

NEW LEFT NOTES



SDS

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LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE

SEPTEMBER 18, 1967

Yesterday's Brother ... Tomorrow's ?

Jim Kennedy
Albuquerque, N.M.

I wonder about the resolution of the National Convention last June that reads "We contend that whenever the government feels that some Left group is so dangerous that the government must attack and destroy it, we will support that group by all the means at our command, regardless of the group's political ideology." I don't question the resolution — I just wonder if its spirit doesn't require a much wider application — if it doesn't apply to defense of individual American (and also foreign) revolutionaries subjected to attack, slander, lies, etc., not only by the government but also by supposedly "left wing" groups themselves (or even by Socialist governments)? And if it doesn't mean we must also — in all revolutionary honesty — question the strange silence of others in the U.S. left when their foreign comrades are involved — be they the Chinese or Soviets.

There are several cases in point.

Case I — hypothetical. A member of a "Revolutionary" (actually social democratic) Party's governing body is accused — on the basis of a letter "found" in another's car — of being a fink, an FBI agent, a traitor, and summarily expelled...without the due process provided for in that Party's constitution. The charges and expulsion are published in the Party's journals and circulated in Europe as well. The expellee had a long record of militant activity — 38 years — and also serious differences with the majority of the "leaders" of this Leninist Party — hence the swiftness of his expulsion. Three years later in a closed session of the Party Convention the Party leadership admits that the evidence isn't conclusive and further investigation is warranted. (During all this time the expelled "fink" has continued to fight the McCarran Act, oppose the War in Vietnam, and act as a radical — contrast this with the actions of police agent Philip Abbott Luce). Four years after the expulsion the National Committee

of the Party finally decides on the basis of evidence that the charges are in their entirety false. . . the man is in no sense a police agent. . . he is fully innocent of the crimes for which he was expelled. But he is NOT to be reinstated in the Party. Four months pass — and still NO PUBLIC exoneration of this man, NO PUBLIC admission of the innocence of a man PUBLICLY branded FBI agent four years earlier.

Such a case were it to happen seems to warrant pressure from SDS ... for what is really at stake is political persecution of a man by a "revolutionary" Party because of past differences over that Party's opportunist and reformist line. Who knows how the guy involved was framed — maybe it was the FBI who did it, maybe bureaucrats in his own Party who wanted him out of the way? But surely Revolutionaries must come to his defense — demand his

public exoneration and a full airing of all the facts and circumstances in the case ... or forever wonder about the honesty, veracity, and democracy of the "Party" involved — of its failure to abide by its own constitution, to protect the innocent, to clear their name; of their bureaucratic disposal of unpopular people — what if our case involved a Party with State power, what then? Could such a group — with an

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Concerning the Eventual Radicalization of Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Richard Fioravanti
Ft. Sill, Oklahoma

I.
Forget it. Maybe.

II.
Not knowing what exactly went on in the Army myself, I couldn't work out an effective program for radicalization within it. In case you are approached by other sell-outs to the fascist system, here is a short outline of what an organizer might expect, assuming my own experience was typical. (I'm Nat'l Guard, so I will be out of active duty within two months. Nevertheless, I did receive exactly the same training and treatment as those going to Vietnam.)

(1) The normal officers and non-commissioned officers (this excludes the minute opposition of medical corpsmen or chaplains like Capt. Levy — actually even most of these are fascist, too) are almost to a man dedicated to the power structure and the war in Vietnam. The hope of free opinion lies not with the career army types

but with the draftees. Naturally.

(2) By the time they enter the Army, quite a few draftees' minds are totally closed to discussion. Most, from rural areas and regions like the South and Midwest, have been thoroughly brainwashed by society, environment, and the news and opinion-making media available to them (which mustn't exclude such opinion-making garbage as Superman and Steve Canyon, or such folk heroes as John Glenn). My own experience was negative in talking to people who were confirmed bigots as the tender age of 18. Of course, such stereotyped individuals had stereotyped me as well — I became the company hippie, explaining LSD to the uninitiated.

