

Black and White, Unite and Fight for a WORKERS WORLD

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Three of Monroe Defendants



Richard Crowder, Mae Mallory and Harold Reape pose for snapshot just before the racist judge passed sentence upon them.

Statement of Reape and Crowder On Joining the MDC

Monroe, North Carolina
Feb. 10, 1964

In order to clear up the confusion of the two committees we, Harold Reape and Richard Crowder, identify with the Monroe Defense Committee.

This group is the committee that fought for twenty-six months against the extradition of Mae Mallory. The chairman is Clarence Seniors. The committee is located at 605 Brown Street, Monroe, North Carolina.

Robert F. Williams, the militant leader of the Black community of Monroe, North Carolina, was forced to flee for his life. The Government of Cuba granted him and his wife political asylum, the racist officials found it necessary to make an example of the supporters of Robert Williams and therefore charged four others with kidnapping.

We, the local youth would have been thrown in jail and given a sentence just as long as the phony charge against us is vicious, if it had not been for the valiant fight against extradition put up by the Monroe Defense Committee for Mae Mallory.

Because of the extradition fight, the world is aware of our plight. The hand of the bigots is somewhat stopped. Our fate depends on the freedom-loving and fair-minded people who will join forces under the leadership of the Monroe Defense Committee.

We ask all our friends and supporters to continue and intensify the help you have given.

Mr. Clarence Seniors is an able chairman and dedicated to the struggle. We believe that he will stick with us and work for our complete freedom. We feel in the best interest of all the defendants, the Black Liberation Movement and the war against oppression as a whole, it would serve us best to identify with the Monroe Defense Committee alone.

We have tried our best to clarify the situation. We sincerely hope this statement clears up all the confusion about the two committees.

Letters of this effort have been sent to Conrad Lynn, our attorney of record, and Berta Green, Sec'y of C.A.M.D. The letter to Berta Green is as follows:

To The CAMD:

In regards to the problem of the two committees. We are disassociating ourselves from C.A.M.D. We demand all records concerning the case and financial records of the money of the C.A.M.D. transferred to the M.D.C.

Yours for Freedom Now!
Richard Crowder
Harold Reape

Mae Mallory Hits
False Friends—Page 4

Monroe Frame-Up Trial Verdict Arouses World-Wide Protest

MONROE, N. C., Feb. 28—Yesterday, an all-white jury took less than 32 minutes to find all four Monroe Defendants guilty in the infamous "kidnapping" frameup that grew out of a mass racist attack on the Black community of Monroe in August, 1961.

(A white couple who were supposed to be "kidnapped" had actually sought refuge in Williams' home during the aftermath of the action.)

Today, the judge pronounced vengeful sentences on the four—in reality penalizing their participation in the freedom movement, not their alleged implication in the flimsily fabricated "kidnap" frameup.

John Lowry, the only white defendant, a freedom-rider from New York, whose sentence was the lightest of all, drew a harsh sentence of three to five years.

Harold Reape of Monroe, only 17 years old in 1961, and not even identified by the State Bureau of Investigation itself as being at the scene of so-called kidnapping, received five to seven years.

Richard Crowder, president of the Monroe Youth Action Committee, drew an even harsher sentence of seven to ten years.

No Justice for Mae Mallory Admits Scripps Howard Paper

"... Mrs. Mae Mallory insisted she would not get justice in North Carolina. Yesterday's severe sentence tends to support her point of view.

"Her minimum term, 16 years, is more ... than triple the term of the only white accomplice. The guilt of all parties in this unusual case was determined in a scant 35 minutes by a white jury.

"The world—red, black, yellow and white—has watched this case closely. Unfortunately, North Carolina justice adhered to its outdated script."

—Cleveland Press, Feb. 29, 1964

Rob Williams Speaks From Cuba; Exposes Frame-Up in Monroe Trial

(By Airmail from Cuba)

HAVANA, Feb. 25—Robert F. Williams, exiled Afro-American leader and former official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), today denounced the trial of four of his fellow freedom fighters as "a legal farce taking place in a jungle atmosphere of savage racial hostility."

The trial, which began on February 18, stems from a race riot which flared during a 1961 peaceful demonstration for racial equality and human rights.

Williams states that during the riot, racist police armed many members of a 5,000 (five thousand) strong white Ku Klux Klan and Minutemen mob on the Main Street of Monroe and restrained girls as young as 13, while brutal racists violently attacked them.

In consequence of this bloody riot, Mrs. Mae Mallory, a Black mother of two children; Richard Crowder and Harold Reape, Monroe youth leaders; and John Lowry, a white freedom-rider, along with Robert F. Williams, were indicted on a false charge of kidnapping a racist couple.

The exiled Black leader explained: "These defendants actually rescued the white supremacist couple from an angry group of oppressed Negroes after the couple and other whites had invaded the Negro community."

"The Monroe case is typical of North America's concept of social justice," Williams said, "wherein the Black victim is punished while the white transgressor enjoys the blessings of the U.S. Government."

(Williams, himself, is also under indictment for sitting on a stool in a drug store reserved for white people only.)

