

Johnson to Drop \$70 Billion Bomb On U.S. Masses

That's How Much (or More) He Will Charge For "Defense" in Vietnam and Elsewhere

When Johnson lets the public in on his tax plans later this month, he will surprise nobody. But he will hurt practically everybody -- that is, the 70 million working people and their families, who comprise the vast majority of the country. His war budget is expected to be about 70 to 75 billion dollars, a huge increase over last year.

This comes to \$1,000 for every worker in the country and one can be sure that it is the workers who will pay it, too. In fiscal 1967 -- that is, July 1, 1966 to July 1, 1967, the war costs are estimated at about \$67 billion. This is already an increase of \$14 billion over the previous year. Fiscal 1968 military expenses (the 70-75 billion figure) will be announced in a week or so by Johnson.

The skyrocketing increase in the cost of killing for the profiteers is mainly due to the Vietnam war, which adds two to three billion per month to the cost of the war machine.

Meanwhile, the increasing costs of military hardware inevitably push up the cost of "soft" goods (essentials for the workers) as well. The cost of living went up 3.5 per cent last year. But corporate profits after taxes went up from \$38.7 billion in 1964 to \$48.3 billion in 1966 -- an increase of 24.8 per cent in two years.

Nearly a third of the families in the country are living on less than \$65 a week. And the ruling class experts in bamboozling the poor will read off the statistics of this poverty at the drop of a hat. But that hasn't prevented the "Great Society" architects from chiseling on the already meager welfare funds in the name of "defense" -- in Vietnam.

Only the other day, for example, New York City received the news that 12 out of 14 new Federal "anti-poverty" programs projected there were to be abandoned.

The Government is running out of money and can't buy both guns and butter for the poor, the story goes. Even the extra taxes the workers will start paying next month will not be enough to give back to the unfortunate what the exploiters have robbed them of. There still will not be enough money to cover the inflated cost of murder machines for Vietnam, and more bonds will be sold at fat interest rates to big banks, to make up the difference.

There may be an excess profits tax, it is true. But this will be a great excuse for the corporations to refuse wage increases and put on a poor face, while they fleece the workers.

There is of course, good cheer for some people in the tax picture, just as there is in the profits picture.

The Internal Revenue Service has revealed that in the last reported year, no less than 19 of those multi-millionaires who made over a million in the year, paid no taxes at all -- zero, that is. And it was all perfectly legal.

This year, Johnson's State of the Union and Budget Messages will be greeted with more than usual interest by the oppressed. And the main emotion will be hostility.



President Ho visiting the defenders of Hanoi.

Ho Chi Minh for 1967 --

Wishes U.S. People Well, Vows to Fight U.S. Imperialism to End

President Ho's New Year's Message is among other things an answer to those who are looking for a "signal" that the Vietnamese are ready to submit to U.S. domination and give up their fight for national independence and self-determination.

It is also a splendid affirmation of proletarian internationalism. It appeals to the war-weary masses, while it condemns their war-making government.

It has already been quoted partially by other papers. But since the complete text was sent to Workers World, we reprint it below.

* * * *

On the occasion of the New Year, I would like to convey to the American people cordial wishes for Peace and Happiness.

The Vietnamese and American peoples should have lived in Peace and friendship. But the U.S. Government has brazenly sent over 400,000 troops along with thousands of aircraft and hundreds of warships to wage aggression on Vietnam.

Night and day it has used napalm bombs, toxic gas, fragmentation bombs and other modern weapons to massacre our people, not sparing even old persons women and children. It has burnt down or destroyed villages and towns, perpetrating extremely savage crimes. Of late, U.S. aircraft have repeatedly bombed Hanoi, our beloved Capital.

It is because of the criminal war unleashed by the U.S. Government that hundreds of thousands of young Americans have been drafted and sent to a useless death far from their homeland, on the Vietnamese battlefield. In hundreds of thousands of American families parents have lost their sons, wives have lost their husbands.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Government has continually clamored about "Peace negotiations" in an attempt to deceive the American people and the other peoples of the World. In fact, it is daily expanding the war.

The U.S. Government wrongly be-

lieves that with brutal force it could impose on our people a surrender. But the Vietnamese people will never submit. We love Peace, but it must be genuine peace in Independence and Freedom. For Independence and Freedom, the Vietnamese people are determined to fight the U.S. aggressors through to complete victory, whatever the hardships and sacrifices may be.

Who has caused these sufferings and mourning to the Vietnamese and the American peoples? It is the U.S. rulers. The American people have realized this truth. More and more Americans are

valiantly standing up in a vigorous struggle, demanding that the American Government respect the constitution and the honour of the United States, stop the war of aggression in Vietnam and bring home all U.S. troops.

I warmly welcome your just struggle and thank you for your support to the Vietnamese people's patriotic fight.

I sincerely wish the American people many big successes in their struggle for Peace, Democracy and Happiness.

Hanoi, December 23, 1966

(signed)

Ho Chi Minh

British Union Leader Now On War Crimes Tribunal

LONDON -- Two additional well-known figures have added their names to the War Crimes Tribunal, it was announced here last week. They are Mr. Lawrence Daly, General Secretary of the Scottish Mineworkers Union and Prof. Wolfgang Abendrath of Marburg University, distinguished professor of Political Science.

Mr. Daly requested permission from the executive board of his union before joining the Tribunal. The permission was given unanimously.

Prince of the Church

Cardinal Spellman may not have voiced the exact opinion of the Pope in Rome. But he sure said exactly what the Popes of Washington and Wall Street wanted him to say!

His hawk-talk in Vietnam on Christmas Day, like the disembarking 9th Infantry Division, dispelled all notions that Johnson was the least bit serious about the "truce."

The "military vicar" may not have made as big a hit with the GIs as Bob Hope did. But he delivered the message.

The chairman of the Union issued a statement saying that the organization was proud that its General Secretary had been asked to take part in the war crimes proceedings.

The participation of a union leader was roundly applauded by progressive circles here. Conversely, the pressure put on Mr. Daly by the employers and the Government is already evident and is expected to increase, if only because his presence on the Commission is sure to bring knowledge of and sympathy with the Tribunal's work to widening circles in the working class.

There are now 18 members sitting on the Tribunal. They include Jean Paul Sartre, Lazaro Cardenas, the former President of Mexico, Isaac Duetscher, Vladimir Dedijer, Lelio Basso, Stokely Carmichael, Simon de Beauvoir, Gunther Anders and Josue de Castro.

Mr. Daly spoke at the great meeting for the Tribunal in Paris last November. He received deafening applause when he put the case for solidarity with the Vietnamese people and described the struggle in Britain.

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End of LBJ Not Same as End of War!

By now it has become pretty clear that a large section, if not the decisive section of the capitalist class has decided to dump Lyndon Johnson at the next opportunity, which will be on November 5, 1968.

Every newspaper columnist in the business has in the short space of two months decided that Johnson is "in serious trouble." And many of the President's high-priced entourage are seeking safer and only incidentally higher-priced berths outside of Washington.

The Democratic Governors have sounded off against LBJ. Presidential contenders Goldwater and Romney have both expressed the view that Johnson might not run in 1968 and the equally wishful-thinking, but in this case truthful, Richard Nixon has made similar observations. In their own unscrupulous way, these men are voicing the people's thoughts.

The huge unpopularity of the war in Vietnam is the most obvious reason for the masses' dissatisfaction with Johnson. But the big question is: why is such a big chunk of the ruling class also dissatisfied with Johnson?

First, it is definitely not because the anti-war sentiments of the imperialist rulers are as powerful as their anti-Johnson sentiments. It would be a painful mistake for progressives if they got that idea!

True, the big business rulers know how to roll with the punch. They are not averse to throwing a scapegoat to the wolves. They could get rid of Johnson and make it look as though they were getting rid of Johnson's war policies. They could show sympathy for the opinions of the great masses who are angry with Johnson and identify Johnson with the cause of the war.

But does this really mean that the rulers would get rid of the war as willingly as they would get rid of Johnson?

No, indeed!

It is far more likely that they would get someone with a "clean" record to pick up the dirty war where

Johnson leaves off.

