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NORTH STAR

LEUCADIA ALLIANCE -- GOOD NEWS

The latest development in the struggle against Ron Ramos and his earth-treading (as in "Don't tread on me"), Skyloft, is the Leucadia Alliance.

The Alliance composed of about 200 concerned citizens, had its inception on September 25, in a meeting at Capri School where attorney Jim Webb stressed the need for an organized group. The Leucadia Alliance is registered with the California Secretary of State as unincorporated organization #2767. The Alliance has retained Jim Webb as its attorney.

The organization was begun to meet the pressing need of residents of Leucadia for a voice to recommend or repudiate changes taking place in their community. The Alliance believes this need has developed because the Leucadia Town Council (the incorporated organization which in name represents the Leucadian viewpoint to the Board of Supervisors) has become the mouthpiece of its president, Fred Wilson. The Alliance sees itself as a pressure group intending not to usurp the LTC but rather to make it a responsible body.

The immediate catalyst for the Alliance is Skyloft, Ron Ramos' 99 unit development to be built (indeed the grading has begun!) on the southern edge of Bataquitos Lagoon. Not only is Skyloft aesthetically displeasing at that location but there are practically no service facilities to handle it. There is no access road and residents of Skyloft will be forced to use Capri road which was designed in the 20's for a rural populous. There are no school facilities and children of the Skyloft development will be forced to enroll at Capri school which is already overcrowded because of La

Costa developments in Encinitas- Leucadia as well as developments in Carlsbad which also went up without consideration of the educational services in the community.

With respect to Skyloft the Alliance has listed its immediate goals as: pressure for Skyloft traffic to be routed through Piraeus; to oppose the widening of streets to accommodate Skyloft (which would burden homeowners in two ways because it would force them to pay for access to the Skyloft project and cause some houses to be condemned in order to widen the road); and to advocate Rainbow Ridge remain as it is, the Rainbow Ridge- Sunrich-Urania trio which has also been suggested as an access to the Skyloft project.

Regardless of the outcome of the Skyloft struggle, the Leucadia Alliance plans to remain active, as there are worse crises on the horizon than even Skyloft. One such case is Leucadia Estates which the Board of Supervisors initially ruled against then turned around and re-opened the case.

Worse yet is the potential Quail Gardens Tennis Club which is to be situated next to the Agricultural Preserve. This environmentalist nightmare is 422 units as now planned. It calls for putting three units per acre even though the zoning only allows a single unit per acre. And, again, no service facilities are planned for the project.

For its sewage the Quail Gardens would hook into the Olivenhain Water District which is already sorely overburdened. There is to be little recreation space allotted on the entire project; one of the larger units has all of 163 sq. feet of outdoor space which is about the size

of the average living room.

The Leucadia Alliance is and will be what the residents of Leucadia choose to make it. Anyone who wishes can be part of it by contacting any of the following people: Loretta and Paul Smith, 1645 Noma Lane; Duana and Charles Wanket, 1741 Caudor; Anne Omsted, trailer on Rainbow Ridge; Carol and George Law, 1601 Gascony Road 753-4082.

Anyone joining or wishing to may contribute \$25 to the Leucadia Alliance at their account in the Southwest Bank Leucadia. Your environment needs your aid, make your opinion heard by working with the Alliance or attending the Leucadia Town Council meetings. Don't let Fred Wilson and his pro-development cronies intimidate you.



(photo: North Star)

Scene from Learning Fair on Mair College at UCSD last Friday.

IMPERIALISM -- ZIONISM -- OIL

As the current Mideast war continues past the ceasefire negotiated by the two superpowers, it becomes obvious that this war will not be the last one fought in the Mideast. None of the peace plans now under consideration deals with the primary conflict in the area, that between US imperialism and the masses of people in the Middle East. The US is not concerned with the question of a Zionist state, not concerned with the welfare of Jews in the area, and is definitely not concerned with the self determination of the peoples of that area. US interests in the Middle East can be explained with one word — oil. Its foreign policy has been and will continue to be determined by how it can best exploit that oil for the benefit of its ruling class.

Currently, the principal agent of the US in the Middle East is the Zionist state of Israel. A knowledge of the history of this sub-imperialist power and of Zionism in general is necessary to the understanding of the present situation. The tremendous amounts of pro-Israeli propaganda produced by the mass media serves to hide not only the major issue in the Middle East, but also the meaning and implications of Zionism. As Zionism cannot be equated to Judaism, anti-Zionist feeling should not be equated to racial prejudice against Jews. Unfortunately, racism does exist, racism directed against both Arabs and Jews. This racism also adds to the confusion about the Middle East. The elimination of racism is necessary everywhere. Any political organization which condones racism, or does not continually struggle against racism must be condemned. Zionism, as defined by its actions of the past 75 years, is such an organization. It considers racism against Jews to be eternally inherent in the world. Zionism further postulates that the primary struggle for all Jews is

dealing with the reactions of others to their Jewish race. An analysis of world politics in this way, namely equating the interests of the average Jew with the interests of a Rothschild or of one of the Lehman brothers just does not take the reality of the world into account. Further, Zionism calls for a Jewish state in the area of Palestine, a state open to any person born a Jew, but closed off to the millions of non-Jews, the Palestinians, whose ancestors lived in Palestine for thousands of years before driven out by the Zionists in the early part of the 20th century. Zionism has never been a movement led by the Jewish masses. Rather, its successes have depended on the actions of an imperial power interested in establishing a colony in the Middle East. Racism prevented the Jews from assimilating in the Western European societies during

the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Many Jews became merchants and traders, the highest level occupation open to them. As such, they became convenient scapegoats used by the feudal barons to absorb the wrath of the peasants, wrath which should have been directed against the primary oppressors, the feudal barons instead of the Jews. The Industrial Revolution erased the old hierarchy of power and created an economic system in which the Jews were, to a large degree, assimilated. The later development of Eastern Europe, and the resulting anti-Jewish pogroms of the late 19th and early 20th centuries brought many Jews westward. The wealthy Western European Jews, those who had been assimilated into the ruling class of the West, were not interested in helping the new Jewish immigrants from the East, who had also been made the scapegoats of the ruling

class of their homeland. The rich western Jews feared possible adverse personal side effects and therefore looked to Zionism as a convenient solution to the question of where to put the emigrating Jews.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND SUEZ

Zionism had other allies, namely, the ruling class of the dominant imperial power, Britain. The Middle East was a part of the Ottoman Empire, and Britain wanted that part of the world for several reasons. The Middle East was in a strategically located position of the British Empire, the area bordered the Anglo-French Suez Canal, and, by 1914, the British had claims to the product recognized to be necessary to every modern imperialist navy, the oil of the Mideast. In 1914, Chaim Weizmann, the leading proponent of Zionism at the time wrote to C.P. Scott, the editor of the Manchester Guardian, "we can reasonably say that should Palestine fall within the British sphere of influence, and should Britain encourage a Jewish settlement there, as a British dependency, we could have in twenty to thirty years a million Jews out there, perhaps more; they would develop the country, bring back civilization to it (sic) and form a very effective guard for the Suez Canal." A.J. Balfour, British Prime Minister when the 1906 Aliens Act was passed to prohibit Jewish immigration into Britain, then authored the Balfour Act of 1917, committing the British to a Zionist Palestinian policy.

The economic collapse of post World War I Germany, the rise of the left, its defeat, and the subsequent rise of fascism looked for another scapegoat on which to blame the country's problems. The newly arrived Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, to be distinguished from the assimilated German Jews, became the victims. Once anti-



American owned oil station in Lebanon burns after attack by Palestinian guerrillas (photo: LNS)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Environmental Report

REGIONAL COMMISSION REJECTS DEVELOPMENTS

Friday, November 2., the San Diego Regional Commission met and made several landmark decisions concerning development in San Diego County. The Commission denied permits for development of two large projects in the North County area and two other big developers withdrew their applications for permits for construction. There were no large projects approved.

