

New York Mass Protest, April 27

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THE MILITANT

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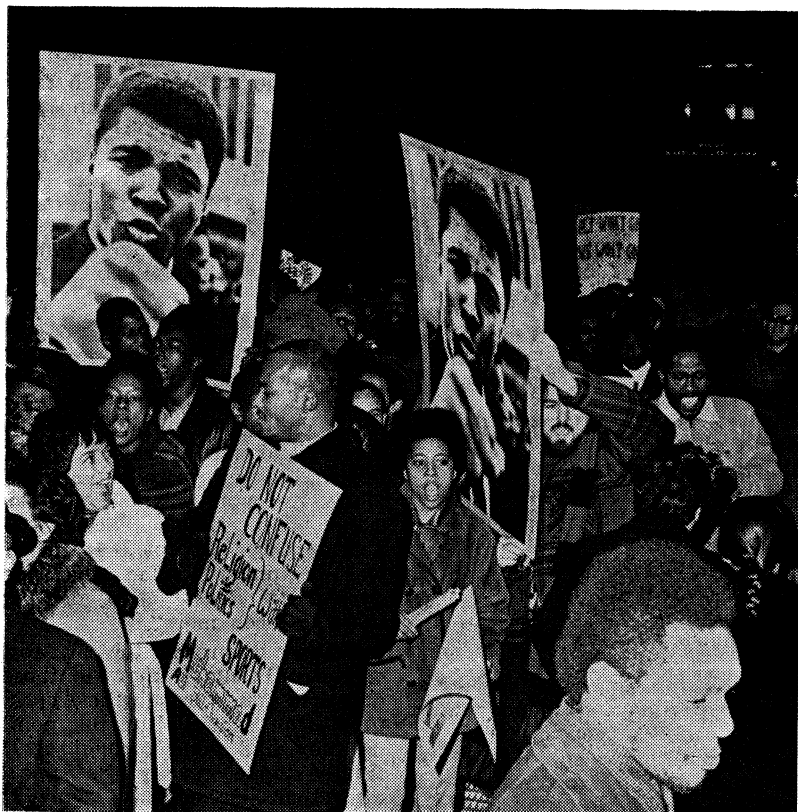


Photo by Shannon

BACK MUHAMMAD ALI. Demonstrators support heavyweight champion deprived of crown because of his opposition to draft and war.

700 Picket Fake Bout — Ali Still the Champ

By Alex Harte

NEW YORK, March 4 — Over 700 demonstrators picketed the gala debut of boxing at the new Madison Square Garden tonight to protest the phony world heavyweight championship match between Joe Frazier and Buster Mathis.

Excluded from the fight was Muhammad Ali, the uncontested world heavyweight champion, barred from the ring because of his opposition to the racist war in Vietnam.

In below-freezing weather, the demonstrators marched to such chants as "Who's the champ? Muhammad Ali" and "He won't go, we won't go." They belonged to a number of organizations including various nationalist groups in Harlem, the National Black Anti-War Anti-Draft Union, the Black Caucus, the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs, the Young Socialist Alliance, and Youth Against War and Fascism.

Right before the demonstration, Harry Edwards, chairman of the Olympic Boycott Committee, presented a petition to Frazier and Mathis urging them not to fight. The petition called attention to a number of black freedom fighters who have been unjustly persecuted and stated, in part:

"Gentlemen, out of dignity and respect to the black people of America, which includes yourself, let the title remain unchallenged — for the time being. Let it not

be said that the blacks were ready to fight and claim it. Let the whites have that opportunity..."

Edwards stated that Frazier and Mathis had given the petition a friendly reception. The petition was also signed by Lincoln Lynch, chairman of the United Black Front.

Edwards, who also helped organize the boycott of the New York Athletic Club track meet [*The Militant*, Feb. 25] because of the club's discrimination against blacks and Jews, told reporters: "It's two entirely different demonstrations. We make a distinction between the racist pigs who put on the fight and the brothers who are in there fighting..."

Following two hours of picketing, a rally was held on the steps of the U.S. Post Office on Eighth Avenue at 33rd Street. Short speeches were given by Dixie Bayo of the Puerto Rican Independence Movement; Carlos Russell, chairman of the Black Caucus; Harry Edwards; Jarvis Tyner, chairman of the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs and Matty Berkelhammer, a leader of the DuBois Clubs in New York; and Charles Kenyatta.

Edwards reiterated the fact that the demonstration protested injustice against all black people, specifically mentioning Huey Newton, H. Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael and Herman Ferguson. "We must move against racism in all areas," he insisted.

"And the Big Fool Says to Push On"

By Dick Roberts

MARCH 5 — It is only a matter of time before Lyndon Johnson will respond to the new situation in Vietnam by a further mobilization of reserves and a call-up of fresh troops for the battlefields. This is the opinion of practically every authority, for or against the war.

The only question now is how far and how fast Johnson intends to go.

The National Liberation Front's five-week-long offensive coupled with Hanoi's isolation of the U.S. marine base at Khesanh have demonstrated Washington cannot win the war at the present troop levels, if at all.

"Any serious negotiation," Theodore Sorensen stated two days ago, "would risk a Communist South Vietnam." Sorensen formerly acted as top aide and adviser to President Kennedy.

The feeling that Washington could actually lose the war is bringing forth unprecedented criticism of administration policies. More and more prominent Democratic and Republican politicians are urging the President to slow down and hold back.

Secret Speeches

So far, Johnson has not felt compelled to answer his critics directly and publicly. But he is apparently making some sort of answers in the secret speeches to hand-picked audiences he has been making around the nation in the last few weeks.

Thus, Max Frankel, the *New York Times'* chief authority on LBJ's moods, tells us March 3 that Johnson "has figured out his answers to the electorate's most nagging questions." For instance, to the question "Are we really fighting for freedom?" Johnson would respond:

"Mr. Ho Chi Minh, who has never been elected to anything in his life, has determined that his might will make right and that he can take that little country. We are pledged to them."

And to the question about not paying attention to his critics, Johnson would answer, "I asked the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense only yesterday to take Senator X's speech and take Senator Y's television appearance and take Senator Z's statement and take General So-and-so and analyze them all to see if there is any alternative plan they have that we could profit from."

Different insights into Johnson's plans come from other quarters. *Wall Street Journal* correspondent

Is Your School In CHOICE 68?

Check with your student government or Social Science or Political Science departments to make sure your school is participating in CHOICE 68. For more information, write: CHOICE 68, Room 1924, Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020. Phone: (212) 556-4556.



Westmoreland

Henry Gemmill figures Johnson is on the way to becoming "LBJ, War President." Here's the image:

"A prolonged disappearance of the Lyndon Johnson who eagerly seeks, in public, for paths to Vietnam peace talks. No more visits to the Pope..."

"Instead, a Commander-in-Chief who pours more soldiers into the war — breaking through the Vietnam manpower ceiling he himself set last summer. And a President who calls on Congress for more military money — busting the budget he himself set last month.

"A War President at home, as

well as abroad. One who casts aside, for instance, the fragile economic arguments for an anti-inflation increase — and instead hammers a tough demand for a war tax."

Business Week, March 2, thinks the war image will be even stronger: "In Dallas, this week, Johnson said: 'I think every American will want to say, 'I stood up to be counted.'"

"He will hammer home this appeal to patriotism on every domestic issue until there is a turn for the better in Vietnam..."

"On wage-price policy, White House head-knocking will be tougher and tied to the war. Striking copper workers and their employers will get the first taste of it, as Johnson struggles to avoid breaking the strike with a Taft-Hartley injunction..."

"On civil rights disturbances, Negro leaders will be given the blunt message that strife in the cities this summer will be assailed as a betrayal of U.S. soldiers."

Elsewhere in the same issue, *Business Week* gloats that the second half year economy may be better than originally thought: "Defense spending has taken on a different look." It predicts a \$6.8 billion rise in spending on the war, compared to early estimates of a \$4 billion increase.

Whether Johnson adopts the war image suggested by these financial sources in the 1968 campaign remains to be seen. Image or no image, however, he will continue to be "waist deep in the Big Muddy" and sinking deeper, as the song says.

CHOICE 68 News

By Doug Jenness

This column will be a weekly feature devoted to news of the nationwide CHOICE 68 campus poll on the Vietnam war and the Presidency, to be held on April 24.

CHOICE 68, financed by *Time* magazine, is being run by a group of student-body presidents and editors. They are presently setting up coordinators and CHOICE 68 committees on each campus across the country to encourage interest in the poll and formation of candidate-supporter groups, to get out the vote, and to conduct the poll.

The name of Fred Halstead, Socialist Workers Party candidate for President, appears on the CHOICE 68 ballot along with 13 other announced or prospective candidates. In addition there are three referendum issues on the ballot, including the first national campus poll on the war in Vietnam.

The Socialist Workers Campaign Committee has called for a vote for immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces and permanent cessation of the bombing, on the antiwar referendums; and for a write-in vote of "black control of the black communities" on the urban crisis referendum.

The College Press Service, a

service to campus newspapers put out by the United States Student Press Association, has asked to interview Fred Halstead and Paul Boutelle, the SWP candidate for Vice President. In a letter to the national office of the Socialist Workers Campaign Committee, one of their editors writes, "...I have noticed a number of articles in college newspapers and I noted that Mr. Halstead was included on the ballot for CHOICE 68... We have been trying to set up interviews with all the major candidates for President. It is clear to me that, on campuses at least, Halstead and Boutelle are among the major candidates."

The College Press Service has more than 300 college and university newspapers among its subscribers with a potential readership of about three million students.

The New York Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam has established a CHOICE 68 subcommittee. This committee is planning to send out organizers and speakers to New York campuses to help get CHOICE 68 organized and to campaign for a vote for the immediate withdrawal of troops. For

(Continued on Page 4)

THE NATIONAL PICKET LINE

A new militancy is developing among teachers today, and no section of the country, including the South, has not been affected by the broad sweep of mass actions aimed at securing better living conditions.

The statewide mass resignation of Florida teachers continued into its third week as we go to press. The walkout, called by the Florida Educational Association, has not only won the support of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, but the American Association of University Professors at the University of Florida held a day-long "workday" in support of the teachers. The walkout has also gotten the support of thousands of students on the University of Florida campus.

Teachers in Montgomery County, Md., returned to work after nine days on strike, and accepted a raise in starting pay from \$5,880 to \$6,340. The teachers, led by the Montgomery County Educational Association, have also beaten down an attempt by the Board of Education to insert a "no-strike" clause into their contract.

In Harrisburg, Pa., 20,000 Pennsylvania teachers demonstrated to have teachers' salaries raised. The crowd boomed and laughed when Gov. Shafer told them that he was "personally committed to education as the highest priority of our state government."

In Pittsburgh, the American Federation of Teachers is continuing their strike, in spite of an injunction to return to work. The strike, which has closed the city's 24 junior and senior high schools was called because the Board of Education is refusing to hold a union representation election.