Much against the traditional views of many of their number, the wealthy corporation owners and bankers gave their overwhelming support to the Democrat Johnson in 1964. But this, it must be recalled, was because his opponent, Barry Goldwater, was so "extreme" that he wanted to carry on two wars at the same time: a war against labor and the Black People at home simultaneously with a war against the oppressed masses abroad.

The cooler heads of big business were well aware that such a two-front action was too risky for their own good. (Although the assorted fascists and the generals who did back "Barry" can still be profitably used by capital under other circumstances!)

Now, many of them look forward to a second honeymoon with their first love, The Republican Party.

Only this time, they contemplate a "moderate" — perhaps Romney, who, like General Eisenhower, can make a program of blank-faced honesty, mother-love and simple patriotism, who can be depended upon to give away untold billions to business without using any excessively bad language to his victims in the process. (Johnson is plenty demagogic enough, but occasionally slightly restrains his friends at the feeding trough, because of his ties with the labor bureaucracy, the old New Dealers and his closer friends, the new-rich of Texas.)

And although Johnson looked like the perfect "war President" at first, with his poor mouth platitudes and his labor support, he isn't living up to expectations anymore. He just can't sell this war.

It's about time to make another attempt to grab the whole governmental pie for the bankers, keep the crumbs on the table and show the workers who's boss — without going as far as Goldwater, yet.

And that's why the writers, pollsters and other assorted front-men for the billionaires are asking so many loaded questions about a president who has served his and their masters so well.

the GI's Home."

Following a series of workshops on the anti-war movement, the delegates made their decision to work toward a successful national student strike.

Conference on National Student Strike Against the War in Vietnam

CHICAGO, Jan. 4 — Representatives of over twelve campus organizations held a three-day conference here on Dec. 27-30 at the University of Chicago and agreed to work on plans for a national student strike against the war.

The two hundred delegates agreed unanimously on a motion proposed by Alex Chernowitz, chairman of City College of New York chapter of Youth Against War and Fascism, to support the Bertrand Russell War Crimes Tribunal.

They agreed unanimously to back a motion by Juan Mestes, a student delegate from the Puerto Rico University Students for Independence (FUPI) to support the Puerto Rican youth in their fight against the draft. The students also approved such slogans as "Fight the Draft and Bring



Bad Day at Credibility Gap



Ruby Dies in Time; Next Whitewash Will Be Easier

With Jack Ruby's death, at least 17 people have made their exit from this world — people in the prime of life, who have just one thing in common: their connection with the Kennedy assassination.

Jim Koethe of the Dallas Times-Herald, Bill Hunter, prize-winning journalist of a Long Beach, California paper, and Dorothy Kilgallen, the columnist, died in fairly rapid succession. Koethe from strangulation, Hunter from a shot by a policeman who was "practicing a quick draw," and Kilgallen from an overdose of sleeping pills a few days before she was to do some more work on the case.

The death rate among strip tease artists was even higher than among reporters — at least among those strippers who worked for Ruby. Two of them died in mysterious circumstances. (One hung herself in jail.)

Hank Killam, husband of one of Ruby's waitresses was knifed to death.

Two witnesses who figured prominently in the Warren Report were killed in auto accidents. Others died of heart attacks, etc. The accompanying cartoon, which appeared some weeks ago in Sweden, hardly exaggerates the situation.

And now the chief actor in the great melodrama after Kennedy and Oswald, whom he survived, has also left the world. Jack Ruby — a "physical fitness nut," as his friends described him — died of cancer on January 3.

Everything, however, is in order. Suspiciously good order, in fact. Only days before his death, Ruby's brother had the foresight to get a tape recording in which Ruby allegedly reiterated that he was not a part of any conspiracy.

The Kennedy assassination, undoubtedly the work of right wing plotters as Workers World said categorically and extensively only hours after the event (and published Nov. 26, 1963), refuses to be still.

With Johnson's own name appearing more and more frequently in the speculations of the unconvinced, a new "investigation" is being considered. The

staid old Saturday Evening Post has just joined Life Magazine and the New York Times in calling for one.

But the idea seems to be to ask Congress or some other official body to conduct it. The idea is still that of adding whitewash to a job that wasn't painted up effectively enough.

The question remains: How can the suspects be trusted to investigate themselves?

Decades in China, Educator Defends It On Visit Here

NEW YORK — Professor David Crook, a twenty year resident of China visiting the USA, defended China in public appearances here last month and explained the Chinese political situation.

In a TV interview on the "Alan Burke Show" on Sunday December 18, Crook crossed words with the sharply reactionary Burke and an array of young right wingers whom Burke had brought in to question Crook from the audience.

In a series of sulphurous exchanges Crook answered effectively, despite harassing interruptions, questions on Chinese life today. In spite of the loaded character of the program, he dispelled a number of Chiang Kai-shek type fictions about the new China in such a convincing manner that Burke was forced to resort to McCarthy-like harangues in an attempt to bury these usually unheard facts.

In a previous public appearance on Friday December 16, Crook spoke to a packed house at the 58 W. 25 St. headquarters of Youth Against War and Fascism. In this lecture he detailed some of the Soviet leadership's methods in its attacks on China and described the Chinese Cultural Revolution as a great movement where the youth of China are learning about revolution by first hand experience.

Questions from the youthful audience indicated an overwhelming support of the Chinese and their revolutionary position.

Waging "Peace" in Vietnam

1½ People Killed Per Bombing Just Fine," Says Deputy Sec'y of Defense

By FREDERICK MATTEGER

The recent exposures by Harrison Salisbury that the U.S. government has lied about bombing only "military targets" in North Vietnam has become headline news around the world.

Readers who would not accept Vietnamese reports of widespread destruction of civilian areas: schools, hospitals, houses, dikes and non-military industry, have been shocked by the eye-witness reports of the New York Times editor that U.S. bombers have, among other things, destroyed a large part of North Vietnam's third largest city, Namdinh.

"It is apparent," wrote Salisbury in a dispatch in the December 27 Times "on personal inspection, that block after block of ordinary housing, particularly surrounding a textile plant, has been smashed to rubble by repeated attacks by Seventh Fleet planes."

In the face of this, Arthur Sylvester, U.S. Assistant Sec. of Defense, blandly admitted that Namdinh had been bombed some 64 times. (Hanoi only claimed 51 attacks.) And he just as blandly insisted that the bombers were only bombing "military targets." Namdinh has had such "military targets" bombed as a textile mill, a rice processing plant, a silk factory, a fruit cooperative. Salisbury was unable to find anything more "military" than that.

Commenting on the North Vietnamese figure of 89 civilians killed — and 405 wounded — in Namdinh during the raids, Sylvester indicated that he thought this was a pretty good figure: "Rather precise, careful bombing," he said. "It's a pretty low figure," he told reporters. "That's one and a half persons a raid."

The North Vietnamese explained that casualties were kept "low" because of a highly effective shelter system but about 70,000 had been evacuated from the city during the terrible bombing. The city is in ruins.

Sylvester further argued with his impeccable logic that Salisbury had not mentioned the anti-aircraft guns in the middle of Namdinh. That, he reasoned, made the city a military target. Which makes sense if it is understood that the U.S. government thinks that the Vietnamese have no right to shoot down U.S. planes which bomb them!

Right up until the Salisbury reports, Sylvester like his boss McNamara and LBJ, insisted that only "military" targets were hit. Now they cover them-

selves in a different way.

The blatancy of this kind of lying by a U.S. government official might be thought to be embarrassing — at least when they're caught at it. But not according to Sylvester's philosophy.

On December 7, 1962, shortly after the exposure of another set of government lies concerning the Cuban missile crisis, Arthur Sylvester made clear how it's done nowadays, when he announced "the inherent right of the government to lie."

As the latest news shows, Secretary Sylvester can be counted on to do his share.

Military Target: Factories, Schools-- In Fact, the Whole Working Class!

By V. GREY

Former President Eisenhower said on December 27 that he knew that U.S. bombing in North Vietnam was "aimed exclusively at military targets," but "unfortunately, there are some civilians around these targets." And then he added the sage question:

"Is there any place in the world where there are not civilians?"