This is definitely a victory for the people of San Diego. However, although no development projects were approved Friday, the fight to stop the land-rape in the San Diego area is not nearly over. The money behind just one of the projects, Cardiff Sea Village, totals \$20,000,000. The amount of money in all the developments covered in Friday's meeting is probably in excess of \$75,000,000. That amount of money can surely be very influential and believing that these big monied interests will give up easily is very naive.

cardiff sea village rejected

The first development to be denied a permit was Cardiff Sea Village, a \$20 million complex of houses and condominiums. San Diego Investments in partnership with Sidney Jaffe is the developer. The plans call for 123 condominiums and 275 single homes to be built on a 192 acre site. Just because of its sheer intensity the project would have a tremendous impact of the area.

The Environmental Report on Cardiff Sea Village reported a number of problems. The extensive grading would create several adverse effects. There would be a problem with sedimentation running off the site into the la-

agoon resulting in filling the lagoon. The developers propose to level off several of the bluffs in order to provide more area for homesites. Obviously, this would be very unesthetic. The San Elijo Alliance and the Coastwatch vigorously opposed these plans to flatten the bluffs. Another adverse effect is the extinction of plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals on the site. This problem becomes more severe when one considers that development over the entire San Diego area is causing extinction of animals and plants throughout the area. A huge development like this will also have problems with pesticides, fertilizers, gasoline, oil, and etc. running off into the lagoon. Simply because of its huge size, the increased number of automobiles would cause an increase in air pollution also. This development would bring 1290 people into the Cardiff area. Services for all these people and the overburdening of the school system are other effects to consider. The San Diego Alliance and Coastwatch also protested the proposed building of a road extending from Manchester Avenue along the lagoon up to Cardiff Sea Village. The road is planned to go through some agricultural land which is expressly prohibited by the Environmental Act.

precedent setting decision

Cardiff Sea Village was denied a permit by a 7-4 vote. The proposed leveling of the bluffs and the proposed road, were the reasons for the denial. This is a precedent setting decision concerning development in and around lagoon areas.

However, the battle to prevent this development is very unlikely to be over. At the end of Friday's meeting, the developers returned to the Commission to consult on changes in their proposal, and the Commission agreed to have a new vote, not later than December 7, following consultation with their staff. Considering the amount of money (\$20,000,000) in the project, San Diego Investments and Sidney Jaffe will not easily give up.

carlsbad condominium denied

The second project to be denied a permit was an 87 two bedroom condominium development in Carlsbad. The applicant is Harold Thoupson of Carlsbad. The plans consisted of six three story buildings on a 2 acre lot. The buildings were to be arranged in a rectangle such that from the outside, they would appear to cover 99.7% of the lot. The buildings were to be 35 feet high. One can imagine a huge block of apartments added to a mostly single home area in Carlsbad. The project was denied approval because of the lack of any redeeming aesthetic appeal and also because of its impact of the already overburdened Carlsbad School System. The vote against the project was 11-1.

sewer proposal with held

The first of the requests to be withdrawn was for a 3600 foot sewer line by the Occidental Petroleum Land Development Corporation. It was planned to run along the east side of Interstate 5 in Carlsbad. One of the fears of the Commission staff was that the proposed line would endanger flower

fields in that area. The sewer line was intended to support an 800 to 1000 unit housing development which was not proposed at this time. Development along this area would entirely eliminate the beautiful view from 1-5 of the flowers in bloom during the spring months. Occidental hopes to put the new sewer line north of Poinsettia Lane.

apartment proposal withdrawn

Also withdrawn was a proposal for a 56 unit five story apartment complex by Holiday Resorts International along the Oceanside Strand. Commissioners felt that it would obstruct the view, and like the Carlsbad project was very unesthetic. One Commissioner, Cornelius Dutcher, said the project looked like an "early penitentiary." The plans called for a 50 foot high by 365 foot long structure.

solana seaside propertiers rejected

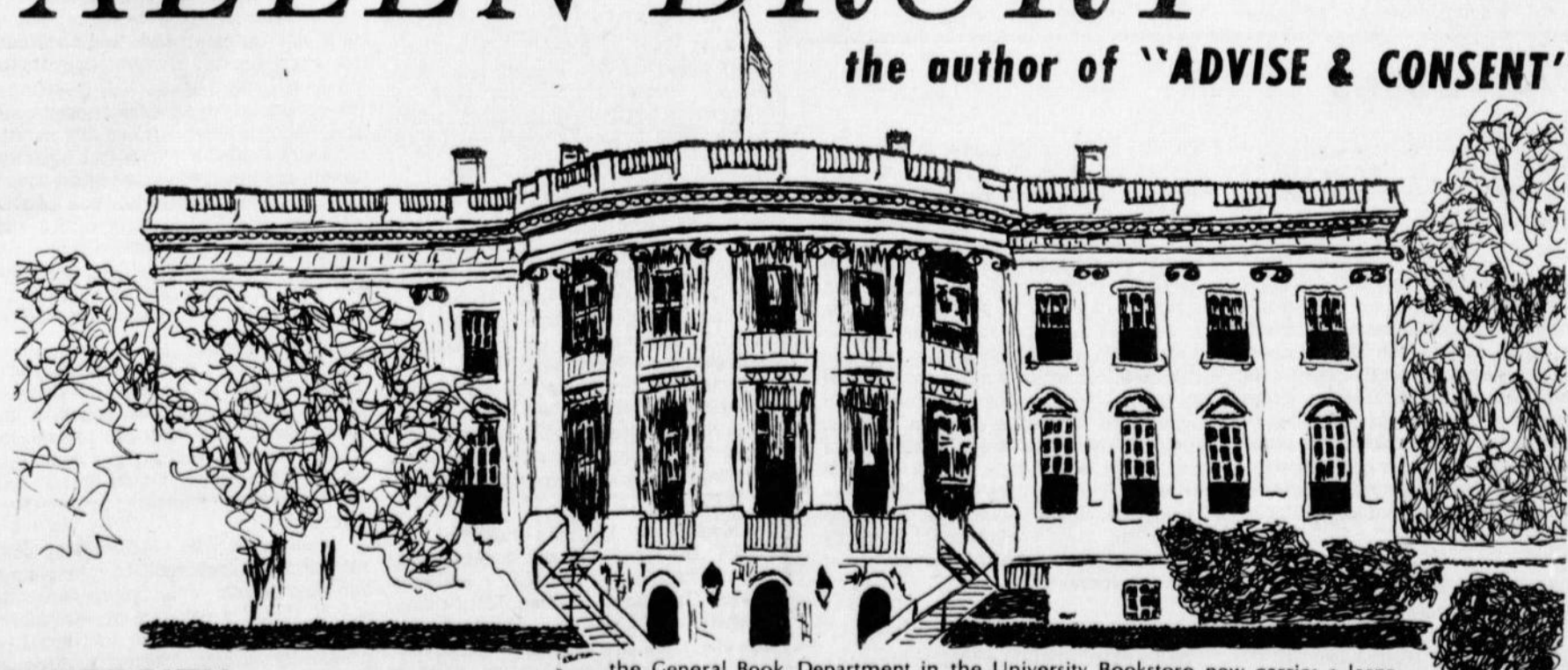
The San Diego Planning Commission also met Friday and turned down a development consisting of 373 apartment units, 7 shopkeeper townhouse units, 100 motel units, and 7 shops. The development was to be built on a 24.9 acre parcel of land between the railroad and highway 101 by the San Elijo Lagoon. Density of the project is planned to be 20.5 dwellings per acre. Solana Seaside Properties is the name of the development. The proposal calls for filling part of the San Elijo Lagoon. Because of plans to fill the lagoon, the Planning Commission rejected the project. This is another precedent setting decision concerning the filling of lagoon areas.

COME NINEVEH, COME TYRE

by
ALLEN DRURY

the author of "ADVISE & CONSENT"

A fiercely dramatic political novel set in the future. A political demagogue like Senator Joe McCarthy forces the President to cooperate with him and his bully-boys, an organization called NAWAC.



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DID YOU KNOW... The General Book Department in the University Bookstore now carries a large selection of all the leading titles on current affairs, and topics of special interest in both cloth and paperback?
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GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

NATIONALLY



Sid Stapleton during press conference last week. (photo-North Star)

A group called the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) has been organized to raise money and support for a \$27 million lawsuit against the Federal Government (specifically President Nixon, former aides Mitchell, Ehrlichmann, and Haldeman, and the heads of 14 government agencies). The plaintiffs in the suit are the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), but the PRDF was started by many prominent civil libertarians including Eugene McCarthy, Daniel Ellsberg, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and many others.