(3) The prospective clients of a New Left in the Army are another type of professional soldier, sort of an antithesis of Tim Leary's tune-ins, drop-outs. With the same reaction to societal stimuli as Paul Goodman's "Beats," they have, instead of dropping out and agitating or ignoring, totally immersed themselves in the society and have joined the Army because there was nothing better to do. (With reservations, this is my own position. The thought of avoiding the draft repelled me more than accepting it.) In this group are Negroes who have nowhere else to go for social acceptance, teenybopper types escaping from parents, men in trouble with the law or with creditors, et. al. These are all escaping from a social position worse than the Army, and so the radical's position with respect to these must be to convince them that the Army is unsatisfactory as an escape. One must systematize (prioritize?) their confused thoughts on the relationship of the military system to the corporate liberalism of their civilian life. For my own part, I failed in this respect because the 1984-ization had reached such a degree as to make them accept anything, including what they would be the first to admit would be a senseless, non-heroic death, in a senseless war, for a cause which they did not care about. They were totally resigned to the Army. Some of the more aware of these even agreed with some of my Marxism, but they refused to be an active part. Along with these are the few who might help revolutionary action while not being revolutionaries themselves. Out of 150 in my company at basic training, two

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"DEVIL'S ISLAND"

Over 200,000 political prisoners have been taken by the fascist military junta in Greece, according to a news release from the Lambrakis Democratic Youth. Most of these are being detained in four concentration camps, in Aios Efstratios, Trikeri, Makronissos, and Yioura. Following are excerpts from a letter smuggled out of Yioura, "devil's island," which have been printed in British and French newspapers.

"...Dawn came but the streets remained empty. The only points where there was some movement were the circuses and the Aek and Karaiskaki stadiums where the prisoners were gathered before being taken to Yioura.

"On the circus grounds terror reigned night and day. At the beginning 470 people were crowded under the stands for five days. There were no toilets inside so that when people wanted to go out to the toilet they were escorted by soldiers with fixed bayonets.

"Two changing-rooms under the stands

were reserved for people arrested by the gendarmerie. One of the rooms was 7x15 yards and the other 8x4 yards. The prisoners were kept inside for five days. In one room there were 180 people, in the other 100....The prisoners slept in turns because there was not enough room for them all to lie down."

The letter also related the trip and the settling on "devil's island." It read,

"...The desert island was all of a sudden 'inhabited' by 6,500 people on May 15. The climate is very bad and even plants can hardly survive. Yioura is battered by strong changing winds; there is not a yard suitable for human habitation. This is where the new city of fascism has been built.

"On their arrival the prisoners set up makeshift tents. In a place called a 'kitchen' they prepared a kind of black soup for the prisoners. The pots were put on the ground, the fire often went out and the soup was full of sand. For days we ate only bread. We were not allowed

to receive parcels from relatives. Any parcels and money sent for us remained in Syros.

"The water shipped to us from Piraeus is hardly drinkable. We cannot wash ourselves. The situation is made worse by the lack of sanitation. This uninhabited place where suddenly 6,500 people were put together became a source of infection. At the beginning there were no toilet facilities. Later we fixed the pipes and the sewage was drained out to the sea. But the sea water became foul and we could not wash even in the sea.

"Whole families have been deported here. Five couples have their children with them. But the worst crime of the junta is to separate mothers from their children. Out of 230 women held on Yioura, 21 have children of 1 to 3 months old. Among the women 11 are here with their husbands. There are 8 mothers with children between 3 and 6 years of age. There are 43 mothers with children under 15; their husbands are with them."

LETTERS TO NLN

The following is a letter received by Steve Halliwell in response to his article "Personal Liberation and Social Change," as it was printed in NCNP's New Politics News. Excerpts from the article were reprinted in the Sept. 4 NLN.

Dear Steve,

Yes, becoming a radical involves changing your life. And, there is nothing else for a radical to do. And to do it is hard: for (in spite of what you say in the first paragraph) there is no alternative to "working within a diseased structure"; and the thing to do in a diseased structure is to become healthy. The whole difficulty is in being a radical, and there is nothing for a radical to do besides be one. And we both (you and I) have to ask ourselves whether the hippies are not from this point of view more radical than the New Politics or the SDS. And secondly (or maybe this is the same thing): the argument for rejecting electoral politics as the way to social change is the argument for rejecting politics altogether: all that is left is (your words) "the need for new values and new sources of human relations built on community." If you will forgive the sharp language, I would say that your rhetoric of "attack" on existing institutions, "confrontation" with society is partly unreal theatricality just like elections, partly blustering to cover doubt and weakness in the radical heart, and partly resentful imitation of the power-plays of the powers of darkness who run this world. Power-plays only play into the hands of the powers of darkness. Let there be light.