The kidnapping charge was brought

about by racist white police who, as Williams said, "allowed an agent of the Ku Klux Klan to recruit members for its underground terrorist organization from the police station."

"The defendants are being persecuted and crucified simply because they dare oppose barbaric U.S. racism," declared Williams.

From his exile in Havana, Williams today issued an appeal asking all the people throughout the civilized world to denounce U.S. racism, and to protest the brutal racist persecution of the Afro-American mother, Mae Mallory and the Monroe defendants.

Please send urgently needed funds to:
Monroe Defense Committee, 605 Brown St., Monroe, N. C.

Judge Bars Hall to Mark Lane; But Lane Speaks Fight to Hear Truth on Oswald

BUFFALO, Feb. 28—Over 300 people crowded into a standing-room-only meeting here in the most important demonstration in behalf of civil liberties in this city for several years.

A Forum Denied

But the meeting almost wasn't held. The Committee to Hear Mark Lane (on the suppressed evidence in the Kennedy assassination), composed of University of Buffalo and State Teachers College students, had reserved a meeting room at the Hotel Buffalo, paid a deposit and gotten a receipt.

Three days before the meeting was scheduled to take place, the hotel arbitrarily canceled the engagement.

The committee immediately took the hotel to court. But today, just six ours before Mr. Lane's appearance, Supreme Court Justice Matthew Jasen, denied the request for an injunction to make the hotel observe the First Amendment.

A Forum Won

The Liberal Forum of the Unitarian-Universalist Church offered its facilities, and at the last moment the meeting was held in spite of everything.

The 300 who heard Attorney Lane blast the Warren Commission for its cover-up tactics were an amazingly big crowd for such an event in this witch-hunted city. Important as Lane's speech was, this impressive turnout was even more important under the circumstances—as a mass protest against both the railroading of Oswald and the hounding

years. But Mae Mallory of New York, who has been the principal defendant and chief target of the prosecution, was given 16 to 20 years.

Defense Committee Statement

The Monroe Defense Committee, which has taken on the responsibility for the defense of the three Black defendants, said in a release today:

"The issues in the trial far transcend the fate of the individual defendants who are now incarcerated in Union County Jail. This was made evident by what Richard Crowder, 21 years old, told Judge Brock immediately after the imposition of the heavy sentence upon him.

"When Judge Brock asked him why he stood guard at Williams' house, he replied:

"Every Afro-American has the right to defend his home and his community."

"The judge then said, 'Do you mean the police don't give you people protection?'"

Crowder answered, "No, they don't."

(Continued on Page 4)



Robert F. Williams

Impartial Inquiry?

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—The Warren Commission today appointed Walter E. Craig, president of the conservative American Bar Association, as attorney for the dead Harvey Lee Oswald.

Its statement said:

"The Commission is not by this action casting doubt on Oswald's guilt."

In this "democratic" country, we have been told, a man is innocent until he is proven guilty.

of Mr. Lane and the committee.

Lane's exposure of the flimsiness of the evidence against Oswald was taken by the Buffalo reactionaries—as it was no doubt meant to be—as an attack against the administration of U.S. justice as a whole and against the conduct of the police in other places beside Dallas.

The meeting was picketed by the ultra-rightists and, apparently regarding such freedom of criticism as "subversive," the anti-subversive squad of Buffalo's police harassed the student committee that arranged the meeting.

Mrs. Maryann Weissman, a committee member, said that during the last few days, "I was followed constantly by Buffalo's 'finest'—(the) anti-subversive squad."

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Disarmament — in Reverse

William C. Foster, U.S. representative at the 17-nation Geneva Disarmament Conference (and director of the U.S. Disarmament Agency!) told Soviet delegates on Feb. 27 that the U.S. has 250 per cent more long range missiles than it had when the talks started in 1962.

This is a Disarmament Conference with a vengeance!

Considering that the biggest increase in U.S. arms (not only in missiles) came precisely at the time of the present Disarmament Conference (there have been many previous ones of course), the masses would do well to withdraw all credit from such hypocritical conferences in the future.

The imperialists will never willingly give up their arms (except for the obsolete ones or the superfluous ones)—any

more than they would willingly give up their property.

To call upon the Mafia to raise flowers or upon the dope peddler to sell soft drinks would be far more realistic than to expect the slavemaster peaceably to surrender his whip and his gun.

Only the oppressed masses themselves can accomplish any true disarmament—and then, only by taking the arms out of the hands of the oppressor.

Arm the oppressed; disarm the oppressor.

This is the only way to liberate the toiling people and at the same time the only road to a warless world in which both nuclear bombs and policemen's guns can be relegated to scrap heaps and museums.

Puerto Rican and North American Youth Picket Police for Killing 18-Year Old

By Henry Stone

NEW YORK, Feb. 23—Hundreds of demonstrators massed in front of the East 104th Street Police Station today in a protest against the widely publicized cop killing of 18-year-old Francisco Rodriguez.

The youth was shot in the back of the head by an off-duty patrolman who had just come out of a bar—and claimed he was "attacked" by Rodriguez.

