

'FREE BILL EPTON!'

Over 400 people crowded into the Carleton Terrace Ballroom Dec. 9th calling for freedom for Bill Epton at a rally sponsored by CERGE (Committee to Defend Resistance to Ghetto Life). Following are excerpts from some of the remarks of the speakers.



CLINT HOBSON

Clint Hobson, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party:

"They told us, on account of 'political expediency' we can't speak out against the war. We'll 'lose votes.'

"Well, I don't know about socialism or communism, but I do know we're catching hell right here.

"They say, 'you're embarrassing us.' There's not a black man in the world we can embarrass. Can I embarrass those black people in Mississippi, in Harlem, whose kids have no clothes?"

"Is it embarrassing to talk about Watts?" "They've got a Bill Epton in Watts, but they haven't found him yet!"

Jeff Gordon, National Coordinator, May 2nd Movement:

"The ruling class knows what it's doing when it tries Bill Epton. Bill is a Communist, openly for revolution. They don't like him because if his program wins, they won't run things anymore.

"They have many tactics. One is outright bribery. Another is a 'bribe on the side' like the Peace Corps or Haryou Act—'safe activity.'

"Assassinating Malcolm — that's another tactic.

"They offer students fellowships if they'll be 'good boys.'

"They use terror, through the FBI and the new wrinkle, the grand jury, a local form of HUAC.

"Then they prosecute Bill Epton because he stepped into a vacuum of leadership



JEFF GORDON

in Harlem with the 'worst' thing of all—a program.

"The major threat is the ideology of liberalism. Some liberals are our friends, but not liberalism, with its philosophy of non-violence, of the idea that the government is 'stupid' and we have to teach it the 'right way.'

"The major enemy is that government which turns one group against the other—workers against students; black against white.

"But historically we are winning and they will lose."

Felipe Dejesus, Editor of DESAFIO:

"The myth of an all-powerful Yankee imperialism has been destroyed by the anti-imperialist forces of the world. In Cuba, as in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic, the Yankee imperialists' pants have fallen to their knees.

"The black people in the U.S. and the Latin American people struggle for a better life against the same enemy—U.S.



FELIPE DEJESUS

capitalism, Latin American oligarchies and Yankee imperialism. As long as capitalism exists, there will be no equality. It is the cause of all the ills that befall the people of the world.

The oligarchies that exploit and murder the masses in Latin America are stooges in the service of white supremacists of the U.S. who discriminate against and kill and humiliate and exploit black men and women in the U.S.

"The case of Puerto Rico has, to a certain degree, been put aside by North American progressives. If the anti-war forces want to eliminate the danger of war altogether, it is not enough to just fight it in Vietnam or Santo Domingo, but everywhere in the world—and that means more attention must be paid to Puerto Rico.

"If war ends in Vietnam or the interventionists leave Santo Domingo, aggression still exist as long as there is still one Yankee soldier in Puerto Rico.

"As Albizo Campos pointed out, 'colonialism is war and we have been in a state of war against the Yankee invader for 67 years. Until Puerto Rico gets its freedom, there will be no peace for the North American workers or for the Puerto Rican workers.'"

Len Holt, noted civil rights attorney from Virginia and one of Bill Epton's lawyers:

"The highest distinction I received came when Judge Markewich told me I could not open my mouth in his courtroom—although I've been able to do it in courts all over the South.

"I've been asked to answer five ques-

tions for you tonight.

"First, what is the judge? A judge is a lawyer with political friends.

"Second, what is the jury? The jury is people who can afford to earn only \$3.80 a day. The guilt or innocence of one of



LEN HOLT

our brothers is being decided by those who can.

"Third, what are the laws? The law is a device of those who have control to maintain control. If you study law you will find that 90 per cent of your courses are devoted to training lawyers how to protect private property.

"Fourth, who are the witnesses? Very simply, cops! Some of my worst enemies are cops!

"And what did these cops say Epton would do. Why, he would have armies marching from the rural areas, from the North, the South, the East and West to descend on New York where they would be met by the National Guard. They would throw nails under their horses and in front of the mayor's house so when he walked out he would be incapacitated! Yes, that's what the record reads.

"And finally, why Epton? No, he was not an afterthought. If there was one thing I learned in Sunday school it was that Jesus could lead the people to freedom, millions of them, and even Jesus, among his 12 disciples had one who was a cop: Well, Bill can lead the people to the truth—that's 'why Bill Epton.'