Yours,
Norman O. Brown

Radicalization In The Army

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went AWOL on a permanent basis. They actively oppose the militarist system, but by instinct rather than by ideology. That these actions are essentially individual, sporadic, and temporary dooms a vast majority to failure. They are merely criminals, and if there is an effective way to orient them politically, let me know.

(4) The Army manages to keep everybody off-balance, also. There can be no effective counter-organization in and to the Army. You are isolated in a mixed, random group of not more than 200. Of this, the number of people sympathetic to the left are few. (I do know better English than that. The mind atrophies in this atmosphere.)

Also, the Army program is exhausting physically and emotionally. I find myself on many occasions just not up to intellectual activity or to serious discussion. Also, there was a mutual turning off between me and some trainees — the violent, the ignorant, etc. — so I was not effective in sounding out some of these.

I brought along a limited amount of literature — Quotations of Mao, the Eric Norden piece from Liberation, Port Huron, Sheer's essay for the Institute for Democratic Studies, plus shorter pamphlets on Vietnam. Those to whom I intimated that I had this information (read "truth") shied away — they did not wish to become involved and feared communal reprisals for my own actions. Then last week (I had feared sooner) in a complete inspection, these were confiscated. I anticipated a big confrontation, but they were all returned without comment, so even Mao is legal, just unwelcome.

III.

My capacity for extended analysis is impaired in the Army, I'm afraid. Excuse me. I think I'll depart from this shallow rationale for my lack of motivation to any active radical role, mostly because I found the Army so oppressive myself.

Dear NAC Inc.

We of the Los Angeles regional office were astonished to find out that you had decided to form a corporation. "What alternative does this leave us as uncommitted revolutionaries?" we pondered. Terrorism was immediately ruled out because we had heard of the line of communications previously set up between the NO and the cops. You just don't mess with a corporation that has those kind of connections. Instead, after doing some heavy research on the corporate power structure and finding that the board of directors (the NIC) was made up of the type of people who were destined to make it big some day, we decided to get in on the ground floor of the operation. We would like 1000 shares.

Yours for a bigger and better America, Francis Berweger, Sherie Derck, Heavy John, Arnold Boone, The Shinoff Boys, and Mark and Shirley.

Confront the Warmakers - October 21 & 22

Press Statement issued August 28 by the National Mobilization Committee

The American people today live in a country which has developed the world's most murderous military machine. We live in a society which trains its sons to be killers and which channels its immense wealth into the business of suppressing courageous men from Vietnam to Detroit who struggle for the simple human right to control their own

lives and destinies. We Americans have no right to call ourselves human beings unless, personally and collectively, we stand up and say NO to the death and destruction perpetrated in our name.

The National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam brought a half million people into the streets of New York and San Francisco on April 15th to protest America's war in Vietnam. Yet the war escalated. We have published thousands of words and arguments to document the fact that the war violates American and international law, human standards of morality, and the national interest of the American people. Yet the war continued.

The war is continued despite the fact that no one—least of all Johnson himself—can give a sound human reason for it. The American government stands in the eyes of the world as a bully and an outlaw, lying to her own people and contemptuous of the views of the nations of the world. The military-industrial complex, a President gone mad, and an irrelevant Congress appear to the victims of their oppression as the Fourth Reich.

Meanwhile, at home we see Vietnam re-enacted before our eyes. We see Black people, and others among America's poor, seeking jobs, dignity, and control over their own lives; and in response they are offered token programs which fail to challenge the basic power relationships. When Black people rebel, they are judged "criminals" by the America of tanks, nerve gas and wanton murder. The real criminals are those who maintain racism, poverty, slums and the police tyranny in a nation which has the capacity to house, feed and clothe all of its people.

We who oppose America's war in Vietnam recognize the direct connection to the struggle in our cities. We see newspaper reports that forty per cent of the Army troops sent into Detroit had been battle-hardened in Vietnam. We recognize that there is only one struggle—for self-determination—and we support it in Vietnam and in Black America.

We in the anti-war movement who are moving toward massive confrontation this fall in Washington are identifying with the American boys, black and white, who are sent to Vietnam to kill and be killed. The only way to support these men is to bring them home now. The fight for freedom is in America's cities. We in the American anti-war movement are committed to building a mass movement that can end racism and militarism no matter how long it takes and no matter how deep the sacrifices.

