Sedition, September 27, 1972

Graphic Offensive

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TENANTS FIGHT BACK

During the sixties a Brooklyn judge, Fred G. Moritt, decided that tenants could live rent-free so long as the landlord failed to correct substantial housing violations. He said, "The buildings weren't fit for pigs." He also stated, "If it takes the landlord two years to make the repairs, he gets no rent for two years. Period." This year, 1972, the Milpitas Tenants Union and the 23rd Street Tenants Union (San Jose) are taking their landlords to court with suits of $2 million and $1 million respectively. Their list of complaints would fill this copy of Sedition. During the sixties a Brooklyn judge, Fred G. Moritt, decided that tenants could live rent-free so long as the landlord failed to correct substantial housing violations. He said, "The buildings weren't fit for pigs." He also stated, "If it takes the landlord two years to make the repairs, he gets no rent for two years. Period."

This year, 1972, the Milpitas Tenants Union and the 23rd Street Tenants Union (San Jose) are taking their landlords to court with suits of $2 million and $1 million respectively. Their list of complaints would fill this copy of Sedition. However, a few of the complaints are: an inequity in rents and security deposits; some tenants are paying $125 to $155 for a three bedroom apt., all in different states of disrepair. There are affidavits stating that water seepage in the bathroom is common and in one unit, waste water from the upstairs toilet often appears in the downstairs tub of another unit. Similar states of disrepair. There are affidavits stating that water seepage in the bathroom is common and in one unit, waste water from the upstairs toilet often appears in the downstairs tub of another unit. Similar complaints are behind the 23rd Street Tenants Union rent strike. Luis Paredes, director of the City's Dept. of Housing and Community Development said the complex has "the greatest number of housing and health code violations I have seen in any place in years." Also responding to the squallorly conditions brought on by absentee slumlords was City Councilwoman Janet Gray Hayes who was quoted in the San "It is deplorable for something like this to exist in San Jose." She further stated, "It's also deplorable that investors are able to use these apartments for tax write-offs. This kind of thing has gotten too far out of control. Something has to be done." How the judges in these cases decide will determine in many ways just what kinds of actions tenants will have to take in the future in order to overcome landlord repression. The question to ask is, should tenants have to rely upon already questionable and expensive legal system as a means to decent living quarters. These court cases may allow us (tenants) an opportunity to carefully analyze in whose behalf the courts favor; however we might have to wait two years before they are settled.

In the meantime we should be thinking of creative ways in which tenants can act against corporate slumlords. In order to accomplish this end we might draw some energy from our creative processes by understanding and gaining insight from the people who are saying "I've been a fighter all along. I just found a means to do what I've always dreamed of doing - put an end to all the garbage that goes on in this country; the fact that corporations can walk all over people, bleed them dry, then walk away.

I'm tired of seeing them feed off the poor and in one unit, waste water from the upstairs toilet often appears in the downstairs tub of another unit. Similar

The San Jose Tenants Union and the 23rd Street Tenants Union were formed as the result of the tenants fruitless struggles with the landlord on an individual basis to get repairs done. After the tenants realized that they shared the same set of circumstances they began to unify collectively by implementing a rent strike.

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PARK TRADE ON BALLOT

Recently, several members of the San Jose Community Tenants Union became aware that a portion of Williams Street Park (east of Coyote Creek) would be exchanged for land belonging to the old Roosevelt Junior High School. Voters will decide on the exchange in November.

The Tenants Union initially reacted against the proposal, particularly in light of the statements made by City Councilman Joe Colla, "I don't think it (Williams Street Park) is a logical site for a school. It is a site that leaves much to be desired. An Industrial Park could be built on the site." Upon further investigation the Tenants Union discovered that Colla's statement about the building of an Industrial Park in the Williams Street Park area was incorrect. However, he did point out that the school site is in a railroad track and adjacent to an industrial area is not good planning. But, the present Olinger elementary school sits on an earthquake fault which means that the area cannot be used for the construction of a new school. There is no other area besides Williams Street Park that the school could be built on unless some housing is condemned and people relocated.

