

# Police Rampage at Texas Southern; A Case of Wanton Criminal Brutality

## THE MILITANT

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## Captain Levy Trial Scheduled to Hear War Crimes Data

By Barry Sheppard

MAY 24 — The court-martial of Capt. Howard B. Levy, the dermatologist who refused to teach Green Berets his medical specialty on the grounds that the Green Berets are primarily killers and not healers, took a dramatic turn last week. The court's chief officer, Col. Earl V. Brown, ruled on May 17 that Levy could introduce evidence attempting to prove that the Green Berets were guilty of committing war crimes in Vietnam. This may prove to be an important precedent in military justice.

### Surprise Move

However, the move by the brass was intended to disorient and discredit the defense. Levy's lawyer, Charles Morgan of the American Civil Liberties Union, was given until yesterday to prepare his case against the Green Berets — all of six days. Today he must begin to present evidence. And, the court which will hear this evidence can hardly be considered impartial. The deck is stacked against Levy — the army is both accused and judge.

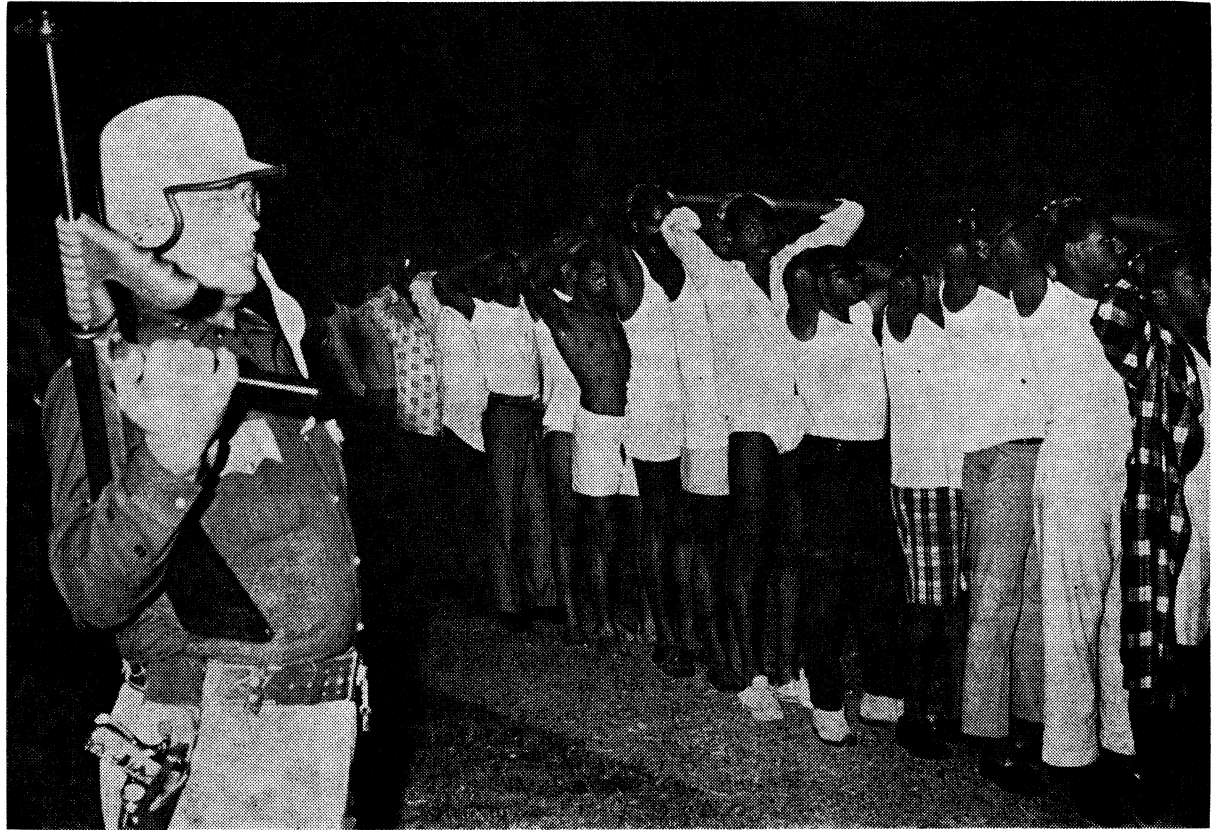
The situation facing the defense is one of trying to find witnesses, presumably mainly Green Berets themselves, who are willing to testify. Col. Brown has already ruled that Morgan must prove

the commission of atrocities "as a general pattern of practice," and not in a number of individual incidents.

Levy had not intended to prove charges of the magnitude of war crimes. He based his defense upon the contention that Green Berets were cross-trained in fighting as well as in medicine, and that in fact they were primarily fighting soldiers. Under such circumstances, to teach them medicine would violate the Geneva Convention on doctors in the army, and the doctor's Hippocratic Oath. But Col. Brown arbitrarily ruled out any defense along these lines, and would not permit evidence concerning the truth of Levy's assertions.

Then Col. Brown ruled that Levy would have to prove that the Green Berets committed war crimes "as a general pattern of practice." While there have been many news accounts concerning the wanton destruction of villages, and the indiscriminate murder of women, children, peasants and other civilians by U.S. forces and by the Green Berets in particular,

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COPS RIOT. Police line up Texas Southern University students after routing them from dormitory. Many are still in bedclothes.

By Elizabeth Barnes

"It really wasn't necessary . . . I have never seen or heard of such brutality." This was the comment of one teacher at Texas Southern University as she surveyed the wreckage in the freshman dorm attacked by Houston police. The night before an army of cops had moved in "infantry-style" on black students in the dorm, pouring some 2,000 to 3,000 rounds into the building. A patrolman, Louis Kuba, was killed during the assault.

The exact sequence of events leading up to the police attack is still unclear. The confrontation began at a student rally on May 16. A watermelon was thrown at cops standing by the rally. When a student was arrested, rocks were thrown at police. When police moved in hundreds of additional cops, they claim that shots came from the direction of the dormitory.

After three hours of uneasy

peace, students built a giant bonfire in the street running through campus. With the lighting of the bonfire, the Police Chief gave the order to clean up "this damned mess."

Lloyd Mathews, a reporter for the *Houston Chronicle* who was present during the attack described the events as follows:

"The first police assault wave, numbering about 100 men, started action with a burst of shots above the dormitory buildings . . .

"The gunfire brought wails and screams from the nearby women's dormitory.

"Moving into the darkness the police crept past the women's dorm and onto the terrace of the Student Union building, between the men's and women's dorm. It was there that a shot caught Kuba in the forehead.

"The next police assault wave moved in.

"Exchanges of fire continued until 3:05 a.m., about 40 minutes

after the first shooting."

Although the press reports have given the impression that a student sniper killed Kuba, it is possible that the bullet came from a policeman's gun. Patrolman Kuba was in the front lines in the advance on the dorm and the bullet ricocheted before it hit him, according to police.

One of the five demands included in a "peace" program presented by the student NAACP chapter to city officials was that there be an investigation to determine "the facts as to the source of the shots that killed Patrolman Louis Kuba."

According to press reports, when police finally entered the dorm they rioted — shooting their guns at random, venting their racial hatred by destroying the property of the black students as well as the dorm itself. While supposedly searching for weapons, they smashed typewriters, watches, rec-

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## Antiwar Parley Maps D.C. March

By Harry Ring

A conference of 700 antiwar activists meeting in Washington May 20-21 decided by an overwhelming majority to organize a massive Washington march next fall around the theme, "Support Our Boys — Bring Them Home!"

The conference was called by the Spring Mobilization Committee, organizer of the April 15 antiwar Mobilization which brought out a half million people on the streets of New York and San Francisco. The committee is a coalition representing a broad spectrum of organizations opposed to the war.

The proposal to organize a mass Washington march originated with the Student Mobilization Committee at its Chicago conference the previous weekend.

The attendance of 700 in Washington was testimony to the growth of the Mobilization Committee. The Cleveland conference held last fall to initiate the April 15 demonstration was attended by 180.

Among the 700 were representatives of the major peace organiza-

tions, community and campus antiwar committees and pacifist and left-wing political groups. There were 175 participants from community groups, 85 from campus committees, about 60 members of SANE, Women Strike for Peace and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 75 from the Angry Arts, members of 16 different unions and members of a variety of professions including teachers, medical, welfare and social workers. There were members of SNCC, CORE and nationalist groups.

### Plenary Sessions

The plenary sessions were chaired by Prof. Sidney Peck and Al Evanoff. Prof. Peck, of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, is a leader of the University Circle Teach-In Committee and principal organizer of the Ohio Region Spring Mobilization Committee. Evanoff is an official of District 65, AFL-CIO in New York.

Among those attending were Dr. Benjamin Spock and Sanford Gottlieb of SANE, and Dagmar Wilson

and Donna Allen of Women Strike for Peace.

In addition to the Washington march, the conference approved organization of coordinated antiwar demonstrations July 4, Aug. 6-9 and Labor Day. Development of a nonviolent resistance project in Washington was approved as was a series of draft resistance activities. A structure was established for the continued functioning of the committee.

Discussions at the workshops and plenary sessions were lively and expressive of a diversity of views. Among the workshops on which attention centered were those on Mass Demonstrations, Draft Resistance, Political Action and GIs and Veterans.

Discussion in the workshop on Mass Demonstrations centered on the proposal of the Student Mobilization Committee for the Washington march. There was overwhelming support for the proposal with only a few opposed and some others stating their support for the proposition but reluctant to pin down a specific date.

A young student spoke movingly of how he had first become active in the fight against the war as a result of the April 15 Mobilization and how his own experience made him understand the great value of such actions.

Dr. Otto Nathan, veteran peace fighter and socialist added an eloquent voice on behalf of the demonstration, insisting that the theme must be the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam.

Summing up the general feeling that such demonstrations effectively tied in with and developed local community actions, LeRoy Wollins, representing the Chicago Veterans for Peace, spoke forcefully for an Oct. 21 march.

Later, on the floor of the conference, Wollins evoked cheers and resounding applause with a ringing call for a mammoth march that would lay siege to the White House and Pentagon.

Sentiment in favor of the demonstration was overwhelming as was the agreement that the theme must be support to GIs in Vietnam by

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Capt. Howard Levy



The national master freight agreement, negotiated between the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Truck Employers Inc. late last month is now being decided by a referendum vote by the 450,000 long distance drivers, helpers, dockers and cartage workers. There is still no certainty that it will actually receive the necessary majority approval, as is indicated by reports a truck driver reader sent us about pertinent comments from many drivers at his own terminal.

