return. He tells of reading some poetry on his personal difficulties. The attitude of his young audience was expressed by one student, "Don't forget you don't belong just to yourself. We've given you our confidence



AT HELSINKI. Yevgeny Yevtushenko being interviewed at August 1962 World Youth Festival.

not just for lyric verse. Do not deceive us."

He explains why poetry took this semi-political turn. The youth were avid for truth. They did not find it in the papers, radio or TV, which "lagged behind the changes in our life." They turned to literature to answer the questions on their minds. Poetry could be improvised around current events and read to a crowd quickly, an advantage over prose. Thus poetry readings — a tradition revived from Mayakovsky's days — took on the character almost of street meetings, with poets the soap-box agitators.

Answers Critics

Yevtushenko discusses the young generation, the social force behind his own rise to prominence. Their critics accuse them of forsaking "the revolutionary traditions" because they "wear narrow trousers, like jazz, read Hemingway and admire Picasso." From this the critics have developed "the obscure sociological theory of bourgeois culture corrupting our youth."

It is absurd, Yevtushenko answers, to equate personal tastes with political convictions. The youth is capable of distinguishing the good from the bad in Western culture. Far from preventing their struggle for a socialist culture, contact with the West helps to enlarge mental horizons and render tastes more sophisticated.

This argument directly challenges the campaign built up in the Soviet Union since last December against "bourgeois ideology" in the arts. Yevtushenko

credits this drive to what the youth call the "dogmatists."

These men call themselves communists, proclaim agreement with de-Stalinization, but in reality dread the loss of their "cushy seats." They hang on everywhere to their posts, fight bitterly against the abolition of special privileges, and paralyze the reconstruction of agriculture and the reorganization of industry. In their effort to stop the de-Stalinization process by any means, they even try to utilize international tension as a pretext for calling a halt to the youth.

But Yevtushenko is confident that "spring" has come, the "winterish" attacks of his critics are rearguard actions doomed to failure. He cites the difficulties he went through in 1957, when he was expelled from the Komsomol and the Literary Institute. "Thanks to the pressure of the youth," he was readmitted to both institutions after some time.

This is equivalent to notifying his supporters not to lose confidence in victory in case reprisals are aimed at him again for his publishing this uncensored work. His closing words are full of confidence. "The dogmatists are more and more impotent to prevent the democratization of my country. Not that I let myself get intoxicated by optimistic illusions. I know our task is difficult and strewn with obstacles. I know we shall undergo adverse blows from the complex evolution of the international political and economic situation."

"But I believe one must be blind not to see the gigantic changes which have already taken place in our country since Stalin's death. We have been living since 1953 through a veritable spiritual revolution, a complex one, calling for much patience and energy. The dogmatist minority, old and young, can do nothing against it, for the majority of Soviet people — in particular the youth — are attached to the ideas of progress and determined to make them triumph.

The Soviet bureaucracy's attack on Yevtushenko is aimed through him at the deep-going movement of revolutionary regeneration for which he speaks. We share the poet's confidence that, no matter what his personal fate may be, this movement will triumph.

Yevtushenko's autobiography is, without exaggeration, a major document of our epoch, a precious first-hand report from a new generation of truth-seekers and idealists, believing in a genuine socialist humanism. While they have grown up in the Soviet world, they likewise speak for many in the young generation around the world. Every young American should read this document, which will soon be published in English. It is a powerful antidote to the cold war scare stories about an "immutably totalitarian" Soviet society.

Franco's Latest Act of Butchery

Twenty-five years after the Civil War in Spain ended with victory for the fascists, Generalissimo Franco court-martialed and executed the Spanish underground Communist leader Julian Grimau Garcia. He hoped this vengeful act would intimidate the rising popular resistance to his decadent and tottering dictatorship.

Protests against this cold-blooded murder came from many parts of the world. These ranged from Premier Khrushchev to Roman Catholic cardinals in France who urged the Catholic Primate of Spain to try and halt the death sentence. In Brussels 600 Spaniards in exile held a protest meeting and march.

As a last resort the wife of the condemned man telephoned the White House from Paris, asking Kennedy to intervene. The President took no action beyond having the State Department notify the Spanish Embassy that he had received the appeal.

Washington has close and friendly diplomatic relations with Madrid. Franco is one of the defenders of "the free world." His regime is financially dependent upon American aid. Kennedy was in a position to exert influence upon his ally to save Grimau from the firing squad.

But Kennedy did not wish to offend the dictator. He can send Adlai Stevenson to Madrid to talk over military bases but not a message of mercy to stay the hand of the fascist executioner.

Our Split-Level Economy

The United States is the richest country in the world. The champions of capitalism contend that free enterprise has not only succeeded in producing more than any other system but has spread its fruits more widely and fairly. They also claim that over the past twenty years class differences have diminished as the gap between rich and poor has been steadily narrowing.

Robert Lekachman, chairman of the department of economics at Barnard College, is an authority on current income distribution in this country. In the April 1963 *Commentary* he has this to say on the subject.

"After a generation of gestures to public housing and urban redevelopment, slums still disfigure every sizable American city.

"Almost unnoticed in our split-level economy, poverty has become a permanent condition for a very large slice of the urban population. As Herman Miller demonstrated in a striking article in the *New York Times Magazine* (November 11, 1962), literally nothing of consequence has happened to the distribution of income in the United States since 1944 except a moderate improvement in the position of the second richest fifth of income recipients.

"In 1944 the worst-paid fifth of the population received 5 per cent of the national income, and they are still stuck at this share. The top fifth, which enjoyed over 45 per cent of the national income in 1944, has maintained its position."

"Even in the 1960's, to be in the bottom fifth of the income distribution is to be poor in the old fashioned use of the word."

This means that at the height of its prosperity, U.S. capitalism has not been able to eliminate either poverty or inequality. The rich remain rich — and the poor, as the Bible says, "we have always with us." This is not the conclusion of a socialist agitator. It is the testimony of a respected professor in a respectable institution of learning in a respectable publication.

Militant Fund Drive

May Day Banquet Lifts N.Y. Payments

By Marvel Scholl

National Fund Drive Director

On Saturday April 27 the Militant Labor Forum in New York held its May Day banquet. As usual it was a very successful affair. The proceeds were earmarked for the Militant Fund Campaign, so New York's 11 per cent jump this week gives a measure of the audience's enthusiasm.

Chicago, as it has from the beginning, remains at the top of the scoreboard, with Detroit, Connecticut and Minneapolis-St. Paul close on its heels. Chicago has determined to come in with 100 per cent first so any city which wants to pick up this gauntlet should be prepared for some fast action!

General remains down near the bottom as yet, but we are hopeful that we will receive from readers a great many more letters like the following:

F.M. of Chicago writes: "Enclosed is a money order for \$10 — a humble expression of my gratitude to the editor and the staff of *The Militant* for its excellent re-

porting of the news. Your factual, informative articles and transcripts pertaining to Cuba and China are invaluable. Keep up the fine work."