A one-day walkout of teachers in San Francisco, called by the San Francisco Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, ended when the mayor agreed to conduct a poll to determine what group the

teachers want to represent them in collective bargaining.

A new bill, introduced last week into the Michigan House of Representatives, is aimed at public employe unions in the state. The most dangerous provision of the bill makes it illegal "for a labor organization or other representative of public employes to call, instigate or assist a strike, or fail to take appropriate action to end a strike." This provision attacks the rank-and-file trade unionists, who more and more are rejecting inadequate contracts negotiated by their leadership, by putting legal pressure on them to accept whatever the government or their own union leadership tells them to. The bill also excludes state civil service employes from coverage under the public employes bargaining law.

President Johnson is preparing moves against the strike of 60,000 copper workers, which is beginning its ninth month. He stepped in when the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO, refused to handle copper imports to the four copper companies which dominate the industry (although other copper imports are being handled).

Johnson, at a meeting attended by Secretary of Defense Clifford, Labor Secretary Wirtz, Treasury Secretary Fowler and Commerce Secretary-designate Smith, alibied that the "larger interests of the nation" demanded a settlement of the strike. Clifford declared that in view of the offensive of the National Liberation Front in Vietnam, it was "unsound logistically and financially" for the copper strike to continue. The demand of the unions for industry-wide bargaining has already been attacked by the National Labor Relations Board.

Sen. Montoya (D-New Mexico) introduced facts in the Feb. 26 *Congressional Record* showing that the copper industry has gained tremendous profits at the expense of the workers. From 1963 to 1966, the percentage increase in profits of the major companies are: American Smelting and Refining, 136 percent; Anaconda, 192 percent; Kennecott Copper, 120 percent; and Phelps Dodge, 110 percent.

At a pre-bargaining conference of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, AFL-CIO, more than 200 delegates formulated demands for 65,000 workers whose contracts with 20 companies expire Dec. 31. The demands include wage increases ranging from \$.75 to \$1.50 an hour, a vacation bonus, full employer payment of hospital and medical insurance for present and retired members of the union and their families, and higher rates of pay for evening and night work.

The Federal Trade Commission has presented figures showing that magazine publishers have the second highest profits of any industry in the U.S. The drug industry had the highest profits with 21.1 percent on investment, while the magazine industry had an average 20.1 percent profit. The American Newspaper Guild recently won an NLRB decision requiring *Look* magazine to furnish it with information about the salaries and working conditions of employes in its jurisdiction.

Birds of a Feather — The de Gaulle government has warned a French anti-Vietnam-war organization that it faces prosecution for defaming a foreign leader unless it withdraws 2,000 posters showing Johnson wearing a hawk's head.

A Letter from Prison

Building a Socialist Newspaper

[The following are excerpts from several letters written by James P. Cannon, then national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, while he was in the federal penitentiary in Sandstone, Minn., in 1944. They are taken from a new book by Cannon, who is now national chairman of the SWP, consisting of a collection of his letters written while serving a prison sentence along with 17 other members of the Socialist Workers Party, in the first conviction under the Smith "gag" Act.

[These excerpts refer to the retooling of *The Militant* under conditions when the class struggle and opportunities for the socialist movement were on the rise.

[The *Socialist Appeal* Cannon refers to was the most popular pre-World War I socialist newspaper, published in Kansas.

[Cannon's book, *Letters from Prison*, is available at a pre-publication price of \$3.95 from Merit Publishers, 873 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.]

Viewing *The Militant* as a tool, I should like to refine the definition by saying that, in the next period, it must serve as a combination tool which can be used on several different jobs. I believe this qualification is very important.

The paper, for the first time, is getting a good reception from masses of workers without previous political education or interest. The majority of its readers at the present moment are new people, and it is to be expected that this majority will become larger. *The Militant* must serve this new audience, adapt itself to the stage of their political development, under penalty of losing their interest.

Popularization

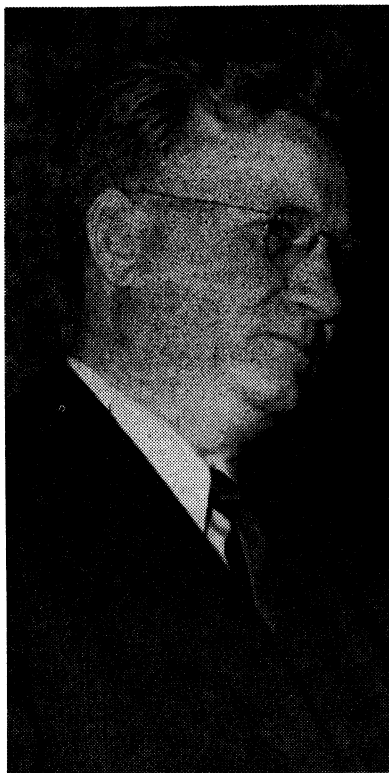
This dictates a new journalistic technique. Our language and our arguments must be simplified and made more accessible to the new type of reader. This does not mean to vulgarize, to talk down in *Labor Action* fashion, but to study and learn the art of popularizing our propaganda. It is an art and it can be learned and practiced without revising or watering down a single basic principle. The problem is one of presentation, with the new readers in mind. They are only, for the most part, newly interested, only partly interested, and the paper must be lightened up and brightened up in order to hold their interest and lead them into deeper studies. The paper has improved enormously along this line during the past year, but we must keep the direction clear and go farther.

I have no doubt that a "Gallup poll" would show conclusively that the cartoons and drawings and the new feature columns account to a great degree for the increased popularity of the paper. With the increased space which the eight-pager will provide, we must try deliberately to make further advances along this line. More cartoons and drawings; more light features, especially short features; more effort to give information not found elsewhere; more studied effort to convey our ideas in small doses, subtly and sometimes indirectly, for the average worker doesn't like to be pounded over the head with direct arguments in every article and every headline...

Tradition

For the benefit of the new reader we must tell the history of the movement over and over again, dramatizing the great events and personalities of the past, in order to build up one of the most powerful supporting ideas any movement can have — the idea of tradition...

The dominant notes of the eight-page paper must be simplification



JAMES P. CANNON. This photo was taken shortly before he went to prison.

them. Most important of all, we must bear in mind that the new reader does not remain a new reader all his life. The average intelligent worker quickly absorbs the few simple ideas which attracted him to the paper in the first place. Then he begins to feel the need of more substantial food...

Precisely here was the Achilles' heel of the old *Appeal to Reason*. Its unrivaled agitation on a few simple points, and its sensational exposures, made the *Appeal* very attractive to thousands of new readers who were making the first break in their allegiance to the bourgeois parties. But the *Appeal* left them, so to speak, on the first step of the ladder, never raised them higher. The readers, after a spell of enthusiasm, got tired of the singsong which they already knew by heart and fell away. At a certain stage of its development, the *Appeal* was confronted with the life-and-death problem of getting new thousands of readers to take the place of other thousands who were falling away.

Personal Experience

I know all this very well because I was one of them. It was my good fortune to discover the IWW and the new problems of theory and tactics raised by it, and to get an introduction into Marxist economics at the old Socialist Educational Society in Kansas City, just at the time I was beginning to feel that the *Appeal to Reason* had nothing more to teach me.

My case was rather typical. Most of the militants I knew in those days had gone through the *Appeal to Reason* school. But the point is, they had gone through it. I finally stopped reading the *Appeal* altogether. Occasionally, when I picked it up later, it lacked the old interest for me. The *Appeal* was too simply, too exclusively agitational to hold the continuing interest of a developing militant and aid his further education...

We must try to do everything understandingly, consciously. Applied to *The Militant* this means, among other things, that we should deliberately plan it as a variegated combination paper which has something in it of special interest to all of its readers in all stages of their development; which conducts the new reader by stages from agitation on the burning issues of the day into all the more profound questions of the class and the party, and continues to interest him after he has assimilated them.

A NEW BOOK BY

James P. Cannon Letters from Prison

In 1944, James P. Cannon, national chairman of the Socialist Workers Party — along with 17 other leaders of the SWP and the Minneapolis truckdrivers' union who opposed the war — was imprisoned in the government's first use of the Smith Act. These are the letters he wrote while serving his sentence in the federal penitentiary at Sandstone, Minn.

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Soviet Intellectuals Protest Trials To Communist Congress in Budapest

By Les Evans

The last few weeks have seen a sharp intensification of the struggle taking place in the Soviet Union between dissident intellectuals and the Soviet bureaucracy.

Twelve leading Soviet intellectuals took the very courageous action of airmailing a document to the conference of Communist parties that opened Feb. 26 in Budapest. The document appealed to the conference "to consider the peril caused by the trampling on man in our country."

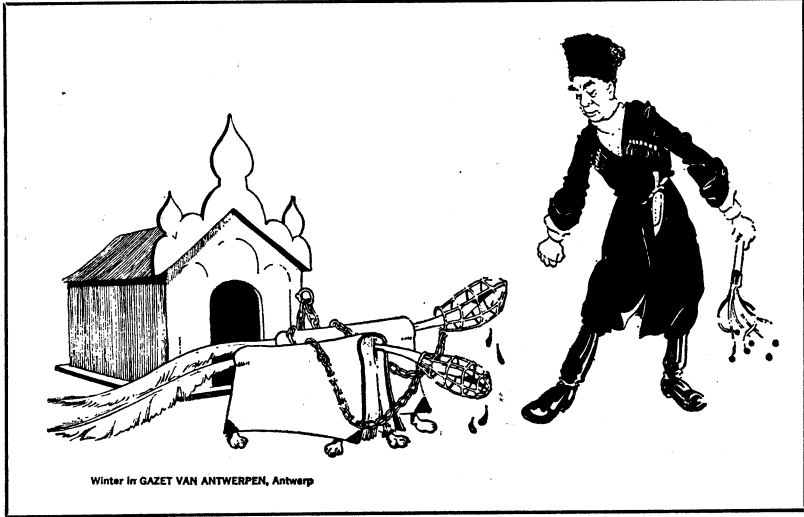
The document was sent in defiance of heavy pressure from the KGB (secret political police), which has threatened the intellectuals with imprisonment if they persist in criticizing violations of Soviet law in trying and condemning citizens for holding views that do not meet with official approval.

The document protested the "series of political trials" in recent years and the imprisonment of individuals solely "for their beliefs."

The response from the Kremlin was very significant. *Pravda*, the official newspaper of the Soviet Communist Party, carried an article March 3 which compared the trial of four Soviet intellectuals in January with the purge trials of the "Trotskyite opposition" to Stalin in the 1930's, justifying both. This article marked the most favorable reference to Stalin's frame-up trials since the "de-Stalinization" begun by Khrushchev in 1956.

This ominous revival of the specter of the executions and mass terror of the '30s is a blatant threat by the bureaucracy to frighten the dissident intellectuals into silence.

The *Pravda* article was signed by Daniel Kraminov, who is editor of *Za Rubezhom*, a foreign-



affairs journal that reprints material from abroad.

