

Would-Be Dictators Facing Organized Resistance

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*Police searching for Tupamaro guerrillas in Montevideo. In Uruguay, the police regularly conduct house-to-house searches to flush out suspected Tupamaros. They need no warrants and any resistance to their search is met with a hail of police bullets.*



*If you lived in Montevideo, you could expect to be stopped and searched regularly just like this man. Note the U.S. Army M-2 Carbine slung over the back of this Montevideo policeman.*

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# BLOWS AGAINST THE EMPIRE



Workers in Puerto Rico defy National Guard

## STRIKES PARALYZE PUERTO RICO

SAN JUAN (TNS)--More than 10,000 workers marched to La Fortaleza--headquarters of Puerto Rico's colonial government--to demand the withdrawal of 3100 National Guard troops now occupying fire stations, power plants and water works throughout the island.

When the demonstration reached its destination, colonial governor Raphael Hernandez Colon was lifted out of La Fortaleza by helicopter, and military reinforcements were sent into the area.

Hernandez Colon on July 6 declared a State of Emergency in the face of strikes by sanitary workers, firemen, electric power and water service employees, and had ordered the National Guard to break through the picket lines and maintain the service.

The intervention of the National Guard has failed to break the strike. The sanitary workers have settled and gone back to work, but

resistance among the firemen and the power and water workers seems to have hardened and they are gaining support from other workers. More than 60 different unions and workers organizations were represented in the march on La Fortaleza and according to one reliable estimate there are now a total of 20,000 workers in diverse industries who have gone out on strike.

Puerto Rico is already close to paralysis. More than 100 factories have been forced to close down, major cities are without electricity, telephone communications have been disrupted across the island and the water supply is precarious everywhere. An effective sabotage campaign against the occupied utilities has contributed to the disruption.

The leaders of the labor movement in Puerto Rico have expressed their determination to call a general strike if the government does not deactivate the National Guard.

## LIBYA THROWS OUT U.S. OIL COMPANY

Libya--Libyan President Colonel Moammar Khadafy marked the third anniversary of U.S. military withdrawal from his country by nationalizing the Bunker-Hunt Oil Company's holdings in Libya. Bunker-Hunt controls 10% of Libya's oil production.

After announcing the takeover Khadafy said: "The U.S. which thinks that she is controlling the world through her monopolistic oil

companies and naval fleets, needs a severe slap in the face in the Arab world.

"America, which is being punished, defeated and kicked everywhere, has not yet had its final lesson, because we are still witnessing its complete bias in favor of Israel.

"The time might come where there will be a real confrontation with the oil companies and the entire American imperialism."

## LIBERATION FORCES ISOLATE PHNOM PENH

Cambodia--Despite record U.S. air raids on the Cambodian people (53,000 tons a month) the Khmer Rouge won new victories in the first weeks of July.

Liberation forces cut off five Government outposts around Phnom Penh, stepping up a drive to isolate the capital. Reports from the area indicate that the guerrillas have attacked strategic locations on the Mekong River, around the Sak Samping Pagoda, along Route 4 (Phnom Penh's only land link to the sea) and the Phnom Basset hilltop overlooking Phnom Penh's airport.

Government troops have been put on alert for a possible drive by Liberation forces to take the capital.

## 20th ANIVERSARY OF CUBAN REVOLUTION

Cuba (The Call)--This July 26 the Cuban people celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks led by Fidel Castro in 1953. July 26 is a joyous holiday in Cuba because it commemorates the most important of the early skirmishes with the reactionary Batista government which eventually led to the Cuban Revolution.

In October of 1953, Castro was captured and tried in court for the Moncada incident. In his defense he made the famous statement:

"It is understandable that men of honor should be dead or prisoners in a republic whose president is a criminal...I know that imprisonment will be harder for me than it has been for anybody...but I do not fear it...Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me."



## GUATEMALA: ARMED PEASANTS SEIZE LAND

Guatemala (DFC)--Peasant land seizures northeast of the capital have resulted in a state of martial law in that area. Peasants armed with machetes and guns are refusing to surrender seized land, which they claim was stolen from them by wealthy landlords, to U.S.-trained counterinsurgency troops. The troops have been ordered into the area by the government in order to "protect the property of the landlords."

Many of the peasants have deeds to the land dating back to the 1700's. The presence of the troops has prompted clashes which have left 11 peasants and six soldiers dead.



# Philadelphia Freedom Festival

On June 16, more than 200 people attended Philadelphia's First Annual People's Freedom Festival. The event was sponsored by the American Indian Defense Committee, the Black United Liberation Front, and the Irish Northern Aid Organization. Participating groups included the Philadelphia Friends of Venceremos, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Attica Brigade Prisoners Committee, and the Philadelphia Free Press. The event was called to publicize three separate but related battles going on in Philadelphia court rooms.

On June 18, fourteen black men and women went to trial on charges stemming from the August 31, 1970 police attack on the Philadelphia branch of the Black Panther Party. This attack was part of then police chief Rizzo's unsuccessful attempt to stop the People's Revolutionary Constitutional Convention. Rizzo and his cohorts waited three years hoping that the people of Philadelphia would forget these sisters and brothers. The Festival proved them wrong. As of June 26, the Panther 14 are free. The evidence presented by the state has been thrown out of court. The final decision on the case is awaiting the results of the prosecutor's appeal.

Also on June 18, four members of the Irish Northern Aid Organization were called before a federal grand jury. This grand jury investigation is part of the continuing campaign by the U.S. Government to harass the people supporting the liberation struggle of the Irish people. Grand juries have already met in Fort Worth, Texas where five INA members are in jail for refusing to testify and in San Francisco where one person is in jail. The liberation struggle in Ireland has a broad base of support in the Philadelphia area and large picket lines have appeared in front of the Federal Court House every day that the grand jury met. On June 24, three of the INA members were informed that they did not have to appear before the grand jury while the other was granted immunity. This immunity is now being appealed.

On March 2, 1972, some of Rizzo's police attacked a group of Native American steelworkers who were sitting on the balcony of the hotel they lived in. In the ensuing struggle, one Indian, LeRoy Shenandoah, was murdered. Four other Native Americans were arrested. On July 2, the liberation struggle of the Native American people opened up a new front in the Philadelphia courts. Support for the four brothers has come from all over the East Coast. Groups of Native Americans are coming to Philadelphia from all over the country to aid in the defense. The liberation of Wounded Knee has not ended but continues all over the world.

These three trials were seen as separate parts of the same struggle--the fight for freedom and justice. The feeling of the sponsoring groups was summed up in a quote from W.E.B. DuBois used as the theme of the festival. "The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression!"

*The Philadelphia Friends of Venceremos*

*Venceremos relies on friends around the country for revolutionary news. Please write us when things happen.*



*Angered by lack of welfare aid, blacks sit and stand on trolley tracks, halting traffic*

## Blacks Demanding Food Block Philly Streets

The situation in Philadelphia is really heavy. State and City politicians are holding up granting new applications for welfare, which means that people haven't been able to get food stamps. A lot of people in the Black community are literally starving.

On July 11, welfare protesters demanding money for food blocked

the streets of North Philadelphia. The occupation followed a rally called by various Black groups and welfare rights organizations. Real leadership was provided by the Black United Liberation Front, which is the main Black revolutionary organization in Philadelphia. BULF members mobilized the anger of the people at the demonstration and led them to seize one of the main thoroughfares in the city.

Mayor Rizzo tried to stop the demonstration by mobilizing large numbers of pigs which included tactical units armed with automatic weapons, mounted (horse) units, empty police vans for mass arrests, and mobile field headquarters. However, the support for the action was so massive that Rizzo was afraid to move, and the only incident was a police provoked fight where three BULF leaders were arrested. The occupation lasted throughout the night.

It's likely that things are going to get heavier in Philly--since Black unemployment is already officially at 38.5% (probably much higher), which is above the worst unemployment in the depths of the 1930's depression.



*Welfare protestors block intersection*

## Black October Executes Pushers

In Baltimore, Maryland, a drug pusher named Evans was found shot in his home with literature put out by Black October that condemned dope pushers.

A few weeks earlier, Black Maryland legislator Scott was also found shot dead. He was under indictment for being part of a drug pushing ring. Black October literature was also found near his body.

Police in Baltimore have arrested one man in connection with the executions. Police say he owned a .38 calibre pistol allegedly found on the scene of Evan's death.

Other than this one arrest police say they have nothing to go on about the organization Black October other than slogans spray painted on city walls five months ago, saying "There's no hope in dope. Save our Black children. Death to the Pusher!"

## On Spanish Translations

The past few issues of the newspaper have not contained any Spanish translation because we are in the process of evaluating the Spanish section of the paper. Cadre who work with Spanish speaking people are trying to assess who reads the paper in Spanish and which articles should be translated. A shortage of translators has always limited the amount of translation in the paper. If you can translate one or two articles every two weeks, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please call Barbara at 328-4941 anytime during the day.



# Jury Convicts Two Chino Defendants

Doug and Andrea Burt, the first two defendants in the Chino Escape Case, have been declared guilty by a San Bernardino jury. In the face of overwhelming exonerating evidence, District Attorney Canty has succeeded in using racist appeals, destruction of evidence and unrelated "facts" to obtain a guilty verdict on charges of murder, assault and rescue.

The Chino Escape Case began when a Chino inmate, Ronald Wayne Beaty, escaped from a state car in an ambush on October 6, 1972. While Beaty escaped, one guard was killed and another was wounded. Beaty himself was recaptured on December 11. Though before the escape he had been serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole, after he was recaptured he was offered parole in seven years if he would testify against the Burts, Jean Hobson, Bob Seabock and the Venceremos organization.

Doug and Andrea Burt, having heard that they were wanted in connection with the escape, turned themselves in on October 23. They were confident of their innocence and believed they would be out on bail. But from the moment they were behind bars, the state began to uncover its plan of attack. They were denied bail and ordered to stand trial after the D.A. got an indictment from a secret grand jury.

## STACKING THE JURY

The jury selection process in San Bernardino was rigged from the start. Ninety percent of the working people in San Bernardino could not afford to sit on a jury for several months--they would have lost their jobs. All poor people, working class people, Third World people and people under thirty were dismissed out of hand by the District Attorney. The resulting jury had a median age of 58 and was all-white. Most panelists were either retired or housewives. A few were professional people.