An old friend, H.M. of New York, says: "Ten dollars for the worthy cause of truth in journalism."

And L.M. from Pittsburgh writes: "You sure hit the nail on the head with your opening article against the 'Brainwashers'! Today's youth are being treated mightily poorly by the capitalists' prostitute press. Here's hoping the Truth Dollars come pouring in and we go way over the top by June 15!"

Our sincere thanks to all these fine people, both for the contributions and for the letters they wrote.

You can help swell the total of this necessary fund by sending your contribution to Militant Fund, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Per cent
Chicago	\$ 1,400	\$ 800	57
Detroit	900	500	55
Connecticut	200	107	54
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,000	430	43
Allentown	150	60	40
Boston	750	284	38
New York	5,800	2,225	38
Newark	225	82	37
San Francisco	750	277	37
Oakland-Berkeley	750	249	33
St. Louis	100	26	26
Milwaukee	350	85	24
San Diego	400	92	23
General	345	60	17
Seattle	600	94	16
Philadelphia	350	51	15
Los Angeles	6,300	860	14
Denver	130	15	12
Cleveland	500	31	6
Totals to April 29	\$21,000	\$ 6,328	30%

FLP SPOKESMAN INTERVIEWED

Spain's New Revolutionary Underground Movement

(The March 2 issue of *El Moudjahid* [The Fighter], the official newspaper of the Algerian Party of the National Liberation Front (FLN), printed an interview with a spokesman of the FLP, the young and militant underground movement in Spain which played an important role in the 1962 strike wave there. The complete text of the interview is reprinted below.)

A new wave of political trials has just taken place in Spain. Courts-martial have already condemned to prison terms — ranging up to ten years — 47 men and women accused of "military rebellion" for having actively participated in and, in some cases, led the big workers' strikes of the spring of 1962. The outstanding characteristic of these trials is the youth of the accused and their membership in a new organization called the Front of Popular Liberation.

The FLP is a relatively new organization: It was founded in 1958, in Spain itself. But it is quite evident that its influence with the Spanish workers is growing from day to day, as its predominant role since the strikes of 1962 would tend to indicate.

Inasmuch as news of the recent trials has given rise to contradictory interpretations of the aims and characteristics of this organization, we took advantage of our recent meeting, in a foreign country, with one of the representatives of the FLP to ask him the following questions. This will give our readers a better idea of what the FLP is.

El-Moudjahid: Is the FLP a Front or a Party? What is its influence among the Spanish people?

Answer: The FLP is not, strictly speaking, a Front — because it is not a coalition of parties but a revolutionary organization that includes in its ranks, without any ideological discrimination, all exploited workers, regardless of their antecedents.

What unites us is the desire to build socialism in Spain and the awareness of the necessity of using violent means for the seizure of power by the workers. Moreover, we are convinced that only revolutionary action will unite into one common, clear-cut ideology all the currents of thought existing in the ranks of the people.

The influence of the FLP is

very great among the Spanish youth who see it as the only instrument for the radical transformation of the economic, political and social structure of Spanish society. Its influence is growing from day to day among the workers, as was proved by the recent great strikes of April-May 1962.

El-Moudjahid: What is the attitude of the FLP concerning the old parties of the opposition?

Answer: The FLP was born in response to the needs of the new, young, revolutionary generations of Spain, confronted with the stagnation, the rivalries and the ineffectual leaderships of the old parties of the traditional left which are soured by the defeat of 1936-39 and cut off from the realities and the problems of Spain by long years of exile.

This being said, we are not opposed to united action with the other organizations of the left any time that the possibility of a concrete action (strikes, demonstrations, etc.) presents itself.

We are convinced that to the degree that we take the initiative in the revolutionary struggle, the militants of the other organizations inside the country will join in this struggle.

El-Moudjahid: What is the attitude of the FLP concerning the Church?

Answer: Our attitude towards the Church is very clear. We advocate separation of Church and State, secularization of civil institutions (civil marriage, possibility of divorce, etc.), secularization of the schools, religious freedom.

El-Moudjahid: What are the forms of struggle advocated by the FLP? Are the Spanish people ready to take the road of insurrection?

Answer: We do not, in advance, project any particular form of struggle.

The immediate objective of the FLP is the overthrow of the dictatorship. This will permit establishment of popular power capable of building socialism in Spain.

We support the tactic which consists of linking the struggle of the masses in the industrial centers — their class-struggle activities such as strikes, demonstrations, boycotts, etc. — with armed struggle in the agricultural regions where a feudal type of exploitation still exists.

It goes without saying that this requires huge organizational ef-

forts and huge sacrifices for an organization like ours which has only its own resources to rely on.

In spite of the reformism that is rampant in the workers' movements, particularly in Europe — which has unhealthy repercussions in the heart of the anti-Franco organizations in Spain itself — the Spanish people see more clearly each day the necessity of resolutely taking the road of insurrection advocated by us.

The last two big revolutions, that of the Cuban people and that of the Algerian people, are a powerful contribution to understanding the necessity of armed struggle for the liberation of peoples.

El-Moudjahid: Does the FLP have any ties with the Portuguese revolutionary movements? If not, are such ties foreseen?

Answer: The struggles of the Spanish and Portuguese peoples are closely linked. The reactionary regimes of Franco and Salazar are of the same nature and are, moreover, bound together by all kinds of ties. By means of the "Iberian Pact," which is a politico-military agreement, the two dictators are pledged to give each other the assistance necessary to maintain their oppressive regimes.

Creates Links

The Franco-Salazar alliance creates links between the revolutionary vanguard of both countries. Each day will see more and more of these links developing. As far as we are concerned, we believe in unity of action with the Portuguese revolutionists.

El-Moudjahid: In the opinion of the FLP, is there any connection between its own struggle and the struggle of the colonial peoples for independence?

Answer: The FLP, faithful to the principles of proletarian internationalism, a principle which is proclaimed in its constitution, feels complete solidarity with the colonial peoples' heroic struggle for independence.

We are all fighting the same enemy — imperialism — and we all have the same goal — socialism. We are, therefore, united in a common struggle.

We are convinced that the most effective aid we can give to the colonial movements for national independence is embodied in our own struggle for socialism — which will liquidate the economic bases of colonial exploitation.