Terms of the contract now submitted for membership approval provide a wage increase of 25 cents per hour in 1967, including the 11 cent cost-of-living allowance due last April 1 under the expired agreement, and 15 cents per hour for each of 1968 and 1969.

Mileage rate increases for long distance haulers have been set at one-half cent per mile for 1967, one-quarter cent per mile for each of 1968 and '69.

It is the escalator clause which is the most objectionable feature. First, it is limited to 4 cents per hour for each of the two periods within the three year contract. This is a retreat for the union since previous agreements placed no ceiling on cost-of-living increases. Second, the disposition of these escalator increases is left in the hands of the negotiations committee.

From our driver-reader we quote the reactions in his own terminal to this latter wrinkle.

"The main beef seems to be the cost of living allowance . . . and the fact that the negotiating committee shall determine its allocation." Nowhere in the contract is it spelled out that the cost of living allowance will actually be paid into the health, welfare and pension fund as part of the employers' contribution, but this oft-reported disposition of the money has never been denied. One driver said "We all remember how the 'cost of living' money was taken from us before and disappeared into health and welfare."

Another young worker said, "that money is ours, no one should have the right to take it away from us." An older worker said, "Yes, it just disappeared and we don't know what happened to it . . ."

On the escalator ceiling of 8 cents for three years, a worker commented bitterly, "They act like the cost of living is going to go down soon! I recently read an article which said living costs were expected to zoom upwards."

And on the acceptance or rejection of the contract these workers were equally cynical (the report comes from one of the largest over-the-road locals in the country). Here is how they view it: All expressed their intention to

vote *against*, but they think the smaller locals will vote for it and "the votes will be counted so the union leaders will get the count they want." \* \* \*

The Washington Teamster, reporting on the Local 741 (Seattle) decisive rejection of the first proposed contract which was revised upward somewhat as a result of the 11-local Chicago strike against it, listed 11 basic demands the IBT had given away — including the inadequacy of the cost of living allowance; the deletion of increased subsistence and lay-over provisions for long distance drivers at their turn-around points; and the insufficient mileage rate increases for long distance drivers. \* \* \*

The month-old strike against three of the major rubber and tire corporations remains at a stalemate. (See *Militant*, May 8) Firestone, Goodrich and Uniroyal plants in 37 cities, involving more than 50,000 workers, remain closed while ineffective, sporadic negotiations are carried on.

Meanwhile the United Rubber Workers Union, which had been negotiating with General Tire on a day-by-day basis while GT workers remain on the job, announced on May 17 that it had walked out of stalemated negotiations after the company turned down a money proposal.

None of the major tire and rubber producers are particularly unhappy about the strike. They were well prepared for a long, knock-down, drag-out fight with the workers. Previous to the strike a huge inventory had been built up. And more important, the industry entered into an antistrike financial pact similar to that which kept the airlines profitable during the long machinists strike last year. So far the federal government has not moved for a Taft-Hartley injunction against the strike. \* \* \*

On May 23 the New York City Transport Workers, the American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, will hold a mass rally at Madison Square Garden to launch a million dollar defense fund against the newly enacted, vicious anti-strike law — properly entitled the RAT Law for its two main sponsors, Republican Governor Rockefeller and state House Speaker Anthony Travia.

The purpose of the fund is twofold — to pay the fines levied under the new law against striking unions and to "defeat legislators who voted for the Act." (See *Militant*, April 10).

This negative political approach will not solve any of the many problems these three unions face. What they should call for is a Labor Party, not just another set of "friends" whom they will soon have to rename "RATS."

—Marvel Scholl

# N.Y. Public Employe's Union Sponsors Debate on Vietnam

By Susan Harris

NEW YORK — One of the first debates on Vietnam to be officially sponsored by a union was held here May 17. A hundred people turned out for the open forum on "Labor and the War in Vietnam" which was sponsored by Local 384 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The panel included two speakers in favor of the war and two against. All were union officials. Nicholas Kisberg, legislative director, Joint Council 16, Teamsters, spoke first in favor of the war. He based his pro-war position on what he called the "morality of anticommunism" and the "morality of resisting aggression." He said there is a new kind of aggression today — "aggression by guerrilla warfare."

Both Kisberg and the other pro-war speaker — Thomas Fitzgibbons — president, Local 1506, AFSCME — told the audience that "anticommunism" was necessary

to the defense of "free trade unions." Kisberg said, "Nowhere behind the iron or bamboo curtains do free trade unions exist." He said, "All over the world — if we lose in Vietnam — people hostile to free trade unionism will lift their heads."

This point was answered by Ed Grey, an official of the New Jersey United Auto Workers, who spoke against the war. He pointed out, "There are very few places in this world among our allies where we have free trade unions . . ."

Both speakers representing the antiwar position showed that they had made serious studies of Vietnam. After detailing the history of the war, Al Viani, president of Local 371 of AFSCME, concluded his talk by saying, "The people in Vietnam have supported the revolution there . . . It is in our best interest to get out of Vietnam and to get out quickly." His speech received the loudest applause from the audience.

The discussion demonstrated that the Vietnam war is raising all kinds of political questions in the minds of unionists which are not directly related to the war. Speakers and people in the audience raised such diverse questions as the nature of fascism, exclusion of Communists from the labor movement, the Hungarian Revolution, the use of the war to break strikes, and World War II.

One member of the audience asked what the union movement could do to oppose the war. Ed Grey answered by saying, "Labor can do a great deal — including sponsoring meetings like this." Pointing to inflation, government strikebreaking, and high taxes, Viani commented that, "Labor has a direct stake in ending the war . . . We need to get some courage and guts to show where we stand."

One of the unionists in the audience challenged Kisberg to hold a similar meeting in the Teamsters Union which includes antiwar speakers as well as pro-war speakers. Kisberg said he "would be willing" to hold such a meeting.

When the meeting ended, many still had their hands raised, waiting to ask questions or make comments.

## Socialist Fund

### The Fight for Socialism

By Marvel Scholl

Readers of *The Militant* are aware of the Socialist Workers Party's activities in the fight against the war in Vietnam, of our struggle for independent black and working-class political action, of our support for the Cuban revolution and the colonial revolution in general, and of many other activities connected with the struggle of the working people.

The SWP views all of these problems and activities as aspects of the worldwide class struggle of the exploited against the exploiters. We believe that the working people of the world — and here in the U.S. too — are going to win this struggle and establish a new kind of society. Replacing the capitalist system of private profit for a few — a system of racism, war, exploitation and restrictions on democratic rights — will be the new system of socialism.

Under socialism, the major industries, banks, etc. would be nationalized and operated by democratically elected councils of the workers. In place of the present anarchy of production, which causes the economic ups and downs, unemployment, widespread pockets of poverty, waste such as advertising — there would be democratic planning of the economy to provide for the needs of everyone.

A socially owned and planned economy would lay the basis for a tremendous advance in the cultural level of the whole country.

By applying even the present level of technology rationally, it could wipe out in a few years slums, poverty, bad health and bad education. In a short time, giant strides would be made in all branches of the economy, providing everyone with not only the necessities but also the good things of life.

The hours of work would be progressively cut, giving all men the true prerequisite for freedom — free time. In a rational society, this free time would mean more time for art, music, hobbies, handicrafts, education, and cultural pursuits of all sorts. It would give culture to the people — which has heretofore been reserved for the "leisure class" — and the result will be a rapid enrichment of our culture itself.

But most important, socialism will abolish forever war and racism, by abolishing the system of private profit which breeds war and racism.

The future of humanity is at stake in this struggle. The alternative that capitalism offers leads, sooner or later, to the nuclear destruction of World War III. Socialism offers the hope of a new world of peace, brotherhood and plenty. But to win the fight for socialism requires dedication, hard work, and a socialist party that knows how to fight and to win. The Socialist Workers Party is building that kind of organization. We need your help. Won't you use the coupon to send us your contribution?

## Rail Unions In St. Paul Plan March

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Five railroad shopcraft unions will demonstrate against government intervention in their dispute with the railroad owners by marching on the state capitol here on May 24.

"The crux of the dispute now centers on the question of unions involved losing basic democratic rights," Charles Stinson, president of Como Shops Local Federation (Northern Pacific Railroad), said.

"President Johnson's proposed bill would impose binding arbitration on the railroad unions and would take away our right to strike," Stinson declared. "This law would force a government board decision on us, thereby substituting government intervention for direct action by the unions. It robs our membership of the only economic weapon it has — the right to strike."

Michael Fox, head of the national railway employes department bargaining committee, labeled Johnson's bill a "police state law."

Stinson said that the railroad shopmen were "taking the only course left open to us — the democratic right to protest." He continued, "We were bound to our jobs by an act of Congress. The new strike deadline is 12:01 a.m. June 19. The new law will probably be passed before then. We may be forced to strike against all restrictions of our democratic rights!"

## Fund Scoreboard

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
Detroit	\$1,400	\$1,400	100
Oakland-Berkeley	1,200	1,000	83
Philadelphia	500	416	83
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1,200	946	79
San Diego	200	150	75
Cleveland	1,000	700	70
New York	5,800	3,725	64
St. Louis	100	62	62
Chicago	1,800	1,100	61
Boston	1,300	694	53
Allentown	135	50	37
Los Angeles	4,500	1,600	36
San Francisco	1,200	375	31
Seattle	200	25	13
Denver	125	0	0
Newark	100	0	0
General	365	50	14
Totals through May 22	\$21,000	\$12,293	59

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## The Logic Of Marxism

By George Novack

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# John Chelstrom, 1942-1967

By Charles Scheer

John Chelstrom, young socialist, trade unionist and antiwar fighter, died on May 13 at the age of 24. His death resulted from an auto accident while he was on his way to the Chicago conference of the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

John had been active in the socialist movement since his early youth. He joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1959, and was a founding member of the Young Socialist Alliance in 1960. John served on the national committee of the YSA from 1960 until the sixth national convention of the youth group, held this March.

Most of his life was spent in St. Paul and Minneapolis. He attended the University of Minnesota from 1959 to 1961, when he left for six months of intensive study of the ideas of scientific socialism at a school organized by the SWP.

