

WORKERS WORLD

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TEN CENTS

Rob Williams Will Come Back From China!

Announces He Will Organize Major Fight - Will Invite 10,000 To His Monroe Trial

The imperialist press has already told its readers that Rob Williams is planning to return to the U.S. Drew Pearson and other capitalist reporters, however, have attempted to smear Williams, impugn his motives, tell lies and half-truths about him in order to soften the impact of his return upon the Black struggle in this country.

The following release from Williams' office in Peking, China, sets the record straight.

* * *

AUGUST 14, 1967 — Robert F. Williams, an exiled Afro-American now residing in Peking, says that he is organizing a world-wide movement to support his return to the United States of America. Williams, the former president of the Union County, North Carolina branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been in exile since August of 1961. He fled the segregated southern town of Monroe, N.C. during a violent clash between Blacks and whites which resulted from demonstrations for racial integration. In 1957 Williams organized an armed defense guard against the violence of racist terrorists. He called on Afro-Americans throughout the nation to arm and meet violence with violence. In the same year he also ran for Mayor of the City of Monroe.

In 1960 when the sit-in movement's



ROB WILLIAMS

goals were still primarily limited to the integration of public places, he drafted a ten-point program which included fair employment, school integration, integrated medical facilities, non-discrimination in welfare aid and the abolition of police brutality.

Williams' far reaching and militant demands on the power structure earned him the spiteful hatred of bigoted officials.

In 1961 he fled the City of Monroe after being informed by a telephone call

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LBJ TRIES TO WHITEWASH PHONY VIET ELECTIONS

"Dove" Critics Are Phony, Too; They Know That ALL "Free Elections" Are Rigged—Especially in U.S.

AUG. 30 — Three days ago, the Johnson Administration dispatched a team of 20 "observers" to whitewash the coming Saigon "election" farce. Meanwhile, Washington is busy preparing to escalate the war right after the pre-scheduled "victory" of the Thieu-Ky puppets.

Allied forces will launch a major offensive against the Communists in South Vietnam after this Sunday's national election," according to an August 30 Daily News dispatch from Saigon.

It was at the Honolulu conference that the Johnson Administration announced its plans, according to which the military dictatorship in Saigon was scheduled to win a "free election" this September. This farce is about to be carried out according to Washington's design.

A growing number of doves are raising a hue and cry about rigged elections in Saigon. For example, Robert Kennedy, with his eye on the White House, called the elections a "fraud" and Jacob Javits asked Johnson to postpone the elections until such time as their "honesty could be assured." What these two demagogues (who themselves got into office through "free" elections, bought and paid for by the billionaire corporations behind them) really meant was that the U.S. should organize a Mississippi-Tammany Hall-type election campaign. What these imperialist "doves" are driving at is what the New York Times expressed in a recent editorial — i.e. they want to avoid a major "embarrassment" to Washington.

In addition, growing sections of the

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North Vietnamese workers rebuilding bridge within hours after U.S. bombing.

Hong Kong, Red Guards Tell British: Time to Go!

By V. Copeland

The growing conflict between People's China and imperialist Britain over the so-called "crown colony" of Hong Kong is due to many provocations by the British, combined, no doubt, with constant intrigue by the latter's U.S. backers.

But it is also a manifestation of the Chinese Revolution itself.

Hong Kong is a part of China. Its population, outside of the bosses, big merchants, British soldiers and American GIs getting "rest and recreation," is wholly Chinese. A small part of it is an adjacent island—almost as close to the mainland as Manhattan is to the Bronx.

The Chinese people have always resented this foreign domination of their own territory. And in the present imperialist invasion of the Far East, it was inevitable that the people of Hong Kong would increase their efforts for liberation, independently of the encouragement of Peking.

Truly symbolic are the British arrests and harassment of people for wearing Mao Tse-tung buttons, brandishing books of Mao's quotations, etc. The people are acting like Chinese instead of like colonial servants, identifying with their brothers and sisters of the mainland.

The British are attempting to hit back, to "show who's boss." They are going to great lengths to shore up

their crumbling empire, while of course always assuming a cool and indifferent manner to deceive the masses, especially the gullible middle class.

The British closing of three pro-China newspapers in Hong Kong early in August and their sentencing of six patriotic Chinese journalists and eighteen teachers and educational workers on August 13, has aroused a furious storm of indignation in China—a storm which led directly to the burning of the British embassy in Peking.

Now, in Britain and the United States, as in every crisis during which imperialism is preparing new assaults on the oppressed, there suddenly appear sentimental stories about the agents of imperialism—stories about innocent diplomats and their families, who had to bow their heads, to tragically lose their dignity or suffer a punch or two from an indignant crowd.

The British, however, have shot down strikers and demonstrators by the dozen all during the summer in Hong Kong. The accounts have been carried in the capitalist press, but naturally not with the prominence accorded to the story of some allegedly heroic British diplomat who continued to sip his tea while the masses were making history outside his house!

Although the British have every desire to keep their illegal and unjust control of Hong Kong, they have not been

above some rather extreme provocations.

On August 11, according to Hsinhua, the Chinese news agency, armed British cops and plainclothesmen invaded Kowloon's walled city, which has always been under China's jurisdiction. And after a number of other provocations, pulled down the national flag of People's China.

It appears now that People's China and Britain are very close to the point of a diplomatic break over Hong Kong. And some observers are predicting an actual "invasion" by the Chinese into their own territory to help their oppressed compatriots gain full freedom.

In this connection, a commentary by Peking People's Daily of August 20 must have been carefully studied by the British—and caused no little worry in

Washington, too.

"Hong Kong has been Chinese territory since ancient times," said the paper. "More than a century ago, British imperialism came to China in pirate ships, provoked the criminal 'opium war' (in which it imposed the importation of opium into China—ed.), massacred numerous Chinese people and occupied the Chinese territory of Hong Kong."

"Because Hong Kong has always been Chinese territory," People's Daily continued, "and was occupied by the British imperialists, the peasants of Kwangtung Province, living near the new territories, have for generations tilled the land there. (The 'new territories' are in the northern part of the Hong Kong area—ed.) Now the British im-

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Chemical Warfare at Home

The use of chemical warfare has long been reviled as one of the ultimate violations of international law and a crime against humanity. World civilization has condemned the use of chemicals against human beings for aggressive purposes as an outrageous crime, so much so that ever since the imperialists invented it as a technique, they have had to publicly promise never to use it. Even the murderers in Washington, who were caught using it during the Korean War and are currently using it in Vietnam, have always felt compelled to issue the most vehement denials of such charges.

International revulsion notwithstanding, the General Ordnance Equipment Co. of Pittsburgh is manufacturing a new gas called "Chemical Mace," sprayed from a can, which is being sold to police departments across the country. The chemical produces extreme pain, dizziness and renders a person helpless. When it comes into contact with a person's skin, it

combines with the skin oil, enters the pores and reacts on nerve endings causing a "shock effect" which has been described as "like being hit on the jaw with a haymaker."

The San Fernando police department recently issued the Chemical Mace as standard equipment to patrolmen. The Wall Street Journal of August 14 reported that the Columbus, Ohio police have been carrying it for a year now, and the Youngstown police are equipped with it also. The most recent instance of domestic chemical warfare came to light when there were half buried newspaper reports that the police in New Haven had attacked at least 24 people with the weapon. New Haven is indeed a "model city."

The General Ordnance Equipment Co. has reported record sales to police departments since the Afro-American rebellions in Newark and Detroit.

The racist ruling class is following the principle, what is good enough for its oppressed victims abroad is good enough to use on Black people at home.

The "Non-Proliferation" Treaty Is A Revisionist -U.S. Maneuver Against China

The proposed treaty for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons provides against non-nuclear countries getting these weapons. All nations who sign it will pledge not to transfer nuclear weapons to other countries, or to accept them.

It is sponsored both by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, who submitted identical drafts for the treaty on Aug. 24 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The whole thing is a fraud.

It has nothing to do with peace and nothing to do with stopping nuclear war. It is an attempt of the big powers to monopolize nuclear weapons, not to destroy them.

And it is being fortified and whitewashed by the collaboration of the revisionist leaders of the USSR, who are cozying up to the U.S. imperialists precisely at the time the latter are bombing Hanoi and attacking the very borders of China.

At the very moment the Soviet leadership should be threatening Johnson with retaliation for attacking its allies, it tells the U.S. it will not supply its own allies with the tiniest amount of the weapons which the U.S. has in such abundance!

Thus the treaty marks a new stage in the ever-widening war against People's China. And the Soviet leaders' collaboration in it marks a new stage in the revisionist campaign against the proletarian revolution. First and foremost, the treaty is an anti-China pact.