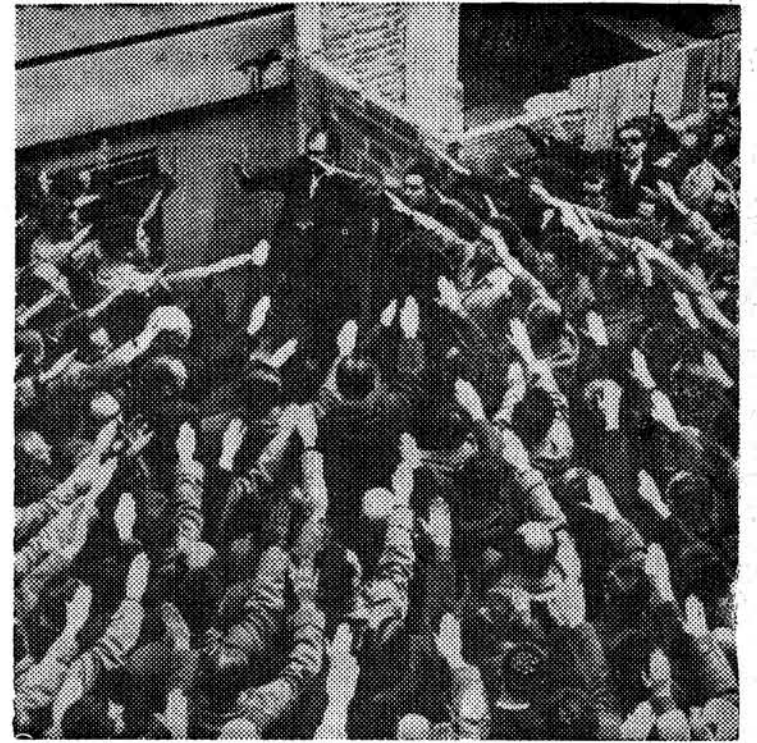
The peoples under the yoke of colonial domination were right in not waiting for the revolution to be made in the "mother" country; they have also made an effective contribution to the revolutionary movement and to peace.

The heroic struggle of the Angolan people for their independence constitutes considerable support in the struggle against Iberian fascism.

In the same way that we advocate unity of action with Portuguese revolutionists, we think that this unity could be extended to the revolutionary movements in the territories under the colonial domination of Portugal and Spain. It must not be forgotten that Spain, yesterday a great colonial empire which the nostalgic Falangists still dream of reconstituting, keeps under its domination so-called Spanish Guinea, the island of Fernando Po, the Sahara (Rio de Oro), Ifni and the cities of Centa and Melilla.

We are partisans of immediate and unconditional independence for these territories. And we do not doubt that they will soon take a path of struggle paralleling that of other African countries, especially Algeria and Angola.

Two recent incidents prove, if proof is needed, that ties exist between the struggle of the African countries still under colonial domination and our own struggle: First, the sending of Spanish



DIMINISHING FOLLOWING. Student members of Franco's Falange give fascist salute. As demagogic promises failed to materialize, that middle-class support which Franco once had evaporated. Today the regime has little popular support and is maintained by U.S. guns and dollars.

"volunteers" to support the war of the colonialists in Angola; second, the offer made to France by the Spanish government to use the Rio de Oro territory as a base for France's nuclear experiments.

In conclusion, we would like to say that, despite the long and difficult road which lies ahead of us before the socialist revolution triumphs in Spain, we are sure of victory. The African countries are freeing themselves one after the other from the yoke of colonialism

and are launched on the struggle against neo-colonialism which is trying to substitute itself for out-moded forms of colonial exploitation. The countries of Asia and Latin America are fighting against imperialism, and those which have acquired independence have chosen the path of socialism.

The Front of Popular Liberation, revolutionary vanguard of the Spanish people, is an integral part of this fight — on a world scale — for socialism and peace.

... Guantanamo Base Killing

(Continued from Page 1)

"in a ditch" at the base. The day before, the U.S. Defense Department issued a statement saying it had found Lopez's body and that "an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death is being conducted."

Mrs. Lopez went to the base to demand her husband's body. She was again referred to Chaplain Hailsberthy who tried to dissuade her from viewing the body, telling her it was being prepared for burial, and that he would arrange interment. She insisted on a burial in the couple's home town, however, and the body was finally turned over to her on Oct. 19. Instead of having it interred immediately, however, she turned it over to the Guantanamo city morgue for an autopsy.

No Bullet Wound

The results, published in the local Cuban press, showed no bullet wound. Probable cause of death was trauma from broken bones and severe bruises. In addition, the autopsy showed the body had been preserved with formaldehyde not more than 24 hours after death.

Those are the facts. In his speech at Lopez's funeral, Raúl Castro pointed out that the story given by base officials — that the body had lain in a ditch for 15 days without their knowledge — could not have been true. He said Cuban authorities had demanded an explanation but were given none. They demanded a legal death certificate from base authorities but were refused. They demanded that those responsible for the killing be brought to trial. The demand was ignored.

At the time, the U.S. daily press dismissed the Raúl Castro speech as "another anti-American haran-

gue," and kept the news of the murder from the American people. Now the news has broken, but the Szili story raises many questions. Szili has named Jackson as the killer, but the story of a self-defense shooting cannot be true. Lopez wasn't shot, but was beaten to death. Nor can Szili's story that the base authorities didn't know about the killing for many days be true. The body was embalmed within 24 hours of death.

Szili's statement that the killing took place outside the base raises a ticklish legal point for the U.S. According to the treaty, under which the U.S. lays claim to Guantanamo, the base authorities are required to turn over to Cuban authorities anyone committing a crime on Cuban soil. Violation of this provision weakens the already ridiculously slim legal claim of the U.S. to the base.

In his speech at the funeral, Raúl Castro declared that the revolutionary government was building small industries in the area to provide other jobs than those on the base, and that Cuba would take legal measures to reclaim the territory from the U.S.

Raúl Castro will be the main speaker at the Havana May Day celebration this year since Prime Minister Fidel Castro is visiting the Soviet Union.

New York Peace Symposium To Hear Diverse Viewpoints

NEW YORK — A diversity of views will be presented at a symposium on the issue "Which Road to Peace?" Sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, the meeting will be held Friday, May 10, 8:30 p.m., at 116 University Place.

Participants in the discussion will include David Dellinger, Fred Halstead, Judith Malina, Harry Purvis and a representative of the Women Strike for Peace.

Dellinger, a prominent left-wing pacifist, is editor of *Liberation* magazine. He has participated in hunger vigils and other anti-war actions.

Fred Halstead is a staff writer for *The Militant* with extensive experience in the union movement.

Judith Malina, who starred in the Living Theater production of Brecht's *Man Is Man*, is a founder of the General Strike for Peace.

Harry Purvis, a Long Island businessman, was an independent congressional candidate of Voters for Peace last November.

The Women Strike for Peace will be represented at the symposium by a member of a delega-

tion of the organization now in Rome for an audience with Pope John XXIII.

The forum schedule has been arranged to allow time for audience participation.