The Tenants Union will hold a general meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 PM at the SJS College Union (Ushumunumroom) 9th St. At this time we will discuss why no one in our community was consulted when negotiations were begun for a Street Park started. Also we would like to begin researching what will be necessary in order to establish a park on vacant lots. Some suggestions for vacant lots are 4th and San Salvador, Reed between 7th and 8th, 12th and Reed and 12th and Williams. The community is for people not profit.

ATTICA: "NO JUSTIFICATION"

The citizen's commission named to investigate last year's uprising at Attica prison concluded earlier this month that there was "no justification" for the "clearly indiscriminate firing" that murdered 46 inmates struggling for basic human rights.

With the exception of the Indian massacres in the last 19th century," the commission stated, "the state police attack which ended the four-day prison uprising was the bloodiest encounter between Americans since the Civil War.

The prisoners, in a tremendous display of unity that transcended racial lines, were fighting for such basic rights as adequate food, water, and shelter, minimum wages, proper medical treatment, education programs, recreational facilities, an end to censorship of literature and removal of visitation screens.

The assault force of 211 state troopers and unauthorized "correction officers," carried .270-caliber hunting rifles, .30-caliber pistols, and .12-gauge shotguns, and fired over 2200 lethal missiles into the rebelling men.

After the uprising was broken, there were "widespread beatings, poisonous fumes, and verbal abuses of the vilest sort," in the words of the report. "Attica is every prison, and every prison is Attica," the commission went on to say. "That the explosion occurred at Attica was probably chance." The men and women of this country's prisoners are continuing to realize that their greatest weapon is unity, and will keep on struggling until they win justice.

CLASS ALWAYS SHOWS

Richard Millhouse Nixon, the idol of conservative Irish-American politicians has come through with solid evidence on where his true interests are when a contradiction occurred between the imperialists who owned it and the capitalists who supported him. In order to make Great Britain's military heroes invade the "no go" areas of Northern Ireland more troops were needed. England had already committed these units to NATO duty in the British Army on the Rhine River in Germany, of which an American is the commanding officer. This officer, General Goodpaster, refused to make the decision of releasing the troops as he was aware of the purpose of this move. Goodpaster then occupied with C.O.D. Ricks, General Nixon, who also was aware of the reason that mother England needed 3,000 more of her step-sons, and he agreed.

The releasing of those troops guaranteed the success of "Operation Motorway," the clearance of the "no go" areas, and considerable suffering to the already agonizing people of Belfast and Derry Republican neighborhoods. But we should not allow ourselves to think that this defeat of the enemy R.M. Nixon's part will turn around his Irish-American followers (particularly those high in the A.F. of L.) because you are already a class traitor it is no problem to sell out your own flesh and blood.

We are men. We are not beasts, and we do not intend to be beaten or driven as such. ... What has happened here is but the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed. We will not compromise on any terms except those that are agreeable to us.

L.O. (James Elliott Barkley)
This week, the 30th Department of Public Works is holding a public forum to get a feel for public opinion. It is certainly important what the ears of those concerned about the environment show up to make their opinion heard.

Richard Oakes, the Mohawk who led the Indian invasion of Alcatraz Island three years ago, was shot and killed Sept. 20 at a remote YMCA camp in Sonoma County.

A camp caretaker, identified as Michael Morgan, was arrested at the scene of the shooting and charged with manslaughter.

Sheriff's deputies said a confrontation between Oakes and Morgan occurred a week before the slaying.

This incident received widespread attention when he led about 100 Indians in the invasion occupation of Alcatraz on Nov. 20, 1969. "This time we have come to stay," Oakes told the management at the time, proving extremely inefficient. Cars kill to the environment and are very influential in the deterioration transportation which asphalt, metal, and pollution which naturally follows the auto­

The public forum is a very important occasion. Buses are obviously not the answer to our transit problems. They pollute, are noisy, and will only to further the already congested streets. Personalized Rapid Transit is a cleaner, quieter, more efficient means of transportation. But unless there is a lot of support for it at this forum, Pot, with his freeway mania, will push through more buses and freeways for his own personal reasons.

This Jim Pot is infamous for his efforts to block mass transit unless it means building freeways and buying buses. Even the ad which appeared in the Mercury in announcing this public forum of Sept. 30 was obviously slanted in favor of buses. The costly ad, which was paid for by taxpayers, was issued by Pot's office to further his own desires.