Eisenhower, although "retired," was speaking for the Pentagon and the White House, who had already made similar statements. His purpose was to add prestige, popularity and bi-lateral

support to the crumbling "image" of the Administration and to reinforce its bland admission that a "few" civilians do get in the way of its bombs.

Leaving aside the big question of just who is lying about the civilian casualties and just how big the lie is, it would be useful to answer the General's supposedly block-busting question: "Is there any place in the world where there are not civilians?"

The answer is: No, there is not, General Eisenhower, and there is no place you have a right to bomb!

But the question should be more carefully put.

What Eisenhower means is that you can't hit military targets without killing some civilians. The real question should be: What is a military target?

The railways and docks that the Vietnamese have painfully constructed without U.S. loans or a great deal of labor-saving machinery, those are officially considered "military targets." The bridges that a people desperately needs for communication, transport and human intercourse — these are "military targets." The proud achievements of a free people in their first attempts at socialized production: these are "military targets."

The schools, hospitals and sanitariums, etc., that are hit are not called "military targets" publicly, but of course they are as much "military" in the long run as are bridges, railroads, etc. Whether "accidental" or not, their bombing is also the destruction of the socialist building program. The labor that builds these institutions is the same labor that builds bridges and railroads.

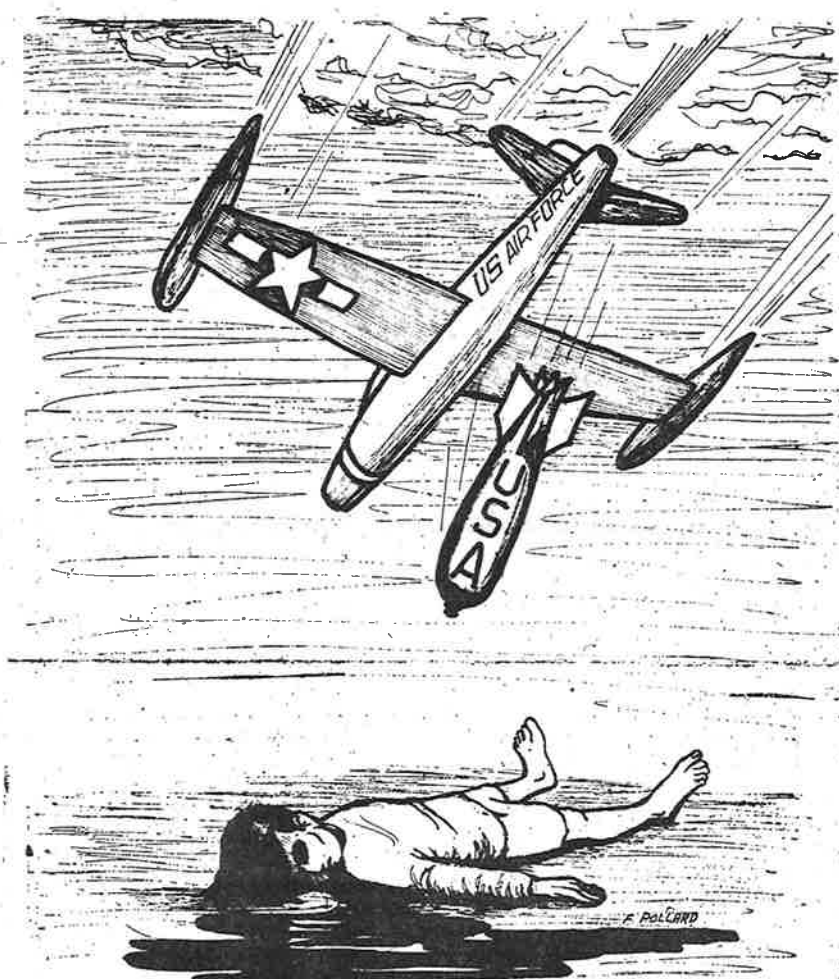
The world is horrified at the killing of civilians in Vietnam. (And the truth is that hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed in the course of the war.) But the civilians are in reality only part of the "military target" so far as U.S. imperialism is concerned.

There are indeed "some civilians around these military targets," as Eisenhower says. And the genial general is resigned to killing these civilians.

If there were 100,000 civilians "around a military target," such as in Nagasaki (whose military importance has never been established) he is resigned to killing them, too.

That is the real meaning of his disarming question. That is the real orientation of the U.S. warmakers.

Bombing Military Targets in Vietnam



GIs Forced to Scab on Longshoremen

Perhaps the old song "I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier" should now be revised to say, "I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier -- Or a Scab, Either!"

Reason for the revision would be that U.S. soldiers in Saigon are now being employed to break strikes conducted by workers of the "allied" country, South Vietnam.

On December 27, more than 300 GIs were used in an attempt to break a Vietnamese longshoremen's strike that had begun in Saigon the day before.

The workers, who had been getting about \$6 a day in this grossly inflated economy, were striking against unwarranted layoffs of their fellow workers and against an "efficiency" drive. The latter was begun with the advice of Thomas A. Gleason, president of the U.S. International Longshoremen's Association.

Gleason, ostensibly helping the U.S. "war effort," was of course really helping the further exploitation of Vietnamese workers by U.S. big business in the most literal sense. (The Vietnamese longshoremen are unloading

the same boats that members of Gleason's union loaded in the U.S. Gleason thus works for his own members' bosses in elaborating the sweatshop plan for Vietnamese workers.)

Actually, the whole U.S. war against Vietnam is a scabberding, strike-breaking operation of big business under the cloak of fighting for "freedom."

The youth of America are being used as strikebreakers against a whole people, who have risen against their exploiters.

The old fashioned U.S. scabbing on the Saigon docks is just an open expression of the hidden reality of the war itself.

After Bombing, Rebuild Beloved Land

HANOI, December 20 (Hsinhua)—The heroic South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the NLF, while defending themselves, have built up the liberated areas.

In Ben Tre Province during 1966 from January to October the people have dug 70 new irrigation canals and hundreds

Even Saigon Outskirts Now Policed By GIs Instead of Viet Puppets; Why?

DECEMBER 23 — U.S. troops have now taken over the policing of Saigon's "back yard" province of Gia Dinh, since the weakening forces of puppet dictator Cao Ky can no longer do the job.

Gia Dinh Province surrounds the Saigon district and has been "defended" up to now by the puppet soldiers of the so-called South Vietnam Government. The defense has been so ineffective, however, that the NLF has been able to fire mortar shots into the outskirts of Saigon from only a mile or two away — and to repeatedly attack the capital's airport, Tan Son Nhut.

It was humiliating enough to the Ky

government that the NLF could do this. But now it is doubly humiliating to have to concede the whole military responsibility to the U.S. It is a bald admission that the puppet soldiers have no heart for the fight against their revolutionary countrymen.

The morale of the Saigon troops was immediately worsened by the shift of forces. U.S. claims that puppet desertions have decreased from the 10-15,000 a month estimate of last summer are now being viewed with a still more skeptical eye among informed observers.

There are now over 1 million U.S. and "allied" soldiers in S. Vietnam, and according to U.S. sources, only 270,000 liberation force soldiers, including "regulars" from the North. But the million heavily-armed fighters for the U.S. billionaires, backed up by the most deadly bombing planes and battleships, have not been able to "pacify" even the little island of U.S.-bribed Saigon in the sea of Vietnamese revolt.

Soviet Grain to India Like U.S. Aid, It Helps Oppressor Government, When the Point Is to Help Overthrow It

People-to-People Program the Answer

By FRED GOLDSTEIN

Two weeks ago the USSR announced that it would make a gift of 200,000 tons of wheat to help the Indian government fight off the effects of famine in the northeastern states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The Soviet gift will be in addition to food loans by a variety of imperialist countries headed by the U.S.

For any country to be able to make an outright gift of such a large quantity of food is a remarkable thing, by itself. But for the Soviet Union to be in a position to make such a generous offer when only

fifty years ago it was a famine-ridden, semi-colonial country in the mire of feudalism, is more than remarkable. It is a living testimony to the truly monumental achievements of collectivized agriculture and socialist production—achievements made despite decades of economic isolation and untold destruction to the economy in World War II.