Only two years ago, the Boys' Club of America chose Frank Rodriguez "Boy of the Year." This June, he would have graduated from Aviation High School in Queens. His 19-year-old wife is left with one child and is expecting another.

Cutting through all the flatfoot claptrap about the "necessity" of the killing was the question: Why was it necessary for "self-defense" for an unhurt cop to shoot a fleeing youth in the back?

Frank Rodriguez was another victim, like Solero and Rodriguez before him (see Workers World, Nov. 22, '63) of the systematic repressive murder of Puerto Ricans by New York cops.

The protest demonstration was organized by the East Harlem Tenants Council, 155 East 123rd Street, headed by Ted Velez. North Americans from Youth Against War and Fascism participated, and also the Lower East Side Action

Project.

So great was the wrath of the masses in the neighborhood that the police were suddenly very conciliatory. They visited the Tenants Council Hq. every hour prior to the demonstration. At the same time, however, they were prepared and armed to the teeth with rifles and shotguns, with the paddy wagon circling the block during the demonstration.

The demonstrators marched 19 blocks down Lexington Avenue from the Tenants Council office to the East 104th Street station house. About 200 people picketed along the whole block in front of the station, while hundreds of others looked on. Signs said, "Demandamos justicia!" "Abajo con la brutalidad policiaca!" "We demand a public hearing," and "Why don't cops obey the law?"

The high point came when the angry crowd massed facing the station and blistered the police with their shouted accusations: "Asesinos!" "Criminales!"

Ted Velez then spoke. He said, "The Puerto Rican community cannot take one more killing." The people shouted their agreement.

Three days later, many hundreds turned out for Rodriguez' funeral, with scores of them shouting to be allowed to carry the body.

From South Vietnam Liberation Fighters

Solidarity With Black Freedom Fighters

(Cablegram Went to Rob Williams and Roy Wilkins)

HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 26—The following cabled message of solidarity and support to the Afro-American struggle was received by Robert F. Williams in Havana today. The same cable was also transmitted to Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the NAACP and the Student Peace Union in New York City, USA to be conveyed to the Afro-American people.

The Message:

"Very indignant at barbarous racial discrimination policy against Negroes by U.S. Government and resolutely supporting struggle of thousands of U.S. students, parents and teachers holding strikes, demonstrations against racial discrimination policy at New York schools. (We are) valiantly struggling against savage aggressive war waged by U.S. Government and (their) henchmen. (Struggling) for independence, democracy, peace, neutrality in South Vietnam (and) toward peaceful reunification, we warmly welcome resolute, persevering struggle of Negro students, young people, freedom, humanitarian and justice loving people in the USA

and (we) demand racial discrimination policy (be) disbanded and rights to equality guaranteed. Pledging close solidarity with you in struggle against racial discrimination policy and war provocation of U.S. Government and (we are) convinced your struggle for freedom (and) justice certainly (will) be victorious.

South Vietnam February 5/1964,
s/ TRAN BUU KIEM,
Chairman South Vietnam Liberation Students Union.

s/ TRAN BACH DANG,
Chairman South Vietnam Liberation Youth Federation.

"Civil Rights" Farce Now Playing On Stage of United States Senate

By Peter Storch

After the March on Washington, after the mass demonstrations over the Birmingham bombings, after the school boycotts, after three years of the Kennedy-Johnson administration—and after a hundred years of oppression and lynch-justice, a civil rights bill was finally passed by the House of Representatives last month.

But will this already watered-down legislation get through the "Democratic" Senate?

Senate Majority leader, Mike Mansfield, allegedly for the bill as it stands now, openly admitted that the debate on the Senate floor will not last just for weeks, but for months.

The Southern racists in the House of Representatives put up none of their traditional battles in opposing the bill because the pressure from the masses was too great for the bill to be killed immediately.

They were confident that it would be easier for their Senatorial colleagues to do the job of chopping down the bill—because the Senate's rule book is packed with special devices to crush any bill on the Senate floor.

In fact, according to the New York Times, the filibuster "will be a carefully planned and precisely executed operation under the direction of Generalissimo Richard Brevard Russell of Winder, Ga., whose 32 years in the Senate have made him the parliamentary wizard of that body."

"Generalissimo" Russell has only 18 hard-core racist Senators with him. How is it possible for 18 to conquer 82 in a supposedly democratic body?

Here's how. Each of the 18 can speak twice every legislative day. They can prolong debate indefinitely by proposing amendments — and amendments to amendments. On each of these amendments they can also speak twice a day. The only method the rule book provides to stop these dixerat tricks is a motion for cloture, which has been tried 11 times—and defeated 11 times in civil rights issues.

The cloture rule requires a two-thirds majority (two-thirds of the Senators are Democrats) to take effect. Clearly then, the most powerful "moderate" Senators (Dirksen for example) are always against cloture because they are really opposed to civil rights bills which affect their "moderate" capitalist bosses.

How serious the "liberal" Senators are in passing this bill was demonstrated when Majority Leader Mansfield prevented the civil rights bill from being placed ahead of the farm bill, a long wanted bill by Southern Senators. This bill could have been used as a lever to pressure the racists to reduce their opposition to the civil rights bill.