Then, after the jury had been picked, and it was no longer possible to question the members, the judge announced that the trial would take place in an intimidating glass-encased court room, laced with me-

tal detectors and security officers.

## IGNORING THE EVIDENCE

There were four eyewitnesses to the escape. The first was Ron Beaty himself. He testified that Doug and Andrea and Bob and Jean were all in on it. However, he also testified that he lied to the grand jury and the FBI about crucial events in the case and his testimony was impeached continually. His former escape partner (Beaty had escaped from Chino once before) testified that Beaty would do anything to save his own skin and that nothing he said should be believed.

During his previous escape Beaty had kidnapped two people. On the stand in that trial when he tried to say that these people were his accomplices and that the Black Panther Party had financed the escape he was confronted with the people themselves who said Beaty was lying.

Joe Morgan, a former Chino inmate who did time with Beaty, testified that Beaty had told him that he was "playing the part" as a revolutionary so that he could "infiltrate those creeps" and use them as a bargaining tool if he got caught. Morgan also revealed that Beaty had said he would conceal the identity of the real accomplices so that he could "use them again in a few years."

Mrs. Veldhuiser, the second eyewitness, said that she had an obstructed view from about 200 feet and that she thought she saw a profile resembling Doug Burts', but that she wasn't sure because it happened so fast.

The surviving guard, who had known Doug Burt when he was in Chino, testified that he did not recognize any of the four defendants as having participated in the incident. Attempts at hypnotic recall by the prosecution failed to change this guard's testimony.

However, the best eyewitness, Mr. Hallgarten, who watched the whole event from about 150 feet with an unobstructed view, testified that he had never before in his life seen Doug and Andrea Burt. The prosecution had intended to use Hallgarten as a prosecution witness because he was so close to the scene but failed to call him when his real story was revealed.

None of the finger prints found in the escape cars belong to any of the defendants. None of the hairs found in the cars belong to them. The previous owners of the escape cars established no link to the defendants.

Three witnesses, two friends and one vague acquaintance, testified that both Doug and Andrea were in Hayward the day of the escape. One woman, Cheryl Hockins Satcher, explained that she had been offered \$6,000.00 by the San Bernardino Sheriff's and transportation to a different part of the country with a new identity if she would change her story.

## TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE

Early in the trial, the Sheriff's Department was forced to admit that a photo of Bob Seabock was removed from photos shown to a witness, in order to conceal the witness' failure to identify Seabock. Later, the jury found out



VENCEREMOS PHOTO

Andrea Burt

that a crucial report written by a highway patrolman who claimed to have seen Andrea the day of Beaty's escape--had been destroyed by Sergeant Hardy of the San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept. In the course of the trial, many more such instances of foul play came to light.

Unable to make a case on the basis of the facts, Canty resorted to innuendo, racism, destruction of evidence and irrelevant information. He appealed to the jury on the basis of their deep-seated racism. For example, he asked Cheryl Satcher, "Don't you specialize in visiting Black prisoners?" He implied this "nigger lover" couldn't be trusted to tell the truth.

But perhaps Canty's most glaring violation of justice was the fact that he based his case on events and alleged events that happened after the escape (i.e. Beaty's hiding from the authorities.) In other words, the primary evidence on which Doug and Andrea have been found guilty is what may have happened (the defense didn't counter the allegations thoroughly because they were irrelevant to the escape itself) after the escape was over and Doug and Andrea were already in jail awaiting trial!

Defense attorney Charles Garry has patly termed the trial a "rail-road" and announced his intentions to appeal the conviction. In the meantime, Jean Hobson and Bob Seabock, two Palo Alto revolutionaries, face trial on the same charges. Their courtroom proceedings are scheduled to begin on September 17 in San Bernardino.

## Arizona Trials Set for December

In Arizona, Mick Goldstein and Dr. and Ms. Harry Bishara have been charged with harboring Ron Beaty. The grand jury indictments on them are based primarily on an FBI agent's version of Beaty's story. Their trial is set for December 11 in Arizona.

At the time of his arrest, Mick, a law student in the National Lawyers Guild, was working with the Navajo Legal Services Program. Dr. and Ms. Bishara were involved in organizing workers in the Public Health Service Hospital, many of whom are Navajo Indians. All three had been active in various community issues, such as a controversial school board election.



VENCEREMOS PHOTO

Doug Burt





Hooded Tupamaro interrogates AID official about his crimes in Uruguay

## Romanticizing Revolution in Uruguay "State of Siege"

Revolution has become a mass question these days. Just about everyone figures there's going to be one in this country, and more and more people are actually thinking about it as a practical solution to their problems.

So naturally the mass media are taking advantage of such a popular subject. Film producers are beginning to crank out all kinds of films about revolution and revolutionaries.

The latest, and in many ways the best, of such movies is *State of Siege*, written by Franco Solinas, the Italian Communist who wrote *Z*, and directed by Constantin Costa-Gavras, the Greek/Frenchman who directed *Z* and *The Confession*.

*State of Siege* is about the Tupamaros, the urban guerrillas of Uruguay. It is based on the 1970 kidnapping and execution of Dan Mitrione, a U.S. agent of A.I.D. (Agency for International Development) and the crisis that this created in the Uruguayan government.

In the film, the Tupas kidnap Philip Michael Santore (played by Yves Montand) and demand the release of several political prisoners. The government mobilizes itself politically and militarily to meet the double crisis of being caught between armed revolutionaries on one side and a displeased Big Brother, the U.S., on the other. Meanwhile, the Tupas interrogate Santore in a secret hideaway, confronting him with his (and the U.S. government's) crimes against the people of Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and now Uruguay.

It becomes clear that AID, along with all the other U.S. programs to "aid" the "underdeveloped" countries, really serves two functions. It plugs the economies of those countries into the U.S. empire through a network of advisors, contracts, and trade agreements, and it props up their anti-popular, pro-U.S. regimes by organizing, outfitting and training secret police forces and paramilitary bodies to repress any effective dissent.

*State of Siege* is a clear indictment of U.S. imperialism. What is not so clear is its view of the Tupamaros, and by extension, its view of revolutionaries and revolution in general.

The film shows the corruption of the Uruguayan regime, its absolute dependence on U.S. money, expertise, and power, and its willingness to use

any form or degree of reactionary violence to preserve itself. Counterposed to this, the film shows the high level of organization and discipline of the Tupamaros, their dedication and idealism, their internal democracy and principles.

Best of all, the contrast between revolutionary violence and reactionary violence comes through loud and clear. The violence of the state is indiscriminate and terroristic in that it is directed at "innocent bystanders" at least as much as at the Tupamaros. The violence of the revolutionaries is minimal, focused on the enemy, and undertaken only after careful consideration of its intended purpose and probable effects.

What Costa-Gavras misses in his view of the Tupamaros is their relationship to the masses of Uruguayan people. He overlooks the broad and militant support the Tupas have and their roots in mass struggles.

For instance, there is a scene in the film where the police call some workers out of a union meeting and mow them down with machine guns. The way it's presented, it looks like just another accusation of Santore for police atrocities. Actually, what happened in 1970 was that when the Tupas kidnapped Mitrione, the entire labor movement of Uruguay (most of whose workers are organized in unions) went out on general strike in support of the Tupamaro action, and the government reacted by going around and jailing or killing the leaders of the most progressive unions.

The point is that the Tupamaros had real, active mass support for their actions. In the film, the people enter into the story only as tools of one side or the other. In order to expropriate a car, the Tupas use a gun, while the cops use an I.D. card, and the people are equally submissive to both, although more sympathetic to the Tupas. The image I was left with was of an elite on the Right--the pigs--battling an elite on the Left--the Tupas--for the allegiance and control of the masses, who are passive and basically neutral.

In general, *State of Siege* is a romantic view of revolutionary action. The revolutionaries are seen as Robin Hoods who are ultimately doomed to impotence in the face of the superior force of the machinery of repression.

Such a view tends to isolate revolutionaries from the people. Peo-

ple may admire such daring heroes, but they would never be foolish enough to join them. At the same time, you're left with the impression that although the revolutionaries are doomed to failure, they'll probably just keep on doing their thing.

This romantic, cynical, and cyclical view of revolution arises out of the petty-bourgeois ("little capitalist") class position of the people who made the film. They are oppressed by imperialism and they recognize its evils (though they focus more on the police terror aspects than on the essential aspects, the economic domination)--but they enjoy certain class privileges. So they waver between supporting revolution and fearing the unrestrained revolutionary potential of the people.

As this attitude comes through in the various "revolution" films and in *State of Siege* in particular, such films tend to generate anger and contempt toward imperialism, and arouse sympathy for revolution, but they then divert those sentiments into channels that tend to neutralize, rather than mobilize the audience.

What we really need now is mass art that helps to engage people in the revolutionary struggle. The first necessity is to show that revolution can succeed.

*State of Siege* is a really enjoyable--a truly "gripping"--film. For a change, an honest person gets to root for somebody worth rooting for, instead of the the usual anti-social punks that are held up as folk heroes to Americans these days.

To the extent that *State of Siege* is more truthful and sympathetic to revolution than the usual commercial films, I say Right On, keep it up. To the extent that it reinforces the current view of the futility of revolution, I say to its makers, Get with the people--the poor and working people who are the real revolutionaries.

Charlie Cox  
Venceremos

## Uruguay Teetering on Brink

Uruguay today is balancing on a thin edge between solid fascism and outright full-scale revolution.

On June 27, President Juan Bordaberry abolished Congress and announced he would rule by decree, jointly with a military Council of State.

This has sparked massive and organized resistance in almost all sectors of the population, from Congressmen of all parties to the National Workers Confederation to the Tupamaro guerrillas.

Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets this month, shouting "down with the dictatorship!" They have been met with tanks, machineguns, gas, hoses and swords.

The country has been washed with strikes, sometimes reaching the proportions of a general strike. Most of the country's labor leaders have gone underground. Some leftist Congressmen have been forced to seek asylum in Argentina.

The coup was the right wing's answer to the domestic problems that plague Uruguay: nearly 100% inflation, unemployment as high as 50%, a wage freeze, domination of the economy by U.S. capital, and urban guerrilla actions by the Tupamaros.