David Dellinger

How Cuba Uprooted Race Discrimination

By Harry Ring

16 pages 15 cents

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

An Independence Leader Explains

How Puerto Rico Is a Victim of Imperialism

By George Lavan

Juan Mari Bras, who granted *The Militant* the following interview, is the secretary-general of the *Movimiento pro Independencia Puerto Rico* (Independence Movement of Puerto Rico).

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Mr. Mari Bras is 35 years old. He became active in the independence movement while a student at the University of Puerto Rico from which he was expelled in 1948 for a demonstration involving raising the Puerto Rican flag. He then came to the United States and studied at the American University and George Washington University in the District of Columbia. He received degrees in political science and in law. Though Mr. Mari Bras still practices law in Puerto Rico, his time is mainly occupied with the work of the independence movement.

Q. What is Puerto Rico's precise status today?

A. It is called Commonwealth in English. In Spanish it is called "Free Associated State." But it is just a farce. We are just the same kind of a colony that we always have been since 1898. Most of the governmental powers in the country are directly exercised by the government of the United States and without any approval or participation of the people of Puerto Rico. Juridically, politically and economically we are just a plain colony for investment of American capital. "Paradise of Investment," they advertise it.

Militarily, we are a base of the United States. We have there about ten bases, naval, air and military. Some of those bases include guided missiles installations, and some have atomic weapons. They are using Puerto Rico as the headquarters of both the Army and the Navy in the Caribbean. And that means 13 per cent of the arable land of Puerto Rico is dedicated to U.S. military installations.

Q. Could you describe in general the living conditions of the population? How big a population is it?

A. It is two and one half million population. But that doesn't give a complete view of the population of Puerto Rico. We have more than a million and a quarter living in the United States that have migrated here, in addition to the two and a half million living on the island. Two and a half million living in 9,000 square kilometers which are roughly 3,500 square miles.

Q. What state in the union would that be comparable to in size?

A. Delaware. Our living conditions — these figures can give you an idea. Our governor said in the last message to the legislature our average income per family is \$3,000 per year. But these figures are not explained. He didn't break them down. The fact is that half the families of Puerto Rico have an income of less than \$1,000 a year. And the average family has more than six persons per family.

Q. How does the population break down by those who live in the country; farm workers as opposed to city workers?

A. There has been a great movement of population during the last 20 years. In 1940 about 70 per cent of the population of the island was rural. Today it is about half and half. Half of the population lives in the country and half in the cities and most of this rural population is composed of seasonal workers of the sugar industry that work three or four months a year in the sugar harvest.

And they come to the United States to the fields of the Middle

West with contracts that are slave-labor contracts. They come and stay there for two, three and four months and come back to Puerto Rico, sometimes with no money at all because everything they have earned has been taken for the air trip and their room and board they give them in those encampments.

Q. Are there many small independent farmers in Puerto Rico?

A. There were but not today. When the Americans invaded the island in 1898 Puerto Rico was, I would say, the country in America with the greatest distribution of land. There was no such thing as great land tenures on the island. (There were many thousands of small peasants owning small farms.) But after the sugar monopolies came to the island and



Juan Mari Bras

took over all those farms they took them from the peasants and consolidated those great sugar enterprises. They control most of the main land of the island.

Q. And what about industrial and commercial enterprises? Are those owned by Puerto Rican capitalists and small capitalists or are they mostly foreign-owned interests?

A. Industrial enterprises are mostly owned by United States interests. Even those industries that were a few years ago in the hands of Puerto Rican capitalists have been transferred to American capitalists. Like the rum industry for instance. One of the most profitable industries in Puerto Rico since the war has been the rum. Well, in the last few years, Seagrams Corporation took control of the major rum factories of Puerto Rico.

Q. Could you give me an outline of the history of the Movimiento Pro Independencia — when it was founded, what it stands for?

A. Our organization was founded in 1959, the eleventh of January, ten days after Fidel Castro formed the government of Cuba.

Q. Was this a coincidence?

A. In a way it was a coincidence but the development of the independence movement has been greatly influenced by the fact of the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959. We have been a force associated with the 26th of July Movement since Fidel was in the Sierra Maestra. We were part of the independence movement of Puerto Rico, we were part of the Puerto Ricans committee that was raising funds for the 26th of July Movement in Puerto Rico and giving support to that.

So the eleventh of January we organized in a small convention, the organizing committee for the establishment of a nonpartisan patriotic front of all independents of Puerto Rico. Because there existed a great number of small groups organized with different tendencies and different sorts of organi-

zations. And we started this organizing committee and spent all the year organizing throughout the island.

In November of that year we had our convention, in the city of Ponce with about 1,500 delegates representing the units already formed all throughout the island.

And in that convention we organized the movement. Since then we have developed great campaigns of organization. Last year was dedicated to organization. It was called the Year of Organization. In the last year we achieved the goal of multiplying by ten the number of activists in the movement, card-holding members, and we finished organizing in all the municipalities of the island. We now have sections of the movement organized in every municipality of Puerto Rico, and also in New York and Chicago. And to a great extent we have realized the unity of the independents of Puerto Rico although there are some five or six smaller groups.

Q. What are the principal planks in the platform of your movement?

A. We stand for complete national liberation of the Puerto Rican people. That means the obtaining of the sovereignty first and independence, of course, and not only that but the development of an economic program that will liberate our people from foreign domination. A return to the Puerto Ricans of all the wealth of our country that is now in the hands of foreign interests. We have already approved a thesis that contains the basis of a liberation program including agrarian reform, industrial development and a very concrete program in which these things are discussed at length.

Q. I understand the M.P.I. plans to abstain from electoral activities. What sort of activities does it carry on..

A. The main purpose of our organization is to mobilize the mass of the people for militant action to win independence. We have pickets, demonstrations and put pressure in every way we can on the United States government like the one we're exercising by our international activities. We are winning the solidarity of most of the countries of the world for the cause of Puerto Rican independence, denouncing the colonial situation in Puerto Rico in the United Nations and every other forum that we find outside of Puerto Rico.

Q. Is your movement able to carry on all this activity without any interference, do you have complete civil liberties?

A. No, we are very greatly interfered with. There is great persecution by the FBI and by the police. Before the meeting place there is always a member of the police checking everyone who enters. Several acts of persecution have taken place. We have denounced them publicly several times.

Q. The attitude of many Americans, I would say — that is, average Americans is that if Puerto Ricans want their independence they should have it. A lot of Americans assume because they haven't got it they don't want it. Would you say that the majority of Puerto Ricans do want independence?

A. Yes. Once they are confronted with the reality that the only alternative is independence or the colonial regime, the people of Puerto Rico will decide overwhelmingly for independence.

The colonial forces have created illusions in the people of Puerto Rico that makes some people, great sectors of the masses of the people, believe that it is possible to reach a state of equitable as-



WITCH-HUNTERS GO HOME! Puerto Ricans in San Juan demonstrate against presence of HUAC probers who came there in 1960 to seek "subversion" in the independence movement.

sociation with the people of the United States without losing their national autonomy. An equal association. They say that Puerto Rico could reach a situation similar to the colonies of England today that are members of the so-called British commonwealth of nations.