Only the abolition of the bourgeois order and the organization of production on a rational basis for social use made this wheat gift possible. And this dramatic gesture gives the lie once again to the capitalist enemies of the USSR, who

periodically predict the "imminent collapse" of Soviet agriculture in their never-ending attempts to discredit socialism.

WHOM DOES IT HELP?

But granting the mighty economic success of the socialist economy, the question must still be asked: Has the gift of 200,000 tons of wheat made to the bankrupt regime in New Delhi actually assisted the Indian masses to fight off hunger and starvation?

Or has it, in fact, had just the opposite effect—i.e. to strengthen the hand of the disintegrating capitalist government? Has it not reinforced the rule of the great landlords, the rural usurers, the grain speculators and village Brahmins, who are directly responsible for the archaic village system of agriculture which prevails today and whose evils were described and condemned by Karl Marx a century ago?

It is a grim irony of history that the product of collectivized agriculture, the precious property of the world's oppressed, won and preserved with the blood of millions of Soviet workers and peasants, should now be used by the Soviet leaders to help give a new lease on life to the exploiters' regime in New Delhi.

In the 18 years of Congress Party rule Nehru, Shastri, and now I. Gandhi, although still maintaining some relative independence, have led half a billion people back into the orbit of imperialism. They have turned India into a cat's paw against the Chinese revolution, have filled the detention camps with Communists and have presided over the same famine and unemployment the British did, and for approximately the same reasons.

THE MASSES MUST EAT

But the Indian masses are suffering and in dire need. The famine in Bihar and Uttar, whose combined population is 120 million, is the worst in living memory. No socialist worthy of the name can be callous about the suffering of the people and it is a fact of life that the masses must eat in order to fight.

Isn't there a way to feed them in opposition to their rulers instead of in collaboration with them?

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Instead of handing over 200,000 tons of wheat to the oppressor government, the Soviets could give the food directly to the Indian people.

There are a host of organizations in the Soviet Union such as trade unions, collective farm groups, youth organizations, women's groups and cultural organizations which could privately donate such large quantities of wheat directly to the workers' and peasants' organizations in India.

While the Indian bourgeoisie distributes the imperialist dole through their corrupt political machine which uses the food as a club against the people, the Indian Communists could distribute free Soviet grain directly to the masses and for their obvious benefit.

Direct aid to the people would at one and the same time save millions from immediate starvation, strengthen the hand of the working class organizations against the capitalist government and gain new adherents for the revolution.

Continued on Next Page



Why Johnson and Wall Street Purposely Extended India's Famine

President Johnson, after deliberately stalling for six months, has agreed to release 900,000 tons of grain for famine stricken India.

This was no belated act of largesse on the part of Washington, however. The price to the bankrupt Indian ruling class was big profit-making concessions for U.S. oil companies. Wall Street agreed to "rescue" the Indian masses from starvation in the short run in return for the right to exploit them in the long run.

New Delhi had requested 2 million tons of grain from Washington last summer on the basis of anticipated needs this fall.

Even under normal harvest conditions, Washington was planning to press for economic concessions from the government of Indira Gandhi. But when an intensive drought destroyed the entire fall crop in the northeastern states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (combined population of 120 million people) a golden bargaining advantage fell into the hands of U.S. imperialism and it was pushed to the hilt.

As the drought swept the northeast, reports began to pour in describing the parched countryside and the hunger of the millions.

"A three day tour through portions of both states," wrote Anthony Lukas in the New York Times of Nov. 13, "was enough to convince one observer that the situation there will be grave indeed this year. The earth in most sections is cracked and caked so hard that it can be dug only with a pickaxe.

Even such drought-resistant crops as peanuts have failed this year." Lukas quoted one American official as saying that "millions were on the verge of starvation."

But at the very moment that the threat of famine became monumental and urgent pleas came from New Delhi to speed the release of emergency grain, Johnson slowly deliberated and decided to send a "survey team" to "look the drought situation over."

Although Johnson's callous delaying tactics caused horrified disbelief among casual observers, the corporate editorial writers of the New York Times let slip Washington's motive in deliberately threatening to bring on mass starvation in India.

"President Johnson's decision to interrupt grain shipments to India... just as famine threatens," wrote the Times, "...leads Indians to suspect that the hold-up may be partially due to (his) displeasure with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's recent call for a halt in the bombing of North Vietnam," and also because "the United States wants India to open its doors wider for private construction of fertilizer plants by foreign oil companies..."

The Times revealed that the humanitarian concern in building fertilizer plants for food-poor India was a complete fraud when they stated that the U.S. "is refusing loans for government-built plants."

On Dec. 2 Clayton Fritchey, liberal columnist for the New York Post wrote nervously from New Delhi that the

"hardening of U.S. loan conditions" had created the "general assumption (in India) that Johnson is teaching Mrs. Indira Gandhi a lesson for her lack of enthusiasm for the President's Vietnam policy" and that "brinkmanship with mass starvation" was being branded by the left opposition in India's Parliament as an attempt "to force India to grant concessions to American companies interested in constructing fertilizer factories."

As Indian food reserves dwindled to nothing and the crises of the peasants grew desperate, Washington was just feeling the strength of its position and refused to budge.

In order to make clear to dismayed capitalist outsiders that there was a worthy method to Washington's madness, the Christian Science Monitor laid things right on the line.

"Big American oil companies," wrote the Monitor on Dec. 20, "have made very large technical advances" in the construction of fertilizer plants, and "President Johnson is holding up food shipments for one reason, trying to induce the Indians to admit the (U.S.) capitalist behemoths."

India will not be persuaded... in the vital matter of fertilizer and can only be shocked... by superior force of events and pressures.

And to be sure the "superior force" of mass starvation which threatened to topple the Gandhi regime did in fact "persuade" India in the "vital matter" of profits for the U.S. fertilizer companies.



RICHARD REUTER
U. S. "Food for Peace" Director

The very day after Johnson signed the release of 900,000 tons of grain, the New York Times proudly announced in a front page article that Amoco India, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana, will build a \$70 million fertilizer plant in Madras and that this is "the first fertilizer plant in which the Indian Government and a foreign private company will be partners... At the United States' urging (1) the Indian Government has relaxed its policy of not permitting foreign control of plants."

Behind the Soviets' Arrest of Gilmour and Wortham

Those "Tourists" in USSR

By VINCENT COPELAND

The apparently severe punishment for U.S. citizens committing apparently minor crimes in the Soviet Union raises more fundamental questions than whether the Soviets are "over-suspicious" or they react with "over-sensitivity to intrigue," as the U.S. press has charged.

It really raises the question of just how far the U.S.-Soviet "partnership" or contemplated partnership can go.

In a small way, it raises the question of the objective irreconcilability of the social systems of the two countries, an irreconcilability that is far more stubborn than the flexible backbones of individual revisionists. It is a small sample of the difficulties in the way of capitalism's penetration of the Soviet Union.

U.S. tourists Craddock M. Gilmour and Buel R. Wortham, for example, were arrested in Leningrad last fall for black marketeering in rubles. Wortham was sentenced to three years in a Soviet Labor camp and Gilmour, after being held for 60 days, was let off with a fine.

But hardly a peep was raised anywhere to ask the almost obvious question: Why should the Soviet Government, which is so anxious for friendship with the United States make such examples and inflict such punishment? Since U.S. dollars are supposedly at such a premium, why scare away other U.S. tourists, — or give the right wing U.S. press such a chance to scare them?

The Soviets, it seems, suspected the two of being CIA agents, and their punishment was meant as a warning to the U.S. spy machine rather than the tourist industry.

One reason the Soviets might have been suspicious: The two men had recently been released from the U.S. Army. They were in "intelligence."

An even more eloquent item was the incident of Aeroflot Jet and Mr. Vladimir Kazan-Komarek. This gentleman, an Americanized Czech, was returning from Moscow on a non-stop flight to Paris, and on October 31 he was seized and taken off his plane

at Prague, where the authorities said it had stopped because of mechanical difficulties.