The line of U.S. imperialism is the line of pretending that war might be caused by nations other than the U.S. getting hold of nuclear weapons, whereas the real cause of war is the existence of imperialism itself. The U.S. line is in reality one of keeping its armed superiority over non-nuclear nations, and preventing any non-nuclear nation from becoming powerful enough to resist U.S. nuclear blackmail.

To carry out this line, the U.S. needs the collaboration of the leaders of the USSR, and they in turn need an alliance with U.S. imperialism in order to insure the peaceful and rapid development of the neo-bourgeois privileged caste in the Soviet Union.

That is why Soviet diplomacy is actively aiding U.S. blackmail of socialist, colonial and semi-colonial countries by collaborating on this treaty. And it is publicly assuring the U.S. that it will give no nuclear aid to China, or any other country being bullied or pressured by nuclear-armed U.S. imperialism.

As part of the deal, of course, the U.S. is supposed to withhold nuclear weapons and weapon information from West Germany, a potentially very dangerous enemy to the Soviet Union.

But there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of atomic bombs already on West German soil! No matter what the imperialists may promise, they are not going to disarm.

On the contrary, the most predictable thing about the U.S. Government is its yearly increase of the war budget.

The treaty will only be effective insofar as it hurts the oppressed countries and the revolutionary ones. Insofar as it is supposed to restrain the imperialists, it will be nothing but a scrap of paper.

The industrialized capitalist nations, which don't have the bombs now will get them anyway — with the open or hidden collusion of U.S. big business. But the misleaders of the Soviet Union, in their unseemly haste to assure the imperialists of their "respectability," and "statesmanship," will put many socialist countries and others fighting for liberation, into a built-in straitjacket, inviting the imperialists to hit them. And what is worse, the revisionists are lulling these countries into an attitude of unwarranted confidence in U.S., British, etc. intentions toward them, disarming them ideologically as well as materially.

The thing to do with nuclear bombs is not to monopolize them and legitimize the biggest nuclear stockpile in the hands of the most belligerent and war-mad of all the powers — U.S. imperialism. The thing to do is to destroy them.

People's China has constantly advocated and still advocates the outlawing and complete destruction of all existing nuclear weapons. But the hypocritical U.S. politicians label this proposition as... "propaganda!" The Soviet revisionists, who used to advocate the same thing as China, are now silent, or else they chime in with imperialism.

While we're on the subject, we omitted some important paragraphs from an editorial in our last issue entitled "Hanoi's Call for Aid."

After a sentence about U.S. imperialism being "comforted" by the split between the Soviet revisionists and China, there should have been the following paragraphs, which apply in the present instance and can pretty well stand by themselves here:

Of course, the imperialists were also "comforted" by the split in the world socialist movement in Lenin's time, between reformists and revolutionists. But the split was healthy and necessary, and it hurt imperialism profoundly.

Today, the revisionist unity-shouters, together with the late Isaac Deutscher, the so-called "Kremlinologist," and his Social Democratic camp-followers, profess to be dismayed by the split between the revisionists of the Soviet Union and the revolutionaries of China.

But the "unity" they seek is in reality the unity of a common detente with imperialism. They deliberately forget that the split was caused by the revisionists in the first place, because of their relentless pursuit of accommodation with imperialism and their rejection of the proletarian class struggle. The last thing they want to see is the unity of the Soviet proletarian vanguard overthrowing the revisionists in order to further the international class struggle.

A China-Soviet unity for the struggle against imperialism is deeply desired by all real revolutionaries. But the chief obstacle to that unity is precisely those who are now collaborating with imperialism — that is, the Soviet revisionists.

*** The unity of the revisionists with the U.S. at Geneva on the fraudulent, anti-China, "anti-proliferation" treaty should at the very least tell any honest person just whose fault it is that China-Soviet unity does not now exist.



Chinese diplomatic corps fighting cops and fascists outside the Chinese mission in England. British cops got a taste of the Cultural Revolution, firsthand.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

It takes nothing less than the courage of character and the consciousness of great minds to keep up the continual drive of real Revolution that You and all your fellows are doing with WORKERS WORLD!!

I never cease to marvel at it and wonder how it can be done so devotedly with what always has seemed to be so little "backing"!! An "Unknown soldier," any soldier, by comparison is a piker!! You are in the great company of those who signed our Declaration of Independence and pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the greatest document of all time!!

YOU know the price, of course, and that is the greatest wonder of all, that knowing this price you still persist in your devotion and dedication!! My little dollar from time to time when I can manage it is a lousy thing but I have no choice!! Some time ago I told you how I am "fixed" and the

"fix" is still the same — an old age indigent living by grace of Welfare at 89 - 90 come April.

I try to do what I can to help some friends down south from time to time by scraping a little from the Welfare checks but that is little enough.. I always feel inordinately cheap in sending you this dollar but I must do it when I can.. But don't be surprised IF SOME DAY you get a five spot instead..

I am always "hoping" for such a possibility — if I manage to live along this way.. But I am always hoping that each breath I draw will be my last.. I am in poor health, and that release may happen any time so IF you never hear from me again it will be because I have at least fulfilled my "hope"!! But my admiration for you all is unending!!

Faithfully

Horace Casselberry

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NAME

STREET

CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....

Corporations Tell Cops— "No Guns for Black People"

If an Afro-American is drafted to wage war on the Vietnamese people, he will be presented with the most modern weapons and all the ammunition he requires, gratis, compliments of the U.S. imperialist army. (Of course he has to give them back before he leaves.)

If that same Afro-American should live through the front line warfare (where he is most likely to be in Vietnam) and make his way home to find his life and his community under attack by an army of uniformed racists, his chances of getting a gun, at any price, to defend himself, are going to be slim indeed.

At least this is what the ruling class advocates of "gun control" have on the top of their minds. In recent months, there have been heated debates on TV, in the bourgeois press, and in various government bodies about gun registration, limiting gun sales, etc. The debates flow from an elementary problem. On the one hand, it is the urgent desire of the ruling class in general to totally disarm the Black masses, whose mood is growing more revolutionary every day. On the other hand, the arms manufacturers have a powerful lobby and they want to keep the lush profits rolling in, most of which are made on sales to whites.

How to embody these dual desires in legislation without openly writing apartheid laws prohibiting guns to Black people is the source of all the heat over so-called gun control.

But the Black revolution won't wait while the congressional stooges of big business do a balancing act between arms profiteers and the dictates of counter-revolutionary logic, and the bosses know it.

So, in the wake of Newark and Detroit, the three largest general merchandising corporations in the country have taken the initiative to get around the problem.

Sears Roebuck, J.C. Penney and Montgomery Ward, without bothering to

consult any courts or lawmakers, have illegally moved to turn arms control directly over to various local police departments.

According to the New York Times of August 8, Montgomery Ward (sales \$1.8 billion, profits \$16.5 million) sent a telegram from its Chicago offices during the Detroit rebellion urging stores to cooperate with the police.

"Suggest you instruct metro district managers, zone managers, and catalogue house managers that it is their responsibility to be alert to the wishes of the local police and governmental authorities as to whether or not local conditions make it advisable to withdraw firearms and ammunition from display and sale."

Montgomery Ward explained that it was the "unpredictable and serious nature of civil disobedience and riots"

which led the corporate high-ups to cut off the sale of arms which might fall into the hands of Afro-Americans.

Sears Roebuck (sales \$6.8 billion, profits \$343 million), stopped its sales of guns and ammunition in a number of cities, including New York, Westchester, Long Island, and New Jersey. "We're not selling any guns at all on account of the riots," a Mount Vernon customer was told shortly after the rebellion there.

During the rebellion in Wyandanch, Long Island, J.C. Penney (sales \$2.5 billion, profits \$79 million) stopped gun sales at their nearby Bay Shore store and took similar action to cooperate with police during and after the uprising in Newburgh, New York.

Thus, these three giant national chain stores have virtually invited the police to use their discretion in controlling the flow of arms to the Afro-American communities across the country. Quietly and without one iota of public debate, the corporate hierarchy has conspired to put into practice reactionary, racist police state measures which their congressional agents are still unable to even talk about in public.

- Williams To Return

Continued from Page 1

from the Chief of Police that he had "caused a lot of racial trouble", that State Troopers were coming and in 30 minutes he would be hanging in the court house square. He escaped an international police dragnet, settled in Canada, and was forced to flee again just one step ahead of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

He lived in Cuba for almost 5 years during which time he originated a radio program called RADIO FREE DIXIE and continued to publish his newsletter THE CRUSADER which had been established in Monroe, N.C. as a voice of the local N.A.A.C.P. branch. This international publication is still being published from Peking. He is author of the book: NEGROES WITH GUNS which gives his account of the impact of armed self-defense on the civil rights movement.