Kraminov claimed that it was "bourgeois propaganda" that there is "an absence of personal freedom" in the Soviet Union. He traced the origin of the charge to "the Trotskyites and 'left-wing' and 'right-wing' renegades."

Kraminov, reviving Stalin's slander of his victims, declared of the frame-up and execution of the Old Bolsheviks in the '30s:

"The bourgeois press gleefully acclaimed the shouters, defended them furiously and copiously shed crocodile tears when the Soviet authorities brought them to justice."

The "justice" Kraminov extols was revealed for what it really was at the time the purge trials took place by the Commission of Inquiry headed by the American philosopher John Dewey. The Commission's findings were later confirmed by Khrushchev, who was one of Stalin's chief hench-

men. In 1956 the then-premier testified:

"Many thousands of honest and innocent Communists have died as a result of this monstrous falsification of such 'cases,' as a result of the fact that all kinds of slanderous 'confessions' were accepted, and as a result of the practice of forcing accusations against oneself and others."

The intellectuals' appeal, which was "answered" by *Pravda*'s threat, described the current series of trials. Excerpts from the document, as published in the Western press, included the following:

"The trials have been conducted with gross violations of legality, the major one being an absence of public information. The people no longer wish to submit to such illegality and this has led to indignation and protests, which have been mounting from trial to trial."

Letters Unanswered

"We have sent many individual and collective letters to various juridical, governmental and party organs, all the way to the Central Committee of the Communist Party."

"These letters have remained unanswered. Instead the reply to those who have protested most actively has consisted of being discharged from their jobs, summons to the KGB for threats of arrests and, finally, the most shocking form of reprisal, forcible confinement in a mental hospital."

"We know that many Communists in foreign countries have expressed their disapproval of political repression in recent years. We appeal to the participants in the consultative conference to fully consider the perils caused by the trampling on man in our country."

The 12 signers were: Pavel M. Litvinov, Mrs. Larisa Daniel, Dr. Zamira Asanova, Aleksei Katerin, Pyotr Yakir, Viktor Krazin, Ilya Gabai, Boris Shragin, Anatoly Levitin, Yuli Kim, Yuri Glazov, and Pyotr Grigorenko.

Hunger Strike

The protest followed news from Moscow Feb. 21 that some 200 political prisoners in two labor camps and one prison had begun a hunger strike the previous week in support of their demands for better conditions. Imprisoned writer Yuli M. Daniel was said to be among the striking prisoners.

The delegates at the conference of Communist parties, all graduates of the school of Stalinism, are the last ones to be inclined to heed the cries of intellectuals being smothered by their Kremlin colleagues. But it is not within their power to suppress news of the document that was placed before them.

The mood among the Soviet people behind appeals like this, coupled with demonstrations in the prisons and labor camps, can renew the process begun with the "de-Stalinization" and finally win the restoration of proletarian democracy in the Soviet Union.

SWP Files in Philly With 20,000 Names

By Joel Aber

PHILADELPHIA, March 4 — The Socialist Workers Party filed today to place its candidates on the November ballot in Pennsylvania with 20,000 signatures of registered voters gathered on nominating petitions, nearly double the 10,511 required by the state.

In order to make it difficult for parties other than the Democrats and Republicans to get on the ballot, Pennsylvania gives petitioners only three weeks, in the middle of winter, to collect the

signatures. Supporters of Halstead and Boutelle here overcame this obstacle with only a few colds and sore throats, gathering signatures at a furious rate.

Veteran petitioners from past election campaigns reported that this ballot drive was more enthusiastic and less difficult than any previous ones. First of all, the number of people willing to help gather signatures for Halstead and Boutelle was larger than the number who helped in previous Socialist Workers election campaigns. The average age of the petitioners was lower, and this made it easier for them to stand on street corners for 10 hours in freezing weather.

Secondly, people were more willing to sign the petitions than in other campaigns. The majority of those who took time to stop and listen to the petitioners were glad to help put candidates on the ballot who are for bringing the GIs home from Vietnam.

The depth of antiwar sentiment was apparent to everyone who took part in this petition campaign. There was general agreement that it was exciting to get signatures so quickly on the basis of willingness to put socialist antiwar candidates on the ballot as an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans.

The 20,000 petitions will also put Pearl Chertov on the ballot for U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, Frederick Stanton for State Auditor General, and Richard Lesnik for State Treasurer. The ballot designation for the SWP in Pennsylvania is Militant Workers Party.

GIs and the Fight Against War

By Mary-Alice Waters

Introduction
By Fred Halstead

25 cents

Young Socialist

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Monday, March 11, 1968

The "Riot" Commission

The report by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders — the panel set up by Johnson to investigate the series of explosions in the nation's black communities last summer — is not readily available as we go to press. However, the summary of the report, which has appeared in the press, contains information and conclusions which amount to an indictment of the capitalist system and the racist capitalist government and politicians who administer that system, although this was not the intent of its authors.

"The urban disorders of the summer of 1967," the report summary says, "were not caused by, nor were they the consequence of, any organized plan or 'conspiracy.'" Rather, the report indicts the social and economic conditions of racial oppression and exploitation imposed upon black people. "Social and economic conditions in the riot cities constituted a clear pattern of severe disadvantage for Negroes compared with whites, whether the Negroes lived in the area where the riot took place or outside it," the report summary says. "Negroes had completed fewer years of education and fewer had attended high school. Negroes were twice as likely to be unemployed and three times as likely to be in unskilled and service jobs. Negroes averaged 70 percent of the income earned by whites and were more than twice as likely to be living in poverty. Although housing costs Negroes relatively more, they had worse housing — three times as likely to be overcrowded and substandard. When compared to white suburbs, the relative disadvantage is even more pronounced." The report summary goes on to list other results of the operation of the racist capitalist system, from police brutality to price-gouging by ghetto merchants.

The report summary, of course, does not pin the blame where it belongs, on the capitalist system and the capitalist government and parties which are responsible for maintaining racism. But that is what the admissions contained in the report add up to, and these admissions carry the weight of coming right from the horse's mouth.

Having failed to come to grips with the problem, the report comes up with fine sounding but vague generalities on what to do, instead of concrete programs. Even so, the reaction from Washington to the report has been to either assert that "many" of the report's recommendations "are already in the mill," or to simply dismiss the report's conclusions because they would cost too much to implement.

Hubert Humphrey, speaking for LBJ who is said to be pouting about the report, "doubts" the report's finding that the U.S. is heading for greater and greater segregation and oppression, toward two societies, "separate and unequal." Instead, Humphrey lyingly asserted, "Our progress has been dramatic."

Representative George H. Mahon, Democrat from Texas and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, attacked the report because it called for "untold billions of dollars in expenditures."

Both attitudes are indicative of Washington's priorities — while billions of dollars are being spent to wage a war of aggression against the people of Vietnam, social needs here at home are being neglected and ignored.

And, while the report is being printed and circulated, the racist capitalist political reality which the report condemns continues to assert itself. On Capitol Hill, a big vote was rolled up in the Senate for an amendment to the "civil rights" bill (!) making it a crime to "cross state lines with intent to incite a riot," an unconstitutional and deliberately vague law which will be used to attack black militants. (When it was first introduced in Congress last summer, it was nicknamed the "anti-Stokely" law, in reference to SNCC leader Stokely Carmichael.)

Even more ominous are the reports on police stockpiling of heavy weapons to be used against the black community. The report, while calling for police measures to "maintain law and order" at all costs, with the unmistakable implication that whatever force "necessary" to keep the black community down should be used during a "riot," had deplored the "overreaction" of police and the stockpiling of heavy equipment to be used against black people.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington March 1, reported that "In city after city across America, the police are stockpiling armored vehicles, helicopters, high-powered rifles . . . They are sending undercover agents into the slums . . . In Los Angeles, policemen watched the demonstration model of a 20-ton armored personnel carrier crush a barricade of abandoned cars. The tank-like vehicle can carry 20 men in bulletproof safety. It can be equipped with a .30 calibre machine gun, tear-gas launchers, a smoke-screen device . . ."

"Oakland County, a Detroit suburb, also is obtaining an Army half-track . . ." etc.

In New York, the state legislature has passed an anti-black law giving cops wider "shoot-to-kill" powers.

Tanks, half-tracks, tear gas, "shoot to kill" and anti-Stokely laws — and token reforms "already in the works" — this is the actual response of the Democratic and Republican politicians to the demands of the black people for freedom, justice and equality.

Halstead-Boutelle Campaign Report**Socialist Campaign Goes to GIs**

By Caroline Lund

NEW YORK, March 4 — Requests are now coming in regularly to the Socialist Workers campaign office from army bases and from antiwar fighters around the world asking for the brochure "A Letter to GIs on the '68 Elections" by Fred Halstead, Socialist Workers Party candidate for President.

This brochure is the first piece of campaign literature of any candidate which is addressed specifically to American GIs. It tells the truth about the war and urges GIs to cast their votes against it by voting for Fred Halstead and his running mate, Paul Boutelle.

The Socialist Workers campaign introduced the brochure to the international antiwar movement by sending a copy of it to 130 antiwar committees around the world. A letter came in this week from Bertil Svahnstrom, chairman of the International Liaison Committee of the Stockholm Conference on Vietnam. He wrote: "I thank you very much for your letter of Feb. 20 and the 'Letter to GIs.' We would be most grateful to receive all possible information about this campaign among U.S. soldiers."

A request for more of the "Letter to GIs" came also from the New Zealand branch of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. According to Owen Wilkes, secretary of the group, "Our executive is considering some activity at our local U.S. base, ostensibly located here to support 'peaceful' research in Antarctica."

The German Aktionskomitee Gegen Den Krieg in Vietnam will take 1,000-2,000 of the GI brochure to distribute to U.S. servicemen stationed in Germany.

Even before the publication of the brochure by Halstead, the campaign committee had received several requests for leaflets suitable for distribution to American GIs in other countries. From Sicily came the request: "If you have leaflets for GIs, could you send

us specimens that we might multiply for action among U.S. soldiers in Sicily?" This person also wrote, "Incidentally, back issues of *The Militant*, after being read, are often distributed to U.S. Armymen in the OTAN [NATO] base of Sigonella."

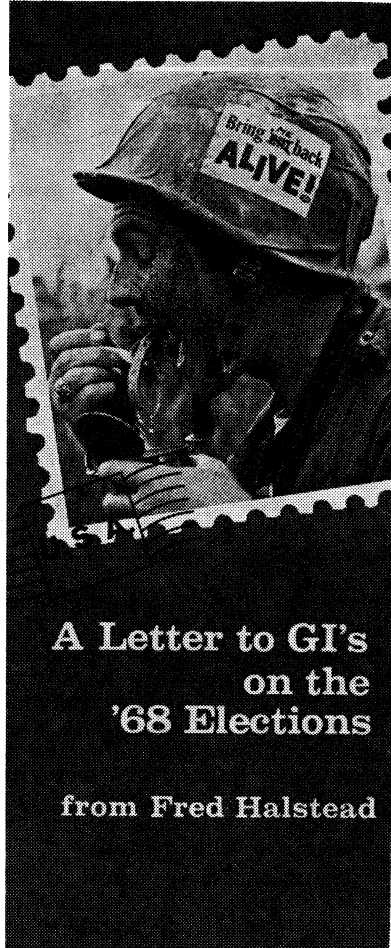
A letter from Rome says: "I have received a set of your material for the election campaign in 1968. We shall affix as many as you send me of them in many places especially where GIs pass through and American tourists walk."