We are trying to bring to the people of Puerto Rico the reality that that is not legally possible within the framework of the constitutional system of the United States. It is only a trick to keep the people from supporting the only right that we have. That is the right to independence.

But now the whole thing is coming to a climax because Congress will have to say now it is willing to offer this kind of association to Puerto Rico. I am sure that Congress will not offer that and the people of Puerto Rico will then be convinced that the only alternative to colonial status is independence.

Q. Do you think this projected plebiscite will be the issue around which Congress will show its true attitude and the people of Puerto Rico will see?

A. That's right. Congress has been asked by a resolution of the legislature of Puerto Rico to state what kind of an association they are willing to offer as an alternative to independence.

And they have been asked also to state whether they are willing to grant statehood in the event that the Puerto Rican people select statehood in the plebiscite. I am sure that the association that they will offer is just the same colonial thing that we have today. Of course they will count on the complicity of Governor Muñoz Marin for that.

But when this legislation comes we will ask the people to refrain from voting because the plebiscite will be a choice between this farce and the alternative of statehood which is not feasible either.

Q. While your movement is specifically a Puerto Rican movement and the history of Puerto Rico and the United States is a very specific one, would you say that your movement is also a part of the broader movement of Latin America like the movement in Cuba and the anti-imperialist movement on the continent of South America?

A. We stated in the thesis that the movement for national liberation in Puerto Rico is and should always be in alliance with all the forces of Latin America.

And as a matter of fact we have been in contact with the liberation forces of Venezuela, with Cuba of course, and with the Dominican Republic. With Chile and Mexico we have participated in several continental meetings, like the one held in Mexico in 1961 under the leadership of Lazaro Cardenas for national sovereignty and we continue with all this alliance with all the forces of liberation in Latin America.

Q. My final question is what can Americans who are sympathetic to the idea of self-determination of the Puerto Rican people do to help your movement and generally the Puerto Rican people?

A. All that we would ask of our friends in the United States is to make clear the fact of Puerto Rico's struggle for independence to the people of the United States. We know that the man in the street in the United States, is not interested in maintaining an empire for this country. There are only a minority of very powerful forces that are interested in maintaining this colonial situation. But the great mass of the people in the United States as soon as they realize that the situation is that of a colony and that we are being exploited as all the colonies of the world have been and that we have been prevented from exercising our sovereign right they will immediately sympathize with our cause. And that is what we need of the progressive forces of the United States — to make our case clear to the public and to have the moral support of all the American people.

Four Canadians Who Saw Cuba

Four Canadians — a member of the British Columbia legislature, a unionist-journalist, a school principal, and a college student — who all visited Cuba recently, offer honest and illuminating reports on what life is really like there. Published by the Canadian Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

Send 25 cents for a copy to:

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Letters From Our Readers

The Lies About Cuba

Youngstown, Ohio

I am going to pledge \$5 to the *Militant* Fund but will give it to the Cleveland group. I want to help them go over the top.

I would like to comment on the many contradictions and fabrications that are so prevalent in the capitalist press, radio, TV, etc., against Cuba. One example is as follows: The capitalist papers are always harping about how the Cuban people don't support Castro and how they all want to leave Cuba. However, on a TV program called *Eyewitness*, last winter some English or Canadian reporter in Cuba interviewed Cubans personally about their views on the Revolution. Everyone interviewed, with the exception of one or two, enthusiastically supported Castro. And the few counter-revolutionaries who spoke openly against Castro certainly

acted with no fear of reprisal. All of the working-class people interviewed supported Castro ardently.

These interviews were on film and anyone discerning could see the people were perfectly contented as they laughed and acted like anybody else.

Another lie was that the Cuban counter-revolutionary prisoners were nearly starved to death. When they arrived in Florida they were shown on film on TV and they looked in the best of physical shape.

Also during the Cuban crisis why did even the people who are anti-Castro volunteer to join the militia to defend Cuba against an expected American invasion? Seems strange to me that the majority of Cubans took up arms against us in case we invaded them and almost unanimously chose to defend Cuba and support Castro. Certainly if they wanted so much to be part of our "free world" they wouldn't have armed themselves against our expected invasion.

After witnessing all of the untruths printed in the capitalist papers about Cuba I realize these lies are intended to crush the Cuban Revolution and turn the American people against the Cubans so the United Fruit Company, sugar companies, etc., can mount an offensive against Cuba so they can regain control of Cuba's natural resources and get back the huge profits they lost with the revolution.

The real enemies of the American people are these capitalists who want to get control of the resources of Cuba and the rest of the world for their own private profit.

R.A.L.

Taylor's Admission on India

New York, N.Y.

It is to be regretted that the left-wing press in this country didn't pay attention to the report from a Congressional committee (hidden in the back pages of the *New York Times* some weeks ago) at which General Maxwell D. Taylor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified that the fighting between the Chinese and Indian armies started as the result of Indian troops pressing forward.

The *Times* report said that after these remarks the rest of the hearing was declared secret.

This frank statement of our chief military figure for the initiated Senators contrasts sharply with the misleading headlines and editorials of our "free press" which tries to present to the American public the deplorable fighting as "Chinese aggression."

This cynical admission should be uncovered and brought to light to show that in their incitement to a "holy war" against communism the capitalist propagandists will not shrink from any trick or lie.

It is also ample proof of the stupidity and hypocrisy of those liberal and social-democratic writers who — without checking the facts — sided with India against the Chinese "aggressors" at the beckoning of their capitalist masters.

A.B.

On Co-Existence

Casper, Wyo.

Both the "radical right" and the Marxist left claim that peaceful co-existence is impossible —

Thought for the Week

"To a degree which is just short of war, Cuba is being photographed, patrolled, embargoed, squeezed and isolated. If Cuba were a great power we would be at war with her for what we are already doing. I doubt whether there is any precedent where we have exerted such strong measures short of war on any other country." — Walter Lippmann's column, April 25.

the one because the world of communism is of Satan, a devilish, fiendish, red monster hungrily devouring "freedom and democracy," and enslaving the masses in an all-powerful state; the other because capitalism and socialism are antithetical socio-economic systems, because the ruling economic class in capitalism must be broken to serve the mass.

And between these two opposing views, the liberals, humanitarians, utopians, entertain hope that somehow the system will merge into a some-what-somehow resemblance of democracy and human justice.

Isn't it amazing! The liberal posture is attractive to moralists, and intellectuals because it assuages the brutality of the right-wing philosophy. Yet their insistence on working with and inside the present socio-economic structure prevents them from going to radicalism.