Williams, who is the Chairman-in-exile of the Revolutionary Action Movement, has constantly maintained that kidnap charges, leveled against him in 1961, were trumped-up by vindictive racist officials.

He says he went into exile because no Black man can expect legal justice in America's kangaroo-type racist courts. He says that his return will expose racist America's concept of justice for Black people before the entire world and that he wants to disillusion those who still have illusions about American democracy and justice.

He states that he is organizing an international movement for his defense and hopes to invite 10,000 persons, including the foreign press, to his Union County kangaroo trial. Williams says he wants to call an international conference on racist legal justice and to use his trial as a part of a seminar on the study and abolition of legalized white supremacy lynching in America.

Racist Romney Makes "Slip of the Tongue"

When Michigan Governor Romney faced a crowd of 600 angry Afro-American demonstrators in Flint last week, he forgot for the moment that he had been the man who, only a month earlier, had called for Federal troops to shoot Black men down. (His only complaint about the Detroit rebellion is that Johnson didn't send the troops fast enough!)

With the Presidential elections only a year away, the sight of all those potential voters must have tempted the Governor's opportunist reflexes beyond control. For Romney, momentarily, forgot himself, and the ruling class line of "not rewarding" the Black people for rebelling, and he went so far as to promise his support for a bill that would allow Afro-Americans to live in any part of any town in Michigan. "I'm here to support the basic idea that there should be open occupancy in the State of Michigan and the city of Flint," he proclaimed, recklessly.

Housing in Flint is among the most tightly segregated in the country. "Open occupancy" is now a burning issue to the Black residents of that city. Hundreds of youths slept for two nights in front of Flint's city hall, and 3 stores were firebombed after the City Commission voted down an open housing bill. The next day Romney flew in from his private retreat on Mackinac Island and surprised the demonstrators by taking their side. However, the Governor's conciliatory new image faded quicker than a rainbow. Back on Mackinac Island the next day Romney got the word that, Presidential candidate or not, the limits of campaign demagoguery do not extend to concrete concession to Afro-American demands.

So Governor Romney publicly stated that he had made a "slip of the tongue" while he was in Flint. After all, there was a provision in the State constitution prohibiting discrimination because of race, creed or color, wasn't that enough? (He could have mentioned that the U.S. Constitution also guarantees life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all its citizens; so why do Black people have to agitate for civil rights laws at all?)

The bourgeois press was extremely polite to their two-faced presidential hopeful. The New York Times buried Romney's "change of mind" on page 23 and then never mentioned the subject again. Apparently it's not news much "fit to print" when a presidential candidate talks like a liberal one day and declares his racism the next.

A previous frame-up indictment inciting to riot and arson by authorities in Cambridge, Maryland, laid the basis for the Federal gun charge. Agents of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service, which enforces the National Firearms Act (against Black militants, that is) made the arrest.

Bondsmen refused to post a bond for Rap Brown even if it were fully guaranteed by securities.

The SNCC leader's attorney, William Kunstler, argued at a bail hearing that the "real crime is being Rap Brown and a militant Black man in America."

At issue also is the right of self-defense by Afro-Americans; Rap Brown was shot by a racist in Cambridge and the ruling class would be only too glad to see him assassinated if they could get away with it.

(While Rap Brown was in jail in New York, another SNCC worker, George Ware, was arrested in Tennessee on sedition charges. George Ware had accompanied Stokely Carmichael to the Latin American Solidarity Organization meeting in Havana last month. He is in jail in Nashville under \$10,000 bond.)

At the bail hearing on August 22, supporters of Rap Brown crowded the courtroom. Many refused to stand when the judge entered, but cheered and applauded when the SNCC chairman was escorted in by no less than six Federal marshals.

U.S. Gov't Frames-Up Rap Brown



H. Rap Brown

NEW YORK, Aug. 22 — SNCC chairman Rap Brown was released from the Federal House of Detention today as bail on a minor gun charge was reduced from the outrageously high figure of \$25,000 to \$15,000.

"It was Black Power that got that bail reduced," said Rap Brown after his release to a cheering crowd of Afro-Americans who greeted him on the steps of the Federal Court House in Foley Square.

"I was a political prisoner," Brown

Rap Brown's Prison Statement

Statement by Rap Brown in response to his continued imprisonment:

August 20, 1967 — In the course of any movement that seeks to promote change be it religious, social or revolutionary, individuals because of their beliefs are unjustly made to suffer. For blacks, the historical alternatives for political dissent in America have been death, exile or imprisonment. I am no exception.

I am being held as a political prisoner. However, my confinement will not rebuild Detroit nor will it save America from its due fate. For as America has bestowed upon me in my 23 years her extreme disfavor, she has also through her inhumanity, racism, oppression and exploitation of both black and white, domestic and foreign, made

told his supporters. "That \$25,000 wasn't bail, it was ransom."

"I would have stayed in jail until my trial, but all the brothers and sisters came to court today to show strength and solidarity."

The bail, still excessive at \$15,000, is only part of a government attempt to crush the Black Power movement and its spokesmen. The National Guard and Army were called out in Newark and Detroit; now the courts, the FBI, and

herself an enemy of mankind. I am told that people across the country have recognized my imprisonment to be a sounding board which may in some way reveal their own fate. If it takes imprisonment or even death to expose America for what it is, then this is my destiny.

To all those who favor freedom I say thank you for your convictions and your contributions toward that end.

To all the Black brothers and sisters across America who are caught behind enemy lines, I say the fight has not yet matured. Arm yourselves, for our freedom is yet to come.

Yours in Rebellion,

Rap Brown

BLACK POWER!

even the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service are pursuing the "legal" (according to racist law) battle against the Black rebellion.

The SNCC chairman was arrested on August 19 in New York on an obscure Federal statute that makes it a crime "for anyone under indictment to transport a firearm in interstate commerce." The penalty is a \$2,000 fine and up to five years in jail.

U.S. Military Brass Holds GIs "Expendable" In Genocidal War On Viet Liberation

"Friendly" Mines, Bombs, Artillery Kill More and More As Army Rushes Fresh Cannonfodder to Front Lines

"Cannonfodder" is a word not used much these days, but it is a perfect description of the attitude of the military toward the GIs.

As a veteran of Vietnam wrote to fellow servicemen, "If an officer loses a weapon, he must make good the loss and write up reports, but if he loses you, no questions are asked." (from The Bond, The Servicemen's Newspaper, August 4.)

Not only does the army draft young men by the hundreds of thousands, hastily train them and send them over to Vietnam to fight to make Asia safe for U.S. exploitation—the army also drops napalm and artillery shells on its own men and otherwise kills or wounds them.

Every week in Vietnam GIs are wounded or killed by what the Pentagon calls "friendly fire" in its telegrams to the next-of-kin. The "friendly fire" that kills GIs or "friendly shrapnel" or "friendly napalm" is materiel made by U.S. companies (for a profit, of course) and ordered into action by U.S. officers. "Accidents happen," the brass say, as they fill out forms requesting more

soldiers to throw into the meatgrinder.

One recent example of this was the death of a Bronx soldier killed by a U.S. mine. Before he was killed last month, Pfc. Angelo Raptis had often written home complaining of inadequate training, particularly when it came to mines.

During basic training he wrote of the scant one day of mine detection training at Fort Jackson, S.C., "It's a good thing they were only dummy mines, otherwise there would have been a lot of guys getting blown up." A day after he landed in Vietnam on July 21, Raptis wrote, "Because the casualties are so heavy they are not even sending us to school—we're going right out there."

What makes this young man's death even worse is the fact that he had injured his feet in a car accident and should not have been drafted in the first place.

But the army, in its haste to get troops over to Vietnam to replace heavy losses, ignored Raptis' bad feet and put him in the infantry. Only after he was sent to Vietnam and after his father wrote many letters to the army enclosing statements from a podiatrist

Pentagon Reveals 161,000 "Extra" Casualties!

In small print, in the first report of its kind, the Pentagon has admitted at least partially what many have long suspected: a massive cover-up of casualties in Vietnam.

The admission reveals that well over a quarter million U.S. soldiers have been killed, wounded, hurt in accidents, or disabled by disease since the intervention by the U.S. in 1961.

Since 1961, the Pentagon has admitted to 12,605 combat deaths, 2,549 non-combat deaths, and 77,513 wounded. Now they have revealed that in addition, 161,250

American soldiers have suffered "non-fatal casualties due to disease and accidents" — 85 per cent of the casualties have occurred in the last 19 months!