# Guards Beat San Quentin Six In Court

(This account was taken from one written by one of the San Quentin Six)

During pre-trial motions of the San Quentin Six on June 29, The Six were ejected from the courtroom and beaten by prison guards.

The San Quentin Six (Larry Spain, Fleeta Drumgo, Hugo Pinell, Willie Tate, Luis Talamantez and David Johnson) are six Black and Brown prisoners indicted on charges stemming from the events of August 21, 1971, when the Black revolutionary George Jackson was assassinated. They have been charged with various counts of murder, assault, attempted escape and conspiracy.

One main element of this long legal case has been the inability of The Six to get rid of their all-white pig lawyers. These lawyers, in order to qualify to be appointed

by the court, had to be personally known to the court, a resident of Marin County and willing to cooperate with the court in maintaining the orderly appearance of administering "justice."

Because of the strong and continued opposition of The Six to their court-appointed agents, The Six have been repeatedly ejected from the court and kept in the waiting tank while the judge, district attorney and court-appointed agents have continued to hold court and to act out their judicial game. Meanwhile, the audience, held behind a bullet-proof glass shield and surrounded by armed guards, is kept silent and stunned by the court's duplicity and obvious arrogance of power.

During the hearing held in Marin County Superior Court on June 29, The Six were chained in their chairs. A few minutes after the proceedings

were begun, Judge Henry J. Broderick began to pick them out one at a time for removal from the court because of speaking up for themselves and for not allowing their court-appointed agents to have complete run of the legal proceedings.

First Fleeta Drumgo was ejected from the courtroom and put into the holding tank where Spain was being kept. When guards began beating up Drumgo, Spain came to his rescue. The guards then threw him against the wall.

In the next recess Pinell was taken to the holding tank area where guards set upon him.

About 11 a.m. court reconvened, but when Judge Broderick still found the three remaining defendants vocal and not intimidated, he ordered another recess.

Willie Tate was then taken out of the court room and immediately assaulted by the guards. He suffered many abrasions and cuts from having his face smashed up against the wall. Willie Tate is the smallest and shortest of the San Quentin Six, yet his heart is very big.

After Tate, Luis Talamantez was set upon inside the now empty court room. He was grabbed by his leg chains and literally dragged into the back where he was stomped. He suffered deep cuts and bruises on both ankles, wrists, and on the forehead.

Court was reconvened once again and recessed all in a matter of a few minutes. Johnson (the last of The Six remaining in the court room) was ejected from the room. This because Judge Broderick found that Johnson still had his spirit intact and had spoken out in defense of his co-defendants who were now all in the holding tank hurting from their wounds and bruises. The audience at this time could hear "Rock of Ages" being sung and driven home in harmony from the holding tank.

For the next couple of hours, the defendants (all in the holding tank) settled down to wait while the judge held court. After court was adjourned, the San Quentin Six, tired, hurt and hungry, made ready for their return trip to the prison located but a few miles from the Marin Hall of Injustice. As the court door was flung open, a fresh gang of prison guards who had been especially brought over as reinforcements from San Quentin appeared.

One guard reached in and grabbed David Johnson by the hair, yanked him out and slammed the door shut on the other brothers. Then another guard started to club Johnson over the head until Johnson lost consciousness. The lights to the holding tank were turned off so the defendants couldn't see what was happening. Johnson was then dragged across the court chamber out of sight.

The San Quentin Six are presently back at San Quentin in the adjustment center. They possibly face disciplinary action for "assaulting" the guards.

Anyone wishing to write to the San Quentin Six may do so. Address your letter to the individual name and number, San Quentin Prison, Tamal, Calif. 94964.

Johnny L. Spain, P.O. Box B-8672  
Hugo A. Pinell, P.O. Box A-88401  
Luis Talamantez, P.O. Box A-93537  
Fleeta Drumgo, P.O. Box B-10837  
David Johnson, P.O. Box B-16381  
Willie Tate, P.O. Box A-89353

AMERICA'S JUSTICE EMANATES FROM THE BARREL OF A GUN!

## Two De Mau Maus Murdered In Chicago

Two members of the Chicago De Mau Maus, a black veterans organization, have been murdered in Lake County jail in Illinois. Nathaniel Burse and his cellmate Edward Moran were both found strangled in their cells. They along with five other blacks were awaiting trial on numerous murder charges.

Soon after their arrests in October, a nationally publicized press conference was held at which Sheriff Elrod, Police Chief Conlisk, and State Attorney Edward Hanrahan revealed that all their unsolved murder cases had been committed by a band of "aimless revolutionaries who hit usually after they get high on pot." Scare headlines appeared in the newspapers—"Bitter Vets Core of Killer Gang" and "Mau Mau's legacy of Hate." One newspaper called the De Mau Mau's "More fanatical and more indiscriminately violent than the Black Panthers." None of them mentioned that the De Mau Mau is actually a small organization of Black GIs and Veterans fighting racial discrimination and unemployment. They take their name from a Vietnamese phrase meaning "let's get out."

Many people saw the arrests as a vote-getting publicity stunt on the

part of Edward Hanrahan to get himself reelected by arousing racial hysteria. He failed, however, to get reelected.

Burse, one of the dead brothers, said several weeks before his death, "Get it (support work) together because they're going to kill us in here." He wrote his friends, "They are planning on killing me, but I refuse to die. Even if the slave-master does murder us, they never can kill the spirit within us. . . Let there be no misunderstanding--one of two things will happen to me: (I will be) murdered or railroaded."

For the last few weeks, hearings have been conducted in Waukegan in Lake County (where the murders were supposedly committed.) These hearings showed that the State has no eye witnesses. The only testimony was from the same police who arrested and brutally beat the brothers. The two brothers were murdered the day before they were to testify in their own defense.

The day after the brothers were announced dead, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee held a demonstration outside the courthouse and demanded a people's investigation of the murders.



Edward Moran, Jr.



Nathaniel Burse





NBC



CBS



ABC

*"The President and I are happy to announce that the Justice Department has broken the vicious network monopoly over TV programming. Stay tuned for an hour of martial music followed by the Billy Graham Hour and the Ronald Reagan Show."*

## Using the Media for the People's Causes

by Venceremos, Ministry of Information

The purpose of this article is to provide information to peoples' organizations which from time to time want their activities or opinions reported in the news media.

### OVERVIEW

It is important to get a clear view of the role of the print and broadcast media in modern American society. As Marxists we hold that society is divided into two basic classes, the working class and the ruling class, and that all the institutions, programs and agencies that exist serve the interest of one class or the other. The so-called "free press" in American society is basically a tool of the ruling class which is used to propagate a bourgeois world view and bourgeois ideology for the purpose of maintaining the class relations of modern-day capitalism.

Does that mean that everyone who works for the capitalist media is an agent of the bourgeoisie and consequently an enemy of the people? It clearly does NOT mean this. There are class contradictions within the media itself; basically between reporters, photographers and cameramen on the one hand and editors and publishers on the other. Most of the people who work for newspapers and broadcast media are sincere individuals dedicated to gathering information about the world and reporting that information in the form of news.

On the other hand, they do not control the institutions for which they work, and often are forced, whether through direct or indirect pressure, to write their stories in such a way that they will make it past their copy editors and news editors into a final or printed form. Often a reporter will be told that his or her article is "biased," "not newsworthy," or "not timely." This may be nothing more than the political suppression of the reporter's work.

A newspaper is a business enterprise (in our society) and consequently serves almost exclusively the interest of business. No advertiser will sustain a newspaper, TV or radio station which works against the in-

terest of capitalism or provides a working class perspective of the world.

But here again there is a contradiction, for advertisers will only support those media which are consumed by the people. The media must make its news not too obviously biased toward the bourgeoisie, and it must report the explosive events that the people are aware of. (Eventually, for example, the U. S. media was forced to relate Hanoi's version of events because the "government sources" of the U.S. were obviously lying.)

So while it is true that the capitalist press is an instrument of bourgeois class rule, we must work to employ its internal contradictions for the benefit of the masses of the people. Many reporters are on our side in this struggle for it is in their objective class interest. We should end the infantile leftist attitude that "reporters are pigs" and engage in constructive work with these people.

METHODS OF WORK - NEWS RELEASES AND PRESS RELATIONS

The most important element of propaganda work, in relation to the capitalist media, is relations with the reporters of newspapers, radio and TV stations. Peoples' organizations and the Movement in general have relied too heavily in recent years on press conferences rather than ongoing press relations.

Ongoing relations with the working press help to insure that reporters are informed and sympathetic. They may not always be able to write what we'd like to see in print, but at least we can try to prevent information from becoming distorted.

News releases which detail the facts of a particular situation are probably the best way to get information into print or at least provide background information to reporters so that they are acquainted with developing events.

PRESS CONFERENCES: IF YOU MUST GIVE ONE.....

Press conferences are a recent development in the history of media.  
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## Guidelines for Press Conferences

1. Determine if what you have to say is both newsworthy and timely.
2. Never hold a press conference when some other form of contact with the press will do just as well or better. If you have an announcement which is not going to be made meaningless by one or two day's delay, send a release.
3. If at all possible, send a press release several days in advance to give the press time to schedule someone for the conference. The press release should contain no rhetoric but should be an announcement of time, date, place, subject, purpose, sponsoring group and giving a telephone number for questions.
4. Whether or not you have time to send a release, CALL your best contacts a day or two in advance if possible. If you have a release, refer to it.
5. Hold the conference in the most convenient place for both you and the press - the more convenient the location, the more likely media will show up. People in suburban areas should try to use nearby big cities.
6. Make sure the place you choose has the necessary facilities - low background noise, lots of outlets, plenty of room, a photogenic background, etc.
7. PLAN WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO SAY WELL IN ADVANCE. Be well-informed on all aspects of what you're going to talk about and hand out a press release with all the relevant facts and analysis. Don't let the conference get out of hand. If someone asks you something off the subject steer the focus back to where you want it. Adhere closely to the ideas you want to convey and watch for leading questions designed to "get something out of you."
8. Have other people present to talk to reporters and provide background information or go more deeply into elements of the conference.
9. Follow-up: Read the stories, watch the tube and listen to radio. Give reporters both positive and negative criticism. Help them understand what they may have misquoted or garbled.





