

new indicator

HUMANS HAVE WALKED IN SPACE!

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Draft Move Intensifies Sasway Conviction Upheld

Last week the conviction of draft resister Ben Sasway was upheld by the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This decision clears the way for taking the case directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sasway was convicted for failing to register for the draft. In his appeal from that decision he is arguing that he was selectively prosecuted—singled out for exercising his First Amendment right to speak out publicly against the draft, that he was denied the opportunity to present his reasons for refusing to register, that the draft is unconstitutional and a number of other points.

He stands a fairly good chance of having his case heard by the Supreme Court, in part because the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the conviction last November of another draft resister, Mark Schmucker of Ohio, because he had been denied an evidentiary hearing by the lower court to determine whether he had been selectively prosecuted. The Sixth Circuit Court also strongly implied that they felt the U.S. government had singled out Schmucker for prosecution because he had spoken out publicly against draft registration. Based on this ruling, another judge in the Sixth Circuit released another resister, Sam Mathews, from prison and commuted his sentence to time served.

The selective prosecution issue is based on the fact that, to date, the government has brought indictments against only those men who had informed the government of their opposition to the draft registration and their decision not to register. This passive "detection" program is being gradually replaced with an active detection one in which lists of names from various sources are being cross-checked with lists of registrants. As a result of the active detection program, thousands of warning letters have been sent to potential non-registrants around the country. So far no indictments have been brought down solely on the basis of computer cross-checking.

Sasway was the first person indicted for failing to register for the draft since the Vietnam war. After serving 40 days in the Metropolitan Correctional Center following his conviction, Sasway was sentenced to two and a half years by Judge Gordon Thompson last October. Sasway is currently a student at Humboldt State University. To help raise funds for Ben Sasway's defense Joan Baez will perform in a benefit concert on Sunday, February 19 at Golden Hall in downtown San Diego. The concert is sponsored by the San Diego County Draft Resisters Defense Fund. (See announcements, this issue.)

Faced with nearly a half million non-registrants, the government has been resorting to a variety of intimidation tactics, besides prosecution, in an attempt to improve an unworkable registration program prior to instituting a full-blown draft. (By the government's own admission, a registration rate of at

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U.S. Special Forces adviser instructs soldiers in use of M-203 grenade launcher, Ilopango, El Salvador. This picture is from an exhibit of images from El Salvador showing at the Museum of Photographic Art in Balboa Park through March 4. More pictures are featured in this issue's centerfold on pages 6 and 7.

Ups and Downs

What's New on the Left

The year 1983 brought many changes to some of the mainstay organizations on the left, some for the better and some for the worse. The organizations covered in this article experienced similar problems. For example, the lack of effective leadership and the lack of funds and activists were endemic to these organizations at one time or another. The history of three San Diego organizations and the problems they face will be discussed here. Analysis of their structure, process, and strategies will not be dealt with here.

1. Committee in Solidarity with Nicaragua (CSN) This organization was formed in early 1982 to educate the local community about what was happening in Nicaragua, according to Antigone Martinez. She, along with Jorge Mancillas, were two of the main organizers of the committee. From April to November of 1982, CSN continually showed films and had literature tables at various campus and community locales. Membership during this period hovered around twenty. Meetings were always full of new faces, Martinez said. To celebrate the third anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution, CSN put on a teach-in which drew well over 500 people. The focus was on all Central America. A combination of video, poetry, music, and information was presented. CSN also put on fundraising to collect for Nicaraguan flood-relief efforts. Donations of clothes were also sent to Nicaragua, said Martinez. Another accomplishment of the committee was the distribution of literature on various aspects of Nicaraguan life.

1983 saw CSN go through hard times. Some members dropped out, while others moved out of the area. Still others joined the U.S.-Mexico Border Conference in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, as this issue began to dominate the headlines. CSN did turn out 100 people for a demonstration against the U.S.-sponsored contra attacks against Nicaragua. The demonstration received excellent media coverage. But CSN's days were numbered. The members were gone, the energy was gone, and CSN's main organizer had left to pursue academic studies. This organization, which did so

much in 1982, is now just a vague memory in people's minds. It dissolved in 1983. R.I.P.