The total of this massive blood-letting: 253,917 American youths killed, crippled, or infected with disease since 1961.

Over 200,000 of these have occurred since Johnson's escalations at the beginning of 1966.

And if they admit that they concealed 161,000 casualties, what else are they hiding?

were transfer procedures begun. But Raptis died from "metal fragment wounds received when a friendly mine detonated" before the transfer could get through army red tape.

On January 13 of this year, 8 GIs were killed and 34 wounded when "artillery shells from a nearby unit landed among them. Both the casualties and the artillerymen, who mistakenly fired about ten 155mm shells, were members of the First Infantry Division.... At least three similar accidents have occurred in the First Infantry Division. The Division commander, Maj. Gen.

William E. De Puy, uses far more artillery and air support than other commanders in Vietnam." (New York Times, January 14) De Puy will probably climb high — over the bodies of Vietnamese and GIs.

It was this same Gen. De Puy who commended Capt. William Carpenter for calling napalm strikes that killed 16 GIs and burned many more last year. Carpenter, who was unhurt in the bombing, was decorated for bravery! And



"All-American" Capt. Carpenter called napalm on his own troops and made it upstairs.

Newsweek echoed the brass when it wrote ecstatically, "Who can forget the courage of Capt. William Carpenter, the famous 'lonely end' at West Point and a former All-American? Badly outnumbered and on the verge of being overrun by a North Vietnamese unit in the central highlands, Carpenter called in an air strike on his own position....

"I lost a lot of people in that strike" Carpenter sadly remarked later."

He lost a lot? What about the GIs who were killed or horribly burned? Don't their losses of life and limb matter?

At any rate, Carpenter's sadness was probably dispelled by the medals he got and the soft position he was assigned to afterwards. While the families of the dead GIs had to be content with "condolences" from the Pentagon.

On February 15 the New York Times reported that "two combat accidents in the south have caused the death of eight American soldiers and injury to 18 others....

"Seven men of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) died and four were hurt when an artillery shell fell short of its mark last evening in the gentle hills rising behind the lowlands in the Kontum area...."

(The families of these men will be reassured to hear that they died in scenic surroundings.)

"Two days ago," continues the report, "a 250-pound bomb was dropped from an American plane near troops of the Fourth Infantry Division operating along the Cambodian border.... At the same time a mine was detonated in the same area.

"When the dust from the explosions Continued on next page

-Hong Kong

Continued from Page 1

perialists have gone so far as to call this 'encroachment upon British territory.' This is preposterous!... We must tell the British imperialists that not only have the Chinese peasants the traditional right to till the land in the 'new territories,' but the whole of Hong Kong must return to the domain of the motherland....

"It is idiotic wishful-thinking for the British imperialists to imagine that they can prevent the great Chinese people from assisting their Hong Kong compatriots fight against British violence. Hong Kong is an inalienable part of Chinese territory."

It should hardly be necessary to add that Hong Kong belongs to China, since it does. The British along with 140 U.S. corporations doing business there, are interlopers and usurpers who have absolutely no right to be there, if the Chinese do not want them there.

Anything the Chinese do in order to oust these invaders must be supported and anyone who supports the police, the courts or the diplomats of the oppressors must be condemned.



British colonial forces firing tear gas in battle with Hongkong Chinese. Three Chinese and one cop were killed in battle.

Court Frames 2 Fighters for GI Rights

"Hurting Troop Morale" Says Judge — But They Really RAISED GI's Anti-War Morale!

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., August 25 — Today in Oklahoma City, two leaders of the Committee for GI Rights, Key Martin and Maryann Weissman, were given the maximum sentence of six months in prison and \$500 fine for violating a military injunction. Their arrests had occurred on July 31, as they attempted to attend the court-martial of three anti-war GIs at the Fort Sill, Oklahoma Army Base. An extraordinarily high Appeal Bond of \$7,500 cash each was set by Federal Judge Luther Bohanon.

Deirdre Griswold, a spokesman for the committee who attended the sentencing, said "the outrageous Appeal Bond, set at 15 times the fine, was obviously applied to restrict the anti-war activities of Mr. Martin and Mrs.

Weissman, and was a violation of the intent of the new bail law, which does not allow the use of bail as punishment.

Testifying at the trial on Aug. 21, was Ft. Sill's post commander Maj. Gen. "Charlie" Brown, who said that he had discussed "rumblings on the base" with the Pentagon in making the decision to bar Mrs. Weissman and Key Martin from the base. The judge and the prosecuting attorney then made clear that what the anti-war fighters were really being tried for was their anti-war activity at the base. "Acts of destroying the morale of the Army in training at Ft. Sill constitute a very serious offense," Judge Bohanon told them, even though this was not the charge on their indictment.

At sentencing, Mrs. Weissman was

able to make a statement denouncing the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam, and said that any sentence imposed would not break the bond between civilians and soldiers in their struggle against the imperialist war. Mr. Martin was prevented from speaking by Judge Bohanon.

Mrs. Weissman and Mr. Martin, both national officers of Youth Against War & Fascism, had gone to Oklahoma on behalf of the Committee for GI Rights to help organize anti-war sentiment at Ft. Sill. Their activities first received nation-wide attention on June 1, when Mrs. Weissman led a demonstration at the court-martial of Pvt. Andrew Stapp.

Judge Bohanon warned the anti-war fighters that even if Appeal Bond were raised, he could continue the restrictions imposed upon them while awaiting trial. These included confinement to Oklahoma County, meeting with a probation officer twice daily, and restrictions of association with YAWF members and GIs at the base.

Bold NLF Action Frees Prisoners

HANOI, August 9 — Editor's note: Follows an abridgement of an article by Giai Phong Press Agency about the daring attack launched by the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces against the prison in Hoi An town — capital of Quang Nam province — on the night of July 14 last, setting free over 1,200 patriots.

The Hoi An prison was composed of 28 cell houses. Although each cell was built for 30 prisoners only there were most of the time nearly 1,500 detainees in this hell on earth.

There were no windows in the cells which were also used as latrines. Every morning the double doors to the cells were opened for half an hour, not to allow the prisoners to go out but just to give them a glimpse of the sky.

Prisoners were strictly forbidden to talk to one another. There was one case of two men, father and son, who did not know of each other's existence throughout their stay in the prison.

Thousands of people were killed through torture or died from diseases.

Because of repeated attacks by the L.A.F. (Liberation Armed Forces) on the town, striking fear into the enemy, the defense of the prison was greatly strengthened. Eight barbed wire fences geared with mines of different types were set up around the prison with the spaces in between covered with spikes. Four watchtowers stood at the four corners of the prison ground. In four corners were buried four highly explosive electric mines which could blow up the whole jail in case of danger.

To wipe out the jailers and set free the detained patriots was the aim of the recent attack by unit X of the L.A.F.

It was 22.05 hours on July 14 when the liberation fighters reached the prison gate. The first plastic charges exploded, tearing down the main gate and sweeping away all obstacles. A well placed hand bomb killed a puppet captain, a puppet lieutenant, and the prison

chief. Another loud explosion, and all the guards were wiped out.

The wires leading to the electric mines were cut off, and four groups of L.A.F. fighters made a dash for the four watch towers where they became master of the situation in a matter of seconds.

The doors of the cell were thrown open. Amidst cries of joy the prisoners poured into the yard. A tortured crippled man was carried off on the back of a L.A.F. fighter. Another man, hectic with fever, got up and ran out as if he was not ill at all. A silver-haired 82-year-old woman, supporting herself with a stick, walked out, followed by a young mother trailing three children along. Of the 1,200 patriots set free that night, 400 had been marked for exile on Poulo Condor island off South Vietnam's coast.

The freed patriots quickly got out of the prison ground and were immediately given protection by the guerrillas and

local population.

Simultaneously, another L.A.F. detachment broke into the heart of the town where it attacked puppet administrative offices and police posts, and intensive mortar fire was slammed on the command post of the Quang Nam Da Nang special sector.

When the enemy could at last gather their wits about them, after the L.A.F. attacks which cost them over 100 casualties, and attempted resistance, it was too late. The L.A.F. and liberated patriots had completely vanished. American artillery from a nearby position tried to lend a hand, only to hit puppet troops. Three C47 planes armed with ultra rapid machineguns vainly circled over the town, in the dazzling light of their own illumination flares.

At the same time, with the night assault in Hoi An, the L.A.F. intensively shelled the huge U.S. airbase in Da Nang to the northwest and sprang a powerful ambush on the puppet 51st battalion in Dai Loc district to the West, wiping out a whole company.

News of the three simultaneous victories flashed through Hoi An town, filling the hearts of the people with joy.