Of course co-existence is impossible! Even if a U.S.-USSR concordat were to come about it would not be in the interest of the masses, socialism or humanitarianism — as power would still be out of their hands!

A.H.

Southern Rights Movement

Chicago, Ill.

The article, "Kennedy and Birmingham," was well-written from both a factual and logical point of view. And this article even hints of the beginning of a Southern Negro workers movement around

the industrial centers like Birmingham.

This movement would challenge McDonald and company of the AFL-CIO.

I hope the prediction is not only correct but a rapidly approaching reality.

Keep sending me *The Militant*.
N.G.

Civil-Rights Stand

Filmore, Utah

On April 23 I wrote Attorney General Kennedy as follows: Concerning the Southern race question, may I ask you, how long are you going to confuse the issue of "state's rights" by acting on school desegregation, etc., yet permitting state authorities to obstruct constitutional guarantees of equal voting privileges? In answer thereto I urge: arrest every state officer or citizen who violates constitutional law . . .

Either we correct abuses legally or neglect will avenge itself eventually by civil strife.

Therefore I petition, execute justice before the die is cast. Reason dictates, make all citizens equal with voting power and leave them alone to settle their separate state problems.

A. C. Gregersen

Poverty in U.S.

New York, N.Y.

In the April 21 edition of *The New York Times Magazine*, Herman P. Miller, special assistant to the demographic section of the Bureau of the Census, has an article on the extent of poverty in our country. His article reveals

that today "40 per cent of the families [of the U.S.] live in poverty or deprivation [while] even during the Depression only one-third of the nation was ill-housed, ill-clothed and ill-fed." Mr. Miller goes on to give an example of what he considers poverty by citing figures on homes which lack baths, inside toilets and many which "even lack running water."

Being a loyal employe of the Kennedy administration, Miller tries to apologize for and explain away these embarrassing statistics. Our standards for judging poverty have gone up, he says (none of the poor had broken-down jalopies 75 years ago; only the lack of baths and toilets has remained the same). After all his attempts at explanation, Miller is still left with the fact that "about one-third of the people [in American cities] have incomes insufficient to maintain a decent level of living."

Miller also has trouble when it comes to finding a solution to the problem of poverty. One of his suggestions is that "younger men can always take on a second job when they feel that they are falling behind." At a time when nearly six per cent of workers in this country cannot even find one job, it seems illogical that many young workers who "feel that they are falling behind" could find two. If Mr. Miller read *The Militant* he would know a better solution: a planned economy administered by a workers' and farmers' government.

Richard Davidson

It Was Reported in the Press

"Overdose" — A Franklin County, Pa., jurist on April 23 branded the American Civil Liberties Union as "anarchists suffering from an overdose of the Declaration of Independence." State Common Pleas Judge Chauncey M. Depuy made the assertion in a panel discussion on "Civil Rights of the Offender." He also took offense at a member of the audience who criticized his stand against the right of juveniles to be represented by counsel. "Putting an attorney between the child and the court . . . is like putting an attorney between a child and its father," he snapped. He also complained our mental hospitals are filled beyond capacity.

Preservation of the Species — Dr. Herman Mueller, noted geneticist, has proposed that male sperm be stored underground in a deep freeze as a means of coping with the problem of mutations from radiation exposure.

Watch That Lunch Box — A bi-partisan, four-man Congressional committee which toured Latin America says the U.S. image was never brighter there. But the congressmen take a dim view of the U.S.-backed school lunch program. Their report said: "To feed hungry children with our surplus food is commendable. However, we are concerned with the presence of Marxist-inclined teachers in the schools and colleges. It makes little sense for the United States to be the instrument for increasing school attendance if the pupils are going to be fed Communist doctrine along with their lunches."

They Dig Disaster Deal — State and federal civil-defense officials are in a lather about the town of Weaverville, Calif., which obtained \$69,000 from the federal government to cover half the cost of a civil-defense shelter. (The other half came from the insurance on the town's old social hall which burned down.) The complaint is that the shelter is a very attractive, modern building with picture windows and is used regularly for square dances and other social events.

Law of Uneven Development — The nation's first drive-in burlesque theater will open in Chelsea, Mass., this June.

Hard-Sell Baptists — The Southern Baptists have been carrying on missionary work in Japan for the past 70 years and are dissatisfied with the results. Despite all efforts less than one per cent of the Japanese have been converted to Christianity. So the Baptists decided to try the Madison Avenue approach and launched a four-week drive which features a cowboy band, a symphony orchestra, a television-series detective story and a \$200,-

000 advertising campaign designed to "market" Christianity. Total cost of the operation is estimated at a half million dollars.

A Bell for Tocoa? — A teacher in the North Georgia mountain town of Tocoa is fighting for reinstatement. Frederick W. Adams was fired for having his eighth-grade students read John Hersey's novel, *A Bell for Adano*. Its theme is the effort to re-establish democracy in post-fascist Italy. The complaint against Adams said the book contains profanity. Hersey sent a statement to the hearing which said: "There is a possibility that his [Adams'] pupils may see in this dismissal of their teacher a striking parallel to the story of the novel itself in which the central character is dismissed from his job for trying to do something he sincerely felt would help those who were under his care."

Management As Usual — Of 43 Washington correspondents polled by *Newsweek* magazine, 40 said they agree that Kennedy actively engages in "news management" or manipulation. The same 40 said the Eisenhower administration did the same thing.

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10 YEARS AGO IN THE MILITANT

"Long before the end of the last war, we predicted that . . . the Wall Street rulers of America were even then planning the destruction of the Soviet Union . . .

"Now we have some long-buried evidence confirming to the hilt what we said then. Joseph C. Grew, Roosevelt's Under-Secretary of State during the war years, has published his memoirs and papers in a book *Turbulent Era*. Grew, privy to the innermost views of the Washington rulers, wrote on May 19, 1945:

"A future war with Soviet Russia is as certain as anything in this world can be . . . As soon as the San Francisco Conference is over our policy towards Soviet Russia should immediately stiffen, all along the line."