2. The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) formed its San Diego chapter in late 1980. CISPES has put on many events in its history around educating the public to what's going down in El Salvador. 1981 saw two major events. Julia Mendoza, a representative from ANDES (a strong teacher's union) spoke to a packed audience, and a candlelight vigil and mass for the nuns murdered in El Salvador was held in Old Town, and drew over 700 people.

In March, 1982, CISPES and the Peace and Justice Coalition organized a march in Balboa Park to protest the next day's elections in El Salvador. After this event, many members became less active, believing the situation was improving because of the elections. According to Susan Norwood, a CISPES organizer, this was because of a lack of politicization of the members. Norwood said San Diego CISPES was dependent upon North County's CISPES for funds to do events, as San Diego's CISPES lacked strong organization at the time.

In late 1982, "the infrastructure of CISPES started developing," Norwood relates, as regular mailings and literature distribution occurred. In addition, better relations with the regional and national offices of CISPES were achieved. According to Norwood, new people entered to replace the old, as San Diego CISPES became autonomous. 1982 saw CISPES get involved in a ballot initiative discussion process, which drew

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University Center Railroading Still On Track...

Opposition Mounts To Administrative Cabal

In the aftermath of last spring's controversial attempt by Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Affairs, Joe Watson to drastically increase administrative control over the Student Center by changing the composition of the 9-member all-student, Student Center Board (SCB), current developments indicate the potential for yet another conflict as students find themselves pitted against the administration for control of the proposed new University Center.

In last year's conflict, Joe Watson, who enjoyed very little support for his power play among students—with the notable exception of the SCB Chair Paul Jensen—abandoned his plans after massive outcry from a strong student coalition that included Student Affirmative Action Committee groups, Coops & Enterprises and student media.

Watson's plan to increase administrative control over the SCB was seen by many as the first and most crucial step in the implementation of the ad hoc Building Committee's report, dated March 17th 1983, recommending a 25,000 square foot facility—the University Center. With control of the SCB, the administration would then enjoy complete and total control of the "University Center". However student opposition forced Watson into shelving, but not burying, the report and trying another approach.

Enter Assistant Chancellor Tommy Tucker who was chosen to direct the new approach. An approach that included a large-scale publicity campaign to sell the plan to students (with repeated attempts if it failed the first time around), and securing student approval of the administrative plans to add staff, faculty and alumni representation to the SCB. (These representatives would then be in position to form the wedge in reducing already inadequate student control over the center).

While the new approach tried by the administration has removed Joe Watson from the spotlight and made Tommy Tucker the focal point, it has been successful in attracting a larger and broader coalition of students who are fast becoming aware of the administration's goals.