Syd Stapleton, National Secretary of the PRDF, was in San Diego on a speaking tour last week, and described the suit:

"Because of the way the Federal Court system is organized, a person (or group) must show that they suffered a monetary loss in order to start a suit against another party. The SWP is seeking compensation for damages in-

flicted by government agents on many occasions, including the fire-bombing of the Los Angeles office of the SWP.

"The most important thing, however, is that the suit seeks an injunction against the use of wiretaps, surveillance, infiltration, and other police state type measures against opponents of govern-

ment policy. Although the plaintiffs in this suit are socialists, members and supporters of the SWP and the YSA, tens of thousands of Americans from Black Panthers to farm workers to feminists have been subjected to Watergate style violations of their rights.

"Through this suit we hope not only

to restrict the government from other such violations in the future, but we intend to expose the extent to which political liberties have fallen victim to the idea that 'national security' can be used to justify anything."

The suit was entered in Federal Court in mid-July by Leonard Boudin, attorney for the PRDF and former attorney for Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers trial. So far the government has not responded. If there is no response by the middle of this month the SWP will win by default.

Stapleton isn't counting on this, so he and others from the PRDF are on a national fund-raising drive. The court battle is expected to last about three years, and obviously this will cost a lot of money. If you want to help, you can contact the PRDF in San Diego at PO Box 5734 San Diego 92105

AND LOCALLY

In what appears to be a clear-cut case of selective law enforcement, the San Diego Police have arrested Salm Kolis, socialist candidate for the San Diego City Council from the seventh district. The City Attorney has alleged that she perjured herself on election filing by using a false address.

As of November, 1972, Kolis is a resident of the seventh district, the time limit required. She went on a two month speaking tour, but still maintained her residence. When she returned, she planned to move to a new address, but didn't for personal reasons, and moved instead to a different location. All three of these addresses are within the seventh district.

(The city municipal code requires that candidates be residents of San Diego for three years and residents of their district for one year prior to election. However, similar requirements have been ruled unconstitutional by the state supreme court, and the City Attorney instructed the election officials to disregard the three-year requirement; thus Salm Kolis was an eligible candidate.)

One of the things that shows that this is selective enforcement of the law is the fact that this is the first time in the city's history that the City Attorney has even investigated a candidate's address, let alone prosecute for perjury.

Furthermore, a private investigation challenged Mayor Pete Wilson's

residency during the 1965 state assembly elections, the report was ignored, and the issue squelched by the local Republican party.

The reason for the City Attorney's interest in this matter is that Salm Kolis is a socialist, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

A local group has been formed to help Salm Kolis. They say that this is an attack by local officials with the same Watergate mentality found in Washington, and as such is an encroachment on civil liberties.

"The attack on Salm Kolis is an attack on the civil rights and liberties of all San

Diegans, and must be answered by a broad defense", said Mary Lipman, secretary of the Committee to Defend Salm Kolis, in an interview. "Initiating sponsors of the Committee include Mike Pancer, chairman of the San Diego ACLU, Flo Kennedy, feminist author, and James Obata, professor at Mesa College. We urge everyone in San Diego who supports democratic rights and liberties to join us in protesting the attack on Salm Kolis."

Those interested in helping should contact:
Committee to Defend Salm Kolis
PO Box 5313
San Diego 92105

GI'S PETITION CONGRESS TO REMOVE NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT

A petition to Congress from active-duty servicemen and servicewomen to abolish Article of the UCMJ (Non-Judicial Punishment) was presented to House Armed Services Committee member Ron Dellums on October 12. The petition, circulated last spring and summer, was presented to Congressman Dellums at a press conference in his Oakland office. Two GI's who helped circulate the petition, one at Travis Air Force Base and one at Okinawa, Japan, talked with Dellums about the campaign against Non-Judicial Punishment. The GI's explained that NJP is used by

commanding officers to impose arbitrary punishments. Since the commanding officer is judge, jury and prosecutor, NJP is a denial of servicepeople's constitutional rights. In practice, it is used to keep people uncertain and afraid of the power of officers. NJP is used as a weapon against enlisted people, and especially against minority groups in the military.

Congressman Dellums supported their statements about Article 15, and went on to say that he thought the UCMJ should be abolished. He also said that he is in the process of presenting to

Congress a bill that would require that everyone receive the same discharge.

The campaign to abolish Article 15 was begun on the West Coast by the Center for Servicemen's Rights in San Diego. Petitions were also circulated by San Diego Concerned Military, by groups in the San Francisco area, at bases in Asia, in Germany, at Camp Lejeune, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, at Fort Carson, and at several other bases.

Along with the petition, a second part of the campaign has been distribution of information about the legal rights ser-

vicemen and women have under NJP. Shortly after the campaign began, the military made several minor changes in Article 15. However, it remains basically the same now as when it was written in 1950. The campaign against NJP will continue at different bases, and signatures collected in the future will be sent to Congressman Dellums' office.

For more information contact:
Travis GI Project, P.O. Box 487, Suisun City, Cal., or
GI Project Alliance, P.O. Box 8056, San Diego, Cal. (714) 239-2119

SOLANA BEACH TOWN COUNCIL TO APPEAL BLUFF STAIRCASE

The Solana Beach Town Council in a letter to the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission gave notice of intent to appeal the San Diego Coast Regional Commission's approval of the application by the Westward Construction Company for permission to construct a staircase down the bluff for exclusive use of the residents of Seascape Surf Condominium.

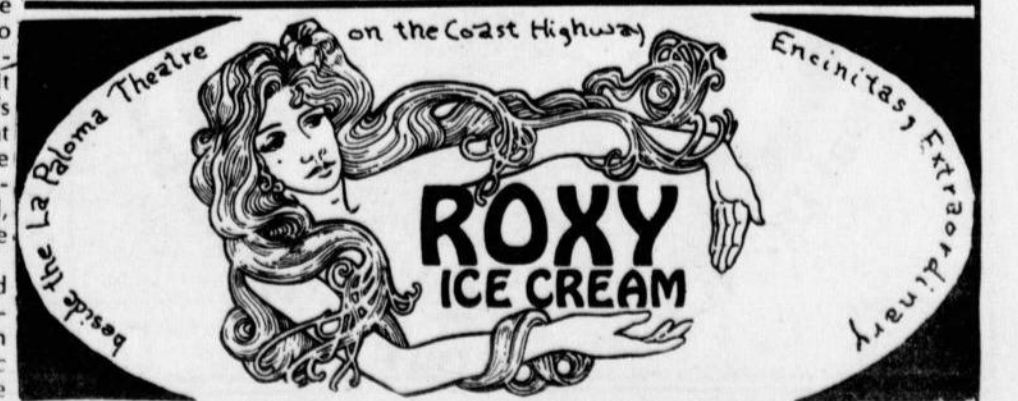
The Council stated in the letter that the Project Summary and Staff Recommendation of the San Diego Coast Regional Commission present a solid rationale for turning down the request of the Westward Construction Company, and for seeking a reversal of the Commission's approval of the developer's request.

The letter pointed out that the bluff is already partially defaced by three private staircases constructed before the passage of proposition 20, and there are

four existing public easements and associated parking spaces, just south of the Solana Beach County Park, for which the County may eventually build public staircases to the beach. If all of these staircases, private and public, are built there will be ten of them within only 0.8 mile, and all on a steep, fragile and poorly consolidated sand bluff 70 to 80 feet high. The visual and environmental effects are already severe. It is urged that exploitation of the bluffs for private benefit must stop, and that further construction for public use should proceed only after careful consideration of availability of use by all, and mitigation of attendant adverse environmental effects.

In conclusion the Town Council said that in approving the Westward staircase, the Regional Commission stipulated that it be open to the public until the County builds a public staircase

to the public would be minimal. It was pointed out that approval of this staircase by the Regional Commission establishes an undesirable precedent encouraging every bluff front development to request a private staircase henceforth.



HOW THE BOYCOTT WAS BORN.

"Hey, look, I know that the farmworkers have a raw deal and all that, but why does that mean I should boycott Safeway? Or head lettuce? Or grapes? Or Gallo wine? It doesn't make sense."