Today the National Mobilization Committee announces a major advance in opposition to the war: a step moving from simple protest to collective resistance; from petition which has gone unheeded to direct action which is determined to escalate the opposition. We call

on all Americans who oppose our government's aggression in Vietnam to converge on that city of war, Washington, D.C., on October 21 and 22 for a direct, personal, and collective confrontation with the warmakers.

We do not take this act lightly. We are now organizing for scores of thousands of Americans to come to Washington on those days by train, plane, car and foot; from Maine to California. Americans will come to protest in whatever way they want. We will gather in a massive anti-war presence, and some will take on the most serious responsibility of direct dislocation of the war machine.

The National Mobilization Committee today announces that it is beginning to organize a confrontation in Washington on October 21-22 which will shut down the Pentagon. We will fill the hallways and block the entrances. Thousands of people will disrupt the center of the American war machine. In the name of humanity we will call the warmakers to task.

This may be the most serious anti-war protest in American history. It signals a new step. The Pentagon is already pushing for a war with China despite the risk of unleashing a thermonuclear holocaust. We Americans must communicate to all the need to build a mass movement which will disrupt such instruments of brutality as the Pentagon.

This press conference itself is a landmark. The diversity of people and movements united here today represent a new stage in the anti-war struggle. We are today a united power force representing blacks, women, students, workers, hippies, draft resisters, clergy and political organizers. This unity will resound throughout America. It will make itself felt in Washington on October 21st. This will be a weekend of unified activities. Individuals will act on their consciences and in their own personal styles. Not all people will take part in the massive sit-in at the Pentagon, and we are not asking people to come to Washington solely on this basis. Those who do not block the Pentagon will surround it in a massive peace-in of picketing, vigiling, music, drama and rallies.

We will bring a community of protest, expressing joy and affirmation of man, to a place whose wholesale business is wholesale murder. This confrontation will be massive, continuing, flexible and surprising.

A Washington/Delaware regional office has been set up. Its address is 1779 Lanier Place N.W., Washington, D.C. Phone 332-1387.

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE
To check in at the NC (Oct. 6-8) at Madison, Wisconsin go to the Madison Resistance Union 107 State St. The phone number is 255-6575
If you arrive on Thursday get in touch with Hank Haslach at 8 Frances Ct., 256-7303.

new left notes

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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 32

let the people decide

SEPTEMBER 18, 1967

THE REVOLUTION THAT NEVER WAS

or JOE MCCARTHY IS ALIVE AND WELL IN MEXICO CITY

dick j. reavis
Austin, Tex.

On the 20th of July, newspapers from Alaska to Argentina bore bannerlines reading "MEXICO BARES PEKING PLOT." Sure enough, the stories underneath told of an insurrection attempt by Mexican Maoists. According to Mexico's Assistant Attorney General Julio Sanchez Vargas, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of July, Federal Security Department (secret) police rounded up thirteen "firebrands" whose alleged crimes covered everything from "inviting rebellion" to bank robbery schemes. In a statement released to the press, the Attorney General's Office reported that the "incendiaries" had admitted their intention to bring violent birth to a "popular socialist" state in Mexico. Vargas said that towards this end the thirteen had:

(1) scheduled a hold-up of a branch of the Bank of Industry and Commerce in Mexico City;

(2) arranged but botched the explosion of an army truck carrying arms, money and men, near La Union, a town in the state of Guerrero;

(3) received an undeclared \$1,680 monthly from the Peoples' Republic of China for financing their guerrilla warfare and propaganda operations;

(4) maintained a training camp in the state of Chiapas, where young recruits learned guerrilla warfare according to the writings of Mao Tse-tung.

The charges advanced by the Attorney General's Office were derived from confessions signed by the thirteen "conspirators" before their apprehension was made public on the 19th. On the 21st, they were arraigned, and at that hearing, said to be one of the most heavily guarded in Mexican history, twelve of them repudiated the statements, saying that they were extracted illegally by torture. (The thirteenth member was hospitalized with wounds inflicted by security agents, and therefore could not testify.) One of the arrested, Eduardo Fuentes de la Fuente, testified that he was blindfolded and bound, then taken in a station wagon to a cabin outside Mexico City. There, for two days, security cops beat his body, and burned his chest and arms with cigarette ends. Then they threatened quietly to murder his family if he did not sign a confession which the security agents had kindly prepared for him. At that point, Eduardo broke.