Illinois Black Panther office after shoot-out

# Serve-the-People Programs: Revolutionary by Themselves?

In October, 1966 the Black Panther Party put forward a ten point platform and program as a tactical approach toward organizing for socialist revolution. The program had demands like, "We want an end to the robbery by the capitalist of the black community" and explained that this was a "modest demand" in the light of four hundred years of oppression and genocide. However "modest" the demand, it was clear it could only be obtained under socialism.

To dramatize and begin implementing the demands, the Panthers put together certain Serve the People programs including Breakfast for Children and armed community patrols (which led to the anti-gun Mulford Bill prohibiting the bearing of arms in public).

The Panthers raised the slogans Serve the People, Off the Pig, and openly used Chairman Mao's Red Book in explaining the need for socialism. As an organized group of black people putting forward these ideas and leading community struggles, the Panthers showed in practice the need and role of a revolutionary party.

The breakfast programs, community armed patrols, demands for full employment were tactics the Party used to raise the level of struggle in the black community to a higher and more organized level of armed struggle, leading to the establishment of socialism.

Just as the Panthers were created by the black rebellions of the 1960's, so were millions of dollars worth of government-provided services. OEO, job training programs, expanded welfare programs--all were developed in response to the rebellions of black people. The government set up these programs in the hopes that they would pacify black people and prevent future uprisings.

In black communities throughout the country these programs operated side by side with the programs led by the Panthers. What the government programs had in common with the Panther programs was that they both provided a service.

In the short run there is no question that the money, job training, food stamps, and Medi-Cal that

the government provided people every month couldn't be matched by the Panthers.

However the black community loved and respected the original programs and struggle led by the Party because they knew that no welfare department could ever meet their needs. The people felt the Panthers were seriously teaching the community by action the ideas and methods of struggle needed to free them forever from welfare lines and hand out programs. The people viewed the Panther programs as examples of what a revolutionary society would do for the people. In other words to satisfy all ten points of the Party's minimum programs the Party was teaching the people the need for the maximum program of socialism through the armed destruction of the capitalist state.

## SHIFTING TO REFORMISM

But these programs along with their strengths also had some real weaknesses. The fact that the Panthers set up these programs often meant that the community became spectators watching someone else fighting for them instead of participants taking an active role in the struggle. This created the seeds of reformism, for the services that the programs provided became primary over the struggle to set up the programs. The programs also became isolated from other political struggle because they became the primary work of the Party rather than being one form of political work along with factory organizing, work in the schools, and other anti-imperialist struggles.

Later, after the split in the Panthers, the Serve the People programs changed into Survival Programs, and became the way in which people could "survive pending revolution." The Panthers stopped talking about how to make the revolution and defeat imperialism; they stopped talking about the need to seize power; armed struggle was forgotten.

The programs in isolation by themselves were only charity-type programs. Underlying this change to openly reformist and revisionist (reformist and pretending to be Marx-

ist) programs was the shift from seeing the programs as a tactic for raising consciousness to seeing them as a theory for revolution. The Panthers believed that by merely providing the people with a service (free food, shoes, medical care), the programs would come under government attack. They believed that in the process of defending the programs, people would see the need for armed struggle and socialism sometime off in the future. This meant that the Panthers planned to wait for the government to educate the people, no longer seeing that it was their role to educate people about armed struggle and to lead them towards socialism. Instead of teaching the A, B, C's of how to fight back, the Panther programs began teaching the people the A, B, C's of how to tolerate being oppressed.

## THE PRACTICE OF VENCEREMOS

Venceremos in its early years employed the Panther model in setting up Venceremos College and with the help of other people, the People's Medical Center in Redwood City.

In the period when the Oakland Panthers were developing reformist give away programs (free shoes and groceries), Venceremos developed a different model which we hoped would be revolutionary.

We believed that revolutionary Serve the People programs served two functions: they exposed the inability of capitalism to meet the needs of the people and they provided people with experience in struggle against the state.

In Palo Alto, an overwhelmingly white community not generally subject to the day to day heavy repression of black communities, Venceremos began to organize community people to struggle directly with the city government to set up a community-controlled drug program and a parent-controlled childcare center. The strategy was to begin by building these programs on funds seized directly from the state. Rather than set up programs to use as bases for struggle, the very setting up of our programs would mean the victory of a battle with the state. By entering into direct conflict with the city government for control of programs using city funds, the people were actively serving themselves by organized struggle led by a socialist organization. Meanwhile Venceremos continued to organize against imperialism in workplaces and schools as well as the community.

The drug program, which has been in operation for more than a year, emphasizes that drug addiction is not an isolated problem but is connected to other ways that people have no control over their lives. The staff and volunteers work with victims of the plague on various political struggles, from Wounded Knee to prisoner support work, for in this way a person begins to change society and exert some control over his or her own life.

## THE CITY COUNCIL ATTACKS

In direct response to the drug program and the seizing of city money to create it, the city council and city manager's office have embarked on a plan that they hope will keep the newly funded child care centers from becoming like the drug center.

*continued on page 10*





*An upper-class group of opium smokers in Hong Kong.*

# China Doesn't Have A Drug Problem

When the People's Republic of China was established in 1949 the drug problem was serious, especially in South China. In some areas of Honan province, for example, 90% of the households had at least one opium smoker, and 80-90% of the population was addicted.

The Chinese communists were able to wipe out drugs as a major problem within the first 5 or 6 years after defeating Chiang K'ai-shek's armies. They were able to do this because they understood that opium addiction came from a social, political and economic structure in which certain groups could best enrich themselves by growing and selling drugs, and other groups were forced to consume drugs in order to deal with oppressive living and working conditions. The Chinese believed that this social structure was the result of foreign activities in China along with feudal aspects of traditional Chinese society. They saw that wiping out drugs would involve more than just curing addiction. It would mean solving basic economic and political problems and transforming China into a socialist society. The anti-drug campaign, therefore, had to be tied to the mass political movements that were vital to the reconstruction and transformation of China.

The first example of this was in 1950 when the fight against drugs was linked up with the Agrarian Reform campaign. In February, 1950

Chou En-lai issued a circular that declared cultivation, manufacture, traffic and use of drugs illegal. It laid out the need for anti-narcotics committees in all areas, cautioned anti-drug workers from going too fast in stopping opium growing where people had no other way of making money, called for the registration of addicts within a certain time, and ordered the establishment of clinics to help cure poor people with serious addictions. At the same time, under the Agrarian Reform campaign, land holdings and use were being investigated so that large land holdings could be split up and redistributed to the peasants. This was the perfect time to check how much land was being used for opium and to do something about it.

However, the Communist Party began to realize that more concentrated effort would be needed to deal with the drug problem. Cadre began to encourage greater mass participation on the local levels. They also stressed that the drug problem was a symptom of the old society and must be seen as a political problem.

They began to increase pressure on the people involved in drug traffic and masses of peasants and workers, in particular those involved with railroads, shipping agencies, and shops, were mobilized to inspect transport routes. They concentrated first on large and medium cities, important communication centers,

frontier posts, and coastal defense areas in order to cut off smuggling. They then moved into smaller cities and finally into isolated rural areas to stop any opium cultivation still going on. During this time, ex-addicts played an important role in exposing pushers.

A parallel task was the registration and cure of addicts. The cure program usually combined a short period of medical supervision for cutting off the original physical dependency on drugs with a longer program of education and productive participation in society. In most cases, addicts were expected to end their physical dependence within 10-15 days. Non-opiate drugs were used in cures at clinics and hospitals for as short a time as possible and under central supervision.

The really important part of the cure involved education and participation in production--making sure that an addict had productive work to do, that he was given support by others, and that he understood the nature and significance of his addiction.

General guidelines were drawn up for punishing drug activities. Pushers were punished more heavily than addicts. Pushers who didn't live exclusively from opium and gave proof of starting new, productive work, were leniently treated. Since the objective of drug suppression was not to destroy individuals but to transform society, the Chinese adopted a policy of "rigid inspection and lenient disposal."

To summarize, the success of the Chinese in the fight against drugs was based on three things. First, the masses of Chinese workers and peasants were mobilized by the Communist Party to participate in the anti-drug campaign. Second, as a result of education by the Party, the people understood the political significance of the anti-drug struggle. They came to understand that the same people and conditions which encourage drug use had also made life miserable for Chinese working people. Finally, addicts, as well as growers and pushers, were given an alternative work which made sense to them and was beneficial to their own lives and society as a whole. This was only possible through a reorganization of power in society so that everybody worked and what was produced was shared according to peoples' work.



*Working conditions are clean and safe*

## Inside a Cuban Factory

*From Workers World*

Before I went to Cuba this spring with the Venceremos Brigade, I had worked at General Electric's big Hotpoint plant in Chicago, producing along with 4,000 other workers, washers, dryers, refrigerators, and ranges. In Cuba, we had the opportunity to visit a large factory near Santa Clara which also produces appliances, primarily refrigerators. In this article I'd like to contrast the situation of workers in these two plants.

At Hotpoint working conditions are miserable. The pressroom, where I worked, is filthy, the air literally saturated with grease. The ventilation problems are compounded by the

fact that layers of conveyor belts begin just above the workers' heads, leaving very little room to breathe. The overcrowdedness is added to by the piles of scrap and stock which are left lying all over the narrow aisles; constituting a severe safety hazard.

The Cuban factory is kept very clean. Ventilation is excellent, and the high ceilings and wide aisles allow the air to circulate freely.

At Hotpoint the sharp clang of the presses often results in partial loss of hearing on the part of older workers. If you try to reduce this risk by wearing earplugs, you may fail to hear the cry for help of a

*continued on page 12*



"POLITICAL POWER GROWS OUT OF THE BARREL OF A GUN"---MAO TSE TUNG "POLITICAL POWER GROWS OUT OF THE BARREL OF A GUN"---MAO TSE TUNG



# Guns and Politics

BY KENT HUTCHINGS

With this issue, "Guns and Politics" will once again be a regular column. I hope you will find it informative and useful. And, if you think I could be doing something different or better, please write and tell me.

The purpose of this column is to explain why you should be prepared to engage in armed self-defense, what weapons and supplies you should have, and how you should use them.