Yes, it does. What we want to do is explain, as best we can, why a boycott or boycotts are necessary. One answer is simple: Boycotts are effective where nothing else is. Period.

Aren't strikes effective? Put yourself, for a minute, in the position of a farmworker in the process of organizing a union. From the day you've been old enough to work (there are, by the way, 800,000 of you under the age of 16 -- children--working full time in the amber waves of these United States) in the field of California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, all the way to Maine. You've worked 16 hours a day, six days a week, with no rest periods (tired?) no drinking water (thirsty?) no protection from the unusually inordinate amounts of pesticides you handle, no sufficient medical care (tired and thirsty and dead at 49). This assumes you have reached a working age at all; farmworkers infant mortality rate is 125% higher than this country's average.

So, you want to change all this you say? Well, you start to ORGANIZE, just like the garment workers and steel workers and others have done. But, in the process, you find out that legally you are not a "worker": you don't have the legal right to have your union and its strikes recognized, nor the right to secret ballot elections to

even choose a union, nor the right to unemployment insurance, nor the right to worker's compensation nor (therefore) the right to or expectation of job security of any kind. You obviously aren't a worker at all, according to United States law. You just pick lettuce or something 16 hours a day most of your short life.

So, you try to organize your fellow lettuce pickers as best you can. After years of efforts, you strike, even though you know it won't be "recognized". And what happens? When your picket line is formed, workers who don't know there is a strike are imported in buses, mostly from Mexico.

So, you spend all day talking to these strike breakers (who don't know they're breaking a strike), and explain to them that they too could enjoy the benefits of a Farmworkers Union, if they join the strike and help fight for these "benefits" -- "rights" to anyone else -- that you are all entitled to. And, many of your brother and sister workers do walk out of the fields and join you. But, the next day, more workers arrive, to whom you spend all day explaining that they too could enjoy the benefits of a Farmworkers Union, if After a while its obvious that no matter how many people leave work to join you, there will always be more available to do the work. "Why do they do this," you ask? Well, if these people don't work THAT DAY, they don't eat that night. So, YOUR STRIKE IS INEFFECTIVE. In effect, just like the law says, it isn't "recognized".

So, how do you better your living (or dying) conditions? How CAN you reach the grower? You know that if you don't produce "his" product, he can't

sell it. But unfortunately someone will produce the lettuce, or the grapes, pick them and ship them, even under rotten conditions. A strike does not stop this. But, (but!), if NO ONE WILL BUY THE GROWERS PRODUCT, he will be affected and he will have to listen. Listen for a change to you.

THE END

And that's why boycotts were born.

And, this a very good reason to take the United Farmworkers Union boycotts seriously. The Union is the result of many years of hard work. The

Any questions? Why boycott Gallo, for example? Call 753-4698. Life or death questions.



A FABLE

BUYER'S GUIDE TO NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

by Thomas Bodenheimer, M.D., and Ruth Tebbets*

*Dr. Bodenheimer is a staff member of the San Francisco office of the Health Policy Advisory Council, for whom he has recently completed a special report on national health insurance. He has written for the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Medical Care*, and *Medical Care Review*, and is co-author of a book on health care. Ms. Tebbets is Health Editor of Pacific News Service.

SAN FRANCISCO:

National health insurance has been talked about for so long it has begun to seem like an idea whose time would never come. But several health proposals are now before Congress, and many experts are saying they would not be surprised to see some form of legislation emerge within the next year. It is time for citizens to start asking what "national health insurance" really means.

One thing it doesn't mean, in the United States, is free "socialized" medicine, as provided in England or Canada. There are as many health insurance plans as there are interests involved, but they are alike in requiring all but the poorest beneficiaries to pay at least part of the cost.

The plans differ greatly, however, as to price, method of payment, and most crucial -- as to what benefits are offered, and to whom. The front-runners among health insurance proposals are the Kennedy-Griffiths Health Security Bill, a Nixon Administration bill, and the Long-Ribicoff Catastrophic Health Insurance and Medical Assistance Reform Act. The Kennedy-Griffiths bill is presently before the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the Administration bill is being rewritten, and the Long-Ribicoff bill is on the Senate floor. The major differences may be understood by asking a few simple questions.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

Will I be covered?
Everyone is eligible under all three plans. However, under the Catastrophic Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) authored by Senators Long and Ribicoff, you would have to be very unlucky to actually receive benefits. CHIP would start picking up the tab only after you'd been in the hospital 60 days, or after you had spent \$2000 on doctors' bills. Senator Long cites as one advantage of his bill that only 2% of Americans would draw benefits in any one year.

The Nixon and Kennedy-Griffiths plans would cover the average patient, not just the victim of catastrophe. But the President's measure would cover employed persons (with their dependents), low-income people, and the elderly under three separate systems. You might go through a lot of red tape to get coverage, should you happen to fall sick when you had just lost a job, or just turned 65.

The Long-Ribicoff plan likewise covers the poor under a separate

system. The measure's "Medical Assistance Plan" would replace Medicaid (current federally financed health care program for welfare recipients and other low-income persons). The new program promises a nationwide system of medical benefits for persons with incomes below \$2400 for an individual, \$4800 for a family of four.

Which medical bills will it pay for?
All of the plans leave something out. The broadest measure, the Kennedy-Griffiths Health Security plan would pay all doctor and hospital bills as well as laboratory and X-ray charges, but would pay dentist bills only for children under 15. Drugs would be paid for only when

the whopping costs of major illness or serious accident. And even after \$2000 or 60 days, it offers only partial protection. You would still be liable for \$15 per day in the hospital, and 20% of other costs.

The Nixon Administration plan starts coverage this side of bankruptcy, and is a better bet in case of medium-to-grave illness or accident. But for the flu, tonsillitis, a broken arm, stitches -- the minor ailments and injuries that account for most visits to the doctor -- it is no help at all. Under the Nixon plan's system of "deductibles", an employed person would pay the first \$100 of doctor bills. You would also pay for the first two days you spend in the hospital. And

plan is partly "progressive" -- persons with higher earnings pay a larger share. But the payroll tax provision of both bills is "regressive" -- by taxing only earnings below a certain amount, both plans make low-income persons contribute a greater percentage of their income than those better off. For example, under the Kennedy-Griffiths plan, a person earning \$7000 would pay 1% of his income, a person earning \$30,000 only .05%.

The Nixon plan would be financed by premiums -- amount undetermined -- paid directly to private insurance companies. The cost of the premium would be the same for low-salaried as for high-salaried persons.

Under all three plans, care for low-income and elderly persons would be financed, as it is now, by federal taxes. Most experts agree that the current tax system places the largest burden on middle-income salaried persons and wage earners.

Who profits?
A quick way to answer this question is to see where each bill draws its support.

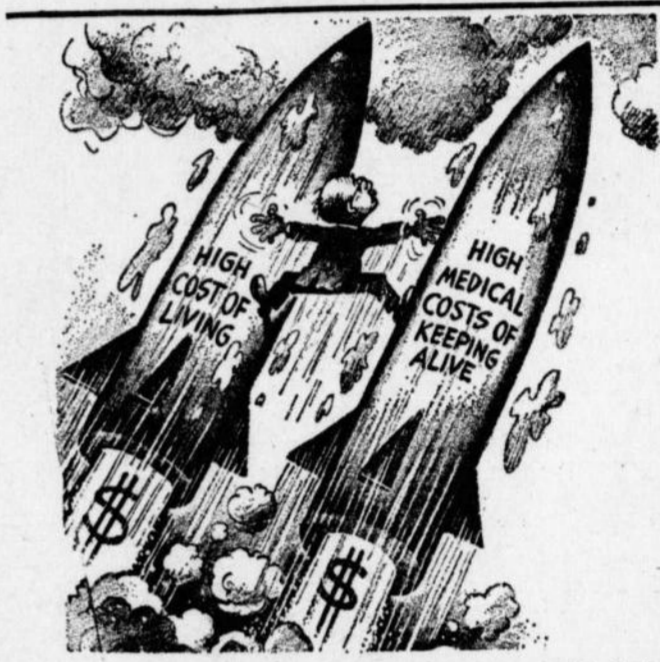
Long and Ribicoff's CHIP has the strong support of the American Medical Association, and is also backed by the major insurance companies. The measure would not affect the way doctors collect most of their bills, and it would pay bills (those of poor patients, and those over \$2000) they might not be able to collect. It would relieve the insurance companies of the burden of "catastrophic" costs without taking away any of their business, since people would still need private insurance to cover lesser expenses.