## Student Activist

While at the U of M, John was an active participant in the Socialist Club, Students for Integration, and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He was among those who braved a physical assault by rightists, to demonstrate against the U.S. government provocation during the "missile crisis."

From 1962 to 1966, John was a member of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, and in 1966 and 1967, a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

As a dependable worker for the



**AT YSA CONVENTION.** John Chelstrom, standing, left, helping to count votes at YSA national convention held in Detroit in March.

antiwar movement, he went on a national trail-blazing tour for the *Bring the Troops Home Now Newsletter* early in 1966.

When an anticommunist gunman murdered one and seriously injured two other young socialists in Detroit in May, 1966, John Chelstrom moved to Detroit to help fill in for this loss to the movement. He recently moved to Philadelphia to help the socialist movement there.

The variety of assignments that fell John's way indicate his devotion to the movement and his pol-

itical maturity. Personally, he was a generous, friendly, pleasant young man, easy to like and get along with. John was of a quiet, gentle nature, firm in his dedication to the struggle for a better world.

At a time when so many young Americans are being sent to kill and be killed in Vietnam in a war they don't understand, John lost his life fighting for peace and socialism.

His many friends and comrades will carry on the socialist tradition to which he was dedicated.

## Detroit Memorial for Leo Bernard Held One Year After Assassination

DETROIT, May 19 — A memorial meeting for Leo Bernard, the young socialist who was murdered by a crazed anticommunist gunman one year ago, on May 16, 1966, was held here this evening at Debs Hall. The meeting also served as the occasion to pay tribute to another fallen young socialist, John Chelstrom.

The meeting heard Walter Graham and Jan Garret, wounded victims of the killer who cut down Leo Bernard. Both emphasized that their experience has shown that present governments — local, state and national — demonstrate by their silence in the case of the murdered Leo Bernard, as they do in all other ways on every important issue, that answers will not come from this quarter but must be provided by the poor, the dispossessed, and all other victims of our present violent society.

Attorney Ernest Goodman, who has sought to have the city of Detroit pay the medical expenses of the victims of the tragic shooting, explained that under Michigan law there is no legal basis for an indictment of a city administration, which permits such crimes as the murder of Leo Bernard to go unchecked. This fact, he said, is a commentary on the discrepancy between justice and legality.

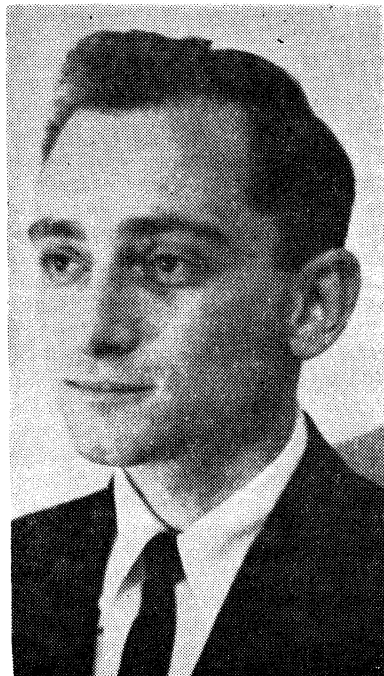
But he raised a more important question which overshadows this: is it true that Waniolek, the anti-communist fanatic who murdered Leo Bernard, ought to be judged insane by the standards of our present society? Given the premises upon which Waniolek operated, that a "communist conspiracy" exists which ought to be fought and defeated, he proceeded on a rational course, first approaching the racist state of South Africa to volunteer his services.

Having been rejected, he returned to Detroit to launch a single-handed attack upon what his delusion led him to believe are

the forces of evil. This course of action and the "logic" of it is not different from the development of national policy as applied in Vietnam.

The tragedy of this on the local scene, Goodman said, is that nothing was nor will be done by the city administration to investigate the complicity of police agents who were aware of Waniolek's derangement prior to the murder. On the state level there was a flurry of concern in the capitol in Lansing over the present unjust law which grants immunity to state and city government in crimes of this kind, but nothing now is being done to amend the law. The federal government continues to conduct foreign policy on the false premise of an "international communist conspiracy."

Irving Kirsch, national committee member of the Young Socialist Alliance, addressed his remarks



Leo Bernard

to the same questions raised by attorney Ernest Goodman. He submitted that official policy and the course of established government in this country is irrational and in fact "insane" if judged by the basic needs of the vast majority here and the aspirations of mankind on a world scale.

He returned to the theme introduced by the victims Walter Graham and Jan Garrett, pointing out that the ills of contemporary society will be cured only when the working class, the Negro people and the student youth are organized to institute a rational and sane society here in this country.

All of the speakers also paid tribute to John Chelstrom. John was well known here as one of the young people who came to Detroit to help carry on the work when Leo Bernard was murdered. Professor David Herreshoff, chairman of the meeting, paid tribute to John Chelstrom by reading A.E. Housman's poem, *To An Athlete Dying Young*.

The meeting was well attended by over 70 friends and sympathizers. Dr. Paul Lowinger, co-chairman with Professor Herreshoff of the Emergency Medical Fund for Bernard, Garrett and Graham, spoke about the expressions and acts of violence on the part of right-wing, pro-war fanatics, urging the audience to contribute to the medical needs of the wounded victims of the tragic shooting here last year.

It was announced that the Emergency Medical Fund, through a current appeal for funds, has already received \$200 in the mails. The audience contributed \$90. It is hoped that additional contributions will defray medical expenses of several thousand dollars. Checks may be mailed to Dr. Paul Lowinger or Dr. David S. Herreshoff, Emergency Medical Fund for Bernard, Garrett and Graham, c/o English Dept., Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich. 48202.

# THE MILITANT

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Monday, May 29, 1967

## Hands Off the Middle East!

As we go to press exact details of the present flareup in the longstanding Arab-Israel dispute remain unclear. Accounts in the U.S. press are garbled and generally slanted against the Arabs. One ominous thing is plain, however. Johnson has threatened the Arab countries by calling attention to U.S. actions in Vietnam. Units of the U.S. Sixth Fleet have been ordered to the Eastern Mediterranean and marine detachments have been alerted for possible landing operations.

Johnson's action stems from basic U.S. policy toward the Middle East and it has nothing to do with truth and justice in social relations between peoples. The White House is "neutral" on the side of the oil monopolies and other U.S. corporations that exploit the Arabs for private profit and keep the masses ground down in poverty in order to do so.

Toward that anti-social end Washington has long subsidized the capitalist rulers of Israel with money and weapons, counting on them to help do the dirty work for imperialism in the Middle East. Compliance with that design by the Israeli government has in turn served to embitter the Arab masses against Israel as a whole, including Jewish workers and farmers, and to disrupt the urgently needed unity of all Middle East toilers, Arab and Israeli alike.

Arab workers and farmers want to free themselves from all forms of imperialist exploitation. They want to throw off the tyranny of kings and other servile politicians in their own countries who do the bidding of foreign plunderers. They strive for national freedom, industrial progress under their control and higher living standards.

The true interests of Jewish workers and farmers lie in finding a road to collaboration with the Arab toilers. They will succeed in their own aspirations to build a better life for themselves only if they repudiate the policy of Israel's capitalist rulers and support the national liberation struggles of their Arab class brothers.

Here in the United States, meanwhile, it is the duty of all to uphold the right of self-determination for the peoples of the Middle East. The imperialist government in Washington must be told: Hands off the Middle East! Bring home the Sixth Fleet and all other military forces! Let the countries of the Middle East decide their own affairs!

## ... Texas Police Attack

(Continued from Page 1)

ord players, and furniture and shot at mirrors, windows and ceilings. They shot down doors with machine gun fire. A student commented that he saw one officer "take deliberate aim at the television set and shoot the picture tube out."

Mrs. Harbert, the dormitory housemother said that, "When the police broke in here they made me lie on the floor and two or three of them walked on me . . . One of them kicked in the screen of my TV set and even dropped my flower pots on the floor . . . I don't know what they were looking for, I guess they thought I had some pistols beneath those flowers."

According to the May 19 *New York Times*, a policeman told reporters that while inside the dorm he had "hit one of them in the head with a fire ax." He said, "My sergeant said he liked that and asked me to lend him the ax."

Students were caught in pajamas and underwear. They were herded outside and made to lie on the ground with their hands over their heads. According to the May 19 *New York Times* Dean Jones estimated that 20 to 25 of the students were beaten. In all 488 students were arrested and taken to police headquarters. Five were charged with inciting to riot. Bail was set at \$10,000 each. If convicted they could get jail sentences up to 40 years.

The only weapons found in the dormitory were one shotgun, one rifle, and a pistol. These were first referred to by the press as a "cache" of arms.

During the past year black stu-

dents at Texas Southern University have been involved in a whole series of actions which show that they are no longer willing to accept the conditions of black students, and black people in general, in Houston. In past weeks students have been demonstrating at a local school and at the city dump.

It is already clear that the reaction of the authorities to the latest events will be to use them as an excuse to clamp down on the students. They will not end police brutality and punish the cops involved or right the wrongs existing in the community which the students are concerned with.

Mayor Louie Welch and District Attorney Carol Vance will not even admit that the police were involved in any "wrongdoing." The mayor had the nerve to state that "I am sure the police searched the rooms very carefully, but I find it hard to believe that there was any wanton destruction of property."

In asserting that there was no substance to reports of police vandalism, Vance said, "In my opinion, any rumor that police destroyed the personal effects of the students was spread merely for the purpose of trying to incite another riot.

"It is tragic following this bloodshed and turmoil that there would be those few persons still pursuing a trouble-making course."

And according to the president of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Marvin Griffin, "a great number of outsiders have caused many of the incidents on campus. We may use more campus police, as empowered by the legislature."

# Ranking U.S. Politicians Warn of War with China

By Dick Roberts

MAY 23 — Is Washington prepared to risk war with China by invading north Vietnam? This ominous course of events is being predicted with more and more apprehension by ranking politicians in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

In Washington May 21, two Democratic members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee revealed that the administration has known "for a long while" that China would enter the war if Johnson invaded north Vietnam. The senators were Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania and Albert Gore of Tennessee.

Clark and Gore declared that there were two other circumstances which Peking warned would cause retaliation: "to prevent a capitulation of the Hanoi government"; and, "if we invade China or bombed China."

This revelation is particularly significant because the senators are privy to much information not released to other congressmen. The fact that they revealed the information at this time is of further significance.