There is also some evidence of U.S. complicity in the crackdown. For example security police knew the exact date one of the group, a Venezuelan, had entered

the U.S. in 1940—information that presumably only the State Department could supply. Nevertheless, criminal court judge Pavon charged members of the group with conspiracy, "inviting" rebellion, damage to the property of others by explosion, criminal association, and attempted robbery. The thirteen were ordered held without bond, because the Mexican law does not provide for the release of prisoners accused of crimes which carry a penalty of five years or more.

Venezuelan Danny Camejo, described by Vargas as a "prominent Trotskyist," was accused of offering medical and other aid to the "conspirators." Seized in evidence of his guilt was a copy of the film "Time of the Locust," produced in the U.S. by the American Friends Service Committee, a pacifist sect. Camejo is the brother of Peter Camejo, past national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance. Following the arrests, Peter flew to Mexico to visit his brother. In the jail, he reported, the prisoners sleep on concrete slabs. On his first trip inside the jail, Peter Camejo caught sight of Adolfo Gilly, a Mexican Trotskyite leader, who is still imprisoned without trial, having been arrested on conspiracy charges a year before. A week later, on the 28th, Peter returned to Mexico City, where he learned that deportation proceedings against his brother were being considered. This time, however, he was unable to talk with Danny; instead, he was hurriedly deported by security police on being found inside the city. Contrary to international law, Camejo was not allowed to pick up his baggage at his hotel, nor to call the U.S. Embassy. If he returns to Mexico, he is subject to ten years' imprisonment.

Fortunately, I was able to meet and spend a couple of weeks with some of the thirteen before their arrest. For next week's edition, I intend to do a profile of the supposed leaders of the plot, and to include a few notes on the Mexican student left as well. In the meantime, protests of the arrests of the thirteen and the deportation of Peter Camejo should be mailed to: Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, President of the Republic of Mexico, Palacio Nacional, Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico. Funds for the defense of the thirteen should be sent to: P.O. Box 1208, Berkeley, California. For more information, write to me at 1100 W. 25th St., Austin, Texas 78705, and see next week's continuation.

(Part One of a Two-Part Series on the Mexican Left)



On The DRAFT

(ed. note: The Lawyer's Guild has been working on the different phases of draft resistance and organizing. The following is a list of points with which a draft counsellor should deal when he is trying to help guys with the Army problem.)

1. Make sure that you ask all of the relevant questions with respect to all possible classifications—you may miss an obvious deferment.

2. Draw up a questionnaire or a list of questions to ask everyone, and cover all of the questions religiously.

3. Make sure that these questions also reflect each of the elements of each classification. For example, if a registrant indicates that he is a student, he ought to check off what year he is in, whether he is under 24 (if an undergraduate), whether he is now pursuing and has satisfactorily always pursued a full-time course of studies, and, under the new law, whether he is considering becoming a father in the near future. These are only threshold questions, but are basic to accurate counseling.

4. Be sure that you have copies of each of the following:

a. The SSS regulations—check to make sure that you have received a full and complete set.

b. The Transmittal Memoranda—be sure and check these, since a number of rules can only be found here. For

example, Local Board Memorandum #73 states that any person who has registered on reaching his eighteenth birthday (reg. S 1655) while outside of the U.S. may not be ordered to report for induction or for a pre-induction physical unless he re-enters the U.S. after having registered.

c. The Surgeon-General's list of disqualifying physical conditions with Appendix. (write to: Surgeon-General, U.S. Army, 1715 Constitution Ave., Washington D.C. or L.A. Woman's Strike for Peace, 5899 W. Pico, Los Angeles, 90019.

d. The Selective Service Act of 1967 with all of its parts (including the old law.)

e. Presidential Proclamations (occasionally important.)

f. The list of critical occupations from the National Security Council or the Scientific Manpower Commission, 2101 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

g. Be placed on the mailing lists of the: Central Comm. for Conscientious Objectors, 2006 Walnut Street, Phila, Penna; American Friends Service Committee in your local area; the National Lawyers Guild, 5 Beekman Street, N.Y.C. 10038; National Service Board for Religious Objectors, Florida and Constitution Aves., Washington, D.C.; Draft Resistance Clearing House, 8 Francis Court, Madison Wisc.; and every peace organization with a local or national office that is engaged in draft resistance work.