Komarek was arrested in Prague and held there on charges of serious crimes committed some years ago.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk has gotten into this one and it threatens to become a cause celebre that will put in jeopardy the whole plan for joint Soviet-U.S. air agreements — particularly the proposed non-stop flights from New York to Moscow.

Now the Soviet Union is very anxious indeed for the air pact to go through. Why should they spoil it by developing engine trouble over the very city that most wanted to arrest one of their passengers?

The truth of course, is that Komarek was a notorious White Guard element. He was the organizer of a reactionary Czech underground, accused of at least one murder in his several trips to Czechoslovakia from the West. His very trip to the Soviet Union was a provocation and the U.S. State Department knows it.

Komarek, now a "travel agent," is known by the Czechs to be working with the CIA. The U.S. having gained a certain entree into the Soviet Union obviously wanted to see how far they could go. They pushed their luck too far — and sacrificed Komarek.

Back in 1963, Professor Frederick C. Barghoorn of Yale was arrested in the Soviet Union and the U.S. press reported that compromising documents were "planted on him." Nobody ever explained, however, just why the Soviets would want to plant documents on such a man at the very time they were courting the U.S. and endeavoring to increase "cultural contacts."

On Barghoorn's return to the U.S., he was called into a special meeting with Kennedy — a rather remarkable event in itself. The story that went around Washington for weeks afterward was that JFK asked the scholar what he was really doing in the Soviet Union and the answer was: "Didn't you know? I was working for the CIA!"

(Kennedy was reputedly at odds with the CIA, partly because of their bungling of the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.)

Cultural exchange between countries has been going on for centuries and is a prerequisite for higher civilization. But the purpose of the present exchange, as far as U.S. imperialism is concerned is to undermine socialism in the Soviet Union.

The whole "cultural exchange" program is inevitably slanted to help capitalism and hurt communism. The Soviet leaders are totally wrong in their approach to it and even the temporary "good" it may do for the higher-paid, upper-crust Soviet intelligentsia has a tendency to backfire.

In addition to the exchange program's general spreading of capitalist values, from even the most "liberal" groupings on the U.S. side, there is the continual drive of the right wing and the CIA to destroy the Soviet Union altogether — and as soon as they can.

Whether the revisionist leaders get the message or not, the imperialists can be satisfied with no less.

Why is the U.S. not content with half or quarter of a loaf, and why the constant push to take it all?

Because the objective irreconcilability of social systems works both ways. "Peaceful coexistence" is sabotaged by rapacious, profit-mad imperialism from the one side, just as it is dissolved by the socialist revolution (which still lives in spite of revisionists) on the other.

Latest China Bomb Test Hailed in Vietnam



Defense Minister Lin Biao greets Ta Thi Kieu, woman combat hero from South Vietnam shortly before Atomic test

"Unexpectedly rapid progress" was the worried phrase used by U.S. weapons experts (New York Times Dec. 31) to describe China's development of the nuclear bomb.

Since the explosion of their first atomic bomb in October 1964, the Chinese have startled the bourgeois experts with each step. The latest, the fifth Chinese explosion December 28, brought a new flurry of anxious comments by U.S. commentators.

It is not because they expect the Chinese to attack with these newly-made bombs. The Chinese, whose scientific accomplishment in developing the bomb following the first breakthrough blast, has been faster than any other nation, have repeatedly called for abolition of all nuclear weapons and they have stated that they would never be the first to use the atomic bomb.

The worry of spokesmen for U.S.

imperialism, is that it makes their aim of taking over Asia more difficult, and actually impossible.

The Chinese government statement announcing the latest explosion said that it was "a heavy blow to the plot of U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism which have been collaborating in a vain attempt to enforce their nuclear monopoly and sabotage the revolutionary struggles of all oppressed nations..."

"It is a great encouragement to the heroic Vietnamese," the statement emphasized. (A North Vietnamese statement welcomed and praised the Chinese nuclear development.)

The Chinese statement concluded by repeating their peaceful intent:

"The conducting of necessary and limited nuclear tests and the development of nuclear weapons by China are entirely for the purpose of defense."

In short, by giving the aid to the people directly instead of to a government which uses live ammunition against hunger demonstrations, the Soviets could give Indian Communists a tremendous material advantage in the political struggle for socialism.

THEIR AID—AND OURS

After all, the imperialists have never given a plugged nickel's worth of "aid" to assist anyone but themselves. Every penny is used by them as a weapon in the class struggle. In addition to economic and political extortion which ultimately accompanies every handout by the monopolies, the dole is always given in such a way as to strengthen the material position of their stooges and puppets over the oppressed.

When big business disapproves of a government, ways are always found to get around the problem. No one should know this better than the Soviet leaders.

—Soviet Grain to India

Continued from Preceding Page

THE HOOVER COMMISSION—
EXAMPLE IN REVERSE

One of the most outstanding modern examples of bypassing a government in order to deal directly with class allies—in this case, reactionary ones—was the organization of the Hoover Commission by U.S. imperialism in 1921 to give "aid" to the USSR, which was experiencing a catastrophic famine after three years of civil war.

Herbert Hoover, the Commission's head, was if anything, more anti-Soviet at that time than he was in later years. His distribution of food in the USSR had absolutely nothing to do with humanitarianism.

On the contrary, it was only because military intervention against the Soviet Union had failed that Washington organized the American Relief Administration. It was for the sole purpose of trying to win the masses away from the government of Lenin.

Hoover refused to deal with the "Bolshevik monster" and insisted on the "aid" being given through private organizations. The U.S. distributed over 700,000 tons of supplies through the counter-revolutionary Russian Kadets, the Red Cross, some bourgeois intellectual organizations, and even the U.S. Army.

Lenin permitted this direct "aid," because the people were in desperate need and he felt that the political loyalty of the masses to the Soviet regime was strong enough to with-

stand the blackmail. Lenin proved right and the attempt failed.

THEY DO IT ALL THE TIME

Imperialism never lets a hostile government stand in the way of trying to use its wealth as a lever against the revolution. Didn't Eisenhower propose the "people-to-people" program — meaning by that that the U.S. would bypass the governments and give direct aid to restorationists in Eastern Europe? And isn't the U.S. always ready to "permit" the Red Cross, missionary and clerical groups, and every other variety of "humanitarian" organization to "assist" the "people" in Cuba or North Vietnam?

Foreign "aid" under imperialism has always been a weapon of subversion, blackmail, economic sabotage, and is always given to strengthen counter-revolutionary forces, by giving them material support.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR
SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

The socialist world is still poor by comparison with the United States, if not the rest of the capitalist world, and is rarely in a position to support the oppressed with the same volume of assistance that the billionaires give to their stooges. Nevertheless, when the opportunity arises it should be seized.

Certainly the gift of wheat, of a genuine people-to-people type, i.e. from the toilers of the Soviet Union direct to the exploited of India, is a golden chance to demonstrate inter-

national class solidarity, strengthen the real class allies of the Russian Revolution, and prepare for the inevitable, but too-long delayed Indian revolution.

WOULD HELP THE STRUGGLE, NOT MUFFLE IT!

Besides giving a tremendous programmatic advantage to socialism in general, such an act of international class solidarity would further strengthen the practical ties of Indian Communists with the population; give the working class organizations a chance to expose imperialist "aid", by direct comparison for what it is—a tool of enslavement; afford a positive situation in which to re-emphasize that the struggle against starvation is the struggle against capitalism itself and that hunger, in the age of moon shots and earth satellites, is not a "national characteristic" but a product of the private property system.