It coincides with the development of heavy combat in the northern provinces of south Vietnam and the invasion of the so-called

demilitarized zone by U.S. forces on May 19. And it coincides with strong warnings about the danger of war with China by other leading politicians.

Noteworthy in this category was the speech by Kentucky Republican John Sherman Cooper in the Senate, May 15. "I speak today on north Vietnam," Cooper began. "My purpose is to ask our government to consider thoroughly whether the expanding use of our vast power in north Vietnam will not lead us to a point where the last possibility for a peaceful settlement of the war will be foreclosed.

"That point could be reached when the military power of the U.S. applied through ever increasing bombing, compels north Vietnam to ask Communist China to come to its aid.

"If such a call is made, it is difficult to believe that Communist China, claiming leadership as the militant vanguard of the Communist world, would stand by while a Communist state on its border goes down to crushing defeat."

Cooper warned against assuming that the present internal crisis in China would prevent Peking from intervening. He recalled that similar assumptions about Chinese policy had been made during the

Korean war, because China had just finished a long civil war and was thought to be incapable of helping north Korea.

Meanwhile both Hanoi and Peking have issued statements that the invasion of the demilitarized zone constituted a serious escalation of the war.

Contrary to the impression given by the daily press, this area is a normally populated region of Vietnam. The intervention by U.S. troops was accompanied by the demolition of villages and shipping of civilian populations to refugee concentration camps typical of U.S. operations in south Vietnam.

It is of no assurance whatsoever that Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, denied yesterday any intentions of Washington to invade north Vietnam. Previous similar denials from the White House and Pentagon have too often proven to be evidence that the denied escalation was about to take place.

General Westmoreland has requested an additional 160,000 troops for Vietnam, and there is every indication that they will soon be sent. The additional troop commitments suggest that Washington has abandoned any hope of using Saigon army forces in the "war-to-defend Saigon."

## ... Parley Maps Washington March

(Continued from Page 1)

demanding their return home. The only speaker to seriously question this theme was Archie Brown of California. Brown is the longshoreman who won a court ruling reversing the federal law that Communists could not hold union office. He argued that demands other than withdrawal of U.S. forces might be more effective in reaching unionists. His contention evoked little positive response.

The motion which came to the conference from the workshop stated: "This conference shall call a national demonstration in Washington on Oct. 21 with the theme 'Support Our Boys in Vietnam; Bring Them Home.' The demonstration should be international and call for supporting demonstrations in all countries."

It was adopted with only a scattering of dissenting votes along with the following amendment: "The date of Oct. 21 shall be set with the understanding that if practical necessity dictates it can be revised. The date should be finalized within 30 days on the basis of consultation with the

Washington peace movement, unionists and leaders of the black community."

On the basis of proposals from the draft resistance workshop and administrative committee of the Mobilization, motions were adopted on the following points:

- 1) That nationally coordinated demonstrations against the draft be held this summer.
- 2) The Mobilization should seek prominent sponsors for a public statement urging draft refusal.

### Draft in Puerto Rico

3) The Spring Mobilization Committee supports Puerto Rican opposition to the draft as expressed in a resolution submitted by the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence.

4) A policy motion on draft resistance was adopted which stated: "The Spring Mobilization Committee is opposed to the draft and favors resistance to it. The Spring Mobilization Committee takes a stand in defense of all draft resisters regardless of the form their resistance takes. The Spring Mobilization Committee will make its facilities available for liaison

and coordination by those working to resist the draft."

At the workshop on GIs and Veterans proposals were approved to support the cases of Capt. Howard Levy, Pfc. Howard Petrick, the Fort Hood Three and all other GIs who oppose the war. The workshop also voted support for the May 30 Washington antiwar demonstration being organized by veterans groups. These proposals did not get to the floor of the conference because of a lack of time.

### Exchange of Views

The workshop on Political Action was the scene of vigorous debate. Supporters of a King-Spock presidential ticket urged Spring Mobilization endorsement for such a slate. Others argued that such a stand would prove divisive to the coalition since there were wide disagreements as to the form political action should take. Judy White of the Socialist Workers Party, for example, explained that the SWP could not support a peace slate that would be in fact a third capitalist party. She later submitted a motion that was overwhelmingly approved. It stated:

"Because of the diversity of opinions within the Spring Mobilization Committee on forms and types of electoral action, the Spring Mobilization Committee takes no stand on any particular candidates, parties or perspective. The Mobilizer [publication of the committee] will urge reports, and will publicize for the information of the movement, the various projects of the different sections of the antiwar coalition."

### Referendums

A second part of the motion urged the organization of referendums against the war.

These proposals were brought to the plenary session as adjournment was nearing and because of the lack of time for adequate debate were tabled.

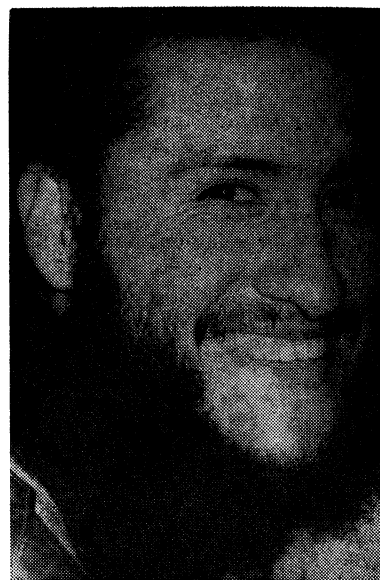
The serious, intense exchange of views at the conference, the obvious desire of the great majority for united action and the deep commitment of the participants were heartening testimony that the antiwar movement is making significant progress.

## Blanco on Hunger Strike To Combat 'Slow Death'

We have just learned that Hugo Blanco, the imprisoned Peruvian peasant leader, has gone on a hunger strike after more than a month in a prison hospital as the result of a brutal beating by prison guards. The Uruguayan Committee for the Defense of Human Rights reported May 11 that it had learned from its sources in Lima that Blanco, convalescing from "physical torture inflicted on him" has begun the hunger strike as his "only means of self-defense."

Hugo Blanco was savagely beaten by prison guards early in April. The authorities at the notorious El Frontón fortress-prison told the press that the famous revolutionary peasant leader had been taken to the hospital suffering from a "grave lung ailment."

The Uruguayan committee reports that Blanco's friends in Lima fear that the Peruvian authorities have decided to do away with Hugo Blanco and that public protest is the only way he can be saved from the "slow death" which they appear to have decided to inflict on the prisoner.



Hugo Blanco

Hugo Blanco was sentenced last September to 25 years in El Frontón because of his Trotskyist political views and the leadership he provided to the peasant masses seeking land and other improvements in their status.

When Hugo Blanco appealed the savage sentence, the prosecution demanded that the Supreme Council of Military Justice apply the death sentence. Under new legislation passed by parliament under witchhunt conditions, this body has the power to make such a decision without right of appeal and the sentence can be carried out at once.

Meanwhile in Minneapolis the Friday Night Socialist Forum sent a cable May 14 to Peruvian President Fernando Belaúnde Terry. The message protested the "unjust incarceration and brutal treatment of Hugo Blanco and his fellow peasant organizers."

"Elementary justice demands their immediate and unconditional release from prison," the cable said.

### Italian CP

In Italy, the Italian Communist Party organ *Unità*, which for a long time has ignored the case, featured on its front page an appeal from Peruvian residents in Cuba to spare Hugo Blanco's life.

Lelio Basso, a member of the Italian parliament and a participant in the International War Crimes Tribunal, while speaking at a demonstration in Florence against U.S. aggression in Vietnam, referred to Hugo Blanco among the outstanding figures who have given new impetus to the struggle against imperialism today.

In Canada, the Ottawa Committee to Defend Hugo Blanco sent a message to Peruvian President Belaúnde Terry when they heard of the beating. The committee called attention to the thousands of Canadian workers who petitioned for the immediate release of Hugo Blanco.

## N.Y. Greek-Americans Protest Military Regime

By O. Fondas

NEW YORK, May 21 — The Greek military junta had wanted to turn the annual Greek Independence Day Parade held here today into a demonstration of support for their dictatorship. Several Greek army officers were sent to New York to propose that General Patakas or one of the other major junta leaders be allowed to lead the parade. Some of the traditionally-minded Greek-American leaders supported the idea but the majority feeling in the Greek-American community was one of outrage.

The American Committee for Freedom and Democracy in Greece applied for a position in the parade, which is held to celebrate the 1821 revolution against the Ottomans. Parade organizer Pericles Lantzounis said political units would be "inappropriate." Heavy church representation on the parade committee led to the request being voted down.

But this victory was pyrrhic as AHEPA, the national fraternity of Greek-Americans, withdrew its support of the parade. Several smaller fraternal and regional organizations followed suit. Labor groups with heavy Greek membership such as the fur workers council, gave official support to the Freedom Committee. Letters were sent to Mayor Lindsay and Governor Rockefeller, and consequently for the first time in the

parade's history, there were no official municipal or state representatives present.

The actual parade was much smaller than usual, with 25 percent of the contingents non-Greek, and well over half of the Greek units from out of town and unaware of the situation. About 90 percent of the marchers were children.

A counter-demonstration and 5,000 leaflets were the first notice most of the Greeks who had come to the parade had that democratic elements had been excluded.

The slogans of the counter-demonstration asked for democracy rather than supporting any political faction. Scots and drum majorettes were kidded about their miniskirts and black units were greeted with applause and chants of "Freedom Now."

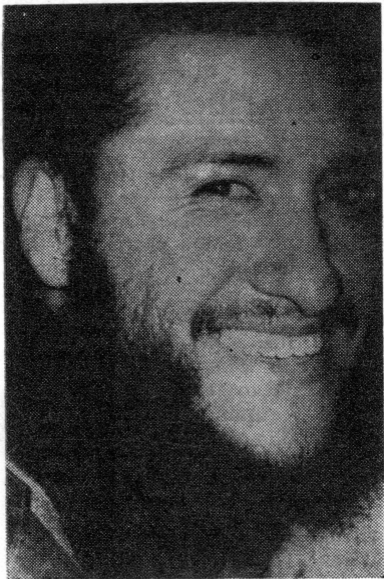
The official representative of the Greek government was George Plytas, the mayor of Athens. He looked as unhappy as he had the day before when a stormy reception at the airport by democrats led to the cancellation of an official welcoming ceremony.

A brief demonstration was held in front of the Greek Consulate after the parade, and the Freedom Committee pledged to continue its organizing in the Greek-American community. For more information, write: American Committee for Freedom and Democracy in Greece, 1133 Broadway, New York, N.Y.