Thus, a minority of overt racists in the Senate, a supposedly "democratic" institution, is ready to defeat the civil rights bill. Why?—Because the whole capitalist ruling class, and not just its most rabid racists, actually oppose granting real civil rights to Afro-Americans.

And the theatrical procedure in the Senate is purposely staged to give the impression that only the Southern racists are responsible for the coming butcher job on the civil rights bill.

Johnson in "War on Poverty"?

By Ellen Pierce

Is millionaire President Johnson really waging a "War on Poverty"?

Let's look at the facts:

The government estimates that 35 million Americans are poverty-stricken. (This is a low figure.) Johnson is asking Congress to appropriate \$500 million for the first 12 to 18 months of the "war." (This is a high figure.)

At that rate, less than \$15 per person will be spent to "wipe out poverty!"

Even if the money were given directly to poor families it wouldn't make a dent. But that's not the plan.

Much of the funds will be spent on the fancy salaries of bureaucrats hired to do studies, research and a convincing public relations job. Add to this the "costs of administration" of this watery-porridge dole and you can see how much is actually planned for the poor.

Now look at these facts:

Business boomed in '63, surpassing the predictions of the experts with profits up 14 per cent. At the same time, the Department of Labor reported unemployment averaged about 5.6 per cent. More than 4 million people are out of work and automation is constantly eliminating another 2 million jobs every year.

(The Department's figures make things look better than they really are by a trick called "seasonal adjustment." For example, between mid-December '63 and mid-January '64, non-farm payrolls showed 1.7 million fewer workers. But after "seasonal adjustment" the Labor Department claimed a gain of 100,000 jobs!!!)

The government announced that average wages rose in '63. But farm income dropped, the income of Afro-Americans dropped compared to the income of whites, and the poorest fifth of the population earned a smaller proportion of the national income (4.7 per cent) than it did 20 years ago.

Mortgage foreclosures have risen sharply and personal bankruptcies occur 14 times more often than at the end of WW2. Personal and installment plan debts amount to nearly \$70 billion, up 11 times higher than in '45.

Eight million Americans subsist on welfare, and the rate is increasing two times faster than the rate of population growth.

While the ultra-right spreads vicious lies about so-called welfare chiselers, the fact is that even in the most "liberal" states a family must sell everything of value, cash in life insurance policies, and beg relatives for support before it can get public assistance.

In Southern states, the surplus food program is not a means of helping the needy, but a weapon used against Afro-Americans who demand freedom.

A Black family is twice as likely to have an income under \$3,000 annually as a white family is.

But poverty is not just a matter of race.

"Most poor families are white, live in cities and are headed by a man or woman with no better than an eighth grade education."

This is the overall picture given by Newsweek magazine in an article on February 17.

How do the Presidential hopefuls line up on the question of the nation's poor?

Goldwater says let them starve.

Multi-billionaire Rockefeller claims to be sympathetic to their hardships.

Johnson launches an "anti-poverty war," but his battles are phony and his bullets are duds.

Wm. Worthy in Victory On Right to Travel

February 21—William Worthy, the well-known journalist, was freed by unanimous decision of a 3-judge Federal Appeals Court in New Orleans today after a lower court had convicted him for going to Cuba and returning without a passport.

Worthy, who has also traveled to the People's Republic of China, called his original conviction "absurd and unprecedented criminal prosecution."

The Department of Justice, which has been hounding Worthy for two years, has hinted that it will still try to have the conviction upheld in another court.

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Behind the Plot to Get US Into Bigger War Over Vietnam

Last week, a leading U.S. newspaper said:

"The U.S. has begun a campaign of psychological warfare against Communist North Vietnam by warning of possible attacks against its territory."

In reality, the U.S. government has "begun a campaign of psychological warfare," not so much against the democratic Republic of Vietnam, as against the working people of the *United States*, who will be asked to do the paying, the fighting and the dying—in a bigger Asian war.

This psychological warfare against

the workers takes the form of stepped-up propaganda against the Vietnam people and the creation of an atmosphere in which the U.S. enlargement of the war there seems logical and inevitable. But it is not logical and it is not inevitable.

The only thing really logical about it is the logic of imperialist desperation to regain its rule of Asia from the masses who are at last breaking free.

The following accounts illustrate the conspiracy against the masses of this country as well as those of Vietnam and China.

Imperialist Crisis — "The Smell of Defeat"

The truth about the military situation in Vietnam is finally coming out.

On February 14, Newsweek finally admitted it: *"The smell of defeat was in the air,"* it said.

Of course, this admission and other similar ones were made only to justify further U.S. involvement in the morass of Southeast Asian counter-revolution. But it was true, nevertheless.

While U.S. Defense Secretary McNamara was still insisting that U.S. troops would all be brought home by the end of 1965, a dispatch to the New York Daily News said on February 24 that:

"U.S. authorities have abandoned their program for pulling out of Vietnam by the end of 1965.... And even a later date than 1966 was not ruled out."

Why Is Defense Secretary McNamara Going to Vietnam Again This Week?

McNamara himself, after two trips to Vietnam in the last five months, announced on the day the above dispatch was dated (but the day before it was published) that he would visit Vietnam again early in March.