From an Australian socialist and antiwar fighter came another request for more Halstead-Boutelle campaign posters: "We post them up in the Kings Cross area of Sydney where all the GIs stay while they are on leave from Vietnam . . . If there are some pamphlets we could reproduce and hand out to the troops could we have one copy of each—i.e., those mainly directed at canvassing votes against the war. Please let us have one copy of anything you think GIs ought to have while they are on leave here and we will handle the rest."

Here in the U.S., Halstead-Boutelle campaign committees are trying to get the "Letter to GIs" into the hands of as many GIs as possible. The first run of 25,000 of the brochure is already gone, and another run of 50,000 is being printed.

New York Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle have begun regular leafleting of troops passing through the Port Authority bus terminal on weekend passes. Because of a recent ruling by the United States Court of Appeals, leafleting and discussing the issues with soldiers is allowed right inside the terminal as the GIs wait for buses.

On March 1, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the right of the New York Vietnam Peace Parade Committee and New York Veterans and Reservists to



A Letter to GI's
on the
'68 Elections
from Fred Halstead

End the War in Vietnam to distribute leaflets and discuss their ideas with servicemen and other travelers in the Port Authority bus terminal. The judge ruled that the bus terminal was a public thoroughfare, and therefore an "appropriate place for the exercise of rights protected by the First Amendment." This decision could be an important precedent in establishing the right of antiwar groups to give leaflets to GIs in bus, train, and airport terminals across the country.

Indicative of the results that can come from this campaign to get this brochure into the hands of GIs is a letter sent to the Socialist Workers Campaign Committee from a GI who received the brochure at Ft. Campbell, Ky. The antiwar soldier wrote: "Please send samples of your party's campaign literature. I believe many GIs here will support your campaign (especially black soldiers)."

Bundles of the "Letter to GIs" can be purchased from the Socialist Workers Campaign Committee for \$1.50 per hundred.

A donation of \$25.00 will pay for shipping 1,000 brochures overseas for distribution to American GIs around the world.

Poster:**Vote Choice 68**

- Against the War
- For Fred Halstead

17" x 22". Cost: 25 cents each; 10 cents each for orders of 25 or more; 6 cents each for 100 or more. Available as miniposter (8½" x 11"): 5 cents each; 2 cents over 25; 1 cent each on orders over 100.

Brochure:**A Letter to GIs**

By Fred Halstead

\$1.50 per 100.

Send for list of additional campaign materials. Send orders to:

Young Socialists
For Halstead and Boutelle873 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10003

—Derrick Morrison

Boutelle, Right-Winger Debate in Eugene, Ore.

By Mary Kraft

EUGENE, Ore., Feb. 22 — Socialist Vice-Presidential candidate Paul Boutelle was the lead-off speaker here in a three-day Symposium on Social Revolution held at the University of Oregon on Feb. 19, 20, and 21.

Boutelle spoke to an audience of 800 students, advancing the ideas of the socialist campaign in a debate with Phyllis Schafly, author of "A Choice, Not An Echo" — a now forgotten brief for Barry Goldwater.

He received round after round of applause as he spoke. Mrs. Schafly had no choice but to listen to the echoes.

Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle trailblazers from Berkeley, Seattle, and San Francisco set up a large literature display for the Symposium. They reported that Paul Boutelle's speech had immediate results in the form of over 20 endorsers for the cam-

paigned ticket. One endorser was Dr. Clyde E. DeBerry, a western regional director of CORE and a speaker at a later session in the Symposium.

Peter Camejo, Socialist Workers candidate for the U.S. Senate from California, spoke in a panel together with Greg Calvert, SDS director of the spring actions. The panel was held on the last day of the Symposium. Other speakers featured at the Symposium included Bettina Aptheker of the Communist Party, David Dellinger, LeRoi Jones, and Dr. Spock.

Many radical students joined Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle during the three-day affair, and a chapter of YSHB has now been set up by campaign supporters on the campus.

Their first project will be to help get out a large vote for Fred Halstead and against the war in the CHOICE 68 campus balloting.

... CHOICE 68

(Continued from Page 1)

further information write or call: Student Mobilization Committee, 17 E. 17th St., New York, N.Y., Tel. 255-1075.

* * *

A letter from Michigan Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle, reporting on plans for CHOICE 68, states: "We are really campaigning to get the vote on as many Michigan colleges as we can. We've sent out a letter to all colleges and junior colleges in Michigan urging their participation. This week we are starting our trailblazing to do follow-up work." A special issue of the state *Campaigner* is devoted to CHOICE 68.

* * *

Fred Halstead is scheduled to speak before the Yale Political Union, one of the most prominent campus forums for political ideas in the nation, on March 13. The president of the Union is attempting to arrange a debate between Halstead and a spokesman for the Eugene McCarthy campaign. The usual schedule for a guest of the Political Union is: 4:00 p.m., television taping; 4:30, press conference; 5:00, reception; 6:00, dinner; 8:00, Union meeting. In the last few years 14 senators, a number of governors and mayors, and other prominent figures have spoken before the Union.

* * *

From Bethany College in West Virginia, a student writes to the Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle: "In the February issue of your magazine [*Young Socialist*] were two posters which could be ordered for 25 cents each . . . I am enclosing one dollar and would like two copies of each poster . . . On April 24, the CHOICE 68 presidential primary will be held on our campus. If you have any stickers or posters for Fred Halstead, I would like to be able to put some around before the election."

* * *

Seymour Kramer, local chairman of Young Socialists for Halstead and Boutelle at the University of Wisconsin, debated supporters of Eugene McCarthy at a meeting attended by several hundred students. Before the debate was over the McCarthy supporters wound up saying that after McCarthy is defeated at the Democratic Party convention they would vote for Halstead in November.

* * *

One of the student newspapers that has given good coverage to

CHOICE 68 and the Halstead-Boutelle ticket is the *State News* published daily at Michigan State University. On Feb. 6, a front-page article reported that Forum 68, a student-government-sponsored program to bring speakers to campus on the important issues of the 1968 election, had secured three speakers including Fred Halstead.

On Feb. 14, another front-page article described the CHOICE 68 poll and named the 14 candidates whose names are appearing on the ballot.

The Feb. 15 and 16 issues of the paper carried front page stories with photographs of Halstead's visit on the campus. Halstead spoke before a group of 150 students "as part of the Great Issues program in conjunction with CHOICE 68."

* * *

Both Fred Halstead and Paul Boutelle are on national speaking tours of American campuses, helping promote the CHOICE 68 poll.

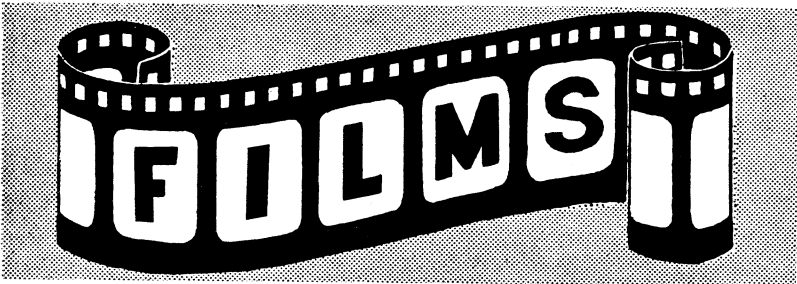
In the Pacific Northwest, Boutelle recently had a particularly successful series of meetings. He spoke for a total of 7½ hours on call-in talk shows, was interviewed by 20 newspapers, radio stations and television stations, and spoke directly to about 2,100 people, mostly students. Well over 100 students signed up as endorsers of the campaign and over \$225 worth of socialist literature was sold.

When he spoke to a meeting of 400 at Washington State University in Pullman, located in eastern Washington, his remarks were repeatedly interrupted by applause and he received an ovation when he finished. The meeting was sponsored by the WSU Students for a Democratic Society and the WSU Afro-American Alliance.

He also spoke at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Olympic State College in Bremerton, and had two meetings at the University of Washington in Seattle. He spoke at two Malcolm X memorial meetings — one sponsored by the U. of Washington Black Student Union and another organized by Seattle SNCC.

* * *

There are still nine states where there are no signed endorsers of the Halstead-Boutelle ticket — Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Wyoming. By the time the CHOICE 68 vote is over, it is hoped that campaign workers will have obtained new supporters in these states.

**MALCOLM X: STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM**

One of the most recent and significant contributions in commemoration of the late Brother Malcolm X is the film "Malcolm X: Struggle for Freedom."

The film is directed by Lebert Bethune and John Taylor. It is 22 minutes long and has a sound track.

The setting is in Paris, France, where Malcolm is speaking to a group of African students, in November, 1964. Throughout the film, as Malcolm is speaking, scenes from the Afro-American and African liberation struggles appear on the screen.

Malcolm begins by describing the cultural and sociological genocide that Anglo-American society has inflicted upon the black man. While he describes the situation, scenes from Harlem appear on the screen.

When Malcolm begins to discuss the advent of the black freedom struggle, the film shows some of the action that occurred in Birmingham, Ala., in May of 1963.

From here, the scene shifts to the capture and assassination of the revolutionary Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba. At this point, another voice comes in to narrate. On the screen African freedom fighters appear, lifting up weapons and marching into battle.

As the scene shifts back to the speech, Malcolm is heard propounding and laying bare the international nature of the black freedom struggle in the U.S.

Then Malcolm launches into the African struggle, describing the role of the African woman in it. He points out that in countries where the revolutionary movement has yet to take hold of the masses, the women are backward in that they still slavishly subordinate themselves to men. However, in countries where the masses are waging a decisive struggle against colonialism, the women begin to shed their obsequiousness to play a role equal if not greater than the male in revolutionary struggle.

In discussing the black revolution in the Western Hemisphere, Malcolm defines all Americans of African descent, from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska, as Afro-Americans.

The film ends with scenes from Malcolm's funeral.

At a time when black freedom fighters and antiwar activists are busily carrying out Malcolm's foremost idea — internationalizing the fight against U.S. imperialism — the film is timely.

It can be rented for a modest sum from the Grove Press Cinema 16 Library, located at 80 University Place, New York, N.Y. 10003.

OUR MAN IN HAVANA

Talk With a Young Revolutionary

By Harry Ring

[The following is the second part of a description of his development as a revolutionary by a young Cuban militant, as told to Militant reporter Harry Ring, presently in Cuba.]