At its root, the question of armed self-defense is a question of self-preservation. Almost every human being, no matter what their politics, will defend themselves with whatever weapon is handy when their life or the lives of their family and friends are threatened.

When armed self-defense is guided by a revolutionary consciousness, like in Vietnam, it can be transformed from a question of self-preservation for an individual to self-preservation for an entire class or nation.

But whether you're a revolutionary or not, you need to be concerned about your own survival, particularly because there are so many armed madmen running around these days, shooting at everything that moves.

I'm talking about the police--local, state, and federal.

You might be aware that in April of this year, in Collinsville, Illinois, agents of the Federal Office of Drug Abuse and Law Enforcement broke into two houses without search or arrest warrants, tore them apart looking for dope, terrorized and threatened to kill the residents,

and left when they realized that they had the wrong addresses.

The people who lived in these houses were white, respectable, hard-working families who didn't smoke dope or read Mao Tse-tung. They were what Nixon likes to call "Middle Americans," people who might never have even questioned any of the activities of the government.

If they weren't safe, who is?

The truly terrifying aspect of these raids is not the fact that they happened or the brutality and arrogance of the agents. The terrifying thing is that there are thousands upon thousands of this kind of raid every year.

The owners of one of the houses were Herbert and Evelyn Giglotto. They were so upset and so naive that they publically demanded money for the damage to their house and the anguish they suffered. Their willingness to talk to the press is perhaps the most important reason why this raid was so well publicized when so many other, similar, raids have gone unreported.

As a result of all the publicity, the Giglottes were deluged with letters from victims of similar raids and from other outraged citizens all across the country.

The Giglottes also became the victims of a concerted campaign to silence them. Their friends and neighbors were visited by men carrying photographs of Herbert and Evelyn, asking if these people knew anything about them. They've been stopped and had their cars checked "to see if they were stolen." Some-

one spread the word in a local bar that their lives were in danger. Someone sideswiped both of their cars.

Out of her experience and from letters she got, Evelyn Giglotto reached some conclusions.

"What really digs and gnaws at me, especially from the correspondence we have received from people, is that it's not just us. This is not an isolated case. It's happening all over the United States.

"There are Black people in the community. This happens to them every day. They live with it constantly.

"I asked the man, I said what would have happened if the gun had gone off and my husband was killed. And the man said, 'Well, the government makes mistakes, ma'am.'

"Too many people are willing to say O.K., this happened, let's just turn our head and walk away because it won't happen again.

"We're living in a nation where everybody says 'Yay, yay, the United States.' Well, I'm probably more American than a lot of people. But this happened to us, and we're middle-class Americans. It could happen to you, to anybody."

The solution to this kind of assault and intimidation is to be prepared to resist. If everyone were armed and knew how to use their weapons and were prepared to use them, the Gestapo punks who seem to think that the Bill of Rights was printed on toilet paper would get a lot more polite and a lot less eager to come busting into people's homes.

And, if we were all armed and knew how to use our weapons and were prepared to use them in armed self-defense of the oppressed people of the United States, we would have taken a giant step along the path to making a socialist revolution that would put a permanent end to the activities of our home-grown Gestapo--as well as providing for our other basic human rights and needs.

## Serve the People... *continued from page 8*

First, they are refusing non-residents access to the program unless local industry helps pay for the program. This means that people from surrounding Third World and working communities who work in Palo Alto but can't afford to live there can't use the programs or control them.

Second, in an effort to isolate revolutionary ideas from the program, they refused to allow any Venceremos member to be on the task force that developed the child care proposal. Rather than having the program controlled by an independent board, the way the drug center is, the city wants to hire

a "community mobilizer" to "oversee" the program. One of the reasons for the political orientation of the drug center has been that its board is made up of progressive community people, including four Venceremos members, and operates independently from the city council.

They are now insisting that all staff members on the board be removed, which is a direct attack on Mike Fox, a Venceremos cadre who is on the board as well as the staff. They threaten that unless this is done, they will cut the program's funding off. This is clearly a warning to the child care program to keep politics and

revolutionaries out of it or not to have any program at all.

If you look at these current moves, you can see that the city recognizes the threat of a Serve the People program that is not isolated from struggle and socialist ideas. They are desperately trying to reduce the child care program's purpose to solely "providing a service," so that the child care centers will have the same pacifying effect and purpose as the OEO-type programs.

### BUILDING TOWARDS SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Venceremos will support the drug program's resistance to city council attacks, as well as organize people to struggle against the council's attempts to destroy the purpose of the child care program. The more people engage in political struggle with the city and successfully seize funds, the more the power of the people and the people's institutions will rival the power of the pigs and their reactionary institutions. As Venceremos shows people the methods of struggle, socialism as the ultimate way to control our lives and armed struggle as a way to win socialism become less slogans and more a reality in people's minds.

The establishment of Serve the People programs through attacking the state is happening elsewhere,

In New York the Young Lords successfully led the Puerto Rican community in seizing Lincoln Hospital when New York city officials refused to meet the medical needs of the Puerto Rican community.

In communities poorer than Palo Alto, this form of struggle almost always moves things to a higher level of militancy. A Serve the People housing program arose in New York when the Squatters Movement seized city-owned buildings. They began living in them and arming themselves against police attacks.

When our struggle moves to a higher level, we may see things like the type of Serve the People acts happening in South America.

In Uruguay the Tupamaros hijacked meat trucks on Christmas day and handed out Christmas turkeys to families unable to buy them. This act in connection with their other work in the community, in workplaces, and on campuses has strengthened their ties with the masses of people and drawn increasing numbers of people into the revolutionary ranks.

We believe that in this country revolutionary Serve the People programs, in conjunction with other forms of revolutionary activity, are one tactic in raising people's consciousness of the need for socialism and in bringing them into the struggle for it.

*Palo Alto Venceremos*





The Good Old Eye Poke

"When we fight, we first use bullets; when the bullets are gone we use bayonets; when the bayonets are dull, we use the rifle barrel; when this is broken, we use our fist; when our fists are broken, we bite."

--emblem worn by the "Big Sword Unit" during the Boxer Rebellion in China

There are many mistaken ideas around about self-defense. One of these is that all you need is one strong finger and a gun. Anyone, however, can think of a number of situations where a gun isn't a practical or wise recourse. There are also situations where guns are not available, in jail for instance.

Another wrong idea is that a small, weak person must be defenseless against a large, strong one. A small, weak person can overcome a larger person, but there is one catch. That catch is that one must be transformed from a weak victim into a strong, capable person. This transformation is no metaphysical secret trick or a snap course. When dealing with a physical aggression or any material situation, what is needed is a material, physical solution. That means regular hard work to overcome our weak points and build on our strong ones. Well, where do we start?

Physical combat, this is basically what self-defense is. It is based on three aspects.

I. Attitude. This is probably the most important part because without the right attitude you probably won't deal with the other parts. First, you must be prepared to inflict serious injury, or even death, on your attacker. (You may not, but then again you might.) If you worry about the well being of your attacker, you're lost! Only someone with a vast superiority over their opponent should consider "going light" on them.

*"If you worry about the well being of your attacker, you're lost!"*

The other part of the right attitude is to remain calm. Don't freak out, don't forget everything. Getting excited wastes energy and shows your weaknesses to the attacker. If you must work off nervousness, make an aggressive noise, yell, or gesture (You know, call the guy a mother fucker), followed by action, of course.

An effective exercise is a simple Yoga style deep breathing exercise, concentrating on your abdomen. In the martial arts this is called centering your Ki. This is also useful in focusing energy and overcoming fatigue and pain. The most important thing to remem-

# The Politics Of Unarmed Self-Defense

ber is that you have an absolute right to defend yourself from any attacker.

II. Conditioning. No matter how well trained or angry you are, if your body won't perform it's all for naught. The idea that a small, weak person can subdue a larger one is a metaphysical idea. A small, strong person, however, can be trained to

stretch one arm straight in front of you, careful not to lock your elbow, the other hand slightly touching the top of your forearm. The movement consists of moving the back arm along the top of one arm until it is outstretched, at the same time pulling the other arm back until it is touching the forearm of the other arm. Try to increase speed as ability in-

*"The most important thing to remember is that you have an absolute right to defend yourself from any attacker."*

put anyone away. Also, someone who looks strong and confident doesn't make a very promising victim.

Ten to 15 minutes a day is all that is needed to improve one's condition and get into shape. (This varies, of course, depending on what else one does. For example, a secretary may need to do more pushups and a construction worker will need more stretching.)

A good basic program is a) stretching to the front, back and both sides (10-20 each way); b) push-ups, as many as possible, on your knuckles if you can; c) sit-ups, as many as possible; d) lay on stomach with arms straight ahead. Raise arms and legs as high as possible as often as possible; 3) running, skipping rope or running in place, etc. Start easy but work up quickly. A good goal is 3 3-minute rounds of wind sprints or rope skipping, with a one-minute rest in between. Running is the best over all exercise, without which all others become less effective--it develops stamina.

III. Technique. The basic rule of technique is to make every move count. Don't waste energy by flailing or throwing blows that do not damage. For example, slaps, blows to the shoulders or chest do little good at all. One aimed blow with focused energy is better than 20 ineffective blows. Learn one punch, strike or kick and practice it. Make it hard and if you can land it, it's all you need. Better yet, learn it well and then learn something else. Learning means practice, many times until it becomes instinctual.

Perhaps one of the best, most effective techniques to learn first is the eye poke. If done correctly it will immediately disable the attacker

creates. This movement needs to be practiced several times a day so that you develop the coordination, focus and strength so that it can be used effectively.

To sum up, remember: You have a right to defend yourself! Remain calm and make every movement count. Get yourself in condition and practice at least one technique so that you can defend yourself.

## Feds Round up 12,000 in LA

Within the past month the Immigration and Naturalization Service has rounded up more than 12,000 persons of Mexican descent in the Los Angeles area.

The INS has conducted Gesta-po-like raids throughout the barrios. They have cordoned off the streets and whisked Chicanos away without even allowing them to change from their night clothing.

Snatched from their beds in states of drowsiness, they have been separated from their children and swiftly carted away.

Day after day, Chicanos have been stopped on the streets and asked for their identification papers. If the INS members do not like their answers, they are shoved into a waiting van.