The Tucker Express

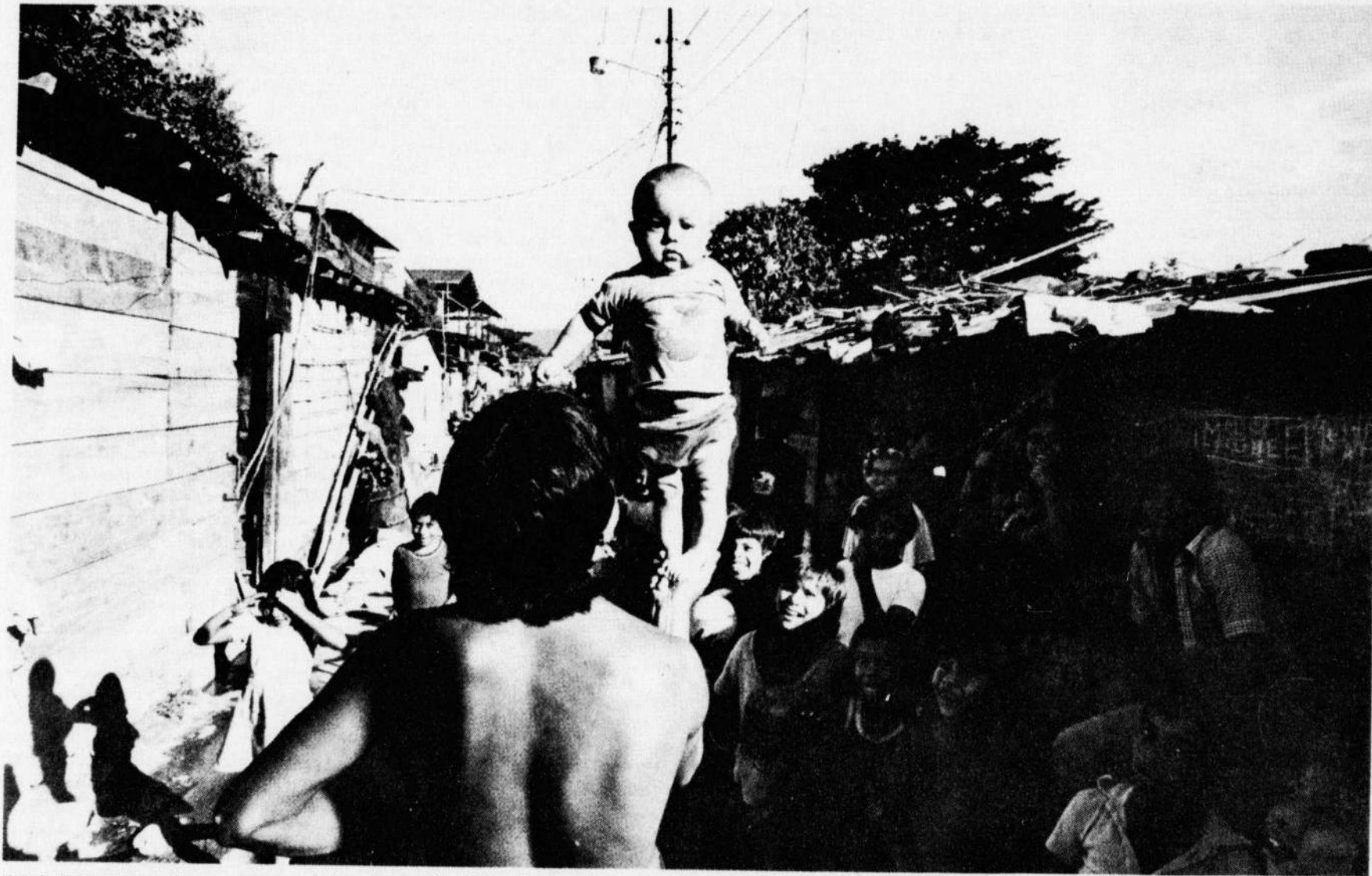
Tucker, who arrived here in early fall '83, has moved at an astonishing pace by