The single biggest obstacle in the way of adopting a FRT system is the Director of Public Works, Jim Pot. Mr. Pot is an avid freeway freak and wants desperately to push buses as a means of mass transit. Why this man, who is nothing more than a paid employee, tries so hard to sway public opinion is odd. But there is one thing we are certain of, that he is one of the most powerful individuals in the county, this paid employee.

Two years ago when Prop. 18 was on the ballots, Jim Pot was interviewed by the Mercury-News, and came out strongly against it. After the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors had voted to support the prop­

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OCTOBER 14
MARCH & RALLY AGAINST THE WAR
9:30 AM DOLORES PARK - MARCH TO GOLDEN GATE PARK - RALLY 1PM
SUPPORT THE 7 POINT PEACE PLAN  DENOUNCE NIXON
The Union of Vietnamese Students, United Farmworkers, Vietnam veterans Against the War, Bay Area Asian Coalition Against the War, and various other movement groups, are asking people to join them in a march to denounce Nixon's policies and support the PRG 7-Point Peace Plan in San Francisco on Saturday. A huge program with several speakers, including a Vietnamese student and Jane Fonda, plus a cultural/musical performance by Vietnamese students and two revolutionary Red Star Singers will conclude the march.

This march, though similar in basic format as past S.F. anti-war marches, is both timely and important because of the present presidential campaigns. Now more than ever, when the official politicians are hitting the American people with their campaign propaganda and promises, we must unite in a popular People's Campaign to expose the lies coming out of governmental circles.

Large marches, like the peace marches of the past, have concretely affected public opinion, as well as the great majority of the American people oppose the war. Public pressure in the form of marches, civil disobedience, student strikes, etc., have all made the war a decisive issue in the forefront of American politics.

We must never forget that Nixon has remained THE master politician of deceit in American politics. With his manipulatory skills and his ready access to the media he has convinced millions of people that the war is actually winning despite the fact that he has ordered the most brutal and destructive bombing campaign in human history. He has also rejected the only humane peace plan to end the war, the PRG 7-Point Peace Plan. This plan in essence calls for a total end to all U.S. military operations in Vietnam as well as an end to U.N. support for the Nixon regime. Additionally the plan allows for the safe return of all American POWs as well as an independent coalition government in the South.

Although many of us have been cynical about large peaceful marches for many different reasons, including unrealistic expectations which often result in more frustration and alienation, we must see the positive effects of such actions as the march on Oct. 14. For anyone who wants to see an end to U.S. aggression in Vietnam as well as the defeat of a_superuser Nixon, the participation in actions that will denounce and expose the real Nixon is of utmost importance at this time.

Dear Sisters, don't be fooled by Jane Adams, Elizabeth Blackwell, Germaine Greer. They're the "exceptions." It's a trap. It's a well-used diversionary tactic to point some fingers and say "That's the matter with you? Look at her!" Don't be fooled by the women—get-the-vote legislationists. They never mention the fact that a majority of the American people oppose the war. It's a well-used diversionary tactic to convince people of what men want us to be.

We reserve the right to edit. We hope that EDITION readers will see the importance of Oct. 14 and join us in the streets of San Francisco for this demonstration. For anyone who needs a ride or has extra room in their car, a San Jose car pool will be forming in the Lucky's parking lot (7th & Santa Clara St.) at 8:30 A.M. DENOUNCE NIXON! SUPPORT THE 7 POINTS!

SEE YOU THERE!

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What's Going On

ORGANIZATION GROUP

- Williams, S.J., Legal First, Welfare Fair, 8-9 p.m.
- National Legal Materials
- Bittersweet at Bodie, 9-10 p.m.
- Paul Blake Trio at Ricardo's, 10-11 p.m.
- Earthquake at Bodega, 11-12 a.m.
- Headstone at Shelter Saloon

March 29
- Robert Blake at Bodie, 11-12 a.m.
- Paul Blake at Bodie, 12-1 a.m.
- Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Thu 5
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Fri 6
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Sat 7
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Sun 8
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Tues 3
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Tues 4
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

Tues 10
- The Headstone at Shelter Saloon

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