5. Keep up to date with new regulations and practices. Not all of these will be expressed by laws; some will be as vague as rumor.

6. Check everything you say to a registrant with the sources listed above, then check it again, making sure that you are being as petty as is possible with respect to interpretation of words, commas, and the context within which specific rules appear.

7. Look hard for procedural errors. If you have the time, go down to the draft board with the registrant or with his written approval and comb his file for procedural mistakes. Again, be as petty as you can possibly be—you never know when a mistake of a minor nature will trigger a reversal or a postponement of induction.

8. If you don't know the answer or are not positive of it, always check. More experienced draft counselors will always take time out to answer questions. If in doubt, call, and if you can't get the answer, call or write to one of the organizations listed above, and they will help you.

Hey Soldier, Where Ya' Goin'

Jeff Shero

They used to whisper, "Pssst soldier! Dirty pictures?" But times have changed. Just as likely now that long-haired kid hanging around the European train station or soldier's bar is offering a better deal—Freedom. "Hey man, FTA*, take one of these." That's the new hustle.

An elusive cobweb army of hippies, Provos, new lefties, and some GIs themselves spread the word. In all the places the soldier rests—Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Frankfurt—they are there. The number is growing.

"Who wants to march? That's worn out. That's for church people and pacifists. The police give you the permit."

"Too many hip guys getting drafted. Too many black guys who fought the national guard. Do something real—help them get out, and make an example. The army equipped with the best weapons science can devise is still only as good as its morale. Our job is to demoralize the army." The argument threads through Student Unions, passes between beer drinkers in those quaint sidewalk cafes, and finds its way to the fermenting minds of young members of workers' clubs.

In Germany where the organization is bad, the German SDS begins to move.

*Fuck the Army.

France improves its system for smuggling guys into the country and getting them work papers. Sweden takes more. The army guides young men to the hygienic whoredom of Amsterdam, while the Dutch movement searches among them for the right man to make the legal test case for asylum. England prints leaflets, and the international floaters smuggle them to the continent. The troops won't even be safe in relaxed Italy anymore; this summer the movement spread.

The international underground resources: thousands of crow quick minds, incredible mazes of contacts, and a few dollars; versus the 70 billion dollar American defense machine, with its twenty five years of coarsening drum-beating propaganda, and whordes of sterile denatured administrators led by the IBM brain of Robert McNamara.

The Europeans know the fight's unequal; it's always been unequal. But it must be made because freedom in Europe can be achieved only when the American control over the politics and economic life of the western half of the continent comes to an end. The Provos proclaim this as clearly as the orthodox Marxists. To promote desertion isn't just to save one man from going to Vietnam and killing Vietnamese because his wife and kid are

waiting for him back home, nor is it because the fight waged by the Vietnamese with their vastly inferior resources has the quality to inspire sympathy and work for their cause. The struggle against the American war is part of the struggle to regain control of each country's life and culture.

The agents of the American government have already penetrated the movement in Europe. But those who went through the many political confrontations of the last year think, "What the hell. Maybe the cops who infiltrate our ranks can be turned-on to life; maybe we can recognize and fool them; maybe we'll organize in such a decentralized way their conspiratorial minds can never figure out how to bust us wide open."

So the people in the once-secure NATO countries begin to declare independence from their "American protectors." A new sign can be found chalked on walls: "U.S.A. equals S.S." The symbol that along with the desertion movement has sprung to life a desire to be free from association with a new American barbarism which finds its clearest expression in Vietnam, and which for active young Europeans is equated with the deeds of the Nazis.

The Mood In Europe

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left-wing McCarthyism

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obvious Stalinist view of legality, of innocence, guilt, and self-criticism ever be trusted to hold power, can honest revolutionaries ever be sure of alliances with such groups? And does it matter if this is an old story: Slansky in Czechoslovakia, Harich in East Germany, Rajk in Hungary, or Andreas Nin in Spain in 1938 or Andre Marty and the CP in the early '50's in France? But unfortunately this is not an old story — it is current and it is American. The innocent victim of the frame-up is William Albertson, Marxist, former member of the National Board of the CPUSA, found innocent but not publicly cleared by the Party of American reformism last June at their National Committee meeting. (See Albertson's open letter to Gus Hall in the National Guardian, Sept. 9, 1967. I myself as N.Mex. delegate to the 18th National Convention, CPUSA, June, 1966, heard the report on the Albertson case in the closed session and voted to continue the investigation. I also heard Communist leaders like Will Weinstone say that further investigation was needed but whatever the results a guy with Albertson's politics shouldn't be readmitted to the Party.) If we are opposed to McCarthyism and government persecution can we stand silent in face of "left wing" McCarthyism, of political persecution on the left by an organized element of the left against a man even they admit was framed?

