reason Aronson's *The Press and the* Cold War is well worth the studying. You'll get a beautiful sense of reverse déjà vu out of it.

-SOL YURICK

## Letters:

#### [BOYCOTTING POLAROID]

EDITORS: Unhappily, the Polaroid Corporation chose the day that RAMPARTS went to press to publicize its decision to reject black worker demands that it disengage from continuing to seek profit in the racist Republic of South Africa. Consequently, the piece on Polaroid (March 1971) could not include a report on how this self-styled liberal company chose finally to deal with the South Africa issue.

Readers of just about every major newspaper in the country were treated to a full-page propaganda offensive by Polaroid last January announcing the



company's decision to stage an "Experiment" in South Africa. Rather than ease itself out of its complicity with apartheid, Polaroid chose to play at philanthropy by unveiling a program for upgrading black labor and starting a scholarship fund for about 500 Africans. The anti-apartheid oriented American Committee on Africa has denounced the program as "charity, not change," and along with the Polaroid Workers Revolutionary Movement has asked the United Nations to back an expanding international boycott of all Polaroid products.

Here in New England, distributors of Polaroid products are being challenged in black communities as well as at campus stores and suburban retail outlets. Polaroid stock proxies are being solicited for a challenge at the next stockholders' meeting, and the coalition of organizations backing the boycott is expanding. If RAMPARTS readers want to help, they can contact the movement directly, c/o Caroline Hunter, 46 Longwood, Brookline, Massachusetts,

DANIEL SCHECHTER

#### [HIROSHIMA IN LAOS]

EDITORS: As predicted in Banning Garrett's article on the Nixon strategy to win the war (RAMPARTS, February 1971), the U.S. has engineered an invasion of Laos. Not satified with dropping a Hiroshima on the Ho Chi Minh Trail every four days, Nixon has decided to further decimate Laos with a major ground troop invasion. If Cambodia is any measure, however, the invasion will strengthen the Pathet Lao rather than weaken them, supplies coming down the Trail will not be slowed in any appreciable way, and the Thieu-Ky hold on Saigon will be weakened by the absence of large numbers of South Vietnamese troops,

According to today's news, the invasion of Laos is not going well. If Garrett is right, this means that Nixon's next step might be "to use a tactical nuclear weapon on the Ho Chi Minh Trail to isolate the NLF permanently with a radioactive barrier." This is a terrifying suggestion, but it seems to be the logic of the Nixon strategy....

The American anti-war movement *must* reactivate itself. The Movement of the '60s succeeded in making the

war unpopular; the Movement of the '70s must *stop* the war....

ERICA MANSFIELD Newark, New Jersey

[RIPPING OFF ABBIE]

EDITORS: Let me please respond directly to Abbie Hoffman's article, "America On \$0 a Day," which appeared in your February 1971 issue.

It was easy enough to read the article in a humorous fashion, looking for ways to get the better of a wretched system. But the article, as a whole, indicates an attitude, a set of attitudes really, that are as destructive, as capitalistic, as selfish, and as narcissistic as the system it decries. It makes it apparent that such leaders (sic) as Hoffman and his ilk offer no feasible alternative to the present system.

Mr. Hoffman advocates making use of food stamp programs, shoplifting from supermarkets, making use of false credentials to purchase wholesale items. receiving welfare money on a fraudulent basis, using the loopholes available to receive unemployment checks, cheating the banks, telephone company, and such. He is certainly correct that all of these facilities and organizations are poorly designed, do more harm than good, and generally need to be gotten rid of, but his methods of attaining such are selfish, hypocritical and just as harmful as the established programs he is cheating.

Each of his proposals are at a cost to those who can least afford it, and, goddammit, that is exactly what the whole lousy capitalist system does. Cheat the food stamp program and you take funds from a limited source that could go to the families really in need, families that do not share Hoffman's piggish resourcefulness. Why not try to rid us of such half-ass programs and replace them with constructive, and really helpful, alternatives. I'm not saying that he should work within the system, but neither can he ignore it in such a manner that it actually punishes those needing help. If that's the revolution he speaks about, he can keep it. . . .

KNUD HANSEN Lansing, Michigan

EDITORS: I have subscribed to Ramparts for many years. I consider myself a liberal. I am not a revolutionary -according to your writings (your article on "Free Food"). How do you expect your followers to be loval if you teach them as did Fagin?

As for me, I've had it, Please cancel our subscription.

JACK FALVEY, President The Hippo Restaurants San Francisco, California

[RIGHT ON, ABBIE!]

EDITORS: Your February issue was one of the best yet-especially the article by Abbie Hoffman. Hoffman has recognized the depraved ethic of our society which superimposes a moral prohibition against stealing over an economic system that is robbing us blind. Given the powerlessness of individuals in this country to be able to effect political change (witness the escalation of the Indochinese war despite the mandate of a majority of Americans to end that war), we are left with the choice of acquiescing in our powerlessness or striking out at our oppressors in whatever way we can. In the absence of a viable revolutionary movement, we are left with the alternative of ripping off the Man. Limited as this action may be, it at least helps to further break down conditioned loyalties to an exploitative economic system and a sterile culture...

STEPHAN SMITH Los Angeles, California

[BLOW-UP]

EDITORS: The article on the Army Math Research Center at the U. of Wisconsin [RAMPARTS, February 1971] was great. . . As someone interested in public health and the problems of rat bites in big cities I was especially interested in the passing reference that was made to the product WARFARIN which Rock reveals was invented at the U. of W. with Alumni Research Funds backing. It may interest you to know the mechanism by which WARFA-RIN, "the PERFECT rat-poison" as we in public health call it, works. The principle is simple: it is an anticoagulant and, in effect, causes the animal to hemorrhage in larger doses. It has a "build-up" effect by which small

amounts can be given over a period of time (a few days) at which point any bleeding will be fatal. If this is the result of the "unclassified" research that centers like the Army Math Research Center produce, then I'm glad it is gone. I cannot help but believe that the rat-poison WARFARIN was merely a byproduct of a much more ominous poison for humans that was based on the same anticoagulation principle.