Photo by Harry Ring

MR. CHAIRMAN! Abe Weisburd of New York Trade Unionists for Peace takes floor at plenary session of Washington conference.



**Hugo Blanco**

# The Bolivian Guerrilla Front

(World Outlook) — [The reports concerning the opening of a guerrilla front in southeastern Bolivia have been so contradictory that until the report below was published, *World Outlook* considered it best to adopt a reserved attitude.

[The main source of information was the Barrientos regime, one of the most unreliable in all of Latin America — and that is saying a good deal. What it reported one day canceled out what it had said the previous day.

[The Johnson administration appeared to be dubious as to the accuracy of the accounts, although this did not prevent it from sending additional military supplies and a number of "advisers" and experts in counterinsurgency war.

[It should be added that the sudden reports about guerrilla activities came on the eve of the Punta del Este Conference sponsored by the Johnson administration and were utilized to help whip up the "hate Cuba" propaganda. Moreover, the focusing of attention on the southeast part of Bolivia was not without a certain value in helping to draw a screen over the savage witchhunt of political opponents which the Barrientos regime has been conducting since last January.

## Regime Arrested Newsmen

[Various journalists appear to have been trying to ascertain the truth about the reports of a new guerrilla front. Three journalists who went there were promptly seized by the Barrientos regime and one of them, Régis Debray, was accused of being the "political commissar" of the alleged guerrilla group.

[The Paris daily *Le Monde* sent one of its best correspondents, Marcel Niedergang, to Bolivia.

[Arriving in the guerrilla zone, he seems to have succeeded in interviewing some of the representatives of political tendencies that have been driven underground. Coupling this information with facts gleaned from other sources, he offered his first conclusions concerning the guerrilla front in the May 18 issue of *Le Monde*. We offer below some extracts from this article.]

[Niedergang begins by reporting the March 23 incident in which a government patrol stumbled into an ambush on the Nancahuazú River north of Lagunillas, an oil town in the province of Santa Cruz. A sublieutenant named Amezaga, six soldiers and a civilian employe of the Bolivia state oil company, one "Vargas," were killed.]

The news was not released officially in La Paz until Monday March 27; the authorities preferring to remain silent at first . . .

According to a communiqué of the army high command, Sublieu-

## French Writer Held in Secret

(World Outlook) — On May 13 General Alfred Ovando, the commander in chief of the Bolivian armed forces, announced that Régis Debray, the young French journalist seized by the Barrientos dictatorship, would be tried in accordance with the country's constitution.

This was the first indication from anyone in authority that Debray might be granted the elementary rights to which prisoners are entitled under the norms of all democracies.

But it was not clear exactly what the general's assurances meant specifically. To all intents Bolivia's constitution has been non-existent under the Barrientos dictatorship. In fact the country is being ruled under an Andean version of McCarthyism.



Régis Debray

tenant Amezaga's lost patrol was charged with "studying indications of a forest trail" and the "quick reaction of the forces of law and order enabled them to capture some prisoners, a jeep, radio equipment, some suitcases containing uniforms and Castro-Communist propaganda of Cuban origin."

## Two Brothers

A quite different version is offered at Marietta's in Camiri. "For several months people in Camiri had noticed the incessant coming and going of 'Coco' Perero and his brother Marco, both of whom are from Beni. Congenial, friendly, with an easy smile and 'abrazo' [equivalent to a slap on the back], they said they had bought a farm near Nancahuazú to raise stock. People around here ended up just the same thinking that the two brothers were buying an abnormal amount of supplies for their employes. Around Lagunillas and Monteagudo, they made no objection to paying double the price for chickens and meat. At first it was thought that a new clandestine plant for making cocaine was involved, these being numerous in the region. Then things said in confidence by an employe of the company about men coming down from the mountains to the Perero farm led the government authorities to send a patrol accompanied by the guide 'Vargas' to see what was involved."

[About ten kilometers from the Perero farm this army unit ran into a genuine military training camp.]

From all appearances, the unexpected invasion by the Amezaga patrol caught the guerrillas by surprise. They had not expected to be involved in action so quickly. Actually, three months earlier, a young Bolivian technician had by chance met the Perero brothers in the Monteagudo market. He knew them well in Europe when he was a student there. Marco and "Coco" Perero belonged to an extreme left formation, but at the end of 1965, they decided, it seems, to join a pro-Chinese group, the leader of which is Oscar Zamora, former general secretary of the International Union of Students in Prague.

## In Prison Camp

Zamora, a former member of the "orthodox" Communist Party, is at present detained in a military camp for political prisoners in Peking, a place in the Amazon forest close to the Brazilian border said to be unhealthy. When his family complained about the particularly harsh conditions of the camp, the authorities replied: "What are you complaining about? He is exactly where he wanted to go." In this particularly isolated part of Bolivia are to be found other places with such unexpected names as Paris, Versailles, New Berlin and London . . .

"We decided, with the comrades, to begin armed insurrection," the

Perero brothers confided. "For the time being we are in the stage of preparation and organization, but you will soon hear them talking about us. The only way out is through armed struggle."

\* \* \*

[In La Paz and Santa Cruz, Niedergang continues, one hears many Bolivians affirm after the event that they knew about the guerrilla preparations all along. In the area, however, two months later the general feeling is still one of surprise and doubt.

[Three days after the skirmish at Nancahuazú, General Barrientos, president of the republic, arrived by plane to personally inspect the "red zone."

[For a month and a half repeated announcements were made about an imminent clash, but the reported incidents indicated that the guerrillas continued to hold the initiative.]

\* \* \*

On April 10 a particularly murderous ambush, sprung by the guerrillas at Iripiti, still on the banks of the Nancahuazú, cost the lives of two lieutenants, a subofficer and eight soldiers.

Still graver — the section commanded by Captain Sanchez, which reached there a little later, was disarmed and taken prisoner. Captain Sanchez and his men remained two days with the guerrillas, astonished at not being executed. They observed with interest the very modern arms of the rebels, their organization and perfect discipline. A doctor, Japanese according to them, took care of the wounded. Deprived of their clothes and their arms, the men in the Sanchez patrol, no doubt having refused to join the guerrillas, were released. They carried their dead and wounded on stretchers; one of the guerrilla chiefs turned over to Captain Sanchez the wedding ring belonging to Sublieutenant Amezaga, killed March 23.

## Debray Arrested

On April 20, in the village of Muyupampa, that is, considerably south of this sector, Mr. Régis Debray was apprehended in the company of two journalists, one of them Argentine, the other British. This was not done by the military but by the DIC (Department of Criminal Investigation). The three men were unarmed, in civilian clothes, manifestly unprepared to stay, for even a short time, in the Nancahuazú jungle.

Other skirmishes took place April 25 and during May near Gutierrez, not far from the Rio Grande. A total of 25 deaths in the ranks of the regular forces in less than 45 days. This is a high figure; proportionately much higher than the losses admitted officially over a longer period in Colombia or Venezuela, the two countries most affected up to now by armed insurrectionary movements.

## Morale

Thus morale does not seem to be very high among the Bolivian soldiers of the Fourth Division, taken aback by combat tactics and a terrain to which they are quite unaccustomed. Despite the repeated announcements about a "general offensive," orders have been issued by the high command to reduce the number of "suicide patrols."

In the sinister gorges of the Nancahuazú, thirty years ago, the heads of the Bolivian army, under different conditions of course, had to overcome the distaste of the men of the Altiplano or the high Andean valleys for the tropical heat and humidity. The Aymara Indian and the Cochabamba cholo dread the jungle and its snares — snakes, mosquitoes and giant, venomous spiders. It seems clear that the rebels, controlling a territory of around 200 square kilo-

meters, do not intend to "break out of the encirclement" and pass over to the offensive. They are satisfied with lightning commando operations to demoralize the regular troops.

"It seems," Colonel Zenteno, commander of the Eighth Division and former minister of foreign affairs, told us, "that the guerrillas have a base in this sector that is for the moment almost impregnable."

Conscious of these difficulties, the top command is now seeking to replace the troops composed in the majority of men from the highlands by conscripts enlisted in the tropical zones, particularly Beni. But a significant incident occurred last week at Trinidad, the capital of Beni, the province north of Santa Cruz. A crowd of men and women assembled on the airstrip at the airport to block the military plane from taking off with the conscripts. The government's comment: "It involved a group of Communists."

## Barrientos Forces

The project launched by General Barrientos at the end of March to create a "peasant militia," seems to have likewise been abandoned. It is not that the Bolivian army, having a strength of about 30,000 men, lacks elite units, but they are not numerous. A battalion of Rangers, around 1,000 men, is stationed near Santa Cruz but has not yet engaged in operations. Another battalion has great firepower and is well trained. A second battalion of Rangers is being formed with the collaborations of U.S. "advisers" from the antiguerrilla school at Panama. An estimated 250 young Bolivian officers have already taken courses in this school.

There is nothing confidential about this American military assistance. A regular military flight schedule is maintained between Howard air field in the Panama Canal Zone and Bolivia. The newspapers in La Paz have published pictures of Hercules air-cargo planes landing war materiel in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, as well as pictures of American "advisers." The same Bolivian dailies report "military aid from Argentina."

"U.S. and Argentine technicians and instructors are arriving frequently in Bolivia," General Belmonte Ardiles, commander in chief of the Bolivian air force has admitted. And he added: "This aid consists of cooperating with our aviators in the struggle against the guerrillas in the department of Santa Cruz."

## Very Well Trained

"We were surprised," a U.S. adviser, a specialist in radio communications, told us in Santa Cruz. "The rebels possess a remarkable camouflage technique and a dispersion capacity resembling what we are running into at present in Vietnam. They have good radio equipment. We detected six points transmitting in Morse code. But when the troops tried to move toward one of these points, all six shifted at the same time, wiping out the trail . . . Really they are very well trained."

The excellent preparation of the Bolivian guerrilla focal center, admitted by the U.S. and Argentine advisers, thus make all the more interesting the affirmations of those who, even in Santa Cruz itself, appear to be in good position to know the intentions of the guerrillas.