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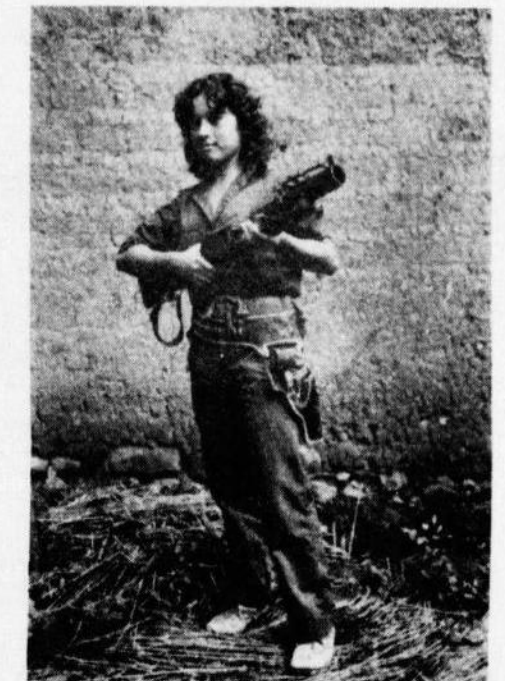
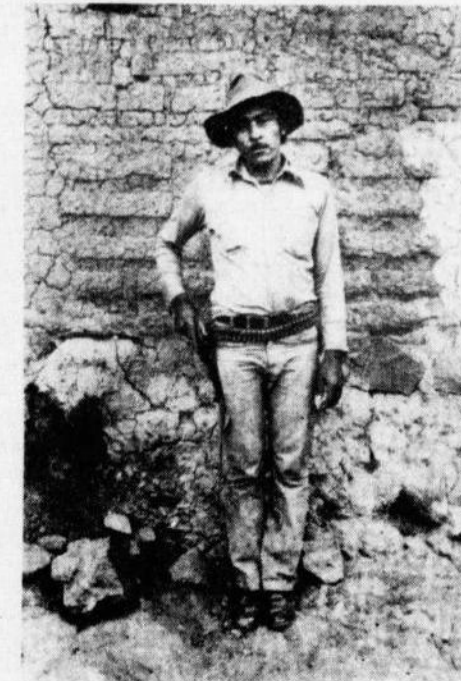
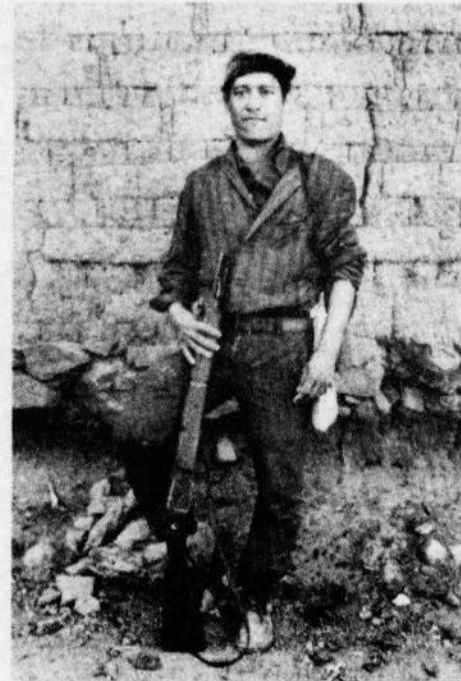
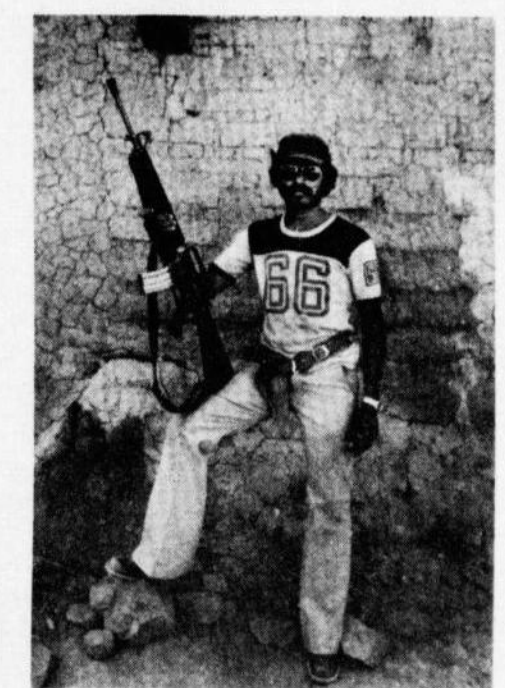
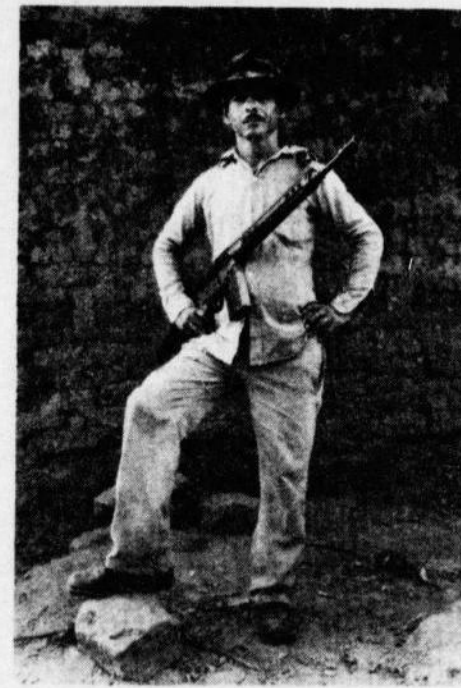
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EL SALVADOR, a collection of photographs, is on exhibit at Balboa Park's Museum of Photographic Art until March 4. Internationally known photographers on assignment in El Salvador for *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Paris Match*, *Stern* and *U.S. News and World Report*, present published and unpublished work. The exhibit chronicles the emergence of a popular struggle . . . and its escalation into a full scale war with global implications. Some examples:



Neighborhood known as "La Fosa" (The Grave), San Salvador.



Portraits of guerrillas, Chalatenango.



Soldiers with their mutilated victims, Chalatenango.



Fabricating explosives in "liberated zone," Usulután.

Long Stories In Short

HUMANS WALK IN SPACE!

Killer Sex Disease Sweeps Country

"Killer Sex Disease Sweeps Country," screamed the headline in a recent issue of the Cape Town *City Press*. The article reported an epidemic of cervical cancer among Black South African women, attributing the rampant disease to "too much sex too early with too many partners."

As lurid as the account was, it did draw attention to a frightening problem. According to Dr. Gladwyn Leiman of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Soweto, a township of more than one million Black residents, has the second-highest incidence of cervical cancer in the world. "Black women in Soweto have all the prerequisites for contracting this disease," Leiman reports. "They live in poverty conditions. There are enormous numbers of single men—since so many are prohibited from living with their families—and therefore there are high rates of promiscuity and pelvic inflammatory disease, which is associated with high cervical cancer rates." The strict apartheid laws limiting the number of Blacks in "white" cities and the forced relocation of millions of Blacks to rural reservations have wrenched families apart, preventing Blacks in urban areas from establishing long-term sexual relationships.

Professor Charles Isaacson of Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand says, "The incidence is probably over 40 (Black women) per 100,000 per year, and this figure is a conservative one." The rate for whites is 8.08 women per 100,000 per year. "It's really appalling," says a South African community organizer. "But with so much else wrong—people being deprived of their homes and having nothing to eat—it's treated as relatively unimportant. Just as Hitler wasn't concerned about cervical cancer among those whom he consigned to the extermination camps, this also is not one of the concerns uppermost in the minds of the government."

What makes the situation truly abhorrent is that cervical cancer can be detected so simply and inexpensively by periodic Pap smears. And it is easily curable in its early stages. Leiman, who established "Operation Screen Soweto" in an attempt to respond to the problem, laments the country's two-tier health-care system: "We are dealing with a situation where the low-risk group (white women) have excellent health care, getting Pap smears at least annually, while the high-risk group (Black women) are receiving none."

—Mother Jones

Reagan Wonders about Armageddon

"You know, I turn back to the ancient prophets of the Old Testament, and the signs foretelling Armageddon, and I find myself wondering if—if we're the generation that is going to see that come about...But believe me (those prophecies) certainly describe the times we're going through."

—President Ronald Reagan



Australia and Japan Join Boycott

It's not hard to see why Continental Airlines is asking the striking unions to return to negotiations. The Japanese labor movement is now joining with the Australian labor movement in boycotting the airline. According to the *California AFL-CIO News* the Japanese Confederation of Labor (DOME) announced it has called a boycott of the struck airline which has used the bankruptcy laws to break its union obligations, and the other three major labor federations are expected to impose similar sanctions in the near future.

—People's World

Sperm Banks Slug It Out

Two California sperm banks are also slugging it out over the slander issue in the state courts. The Repository for Germinal Choice, which specializes in elite sperm for those who've made it and those scrambling to make it, recently accused its more egalitarian rival of dealing in defective sperm. The feminist-run Sperm Bank of Northern California replied with a \$3 million lawsuit. Said Sperm Bank's irate administrator Laura Brown: "It's one thing to say they're racist, sexist and classist, but it's a different thing for them to say we're producing defective sperm."