But, said White House sources, *"This does not indicate any new crisis or blow-up."*

No?

Richard Starnes of the Scripps Howard chain predicted on the same day:

"It seems at least possible that all the exhortations from Washington will not be able to avert collapse (in Vietnam) long enough for President Johnson to tuck re-election safely in the bag."

The People Have Been Lied To

How is it that the people of the United States are only just beginning to hear about "collapse" and that the "smell of defeat is in the air"?

They have been lied to about the people of Vietnam, lied to about the political situation, lied to about the military situation and lied to about the alleged success of U.S. soldiers, who have the last word in modern military equipment to suppress the Vietnam Freedom struggle.

On February 19, the Hsinhua News Agency relayed a report from the S. Vietnam Liberation Press that the People's Self-Defense Armed Forces wiped out 1,284 enemy troops last month. (*This*

was never published in the USA.)

The same report went on to say that the People's Forces of Ben Tre province had encircled all the enemy strongholds and outposts.

In addition to this, no less than 256 puppet soldiers (*of the official S. Vietnam Army*) crossed over to the people's

(Continued on Page 4)

The BIG LIE

(That the Weapons and Men Come From the North And Therefore the U.S. Must Broaden War)

Why does imperialism want to attack the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam)?

Why, because the guerillas have "sanctuary" there, they get weapons and supplies from there, etc., etc.

Or so the Big Lie goes.

The great mass of the guerillas are in the Southern part of South Vietnam, about 600 miles from the border where they are supposed to get all their supplies.

As Professor Nguyen Van Hieu of the Radical Socialist Party of S. Vietnam told Wilfred Burchett:

"The Americans like to claim that we get our arms from North Vietnam. But that would be stupid even if we could get them. Think of the transport problem. The Americans on the other hand," he said with a laugh, "deliver them right here where we need them."

—The Furtive War

This is fully verified by U.S. capitalist authorities. Malcolm M. Browne, chief Associated Press correspondent in S. Vietnam for a year and a half, said on April 25, 1963:

Arms and the Men

"Most Vietcong weapons now are U.S. military weapons, captured in ambushes on government units and attacks on outposts. Often a Vietcong unit is organized initially with no weapons. (Our emphasis.)"

"The political organizer tells his men and women that they must fight at first

"Terror, Sabotage, Subversion" — by U.S.

White House "Weighing Air Attack on N. Vietnam!"

The Chicago Daily News reported from Vietnam to the "liberal" New York Post, on Feb. 23:

"A plan to carry the war to Communist North Vietnam through a campaign of terror, sabotage and subversion is under consideration here—if the command to go ahead hasn't already been given." (Our emphasis.)

"U.S. military advisers declined comment, but a reliable source said the decision was made several days ago and discussed in detail with Admiral Harry D. Felt, U.S. Pacific Commander, during his visit (to Saigon) last week."

Did U.S. People Vote for This?

Nobody ever voted in any election anywhere to send U.S. troops to South Vietnam. And certainly nobody ever voted on February 23 to send them into North Vietnam as well.

Who is Admiral Harry D. Felt to de-

cide the fate of possibly hundreds of thousands of U.S. youth to say nothing of attacking a country with whom the U.S. is supposed to be at peace?

What are the forces behind him? What are they up to?

The syndicated, bomb-rattling columnist, Joseph Alsop on February 24, lifted the curtain of secrecy a deliberate few inches and flatly announced on the basis of "inside" White House and Pentagon sources that:

"Air attacks on North Vietnamese industrial centers . . . and many other expedients are being weighed."

"The policy-makers here (in Washington) are all unanimous that if anything at all is done to change the rules of war, a guerilla effort in North Vietnam must constitute a subsidiary part of a much tougher program." (Our emphasis.)

Has It Already Begun?

If this war-mongering but well-informed writer can be credited, the whole pack of "policy makers"—that is, Kennedy and Johnson appointees—are ready to step up the war and possibly have already given the orders to do so.

They have not, however, consulted the wishes of the American masses. On the contrary, they intend to present the masses with an accomplished fact at a later day, while they prepare their minds and "condition" them with propaganda for the next few weeks. Alsop's own "revelations" are a part of this propaganda campaign. Other capitalist writers and some other capitalist papers are less insistent on the extension of the war, and express some doubts about its success. But none of them strongly opposes the planned aggression.

Only yesterday, a number of commentators were agreeing with de Gaulle that South Vietnam should be "neutralized." Today, they have begun to change their tune.

A Neutral S. Vietnam Is "Surrender"!

Now that Johnson, who himself was half-convinced of de Gaulle's plan a few weeks ago, has called for more decisive action in Vietnam, the chorus-boys of the "liberal" press are of course singing along with LBJ.

Ever since Johnson spoke of the "deeply dangerous game" (of the beleaguered Asian socialist countries!) on February 21, the pliable writers of the capitalist press are all talking solemnly about "changing the rules" of the fighting—meaning to bomb North Vietnam.

All those who only yesterday suggested neutralism for S. Vietnam, have suddenly discovered that this is wrong. Why? Because the ruling clique says it is.