[The first part discussed the period prior to the victory of the Rebel Army over the Batista tyranny, when the young revolutionary, then a high school student, joined the battle against the dictatorship.]

Then a new period started. Then the problem was not to destroy but to construct. How to construct? The first year, 1959, I did different things. I was in the army part of the time. I was even in the narcotics department. Someone said, Well, if you've been working in a drug store you're supposed to know about drugs!

In 1959, we already had the agrarian reform. Now this was something I stuck to. I said, this is a necessity. I understood from the things I had experienced previously, the people I had seen in the Sierra, these enormous problems had to be solved by a drastic change of our agrarian structure. Which we did.

Capitalist Figures

Things started to move. There was a whole period when things were not too clear. We still had the bourgeois people in the government. But things started to become more clear and more clear. The problem of the "communists" began. Now the idea of being a communist was still a bit difficult for me. What was a communist? I started reading Marxist literature at the beginning of 1960.

It was at this time that I first went to work in the foreign ministry. The foreign ministry was then going through a very difficult period. The Batista people were out. The anti-Batista bourgeoisie had taken over. Now the Revolution — the real Revolution — was trying to take over. So this was a difficult period. I worked there for a few months. But I understood I had to do other things before getting into real political life. So I went to work in the rural areas.

I went to the north coast of Oriente as the chief of the office of INRA, or National Institute of Agrarian Reform. That was a terrific experience. As I told you, I had been reading Marxist literature since the first months of that year. I had a confused idea of social change. Now part of my job with INRA was to be the chairman of the reclamation committees. These committees were where farmers who had been victimized by the landlords or by the American companies could come and prove the validity of their

claims. I saw horrible cases there! Things that completed the anti-American feeling. Well, let's put it this way — not anti-American. We feel a great love for the American people. But anti-imperialist feeling, anti-economic-monopolist feeling.

We had this American company owning these two enormous sugar mills, and most of the cases were against the company. There was the case of the poor chap who had a banana plantation, a small thing. The wife of the administrator of this mill, an American lady whose name I don't remember, wanted to have a garden. To have a garden she wanted that piece of land. Now this poor chap couldn't sell that piece of land. What was he going to do with 400 or 500 pesos? To starve? What he needed was the product of his land, to go on selling the bananas and make a living.

This woman arranged for two of her henchmen to throw petrol and the crop was destroyed. So he had to sell.

Now this was proven. So we passed a hard judgment on this woman and she had to pay 7,000 pesos — an enormous sum! — damages for the whole thing. We wouldn't let her leave without paying the poor man. She paid him. She had to.

I also remember two brothers called Alamo. Their father had a farm in a place that was needed by the American company to plant cane. This man was using his land for vegetables, and a small piece for cattle. The American company was offering him a ridiculous price for it. So he didn't want to sell. One evening, while he was going from town to his house, he was shot dead on the road.

Thrown Out

The two brothers were very small at the time and the mother didn't know what to do. The next day someone came with a piece of paper from the judge saying they had to vacate that piece of land. They were thrown on the road and then had to start doing small jobs to keep on living. Now these two brothers — they were twins — spent nearly 22 years like that. The mother died. They went from one farm to another, to get small jobs. And they had a farm of their own!

This was one of the cases presented. It was proven that the land belonged to them. And it was given back to them. Unfortunately, it had been nationalized already. So we couldn't get money from the American company to pay damages. But they got their land back. That was the most important thing.

I remember the case of a man — it wasn't of having his land

taken away—it was of a peasant leader. The man made protests, tried to organize strikes. They grabbed him one night and beat him up. One of the men who beat him was the bodyguard of the administrator of the mill. They took off all his clothes and tied him to a tree that grows near the sea. There you get two things, the crabs and the mosquitos. He was there for 48 hours, without water, without food. Being bitten by the mosquitos. And the crabs at his feet. That man today is the director of one of our biggest agricultural plans, which is in Oriente. He went to the Sierra and was a captain during our struggle. He's an excellent man.

Then there was the problem of the fence — the barbed wire. The company would simply decide they needed to put the barbed wire a bit further. And they would! They'd simply push it!

And if you protested the manager would simply call the Army. The Army was there to serve the big American companies. There it was the mills of Delicias and Chaparra.

American

I remember the day of the nationalization of that mill. I remember that tall American. Bursting with anger. He could have gone at our throats. Finally we completed all the details and signed everything, and he left. We went out of the building and the people started shouting, "The fence!" What fence were they talking about?

Then we found out there was a beautiful park and that this park was absolutely reserved for the children of the Americans living there. For the rest of the kids there was no park whatsoever. So the people were shouting, "The fence!" Of course, we could have opened the fence. But in one of those bursts of happiness, we got a chain, hooked it to a jeep, tied it to the fence and simply ripped it. It was a pity, but I think it was the greatest thing to do. So then it was open. I think that was more important than the nationalization itself.

I could say my experiences in the reclamation committees made firm my belief in social change. Now that social change had a direction. Shall I call it, in 1960, a Marxist direction? It was Marxism all right. When I read more deeply the classics of Marxism I found that what I thought was Marxism. So, in this case, I would say the practice was before the theory. Although I agree that the theory and practice have to go together.

Rebel Youth

From the reclamation committees and INRA I went back to study. There I got involved with the student activities, with the Rebel Youth, which was the organization previous to the Communist Youth. This was when I was finishing the last year of high school. I was elected secretary of organization of one of the units. Then I had my first battles with the representatives of the bourgeoisie. We still had students who were the sons of rich people. So, for the first time, I had to express my beliefs against other people and this was a very interesting period. I was there until 1961.

Then in 1961 we had the Bay of Pigs. The Bay of Pigs was the catalyzer of all things. For the first time Fidel said this is a socialist revolution and we knew that what we wanted was for him to say that.

A few days before the Bay of Pigs the bombing of Santiago took place. Next door to my house was living a hard-core counterrevolutionary. I heard the bombing, put some clothes on, took my pistol and went to join my militia unit. I remember, when I went out, the



AT BAY OF PIGS. Fidel Castro led Cuban forces in repulsion of Washington-sponsored invasion in 1961.

wife of this gentleman was standing at the door with a big smile, saying, "Well, there seem to be some problems." I had no answer for that. So I simply went away.

The news was most interesting. If you heard the Voice of America, good Lord, they were winning on all fronts! I remember when they said they had landed in the port of Bayamo! Now Bayamo, my dear Harry, is about 100 kilometers away from the nearest seacoast.

On our side, we were absolutely sure of victory. We were absolutely sure because we saw what was going on. Millions of people joining the militia. Everyone trying to do something. The counterrevolutionaries were very hopeful. But the hope started to wither in a matter of hours.

I remember when I came back home after nearly 10 days. I had not shaved, I had not had a bath. I was tired. But I had to stop in front of this woman's house. So I knocked at the door and when this woman came out, I said, "Well lady, there were some problems indeed. But they have been solved properly. Good-day." She never spoke to me again. They left for the United States at the end of '61 or the beginning of '62.

A Marxist

In 1962 I went into the foreign service. I have learned a great deal from my experience in that field. But I'm also studying political science at the University. I think my Marxist views are more deeply entrenched.

The question sometimes arises of how you became a Marxist. Well, I don't think you can become a Marxist like simply lighting a bulb. It is a process. It's a process in which you go on until you realize that that which they call a communist — well, that is you.

Today? Well here we are. The future is bright, however you want to look at it. The possibilities of an invasion there are. We think there is a fascist tendency at the higher levels of government in the United States, that the Pentagon is getting stronger and stronger every day and one day, not too far away, will determine the policies. The Vietnam war is proving that they are absolutely out of their minds. So one day they may decide to do it. We don't want it. We don't want to have a war. We know how much it will cost.

But through you, Harry, we would like to express that if there is a war we are going to fight it inch by inch. There is not going to be any letdown. There is not going to be any retreat. There is not going to be any United Nations. And if they come in they will have to go out.

How much it will cost, we don't know. That will depend on them. We'll simply fight it out to the last man. No question about that.

On the economic field, well, you have been traveling the country. You know how things are going. Mistakes? Yes, we have committed hundreds of them. It's only natural that we have. Things are being corrected. We can look to the future hopefully.

There is one last thing I would like to speak of — Che. I first met Che on the 13th of August, 1958, in the Sierra. I saw him coming on a mule, his shirt open. Witty as usual, making jokes with everyone. Quick of mind. Very fast. The right reply at every moment. I got a tremendous impression of Che. He was a fantastic man. He could explain so well the problems of economics, the problems of social change — though at that time perhaps I couldn't understand him too well. His way of thinking was beyond my intellectual possibilities.

Then I met Che several times here in Cuba. At the University, in different places. But then I had a good opportunity while in the Foreign Service. In 1965, when he was coming back from China, he stayed at the embassy for three days. They were three days of continuous lectures. Three days with Che is a full lesson in life. He could talk about everything. He could explain everything. He would criticize everything. But in a very constructive manner.

He was very kind. I remember him speaking about his family. My wife was going to have a child. His wife was also going to have a child then. So we started talking about children. And this was a different man — a normal, kind man talking about his family.

Politics

We also discussed politics. And there you had a different man. A politician. A man of terrific wisdom and farsightedness. I don't think there are words in which you can really express what you think about Che. Especially at a moment like this, when his body is dead.

I don't think that anyone can accept that Che is dead. His body is not alive. But Che will be alive for many, many years. At least in our generation — a generation that has such an enormous task in front of it. Che will be alive throughout. His experience, his lessons, the spirit of Che, and especially the sense of duty, the sense of international struggle.

I believe that with the death of Che there has been, no doubt, a hard blow to the whole Latin American revolution. But at the same time the Latin American revolution has won a flag. And I'm sure that flag is going to lead to many victories. It would have been better if he were there alive, to see those victories. But even though that isn't possible his teachings will guide the future course of action in Latin America for a long, long time.

Guatemalan Guerrilla Leader Affirms Condemnation of CP

HAVANA, Cuba — César Montes, commander in chief of the Guatemalan Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), declared that the break between the FAR and the Guatemalan Workers (Communist) Party (PGT) was "definitive."

The Montes statement followed one issued by the general staff of the FAR which assailed the PGT for not giving genuine support to the revolutionary armed struggle in Guatemala, and for trying to utilize the armed struggle as an instrument of pressure in seeking accommodation with capitalist parties and politicians.

The Montes statement was issued Jan. 21 and published here in the Feb. 23 *Granma*. At the time of the original Jan. 10 FAR statement, Montes was on an as-

signment and unable to sign the declaration. His absence for a period from the central command was used by reactionaries to suggest he had been killed or had been expelled from the FAR or had deserted.

Declaring his solidarity with the original statement, Montes charged that the PGT had blocked, not aided, the armed struggle. He announced his resignation from all posts in the PGT, declaring that the party leadership "is not guided by revolutionary conceptions."