—In These Times

U.S. Navy Involved in Strikebreaking

Little known fact during the recent Greyhound bus strike—the federal government was involved in strikebreaking by transporting Navy recruits on Greyhound buses. The Navy bought blocks of tickets and gave them to recruiting officers who gave them to recruits.

—People's World

GOP Counting on Gamblers

In one of the most bizarre political fund-raising efforts in recent memory, the Republicans have launched their own publishers clearinghouse-style sweepstakes. Entry forms have gone out to more than a million households, informing recipients "you may already be a winner" of \$50,000 cash, a new car, a vacation trip or a custom-built home. Entrants are asked to send in \$15 to \$100 to the National Republican Congressional Committee, but the contributions are mandatory. The committee calls it a "marketing tool" designed to make money and provide a computer list of contributors for future fund-raising.

—D.C. Gazette

Schafly not Living in Dream World

In a recent 1984 prediction proving that women, too, can sometimes be illogical, Phyllis Schafly posits the following argument for keeping women out of politics: "Any politician who thinks he will get the women's vote by putting a woman on the ticket is really living in some kind of dream world. All you have to do is ask the NOW women if they would support me."

—In These Times

Private Prisons On the Cutting Edge of Reform

Private enterprise, always looking for new growth markets, recently may have found the ultimate: private prisons. Dozens of corporations are now competing for the chance to satisfy some of the ballooning demand for prison and jail space. The nation's inmate population is reaching record numbers

every month, and panicked administrators have started turning to newly organized punishment-for-profit firms, which are offering to lock up and guard people for a fee that could go as low as \$20 per day per person.

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), a Nashville-based enterprise organized last June by many of the same investors who started the now-giant Hospital Corporation of America, is one of the leaders in the field. Its management includes well-connected former corrections officials such as T. Don Hutto, Virginia corrections director, and Maurice Sigler, retired chairman of the U.S. Parole Commission. CCA will open its first \$4 million, 350-bed "detention facility" in Houston this February. The jail will hold illegal aliens under a contract with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. CCA's competitors in the punishment-for-profit trade include Colorado oilman O. Wesley Box and the RCA Service Company, which already runs a school for hard-core juvenile delinquents in Pennsylvania.

"We're on the cutting edge of a whole new industry," says Travis Snellings, CCA's finance director. Private corporations, contends Snellings, can imprison cheaper and faster by eliminating governmental inefficiencies.

But one official is not so sure it's a good idea. "I once had to put an elderly relative in a private nursing home," says Perry Johnson, Michigan's director of corrections. "If the companies do prisons like they do those places, we'll be set back a hundred years."

—Mother Jones

Our strength Is in the Streets

Pressuring the candidates, raising the issues in the streets, visiting the universities in teach-ins and raising radical positions can change the mood of the nation, and tilt the national scale to the left. That will contribute more to defeating Reagan than anything else we can do—and will allow us on the left to remain honest to our convictions. When you or I ring a doorbell and ask someone to vote for Mondale, we have to lie like toopers to get that vote—Mondale is honest, he's a good leader, he stands for fine positions. In fact he stands for terrible positions on the war, on the economy, on relations with the Soviets—and the fact that they are less terrible than Reagan's does not make them good.

In supporting a Mondale we cannot console ourselves that we are participating in a united front. Back in 1932 it was permissible, desirable in fact, for the Socialists and Communists to forge a single ticket to defeat Hitler. Had they done it, and won, both parties would have gained something, and above all Hitler would have been sidetracked. But we in America today cannot have a united front with the Democrats, if only because we represent too small a force to bargain with them.

The only relationship the Democrats will permit is one in which we will be subordinate and insignificant. Our strength is in the streets; that's where our effort should go this election year. And oddly enough, the Democrats will benefit most if we take the issues to the streets—for it is they who will gain in the electoral process if the pendulum of U.S. politics is drawn to the left.

—The Guardian