



INSIDE-OUT

Same Struggle - Same Fight!

no. 3 VVAW-WSO Newsletter for Prisoners

AUG '74

VVAW/WSO National Office, 827 West Newport, Chicago, Ill. 60657

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Most militant greetings to you all! There's been a two-month lapse since the last publication of "Inside/Out" due to our demonstrations in Washington, D. C., but things are settling down now, so here we are again. This issue of "Inside/Out" will be shorter than usual because we felt it important to include the enclosed pamphlet, "What Is VVAW/WSO" which was recently published by this office. We feel that this pamphlet will give all of you an idea of the politics and programs of VVAW/WSO, as well as the scope of the work we are involved in. We hope you will enjoy it, and any feed-back you have on this will be much appreciated.

Just as a reminder, we would like to be receiving more information for this newsletter from all of you. We had hoped to be able to provide a tool for organizing and building unity inside prisons, as well as building unity with the prison movement and those of us in "minimum security." To do this, we need your help. We are particularly interested in discussions of the tactics used by prison administrations which divide people, how those of us on the outside can better plug into the struggles of prisoners, and thoughts on how unity between us all can better be achieved. Don't limit yourselves to these questions, but we feel they are some of the most important problems facing us. Also, for those of you who have never seen "Inside/Out" before, back issues are available upon request. Just let us know what you're missing.

With Clenched Fist,

VVAW/WSO National Collective

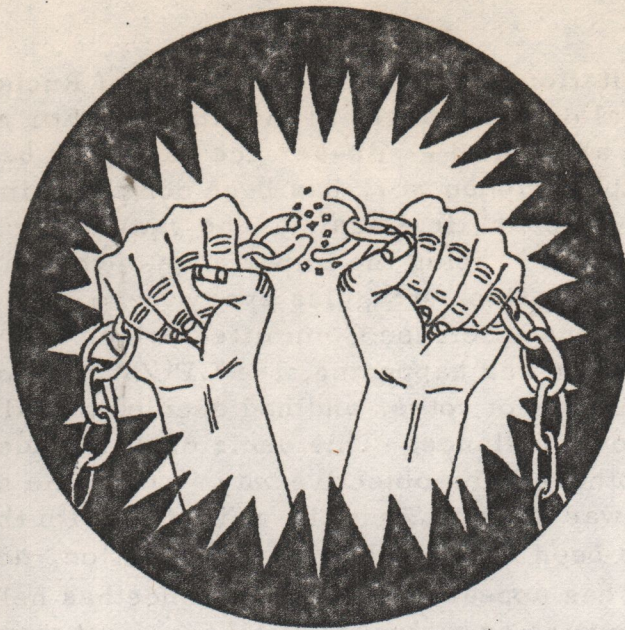
Washington Demonstration Seen as Overwhelming Success

In the August issue of Winter Soldier (which is enclosed) there are many photos, and a run-down on the four days of activities. Thus, we won't repeat what is contained in the newspaper. We did, however, learn some very important lessons at the demonstration which we feel should be shared with as many people as possible. Generally, we view the demonstration as a very progressive step forward -- both with regard to VVAW/WSO as an organization, and for the anti-imperialist movement as a whole. Our five demands of Universal and unconditional amnesty, Implement the Agreement - End all Aid to Thieu and

Lon Nol, Single-type discharge for all vets, Decent Benefits for all vets, and Kick Nixon Out, were put forward in an anti-imperialist, not a reformist way. Thousands of people joined us as these demands were put forward -- not to the government but to the American people -- and the spirit and unity which developed was very high and extremely positive.