How They Can Make an Exit

White Settlers in the Black Ghetto

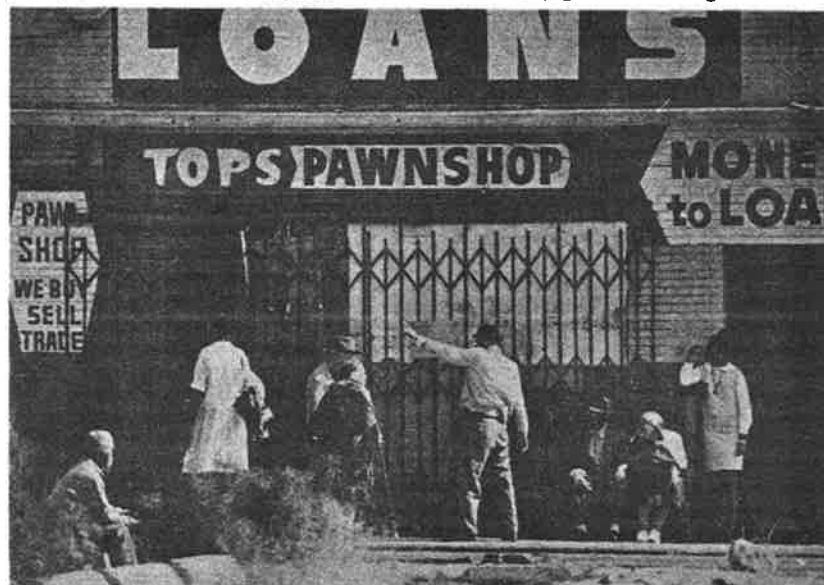
By E. COHEN

The white storekeepers in Harlem and other ghettos have become a symbol of oppression to the black community. They are the immediate focus of black

of Jewish families who make their living from what are mostly small family businesses" in black ghettos.

REMOVING SLUMLORDS

This help would not go to the slum-



A pawn shop in Watts, Los Angeles

resentment and rage.

What should be done with them?

After the defeat of French colonialism in Algeria, over half a million "colons" (European settlers in Algeria) were relocated in France and paid indemnification by the French government. The bitterness of the war made Europeans unwelcome and unsafe, particularly those who got their wealth—even petty wealth—from the exploitation of Algerians. It was considered wisest to ease the explosive situation by removing the irritant.

A proposal to similarly relocate Jewish-owned businesses out of the U.S. ghettos has come from a rather unexpected source in this country.

A RE-LOCATION PROGRAM

A survey of Jewish businesses in black communities has been urged by Dr. Judd L. Teller (no relation to the 'father of the H-bomb') in an article which appeared in the December issue of "Conservative Judaism," a publication of the Orthodox Rabbinical Assembly.

He views the survey as a preliminary to removing these businesses from areas where they cause resentment.

The Jewish community, writes Dr. Teller, must use its resources to "make possible the re-location of several thousand or even tens of thousands

lord, however, "The slumlord as a class is in another category," says Dr. Teller. "He has mulcted enough from the rundown properties to remove himself... The Jewish community should force his removal by barring him from all office, national, and local, in Jewish life."

The problem of ghetto stores owned by whites, particularly Jews, and the merchants' relationship to the oppressed Afro-American community is a sensitive question. Many progressives prefer to avoid it.

Dr. Teller's proposal is virtually the only serious attempt to date to grapple with the issue. No matter what his views may be on other matters, this specific proposal by Dr. Teller is worthwhile.

THEY, TOO, ARE VICTIMS

The fact that numerous small businesses are run by Jews is itself partly due to the prejudice of the white Christian community in which job discrimination against Jews has existed and still exists. This does not, however, alter the reality that stores in the ghetto are notorious for overpricing and/or selling inferior merchandise. They extend "easy credit terms" that double and triple the cost of goods and generally victimize customers who depend on credit. The

stores often will not even hire from the Black People who account for all of their earnings.

Thus the part of the Jewish community which has most contact with the Black People brings to the ghetto an image of the Jew as greedy, racist and dishonest. This misrepresentation is what Dr. Teller seeks to end by removing from the ghetto businesses which poison relations between Black People and Jews.

ACCEPTS BLACK POWER

"Black Power is bound to become a great force" in many urban areas, says Dr. Teller, and Jews have to "seek and develop opportunities for accommodation with Black Power and certainly avoid any collision with it."

During the recent uprisings, white-owned businesses profiteering on Afro-American oppression (along with the cops) were always the first targets. The Black People simply repossessed what had been stolen from them by ghetto stores in particular and racist capitalist society in general.

MANY WANT TO GET OUT

The uprisings horrified the ghetto's white businessmen, whose historical perspective rarely rises above the account books of their petty property.

It is not surprising that these businessmen are frightened of rebellion against the situation they helped create. Many would sell their stores at the first opportunity. Renouncing the role of profiteer would be right even if the reasons of some of them for wanting to leave might be the wrong reasons, racist reasons.

Certainly the precedents -- and the money -- for re-settlement exist.

FRENCH DID IT

The defeated French Government did it after the war in Algeria. In fact, 80,000 Jews were among the more than half million whites who left Algeria. At this time, the American Council for Judaism Philanthropic Fund raised \$68,000 to aid the relocation of Jews in France. And millions of dollars raised by various organizations went to Israel, where most of the Algerian Jews went.

U.S. COULD DO IT

The U.S. Government has managed to resettle tens of thousands of counter-revolutionary Cubans and Hungarians in this country during the past decade. And it has artificially "re-settled" 400,000 U.S. youth to Vietnam.

The job of removing the white settlers from the black ghettos would be much simpler, since most of the merchants, pawnbrokers, real estate agents, etc., don't even live in the ghetto.

The task reduces itself to a matter of buying up the white-owned businesses and turning them over to the black community.



They tried to repossess their own — also in Watts

Berkeley Regent And War

On December 24th a U.S. commercial transport crashed on a Vietnamese village near Danang killing over a hundred Vietnamese villagers. The accident brought attention to the company operating the line which obviously is tied to U.S. military operations. The company is the Flying Tiger Line. Chairman of the Flying Tiger Line is Samuel B. Mosher.

Samuel B. Mosher is also a regent of the University of California at Berkeley.

Youths in Court

After Arrest in Indonesia Protest

NEW YORK, December 29 — Two leaders of Youth Against War & Fascism were convicted yesterday of disorderly conduct for picketing in front of the Indonesian Consulate on Oct. 21.

Deirdre Griswold, Editor of the Partisan, and Maryann Weissman, National Coordinator of YAWF, pleaded not guilty to the charge in Criminal Court, 100 Centre Street.

Attorney Henry DiSuvero of the New

York Civil Liberties Union cited the First Amendment right of freedom of speech and challenged the police ruling which barred the demonstration from taking place directly in front of the Consulate. About 75 people picketed in protest against the right wing coup that killed up to a million Indonesians and pointed to CIA involvement in organizing the slaughter. When Miss Griswold and Mrs. Weissman attempted to picket in front of the Consulate, they were arrested.

Mrs. Weissman, who took the stand yesterday in the two-day trial, said that she and Miss Griswold had not tried to evade police but had attempted to exercise their constitutional rights.

The District Attorney maintained that the police were within their rights. He described New York City as a 'fountainhead of liberalism' (?) and said that New York police were to be commended for their restraint in dealing with protesters of any kind.

This fascist outlook was approved

Okinawa Against War in Vietnam

DECEMBER 8 (Hsinhua) — 1,500 villagers of Gushikawason, Okinawa, held a mass meeting on December 6 firmly opposing the requisition of their farm land by the U.S. forces for expansion of their military bases, according to a Tokyo report.

The meeting expressed great indignation at the U.S. imperialist aggression in Vietnam and the occupation of Okinawa.

Speaking at the meeting, Hookoo Kase, head of the village, pointed out that the U.S. requisition of land in Okinawa is directly connected with the U.S. aggression in Vietnam. He called on the villagers to close their ranks, not to be subdued under the pressure of the U.S. occupation forces, and to carry on the struggle persistently.

by Criminal Court Judge Archibald, who, after a two-day trial, found the defendants guilty as charged.

The ACLU has indicated that it will appeal the decision to a higher court.

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Ruling Class Board of Ed Was "Out of Order" When People Set Up Their Own School Board

By J. MOORE

NEW YORK — "I want to know why can't my son get as good an education as yours."

This question by a Harlem mother was the real theme of last month's sit-in at the Board of Education here.

On December 19 a group of angry ghetto parents waited all day in vain for a hearing of their grievances against the New York school system.