More than 1,600 persons recently demonstrated in downtown LA against the massive deportation drive against Mexicans and the Rodino Bill now pending before the U.S. Senate. The demonstration was sponsored by La Raza Unida Party, the Brotherhood of General Workers (CASA) and the United Farmworkers Union.

The Rodino Bill sets penalties for employers who knowingly hire aliens to work in the fields or factories. Critics of the bill have argued that the penalties are only token fines, which employers can get out of paying if they get the worker to sign a statement. The bill does not prevent employers from hiring aliens at substandard wages. Moreover the bill discriminates against Mexicans who immigrate into the U.S. It says that persons from the Western Hemisphere countries living in the U.S. without the necessary documents must return to their home countries for one and a half to two years before they are eligible to enter legally.

and enable you to get away--the ultimate defense.

In this technique your fingers are either straight, careful not to lock the joints, or slightly curled, like a claw. Focus the movement so the energy is concentrated in the blow. You aim slightly below the eyes as the natural reflex of the attacker will be to tip his head back. Then, if you miss the eyes you will hit either the nose or the Adams apple, both very vulnerable and sensitive areas.

To practice this movement stand in a solid position (stance). (It is helpful to face a mirror to make sure your movements are correct.) Then



## Cuba *continued from page 9*

fellow workers in trouble. The presses at the Cuban plant are acoustically muffled so that the dangerous noises are eliminated.

### SPEED-UP VS. SAFETY

The production lines at Hotpoint move at a dangerously rapid rate, so that workers missing a thumb or several fingers are not an uncommon sight. The piece rate system - your pay depends on how much you produce - encourages workers to take reckless chances. At the Cuban plant the lines move at a safe, steady pace. The safety of the workers is given top priority, since safety standards and inspections are in the hands of the workers themselves, through their union committees. The result is that the accident rate is an extremely low 0.2 percent.

If a Cuban worker does have an accident, there is a large staff of doctors and nurses ready to treat him or her. This medical staff is available to treat all the workers' health problems, not only those related to work. Like all medical care in socialist Cuba, these services are free. In the Hotpoint plant, there was no doctor or nurse on duty during my shift. Workers who got hurt had

to be driven over a mile away to a nurse at another plant.

### VACATIONS AND SICK PAY

At Hotpoint workers get no paid sick days till they've been there five years. In Cuba all workers get paid when they are out sick. I got one week's vacation at Hotpoint. The Cuban workers all get one month's vacation. In addition, women workers get three months off with pay when they are pregnant, and when they return, daycare for their children is provided free at the plant.

Advancement to skilled jobs at Hotpoint was limited in most cases to white workers who played along with the foreman. At the Santa Clara plant, all workers wishing to improve their skills may take free technical courses offered right in the plant, and they are evaluated regularly by test. This means that all workers who wish to advance to more skilled jobs can do so, whatever their background.

Besides technical classes, courses from primary to university level are available free to the Cuban workers. Social and recreational services are also available at the factory, including a baseball field and other athletic facilities, films, barber and beauty shops, and lounges. At Hotpoint we were told not to

loiter after punching out, and the security cops made sure we didn't.

The Cuban workers make all the important decisions which affect their working lives. They decide upon production quotas at general assemblies and evaluate the plan every month. This year they have raised the production quota to ~~40,000~~ 40,000 refrigerators from last year's 30,000. They are in charge of plant safety. Prizes, such as appliances and free vacations, are awarded and determined by workers' assemblies. The plant administration is made up of representatives from the trade union, the party, and the party youth, all of whose members are elected by the workers. This control by the workers contrasts sharply with the situation at Hotpoint and at all capitalist factories, where workers' demands are met only through difficult struggles.

The most important difference between the Cuban and US factories is the attitude of the workers. The Cuban workers know that they are producing appliances to meet the needs of their people, and they work hard because they know that their work is a necessary and noble part of developing Cuba's socialist society. We workers in the US also work hard, but we do so because we're forced to, because the company wants to squeeze as much profit out of us as it can.

a reporter to another press conference.)

On the other hand, if people giving a press conference have something newsworthy to say and are disciplined about their presentation, their press conferences will not only get the message across, but will make the reporters feel that their time was well spent.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET REVOLUTIONARY ANALYSIS INTO THE CAPITALIST PRESS IF THE PRESS CONFERENCE PROVIDES NEWSWORTHY AND TIMELY INFORMATION AT THE SAME TIME.

(For reprints of this article and a list of media contacts in the San Francisco Bay Area, write to the Venceremos newspaper.)

## Media *continued from page 7*

A combination of the military and semi-military briefings given during the Second World War and the Korean War, the rapid decline of competition between reporters, and the expansion of the broadcast media, especially television, helped give rise to the present-day press conference.

Press conferences are concessions by the media to their own laziness and technical requirements. By attending a press conference the media insure that each reporter will get the same story and therefore competition is eliminated.

THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL PRESS CONFERENCE AND GETTING REPORTERS TO KEEP COMING IS TO HAVE SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY AND TIMELY TO SAY. A

press conference might be held to announce an upcoming major event, to comment on something that has already happened, or to release facts that the reporters do not already know about.

Often a press conference is called by an individual or group to comment on something that has already happened. This is the kind of conference that reporters dread the most. The reason is that unless the person being interviewed is someone like the President, his or her opinions are hardly ever newsworthy. If all that is offered to the press at a conference is opinion and speculation, reporters will feel that they have wasted their time since they have nothing to write about. (Do this about twice, and you insure that you will never get

## Cannery *continued from back page*

have been suspended from work, lost their jobs, or gotten only a few weeks work each year. "Wherever the rank-and-file has gotten strong within the locals, the Teamster Union has struck back by placing the locals in trusteeship and appointing their own officers." Cannery Workers Committee members have also faced harassment and terror. "The King City chairman of the Committee had his dog shot and his door kicked in. His family was harassed, and he was out of work for 11 months. He was forced to move his family out of

state." Retaliation by operators and the Teamsters is not confined to the cannery workers. In one instance, the Sacramento Urban Coalition, which was set up by business, political and religious figures to deal with community problems, had its money cut off and was destroyed because it assisted the Committee in getting before governmental agencies. It turned out that some of the businessmen supporting the Coalition were large cannery owners who quickly moved to stop the Committee by dissolving the Coalition.

Despite these attacks, inaction by government agencies, and the racism and corruption of the Teamsters the Committee keeps going. Just recently it has started an organizing effort outside the Sacramento and Central Valleys, trying to reach cannery workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and in southern California. Reyes noted that "we started out as the Mexican-American Cannery Workers Committee, but after a while we dropped Mexican-American, since we find that our work is for everybody -- Chicanos, Blacks, Asians, and whites. Recently some of the biggest fights in Sacramento have been on behalf of white workers."

Up to this point in its work the Committee hasn't had contact with

Chicano workers' groups outside California, but it does know that others are doing the same thing in other states. Indeed, the Cannery Workers Committee is very much like the Obreros Unidos Independientes at the Del Monte Company canneries in Crystal City, Texas. There, Chicano workers fighting against operator and Teamster Union practices have filed a decertification petition with the National Labor Relations Board as the first step in getting rid of the Teamsters. Someday this may be the same route the Cannery Workers Committee will have to follow. However as Reyes concluded, "We have a lot of work to do. We need to educate our people about their rights--their civil rights, bargaining rights, unemployment, immigration and the like. Then we'll be able to move."

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## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

"MASTERS MUST BE STOPPED"

I am delighted to discover that there are people who feel the same way as I do about liberation. What is of even greater interest to me is the fact that not everyone is just sitting around. They are really doing something about the system under which we are molded. . . .

While in prison I learned to survive in a living hell! I am now in prison for possession of drugs (5 to 37 years), a sentence which is unfounded and illegal. I studied law, and for three long, hard years I tried to get an honest hearing through the courts, but without success. I was jailed on April 22, 1967. . . .

On October 23, 1972, I took the only available avenue left for me. I ESCAPED from my enslavement and cage. For many months I searched throughout this country for an un-

derground railroad to freedom in another country. On May 4, 1973, I was recaptured. . . .

I believe very much in what you are doing. But I caution you in believing it can be without taking great risk. The ruling class is not going to give up what they have fought so diligently for. One can print and rap all one wants, and that will only get one so far with so many people. There are others who are out to destroy not only our bodies but our minds, and it is these people who enslave us, who will use any method necessary to achieve that goal. It is the masters who must be stopped. . . .

VENCEREMOS! from an Ohio Prison Brother and native Californian.

Bob Creager, B.H.  
P.O. Box 787-126185  
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

## Mental Hospital "Rockefeller's Answer To Attica"

condensed from the New York City Star

"We Charge Genocide." That was the title of a letter that prisoners at Dannemora, New York, sent to the MIDNIGHT SPECIAL, a prisoners' newspaper, last November. They wanted to warn the public that the new "Adirondack Correctional Treatment and Evaluation Center" being set up at Dannemora State Hospital was in fact a new type of prison for political prisoners. Dannemora, the prisoners charged, was Rockefeller's answer to Attica—a so-called "behavior modification" center designed to brainwash the leadership of the prison reform movement throughout the state prison system.

Over the past few months the Department of Corrections has made moves to transfer most of the better known political prisoners inside New York State prisons to Dannemora. Most of the leading members of the Attica People's Party, an organization inside Attica that is represented on the inmate council, have already received "nomination" for the program.

Sixteen Black and Puerto Rican inmates at Great Meadows Correctional Facility at Comstock, New York are also scheduled to be transferred to Dannemora. Among them are Eduardo ("Pancho") Cruz, Luis Martinez, Jose Gonzales, and Tony Vasquez who organized the Concerned Puerto Rican Committee inside the prison. They were active in a strike at Comstock last February and also filed a lawsuit against Governor Rockefeller and other prison officials. Pancho Cruz, who had been involved in organizing for the independence of Puerto Rico outside of jail, was told by the warden that he was being transferred because he "has a hang-up on Puerto Rican culture."

Martin Sostre, a black revolutionary framed on drug charges, has also been nominated for the program.