There were mistakes made at times, such as the leadership of the VVAW/WSO National Steering Committee tailing behind the militancy of the masses, but we learned from those mistakes and tried to correct them. Out of both our mistakes and our successes, we learned one major lesson -- that the people are strong if they are united, while the "man" is weak. Through the numerous police attacks which were designed to stop our demonstrations, the lack of sleep and food, and the incredible 100° heat, we could not be stopped. We recognized the importance of putting our demands before the people of this country, and as our primary task, that took complete priority. The level of militance of the demonstration was very high, and the people there all learned what it means to fight back in unity. We had a common purpose, to oppose imperialism, and the people let nothing stand in the way of that major purpose. Thus, through our unity, we attained the collective strength of being able to effectively fight back against those who were trying to oppress us and stop us from carrying out our business of why we were in Washington. And we learned from this -- we learned how to fight back with strength so that we came out "on top" while "the man" emerged with egg on his face; we learned that the militancy of the masses of people is much higher than we had expected and that this militancy must be channeled because people are ready and willing to struggle against what oppresses them in their daily lives; and we learned that the struggle against imperialism is gaining momentum, is becoming stronger and more unified than it has ever been in the past in the U. S. In short, we learned, first-hand, what our strength is; and that it far surpasses that of our enemies. In all of these lessons, unity can be seen as the key to our victory. Our work must now be to take the lessons learned at the demonstration into our daily work back home in our communities. We also wanted to share these lessons with all of you because they will also affect the prison movement, just as they effect all movements which struggle against imperialism.

It is difficult to express the spirit and solidarity which was present at the demonstration. In short, you had to be there. But even though we couldn't be together physically, we felt united with our brothers and sisters in prisons in spirit. In the last "Inside/Out" there was a Declaration of Solidarity and Support for the demonstration. Many of these declarations were returned and were presented to the nearly 4,000 people who attended the mass rally on July 4. As each prison was read off, the people from that area sent up cheers of solidarity; and when at the end of the presentation, a request for an expression of solidarity was called for, the people responded with applause, chants, and more cheers of unity and support. We felt it was a very intense moment in the rally and was a clear example that our struggles are the same. Through our unity will come our victory. As one of the most chanted phrases of the demonstration says: "THE PEOPLE UNITED CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED!"



Gary Lawton Speaks Out Against National Alliance

Many of you have probably followed the case of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner in some detail. Winter Soldier has continually run articles on this racist and repressive frame-up going on in Riverside, California and Gary has earned the respect of many of his brothers and sisters in prisons throughout the country. For this reason, we felt it important to print the following letter written by Gary and addressed to Angela Davis. We feel that what Gary is saying is extremely important for all oppressed people, and particularly for all political prisoners.

It is important, however, that this letter be set in some sort of context. To go into all the details would require an extensive paper on the subject, so we will only be able to highlight some incidents which led up to the writing of this letter. The meaning of the letter is self-explanatory, and the circumstances which prompted the letter center around Gary's refusal to speak at a rally in Los Angeles because Angela Davis was also speaking there. Instead, Chukia Lawton (Gary's wife) spoke at the rally and hand-delivered the following letter. But the major reason why this letter was written is because of Davis (a member of the Communist Party, USA) and the CPUSA's front-group, the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and their relations to political prisoners around the country.

Gary has had first-hand experience with Angela and the National Alliance, since he has been a political prisoner for over three years having to face trial after trial. When Gary was most in need of assistance, without support, and trying to build a national focus on his case, Angela and the Alliance offered some support in the context of lip-service, but nothing in the way of concrete action. They continually tried to get Gary to speak for them, to "hype" their organization, though they continued to turn their backs on his urgent pleas for help. In the case of Ruchell Magee (who was arrested and charged along with Angela for the Marin County Courthouse kidnapping), this brother is still rotting in a jail cell. Though Angela was tried and freed through the united efforts of the people of this country, Ruchell has been forgotten by his co-defendant since she gained her freedom. Neither Angela, the National Alliance, nor the CPUSA have made

any real efforts to do agitational work around the case of Ruchell, thus he is about to face a second trial on the charges of kidnapping. For all practical purposes, Ruchell has been abandoned -- lip-service has again been given (as it was to Gary), but no viable defense work has been done for him and lovely promises have been broken time and time again. The same thing is true in the case of the Leavenworth Brothers. Seeing the importance of the trials of these brothers and what they mean to prison struggles everywhere, the CPUSA joined the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee (which was initiated by VVAW/WSO). Before we knew what was happening, the CPUSA had control of that committee in terms of the number of votes, and had decided to affiliate the defense committee with the National Alliance. This decision was made without consulting the Leavenworth Brothers in an objective way -- only one side of the story of the National Alliance was given. Since the affiliation with the Alliance, no visible support work has been initiated by that organization, no visible results in favor of the Brothers has appeared, yet the Alliance has held up this affiliation of that defense committee as a symbol of all the great work they are doing to insure the freedom of all political prisoners.