The insurance industry has also supported the Administration's bill. In providing for all employed persons to be insured by private companies, the plan promises the industry billions of dollars worth of new policies.

The Kennedy-Griffiths bill, which provides the most care for most people, has the support of organized labor. The original version of the measure calls for direct payment by the government to doctors and hospitals, eliminating the intermediary role of private insurance companies. But massive opposition from the insurance industry, it appears, will force Kennedy to amend the measure. The new version, reportedly, will allow at least a partial role to the insurance companies.

Clearly, even the most limited national health insurance plan would help some of the people some of the time. But critics point out that in failing to control costs or limit profit-making, the measures do nothing about the soaring price of health care. Recalling that Medicare and Medicaid benefits have been trimmed to curb mounting costs, they charge that those best insured under national health insurance will be the doctors, hospitals, drug firms, and insurance companies.

(Copyright, Pacific News Service, 1973)



Bruce Shanks, Buffalo Evening News

you are in the hospital.

The Administration plan would not pay anything for dentists, or drugs. It would cover laboratory and X-ray bills only when these amounted to over \$100 (which means the individual would pay most such bills). Neither plan pays for psychiatric or nursing home care.

As currently written, the Nixon plan for low-income (non-paying) persons covers only 8 visits to a doctor per year, and limits the number of days in the hospital. These limitations are more stringent than current limitations on Medicaid.

The Long-Ribicoff plan, paying nothing toward most people's medical costs, promises a fairly comprehensive system of benefits for low-income persons. Included would be: hospitalization, doctor bills, laboratory and x-ray services, family planning, nursing home care, and some psychiatric services. Drugs and dentist bills would not be paid for.

Will it pay the whole bill, or will I have to pay part of it?

Always ask this question. The Long-Ribicoff "catastrophic" plan plainly protects most people only from

under the plan's "co-insurance" provision, you would be "insured" for only 75% of most "covered" costs: as with the Long-Ribicoff plan, you would end up paying at least part of each bill.

Long-Ribicoff has a similar "co-payment" provision for its low-income beneficiaries. Patients would pay \$3 toward each medical appointment from their own pockets.

Of the three plans, the Kennedy-Griffiths proposal is the only one that would pay the whole bill.

Who really pays?
All three proposals would write into law what has long been a standard provision of union contracts: partial contribution by employers to employees' health insurance.

The minimal Long-Ribicoff plan would be financed by a payroll tax of .3% each for employees and employers, on earnings up to \$10,800 (the amount taxed for social security). The more comprehensive Kennedy-Griffiths plan calls for a tax on earnings up to \$15,000, plus a matching amount from federal tax funds.

To the extent that it is supported by federal taxes, the Kennedy-Griffiths



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IMPERIALISM-- THE MIDDLE-EAST

Semitism spread, all Jews became victims of the fascists. After the war, the hundreds of thousands of suffering Jews in displaced persons camps did not rush to the "promised land" of Zionist Palestine. Most wanted to emigrate to the US or Western Europe, but these governments, while letting in white Protestants, Catholics, and Nazis, barred the Jews. Their only remaining choice was Palestine.

The Zionist leaders took advantage of world sympathy toward the plight of these suffering people and accelerated their oppressive behavior by driving the indigenous Palestinians out of Palestine. Having forcibly moved more than one million people from their home, the new Zionist state of Israel allied itself with the West to obtain the arms and money needed to continue its suppression of the Palestinians. The point of no return of Israel's pro-imperialist foreign policy came in 1956. When Nasser struck a decisive blow against British and French imperialism by nationalizing the Suez Canal, Israel once again opted with the imperialists and attacked Egypt. The 1967 Israeli "preemptive attack" (i.e. invasion) of Arab lands fit well into the established pattern of its role as a police force for the US as well as its desire for the increased land needed to help its economy.

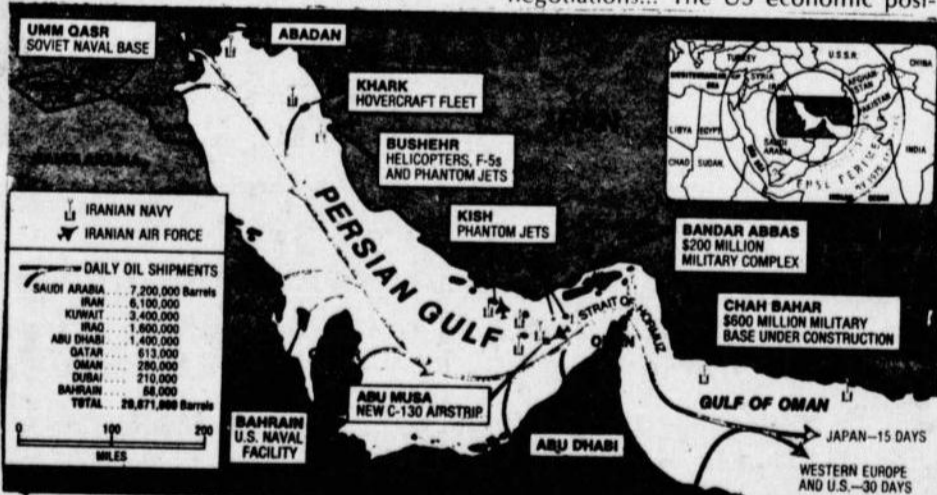
Let us now return to examine the role of the US in the Middle East and Israel's subservience to that role. By the end of World War II, the vast extent of the oil reserves in the area was well known and the US was expanding its already large share of the production, refining, and transporting of this oil. In order to insure its investments, it needed an ally in the Middle East that it could trust to be its police force in the area, that is, someone to keep the oil producing nations in line. It couldn't rely on the Arab governments yet, because they had yet to show their understanding of the workings of Western capitalism and its resultant exploitation of the Arab masses. Prime Minister Mossadeq nationalized the Iranian oil in 1951, and the CIA had to intervene to throw him out. Nasser led the Free Officers in Egypt in the ouster of the British puppet King Farouk in 1952, and Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956. Israel became the US police force, because it needed support from the West. Not support against being "driven into the sea by the hordes of Arab savages", but support to maintain its Zionist state. In order to attract immigrants, Israel had to artificially raise its standard of living - five to ten times higher than that of its Arab neighbors. It didn't have any oil, so it needed money from other areas of the world. Some money has come in from trade. Two of its largest trading partners are West Germany and the racist Union of South Africa, both of which have significant numbers of ex-Nazis in high offices of their governments. Foreign aid to Israel, from 1949 to 1965 was \$6 billion, most of this coming from the US. This amount was 25% of the Israeli GNP during that period of time. Much of this money comes from the sale of bonds to this country. The majority of these hundreds of millions of dollars donated annually are not the intentional contributions of the majority of working Jews. Rather, it comes from multi-thousand dollar gifts of the wealthy Zionist capitalists who steal this money from their oppressed workers, Jewish and Gentile, black brown and white. Israel is the only country to which an American citizen can give money tax free. Yet this money is not enough. Figures from the Israeli Knesset of February 19, 1969 show Israel's trade deficit almost doubling from 1967 to 1968 and again from 1968 to a 1969 trade deficit of \$435 million. Huge military expenditures also drained the economy. The 1967 war helped some of the problems, however, the West Bank of the Jordan River, one of the most fertile regions in the area now produces much of Israel's food and the 1.5 million Palestinians now living in land militarily occupied by Israel provide a source of cheap, exploitable labor.