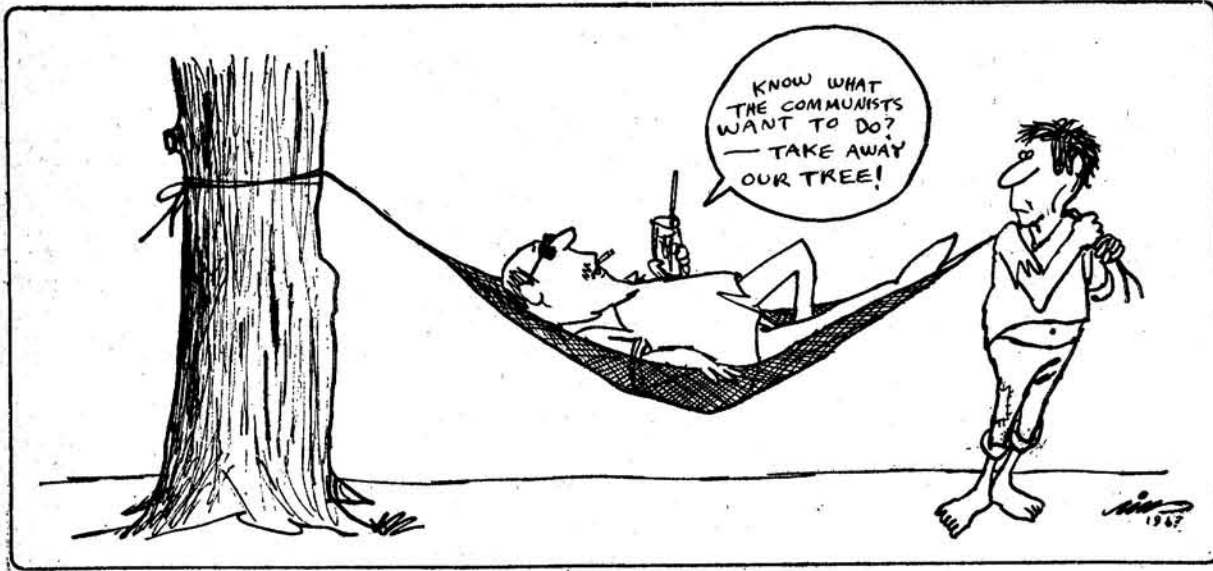
"Even while the capitalist hypocrites were proclaiming 'peace on earth' at San Francisco before the war was over, they were planning to annihilate the Soviet Union in a third world war. And they will inevitably bring the world down in ruins if the workers let them have their way." — May 4, 1953.

20 YEARS AGO

"What *The Militant* has consistently pointed out since Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union — that the end of the war and the defeat of Hitler by the 'United Nations' will not end the danger to the Soviet Union — was dramatically confirmed this week when the Soviet government broke relations with the Polish government-in-exile because of its 'hostile campaign' in connection with the German claim that the Soviet Union had massacred 10,000 Polish officers . . . There can be no doubt that the Polish government's procedure over the German charge was deliberately hostile to the USSR . . .

"Only a few months ago they [the American and British governments] permitted the Polish government-in-exile, which generally does not dare to take a step without their permission, to arouse an anti-Soviet agitation over the border question and over alleged interference by the Soviet Union in Polish 'internal' affairs.

"The latest developments must be viewed as the most graphic expression to date of the fundamental antagonism between the 'democracies' and the Soviet Union. Those who stand for the defense of the Soviet Union, as we Trotskyists do, must continue to warn the masses that the Soviet Union remains in great danger." — May 1, 1943.



Reprinted from *Politica*, Mexico City

"The fact is that many of the countries of Latin America are ripe for revolution. At the top of an antiquated feudal structure is entrenched a power elite who control both government and the financial and economic resources of the nation. Theirs is the power monopoly that maintains the archaic political, economic and social structure which makes the majority of Latin American countries a fertile ground for revolution by the exploited, ill-nourished, ill-housed, virtually destitute and hopeless vast majority." — Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska in the March 30 *New Republic*.

At Meeting in Spokane

SWP Speaker Debates Fulton Lewis III

Frank Krasnowsky, a spokesman for the Socialist Workers Party in the state of Washington, debated ultra-rightist Fulton Lewis III in Spokane April 11 on the question of socialism. Spokane is a center of right-wing activities in the Northwest, and the debate was sponsored by one of the rightist organizations — the Young Americans for Freedom.

Krasnowsky said he accepted the challenge to debate "in the interest of free speech," but admitted that he "invaded the territory with some apprehension," and said he assumed the audience "would be pretty solidly against me."

Created Stir

The presence of a socialist speaker, however, caused quite a stir in Spokane. While the Spokane dailies gave the debate only limited coverage, the radio gave the affair good publicity. There was TV coverage of the debate itself, which was attended by some 700 persons.

Krasnowsky had received wide publicity in the state recently as a result of a successful fight against an attempt to bar him as a speaker from the Ballard High School Forum in Seattle. He was

Seek to Deport Anti-Franco Vet

Joseph Sherman has been a U.S. resident since 1920. On last March 14, the Immigration and Naturalization Service initiated deportation proceedings against him. The reason for the action: Sherman fought in Spain against Franco in 1937.

The campaign of harassment against Sherman has been going on for a long time. Previously, the Justice Department had secured a court order to compel Sherman to testify whether he had fought in Spain. In April 1962, when he stood on his right not to be a witness against himself, it appeared he had won a victory, the government having in effect acknowledged his right not to testify.

Nevertheless, the deportation proceeding has been brought against him.

The Sherman Defense Committee, 49 East 21 St., Room 405, New York 10, N.Y., urges that protests be sent to Attorney General Robert Kennedy, Washington, D.C. urging that further action against Joseph Sherman be dropped.

the first prominent socialist speaker to appear on a platform in Spokane in many years.

He made a basic explanation of socialism and attacked the argument that socialism in the U.S. would mean repeating the path of the USSR in the bad sense. He said the U.S. has a high productivity while the USSR began without even many of the simplest necessities of life and had to build its industrial machine from the bottom while isolated internationally. He counterposed to the control of the USA by the corporations, the direction of the government and the economy by the working people through industrial democracy.

Lewis sought to identify the concentration of capital and the control of the U.S. by government, corporation and union bureau-

cracies with "socialism." He was making an obvious appeal to the small and middle businessmen who make up the ultra-right following in Spokane and who are feeling the squeeze of a lagging economy and corporate concentration.

"The applause was about one third for me and two thirds for Lewis," said Krasnowsky, "but I estimate half the audience was neutral and came out of curiosity at what a socialist would sound like."

"I was particularly encouraged," said Krasnowsky, "by the friendly response of a number of Gonzaga University students and by some older radicals who assured me that my talk had been a stimulus for them to carry out future meetings and activities for socialism in Spokane."

Campus Peace Leader Asks Protests on GIs in Vietnam

CHICAGO — "The peace movement in this country can win some victories if it would campaign around the concrete issues of the cold war, such as the fight against colonialism in Vietnam and Cuba. Otherwise it will continue to decline and finally disintegrate," declared Richard Roberts, Jr., assistant editor of *Sanity* magazine, in a talk before the Friday Night Socialist Forum April 19.

Speaking on "U.S. Nuclear Strategy and a New Road for the Peace Movement," Roberts, currently a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, was a national executive member of Student SANE before it was dissolved last year. He is now making a special study of present U.S. military policies.

U.S. Strategy

The American "counterforce" strategy, whereby a massive "first strike" nuclear attack on Soviet defenses would render the USSR incapable of retaliation, is becoming obsolete, Roberts argued. Increased Soviet armaments has made it impossible to guarantee 100 per cent effectiveness in a "first strike."