He has already spent many years in solitary as a result of his political reputation and his activities as a jailhouse lawyer. He has challenged the all-white composition of the parole board and in one of his many lawsuits successfully forced the state of New York to recognize Islam as a religion and provide facilities for its practice in state prisons. Recently he successfully sued Rockefeller over prison conditions.

Protests from prisoners and outside groups have forced the Department of Corrections to suspend the transfers of both Sostre and Cruz.

Dannemora is to a large extent modelled on the STRESS program at Vacaville (see VENCEREMOS III, 5 & 6) and the START program at Springfield, Missouri (see VENCEREMOS III, 7).

Starting in the fall of 1972, prisoners accused of "disruptive, dangerous behavior" began to be sent to the facilities at Dannemora. At the end of an evaluation period of four to six weeks, prisoners are separated into basically two groups: those who agree to submit to the program and accept whatever "therapy" their keepers can devise, and those who refuse.

Those who refuse are then placed in what is known as the "Prescription Correction Control Program"—indefinite isolation in strip cells with or without adjoining cages (exercise areas).

Because the Dannemora program has only been in operation for a few months, no one knows precisely what form of "therapy" will be imposed on prisoners. Ex-commissioner Oswald has denied the use of psychosurgery, electric shock or drug therapy, although prison guards have told prisoners to expect those treatments when they are transferred to Dannemora.

Prison support groups throughout New York are now trying to publicize the Dannemora program and prevent the transfer of political inmates.

WHAT CEASEFIRE!!

I was stationed on the USS aircraft carrier Ranger CVA-61, Oct. 16-June 20. I just got off the boat yesterday. This after the "cease fire" had been signed, right?

We were about 50 miles NNE of Danang when I was up on the flight deck working on a plane, you know, everything cool, watching the fishing boats. You could barely see them. I don't know how far away they were.

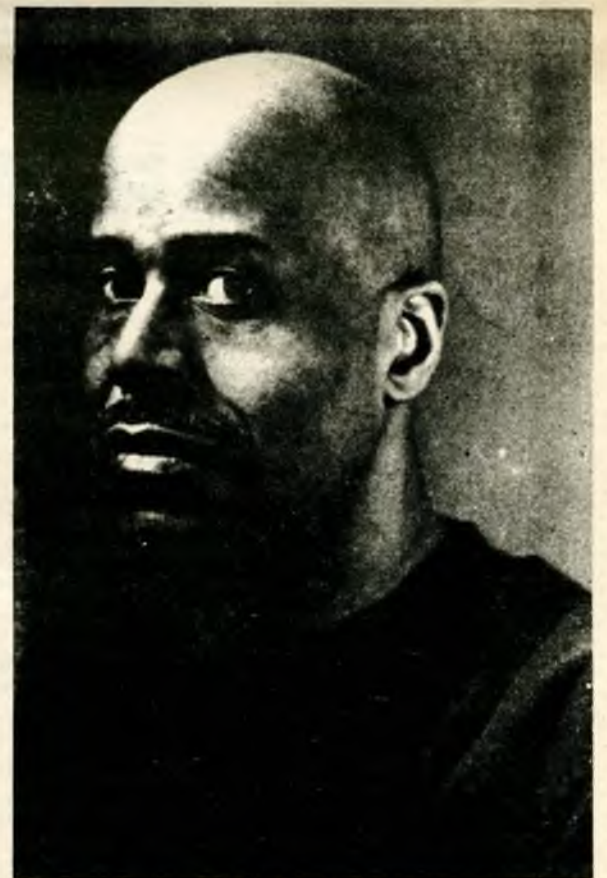
All of a sudden the 5-inch guns start pivoting and they go off and poof, no fishing boat. You can't tell the difference between north and south fishing boats, you know, and there'd been no hassle, and this is the cease fire, right?

That isn't the only instance. Don't let them fool you, the war isn't over. I saw that happen three times, real small boats. They probably killed three people each time.

Before we invaded Cambodia, a friend of mine in the Army, in helicopter gunnery on a Huey Cobra, was flying over Cambodia every day, dropping bombs that let out darts 100 feet over the ground, over a 100 yard area, one dart each square inch.

That's one reason Cambodia got into it. We were messing around in Cambodia. We're using the same amount of bombs on the ship after the war as before, just switched over to Cambodia.

Name withheld by request



Martin Sostre

## Detroit Court Bans Psychosurgery

A Detroit court has ruled that experimental psychosurgery may not be performed on persons confined against their will in state institutions, even when a person's consent is formally obtained.

This precedent-setting decision could limit brain surgery programs in prisons and mental hospitals around the country.

The judges stated that consent is meaningless when the person is living in "an inherently coercive atmosphere" that through the pressures it imposes deprives the patient or prisoner of any real choice.



# VENCEREMOS PROGRAM

We stand for government by the poor and working people. The revolution and the new socialist society will be led by the proletariat, the most oppressed people--Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, poor whites, people on the street, all those who must either sell their labor to live, live off unemployment or welfare, or end up in jail or the army.

The proletariat must lead the rest of the working class and all other people oppressed by U.S. imperialism to overthrow the rich, who now own and control all the institutions of the so-called United States of America, and seize these institutions for the people.

Only the dictatorship of the proletariat and its allies can fully satisfy our five basic demands, but we will work to achieve each and every one of them through the day to day struggles of the people:

## 1. DECENT FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING, WORK, FREE MEDICAL CARE, AND GOOD EDUCATION FOR EVERY PERSON IN THE U.S. AND THROUGHOUT ALL THE WORLD.

As the wealthiest country in the world, the U.S. has the resources and capability right now to provide a decent standard of living for all its citizens. The rip-off of the world must end and be replaced by true international solidarity based on restitution of the people's stolen property. Everybody has a right to decent, safe, meaningful work. We will not tolerate a medical system based on profit. We demand an education which exposes the lies and oppression created by this corrupt system, teaches the true heroic history of the oppressed people, and allows each person to develop their full potential.

## 2. EQUAL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. AN END TO ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL OPPRESSION.

We demand equal pay for equal work, free 24-hour-a-day child care centers, free and non-discriminatory education that teaches our true history and the skills we need to determine our own destinies, control of our own bodies, including birth control and free abortion if desired but excluding involuntary abortion and compulsory sterilization (genocide).

There must be an end to discrimination within industry, educational institutions, the home, the mass media, and in everyday social life. All forms of sexual oppression must end, including all laws governing sexual practice among consenting people.

## 3. PEOPLE'S JUSTICE. AN END TO THE TYRANNY BY THE RICH MINORITY OVER THE OPPRESSED MAJORITY OF COLOR AND POOR AND WORKING WHITE PEOPLE.

We believe that trial by a jury of peers means that all trials must be held in the immediate community, and judges and juries be people who live in the community directly.

We want direct community control of police, meaning all police live in the community they patrol and be chosen by the community itself.

We want the mass of people to bear arms, and the police, as servants of the people, not be allowed to bear arms.

We want all Third World, working class people, and youth now imprisoned, to be set free because the overwhelming majority of them have not been tried by their peers. They have received only injustice from this system. Free All Political Prisoners.

The people must smash all the forms of developing fascism, including the gestapo tactical squads, no-knock and conspiracy laws, wiretaps, injunctions, grand juries, Red squads, state and federal anti-subversive committees, and the various brands and varieties of secret police.

## 4. AN END TO THE DRAFT AND AN END TO A PROFESSIONAL STANDING MILITARY IN THE U.S.

No one should be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not kill other poor and oppressed peoples who, like us, are the victims of U.S. imperialism.

We support the just struggles of American servicemen who are struggling within the military against the oppressor.

To assure freedom and justice in the U.S. and the rest of the world, the revolution must abolish the standing army in the U.S. and create a People's Liberation Army that serves the people.



## 5. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS AND PEOPLES.

Within the U.S., the Black people, Chicano people, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, and the people of Hawaii each constitutes an oppressed nation. As such, each of these peoples has the right to self-determination. This includes the right to form a separate nation-state, if they so desire, and to have any and all kinds of self-government that nation-states are entitled to. If any of these peoples chooses to secede from the U.S. empire, we will support their secessionist struggle by all necessary means and with our lives.

There are other oppressed minority peoples--including Chinese-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Latinos, Eskimos, Filipinos, etc.--who have the right to control their own communities and are entitled to regional autonomy and full democratic rights. We pledge to support their struggles by all necessary means and with our lives.

# PROGRAMA DE VENCEREMOS

Insistimos en un gobierno de los pobres y de los obreros. La revolución y la nueva sociedad socialista serán conducidas por el proletariado, los más oprimidos--los Negros, Chicanos, Puertorriqueños, Americanos nativos, Americanos Asiáticos, blancos pobres, los que viven en la calle, todos aquellos que o están obligados a vender su trabajo para ganarse la vida, o se mantienen del seguro o la asistencia social, o terminan en la cárcel o en el ejército.

El proletariado tiene que conducir al resto de la clase obrera y a todo el pueblo oprimido por el imperialismo yanqui para derrocar a los ricos, quienes en la actualidad son los dueños y controlan todas las instituciones de los llamados EE. UU.A., y tomar estas instituciones para el pueblo.

La dictadura del proletariado y sus aliados es el único camino para satisfacer las siguientes cinco reivindicaciones básicas; sin embargo trabajaremos para realizar estas reivindicaciones a través de las luchas cotidianas del pueblo:

## 1. ALIMENTOS, ROPA, VIVIENDA, TRABAJO, ASISTENCIA MEDICA GRATUITA, Y UNA BUENA EDUCACION PARA TODA PERSONA EN LOS EE. UU. A. Y POR TODO EL MUNDO.

Siendo el país más rico del mundo los EE.UU.A. tienen los recursos y la capacidad---en este momento---de proveer a todos sus ciudadanos un nivel de vida decente. El pillaje del mundo tiene que acabarse y sustituirse por una solidaridad verdaderamente internacional basada en la restitución al pueblo de todo aquello que le ha sido robado. Todo el mundo tiene derecho a un trabajo decente, seguro y de sentido. No toleraremos servicios médicos que se basan en la ganancia. Pedimos una educación que revele las mentiras y la opresión creadas por este sistema corrupto, una enseñanza que proporcione la verdadera e heroica historia de los pueblos oprimidos y que permita a cada uno desarrollar toda su humanidad.