Just as the French and US were not able to stay forever in Indochina, the imperialists and Zionists will not be able to remain indefinitely in the Middle East. The threat does not come from the

reactionary Arab governments and the Soviet Union, but from the masses of oppressed peoples, both Arab and Jew, some of whom have already formed organized resistance movements to wage the struggle of a people's war of national liberation. In a recent speech, Nixon referred to the US policy in the Middle East being defined by its previous actions in Lebanon in 1958, when the USMC invaded, and in Jordan, 1970. The Jordan incident came after the implementation of the "Nixon Doc-



trine", and shows not only the fact that the reactionary governments of the US, Israel, and Jordan recognize the primary importance of the guerrilla movements, but also the extent to which they are prepared to fight it. In "Black September", 1970, when King Hussein massacred thousands of Palestinians after militarily defeating the Palestine Liberation Organization, Hussein was not acting alone. The violence was a joint effort of Jordan, Israel, and the US. Israel and the US pledged to come to Hussein's aid if the PLO started winning, Israel by immediate massive military intervention and the US by parachuting in divisions from the US 8th Infantry in Germany to set up a defense perimeter in Amman until US reinforcements from the 6th fleet, Germany, or the US could arrive. This action was personally coordinated in the "Situation Room" of the White House by Nixon with help from, among others, Rogers, Kissinger, and then CIA director Richard Helms.



The PLO has emerged from this disaster with better politics. It has realized that any form of religious nationalism cannot be depended upon for its support of the people. The politics of the PLO are constantly improving. Where once it called for an all Arab state in Israel with discrimination against Jews, it now calls for a secular nation of Arabs, Christians, and Jews to be established in Palestine after the Zionist governmental structures have been abolished. Its time of final victory gets closer each day. Israeli oppression of the 1.5 million Palestinians and the 1.3 million Oriental Jews (more than half of the total Jewish

population in Israel) brings this day nearer. Oriental Jews are discriminated against in housing, education, employment, and governmental representation. Palestinians suffer all of these inhumanities, as well as being forced to work under the pass system (borrowed from South Africa) and being subjected to incidents of random terror and reprisal from the Israeli state.

The PLO will eventually win but the US seeks to delay this victory because it doesn't want any sparks in the Middle

U.S. fuel. The U.S. oil companies would not have really cared. They could still pump, export, and sell most of the oil coming from that area to Europe and Japan, and they would have additional rationalization for the Alaska pipeline and drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Egypt has shifted to the right under Sadat, repressing the Left and inviting foreign investment from Exxon and Mobil. Recognizing this change in attitude, Senator William Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and several oil companies, most notably SOCAL have come out against a pro-Zionist policy.

The U.S. is not giving up its fight against the Guerrilla movements, it is just shifting its police force from one country to another. The new cop in the area is Iran, the second largest oil producing nation in the Persian Gulf.

The Mid-East oil fields are located around the Gulf, and so is Iran while the U.S. had to loan Israel money in order for it to buy weapons (note the two billion dollar GIFT during the recent war), the U.S. can sell its weapons for cash to the Arab states and recover the dollars spent for oil.

Saudi Arabia, the largest oil producing Arab state, has total military purchases of 2.1 billion from the U.S. lined up over the next few years; Kuwait has lined up over \$600 million. However, Iran, which is the new principal client state, has made what the DDD terms the "biggest single arms deal ever arranged by the Pentagon", close to three billion dollars. It is now the largest customer of the U.S. Air Force and its purchases include such Vietnam tested equipment as F-5B's, F-4's, laser bombs and the sale of about \$1.5 billion for helicopter gunships.

A State Department official commented that it was "to help a stable and progressive regime that is playing a constructive role in the area." This "constructive role" will act both internally and externally. 11,000 U.S. personnel currently live in Iran, with an additional 1100 military advisors including three generals, on their way to assist with new aid packages. These advisors will form "field advisory teams" to operate around Tehran, "aid" the navy in the Persian Gulf and "advise" rural police forces. Iranian governmental repression and reaction of the Iranians is clear.

The Iranian government has acknowledged its murder of several hundred leftists within the past few years. Popular reaction to this was expressed in 1972 when Nixon's motorcade was greeted by a barrage of rocks. And, U.S. Ambassador Richard Helms (CIA, Black September) only travels while accompanied by a carload of police equipped with submachine guns. Lt. Colonel Lewis Hawkins, whose "specific duties were not disclosed", was "neutralized" outside his home on June 2nd.

Externally, the Iranian military is expected to police not only the Persian Gulf, but also any guerrilla movements in the area. This is perhaps its toughest fight. A Marxist popular government is in power in the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen. Shofar, a province of Oman, is also controlled by its people under the leadership of a Marxist political party. Oman, until very recently a direct British colony, is especially strategic because it is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. Two British special forces "advisors" have been killed in battle there in recent months. Part of Iran's helicopters and U.S. trained troops now are fighting against the people in Oman.

As was seen in Indo-China, People's wars do not achieve final victory in days, weeks, months, or years. They require decades of constant struggle. The national liberation movements of the Middle East are in their early years. As they have fought, grown, made mistakes; they have also learned and developed many political solutions to the problems of their people.

These movements face hard times ahead, and we must do everything we can to help them in their struggle. Only when U.S. imperialism and all of its client states have been defeated, will all of the peoples of the world be free.

PUERTO RICO

UN CONDEMNS US



"Before we demand that Congress protect our industry against cheap foreign imports manufactured at slave-labor wages, I'd like to remind you, sir, that we own 67% of those foreign factories!"

Ever since the United States invaded Puerto Rico and set up a military occupation in 1898, the people of that island have been among the most over-exploited in the world. And since that time, the people of Puerto Rico have been fighting to regain their independence from the U.S. Now the fight for independence has been officially recognized by a committee of the United Nations, which recently passed a resolution that 1) reaffirms the right of the 2 1/2 million Puerto Rican people to self-determination and 2) calls on the U.S. to end its constant oppression of the Puerto Rican people. This resolution will probably come before the General Assembly for a vote sometime this month.

This resolution, passed overwhelmingly by the Decolonization Committee of 24 nations, is important first of all because it points out to the world that Puerto Rico is a colony of the U.S., not a "free associated state" as the U.S. likes to claim. Secondly, it calls on the U.N. to set up a work group to investigate the colonial situation in Puerto Rico, especially to look into the proposed construction of a U.S. oil "superport" that would be a disaster for the island and its people. Thirdly, the resolution recognizes that the fight against the U.S. government inside Puerto Rico is a legitimate struggle for national liberation. In fact, the U.N. had

two leaders of Puerto Rican independence movement, Juan Mari Bras (Puerto Rican Socialist Party) and Ruben Berrios (Puerto Rican Independence Party), address the U.N. They said "(the people of Puerto Rico) have been waiting a long time for the chance to denounce the government of the U.S.A. before the U.N. for its continued violations of the most elementary principles of international law and co-existence among nations in its treatment of the Puerto Rican people."

In effect, the U.N. has said that Puerto Rico should be a free and independent

building their "Super-port," despite the total opposition of the Puerto Rican people.

What does it mean that Puerto Rico has been a colony of the U.S. for 75 years, and how does this new monster "Superport" fit in? Colonization means that for 75 years the ruling class of the U.S. has used the people and natural resources of Puerto Rico to make as much money as possible while giving very little in return. It means that while U.S. corporations make a bigger percentage of profit in Puerto Rico than in the U.S., the workers in Puerto Rico are the U.S. It means, for example, that the U.S. has kept 30% of the Puerto Rican people unemployed, 40% living in unsanitary housing, and 70% living in poverty. It means that the politics, the industry, the banks, the services — in fact almost every aspect of Puerto Rican life has been controlled by the U.S., without the Puerto Rican people having even so much as one representative on any North American legislative body. And it means that the U.S. uses Puerto Rico and its people to serve U.S. military interests. A higher proportion of Puerto Rican than American men are forced into the U.S. armed forces, and 13% of Puerto Rico's land is used for two huge American military bases. And being a colony of the U.S. has meant that there is one agent repression (police, national guard, reserve corps, other U.S. military, C.I.A., F.B.I.) for every 24 people on the island — placed there to make sure Puerto Rico remains a colony.

And now the oil companies are planning their newest and ugliest scheme, their "superport". They have the total support of the Nixon Administration (since Watergate, John Connally of Texas has been one of Nixon's closest friends, and he has always been the large oil companies closest friend). The "Superport" plans call for the use of 33,750 acres of Puerto Rican land to build the world's largest oil port, which would accommodate U.S. super tankers carrying oil from the Persian Gulf. In its first phase the port would handle 300 million tons of crude oil and year, and eventually would be able to process 6 million barrels a day. Although other locations for the port are available, Puerto Rico has been chosen for mainly one reason — more money for the oil companies. They have figured Puerto Rico would be the cheapest place to construct and operate the port, with the easiest future possibilities for expansion.