"This zone was not chosen by accident," they say, "not only because of the terrain but especially with disengagement in mind. From Nancahuazú it is easy to link up with Bolivia's three levels — the eastern plains by way of Camiri, the valleys of Cochabamba and the Altiplano by way of the passes. For the immediate future, it is only a matter of harassing the regular forces. In the long range, if the focal center is maintained,

it will perhaps be possible to form columns marching simultaneously toward the capital. This obviously involves linking up with the tin miners in the Altiplano. Some of them have already joined the underground. They talk about foreigners among the guerrillas. What difference does that make? Aren't there foreigners on the side of the Bolivian army?"

Does it make sense, this "dream" held by the leaders of the Bolivian left — of repeating, ten years later, in this area, the exploits of the "Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos columns"? Many factors must be considered, beginning with the almost total absence of political consciousness among the peasant masses in this country. Can the fish live in such inhospitable water?

The more or less underground spokesmen of the parties (all of them, however, divided into several tendencies), ranging from the Communists to the MNR (National Revolutionary Movement) of ex-President Paz Estenssoro, are not stopped by these considerations. "To defeat the guerrillas," they say, "the government will be led progressively to an operation of the Santo Domingo type."

In any case there is one point on which all the leaders and representatives of the opposition are in agreement — the shots fired last March 23 in the wild gorges of the Nancahuazú marked the beginning of something that threatens to last for a rather long time and to compel all "shadings" of opinion to take a stand on in relation to the "Bolivian focal center," the most important perhaps of all those that have surged up in the past ten years with varying fortunes south of the Rio Grande.

## Vets Group Wins Right To Leaflet

The Veterans and Reservists to End the War in Vietnam and the Fifth Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee gained an important court ruling in New York, allowing them to pass out antiwar leaflets in the Port Authority bus terminal. They had been prevented from actually entering the terminal on the grounds that it was "private property."

A U.S. District Court federal judge ruled that the terminal is "essentially a public establishment, dedicated to public use." He held that "the citizen's fundamental right to express his views in a public place must be recognized."

The only stipulation made was that the leaflet distribution could not impede pedestrian traffic or the use of transportation and other services offered by the terminal.

The Veterans and Reservists and the Parade Committee have passed out thousands of leaflets to GIs in the terminal, on such cases as the Fort Hood Three, and the case of Pfc. Howard Petrick. These cases involve soldiers who have spoken out in opposition to the war from within the armed services.

The Port Authority has declared it will appeal the ruling.

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.

**UNION BRASS EXPOSED**

# 'Labor Lieutenants' of CIA

By Les Evans

A former top official of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency created a furor in the world press May 7 by exposing ties between his counterrevolutionary outfit and top functionaries of the American labor movement. Close connections between the imperialist spy network and the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations [AFL-CIO] have long been suspected in radical circles but this confirmation by one of the architects of the cold-war marriage was a deadly blow to the bureaucratic misleaders of the U.S. labor federation.

The revelations were made by Thomas W. Braden, former assistant to CIA chief Allen Dulles, and director of the CIA's Division of International Organization from 1951 to 1954.

Writing in the *Saturday Evening Post* of May 20 (postdated), Braden, now editor of a California newspaper, made an impassioned defense of the network of secret subsidies and subversion he helped organize in the early fifties. In order to prove he was not alone in wanting to "help his country" he implicated his accomplices, many of them top labor bureaucrats.

AFL-CIO President George Meany's chief foreign policy adviser, Jay Lovestone; his assistant Irving Brown; and both Walter and Victor Reuther who head the 1,500,000-member United Automobile Workers union were all named.

Lovestone, once a leader of the American Communist Party, has



GERMANY, 1945. CIA money used by Reuther brothers helped buy off unions amid poverty and destruction of postwar Germany.

prostituted his knowledge of the left and labor movements in different countries for many years.

Braden crossed Lovestone's trail in 1947 when the *Confédération Générale du Travail* [General Confederation of Labor] led a strike in Paris "which came very near to paralyzing the French economy."

"Into this crisis stepped Lovestone and his assistant, Irving Brown . . . they organized Force Ouvrière [Labor Force], a non-Communist union. When they ran out of money, they appealed to the CIA. Thus began the secret subsidy of free trade unions which soon spread to Italy. Without that subsidy, postwar history might have gone very differently."

This was at a time when Europe was emerging devastated from the war, when union leaders lacked the barest essentials to begin to reorganize. The funds for printing, salaries, offices — this was an immense advantage to the hand-picked anticommunist union "leaders" selected for Lovestone's and the CIA's gratuities.

**\$2 Million per Annum**

Lovestone was responsible for the disbursement of secret subsidies of "nearly two million dollars annually."

Irving Brown was given money by the CIA to break dock workers' strikes in Marseilles and other ports directed against the unloading of American armaments after the war. Braden testifies that he personally gave Brown \$15,000 under a "cover" name for this operation: "He needed it to pay off his strong-arm squads in Mediterranean ports, so that American supplies could be unloaded against the opposition of Communist dock workers."

Even the Reuther brothers came in for a drubbing. The Reuthers have been piously denouncing the AFL bureaucrats for accepting money from the CIA. Braden chides them for their modesty in not revealing their own role in the same game:

"Victor Reuther ought to be ashamed of himself. At his request, I went to Detroit one morning and gave Walter \$50,000 in \$50 bills. Victor spent the money, mostly in West Germany, to bolster labor unions there."

The ex-CIA official also revealed that CIA agents played a big role in founding and operating the Europe-based Congress for Cultural Freedom, and the British literary magazine, *Encounter*.

Both the Congress for Cultural Freedom and *Encounter* have admitted accepting the CIA subsidy.

As might be expected, the response of U.S. labor officialdom to the disclosures has been somewhat less candid. The early American socialist Daniel De Leon called the trade union bureaucrats the "labor lieutenants" of capital. They are not about to admit to being stooges for American imperialism and literally CIA agents — if they can avoid it.

Victor Reuther, interviewed by the *New York Times* in Tokyo, May 7, denied the charges, calling them "incredible" and "ridiculous."

At the same time his brother Walter in Detroit was admitting that he received the \$50,000 as Braden revealed.

On May 10 Victor Reuther changed his story and acknowledged that he and his brother had accepted the money and spent it to promote anticommunist union activity in Europe. He defended himself by adding that Braden had also tried to recruit him as a full-time agent for the CIA. He refused saying that would be "improper."

AFL-CIO President George Meany denied that he or Jay Lovestone had ever received money from the CIA, calling the charge "a damn lie."

**Meany Speaks**

"As far as I know," Meany professed, "the AFL during my term as secretary-treasurer and president, and the AFL-CIO, during my term as president, has never received any CIA money for any activity — either directly or indirectly — and that goes no matter what Mr. Braden might have said."

"Not one penny of CIA money has ever come in to the AFL or the AFL-CIO to my knowledge over the last 20 years, and I can say to you if it had come in I would know about it."

Meany abruptly terminated the news conference and walked out of the room.

Newspaper columnist Drew Pearson last February raised the charge in his nationally syndicated column that the CIA had been pumping money into the AFL-CIO to influence foreign labor unions. At the time Meany accused Pearson of being a liar.

In the aftermath of Braden's revelations, Pearson commented dryly on May 15: "The public can decide for itself, despite Meany's continued denials, who is the liar."

### The Black Struggle

## Boxing Council Backs Ali

A report has come from Mexico City that the World Boxing Council has refused to go along with the World Boxing Association in stripping Muhammed Ali of his heavyweight title.

Luis Spota, president of the Boxing Council, told UPI newsmen that "Clay is not guilty of any violations in the field of sports. He has stated that he would not enter the military service for religious and humanitarian reasons."

Spota said that the Boxing Council, "has no business in making decisions related with politics, and will retain its recognition of Clay as world heavyweight champion."

According to the May 13 *Baltimore Afro-American*, "Mexico's newspapers have lauded Clay's refusal to step forward for induction. The Mexican man in the street seems to agree that Clay's title shouldn't be lifted."

\* \* \*

Two-hundred black students from 14 New England colleges demonstrated against the Vietnam war at Harvard May 13. The demonstration was the first action taken by the newly formed New England Regional African and Afro-American Association, a black student organization.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Marian Johnson, a 25-year-old mother of four children, has armed herself with a shotgun and says she will not be afraid to use it if the Ku Klux Klan attempts to enter her home in Baltimore, Md.

Fifty robed Klan demonstrators paraded, made speeches and passed out literature in front of her home on May 11. They were protesting the fact that the Johnson family, along with four other black families, moved into a previously all-white housing project.

\* \* \*

Seventy-five percent of the students at Howard University boycotted classes last week. They were protesting new rules laid down by University President Nabrit restricting demonstrations to certain approved places and times.

\* \* \*

The *Wall Street Journal* reported recently that the publishing industry is feeling the effects of the heightened interest in Afro-American history. According to the May 17 *Journal*, "Publications devoted entirely to detailing the individual and collective achievements of Negroes are rolling off the presses in record numbers, and more Negro history is being written into revisions of standard textbooks."

\* \* \*

Stokely Carmichael and Rev. James Bevel were featured speakers at a rally in Washington D.C. sponsored by the Spring Mobilization Committee May 16. Over a thousand people jammed into the Lincoln Temple Memorial Church for the meeting.

Carmichael announced that he planned to be active in the movement in Washington this summer. He told the cheering audience that, "The United States is a nation of thieves. It stole this country from the red man, then stole the black



Eastland

people from the shores of Africa."

\* \* \*

The wife of Gov. Romney made the news last week when she finally resigned from a woman's club which bars Negroes from membership. It also has an "unwritten" rule that no Negroes can come as guests in rooms "above the second floor."

\* \* \*

According to the findings of a recent Harris poll "no more than one-third of the Negro population is willing to endorse the view that Dr. King's foreign policy stand will hurt their struggle for equal opportunity on the home front."

\* \* \*

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) may proceed with a \$250,000 damage suit against J. G. Sourwine, chief counsel of Senator Eastland's Internal Security Subcommittee.

The suit charges that Sourwine violated the constitutional rights of SCEF and its supporters by conspiring with Louisiana officials to raid its offices in New Orleans in 1963.

According to SCEF's directors, Carl and Anne Braden, "This is the first time in history that a chief counsel of a witchhunting committee of Congress has been ordered by the Supreme Court to stand trial on charges that he violated the rights of American citizens."

\* \* \*

Langston Hughes, famous playwright, poet and novelist, died May 22 after a three-week illness. He was 65.