## 2. IGUALDAD ECONOMICA, POLITICA Y SOCIAL PARA LA MUJER. FIN A TODAS LAS FORMAS DE OPRESION SEXUAL.

Exigimos un salario igual para todo trabajo igual; centros gratuitos que cuiden, inclusive 24 horas al día, de los niños; una educación gratuita y no-discriminatoria que nos enseñe nuestra verdadera historia y las especialidades que necesitamos para determinar nuestros propios destinos; el control de nuestros cuerpos, incluyendo el control de la natalidad y el aborto gratuito si lo deseamos, pero excluyendo el aborto involuntario y la esterilización forzosa (genocidio).

Hay que poner fin a la discriminación dentro de la industria, las instituciones educacionales, el hogar, los medios de comunicación y en la vida social cotidiana. Todas las formas de opresión sexual han de acabar, inclusive todas las leyes que se relacionan con la práctica sexual entre personas de común acuerdo.

## 3. JUSTICIA POPULAR. FIN A LA TIRANIA DE LA MINORIA ADINERADA CONTRA LA MAYORIA OPRIMIDA DE COLOR Y LOS POBRES Y OBREROS BLANCOS.

Creemos que el concepto de proceso con un jurado de iguales quiere decir que todo proceso ha de realizarse en la comunidad inmediata del acusado y que los jueces y el jurado han de ser personas que viven directamente en la comunidad.

Queremos el control popular directo de la policía, es decir todo policía debiera de vivir en la comunidad que patrulla y debiera de ser escogido por esa misma comunidad.

Queremos que las masas del pueblo posean armas y que a la policía, como servidores del pueblo, no le sea permitido llevar armas.

Queremos que se ponga en libertad a toda persona del Tercer Mundo, de la clase obrera y de la juventud que hoy se encuentra encarcelado porque la gran mayoría de estos presos jamás han sido procesados y los pocos que sí lo han sido no han sido juzgados por sus iguales. Solo han recibido injusticias de este sistema. Libertad para todos los prisioneros políticos.

El pueblo tiene que aplastar todas las formas del fascismo en desarrollo, incluyendo las escuadras tácticas tipo Gestapo, las leyes que permiten el registro sin aviso y las leyes "contra la

conspiración," todo espionaje electrónico, las prohibiciones generales, los grandes jurados de acusación, las Escuadras Rojas anti-comunistas, los comités estatales y federales contra la "subversión," y todos los tipos y especies de policía secreta.

## 4. FIN A LA CONSCRIPCION MILITAR, FIN AL EJERCITO PROFESIONAL EN LOS EE.UU.A

Nadie debiera de ser forzado a luchar en el ejército para defender un gobierno racista que no nos protege. Jamás asesinaremos a otros pueblos pobres y oprimidos quienes, como nosotros, son las víctimas del imperialismo yanqui.

Apoyamos las luchas justas de los soldados estadounidenses que luchan dentro del aparato militar contra el opresor.

Para asegurar la libertad y la justicia en los EE.UU.A y en el resto del mundo la revolución ha de abolir el ejército de los EE.UU.A. y crear un Ejército de Liberación del Pueblo que servirá al pueblo.

## 5. LA LIBRE-DETERMINACION PARA TODAS LAS NACIONES Y PARA LOS PUEBLOS OPRIMIDOS.

Dentro de los EE.UU.A. el pueblo Negro, el pueblo Chicano, los Puertorriqueños, los Americanos nativos y el pueblo de Hawaii en sí constituyen naciones oprimidas. Como tal cada uno de estos pueblos tiene el derecho a la libre-determinación. Esto incluye el derecho a formar una nación aparte, si así lo desean, y de establecer cualquier y todo tipo de auto-gobierno. Si cualquier de estos pueblos escoge separarse del imperio EE. UU.A. nosotros apoyaremos su lucha separatista con todos los medios a nuestro alcance y con nuestras vidas.

Hay otros pueblos minoritarios oprimidos---los Americanos de procedencia China y Japonesa, los Latinos, los Esquimales, los Filipinos, etc---que tienen el derecho a controlar sus propias comunidades y que merecen una autonomía regional y plenos derechos democráticos. Afirmando que apoyaremos las luchas de estos pueblos con todos los medios necesarios y con nuestras vidas.



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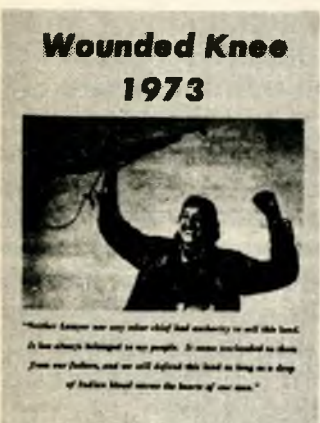
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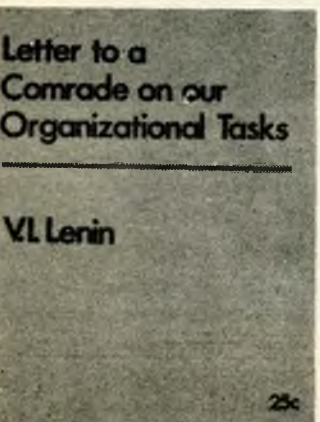
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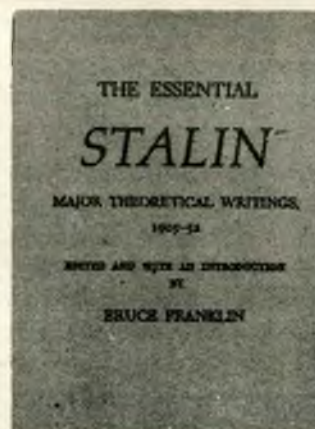
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# Cannery Workers Committee

## "As Chicanos We Get Screwed No Matter What By The Teamsters..."

by Venceremos Labor Committee

The struggle of the Farmworkers against the growers and the Teamsters' Union is not the only such fight. In California's more than 180 food processing plants and canneries where the Teamsters Union is already in control, Chicano workers have begun to organize against the racist practices of both the plant operators and the union. The main force in this effort is the Cannery Workers Committee, and the present chairman of the Committee is Ruben Reyes.

Ruben Reyes is in his early 40's. Since the age of 18, he has worked in the canneries. In 1969, Reyes and his fellow workers at the Libby, McNeill and Libby Company cannery in Sacramento formed the Mexican-American Cannery Workers Committee, which soon gained support from other cannery workers in the Sacramento area. In 1971, Reyes was suspended for supposedly taking an unauthorized leave, even though he had gotten approval to take a day off. Since that suspension Reyes has put almost full-time into organizing and expanding the Committee which presently has chapters in Vacaville, King City, Woodland, Modesto, Antioch and San Jose.

### CONDITIONS IN THE CANNERIES

According to Reyes, the Committee was formed to struggle against the fact that the "food processing industry is the most racist and backward in the country; it is also the least regulated, one of the worst polluters, and has bad health standards. . . While nearly 50% of all cannery workers are Chicano, and in some places like San Jose this is as high as 70%, less than 2% hold higher paying jobs, and almost none hold skilled positions like maintenance machinists."

Since the Committee was formed, its efforts have forced various private and governmental agencies to investigate conditions in the canneries. All the reports issued agree that the canneries discrimi-

nate against "minorities and women." A report issued by Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged the canneries with violating the civil rights of minority and women workers by keeping these workers in the lowest paying jobs, by giving preference in hiring to relatives of union and company officials, by not allowing applications by these workers for professional and managerial posts, by maintaining separate seniority lists for women and men, by withholding technical training, and much more.

The racist practices and poor working conditions of the cannery operators are only part of the situation, for the cannery workers also suffer similar abuses from the Western Conference of Teamsters, which is the "official" bargaining agent for most cannery workers.

### UNDER THE TEAMOS

In relation to the Teamsters Union, Reyes remarked, "As Chicanos we get screwed no matter what by the Teamsters, whether we work in the fields or in the canneries. . . When we formed the Committee it was as much because of what the union was doing to us, as what was happening at work."

The Teamsters Union forced its way into the canneries in the 1940's. It based its efforts mainly on a section of higher paid white workers. Over the years the Teamster leadership worked out an arrangement with the cannery operators. The cannery operators get a ready supply of low paid workers who are prevented by the union from causing any trouble, while in turn the Teamster Union is allowed complete control over the cannery workers and moves one step closer to control of all workers in California's agricultural and food processing industry, with all the financial rewards from stealing dues and making under-the-table deals that this will bring.

Reports issued around investigations of the Teamsters have documented the fact that the union has



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systematically refused to investigate acts of discrimination against its members, rarely represents its members in grievances against the canneries, does little about enforcement of health and safety codes, tries to instigate divisions among Chicano, Black and Anglo workers, systematically keeps Third World and women members out of leadership, and generally sides with the cannery operators over its own members.

### THE COMMITTEE

The Committee's expansion outside Sacramento is easily explained, according to Reyes, by the fact that "conditions are similar throughout the state." However, it is not just the conditions which aided the Committee, it's also the fact that the Committee actually went out and did things for cannery workers.

Reyes pointed out that in 1969-70 "we filed suits against both the canneries and the Teamsters charging discrimination. The suit against the Teamsters was a class action on behalf of all Chicano cannery workers demanding a return of all dues, and contributions to pension and health plans." Besides the suits there has been a lot of activity around state and federal regulatory agencies, like the State Fair Employment Practices Commission and the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

Another important area of work has been support for the Farmworkers. As Reyes pointed out, "Farmworkers and cannery workers will eventually have to come together to protect Chicano workers in the food industry." The joining of the two struggles comes out in actions like the July 6 protest in Palo Alto. There the Committee joined with the Farmworkers to protest negotiations between the Teamsters and the Cannery operators which would have led to a deal in which the canneries would only handle agricultural products from farms under Teamster contract.

"Our goal is to get rid of the racist and corrupt Teamster leadership. In their place we hope to have regular cannery workers running the union. Once we take care of the union we'll have the ability to deal with the cannery operators." It is for struggling towards this goal that many of the leaders like Reyes

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On July 6, at Ricky's Hyatt House in Palo Alto, 100 UFW and Cannery Workers Committee demonstrators protested negotiations between the Teamsters and the cannery bosses which would keep them from packing UFW-picked produce.

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