Of course, the oil companies haven't cared about the impact of their "superport" on the Puerto Rican people or the island's natural resources. The oil complex would consume 1000 million gallons of fresh water a day, soon exhausting the water supply for the people. The 30 million gallons a minute of salt water used would be returned to the ocean 20 degrees hotter, destroying most of the local marine life. The air and water of Puerto Rico would be contaminated. And over one million people, over a third of Puerto Rico's population, would be displaced by building the port, many having to emigrate to the U.S. This would seriously affect the future survival of the Puerto Rican people as a nation.

So the superport is being built so a few rich men in the U.S. can get richer, and so the U.S. can increase its political and economic control of Puerto Rico. But the people of Puerto Rico don't want the "Superport". And the U.N. has recognized the legitimacy of the Puerto Rican peoples concern. Already 20,000 people have marched in the streets of Aquadilla, Puerto Rico, and thousands more have marched outside the U.N. building in New York to protest its construction. Like people of Puerto Rico want the freedom to determine their own lives. At the U.N. the justice-loving nations of the world have joined to demand that the U.S. end its oppression and exploitation of Puerto Rico, and they have given their solid support to the Puerto Rican people in their struggle for liberation. We all must do the same.

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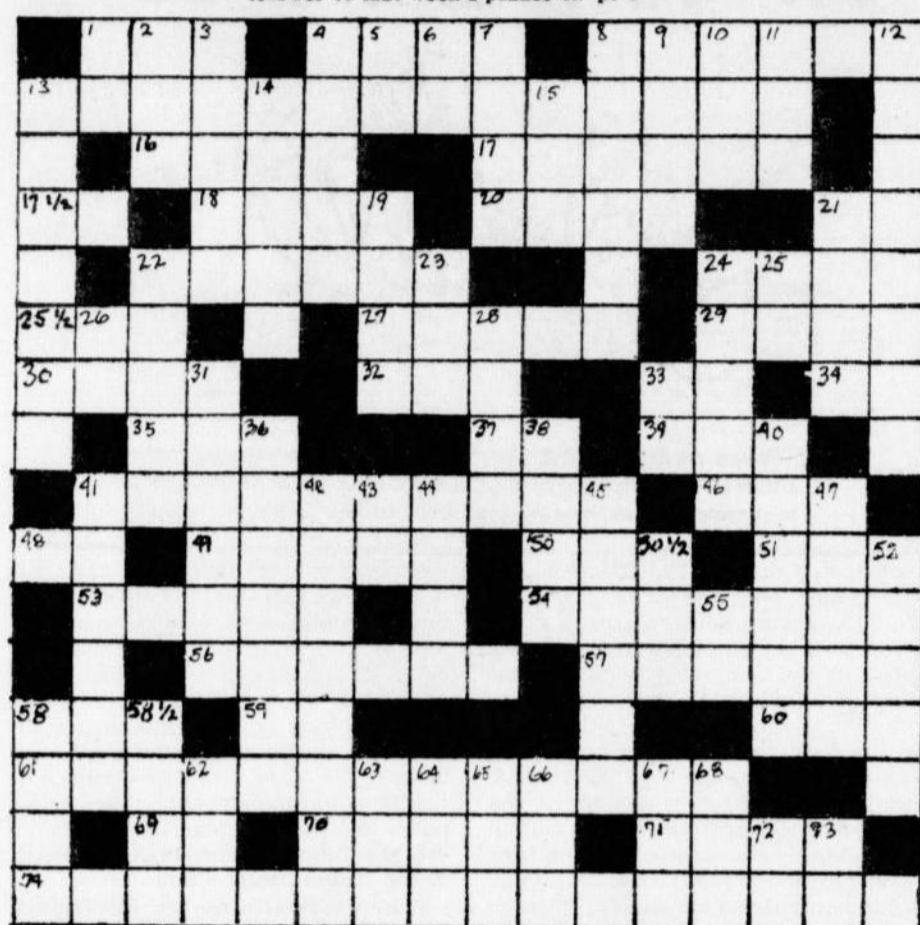
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PEOPLES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Brewed Beverage
- Run and Water
- French philosopher
- Chant used by French students in protests in 1968.
- Something you do to a telephone
- Running Dog
- 1/2. Half of a yo-yo
- Pitcher on NY Mets
- Another Agnew?
- Exclamation of surprise or pain
- Nixon crony
- Initials of a good union
- 1/2 Initials of a bad union
- Correct
- What Hughes gave Nixon (spelled backwards)
- Give a sister a —
- American heavyweight
- Chicago Seven (Initials)
- Album
- March 15 (sing.)
- Nixon's gestapo
- Little dog (Spelled backwards)
- Alleged "development" in UCSD area.
- Soda
- Father
- Type of semi-precious stone
- AFL—
- Rule
- German philosopher
- Boycott this wine
- Polar molecule is an example
- A vine of the pea family with edible pods.
- Tic—
- Santa Barbara
- Deposit and clear Accumulator
- A different view (2 words)



Answer to last week's puzzle on p. 6

DOWN

- Boozers' club on 4th street
- Long-range device
- Sihanouk is in —
- Boycott this wine
- Railroad
- United Farm Workers —
- Boycott products from this corp.
- Watergate: its no —
- American Kangaroo Democracy
- Person's name
- Plaything
- △ H
- Biker's club on Garnet
- Not yes, not no
- Local brown shirts
- Pound, Am. poet
- Playing hooky from the army
- "tube"; TV: "box" —
- US interest in Mid east
- Cola
- Finite automaton
- 3rd tone of the diatonic scale
- Essence, main point
- Person's name
- Communist party
- Descendants of these settlers rule America
- Short units of time
- East European country
- Opposite of "take-off"
- Boycott — clam chowder
- And (Latin)
- First man on the moon
- Boycott this wine
- Hills pageant
- 1/2 Office of Atomic Energy
- Coast —, an ecology group
- Not available
- Peoples' revolutionary movement
- Subversive organization
- Wilt Chamberlain is
- 1/2 Money
- Imperialist American corp (spelled backwards)
- Pitcher for LA Dodgers
- Anti-ballistic missile
- French coin
- Peoples' revolutionary movement
- Subversive organization
- Uncle —
- North Island
- , E, S

SOME OF US ARE PRISONERS . . . AND SOME OF US ARE GUARDS

When a book is about to be published—whether fact or fiction, poetry or prose—it is customary to send out advance copies in the hopes of capturing a few bits of praise, which are then carefully edited and placed on the dust jacket. The mutilated and out-of-context sentences which result are notoriously misleading, sometimes fascinating, and occasionally peculiarly appropriate.

The first blurb on Min Yee's new book—which is not about Soledad so much as it is about the Soledad Brothers—contains the following sentence: "Min Yee has written...a book that traces the fine and faded line between the jailer and the jailed, between the cop and the criminal, between civilization and savagery." In a series of careful oppositions, "the jailer," "the cop," and "civilization" are separated by "A fine and faded line" from "the jailed," "the criminal," and "savagery." George Lubenow is "credited" with this equation, and if he did not intend it he should have been more careful. Lubenow is, however, with NEWSWEEK, Yee's former employer (according to the caption under the picture on the back cover)—which may go to show that someone was asleep or that blood is thicker than water, for either this sentence is misleading or Yee's public image is.

Yee, now, is managing editor of RAMPARTS, the last place one would expect to find the opinion that George Jackson was a representative of "savagery," yet Jackson, one of the "jailed," clearly, is at the center of this book. To the newspapers Yee says that for him, "Jackson became perhaps not a hero, but still an heroic figure."