SAIGON ELECTION SPECIAL



-Saigon Whitewash

Continued From Page 1

ruling class are becoming anxious about a possible military disaster and are trying to latch on to the elections as a way of possibly toning down the war.

As for the elections themselves, they are a farce!

The puppet junta began early preparations to win the "free elections" when Ky announced in June that he would shoot all serious opponents of U.S. policy. "If he is a Communist or if he is a neutralist," said Ky, "I am going to fight him militarily. In a democracy you have a right to disagree with the views of others."

At about the same time, Ky announced that "no newspaper will be allowed to attack the government." When asked about free press guarantees in the Constitution, Ky replied:

"There are parts of the Constitution that can be respected right away and there are others that take time."

When the Constituent Assembly met on July 19 to decide on the eligibility of candidates, there was grumbling against the military dictators running for office. "Brig. Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, the security chief, arrived in the gallery," wrote the New York Times, accompanied by bodyguards "with pistols jammed into their hip pockets." Naturally, Thieu and Ky were nominated and 7 candidates who were not sufficiently pro-U.S. were summarily kicked off the ballot.

Of course the hand-picked candidates approved by Ellsworth Bunker and

Westmoreland as an appropriate "opposition" are just serving as window dressing.

In a useless attempt to whitewash this fraud, the Johnson Administration has come up with an even bigger one, i.e., the U.S. — the oppressor of the world, the font of all corruption, the land where every election is rigged against the workers and the oppressed from start to finish — the despots of U.S. big business are going to certify and guarantee the honesty of their puppets!

And just who is going to Saigon to set all "democratic" minds at ease. First among them is the supervisor of the "observer" team, Henry Cabot Lodge, whose ambassadorial administration in Saigon gave birth to the present government of cutthroats. It was Lodge who nursed to life the regime of Generals whose life's work has been to serve as the hangmen of their own people, with first the French and then the U.S. providing the rope.

Among the others who are in Saigon to "guarantee democracy" are James Antell Burlington, president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the United States (Jaycees), and Warner B. Gullander, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, whose coffers are overflowing with the billions in profits from the Vietnam war.

Also on the whitewash team are Joseph Scorra, head of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Eldon James, former head of the American Legion, whose only objection to Hitler was that he was a German!

- GIs Are "Expendable"

Continued from Preceding Page

settled, one man was dead and 14 injured.

"A spokesman said the short artillery round was apparently caused by either an error on the part of the gun crew or defective ammunition. A bent fin was believed to have caused the 250-pound bomb to go astray."

And the telegrams home say "Due to the explosion of a friendly bomb..."

"Rocket fire that fell short cost the lives of four U.S. Marines and wounded 18," began the "accident" report in the New York Times on April 1. "They were hit by a Marine F-8 Crusader jet that was supporting a Marine ground operation 325 miles northeast of Saigon in Quangnai Province."

And the generals talk about "almost surgical precision" in bombing.

Early in May, bloody battles took place on three hills in the Khesanh area near the western end of the de-militarized zone. In these battles, and particularly in the fight for Hill 881, GIs suffered heavy losses. The army admitted 1,000 American casualties — and called this heap of corpses a victory.

One Marine company, in Vietnam only two weeks at the time, lost 89 men dead

or wounded out of 220 in the Khesanh fighting. "The company commander and medic were wounded and the air observer killed by shrapnel from an armed Marine helicopter." (New York Times, May 6)

Survivors of the battle later claimed that defective weapons caused many deaths.

"A combat Marine wrote home that almost all the Americans killed in a recent Vietnam battle died as they tried to unjam their new M16 rifles."

"Rep. James J. Howard of New Jersey read excerpts from the letter to the House today...."

"The letter contrasted sharply with testimony heard last week by a House Armed Services subcommittee investigating complaints about the new lightweight weapon." (New York Times, May 23)

On the following days several top military men defended the M-16 from the safety and comfort of plush officers' clubs and Congressional hearing rooms. Gen. Greene on May 26 tried to dispel the notion that Marines had not had sufficient training in cleaning, operating and maintaining the gun. Gen. Walt of the Marines discounted criticism of the weapon and in Congress Rep. Ichord said that contro-

Kennedy, the Cardinal and Corruption

Robert Kennedy has called the Saigon elections "a fraud." This well publicized remark was so embarrassing to Lyndon Johnson that some cynics might be inclined to speculate that Kennedy really had his mind on the 1968 election fraud coming up in the U.S.

But more sober-minded observers, who might agree with the cynics on the above point, will not dismiss the Kennedy remark too quickly. They will point out that even if Kennedy is just trying to grab the "peace vote," nevertheless, on the question of election frauds his remarks should be carefully studied.

versy would cause a morale problem.

(The brass worries about morale not because they care about the feelings of the GIs, but only because demoralized soldiers are not sufficiently eager to get themselves killed for the profit and power of U.S. big business.)

Right-wing supporters of the war demagogically call for better weapons, even nuclear bombs, to be used in genocidal attacks on the Vietnamese people. This, they claim, is "supporting our boys" (although they are perfectly willing to see thousands of GIs die in the attempt of the ruling class to put down the Vietnamese liberation movement).

After all, he helped write the book!

As a matter of fact, Drew Pearson, who has evolved in recent months as one of LBJ's staunchest protectors, in his column of August 23 placidly explained the qualifications of the Kennedy family to speak on the subject of corruption.

Pearson recounts a conversation with Cardinal Cushing of Boston, "the intimate friend and spiritual adviser to the Kennedy clan" in which his holiness "jovially recalled" how he and Joe Kennedy fixed the West Virginia primary in 1960.

The two "hard-shelled Catholics" said Pearson, made "strategic contributions to Protestant ministers in West Virginia to help win friends and influence voters for Jack Kennedy" in that crucial primary campaign against Hubert Humphrey.

The old Cardinal "chuckling merrily" recalled in detail "We donated \$200 to some, \$500 to others — depending upon the size of their congregations."

One of the points which Pearson discreetly failed to point out was that Robert Kennedy was John Kennedy's campaign manager that year, and was in the thick of that West Virginia corruption contest.

NBC, CBS, Robert Kennedy, etc. Conspire to Quash Inquiry

Why Are They Trying to Put Lid on Garrison?

**DA Blows "Lone Assassin" Theory Sky High
Trail Leads to CIA and Ruling Class Itself !**

By MILT SEAMAN

A massive, well financed, and highly organized campaign is being waged by powerful forces within the U.S. ruling circles to wreck an investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

This is what New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is up against as he prepares his case for trial with evidence that the assassination was a conspiracy plotted by the right wing and not as the Warren Commission concluded the deed of Oswald alone.

On July 16, before a nation-wide N.B.C. television audience, Garrison made a remarkable number of disclosures for a Louisiana law officer.

He stated that President Kennedy was murdered because "there were those who sought to obtain a radical change in our foreign policy particularly in regard to Cuba." These forces blamed Kennedy for the failure to overthrow Castro. Garrison asserted that the "turning point" for plotting Kennedy's murder came following a speech he made in June 1963 at the American University in Washington, D.C. At that address to the students, Garrison said the President remarked, "We breathe the same air as the Russians. We should try to live together."

What makes the New Orleans District Attorney's one half hour performance on TV even more unusual is that he reveals the obstacles thrown in his path by the government since he voiced his theory of a conspiracy.

Garrison cited to the audience the fact that hundreds of documents have become classified and inaccessible to him. "There are CIA dossiers on Oswald.

There are CIA files on Ruby." Garrison declared that he knows that there are records that "Oswald was in the employ of U.S. intelligence ... and he had a high security." There is not a single transcript available of any statements that Oswald made to the Dallas police during his 12 hour "interrogation"—an alarming fact to Garrison who deals daily in criminal procedure.

Following a chain of events that were calculated to destroy the New Orleans District Attorney and his case, Garrison warned that "A tremendous amount of Federal power is being brought to bear

on anyone connected with our investigation. It is obvious that the official Washington attitude is that our inquiry must be stopped at all costs." Garrison charged in this same statement that his investigation "uncovered the involvement of the CIA in the investigation." (New York Times, June 25)

As far back as March 2, the Justice Department intervened in an effort to destroy Garrison's pre-trial preparation. Then acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark told newsmen in a Senate corridor following the unanimous approval of his nomination by the Senate Judiciary Committee that "on the evidence that the F.B.I. had, there was no connection found" between Clay L. Shaw, a New Orleans business man and the Kennedy assassination. And on a later interview on the CBS program "Face the Nation", Clark tried to prejudice the public when he ridiculed the Garrison theory of conspiracy. Clark's violation of the most elementary and fundamental judicial procedures in capitalist society in trying a court case before the public is serious enough when it involves an ordinary case. But for the highest legal officer in the U.S. to prejudice a case involving the murder of the President of the U.S. is ominous indeed.