I think we ought to call them to task — to demand revolutionary honesty and self-criticism from them — or let them stand in naked self-exposure by their failure to do so.

Nor is Albertson's the only example of the Stalinist legacy of "legality" and "democracy" by that group, which according to its youth director in Illinois in May, 1966, (one Ted Pearson) boasting at a Party youth club meeting, was once again ready to exert hegemony over the left!

Has anyone heard anything officially from the CP as yet on the persecution of writers Sinyavsky and Daniel in the Soviet Union? Or what of the Voznesensky incident?

Andrei Voznesensky, Soviet poet and dissenter, was to attend a poetry reading last spring in New York City. The organizers of the reading received a telegram bearing Voznesensky's name at the bottom saying he was ill and couldn't attend. The telegram was sent by the Soviet Writers' Union. Later, in a stinging letter to Pravda, Voznesensky pointed out he was NOT ill, the telegram was sent WITHOUT his permission or knowledge, his rights were clearly violated. Did the CPUSA or Worker call for a protection of his liberty and criticize the Soviet Union of Writers — they were too busy it appears with printing newsy little stories like the Venezuelan CP's call for an Anti-Imperialist Conference (to oppose OLAS) or L'Humanite's characterization of OLAS as "ultra-leftist." (Did Castro say something about "neo-social democrats" recently?)

However, they did get around to the subject recently. The Worker, that stalwart defender of the rights of the CP of Venezuela and others in need, Sept. 3, 1967, carried a poem on the subject by one S.A. — "Letter to Voznesensky." Nary a word about the forged telegram, the restriction of Voznesensky's right to travel — but a forthright denunciation of Voznesensky's trying to win U.S. State Department and CIA ("The CIA loves you. Its eyes warm you" reads one line) support by protesting to Pravda. The Worker printed poem ends

.... It

grieves me to part thus, but, dear Poet Voznesensky, in reading you I smell the reek of Svetlana.

Shades of 1936-37-38! Left Opposition, libertarian thoughts, democratic desires — we know they cover treason: international fascism then, CIA now. Old Stalinists don't change their spots after all!

And — one last case in point, one last note out of dozens and dozens of incidents (which if you are a dialectician are all interrelated, all aspects of a dynamic whole, all interacting parts of a pattern). Just what is the controversy over the Peace Torch — just what did happen in the Peace

Torch offices and what role did our chaste, honest Party of integrity play? I'm sure I don't know. Neither the Barb nor PW has made it all that clear — but stories and counter-stories leave the same kind of lingering suspicious questions that these other incidents do.

Isn't it strange how the path of social democracy (whatever it calls itself) never changes, only becomes more of the same — how once revolutionary bodies, top-heavy and bureaucratic, wind down the same unhappy road. Paul Levi — German Communist to Italian Socialists in 1921 — said: "...in the history of the proletariat, the time arrives when yesterday's brother is not today's, nor will he be tomorrow's."

And so the dialectic of "old left" and new left has always been — and so it will be.

Question then, brothers and sisters — can we of the new left, the libertarian revolutionaries, remain silent over the harassment of another revolutionary by one section of the left — can we be silent about the silence of that same section of the left... yesterday's brother — when the liberties of fellow radicals and dissenters at home or abroad are at stake? Is that the spirit of the June Convention resolution?

RADICAL AMERICA

a magazine by sds people on the radical past in the U.S.

Sept-Oct.

V.I.,#2

Fred Thompson: They Didn't Suppress the Wobblies

Jim O'Brien: The I.W.W. and the Draft in W.W.I

Mari Jo Buhle: Decline of Left Liberalism in America

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NAC minutes

Sept 13

Members present: Kissinger, Silbar, Buck, Rossen, Segal, Spiegel, Davidson, Pardun

Members absent: McCarthy, Tepperman/Jones

Others present: Morearty, Draznin, Ankrum, Kinberg, Kinberg, Gellen, Rosenberg, Dunn, Smith, Gasby, Harris

Agenda

- (1) Financial situation
- (2) New England mailing list
- (3) Hire Karen Gellen
- (4) National Mobilization request for mailing list
- (5) The "Atlanta Press" deal
- (6) Situation on "Kissinger's Typewriter"

(1) Financial report for the last week:

\$5814.81—balance Sept 7

debits:

- \$ 278.65—printing
- 178.34—misc
- 404.01—telephone
- 690.00—subsistence
- 750.00—repayment of loan
- 467.70—payment to TWO
- 66.00—petty cash

\$2834.70

Draft Counseling

continued from p. 3

9. Attempt to work with other counselors to keep up with new developments and with attorneys to whom you can refer cases when necessary. Also, try to be sensitive to legal issues and to possible test cases.