If there is some ambiguity about Yee's intentions generated by these external indications, it is not entirely cleared up by a reading of the book itself. THE MELANCHOLY HISTORY takes us from the founding of Soledad Prison on the "rehabilitation mode" (only the words are changed: "guards" are now "correctional officers," a "maximum security cellblock" is an "adjustment center," and so on) through that confused August 21, 1971, in San Quentin, when Soledad Brother George Jackson was shot down in the yard mere days before the trial that found his co-defendants innocent. In the course of the narrative we see some shocking things—the brutality of some prison guards, the inhuman conditions in the dark, feces covered "strip cells," used for punishment, apparently illegally. And it is more than just suggested that racial tensions between blacks and "whites" (a classification that, here, includes Chicanos and Samoans and other non-blacks) are, if not invented, at least aggravated by the guards for the purposes of controlling the prison population and of venting their own racial hostilities. But, shocking and sensational as such facts are—as though we hadn't heard them before—they are only episodes. The most dramatic, exciting, prose is reserved for a description of the events immediately surrounding the death of George Jackson at the hands of San Quentin guards in a scene Yee describes as reminding one eyewitness "of the execution scene in the Zapata movie. 'They were even hanging off the trees with guns.'"

There is a serious problem here—a problem that is partly literary and partly ethical—not to mention legal. The trial of the SAN QUENTIN SIX, the inmates charged with the murder of the three guards and two white prisoners who died in the Adjustment Center that day, has not yet taken place. Information about what happened is, to say the least, contradictory. Yee himself acknowledges this much. So what story does he tell us? For nearly forty pages he rehearses for us the State's version of events, as approved by the California Department of Corrections (CDC). This chapter could have been written by a prison guard—a fact which assumes its full implications only when we remember that, if the SAN QUENTIN SIX are not guilty of murder, then these guards are. Interestingly, Yee thanks, in his "Acknowledgements," "the CDC guards, employees and staff, who shall remain nameless, for unspecified editorial assistance."

There are, of course, those among us who will see the deaths of the guards, and even of the white prisoners, as justified or at least excusable acts of revolutionary violence by men trying to take their lives and their freedom into their own hands. But any reading of this chapter that retains any sympathy for Jackson and the San Quentin Six has to be a very careful one. It has to SAVE itself from Yee's bloody prose. It is a little like watching Dragnet and trying to like the long-haired kid who looks like anyone's next-door neighbor, only he smokes a little marijuana now and then—like anyone's next-door neighbor. It is impossible to like him—he also pushes heroin and an eight-year old dies of an overdose. So it goes, on TV. But the characters Yee describes are almost as fictitious,



The Soledad Brothers: (l to r) John Cluchette, George L. Jackson, and Fleeta Drumgo.

If Yee did not get his information directly from the CDC, then he probably got it from the "secret" Grand Jury transcript, which is supposed to be seen only by authorized person connected with the case, and not to be divulged to the press by anyone while the case is out of court. Grand Jury hearings are held for the purpose of indictment, not of trial, and thus, often, only one side of the case is heard. The defense gets its chance in the public trial. Secrecy is required because the release of the one-sided information in the transcript would seriously jeopardize the defendants' right to a fair trial. The fact that—for a while at least—Yee's book was not for sale in Marin County, where the case is scheduled to be tried, is irrelevant—the book was advertised in the San Francisco papers which have a wide circulation in Marin. Furthermore, the defense wants to get the trial moved. The restriction on sales has one effect: it sells more copies by giving the PR people something to play with. The publication of this book at this time seriously jeopardizes the LIVES of six men, prisoners whom Yee would like to have us believe he wants to help.

We are warned—in a footnote—that this "official" version of events "is not to be construed as a final, true statement of what actually happened." If this is Yee's attempt to maintain his integrity I, at least, have to say that it is not enough, that he has made a serious strategic error in the presentation and arrangement of his material. Blood—even the description of blood—washes away the careful qualification of this footnote, and there is a lot of blood in this story. It is hard to remember that this is only a VERSION when we see a guard—who has done nothing, as far as we are SHOWN, to "deserve" it—get his throat cut by a black prisoner who bears the name of a man who is on trial for this same death. It is hard to remember that none of this has been PROVEN in a COURT OF LAW. And to see it happen again, another body thrown on the pile—there is SO MUCH BLOOD....

There are, of course, those among us who will see the deaths of the guards, and even of the white prisoners, as justified or at least excusable acts of revolutionary violence by men trying to take their lives and their freedom into their own hands. But any reading of this chapter that retains any sympathy for Jackson and the San Quentin Six has to be a very careful one. It has to SAVE itself from Yee's bloody prose. It is a little like watching Dragnet and trying to like the long-haired kid who looks like anyone's next-door neighbor, only he smokes a little marijuana now and then—like anyone's next-door neighbor. It is impossible to like him—he also pushes heroin and an eight-year old dies of an overdose. So it goes, on TV. But the characters Yee describes are almost as fictitious,

only they share their names with men who are on trial for murder. And though Yee apparently expects us to disbelieve at least part of the State's story, who among us knows just where to draw the "fine and faded line"? a non-critical viewing of Dragnet would make one believe you really CAN tell the bad guys by the length of their hair; in the same way, Yee's story, if not Yee himself, would seem to want us to believe there really were savages in the Adjustment Center that August Saturday.

After all the blood, the small voice of Yee's skepticism, which follows in a chapter called "Speculations," is hardly adequate. There is, it is true, a great deal of information in this book—perhaps more about the stories that are being told than about what "really" happened—but most of us are not lawyers, or newsmen, and neither need nor want to be subjected to the necessity of sorting out fact from fiction in a book that is supposed to be a documentary.

Yee has charged—and it was good copy and probably sold a few books—that "as the research became more complicated and indicated Jackson might have really killed the guard" —note: the Soledad Brothers were found INNOCENT, BEFORE Yee made this statement—"there developed some animosity tinged with anguish," and, "the more radical sources started drying up, partly because the more radical element is not interested in truth." However, it would seem that, whatever HIS "interest," Yee's distortingly arranged "truth" might not be preferable to partisan silence. These "radical sources," the Defense Fund"—in fact as Liberal a group of people as anyone would like to meet—are under a "gag rule." It is inconceivable—whatever his reasons for not mentioning it—that a good reporter like Yee would not know about this court order which promises imprisonment to anyone who tells what he or she knows about the case. Time in jail is a particularly pointed penalty in this situation, in which the prison system itself is an interested party.

This brings us to the last major criticism of the book. Between the picture on the front cover—representing, apparently, inmates in the asylum called

Bedlam mentioned in the subtitle—and the founding of Soledad Prison on the 1940's which begins the narrative, there is a curious gap, signifying the absence from the book of almost any sense of history. This lack is not surprising: for whatever reasons (and this is not the place to try to determine them) Americans have never quite known history first-hand. We tend to see our institutions, however young, as eternally fixed, the best that can be, and we tend to think that, if there IS anything wrong it can be fixed with a few new laws, minor adjustments of the social machine.

This book begins with Soledad Prison, which is a few years younger than George Jackson would be, and constitutes a critique, not of imprisonment itself, not of the social factors which, in California today, guarantee a rise in the percentage of black inmates, not even of the rehabilitation model of prison reform (for this see STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, by the American Friends Service Committee), but only of the actions of a relatively small group of (mostly) men clustered around a single drama that extends from the Soledad Brothers to the San Quentin Six. We are deceived into thinking there are PERSONALITIES involved, that if George Jackson had not been arrested for that seventy-one dollar gas station robbery most of this might not have happened. But this is not it at all.

Bob Dylan sings:
Sometimes I think that this whole world is one big prison yard,
Some of us are prisoners, and some of us are guards,
Lord lord they shot George Jackson down,
Lord lord they laid him in the ground.

Free The San Quentin 6

The real question is WHO are the savages?—unless "barbarian" is a better term to describe the prison, the guards, the society that locks men up and kills them for petty theft and for being black. The real question is not who did what, but why do we let it continue?

Min Yee forgot to ask. Merle Haggard, himself a former prisoner, sings, in "Branded," about the stigma a former prisoner faces in an unfeeling society, and the shame that comes with having a number after your name. George Jackson, on the other hand, finds, as Jean Genet, another former prisoner, says, the voice "to denounce the curse not of being black, but captive." Well, a few people heard him, and now he's dead. Genet goes on to say that this is a relatively new voice, but it clearly does not belong to George Jackson alone, and we have not heard the end of it.

We have probably not heard the end of Mr. Yee, either. His next book, whatever it is, wh
We have probably not heard the end of Mr. Yee, either. His next book, whatever it is, will, hopefully, not suffer the weaknesses of his first.

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