"It has not only been a struggle between two different political lines," the guerrilla leader declared, "but between two necessarily exclusive tendencies in the revolutionary process, a struggle between a healthy body and a cancer."

Black Liberation Notes

An unpublished memo drawn up by a member of the President's "riot" commission so much as admits that the violence that broke out in Cambridge, Md., last summer was started by Cambridge police when a sheriff fired a shotgun without warning, slightly injuring H. Rap Brown. Up until now Cambridge authorities have been successful in creating the impression that the sequence of events there consisted of two simple steps: 1) H. Rap Brown gave a militant speech, and 2) Black people "rioted."

What really happened according to the memo, as reported in the March 6 *New York Times*, was that Police Chief Kinnamon went on "an emotional binge in which his main desire was to kill Negroes after a white officer was shot."

In the first place, the memo says, "What has come to be known as the Cambridge riot was in fact a low-level civil disturbance." The memo accuses the police chief and the all-white volunteer fire department of not re-

sponding to calls for help after a night fire was set in a dilapidated black elementary school. The delay meant that the fire spread, "creating an enormous" conflagration "which could then be perceived as the very heart of the riot."

The riot commission memo blames "segregationist attitudes held by local officials" for "a good deal of the difficulty." It cited the fact that there is an unwritten law in Cambridge that black police can only arrest black people for law infractions.

SNCC has designated March 20 as "Day of Support for SNCC Chairman H. Rap Brown." People are urged to hold massive rallies, demonstrations, marches, and picketing in support of Rap Brown on that day. Telegrams demanding H. Rap Brown's release should be sent to U.S. Attorney General Ramsay Clark, Washington, D.C. Telegrams protesting the Orangeburg Massacre and demanding that the cops who killed three

students be punished should be sent to Gov. McNair in Columbia, S.C. Copies of telegrams should be sent to SNCC, 360 Nelson Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30313.

According to a March 3 *New York Times* article, administrators at New York's Columbia University "are pacing the floors and halls of their offices these days, fretting about how the university can meet its obligations to its students, to the city and to the surrounding community." The "surrounding community" they are referring to is Harlem and what is worrying the administrators is that over the past several months there have been more and more confrontations between the university and the black community.

Columbia University is expanding and black people are protesting the fact that the expansion is at the expense of the people of Harlem. There have been strong objections to university plans to use public park property for a college gym. The university has offered to build a second gym for Harlem, but this is generally regarded as an undesirable consolation prize. In addition, Columbia has bought up numbers of buildings around the university, displacing thousands of people from their rent-controlled apartments.

Resentment against the university is so strong that one administrator admitted that "There's a real fear on the campus that militant groups will come over he hill one night and smash windows, loot and burn."

Similar conflicts between universities and black communities have occurred in other areas of the country. Against the wishes of the black community in South Chicago, the University of Chicago has been buying up and tearing down black housing around the college. After physically removing black people from the immediate area in this way, a barrier of predominantly white middle-class housing was built around the school to separate it from the black community.

Police departments around the country are having big problems attracting young recruits. An article in the Feb. 6 issue of *Look* admits that, in addition to the hatred with which most young blacks regard the police, "even the white response to the police image is dismaying."

—Elizabeth Barnes

'New Politics' Confab Marked by Wrangling

By Jon Britton

ALBANY, N.Y.—A conference initiated by the New Party Organizing Committee was held here March 2 "to plan for a convention to nominate a freedom and peace ticket for New York State in 1968." The conference issued a call for a founding convention to be held in New York City May 30.

The New Party Organizing Committee should not be confused with the Peace and Freedom Party Organizing Committee, a rival group initiated by the third-camp Independent Socialist Club. The former group issued out of a "Preparatory Conference for a New York State Independent Convention" initiated by N.Y. National Conference for New Politics and held in early February. The PFP Organizing Committee participated in the Albany meeting as a caucus.

A bitter fight broke out over the question of "rules" at the very outset of the meeting. The fight erupted after one Jerry Balter, acting as temporary chairman, tried to ram through a "personal proposal" giving 50 percent of the vote to the "black caucus," which numbered about 15 out of 200 present. Many participants were particularly infuriated when Balter decreed a five-minute discussion limit on the question. The meeting erupted into virtual bedlam before Balter finally relented and agreed to permit extended discussion. The fight over this question took up a major part of the two plenaries as well as one of the four workshops.

The 50 percent vote device is a system whereby the "black caucus" casts 50 percent of the vote in whatever way it chooses, thereby being in a position to decide any question on which the whole body is divided. This means that a political tendency having control of the "black caucus" has automatic control over the entire body, even though it might be a small minority of the whole.

This formula, which has been most actively promoted by the Communist Party, made its debut at the National Conference for New Politics convention in Chicago last September. Since then the CP has energetically promoted this gimmick, claiming it to be a necessary antidote to white racism, a key vehicle for achieving "black and white unity," and the

acid test for white radicals of their "rejection of racism." This is motivated by the CP on the basis of their contention that any "black caucus," regardless of its political composition, represents the black community.

The Communist Party put forth the 50 percent gimmick at the Chicago conference of the Student Mobilization Committee in January but was decisively rebuffed when the Afro-American contingent at the conference rejected the proposal as paternalistic and went on to establish their own National Black Anti-War Anti-Draft Union (NBAWADU) which will collaborate with the SMC on common projects such as the April 26 International Student Strike.

In the course of the Albany debate over voting rules, the Peace and Freedom Organizing Committee caucus put forth an "amendment" that would allow the white delegates to cast their votes as a bloc should a majority wish to do so. And if the "white caucus" should vote differently from the "black caucus," they would seek to work out a compromise agreeable to both. Failing that they would "agree to disagree."

Lydia Williams, a co-chairman of the "black caucus," got up and stated that they would walk out of the conference if the amendment were adopted. Other speakers took the floor to denounce the amendment as "racist." When the vote was finally taken the amendment was defeated 74 to 96 and the original 50 percent vote for the "black caucus" proposal was carried 108 to 65. Later a motion was passed recommending this voting rule for the May convention.

Many participants in the Albany meeting spoke bravely of utilizing the third ticket effort to build a "political arm" of the antiwar and black liberation movements. The character of the meeting would not indicate much success in this endeavor. The factional frenzy permeating the meeting resulted in a steadily dwindling attendance until, at the end, it had declined by half. More significantly, representation from the militant student wing of the antiwar movement and from the recognized national black power organizations of the black liberation movement was conspicuous by its absence.

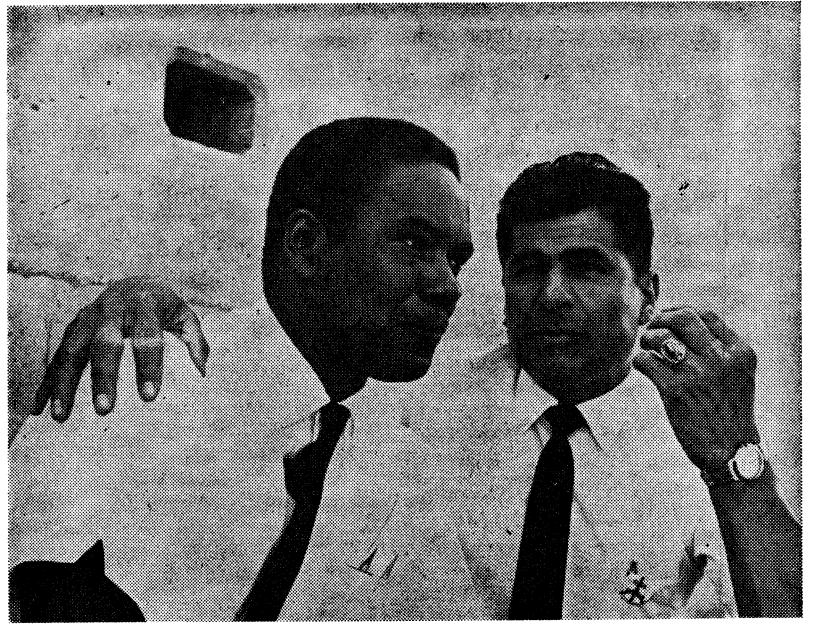


Photo by Della Rossa
"NEW BREED" LEADER. Reies Lopez Tijerina, right, with Frank Greenwood of the Los Angeles Afro-American Cultural Association.

Tijerina Given 30 Days — Dared to Speak Out

By Della Rossa

"These judges and court officials want to drink blood. They are devils and I call them all kinds of names of contempt." Statements such as this were utilized by New Mexico authorities to send Reies Lopez Tijerina of the Alianza Federal de Pueblos Libres, the New Mexico land grant movement, to jail for 30 days on Feb. 27.

Tijerina had been forbidden by court order to speak about the Alianza's attempted citizens' arrest at the Tierra Amarilla, N.M., courthouse last June 5. Eleven Alianza members are under indictment, charged with armed "assault on a courthouse." The Alianza says the gag ruling is in violation of constitutional free speech guarantees and the sentence will be appealed up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tijerina is also appealing a two-year sentence for "assault on two U.S. forest rangers," which the Alianza says was actually the arrest and trial of the forest rangers by Alianza authorities, who charged them with trespassing and intimidating a peaceful demonstration with a show of guns.

While Tijerina was speaking at East Los Angeles College Feb. 23, a student identified as an American Indian challenged the Alianza's right to the disputed land, which is largely grazing land con-

trolled by the U.S. Forest Service.

"The land belongs to the Indians!" the student shouted. "The Spanish stole it from us!"

Tijerina explained that the land grant claimants were the New Breed, descendants of the Spanish and Indians who intermarried. The same challenge was made when Tijerina appeared earlier on the national hook-up Les Crane television show, this time by a Mexican-American who appealed the question to an Indian spokesman on the show. The Indian said, "Tijerina is my brother."

"It is true that the Spaniards did fight some Indians, but the Spaniards didn't fight the peaceful Pueblo Indians," Tijerina is quoted in the *Los Angeles Free Press*. "The Spanish intermarried with the Pueblo Indians. We have proof that the Pueblo titles are Spanish titles. The U.S. has never, at any time, issued any kind of property titles to any Indians."

"Yes, he has reduced the roaming Indians and the peaceful Indians to reservations. Yes, it is true that he forced the Spaniard, our fathers, out of the continent and put our mother, the Indian, in reservations, leaving the Spanish-Americans, the New Breed, as an orphan."

"These land grants given to this New Breed was not land taken away from the Indians. According to the laws of the Indians, a group of people or families that decided upon petitioning the Spanish government for establishing a pueblo had to consult the Indians and clear the title with them."

Tijerina told the East Los Angeles College students, "When I see the black man yell I see it as something holy, something pure. The cry of the black, the brown and the Indian is a cry from the bottom of our hearts. We have a great thirst, a great hunger for justice. We have no hate. If the Anglo is frightened it is because his historical crimes are catching up with him."

The Alianza has "treaties of mutual assistance" with six black organizations, including the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and three Indian tribes.