Backing up this tremendous effort of the Federal government to wreck the investigation is the massive campaign being carried out by the news media.

The Saturday Evening Post, and Newsweek have carried lengthy articles calculated to break Garrison's case. Within days of each other NBC, a subsidiary of the giant Radio Corporation of America, and CBS carried nation-wide programs that were aimed at smashing not only the theory of conspiracy in the assassination, but Garrison too. The Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, (a non-government group made up and financed by business and industry) demanded that the Louisiana State Attorney General investigate Garrison.

On July 5, the head of this commission admitted privately that he had no knowledge of alleged misconduct by Mr. Garrison's office "except through magazines and the television network." Accompanying this overall relentless attack on Garrison is the ominous fact that eighteen people closely associated with the Kennedy assassination have met sudden deaths including Garrison's witness Ferrie, while others have been bribed and threatened.

While it is not clear who Garrison represents in all this and exactly what are his objectives, his investigation has raised some important issues from the dark and murky cobwebs of lies that have been spun by the Warren Commission about the assassination.

What Garrison's investigation has raised to the surface at the moment is extremely significant. He has charged that the assassination is a conspiracy with right wing motives, that the CIA is involved, and what is even more serious, that the Federal government, its agencies, the news media as well as powerful business and financial forces seek to destroy this case before it comes before a court of law.

What Garrison is grappling with now only confirms what Workers World printed in November 1963 during those tense and hysterical days. On November 26, in the midst of all the crisis and confusion, this newspaper issued a special edition on the assassination and put it this way:

"The United States of America came close to a fascist coup d'etat and the establishment of a Right Wing, reactionary totalitarian dictatorship. The merger of the racist reactionaries with the unbridled military who are impatient for adventures in Cuba, in Vietnam, and in

Continued on Page 8

Ruby and Oswald, Two who can't talk now.



Arab Masses Step Up Resistance ; U.S. Israeli Puppets Increase Terror

By PETER STORCH

Just three weeks ago, a powerful general strike closing all Arab shops and businesses in Israeli-occupied Jerusalem shook the Israeli occupation forces. Severe reprisals by the Israeli military have followed the strike and have put the Israelis on the defensive in other occupied territories.

On August 19, a general strike in El Arish, the only city in the Sinai peninsula, shut down all the city's shops and led the Israeli occupying officials to force a curfew on the Arab population in order to round up the

"instigators of the strike." The strike in the city of 30,000 Arabs was a big blow to the Israeli invaders, since the Tel Aviv rulers had big plans to show El Arish as one of the big prizes in its conquest.

Meanwhile, in the occupied part of Jordan, Israeli military forces have been prosecuting a severe terror campaign against the Arab people. Two border villages, Beit Awa and Beit Mersin, were leveled with dynamite a few days after the end of the war, leaving many Arabs homeless. Three other villages in the Latrun area were similarly leveled, leaving some 7,000

people homeless.

On August 10, Jordan accused the Israeli armed forces of murdering seven Arab civilians on July 26, in the Jordanian west bank area. In a letter to U Thant, Dr. Muhammad H. el-Fara, representative of Jordan, charged Israeli forces in western Jordan with shooting civilians, dynamiting villages and breaking the cease-fire.

Israeli soldiers dynamited two houses in the Jordanian town of Nablus for allegedly containing "illegal arms." A third house, which was supposed to be a "sniper hideout" was also blown up. In the city of Gaza, on August 8, several dwellings were demolished because of "suspected saboteurs."

On August 25, Israeli soldiers razed five buildings with dynamite after some shooting incidents. The New York Times reported that it was the severest reprisal taken by Israeli forces since the end of the war. The Times reported:

"The demolition work on three of the buildings was near perfect; all that remained were waist-high piles of rubble."

The Israeli government has also intimidated and prevented many Arab refugees from returning to their homes on the west bank of the Jordan (i.e. those Arabs whose homes weren't destroyed by napalm and dynamite or looted by the Israeli occupation forces). One refugee said:

"They came while we were asleep and fired guns outside the house. Then they came into the house looking for guns. They found nothing, but when they came back the next night I decided to leave."

In Gaza, the resistance to Israeli rule has been so great that the occupation forces have begun an evacuation of both Egyptian and Palestinian refugees. One Palestinian, active in the resistance movement, confidently said:

"Arab resistance will soon become a major annoyance for the Israelis. We will show them how difficult the life of an occupying power can be."

Workers World Milwaukee Branch Hits Back at Racist Military Rule

MILWAUKEE — When Mayor Maier imposed police state law on Milwaukee to suppress the recent Afro-American rebellion, the Milwaukee branch of Workers World Party took to the streets with leaflets calling on the workers to oppose the racist hysteria.

They distributed a leaflet entitled, "Shall Milwaukee Be an Armed Prison Camp?" by the thousands at the plant gates of this industrial city.

Said the leaflet of the Mayor's policies: "He turned Milwaukee into a county-wide armed prison camp, sent in all the police and the National Guard to get the shooting going, then blamed the Black youth for everything to cover his own crimes."

"WE WON'T BUY IT!"

The statement asked the question, "Who really caused the 'riots'?" and gave answers. It pointed to the labor fakers' sorry record:

"The labor union leaders have flunked out not only on holding the 40 hr. week, but on not winning the 30 or 40 struggle to create millions of decent jobs, and a militant bond of brotherhood between black and white labor."

It hit Johnson's real war and hisphony war:

"The big war on Poverty' of Johnson and his Democrats flunked. They are blowing 3 billion bucks a month on a race war in Asia out of our paychecks. That's real money that could make jobs, freedom and livable cities here at home. Now a 10 per cent tax hike and war inspired inflation rob the poor still further."

The Workers World leaflet exposed the open discrimination of the big Allen-Bradley plant:

"Mayor Maier did nothing about the all-white Allen-Bradley plant (7,000 employees). If Maier can take away the rights of Milwaukee's working people through Martial Law, why doesn't he use troops to take away the racist rights of Allen-Bradley management? That's a sacred cow on Milwaukee's South Side and he won't touch it."

To white workers the leaflet said: "Whites should support Black self-determination because white workers have more in common with their black working brothers than they do with white bosses like Maier and LBJ who rule and exploit both black and white."

They Organized Their Own Committees Against the Brass

A Servicemen's Revolt

Fifty Years Ago This Month, the German Sailors Rebelled and Told Their Officers to Go to Hell

Editorial note: In the darkest days of the First World War, after 10 million had been killed in Europe and the whole continent was practically a prison camp where hardly anybody on either side could say a word against the war, a great blow was struck for peace and freedom. This was the February (1917) Revolution in Russia, which began the process that ended on October 25 (Old Calendar) with the victory of the Bolsheviks.

In August of the same year — just 50 years ago — the sailors of the Kaiser's imperial navy in Germany got the message. They revolted against the iron dictatorship of the warmakers, and totally without support from any organized political party in their country, they demanded an end to the war.

The account below is by a German who fought against Hitler inside Germany in the decade before World War II and is well acquainted with modern German history. The quotations are all authentic.

By John Black

Three years of war, hunger and the example of the Russian February, 1917, Revolution had left the sailors of the imperial German navy restless and moving towards organized resistance against military chicanery, suicidal missions and the imperialist dreams of the German ruling class.

Some were former merchant seamen, others came from the industrial urban centers, many of them with militant labor union experience in civilian life. By the spring of 1917, committees were forming on board the ships and they took up contact with each other.

Food Committee and "Agitation"

These committees, after much resistance by the officers, were eventually legally recognized as the spokesmen for the crews and selected by secret ballot. By naval law their function was limited to matters of representing the men on complaints regarding the food on board the ships. Rear Admiral von Brueingshaus correctly described them as centers of political agitation among the crews.

Politically orientated sailors, left socialists, syndicalists and pure and simple pacifists emerged as the spokesmen and a secret fleetwide coordinating committee led the struggle in the fleet.

There was a growing awareness among the sailors as to their activity. Leading seaman Reichspietsch wrote a circular to all ship committees: "We must make it clear to our people that the food committees are only the first step in the formation of sailors councils after the Russian example."

The traditional labor organizations were supporting the Kaiser's war and the sailors looked to the leftwingers. They read the Leipzig Socialist paper which seemed to reflect their growing anti-war sentiments, and looked to the Independent Socialists who seemed critical of the war. (The Communist Party had not yet been formed.)