When the official Board walked out, the parents took over. They refused to leave the hall and elected their own People's Board which held highly publicized hearings for two days before they were finally arrested.

The hearing had promised to be stormy. Parents were fed up. They came to demand action by a School Board which has failed to do anything to begin to solve the deep educational problems in ghetto schools. As school problems have deepened, the Board, in covering up for a ruling class which does not intend to spend the money or take the steps needed to basically improve the schools, has stalled on needed improvements, double-crossed parents, and, where it could not manipulate parents, has arrogantly refused to deal with them.

When a woman who was not on the agenda tried to speak and parents demanded that she be given the right to speak ("We pay the taxes!"), the Board angrily adjourned and walked out.

The aroused parents then elected their own People's Board of Education. Among those elected was Mrs. Babette Edwards and other leaders of the I.S. 201 struggle for a parents' voice in ghetto schools last fall. Rev. Milton Galamison, a school boycott leader, was chosen president. The new Board took over the padded perches of the mighty and sat out the night.

On Tuesday morning the usually dry and formal Board of Education hearing room looked like and sounded like the beginning of a New York people's soviet. Though the microphones had been turned off, speaker after speaker went to the podium to denounce the official Board and describe the bad conditions in their schools, and make proposals.

The People's Board members, sleepy from their all night sit-in, flanked the speakers in the official Board's padded plush seats while the audience of parents, who had elected them, applauded each speaker.

The official Board, alarmed at the wide publicity the parents' action had sent, pouring over the city via newspaper and TV and radio, tried to reoccupy the Board seats. In a confrontation shown in front page newspaper pic-

tures, People's Board President Galamison told big business board President Lloyd K. Garrison that he was "out of order." Garrison left. The hearings continued.

"They aren't teaching our children to read!" was the cry that echoed again and again from black parents who rose to condemn the official Board. "They are sentencing children to ignorance and poverty!"

One parents' group made the proposal, which was enthusiastically applauded, that parents of the community be hired to help in the actual teaching of their children. Parents demanded more money for schools. They demanded action. One of the speakers gave some information on why the official Board does not act for the people.

This speaker, an Afro-American woman whose identity was not made clear in the general confusion, pointed to a hush-hush group which proposes or selects official Board of Education members.

This group, called the "Selection Board" includes, she said, the head of City College, the chairman of Columbia, the president of the United Parents Association (a company union type group), the Bar Association president and is tied to big business such as

Metropolitan Life Insurance and the Ford Foundation.

As the day wore on, a replacement pool was formed to hold the seats Tuesday night and Wednesday the hearings by the People's Board again continued.

But the official Board now had to act even though the use of force would expose further the real nature of their role.

At 4:15 PM the cops came. Under the glare of TV lights they arrested each of the People's Board members.

Said Vincent Negron, one of the People's Board members, shortly before the arrest:

"I'm from the Williamsburgh section. I've lived there all my life. I've done a lot of things I should have been arrested for but I was never arrested. Now they're going to arrest me for doing something that's right!"

The People's Board statement issued at 2:30 PM said "...we will have to go to jail merely for demanding that our children are taught to read." They set their first meeting for January 3 to be held at the Good Shepherd Center, 564 Hopkinson Ave., in Brooklyn. The temporary headquarters was arranged at the Community Association - East Harlem Triangle, 130 E. 129 Street,

NYC. Phone: 831 - 1544.

But the fireworks were still not over at the Board of Education. After the People's Board was arrested, a shouting picket line was set up in front of the building. And that evening a crowd of 150 people lined up to attend the official Board's hearings which resumed at 8 PM.

8 PM came, but the parents were not allowed in the hall. Barricades had been set up. Police blocked the way. As it became clear that the people were not going to be let in, there was an uproar. The crowd surged forward and knocked the barricades over and shouted:

"We want to get in!"

As police barred their way, the people, led by youths, began a picket line, chanting: "The Board of Education must go!" "Racism must go!"

Youths shouted, "We won't fight your dirty war in Vietnam!"

After the line had gone on for about an hour and a half with the people still barred from the hearing, William Booth, head of the city "Human Relations Commission," tried to speak to the group but was shouted down by a woman who said, "Don't listen to him. He sold us out during the I.S. 201 fight!" -- (by backing the Board of Education against the parents).

Others demanded that Booth, if he really wanted to help, go in and tell them to let the parents inside.

In the confusion that followed, several people were let in the hall, and one standing in the door shouted to cops barring the way to the others: "What are you doing? You can't keep these people out. This is a public hearing!" And the people surged into the hall.

Inside were only a few people, well-dressed lawyers and businessmen conducting the usual dry recitation-type hearing. With the influx of the ghetto parents, the complexion of the hearing changed completely.

The parents demanded that the Board hear their complaints and the old formal procedure was swept aside.

Board President Garrison tried to stop an angry black mother by saying, "You're out of order. You aren't on the agenda." But she continued to talk in defiance of his rulings.

One mother took the floor and demanded of Garrison: "I want to know, why can't my son get as good an education as yours?"

The big business Board did not answer these questions. But it did not use its cops to arrest or eject the parents. And it did not adjourn in retaliation. Fearful of the consequences of further attempts at intimidation of parents it sat and suffered.

But this official Board, this board of big business against the people, has lost its power to fool militant parents. It had to be re-installed by force. It is now faced with a growing rebellion.



The People's Board "excusing" Garrison during a hot interchange. Rev. Galamison is sitting on left.

PSC Hearings in NYC

Con Ed: "Increase Your Bill We Must"
Housewife: "Pay Your Price We Won't!"

By ELLEN PIERCE

NEW YORK CITY, December 16 — The State Public Service Commission recessed hearings today on a three per cent rate increase which the Con Edison power monopoly put into effect on November 25.

The hearings are public in name and in theory, but in reality the public is neither invited nor wanted. The hearing room was full of lawyers and businessmen, all white, all male, in their expensively tailored suits.

Radio or press advance publicity to let the real public know about the hearings was scant. The hearings were scheduled for a work day when paid representatives of businesses could attend, but not workers.

In fact, one housewife who came to watch the proceedings was twice di-

rected to the complaints office rather than to the hearing room.

Granting rate rises before it conducts hearings is highly irregular on the part of the PSC and exposes them as a rubber stamp to the requests of the big companies. The granting of the increase was attacked by many speakers at the hearing opened on December 15.

Opposing the increase were several New York City officials and representatives of business groups.

The only one to give the side of the captive family user was Mrs. Ellen Catalinotto, a housewife representing the Prospect Heights Women's Association of Brooklyn.

She pointed out that while a business whose costs increase can raise prices or take a cut in profits, a family on a

budget only has a certain amount of money to spend. If power costs go up, there is less money for essentials.

In households that are poor or on welfare, electric bills take a large percentage of the income, and are usually the third biggest expense after the absolute necessities of shelter and food. Mrs. Catalinotto attacked Con Ed as an all-powerful, arrogant monopoly.

She suggested that "Customers should show the same arrogance and not pay their bills."

Con Edison charges its three million captive consumers one of the highest electric, steam and gas rates in the country, a fourth higher than the national average. It spends \$2 million a year for "institutional advertising" which is public relations to give it a good image.

The farce of the PSC hearings will begin again on January 18, but meanwhile Con Edison is charging the three per cent increase and collecting \$5 million as the first installment of what comes out to an extra \$32.4 million per year.



Demonstration in front of Intermediate School 201 last fall.

Christmas Present for U.S. Big Business

Indonesia Parliament Invites Foreign Exploiters To Plunder After Massacre

DECEMBER 25 — Those who might still be wondering why nearly a million Communist and pro-Communist workers were killed in Indonesia gained a clearer understanding today.

The Indonesian Congress passed a Foreign Investment Act this Christmas, which guarantees foreign capital (and this will inevitably be mostly U.S. capital) from expropriation without compensation, and provides such sugar plums as five-year tax holidays for U.S. corporations.

A Moslem cabinet adviser called the bill a "perfect Christmas present." He did not say who the recipient of the present would be, but this was pretty well understood in Indonesia, where the U.S. hand had already been exposed in the attempted counter-revolution of 1958 and universally suspected in the

successful counter-revolution of 1965-66.