Does your local library have a subscription to THE MILITANT? If not, why not suggest that they obtain one. Librarians are often pleased to have patrons call their attention to publications that they should have available.

Price Rises Leave Workers With Lowered Real Wages

By Ed Smith

It's the 83rd or 84th month of the longest boom in U.S. history — according to Lyndon Johnson and assorted government economists. Prices, production and profits are all up and unemployment is at a 14-year low. The only flaw in the picture is that all this "prosperity" is not being shared by the masses of American workers.

As prices have steadily risen in the last two years, the weekly paychecks of most American workers have actually gone down, measured in terms of what their money can buy.

This January, the consumer price index rose for the 12th consecutive month to 118.6 percent of the 1957-59 average. In terms of 1957-59 dollars, this meant that the average "nonsupervisory" worker with three dependents had real buying power of \$77.66 a week, down from \$78.26 in December.

The weekly purchasing power of nonsupervisory employees — covering workers from white-collar jobs on Wall Street to assembly-line workers in basic industry — has been declining for two years, while profits have been booming. These figures were given in the Feb. 28 *Wall Street Journal*:

Weekly purchasing power in 1957-59 dollars	
1961	\$71.48
1962	73.05
1963	73.63
1964	76.38
1965	78.53
1966	78.29
1967	78.23

For the future, it is going to be more of the same — or worse. Johnson intends to escalate the war and saddle Americans with higher taxes to pay for it. This could only mean that prices will continue to rise while real wages continue to decline.

Letters From Our Readers

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

U.S. Elections Unfair

Newark, N.J.
The American news media, including all radio stations, constantly give news about all potential candidates for President in the Republican and Democratic parties. Fred Halstead, who has already been nominated as a candidate for President by the Socialist Workers Party, is never mentioned. This is why United States elections are unfair. People don't know of another candidate's existence, what he is saying, or what his party represents. This makes all the difference in the world. Therefore American elections are phony, a fraud on the American people.

Although you speak with pride of Fred Halstead holding an occasional press conference, I have never yet heard him so much as mentioned on a radio news broadcast. As the capitalists own the news media, they will not be fair to any party other than their Republican and Democratic parties, which is really one party with two different names.

As a WBAI subscriber I have written to them about this.

D.A.

Economic Gains Needed

Boston, Mass.
Why can't some organization stress economic gains in the Negro communities instead of these social gains?

Control of the economy of the Negro community instead of trying to integrate white business. Why not take over from white merchants and real estate people the business of the Negro community? Why not organize cor-

porations selling stock to buy out white landlords and business people in the Negro community?

Stocks could be sold at a dollar a share to buy out white business and real estate. There are several militant means that could be used to persuade these merchants to sell and instead of the ones that were taken over being held or turned over to individuals, they would be owned and operated by the corporation in which individual Negroes in the community could buy shares.

E.G.

Special Interest

Newark, N.J.
Like to see the Latin American reporting — hope it continues!

K.S.

Some Comments

Austin, Tex.
Aside from a feeling of impotence and ineffectualness, my main disappointment with leftist organizations has been the viciousness with which they attack each other.

My other big disappointment has been the insistence on labeling all pronouncements "scientific," which is open to a great deal of doubt, and the seeming reluctance and embarrassment in approaching anything on a purely moral level, such as women's rights — or even (I mislaid my 20-foot-pole) freedom for homosexuals.

I can see some basis for a pro-Arab stand in the Mideast in anti-imperialism, but not much. Nationalization of the Suez Canal, pan-Arab nationalism or Russian financing of the Aswan Dam do not to me justify calling Egypt or Syria socialist. I have yet to see anything to convince me that Israel acted other than in self-defense.

The West Bank may be valuable, but what good are Sinai or the Syrian heights except as protection against Arab threats. I really believe the Arabs were out to destroy the Jewish nation and that this would have come about through a bloodbath. That to me would outweigh all other considerations even if I were convinced of their validity. If the Arabs have a right to national self-determination, the same surely applies to the Israelis as well.

You have abdicated your responsibility to provide leadership and guidance to the revolutionary movement and chosen instead to follow the easier course of hanging onto the coattails of other, more vital movements. One of these is Black Nationalism. This is possibly the best thing that's happened in U.S. history and it is natural for such a movement to identify with other emergent, post-colonialist nationalisms; but it remains a polymorphous reaction with little in the way of concrete objectives.

M.C.

Parasitic System

New York, N.Y.
The exploitation of man by man (capitalism) is the leech we have to get off our backs. This is the main task that confronts mankind now more than ever. Complete eradication of this para-

sitic system as a way of life becomes ever greater a matter for the human race.

Presently the exploiters are confronting the reality that the masses are not standing still with arms crossed; that many are conscious that victory stands in the complete eradication of capitalism.

For capitalism everything becomes a target, with prospects of extracting profits, everything from medicine, workers, death, etc. Needs like housing, food, etc., become subject to the parasitic system.

The exploiters and their government have legalized it. Their schools and mass media have conditioned a great amount of the masses to accept it as a "free," "democratic" way of life that has always been and will always be.

The exploitation of man by man has its days counted — this inhumanity must continually be unmasked before the world and fought by any means necessary and with the spirit that Che Guevara always had.

J.O.

Bedtime Story

Berkeley, Calif.
Last night I was reading a book describing the years in Germany directly preceding the second world war. It was terrible. I put down the book. There was no difference.

Gerald Block

Soviet Jewry

Greenvale, N.Y.
I have been reading *The Militant* for about six months and have enjoyed it very much. I am however disturbed that you haven't yet taken a stand on Soviet Jewry.

The oppression of Soviet Jewry is very great and should be of great concern to all humanitarians all over the world. There are three million Soviet Jews. There are less than 100 functioning synagogues. There has not been a single classical text published in Russia since the Revolution. Religious education is forbidden.

Corruption, Saigon Style . . . — An opium-smuggling ring, involving South Vietnam's customs chief, his niece, and dozens of high Saigon government officials, makes payoffs to officials "all the way to the top," it was revealed by the Senate subcommittee on foreign aid expenditures.

. . . and Washington Style — Top defense contractor Litton Industries, a diversified corporation with many divisions and subdivisions, also has a \$12.5 million contract with the government to run a Job Corps training center. Despite the fact that they purchased \$337,000 worth of unneeded books from one of their companies, Litton Instructional Materials, and charged the government, Litton's Job Corps contract is about to be renewed. (The highly technical books now gathering dust in a storeroom are unusable by Job Corpsmen, many of whom have little or no education and reading ability.) Litton is run by Charles B. Thornton, Texas friend of LBJ and former business associate of McNamara.

Won't Be Invited Again — Taking a leaf from honest Eartha Kitt's book, Mrs. Kenneth Tynan, wife of the literary manager of London's National Theater, pasted antiwar stickers on walls, tables and doors throughout the elegant Regent's Park home of U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. David Bruce, where she was a dinner guest. Stickers read, "Vietnam solidarity with the Vietnamese people against American aggression. Sunday, March 17, Trafalgar Square, 2:30 p.m."

Thought for the Week

"The members of the commission should be put in jail under \$100,000 bail each because they are saying essentially what I've been saying." — H. Rap Brown, in jail, on report of the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders.

However, all other minority groups are allowed schools, texts, theatre, and other cultural outlets.

I would appreciate a comment from *The Militant* on the oppression of Soviet Jewry.

B.R.

[*The Militant* has from its inception in 1928 been a staunch opponent of Soviet anti-Semitism, which became a government policy under Stalin. For example, in 1953 at the time of the so-called doctors' plot we ran a front-page editorial which declared:

["The official accusations against the Jewish doctors need not be examined to see if there is any truth in them — for such charges, and the 'confession' trials that will follow, have long ago been exposed as frame-ups . . . Now the Jews have been picked as scape-goats . . . Stalinist anti-Semitism will only serve to expose more thoroughly the barbarous character of the Kremlin regime among workers in Russia and throughout the world."

[B.R. is wrong, however, to suppose that it is only the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union that is subject to cultural and religious persecution — witness the recent arrests of Ukrainian writers, which revealed a general suppression of Ukrainian culture. This applies to other national minorities as well.

[We would view the problem as a broader one, stemming from the general proscription of workers' democracy at all levels of the soviet workers' state. This reflects the rule of a privileged, bureaucratic social stratum, originally consolidated under Stalin's leadership, which uses the governmental apparatus to protect its privileges.

[The restrictions on Soviet Jews will be abolished, along with many other repressive features of Soviet society, through the general struggle of the Russian workers against their bureaucratic misleaders. Such retrograde features should not, however, become a pretext for abandoning the defense of the Soviet Union, in spite of its leadership, in the face of any attack by imperialism. The imperialists have amply demonstrated in Vietnam what kind of "democratic alternative" they are ready to provide. — EDITOR]

U.S. Terror in Vietnam

New York, N.Y.
The high Vietcong casualty reports on the killing of fighting peasants, by all means of automatic high powered firepower, is not the only count of the Vietcong killed.

All Vietcong captured are slaughtered out of hand. Returning American soldiers report that, when Vietcong are captured, they are turned over to the South Vietnamese, questioned, stripped and shot — no prisoners.

The U.S. passes the killing off onto the South Vietnamese.

The U.S. is directly responsible for the genocide of the Vietnamese. If the U.S. cannot take a town in hand-to-hand combat, then the town is obliterated by explosives, shelling and napalm bombs, to "save the town from itself."

When the U.S. occupied Santo Domingo, suspects rounded up were stripped of their shirts, and if they had a red mark on the right shoulder from the gun recoil they were shot on the spot.

Socialism is the need for a better society.

Otto Thomas

The Great Society

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Can't Make Connection — During a discussion of tourism at a New Delhi meeting of a UN Commission for Trade and Development committee meeting, Cuban delegate Gladys Garcia pointed out that U.S. measures restricting tourist travel would affect the economies of many countries. She added that the U.S. should understand that its balance-of-payment problems arose because of its "aggressive policies." U.S. delegate David

Ernst's profound reply: "My delegation has attempted to be patient with those who cannot distinguish between economics and politics."

Too Spicy — Beatle Ringo Starr has dropped out of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's three-month course in transcendental meditation. It seems that he and his wife, Maureen, couldn't transcend their dislike of curry.

—Ruth Porter

Weekly Calendar

LOS ANGELES
REPORT FROM THE TSU FIVE. Speakers: Floyd Nichols, defendant; and Stanley Wright, TSU Five Defense Fund. Friday, March 15, 8:30 p.m. 1702 E. Fourth Street. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum. Donation.

NEW YORK
CHOICE 68: McCARTHY or HALSTEAD for PRESIDENT? A debate: FRED HALSTEAD, Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party vs. ALEX ROSENBERG, Democratic Party 65th Assembly District leader.
Chairman: ABNER GRUNAUER, member N.Y. Council for a Sane Nuclear Policy. Friday, March 15, 8:30 p.m. 873 Broadway, near 18th St. Contrib. \$1. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

TWIN CITIES
SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE WOMAN IN THE WEST. Speaker: Andrée Michel, French sociologist and author, Visiting Professor, University of Minn. Saturday, March 16, 8:30 p.m., 704 Hennepin, Hall 240, Minneapolis. Ausp. Twin Cities Socialist Forum.