Sailors Did It On Their Own

But the sailors never had any organized formal support and received no guidance from any of the political parties. Individual sailors on leave visited their parliamentary representatives with complaints and asking for advice. All of these representatives took great pain to denounce them and to disassociate themselves from the sailors at a later date.

At first the specific grievances of the sailors were simple ones. By 1917 the ships' diet had become a

monotonous routine of dried codfish, wormy hardtack and "war marmalade" made from turnips. The strict rationing of soap, especially hard on the engine

placed under arrest for various acts of insubordination, such as slowdowns, work stoppages and talking back to officers, were released, that the battleship was able to leave the harbor.

But before casting off, the ship's committee sent a message to the rest of the fleet:

"We are sailing... if you receive

room personnel and seamen marched on the Admiral's cabin and refused to budge until orders were given. All punitive actions against the sailors of the Prinzregent Luitpold and on all other ships resulting from the events of the previous days are to be rescinded.

For the time being the sailors had won a total and complete victory in their struggle against the conditions in the Imperial Navy, but the war went on.

In the weeks that followed, the Admiralty prepared for the counter blow. With the aid of informers, lists of the most active spokesmen of the sailors fell in their hands and widespread arrests throughout the fleet took place.

The Counter-Blow

Charges ranged from mutiny to high treason and the naval courts-martial had a free hand. On August 20th, the court sentenced five of the sailors to death (three of these sentences were later commuted to fifteen years hard labor.) Over fifty others were sentenced to an aggregate of four hundred years of hard labor.

"We Stood Up Against That"

Koebis refused to plead for mercy or to deny his views: "There is no point to it all. Victory, stealing territory, oppressing other people, we don't go along with that. We stood up against that sort of thing" he told the court.

Stoker Becker told the officers who tried him: "I read a lot; especially about philosophy and the poems of Walt Whitman. That is how I came to the conclusion that the war is utter folly and that is why I believe in peace without annexations. The sooner the better at that."

The Social Democratic leaders sided with the government and pointed the finger at the Independent Socialists who had split from them. The Independents denied supporting any action that might weaken or undermine the armed forces. The small Spartakus Bund in a leaflet expressed support and solidarity with the sailors and called on the workers in the factories to follow their example.

Lenin in far off Russia hailed the sailors:

"Most important is the revolt in the German navy. It must be kept in mind how unbelievable the difficulties confronting the revolution in a country like Germany and especially so under the present circumstances. There is no doubt that the revolt in the German fleet is the indication of the great crisis, the growth of the world revolution." (Letter October 8th, 1917)

Later, They Toppled the Kaiser

The heroic action of German workers in sailors' uniform trying to follow the example of the Russian army and navy, their attempt to hoist the flag of peace on the Kaiser's war ships was doomed to failure. The lack of revolutionary experience and the lack of a revolutionary party to give leadership in the country made it impossible for the revolt to be more than it was.

A year later, the sailors, undaunted by the bloody terror unleashed against them by the Kaiser's Admirals rose again and this time the revolt spread from one end of the country to the other, toppled the Kaiser, the government, ended the war but stopped short of overthrowing the system itself.

Fifty years after the death of the heroic sailors, Koebis and Reichspietsch, we remember them and promise that their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

In Memoriam

Alwin Koebis

— Stoker on H.M.S. Prinzregent Luitpold

Max Reichspietsch

— Leading Seaman on H.M.S. Friedrich der Grosse

Sentenced on August 25, 1917 by the Imperial Naval court marshal at Wilhelmshaven. Executed by firing squad on the firing range at Wahn in the district of Cologne on September 5, 1917.

room departments and the sooty stokers, set off several shipboard demonstrations.

But it was the denial of promised shore leave after extra heavy duty (loading coal) that led to refusals to report for duty on the battleship "Prinzregent Luitpold" early in August, 1917.

Eleven Put in the Brig

Eleven sailors were placed in custody and by the third day of the dispute, the overwhelming majority of the crew had refused to report for duty. Under the leadership of stoker Koebis, the men left the ship, assembled in military formation and marched 600 strong from the port of Wilhelmshaven to the town of Ruestersiel, where they held a protest rally. Among other, Koebis spoke.

The meeting voted to demand the release of the arrested men, no military duties for stokers and specific rest periods for all sailors.

The sailors had boldly marched past marine and army barracks on the way to the meeting and met no hostility. The Admiralty at that moment knew it could not rely on marine infantry divisions or the regular army units to break up the meeting.

As the rally developed it grew into far more than a demand for extra soap, food and free time. Speakers and especially Koebis talked about the never ending war. Koebis spoke about the politicians demands for annexing other peoples territories, about the incompetent but victory-shouting Admirals, about war profiteers and the need to make an end of the war.

"Down With the War"

"They can't fight the war without us. If we stick together on this like we did on the ration demands, we can win this demand too. Down with the war!"

That night the sailors marched back to the ship and climbed aboard without interference. Early next morning, the Admiralty ordered the 3rd Fleet including the Prinzregent Luitpold, to prepare for battle, which meant that the ships would be at high sea within six hours.

The sailors suspected that the officers were planning reprisals under the stricter naval laws applying to ships on the ocean.

They gave the Admiralty the only answer possible under the circumstances. The stokers on the giant steel battleship threw water on the fires and refused to light the fires under the boilers. The ship was dead.

The Admiralty capitulated to the demands of the sailors at that moment. It was only when all men that had been

no news from us within three days... go to it."

"If you don't hear . . . Go to it!"

After the military exercise, when the ships of the fleet had anchored off shore, there was no Prinzregent Luitpold in sight. The sailors' coordinating committee became alarmed.

That night a member of the central committee of the sailors fleet-wide secret organization was stationed on the phone from his battle ship's bridge to the engine rooms.

In the night's confusion during a false battle alarm, the ship's radio operators were able to contact the radio room on board Prinzregent Luitpold and received word that leaders of the sailors' demonstration had already been placed under arrest.

The man on the telephone passed the word to the stokers on his ship and the word was given that at four o'clock the next afternoon, a general stoppage in support of the men on Prinzregent Luitpold was to take place.

The radio operators passed the word from ship to ship.

At ten minutes to four, the sailor due to give the order for the stoppage was faced with a crisis. The chief mate on the battleship stood right next to him and the vital telephone. He picked up the receiver and in the name of the sailors' central committee gave the precise order:

"All Boilers Out!"

"All boilers out... stokers are to refuse duty."

The mate was quickly immobilized by two sailors who stationed themselves on each side of him and threatened to "tear off his head if he moved a muscle."

The terrible tension of waiting began... six long minutes before the telephone rang:

The third engine room reports all fires are out. Doors to the boiler room have been barred. We'll beat the piss out of anyone that interferes."

The message was quickly passed to the other engine rooms and two sailors dispatched to the coal bunker crew and the engine rooms for additional support.

Within minutes, all engine rooms had called in: "Fires are out." Desperately but too late, the Admiralty ordered a ready for action alarm... the revolutionary sailors had done their duty towards the comrades on the Prinzregent Luitpold. Radio messages from ship to ship, sent both by the officers and the sailors spread the action from ship to ship.

Punitive Actions Rescinded

On the Admiral's flagship, engine

Zimbabwe Liberation Fighters Attack Racist Salisbury Regime

African freedom fighters have launched an attack against the white supremacist Rhodesian government and perhaps are aiming at South Africa as well. At last report (August 26) the fighting was still going on in a fierce battle against Rhodesian troops with planes and helicopters, reinforced by South African troops.

A Hsinhua report of August 14 told of an ambush laid by a guerrilla unit of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in the Magunje area near Karoi on August 3. Eighteen men of the colonial troops of Southern Rhodesia were killed and eight more were wounded by the guerrillas.

Following the ambush, 300 African people, including women and children, were arrested in Karoi and tortured by the colonial authorities for helping and taking care of the guerrilla fighters.

It was also reported that the African people's struggle against colonial rule was rising in other parts of the country,

especially around Salisbury, the capital, where many Africans are jobless.

On August 26 the New York Times printed in its early edition and then pulled out of later editions a news story datelined Salisbury, August 25.

The report told of a fierce fight that had been going on for three days between Rhodesian "security forces" and the African freedom fighters whose base was said to be in Zambia to the northwest.

The liberation fighters were facing Rhodesian Army, police and Air Force units in an area some 68 miles southeast of the Zambezi River frontier with Zambia near Wankie.

In fear and alarm the Deputy Prime Minister of Rhodesia, John Wrathall, accused Zambia of harboring the nationalist forces. He admitted that the guerrillas had been making increased attacks in the last year and said that they were trained in Socialist countries and armed with the most modern weapons and well supplied.