Since this type of activity has occurred time and time again, we have been forced to view the activities of Angela Davis, the CPUSA, and their front group, the National Alliance as being opportunistic -- trying to build themselves at the expense of honest people and political prisoners around the country. We feel that this is a logical extension of the politics of the CPUSA itself, which have sunk into revisionism and reformism and no longer have the good of the people at heart but are more concerned with their own interests, and the stifling of militant and revolutionary fervor.

We feel it important for all people in prison to have an understanding of the activities of the Alliance, and we feel it is our responsibility to share this letter with all of you. As of now, this letter is a personal letter between Gary and Angela, and does not yet express the policy of VVAW/WSO. However, because of the continued activities of the Alliance and the CPUSA, VVAW/WSO as an organization is rapidly being forced into taking a position condemning such opportunist and unprincipled actions by these two groups. Following is Gary's letter:

Riverside, California
June 13, 1974

Angela,

I was recently asked by the Southern California Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, to participate along with you and other speakers at a rally to be held at the Embassy Auditorium on the night of June 14, 1974.

As much as I may, for other reasons, regret it, I feel that I must decline the Alliance's invitation owing to the fact that I cannot participate in a program with an individual (or group of individuals) whom do not have the best interest of all oppressed people and political prisoners at heart, and whether it is of any significance to you or not, I want you to know that the foregoing statement is directed solely at you.

Since your exoneration in the Marin Court House thing, you have done little to nothing in giving the same meaningful, consistent support to other political prisoners that was so eagerly and selflessly given to you at that time in your life, when you most needed help.

By this I mean, that since your release from incarceration you, and those around you, have engaged in a phony game of "Selective Support" of a few political prisoners and dealt with one or two issues (and those in a very half-hearted jive manner), but for the most part you seem not to give a damn about what is happening to the mass of both political prisoners and subjugated people as a whole here in the wilderness nation of Amerikkka.

If you can support Bro. Ben Chavis in North Carolina, then why can't you give that same kind of righteous support to Ruchell Magee; and while I'm on the subject of Ruchell Magee, ask yourself this, whom is more deserving of your total support, help and encouragement than Ruchell.

But no, you have turned your back on Ruchell, just as you have turned your back on dealing with the real issues of fascist oppression in this country.

You are now making a big to do about repression in North Carolina. You seem to have lost sight of the fact that what is happening in North Carolina is taking place everywhere here in this wilderness nation; and if that were not so George and Jonathan Jackson would be alive today, the Attica massacre would not have happened, Martin Sostre and those he represents wouldn't be waging a single-handed life and death struggle behind bars on the most outrageous form of frame-up and Zurebu Gardner and I wouldn't be facing a third trial in as many years for an act we didn't commit.