New Readers

If you would like to be sure of receiving every issue containing Harry Ring's special on-the-spot series from Cuba, order an introductory four-month subscription now. In addition, you will receive FREE a copy of the November-December 1967 issue of the International Socialist Review containing Fidel Castro's speech at the OLAS conference held in Cuba last summer, and the general declaration issued by OLAS. Send this coupon and \$1 to

THE MILITANT

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Black GI in Vietnam Indicted War in Poem

The *Baltimore Afro-American* recently published a poem by Alexander Chin, who had sent it to his mother from the DMZ in Vietnam. The marine, 23 years old, was killed a few days later. Alexander Chin was a graduate of the Maryland Art Institute. He entered the armed forces on March 8 of last year.

The poem, follows:

I AM A SOLDIER

I am a soldier and black is my skin,
I must kill a man who could be my friend.
I am fighting for something I don't understand,
Dear God, why am I in this unknown land?
This is my battle, that's what they say,

And I must keep on killing as I am ordered today.
And maybe one day I'll be killed too.
My battle is home, in my native land,
The war that I know, and understand.
Where the black man must fight if he wants to be free,
If he wants his civil rights and equality.
This is the kind of war that I am prepared to fight.
The one that will make me equal to the white.
Send me back to the battle at home,
Because this war here is not my own.
It only came about because of some man's greed,
But the war at home will have some men freed.

S. Korean 'Allies' Give Students Death Sentence

The seizure of the spy ship *Pueblo* by North Korea has resulted in some new attention being focused on the U.S.-backed dictatorship in South Korea, which has recently begun stepping up its "anti-Communist" repression.

Dictator Chung Hee Park's government has recently completed a series of four mass trials of 56 Korean intellectuals, journalists and students for their political opposition to the South Korean dictatorship. The *New York Times* reported Feb. 29 that "two were sentenced to death, four to life imprisonment and others to one to 15 years. In no case was there evidence of actual espionage. The convictions were based largely on the country's anti-Communist law, which makes any contact whatsoever with Communists a crime."

The *Times* adds that this law "provides severe penalties for anyone who has praised, encouraged, sympathized with or given 'aid and comfort' to an 'antistate organization,' for anyone who for such purpose has 'produced, imported, reproduced, kept in his custody, transported, disseminated, sold or obtained a document, a picture or other descriptive material.'"

On Nov. 9, 33 of those tried were kidnapped from France, Austria and West Germany by the South Korean secret police — called, appropriately enough, the Central Intelligence Agency. (The *Times* commented that this CIA has

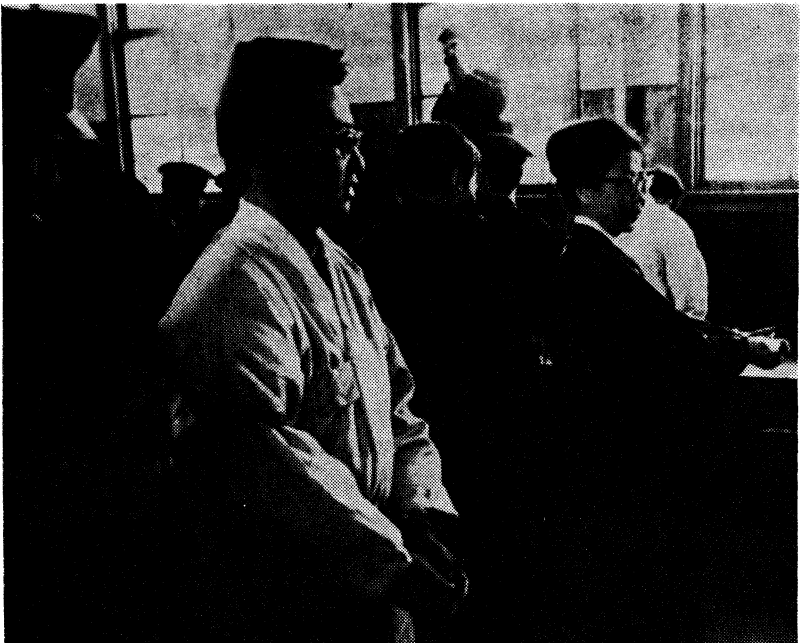
"adopted the name and some of the working methods of its American counterpart and is reported to enjoy good relations with it.")

David Housez, Paris correspondent for *Le Monde Diplomatique*, charged in a Feb. 5 article for the Liberation News Service that the American CIA took part in the kidnapping. A few of those kidnapped were returned to Europe in response to protests by European governments: "According to the students, professors, and journalists with whom I have talked, the act of incarceration is followed by interrogations and torture in order to force the victim to admit his participation in 'the red conspiracy' or to name another 'suspect.'"

Housez gave some examples of the "crimes" of the "conspirators": Several composers and artists received a small subsidy for their studies in Europe from North Korea ("Yun Yi San received \$1,800 in nine years; and he used it solely to support his studies and to sponsor concerts.")

"Ung No Yi, 64, and his wife In Kiong Pak, two artists living in Paris, admitted having received from the same source \$1,650. They visited East Berlin in 1963 to gather news about a son and a nephew living in North Korea... [there were] 19 others whose common crime was having lived in Europe between 1958 and 1967.

"The prosecution obtained six death sentences against the 'leaders' of the 'spy conspiracy.'"



AT WITCH-HUNT TRIAL. Over 50 intellectuals were tried in South Korea, and six were reported sentenced to death.

N. Y. Plans Massive Protest Against the War April 27

NEW YORK — The Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee has announced plans for a massive demonstration against the Vietnam war to be held here April 27 as part of the international day of protest against U.S. aggression in Vietnam. The Parade Committee is calling for two giant parades to begin around 96th St., march down Broadway and Fifth Avenue, converging at 72nd Street for a rally at Sheep Meadow in Central Park.

The committee, which represents a coalition of more than 150 organizations opposed to the war, plans to distribute more than two million leaflets to build the mass march. It promises to be the biggest antiwar action in New York since the mammoth April 15 demonstration last year when 400,000 took part from throughout the Eastern U.S.

Advertising

In addition to the leaflets, the committee will distribute posters, buttons and brochures, and is raising contributions for billboards in the suburbs.

The Parade Committee has also established "Dial-a-Demonstration," a recorded announcement of upcoming meetings, demonstrations and plans for April 27. The number is 924-6315.

Volunteers are needed every day at the Parade Committee office at 17 E. 17th Street, phone 255-1075.

Campus Strike Marks Gains Here, Abroad

Support is growing for the International Student Strike called for April 26 by the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam and the National Black Anti-War Anti-Draft Union. It looks now as though the action will have the broadest national and international support of any student action yet held against the war.

A student representing the SMC and the recently formed National Black Anti-War Anti-Draft Union made a trip to Mexico City last month where he met with Mexican student leaders and representatives of student organizations from every Latin American country except Paraguay. The Latin American students issued a call declaring that "Latin America stands together with our black brothers and sisters and all other progressive groups in the U.S., in their fight for national liberation. Venceremos!" They agreed to support the strike.

The *Daily Californian*, published at the University of California at Berkeley, said Feb. 26 that demonstrations were already expected in Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile, Nicaragua, Panama and Bolivia.

A student in Tokyo wrote to the Student Mobilization Committee: "I had an opportunity to look at a recent issue of *The Militant* and learned about the call for the April 26 International Student Strike... I am a member of a Committee to End the War in Vietnam of Tokyo University... Most of the unions, especially the Teachers Union and the National Railroad Workers Union, are strongly against the war. All the political parties, except the ruling conservative party (Liberal Democratic Party) are against the war... April 26 should be a day



LAST APRIL 15. One section of giant march of hundreds of thousands in protest of Vietnam war. New mass action planned for April 27.

of solidarity for all the people who are fighting for the new beginning of hope and humanity."

A letter to the SMC from Hungary declared: "We greet with great pleasure your initiative to call for an International Student Strike on April 26 and for international support and participation in the April 27 antiwar actions... The Hungarian Peace Council will call upon the students to organize protest meetings, demonstrations at the universities, high schools and colleges on April 26, and the whole population to arrange such manifestations on April 27 throughout the country."

The SMC has also decided to help build the strike by turning out the vote on college campuses April 24 for the referendum on the war that is to be part of "CHOICE 68," the "National Collegiate Presidential Primary." Tens of thousands of leaflets are being distributed urging students to vote in the referendum for immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam and for a permanent cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam.

Strike Bulletin

Around the country students are actively building for the April action. The SMC national office is issuing a weekly *Strike Bulletin* rounding up reports. Their second issue announces: "DETROIT — Things are moving at Wayne State University. The SMC coordinator there just wrote us: 'The university-wide strike conference will be on Saturday, March 9. Response from people asked to endorse the conference has been quite good. So far we have about six faculty members, the president of the Young Dems, president of the Law Student's Civil Liberties Board, presidents of various student government bodies, members of religious and foreign student organizations... Since the letter was written support has come from many other groups, including the Newman Club, three black fraternities, SDS, the University Christian Movement, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Student Faculty Council, Black Student Association, and the Arab Student Association.'"

A California conference has been called for March 23-24 by

a broad coalition of antiwar organizations. It will be held in Berkeley and will make final plans for California participation in the Student Strike.

A regional meeting was held Feb. 24 in Indianapolis, Ind., where antiwar activists from Indianapolis, from Purdue University in Lafayette, and from Indiana University in Bloomington met to make plans for the strike in Indiana. A letter to the SMC from Purdue reports:

"We decided that we would hold our big action on the 27th in Indianapolis... We hope to get a national figure to speak, as well as four or five local, student and black leaders to make shorter speeches... as for the Strike, we're planning to hold a two-hour rally [at Purdue] with a big speaker, and we'll leaflet most areas of campus throughout the day."

The SMC is distributing 50,000 copies of their tabloid newspaper, the *Student Mobilizer*, calling for the strike. For more information, write to the Student Mobilization Committee, 17 East 17th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003. Phone (212) 255-1075.

'It's Just Hell,' —Returning GI

Spec. 4 Robert Hanna, just back from Vietnam, told the *Columbus Citizen-Journal* that "it's a peculiar war... it's just hell."

The Vietnam veteran said that those supporting the Saigon regime "don't give a damn we're over there. They just take whatever money we give them."

"Every village has 50 percent VC. You got to respect the VC as soldiers. They hit nine base camps at the same time the same day. They're smart. And they feel they're defending their country against us. To them, Ho is like George Washington. They idolize him. Every VC we killed had a picture of Ho in his pocket."

"We're never going to win that war. Maybe we could if we used A-bombs on Hanoi. But then every nation in the world would hate us. It would hardly be worth it."