"One expedient has been firmly ruled out of consideration," says the omniscient Alsop "(and that is) the kind of passive surrender . . . thinly concealed as 'neutralism.'"

The "Heaven-Sent Opportunity" (To Bomb People to Hell!)

The plot to enlarge the war in Southeast Asia and send in large numbers of U.S. youth as counter-revolutionary troops *has nothing to do with the alleged intervention of North Vietnam in the fighting in the South.*

All the talk about this, all the accusations from U.S. President Lyndon Johnson on down, are nothing but *calculated lies to justify attacking the socialist countries of Asia.*

This was most brazenly revealed by Stewart Alsop (brother of the bomb-happy Joseph) in the Saturday Evening Post of February 22.

"The tide might be turned by a few American battalions—if the North Vietnamese and/or the Chinese Communists did not intervene in turn." (But we have been told that they are already intervening!—ed.) "The Chinese might intervene, in which case, we would have at least a small big war on our hands. . . . 'If the Chinese intervened,' says one policy maker (in the White House) 'we would at least have a heaven-sent opportunity to hit certain targets in China.' The targets are of course the Chinese atomic plants." (Our emphasis.)

Apparently, the big-war madness is not only a disease of generals and admirals but a malady of White House advisers and their editorial stooges as well.

Alsop Not the Only One

And Stewart Alsop, who represents only *one* body (although an important one) of imperialist policy, is not the only one who is saying this.

C. L. Sulzberger, a member of the powerful family who publishes the New York Times and who is supposed to be a "moderate" and "sane" on the war question, said on February 26:

"Paralyzed by fear of spreading any war into nuclear holocaust, the West accepts fighting conditions set by the guerillas. . . ."

"The question today is whether it has not become imperative for a similar (to the October 1962) showdown with China over South Vietnam."

The ruling class wants an all-out war on the colonial and socialist peoples. But the youth of the *United States* will soon discover that the "heaven-sent opportunity" is only an opportunity for them to die for their bosses.

It's a True People's War — And the Imperialists Cannot Win It!

In 1954, the signers of the Geneva Agreement that divided South Vietnam from the North, agreed that there would be an all-national vote in July of 1956 to unite the country under one regime or the other.

This vote was never held.

The reason it was never held is that the U.S. sponsors of the counter-revolutionary regime of the South would not allow it.—They knew the North would win!

Proof?

Wilfred Burchett reported in his *The Furtive War* that there were 90,000 Vietnamese in Thailand after the Geneva Agreement and in a plebiscite, 98 per cent of them voted to go back to North Vietnam.

By mid-1962, he says, about 40,000 had returned to North Vietnam; *none to the South.*

Imperialists Say It's True

The admissions from imperialist reporters verify this. On April 20, 1963, David Halberstam said in the New York Times:

"The Communist flag . . . is the only

flag known to many of the peasants of Vietnam's four southern provinces—Kien Giang, An Xuyen, Ba Xuyen and Chiang Thien. . . . The land is essentially guerilla controlled. . . .

"Many of the villages have Communist information booths. Often the only dispensary is run by the Communists. Usually, the only village school is a Communist school."

The same reporter noted that in the Camau Peninsula and the Mekong Delta, both under constant bombardment, *"almost the entire population is Communist." (This area happens to contain over 60 per cent of the whole population of South Vietnam!)*

It is a true People's War that the Vietnamese are fighting, and a classical war of imperialist aggression that the U.S. is fighting.

The enlargement of that war, even the employment of bigger bombs and faster planes will not change this. If anything, it will only make the masses of all Asia more resolutely anti-imperialist and more determined to sell their lives dearly in the struggle for true liberation.

— Monroe Frame-Up Verdict

(Continued from page 1)

"That's only in the mind of Robert Williams," the judge responded with a sneer.

"There, in a nutshell, in the few words quoted above, is contained the real issue in this case. The irony of it is that this came out *after* the trial and *after* the sentencing.

"For it has been known all along that the kidnap charge was rigged and the charges trumped up for the sole purpose of diverting public attention from the critical issue which has made Monroe a symbol of militant struggle—the right of Black Americans to defend themselves against savage persecution, incredible oppression and mob violence."

Flagrant Violations

There were a number of flagrant violations of the defendants' rights at the trial with only some of them concealed by a thin cover of legality.

At one time, a whole pile of guns was dumped on the courtroom floor and the impression created that they were used in the alleged "kidnapping."

Both judge and prosecution used chauvinist words and revealed their racist bias at several important points.

The Monroe Defense Committee described several of these points and then went on to say:

"A deposition (sworn statement) by Robert and Mabel Williams, now in exile in Cuba, was presented to the court by Walter Haffner, attorney for Mae Mallory, Richard Crowder and Harold Reape. The statement thoroughly and completely demolished all the lies and slander cooked up by the prosecution as so-called evidence, and presented a picture of the real situation as it existed at the time of the alleged kidnapping in the race riot of August, 1961.

White Supremacist Proceedings

"In another stroke of white-suprema-

cist judicial proceedings, Judge Brock refused to allow the testimony of James Foreman, Afro-American civil rights official from Atlanta, to be heard by the jury. (Foreman offered a first-hand, excellent description of racial oppression in Monroe.)"