On August 27 the Times carried another article from Salisbury and this time left it in both editions. It stated that Rhodesians had not been told of the "large-scale battle against the infiltrators" until an August 26 communique gave them "their first official intimation" of it. Reports in Rhodesia continued, however, to be censored and daily papers and radio broadcasts made no mention of the day to day fighting.

The Times story said that guerrilla infiltrations had been carried out by both the Zimbabwe African People's Union and ZANU but that the present fighters are mainly from the African National Congress of South Africa.

It was said that white South African units had reinforced the Rhodesian troops in the wild bush country of the Wankie game reserve. Guerrillas "had been laying tracks in the bush with the object of leading the security forces into ambushes."

The report also stated that: "The unofficial defense alliance between South Africa and Rhodesia came about as a result of evidence from captured guerrillas indicating that the main target of one of the larger groups was South Africa herself."

Get the Parasites Off the Payroll!

The reactionary New York Daily News is against a raise in taxes!

— But wait. The News says, yes, the U.S. should spend billions for the war against Vietnam — as many billions as necessary not to "resign ourselves to defeat and slavery."

Where will the money come from if there is no tax increase?

From "some real cuts in Government flinging of the billions around the USA," according to the News August 24 editorial, entitled, "Billions for Defense — And Offense."

But the biggest single item in the billions "flung around the USA" is the approximately \$12 billion or so paid each year to the bankers as interest on the National Debt. This is six times as much as the amount allocated for the so-called "War on Poverty," for example.

Now, a good "real cut" would be to eliminate this payment to an absolutely parasitical and idle bunch of bankers who don't want to work.

— Or wasn't that what the News had in mind?

— Lid on Garrison

Continued from Page 6

nuclear blackmail in general, are a key factor in stimulating and advancing the trend to a Rightist dictatorship. These elements find the remnants of bourgeois democracy are too unwieldy to suit their criminal purposes."

The events of these last four years have confirmed all too well this racist and reactionary merger. With Johnson catapulted to the helm, the U.S. rulers have stepped-up their wars of conquest abroad and their racist oppression at home. Four years since the assassination have borne out the wedding of Johnson with this military and racist right wing ruling class faction. He has now become the "key factor in stimulating and advancing the trend to a Rightist dictatorship." (Workers World, Nov. 26, 1963)

To what extent Johnson who was Vice President at the time of the assassination was involved with those Federal agencies such as the CIA that are now being implicated by the Garrison investigation is not clear. What is clear is that President Johnson has gone a long way toward carrying out their objectives — in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic, in Newark and Detroit.

The very convocation of the Warren Commission made up of such powerful Wall Street figures as John J. McCloy,

ex-chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank and Allan Dulles, ex-CIA head, was in itself an admission that the assassination pointed toward a conspiracy that reached high among the ruling class factions.

On December 7, 1963, even before the Warren Commission handed down their theory of the lone assassin, this newspaper said, "To establish the guilt or innocence of merely an individual, it should not be necessary to convoke such an extraordinary panel. This could easily be accomplished by lesser investigative and judicial processes. To constitute such a broad committee makes it evident that it has a political task."

The Warren Commission's political task has now become clear. It was to cover up the fierce rupture in the ruling class over imperialist policy and leadership, the rupture which led to the assassination and the subsequent turn to the right in both domestic and foreign policy. It was to control the flow of facts, all of which pointed toward a ruling class conspiracy, that the Commission was convened.

Whatever the ruling class connections of D. A. Garrison are, and whatever the ultimate objectives of his investigation may be, up to now his inquiry has completely destroyed the "individual" theory of the assassination and points directly to a conspiracy emanating from the highest echelons of the ruling class.



Through the Magnifying Glass

By John Moore

Those Brass Knuckles

One time when I was out west picking apples I lived in a bunkhouse with a couple of migrant pickers. One of them was named Stan.

Stan was a medium-sized, wiry guy of about 35 with several teeth missing as a result of being on the losing end of a fight. He was from the southwest someplace. He had been married, worked one of those scrubby, Okie farms, lost the farm and then had broken up with his wife and hit the road.

The apple picking weather was bad. When we did work, the owner-boss came around in his Buffalo Bill, leather-fringed jacket that he had had made from some animal he had shot on one of his trips to Africa. His usual greeting to us pickers (or loaders working for a \$1.25 hourly pay) was, "Well, you makin' any money for me today?"

Day after day it rained and there was no picking and we sat around in the bunkhouse without pay and talked about the way it was.

One day Stan told the story of the fight where he had lost his teeth — and that wasn't the only one he had lost. None of us had much money and the rain was running down the windows and we wouldn't be making any today either but they'd still be charging us for the meals we had to eat.

Stan sat on the edge of his bunk and said in a voice that reflected his anger and frustration, "You know, the next time I go to town I'm gonna get me some brass knucks."

He looked up at the small dirty window by the door where the rain was washing down in streams and went on, "I've lost enough fights," he said rubbing his knuckles. "I aim to win a few."

We laughed and Stan laughed too. We laughed because we all felt the same anger and frustration that Stan felt and we knew that he wasn't just thinking of fighting some other poor working stiff but that he was saying something more about how we needed something to hit back against this set-up that always was driving you into the ground.

The other man in the cabin was a big, muscular, good-natured, rugged looking guy Stan had nicknamed "Heavy." Heavy was maybe 50 and had come over from Denmark a long time ago as a youth. He was a thinker and a reader and he liked to talk about what was going on in the world. He had an idea of my partly formed radical sympathies. One day he came over to my bunk with a copy of Life magazine that had a big colored picture of a parade in China — a mass of people, red flags flying all over the place. This was 1950.

Heavy pointed to the picture and whispered to me, "You can't tell me those people aren't organized."

He had told me before about different people he had met who, like him, drifted to many corners of the earth and then met again in Seattle or San Francisco and talked about some of the things that had happened. One of the stories that he had told had been of an experience of a man who had gone to Alaska to hunt for gold and as he and his buddy walked across one of the endless uninhabited stretches of the territory, a horse that had been left by some previous prospector came running up to the two men. There on the lonely stretches of empty space the horse bit at their packs and tried to tear them open. "You know what that horse wanted?" Heavy said. "He wanted salt." It was a haunting picture.

But now Heavy told me another story. One about a sailor who had gone to China before the revolution and again afterwards. "He said that it's a lot different now," Heavy told me. "He said before then you came in the harbor there would be all these people come out in little boats to pick up the garbage or dive for coins or anything. Now, he said, there's none of that. They used to beg for cigarettes but this time he said he offered a cigarette to one Chinese guy and the guy just shook his head and said, 'We got cigarettes of our own'."

It seemed that the Chinese had done what Stan wanted to do and what Heavy had in mind too. You might say they had got their brass knuckles and they had won a few.

There were only three of us in the cabin even though there were four bunks and there had been another guy. But he had only stayed for one night. He was a little, quiet old guy with a stubble of beard that he hadn't shaved and a hat that was turned down all around. We didn't even find out what his name was before he left. He hadn't said much to anybody. Down by the ranch owner's big house was something that was quite an amazing feature in this dry irrigation country near Lake Chelan in Washington. A big palatial swimming pool! Word got around that the quiet nameless man who had left after only one day had told somebody as he was leaving that he "wouldn't work for any son-of-a-bitch that had a swimming pool," and it was a joke around the place for days — "Did you hear what that guy said before he left?"

His feelings were understood and appreciated — he wanted a pair of brass knucks too.

Heavy, because he saw no way to change things, could get no worthwhile brass knuckles, was going to vent his frustration in Reno. He had a fixed aim toward this goal which he admitted was a hopeless one. It was first to save \$900 and then go to Reno and shoot the works. Maybe he would be lucky. One season he had managed to win for quite a while and they had nicknamed him "Lucky" before he lost it all.

Stan tried to talk me into going south to Arizona with him. Since I was broke I had sold him my old car for \$65 and as soon as the apple picking season ended he was heading out and he said that with a little stake we could get through the winter in the Arizona sunshine by picking a little cotton. I thought about it but decided to go back to Seattle.

I've often wondered how Heavy made out in Reno. I never found out. I don't know if Stan managed to soak up his fill of the Arizona sun and, if he did, what happened to him afterwards. I never saw either Stan or Heavy again.

But I've thought a lot of times about both of them and wondered if Stan ever got those brass knuckles.

I know that the Stans of China and Vietnam and Cuba and other places got theirs and here at home I know the Black Stans are getting theirs.

I got mine too.

And we're all aiming at those few who run things with the theme: "Makin' any money for me?"

And listen, Stan, if you should read this in some bunk house on a rainy day, I want to tell you this: we aim to win a few!