Less than two years ago, Indonesian workers were still taking over foreign holdings, often acting on their own and "sitting-in" to expropriate plantations, oil wells, and even banks.

This process was brought to an abrupt halt when the Suharto counter-revolution began in October, 1965.

But the foreign bosses were not actually brought back into the country in any numbers, mainly because the workers, although now virtually leaderless, were still militantly anti-imperialist. Even the appalling bloodbath carried out by Indonesian capital and U.S. agents could not turn the people into willing slaves of Standard Oil and the rubber and tin companies.

In the U.S. itself, the corporations

were discreetly silent at the highly welcome news about their investments and planned investments in Indonesia.



Through the
Magnifying
Glass

By John Moore

Bugging the Pentagon

The following is a product of our recently organized counter-bugging operation. The discussion was picked up on a bug hidden in the recesses of the Pentagon. We will only say that the voices we picked up at a certain Pentagon meeting SOUNDED LIKE certain people you know. Since the legality of our bug is questionable, we will have to keep the names of the participants secret except to remind you that they are well known people in the U.S. government. In order to keep their identities secret, we will use only their initials:

Here is the entire tape of this meeting:

LBJ: Now, General, we came over here to talk to you and see what you boys over here think about the morale problem — how is the morale of the troops over there holding up and what can we do about it? You know as well as we do that we got to keep an eye on this. We got to find the right button to push to make them fight — or we could end up with a war and nobody to fight it for us.

General W: Excellent! Mr. President. The morale of our fighting men couldn't be higher!

R. Mc: All right, all right, General, save that for the public. We want to know what the real situation is.

General W: Of course, Mr. Secretary. I thought you wanted to hear the statement I prepared for the press.

R. Mc: Later.

General W: Well, they don't want to fight. They all want to come home. And they don't care . . .

LBJ: So what do you do — what are you doing about this?

General W: We have weekly indoctrination programs which explain why they must fight Communism because it's a threat to . . .

R. Mc: All right, all right — so how do these programs go over?

General W: To tell the truth, Mr. Secretary, most of them sleep through the programs.

R. Mc: General, you should be using the new R-16 chairs designed to prevent sleeping. We sent 157,000 to you two months ago.

General W: They've developed a new method for sleeping. They even sleep in the R-16s.

LBJ: What about medals? Don't they want to fight to win the honor of wearing these fine new medals?

R. Mc: We now have six complete warehouses of the latest medals. We also have designers from MGM creating several new-type medals.

LBJ: By the way, General, just as an off the record tip: the medal companies are going to be getting a new series of orders around the first of the year. Be sure to take care of yourself.

General W: Thank you, sir! I'll pick up a few more medal company shares today — but about our medal program — we're handing them out every day — using a computer to determine how many to give each regiment, battalion, and company to keep up their fighting morale. And we have a well-trained staff of writers to create an original and dramatic story for each man, like how many VC he killed when he was outnumbered and wounded — they use a basic story form which saves time.

R. Mc: And what are the results of this incentive method?

General W: Inconclusive. But since I understood that you were going to ask about the medal results, I brought along a private who is being awarded one. Send in Private A.

Private A: You sent for me sir?

General W: Private, as you know, you have been recommended for saving a man's life. How do you feel about it?

Private A: Very good, sir?

General W: Are you ready as a result of the honor that we've given you to put forth even more effort?

Private A: I guess so, sir.

General W: Are you ready to go back and join the fight for freedom?

Private A: You mean go back to Vietnam?

General W: That's right, boy.

Private A: Well. I thought that. . .

General W: Now here's the way it is, boy. You're the ten thousandth man to be chosen as a medal winner. We want to report to the people that you have volunteered to go back to fight. If we give you the medal, will you volunteer?

Private A: Do I have a choice?

General W: Medal winners have certain obligations.

Private A: I want to do my part, sir. So I would like to turn the medal back to you so that some more deserving soldier can have it.

General W: Private, I'm ordering you to take this medal and I'm ordering you to volunteer to go back to Vietnam. Is that clear?

Private A: Yessir.

General W: MP! Take this man to the stockade.

LBJ: Well, that takes care of indoctrination programs and the medal incentive. The next thing we're going to try is this: we're sending Hope, Graham, and Spellman over there for Christmas to really push a strong line. If anti-communism and medals don't work, we'll have to use more God.

Saigon Assassination

Even the Puppets Are in Revolt!

By DAVE MICHAELS

A new political crisis is brewing for the U.S. puppet regime in Saigon. The new clash now shaping up is between the Ky military junta and the Constituent Assembly which is supposed to draw up a constitution to govern that fraction of the population which has not yet been freed from U.S. tyranny by the National Liberation Front.

The Assembly, which was originally conceived only as window dressing for U.S. aggression, has now also become an arena for ruling class elements in South Vietnam who are trying to wrest some modicum of independence from Washington and its military stooges.

To this end the Assembly has tried to draw up a constitution establishing a civilian government.

THE CATCH

The only catch is that according to the U.S. sponsored electoral decree which established the Assembly, Ky's directorate of generals can veto anything in the constitution. The fight now taking place is over the attempts by the Assembly to get the junta to give up this veto power.

But in accordance with his Quisling function, Ky is determined to prevent even the slightest move toward independence from his Washington paymaster. Thus, on Dec. 7 the Assembly leader of the anti-junta forces, Tran Van Van was shot to death by assassins in Saigon. Van who had been the author of a constitutional provision to bar the military from office and who proposed that no president should be under the age of 40 (Ky is 36) was previously imprisoned by two former U.S. puppets, Ngo Diem and Nguyen Kahn.

SUSPICIOUSLY TALKATIVE

Five minutes after his assassination, Ky's police came up with their own private "Vietcong," who promptly admitted his role in the assassination and then gushed forth with a mass of gratuitous details about his "Vietcong" history. (NLF captives have been

famous for their silence under extreme torture.)

Needless to say no one in Saigon, or for that matter in the entire world, was taken in by this farce for one minute, and a week after the assassination of Van two of the three English language newspapers in Saigon were closed down by the junta for suggesting that there were mysterious circumstances surrounding the murder.

In fact, the killing of Van only strengthened the Assembly vis-a-vis the junta and increased the hatred of Ky among the population.

ABSOLUTE VETO

The generals had privately turned down the Assembly request that they give up their veto power over the constitution late in November. But after the assassination of Van, the junta desperately tried to conceal this fact from the public for fear that the obvious connection would be made between Ky's refusal to grant civilian rule and the murder of his leading civilian opponent in the Assembly.

But after Van's death the parliamentary leadership of the civilian-rule faction was taken up by Dr Phan Quang Dan who was also previously imprisoned for plotting against Diem. Dan pressed the U.S. puppets to either openly proclaim their refusal to give up the veto or to announce that they would permit civilian rule.

ANOTHER "MESSAGE" FROM KY

On Dec. 27 Dan was on his way to an Assembly session at which the government was to formally announce its refusal to submit to the Assembly when a bomb tore a 16-inch hole in the seat of his automobile. He escaped with only minor leg injuries. Ky's opposition in the Assembly got the message. But they are still unwilling to capitulate.

And so another crisis is building up for Washington's Hitler-loving puppet. Washington's program — i.e. the enslavement of Vietnam is so reactionary that only the most craven betrayers would dare to carry it out.

Johnson and Ky decreed that there would be democracy in Saigon in order to hoodwink world opinion. But the thoroughness with which U.S. imperialism must trample underfoot even the slightest obstacle to its complete domination has aroused even the historically hopeless native ruling class of South Vietnam to raise a timed voice of protest.

U.S. answer — Imprisonment and assassination.

DON'T BLAME IT ON HO CHI MINH!

Speaking of withdrawing all U.S. troops six months after the cease-fire, how many U.S. troops have been withdrawn from PUERTO RICO, sixty-eight years after the cease-fire?

HANOI, December 19 (Hsinhua) — The liberated areas have been steadily expanded in South Vietnam this year. Over 660,000 more people were liberated by the end of last September.