The MDC made reference to the conduct of the defense in the following way:

"The Monroe Defense Committee has from the very beginning, tried in every way to maintain a united front of all the defendants including the white freedom-rider Lowry, against the phony kidnap charge lodged against them all. ALL the defendants are frameup victims. However, the course of the trial made it abundantly clear that Lowry and his defense counsel not only tried to disassociate himself from the Black defendants, but also from the real issues which motivated the racist authorities to frame up the victims in the first place.

"This did not save Lowry, but did bring a lighter sentence even as against Harold Reape, whom the SBI did not even identify as being on the scene.

Legal Expenses Now Doubled

The defendants are now in Union County Jail. Bail has been virtually doubled. Mae Mallory—\$15,000; Richard Crowder — \$10,000; Harold Reape — \$7,500; John Lowry—\$5,000. In addition to this, there are the tremendous costs of appeal bonds, printing of court record, etc., which come to over \$5,000 plus the payment for lawyers' services.

The Monroe Defense Committee, with two and a half years' record of struggle for Mae Mallory, now defending Reape and Crowder as well, needs your help as never before.

Make checks payable to:

MONROE DEFENSE COMMITTEE
605 Brown Street
Monroe, North Carolina

The American Way of Death

By Nancy Howard

Some Bargain Basement Funerals

Jessica Mitford Didn't Tell About in Her Book

"The deceased would have wanted it this way." "The last thing you will be able to do for the dear departed is the funeral"—"Respect for the dead."

These words of tender concern are whispered by the funeral consultant into the ears of the grieving survivor. They awaken and magnify all the terrors and fears of death. And the victimized mourner pays several hundred to several thousand dollars for the funeral.

This is bad enough.

But where are the sweet words for the deceased of those working-class families who don't have the money? And where is the concern for the "dear departed" who has no survivor, no insurance, and leaves no legacy?

No sweet words. No "respect for the dead." Not even in New York, the richest city in the capitalist world.

The bodies of the dead *poor* are buried in rat-infested mass graves dug by the inmates of Hart Island Prison. These funerals do not cost several hundred to several thousand dollars. Oh, no! *Each burial costs less than one dollar!*

And how do the city authorities manage this bargain basement price? The secret is *prison labor*, for one thing, paid at the rate of *50 cents a day*. The secret is the *mass grave*, for another, where the pine coffins—if any—are

stacked one on top of another in huge pits.

Treating human beings this way is horrible. But it is not only the indignity to the *dead* that is so terrible. It is not only the terrible grief to those families whose dead are buried there.

Think of the living who must perform this gruesome task! This is not only lack of "respect for the dead." *This is contempt for the living!*

These prisoners are themselves poor workers. (Hart Island prison is a "minimum security" jail for men serving 10-day to 2-year sentences.)

Each year the city provides 8,000 mass burials for New Yorkers who can't pay the commercial rates.

For more than a century, tiny Hart Island in Pelham Bay has served as cemetery for the poor of New York City. An estimated 580,000 men, women and children are buried there in Potter's Field. Many a worker serving time in prison has dug graves there.

The work is filthy and dangerous. Digging graves in fresh earth is not all that is required. About 30 years ago all the available land became filled, and the oldest graves were excavated. Rotting clothes and coffin splinters were burned and skeletons were all thrown into big pine boxes and reburied so there would be more room. This must be done again and again—and prisoners have to do it.

The present warden of Hart Island Prison, Ed Dros, who, of course, does not have to dirty his hands and who gets considerably more than 50 cents a day, recently boasted that the dead "never bother us."

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"I'll be Judge; I'll be Jury"

The Warren Commission's closed-door sessions have been marked by an astounding amount of absenteeism lately.

According to Robert S. Allan and Paul Scott's syndicated column on Feb. 28:

"Only one of the seven members (of the Warren Commission) was present during the interrogation of Oswald's brother. This member was former CIA Director Dulles, who balked at any testimony that might reflect on the intelligence agency."

"The Traitors Within"

By Mae Mallory

(Reprinted from *Did You Know?*—a newsletter published monthly in Monroe, North Carolina by Mrs. Ethel Johnson.)

I'd like to fight the common enemy and concentrate all talents and energies to attacking the enemy of the Blacks, colonized and oppressed. Instead, I must spend time fighting a deadly virus that is contaminating our struggle.

(What follows is a reply to disruptive accusations made by a group called the CAMD.)

It is necessary to give some background as to the kind of organization the Monroe Defense Committee (MDC) is, and the kind of people that make up its leadership. It is also necessary to have people understand our aims and ambitions.

Working Class Oriented

We are mainly a group of Black non-intellectual working-class oriented people. We do not operate in \$40,000 air conditioned split level homes. . . .

We do not envy those who enjoy such privileges because we realize that the comfortable and the privileged very seldom, if ever, make social changes or revolutions, peaceful or otherwise. We the Monroe Defense Committee, work in our cold and damp shack, minus a phone and the embellishments that others enjoy. Now we have a greater understanding from personal experience what makes for the higher tubercular rate among the poor. Because of our desperate condition, we realize the need for immediate change, and dedicate ourselves to work to bring this change about as soon as possible. Never have we refused the help that any group wanted to offer, we demand the right to make our own policy. . . .