The U.S. thus finds it ever harder to enforce its will upon other nations by nuclear threats since few believe it will risk the sure destruction of its own major population centers. This altered situation is causing Washington to consider channeling its huge ap-

propriations for massive nuclear stockpiling into other, more "credible" means of terror, such as operations in Vietnam.

For these reasons, Roberts cautioned peace activists not to limit their concern to achievement of an H-bomb test ban treaty. If a test ban treaty is eventually signed, it should serve as an occasion for peace advocates to step up a campaign against the White House's war-producing policies in Cuba, Vietnam and other places, instead of producing complacency.

Meany and His 'Expert' In Pitiful Performance

At a conference sponsored by the Los Angeles Federation of Labor April 19, AFL-CIO President George Meany spoke scornfully of 91-year-old Bertrand Russell as a "so-called British liberal philosopher." The so-called labor leader shared the platform with his alleged "brain" on foreign policy, Jay Lovestone, who called the John Birch Society "an agent for communism." Lovestone, one-time head of the American Communist Party, bears a major responsibility for the Stalinization of that party. He organized the expulsion in 1928 of its left-wing for Trotskyism, thus ending the party's internal democracy. A year later Stalin ordered him expelled.

Civil-Rights Parley and Fight For Free Speech Hit Norfolk

Carl Braden, noted integrationist and civil liberties champion, was refused permission to speak on the campus of Old Dominion College at Norfolk, Va., April 25. He was in Norfolk for a regional civil rights parley.

ODC president Lewis W. Webb Jr., in denying the application of the History Club students to hear Braden, said that the latter was turned down because the students didn't file for clearance in time. Regulations call for such filing at least ten days before a speaker's appearance to allow time to investigate the speaker's "qualifications." Webb said the History Club's application was filed only two days in advance: "There was no time to make sure Braden's the kind of man we want coming on the campus. We can't approve every Tom, Dick and Harry."

But an editorial in *The Virginian-Pilot* pointed out, "It should not be Mr. Webb's business to approve Tom, Dick and Harry, or any other speaker invited by an established campus society."

Thanks to Dr. Kenneth Woods, history professor at ODC who courageously offered the use of grounds at his home for an outdoor rally, the students were able to hear Braden speak on "The Right to Dissent."

Braden, field representative of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, was in Norfolk to participate in the April 26-27 "Conference on Time for Action in the Mid-South," of which the SCEF was one of the sponsoring organizations.

The purpose of the two-day conference was to stimulate action leading to equal rights for all citizens and to provide information on which people may act. To that end, there were workshops on job opportunities, housing, voting, civil

New Mine Blast Kills 22 Men

Twenty-two miners lost their lives in a violent explosion of methane gas and coal dust that ripped through Clinchfield Coal Company's Compass No. 2 mine in Dola, W. Va., on the night of April 25.

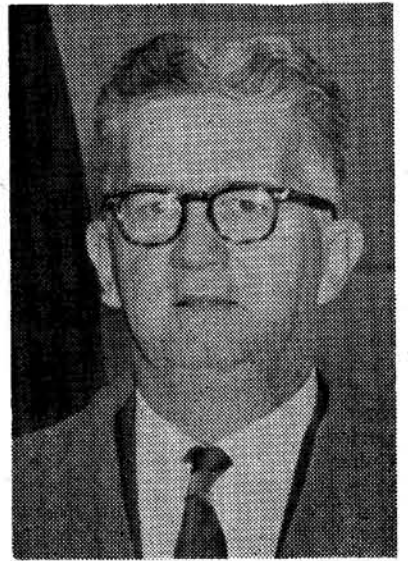
The blast was so violent that a survivor, about a mile away, was knocked off his feet. "The explosion came in two or three puffs and the dust started flying," said Clark Robey, 54-year-old mechanic. "It blew me down, even though I was pretty close to a mile away."

Other survivors told of feeling a sudden rough surge of wind that knocked shovels from their hands, ripped at their coats and left them covered with rock dust.

The victims had been working in an area of the mine that was a mile and three-quarters from the bottom of a 300-foot shaft. Rescuers reported that, as they worked their way toward the scene of the explosion, the air became more and more foul and the presence of methane in possibly dangerous density was detected.

The Compass No. 2 mine is only about 60 miles southwest of Carmichaels, Pa., where 37 men were killed in a similar explosion last Dec. 6 at U.S. Steel's Robena No. 3 mine.

One might reasonably wonder why a society with a technology advanced enough to create A-bombs and H-bombs, killer submarines, ICBMs, and a host of other death-dealing and death-transporting contraptions, is unable to handle a comparatively simple problem like preventing methane gas explosions in coal mines.



Carl Braden

liberties, public facilities and education. Speakers repeatedly stressed registration of Negro voters and bloc Negro voting as the most effective way of attaining any specific objective local Negroes may have.

The keynote speaker, the Rev. C. T. Vivian of the Tennessee Voters Council, pointed out that Negroes must not accept and be satisfied with "little handouts, a little freedom" — which he called "token-ness."

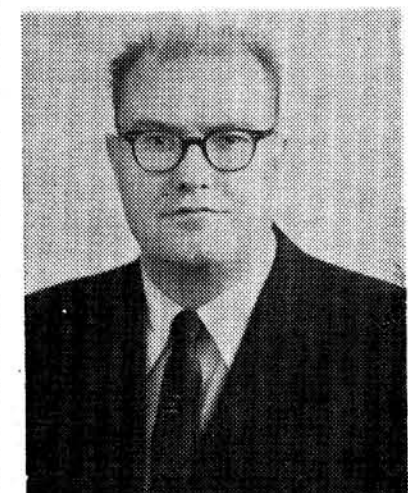
The conference also heard talks by James Forman, executive secretary of the Student Nonviolent Co-ordinating Committee; Charles M. Sherrod and Mrs. Diane Nash Bevel, SNCC field secretaries from Albany, Ga., and Cleveland, Miss.; Miss Dorie Ladner of Greenwood, Miss., SNCC; Bishop C. Ewbank Tucker, A.M.E. Zion Church and board member of SCEF; and David D. Alston, a vice president of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Minn. Socialist Hits Plan for Sales Tax

MINNEAPOLIS, April 26 — Joseph Johnson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, spoke last night at the sales tax hearing held in the state office building in St. Paul.

In a strongly-worded statement in opposition to the proposed state sales tax bill, Johnson pointed out that the average worker would be paying four times more per dollar than the very rich. Citing Illinois as an example, he showed that the average worker there pays over six per cent of his wages in sales taxes, while his rich boss pays less than one per cent of his income.

"As income goes down to the lowest levels, the sales tax percentage you pay goes way up. If you are a very poor family, you will be hurt criminally," Johnson declared.



Joseph Johnson