"Bill Epton said 'stop the cops,' and those who employ those cops realize that Bill is effective.

"The most vital part of any big city has become the black ghetto—it has had nothing but will become all."



STANLEY ARONOWITZ

Stanley Aronowitz, trade union organizer:

"The lesson for us in the Bill Epton case is that they want to stop those who want to organize against the system.

"The defense of Bill Epton is a primary responsibility of all progressive-minded people. It is our responsibility, in our

own defense, to see to it that Bill Epton be free.

"It is not just the PLP they're after, but any radical who dares to battle the problems that the PLP dares to battle."

Sue Schwartz, National Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam:

"The Harlem Rebellion was the beginning of sanity.

"Johnson tries to equate the violence of Watts with the violence of the Klan.

"We must begin to organize ourselves against the real enemy—not the small shopkeeper in Watts, but against the David Rockefellers, who control everything.

"Bill Epton is a serious revolutionary and that is why they are directing their fire against him."



SUE SCHWARTZ

Bill Epton, Vice-President, Progressive Labor Party:

"We say that THEY are the criminals. We will put THEM on trial.

"They are looking to tie up the PLP. But to become defensive is not the answer. We must challenge 'the man' where he is, not back off.

"They are using this case as a test, to see if they can make state laws operate against us, so they don't have to be exposed by dragging out federal laws.

"Well, we won't take it—not from a system that's killing in Harlem, that killed 38 in Watts, that burns Vietnamese women and children with napalm, that supports every racist and fascist government in the world. No, we just won't take it.

"We who are in the belly of the monster; we who fight in Harlem, in El Barrio, in Chicago, in Watts; we who fight in the shops, in the mines and the mills; we who fight on the picket lines and on the campus; we who fight in the Congo; we who fight in Santo Domingo; we who fight with the liberation front in Vietnam; we who fight with the peoples all over this world against U.S. imperialism—the enemy of mankind; we are winning! We will win!"



BILL EPTON

Sartre Joins World Protest

(Editor's Note: Since the start of Bill Epton's trial, messages of support have come in from all parts of the globe.)

FRANCE

"We strongly protest persecution of Bill Epton. We associate ourselves completely with the (defense) meeting organized by CERGE.

Jean Paul Sartre
Simone De Beauvoir
Paris

BRIT. GUIANA

The following cable was sent to Wagner, Lindsay and Judge Markewich.)

"We strongly condemn conspiracy of accusing Bill Epton of criminal anarchy re 1964 Harlem Rebellion. Demonstrates failure of U.S. society to eradicate Jim Crow



CHEDDI JAGAN

and discrimination. Urge immediate withdrawal of all charges."

Cheddi Jagan
People's Progressive Party
Georgetown, B.G.

PUERTO RICO

"We are by your side and sure

no power on earth can detain freedom for your people and independence of our nation.

"Glory to you and shame on your persecutors."

Juan Antonio Corretjer
Gen. Secy., Liga Socialista
San Juan



CORRETIJER

CANADA

"In your just struggle against our common enemy, U.S. Imperialism, we pledge our solidarity. You shall win. We shall win."

Progressive Workers Movement
Toronto

ENGLAND

(The following letter was sent to the U.S. British Ambassador, David Bruce, and to Hogan, Lindsay, Wagner and Rockefeller.)

"We have been very worried by reports...of the case of Mr. William Epton...who has been put on trial in New York for allegedly advocating violence and rioting in New York City last summer.

"...We have a very great respect and admiration for your country

and its ideals, and we believe that the ideals of freedom of speech and assembly are prominent among them.

We are all the more surprised and concerned therefore to discover that all the evidence...indicated that Mr. Epton is being prosecuted because he has spoken out too freely and worked too hard for the legitimate rights and aspirations of his own people, and that the charge of advocating violence cannot be made out.

"May we appeal (for)...justice in the case of William Epton; and that he is not put on trial...for holding views which, however inconvenient they might be to the City Authorities, and however erroneous and unwise they might be held to be (and we hold no brief for any particular political, economic or social views whatever) are sincerely held, and cannot seriously be regarded as a threat to the peace..."

C. Bradley
Amnesty International
Sussex, England