Hughes' first book, *The Weary Blues*, was published in 1925. Since then he has written volumes of poetry, four novels, countless short stories and several anthologies. At the time of his death Hughes lived with an aunt and uncle in Harlem.  
—Elizabeth Barnes

### Watts and Harlem

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# Letters From Our Readers

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

## A Correction

New York, N.Y.

The last issue of *The Militant* carried a story about the national student antiwar conference sponsored by the Student Mobilization Committee and held in Chicago May 13 and 14.

The reporter made one very incorrect statement in the otherwise excellent story. He said that I had voted against adding a proposed stronger antidraft plank to the statement of aims of the Student Mobilization Committee, and even gave my supposed reasons for doing so. Unfortunately I was not even in the room at the time that vote was taken. Had I been, I would have certainly voted for the resolution, as I feel that draft resistance is a vital part of the struggle against the war in Vietnam and against militarism in general.

Yours for Peace.

Linda Dannenberg

## For Muhammad Ali

Los Angeles, Calif.

Muhammed Ali is to be commended for his courageous stand. In face of threats, intimidation and personal sacrifice, he refused to be inducted in the army and serve in the racist, criminal war of aggression in Vietnam, and against the interest of the oppressed and persecuted people here at home.

The New York State Athletic Commission immediately declared Ali's title vacant, thereby exposing their hypocrisy by admitting that boxing ability is not a qualification to be heavyweight champion, but a person's political and religious convictions.

This was followed by a torrent of abuse in the press and airwaves. These attacks on Muhammad Ali are voices of fear and desperation, for they know full well that Ali's courageous stand against the war in Vietnam earned him the respect and admiration of millions upon millions throughout the world. Especially the Negro people here at home.

The most effective way the Negro people can express their appreciation for Muhammad Ali's courage and sacrifice is to join in all future antiwar demonstrations.

Albert Stein

## Slight Error

St. Paul, Minn.

I don't want to suggest that the capitalist press is prejudiced, but I am starting to worry.

I sent a letter to the *St. Paul Dispatch* and in it I favored "the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of United States troops" from Vietnam.

When they printed the letter it read "the immediate and uncon-

ditional withdrawal of United States troops."

When I called to complain the first thing they asked was: "Do you have a carbon copy?" When I said yes they told me it was a printer's error.

Seth Wigam

## Imperialist Intervention

Highland, Calif.

I played war with neighborhood friends when I was years younger than I am now; I would always play on the side of the great American GIs. It was always the Americans vs the mean Japs or Germans. I never dreamt that I would be protesting my United States of America if we were involved in a war.

Today I am protesting our intervention in the civil war of Southeast Asia as we have become imperialistic!

I read in the local bourgeois press an article explaining our policy in Vietnam and the work done by our soldiers there. There were photographs showing American GIs and advisers "doing their duty," and continuous vindications of the revolutionary "Vietcong." The article justified every crime perpetrated by the U.S. as "accidental" or "necessary in order to gain strongholds in the war."

Often our newspapers criticize the Vietcong freedom fighters for leaving their dead and injured comrades behind after a battle. But in a photograph I have clipped out of the item and enclosed in this letter, you see "intelligence noncoms" raiding an underground hospital facility for the NLF rebels near Saigon. The fact that the south Vietnamese patriots are building these small first-aid tunnels proves that they are very concerned with the lives of their comrades.

The situation in Vietnam is similar to the German occupation of France. While the Nazis took over this land during World War II, all civilian activity had to be carried on *underground*. Frenchmen who dared to resist the German invaders in any way were shot or sent to concentration camps. It's about the same thing for the south Vietnamese.

E.S.

## Too Many Clichés?

Cleveland, Ohio

I concur with Frank Kofsky's letter of May 1, 1967. Your coverage of important news stories which are neglected or distorted by almost the entire American press provides readers with knowledge of events which are going to be crucial in shaping the history of our times.

However, you often fall into socialist clichés of the 1930s which are terribly empty and repellent to a new generation of students who want intellectual honesty in a desperate way. When I read the following phrase in your May 1 issue — "that kind of talk betrays the cynical mentality of the ruling circles" — I am discouraged with your lack of imagination.

I do not dispute that the government and military are replete with "cynical" men who will involve us in their own desperate and grotesque plans which lead to death and desolation, but the phrasing I quoted from your article does not advance this truth. It is a phrase that is almost Pavlovian and evokes no respect.

There are certainly more forceful and imaginative ways of writing your dissent and sharpening the direction of your programs than appeals to "uniting against the warmongering, fascist clique." Such phrases are the delight of William Buckley and the *New York Times* because they open you to such devastating parody which is partially deserved.

Your paper is important, but it

can still be so much better and more effective if you will appeal more openly to our intellects and humanitarian hopes while still preserving your goal of a more rationally organized society which allows greater human creativity and fulfillment.

H.T.

## Letter to Roybal

Los Angeles, Calif.

I sent the following to Congressman Roybal:

I'm returning your last legislative questionnaire completed, except for the final question which I feel deserves more attention. All your questionnaires have asked whether it's a good idea for congressmen to take an annual legislative poll of their constituents' views, and I have consistently answered "Yes." But I must now qualify my answer in noting the connection between your voting record and the needs and wishes of your constituents as they are indicated in your questionnaires.

For example, on the question of continuing the war in Vietnam, many "liberal" congressmen, such as Thomas Rees and others, have stated generally as you have (Oct.

# It Was Reported in the Press

**Favors Dissent** — South Vietnamese dictator Ky says that if he is beaten in his bid for the presidency by a civilian whose views he doesn't care for he will "fight him militarily." He explained: "In any democratic country you have the right to disagree with others."

**A Real Cop** — "RIO DE JANEIRO (UPI) — Former policeman Pedro Saturnino dos Santos today began a 316-year prison term following conviction on 14 charges of murder. Ordered as a policeman to clear the streets of beggars, he was accused of pitching as many as 65 of them into a river."

**Fitting Exposition** — A letter to the *New York Times* from a visitor to Canada's Expo 67 reported: "Only at the United States Pavilion is one 'greeted' by uniformed attendants carrying 'billy clubs,' or policemen's sticks. At no other exhibit . . . is the threat of force so advertised."

**Land of Opportunity** — A Washington, D.C. billboard recruitment advertisement for the National Guard states: "An Equal Opportunity Employer."

**Meta-Materialist** — Rev. James A. Keller, who writes a spiritual column for the *Long Island Press*, told the inspiring story of a construction worker whose wallet containing \$200 dropped out of his pocket while working on a bridge over the Ohio River. "Without hesitation," the reverend wrote ecstatically, "he plunged into the icy river 75 feet below." The moral? "Where your treasure is, there also your heart will be." (Luke 12:34).

**Inflationary Pressure** — Lewis Rosenstiel, 75, obtained a divorce from Mrs. Rosenstiel, 47. She'll be receiving a bit better than \$11,000 a week. Mr. Rosenstiel is chairman of Schenley Industries. So, if the next time you pick up a bottle of Schenley's you find the price has gone up a bit we're sure you'll understand.

**Early Adherents to American Way** — Two girls, one eight and other 11, were arrested in Irvington, N.J. after police alleged that they admitted breaking into five homes and taking nearly a thou-

**Thought for the Week**  
"Make no mistake about it. Total military victory in Vietnam means total war with China, and I for one believe that means total world holocaust. It is unfortunate that the President has emphasized the cost of dissent, but has been silent as to the cost of victory." — Senator Thruston B. Morton (R-Ky.).

'66): "I pledge myself to continue to speak out strongly for the cause of peace in Vietnam." Yet you have always voted for military appropriations to prolong and escalate the war.

In view of the pious hypocrisy of "liberal" legislators who speak for peace while voting for war, one is led to doubt their integrity on other issues as well, such as civil rights and poverty. It would be interesting to know specifically how your efforts to eliminate Hazard Park in L.A.'s poor East Side (while "exchanging" it for a park to be built on L.A.'s rich West Side), are justified by answers on your questionnaires.

While I am grateful for the opportunity to let you know my attitude on important current issues, several aspects of legislative questionnaires are in urgent need of clarification:

With the voting record of Congress manifesting an increasing defiance and contempt for public opinion and welfare, what are the motives for their legislative polls, and what use is made with the results?

Do "liberal" congressmen perhaps use these polls to pretend an interest in the views and problems of the electorate in order to sustain the illusion that they are representing them? Do they thus intend to conceal their political and economic indebtedness to banks and businesses — their biggest source of campaign funds?

Finally, in what way can these polls be used to measure how much truth there is in Mort Sahl's persistent warning over TV and radio that "liberal legislators are the enemy of the people, helping to bring Fascism to America?"

Howard Feldman

sand dollars in cash and jewelry. Cops said the children started out stealing bikes "but found there was more money in robbing houses." The girls were said to have spent most of the money on candy, clothes and having their hair done.

**Social Note** — A tenth anniversary mass was held for the late fascist Senator Joseph McCarthy May 14 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. The mass was followed by a luncheon at the Seventh Regiment Armory.

**Legislator** — Donald Reed, Republican minority leader in the Florida House of Representatives, introduced a bill to ban padded bras. The legislative leader said he did so to express his irritation with bills intended to curb false and misleading advertising. Now if someone would introduce a bill to bar padded skulls from public office we'd be all set.

**The Frug** — A Fred Astaire dance student in New York extracted \$14,312 from an 86-year-old woman — her life savings — to "learn her all the new dances." In court her lawyer said, "She can't even do a waltz . . . after 24

half-hour lessons at more than \$500 a shot." Acting on "the concept of fairness," the judge ordered a \$3,500 rebate, bringing the cost down to a bargain-basement \$350 per half-hour course.

**Cat Got Their Tongue?**—James Reston, associate editor of the *New York Times*, who says he thinks we got into Vietnam "in defense of a noble principle," told a Cleveland audience he was upset because supporters of the war could not seem to express their ideas as well as the opposition.

**High Flyer** — Claude Kirk, right-wing governor of Florida, told an America Legion convention that he's all the way with LBJ on Vietnam. He's neither a hawk nor a dove, he stated, but an eagle. We weren't quite sure what this meant until we read that the governor ran up a state bill of \$19,000 in a single month jetting around the country.

**Wildest Statement of the Week** — Bill D. Moyers, former White House press secretary, said there have been times when the Johnson administration has been "less than candid" with the people.

—Harry Ring

## Weekly Calendar

The rate for advertising in this column is 40 cents a line. Display ads are \$2 a column inch. There is a ten percent discount for regular advertisers. Advertising must reach us by the Monday prior to the date of publication.