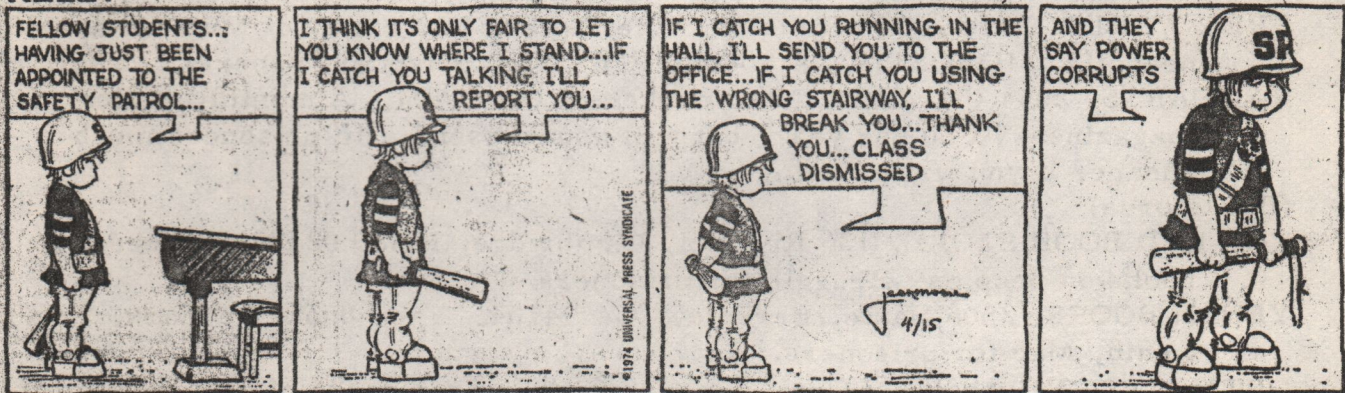
My sister, you have lost touch with the people; and worse than that, you have become an ego tripping hypocrite and a sell-out to the very cause you once seemed to believe so fervently in.

Respectfully,

Kali Moran, Sr.

Slave name - Gary Lawton

KELLY



In the last issue of Inside/Out we began a list of publications--newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, books--which were available either free or at reduced cost to prisoners. We also asked you to let us know any such publications you knew of; what follows is the input we have gotten from around the country. We are not repeating the list that was published last month--in the near future we will consolidate the lists and print one full list. Once again, if you know of items that ought to be here and aren't, please let us know.

China Books & Periodicals (2929 24th St, San Francisco, CA 94110). We wrote to China Books about their policy, and received the following response: "China Books receives numerous requests for free literature from prisoners. The policy has been in accordance with Justice Department restrictions placed upon commercial importers and distributors of communist literature. China Books does not disseminate free literature but does allow optimum discounts to organizations which sponsor book programs for prisoners.... 50% discount on Chinese & Vietnamese Publications, 20% discount on US and other publications. On paid orders from individual prisoners we cannot offer a special discount, but if the prisoner assumes a discount, the books are generally sent in without further billing.

We offer free samples of Chinese magazines to interested persons. These are: CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, CHINA PICTORIAL, CHINESE LITERATURE, and PEKING REVIEW. Our supply of damaged books is so limited in quantity and variety that we can't fill many requests in this way.... "

China Books also sent a list of free book programs which they know of: ELIZABETH AUERBACH, Auerbach Brigade, c/o International Publishers, 381 Park Ave South, New York, N. Y. 10016.
NACLA, P. O. Box 226, Berkeley, CA 94701.
BLACK SCHOLAR PRISON BOOK FUND, 5710 Paradise Ave, Corte Madera, CA 94925.
PACIFIC STUDIES CENTER, 1963 University Ave, East Palo Alto, CA 94303
MERIP, P. O. Box 48, Cambridge, Mass 02138
CCAS BULLETIN, 604 Mission St, Room 1001, San Francisco, CA 94105.

(The following list comes from the New England Prisoners Association (NEPA) NEWS; the comments are theirs.)

ROUGH TIMES, P. O. Box 89, West Somerville, MAINE 02144. A bi-monthly national psychiatry/therapy paper--free to prisoners.
AKWESASNE NOTES, Mohawk Nation, via Roosevelttown, N. Y. 13683. A bi-monthly national Native American paper--free to prisoners.
FREE WORLD TIMES, 314 Social Science Tower, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn 55455. A bi-monthly national prisoners paper--\$3/year.
RAMPARTS, 2054 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704. A monthly radical magazine--\$9.50 per year, but will usually send it to prisoners much cheaper if you write them.

(Bookstores)

THE RED BOOK STORE, 136 River St, Cambridge, MASS 02139. Offers free books on peoples' struggle for prisoners.
YENAN BOOKS, 2506 Haste, Berkeley, CA 94704. Free books by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao for prisoners.
OUTMATES, University of Conn, Storrs, Conn. Free books of all kinds to prisoners. They send you a book list and you check off what you want.

Unity Struggle Victory!