10. Keep a record of the name, address and phone number of each person you see, the kind and the advice given. This is for the protection of the registrant and the counselor. Quite often, advice given one week is invalid the next week, so you will want to be able to keep in touch. Further, where advice given borders on the illegal, be sure to have a witness if possible, or, if not, to summarize the advice given so as to avoid government harassment.

11. Attempt to determine the style of the registrant by posing viable alternatives for him. Some registrants can fake physical defects and others cannot. Some will be able to write long C.O. forms and others only short ones. Some people want to tell the draft board in their C.O. form that they will fight for the N.L.F. if asked to but not for the U.S. For some people going to Canada makes sense and for others it is senseless.

12. Do not attempt to force the registrant into an alternative which might be inappropriate for him. Don't try to make the choice for him. You ought to state your bias if, for example, you think that filing for C.O. is the only honorable deferment or if you happen to be opposed to going to Canada for political reasons.

13. Be sure to use a different approach for the ghetto registrant than you would for the college graduate. Tailor your techniques to the circumstances. For a person who has been arrested twice for drunk and disorderly conduct and once for assault to expect to get a C.O. is ludicrous. Many of these kids can qualify for a IIIA deferment or will "adopt" an ADC mother if informed of this alternative.

14. Be creative. There are ways of obtaining deferments that have not even been considered yet; there are other techniques that will become obvious to anyone with a modicum of common sense. For example, someone who is going to refuse to sign the Loyalty-Security questionnaire (DD98) may wish to send his draft board a gift subscription to the Worker or the People's World. Draft counselors might request occupational deferments on the grounds that they are involved in work necessary to the maintenance of the national health, safety or interest. Part of being creative consists in planning ahead and laying the basis for a classification before the registrant actually applies for it, e.g., someone who is seeking deferment on psychological grounds should begin visiting a psychiatrist before he receives his order to report for a physical. Part of being creative also involves thinking through your own position with respect to the draft, the war, imperialist wars in general and, most important of all, understanding the nature of your own commitment.

15. A continuing dialogue should be maintained between draft counselors and professionals located in the community. Liaison should be established with physicians, psychiatrists, social workers and religious leaders who are in sympathy with the movement. These people can often render invaluable assistance to a counseling group by virtue of their expertise in their particular fields. Counselors should make an effort to keep in contact with draft resistance organizers operating within the community.

16. If any research papers or memoranda such as this one are published as a result of any original experience in the field of counseling, try to make these available to all groups concerned.

by Kenneth Cloke
Executive Secretary
National Lawyers Guild

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 - 90.00—ball fund loans

\$2187.80

\$5167.91—balance Sept 14

(2) The New England Regional Office requested the NLN mailing list for New England, in order to send out a regional newsletter called the New England Free Press. The request was granted.

(3) Karen Gellen was hired as the chapter correspondent.

(4) The National Mobilization requested the NLN mailing list in exchange for theirs. The NAC decided that it would stand on its precedent not to give out the NLN mailing list to other organizations. However, considering the Convention's decision to give "qualified support" to the

Oct 21 thing, the NAC decided that it should be made clear that space would be devoted to the mobilization's point of view, and that space should be requested in their paper to present our position.

(5) Eric Kinberg from the print shop presented that there was a possibility of getting a very good deal on a new press from the SCLC office in Atlanta. Exact arrangements have not been made, but Eric is in the process of getting further details. It was duly noted that we still need a pile of money in order to help finance the press.

(6) There has been a long and harrowing experience with two typewriters which were rented long ago. The result was a court case brought against Clark Kissinger, since he signed the original rental agreement in his capacity as National Secretary. We settled out of court with the best possible deal, which nonetheless will cost us about \$350.

submitted by Mike Spiegel