### CLEVELAND

GREECE SINCE WORLD WAR II. Speaker: George Maxim. Sun., May 28, 7:30 p.m. 9801 Euclid Ave. Contrib. 50 cents. Ausp. Cleveland Militant Forum.

### NEW YORK

There will be no Militant Labor Forum June 2.

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# Well-Known N.Y. Journalist Supports Pfc. Petrick Case

[Murray Kempton, for many years a featured columnist of the liberal New York Post, devoted his column of May 19 to the case of Pfc. Howard Petrick. Kempton has recently become a sponsor of the Committee to Defend the Rights of Pfc. Howard Petrick. (More information can be obtained from the committee at: P.O. Box 569, Cooper Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.)

[Kempton's account, carried under the ironic title, "The Bad Soldier," is as follows.]

Howard Petrick has been in the Army of the United States since last July and has 13 months still to go. So far as his performance of duty is concerned, none of it is likely to be bad time. He is one of those young men with glasses whom MPs never bother to ask to show their passes.

At Fort Hood, Texas, they made him a cook, and he was such a model of discipline and containment that he could even get along with his mess sergeants.

## Transferred

Last April, this model career was suddenly interrupted; and Howard Petrick, now a Pfc., was transferred to an inactive unit, for which he goes on about his duties as a cook.

In the meanwhile, the army wonders whether to carry through the court-martial which could bring him five years in prison.

Howard Petrick was a public member of the Socialist Workers



Pfc. Howard Petrick

Party awaiting trial for distributing antiwar literature without a Minneapolis peddler's license when he was inducted into the army. He told the army that he had no objection to being drafted, but that he could not take the oath of allegiance and that, on his own time, without disobeying any order, he intended to go on expressing his objections to the war.

The inducting officer answered, "There'll be no infringements on your rights; you'll have the same ones you do in civilian life." The oath was waived.

His infantry basic training was normal, although the drill instructors were pleasanter than usual and franker in saying that most of it was useless.

When he settled down at Fort Hood, Petrick put his antiwar and socialist books on open shelves next to his bunk, and kept a large pamphlet file in his footlocker. He does not seem to have thrust the war into his conversations with the other enlisted men. "It was," he recalls, however, "very hard to find anyone who'd argue in favor of the war."

One morning at inspection, a new officer checked Howard Petrick's footlocker and saw his pamphlets. He picked up a "Bring the boys home" leaflet and showed it to the first sergeant. "Yes, I know about that," said the first sergeant hastily. "Come on, sir." That was the end of the matter.

## Locker Opened

In April, Howard Petrick took his leave to serve as a voting delegate to the convention of the Young Socialist Alliance. When he came back, he found that his barracks had been subject to a shakedown inspection and the contents of his locker confiscated.

Howard Petrick was called to the orderly room and put to the questions. The investigators were vaguely apologetic about having emptied his footlocker; not being able to find him and tell him, they had just gone ahead in his absence. Some of his pamphlets were found in the footlockers of five other soldiers, who were thereupon segregated and put under guard for a day.

Then everybody seemed to forget the whole matter; Petrick was sent off to an inactive company to cook. He is being treated with correct indifference for the moment; any day now, of course, the charges could be brought against him.

## Thought Crimes

In logic, to be sure, he will have to be tried. His thoughts, although not his conduct, are disloyal by the standards of the army. Last week, he was granted another leave and went to Chicago to speak against the war. He wore his uniform. "I figured," he says, "that if General Westmoreland can wear his uniform and speak for the war, I can wear mine and speak against it."

And, in Washington, the Defense Department wonders about court-martialing him. It is understandably slow to decide. To try Howard Petrick will be to confess that the war has turned us into a country where a man can be a criminal not for what he does, but for what he thinks and says when asked.

# SNCC Adopts Policy Statement

[The following statement was released by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee after their national staff meeting held in Atlanta recently. New officers were elected at the meeting. Stokely Carmichael was succeeded as national chairman by H. Rap Brown, a SNCC field worker in Alabama. The new executive secretary is Stanley Wise, and Ralph Featherstone is the new program secretary.]

ATLANTA — In our staff meeting held during the past week, the organization voted that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is a human rights organization, interested not only in human rights in the United States, but throughout the world; that, in the field of international relations, we assert that we encourage and support the liberation struggles of all people against racism, exploitation, and oppression. We see our struggle here in America as an integral part of the worldwide movement of all oppressed people, such as in Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Latin America.

Furthermore, we support the efforts of our brothers in Puerto Rico who are presently engaged in a fight for independence and liberation there.

We shall seek to build a strong nationwide black antidraft program and movement to include high school students, along with college students and other black men of draft age. We see no reason for black men, who are daily murdered physically and mentally in this country to go and kill yellow people abroad, who have done nothing to us, and are, in fact, victims of the same oppression that our brothers in Vietnam suffer.

## Objectives

Our major thrust will be in the building of national freedom organizations which will deal with all aspects of the problems facing black people in America. The political objective will manifest itself in the creation of a viable, independent political force. The economic objective will be: 1) to expel the exploiters who presently control our community; 2) to gain economic control of our communities, and 3) to create an econ-

# Nat'l Leader of CORE Arrested in Cleveland

By Barbara Gregorich

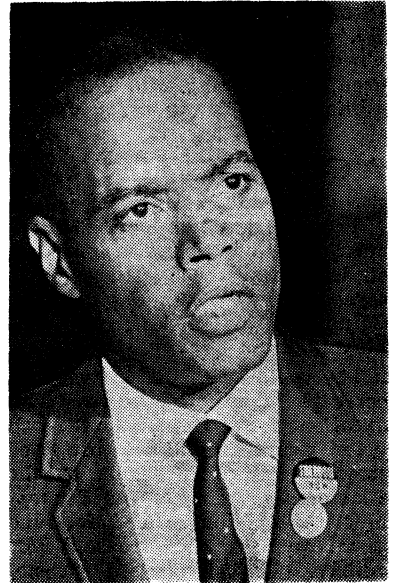
CLEVELAND — In carrying out Mayor Locher's policy of "pacifying" the ghetto and arresting all militant blacks, even if it means filling "every jail in Cleveland," the Cleveland police raided an Islamic astrology shop on the night of May 9, arresting Lincoln Lynch, associated national director of CORE; Miss Marjorie Hirsch, an NBC television researcher; and Fred (Ahmed) Evans, an astrologer who had predicted a ghetto revolt in Cleveland.

Lynch, Miss Hirsch, and Evans, along with 18 other people, mostly youths, were holding a meeting at the Islamic astrology shop when the police entered with loaded shotguns, arrested everybody, and charged the victims with intoxication and violation of a housing code. Two weeks previously police had condemned the Islamic astrology shop as being in a building unfit for human habitation, but they told Evans he could meet there if he cleaned it up.

## "Rabble Rouser"

Lincoln Lynch, who was in Cleveland to discuss a possible CORE summer project, said that the cops harassed him and the others. On the booking slip police listed his occupation as "rabble rouser."

Miss Hirsch, who was on an NBC assignment to investigate racial conditions in Cleveland, said she was interviewing Ahmed Evans when the police barged in and "I just got thrown into the wagon and they wouldn't even



Lincoln Lynch

listen to me."

All of those arrested pleaded innocent to the charges. A trial was set for May 25.

The charge of violation of housing codes is a typical tactic of the Cleveland police to prevent militant blacks from meeting and organizing. The same charge was constantly leveled against youth from the Jomo "Freedom" Kenyatta House for the last two years, until the city finally demolished the meeting place this spring. More of such police raids can be expected from the racist authorities wherever militant black youth who are opposed to the racist system meet to discuss and act.

# Malcolm X Tributes

Friday May 19 was Malcolm X's birthday. In Los Angeles several thousand black high school students declared that day a holiday and missed classes in honor of him.

In New York a memorial rally was held in Malcolm X Square. A crowd of around 300 listened to a series of speakers including army veteran Omar Abu-Talib; Ella Collins, sister of Malcolm X and president of the Afro-American Unity Organization; Nana Odefumi, prime minister of the Harlem People's Parliament; and

Joseph L. Overton of the Negro Labor Committee.

Paul Boutelle of the Black United Action Front was the moderator. A number of people from the audience spoke during the rally, including Tom Berry, a veteran of Vietnam.

Omar Abu-Talib told the audience about his discharge from the army resulting from his pro-Malcolm views. He said that he told other black GIs about the ideas of Malcolm X.

Paul Boutelle announced that a memorial day rally and a march against the Vietnam war would be held May 30 in Harlem. It will be sponsored by the Black United Action Front.

## Sunday Meeting

On Sunday May 21 a meeting was held in tribute to Malcolm X at the OAAU headquarters. A representative from the Zambian Mission to the UN spoke.

In Chicago an outdoor memorial rally was held on Sunday. It attracted a crowd of approximately 500. Thirty persons were arrested at the end of the rally in a conflict with the police.

# Cuban Harvest Best on Record

Cuba has announced a smashing success in this year's sugar harvest. On May 8 as the cutting neared completion total production stood at 5,590,792 metric tons. This is a million tons higher than last year's harvest at the same time.

Las Villas Province produced 25 percent of the nation's total sugar crop. With a harvest of 1,396,175 tons, the province set a 14-year record.

# General Strike Held in France

On May 17, a nationwide 24-hour general strike was held in France. The country's industries, offices, transport system and schools were completely paralyzed, and a major demonstration of 150,000 workers was held in Paris.

The slogans of the marchers opposed the special powers demanded by the de Gaulle regime and warned the government not to tamper with social security and other social benefits.

The massive strike demonstrated how illusory are the concepts that a parliamentary democracy can preserve the capitalist system when it is under severe strains. Only several months before, general elections were held in France which greatly upset de Gaulle's previous majority in parliament.

## Rule by Decree

Without such a majority, however, the de Gaulle regime could not function. De Gaulle asked parliament to give up its constitutional powers for six months in essential problems, and to authorize the cabinet to rule by decree.

It was against this procedure that the major French unions decided to unite in a protest strike. Thus this strike was not for any economic demands, like higher wages, but it was directed squarely against the Gaullist political regime.

In a different way from the recent crisis in Greece, where power was taken directly by a military coup, de Gaulle's actions reveal the fundamental impossibility of bourgeois democratic systems solving the deep-going problems of capitalism. The general strike showed where the real power lies — in the working class — and how effective it can be.