In Cleveland, we lived in the heart of the Black ghetto. The roof leaked and the toilet often overflowed, such is typical in the homes of the poor. Many times the MDC officials had no food to eat. Clarence Seniors works full time without pay, just the keep for him and his family. . . .

Nevertheless, there was never a struggle in Cleveland that MDC did not participate in. . . .

No one can deny that my fight against extradition was the catalytic agent that changed many things in Cleveland, Ohio. We never sold out or compromised. . . .

We have not and will not change. Even though the comfortable and "safe" homes are closed to us, we are still welcome in Monroe. . . .

The Fight of the Poor

Our fight is the fight of the poor, the non-privileged, those that can feel the wealth of the land when the wealth is shared by all, and not a few. We are not fighting for acceptability, we are fighting for FREEDOM.

This does not mean that we want to oppress any one, it means that we are not going to sit still while others oppress us. . . .

It took quite a bit of work and heart-break to be heard above the compromisers that are determined to speak for us and give us direction. We feel that we are quite capable enough to speak for ourselves and determine our own policy.

We feel that all who are sincere in wanting a better country and a better

world, will support us in our efforts. If there is any doubt as to our honesty and what we do with our funds, just compare our way of life with that of our "opponents." Compare our work with theirs.

Answering Some False Charges

The original \$200.00 paid by the Committee to Aid the Monroe Defendants (CAMD) to an attorney in Cleveland (unauthorized by me), was paid with the idea that they could control me in a crisis, and dissipate those that at that moment were on the way to my rescue.

Bernard Berkman was retained by an official of MDC and paid by the same. . . . Any financial arrangements made with my attorney by others were done with the idea of subverting the activities of MDC. Any money paid to my attorney Walter S. Haffner by CAMD was done with an ulterior motive. Mr. Haffner was paid by MDC and was to look to MDC alone for his pay. To the best of our (MDC) knowledge, all who were interested and wanted to contribute, were told by my attorney to send contributions to MDC.

As to the fare of witnesses that came to testify in my behalf in Cleveland, there were three; James Foreman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). MDC paid half of Mr. Foreman's fare and SNCC paid the other. This gives SNCC no special right to speak for me no more than any other group. As far as I know, SNCC has assumed no right as the agency to speak for me.

Most Heartbreaking Thing

One of the other witnesses was the late Raymond H. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson of Monroe, N.C. Raymond is now dead, "accidentally" they say. This was the most heartbreaking thing that has happened during the whole ordeal. . . .

Richard Griswold did appear as a witness. He was insulted by Harvey Monk, chief prosecutor of Cleveland. Griswold was beaten and brutalized by the evil bigots of Monroe. My heart goes out to Richard Griswold and I would not hesitate one second to come to his defense. My personal feeling for Griswold as a person does not give CAMD authority to speak as my agent, simply because they paid half fare for Griswold to come to Cleveland.

The other Afro-American defendants in the case have indicated that they are tired of being "show monkeys" for CAMD, and want to take a more decisive part in their defense, they claim that this can only be done by uniting with the MDC. We welcome these defendants and will do all that is in our power to see that they get the best defense possible in these courts.

It should be sufficiently clear that I have no heart to continue to waste time and energy fighting against those who claim that we are fighting a common foe. This is a huge fight with many fronts. I'd advise those who are now causing confusion, to leave this aspect of the fight to those who have proven their ability. We need all the support we can get for a job we are dedicated to do well.

Mae Mallory

c/o Monroe Defense Committee
605 Brown Street, Monroe, N. C.

— The Smell of (Imperialist) Defeat

(Continued from page 3)

side during January.

Truth About U.S. Casualties

In another suppressed dispatch, some of the hidden facts about *United States* casualties were revealed.

Hsinhua gives the following information dated February 15:

"More than one hundred U.S. 'advisers' to the 22nd Division of the S. Vietnam puppet army were killed or wounded in a single attack by the guerillas in Kontum province of S. Vietnam, according to the South Vietnam Liberation Press Agency.

"On the night of February 2, with the support of a number of patriotic members of the civil guard squad guarding the billet in Kontum, where the 136 U.S. 'advisers' were staying, the guerillas broke into the barracks, killed or wounded almost all the Americans there and

burned down their houses. The guerillas and patriotic members of the puppet army then withdrew safely."

Thus, not only have far more U.S. soldiers been killed or wounded than U.S. authorities admit, but far more puppet S. Vietnam troops are "unreliable" (i.e., revolutionary) than most Americans realize.

The "smell of defeat"—for imperialism—is in the air, all right. And that is why McNamara has to rush to Vietnam again, and that is why the "policy-makers" at the White House are burning the midnight oil, and that is why Admiral Felt is ordering a step-up of the already numerous aggressive forays into North Vietnam, and that is why the whole camarilla of mad militarists and banker-bosses of the U.S. are plotting to maneuver the youth of this country into another bloody war.