You do some great muckraking. Keep it up.

DAVID ROSNER Amherst, Massachusetts

#### [UNCOVERING AGENTS]

EDITORS: I read the article "Uncovering Undercover Agents" [RAMPARTS, December 1970] with interest. Your methods described are not only thorough but also rival the guidelines of investigation set by military intelligence directives. As you can note by the enclosed form your questions touch all points (excluding item 17) included on Department of Defense Form 398 (the initial paperwork necessary for background investigation). Successful completion of a background

# 'If you've seen one redwood tree, you've seen them all." R.Reagan



Redwood Tree

That statement was made about six years ago. Last month, in regard to a major oil spill the same man said "It could have been worse."

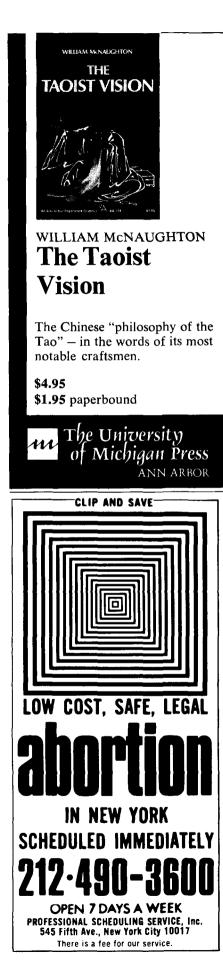
Times have changed, but most of the people running this country haven't. Clear Creek is what you can do about it. We're a magazine for doers, telling precisely the way things are and what you can do about them.

In Clear Creek you'll find reports by Nader's Raiders and concerned scientists. We will also have visionary articles on ecology, animal behavior, the origin and evolution of life and habitat design. Regular features include works of art, poems, a children's page, organic gardening and cooking, and environmental law.

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Our Country... Ignore it and it will go away.



investigation enables military personnel to have access to classified information. Hope your readers have better luck than we do.

Sincerely, Tom HUGGINS Special Agent Military Intelligence TUSLOG Det 4, Box 165 APO New York 09133

EDITORS: This is the first letter I've written to a magazine but tonight I picked up the December 1970 issue of **RAMPARTS** and I want to compliment your article on undercover agents. I'm a freshman at CCTI, located in Springfield. Ohio. The reason that this article interested me and my fellow students is because this city has recently seen the arrest of from one to 20 kids per week. Every week undercover agents are doing their "duty" in busting local heads and concerned local political figures. Not that this is worldshattering news, but for a town that three months ago hardly ever saw street people . . . busted, it's bad. . . . This shit has got to stop. Your article will be of extra value to me as well as other people across the U.S. Thank you very much for running the article.

Kevin Shaffer Springfield, Ohio

#### [HENRY J'S MEDICINE]

EDITORS: Your article on the Kaiser Foundation [November 1970] was right on! I work at the Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, California. As predicted in the article, Kaiser has raised by thousands the number of members it will accept without at the same time increasing its staff. Such greed has already meant wrong diagnoses and prescriptions due to harried and overworked staff; patients lying in dirty beds for hours at a time; infants getting serious staph infections due to unsanitary and careless procedures. With the new patient load, these situations are only going to get worse. . . .

NAME WITHHELD Oakland, California

EDITORS: . . . I am not familiar with the Kaiser facilities in Northern California . . . [but] I find 90 per cent of Mrs. Carnoy's article very difficult to believe. I have belonged to Kaiser Foundation (Southern California) since 1953. They have never lost my records, I have never been called in to be retested, and any illness any member of my family has had has been followed up....

My husband does not belong to a union, therefore we belong to Kaiser Foundation by choice, on an individual family basis. . . . I'm not a tax expert and don't really know a lot about profit and non-profit organizations. I do know my spending \$405 a year to belong to Kaiser is completely justified. The high quality of the health care has been proven over and over again. . . . I just finished a six-andone-half-week stay at Kaiser Hospital in the San Fernando Valley. I found it neither dirty nor blood-spattered. My intravenous feedings never went dry and I never received the wrong drugs. . . .

No matter what else he was—all I can say is Thank God for Henry J!

Adrienne Hahn Van Nuys, California

[LOYAL FOLLOWERS]

EDITORS: I have long purchased RAM-PARTS from the stands, and only two months ago decided to enter a permanent subscription. My relationship with the magazine has been a rapidly accelerating appreciation for your journalism and ability to generate response to the situations on which you report. I am indeed hopeful that the magazine will continue to receive support from its readership.

Your promotional letter very aptly identifies its readers as involved in a relationship with the magazine. I have often felt that this is exactly what you have with your public—you indeed generate concerned involvement on my part. It was through your magazine that I learned of the Soledad affair in all its complexity, and I have felt morally obligated to contribute to that defense fund.

I wish the magazine and organization the greatest of luck in creating an enlarged readership and association of "loyal followers."

Yours faithfully, LESLIE J. BARR Beloit, Wisconsin

# *Vengeance is mine,* saith the Judge.

Judge George Boldt, December 14, 1970: "I have no doubt my daily prayers for strength and guidance to be calm and understanding and patient in this case and to do that which is fair and just in the sight of our heavenly father have been answered. I believe divine providence may have given this court and others guidance to an effective solution of disruptive trials. I pray it may be so."

### The Seattle Conspiracy has to count on the people.

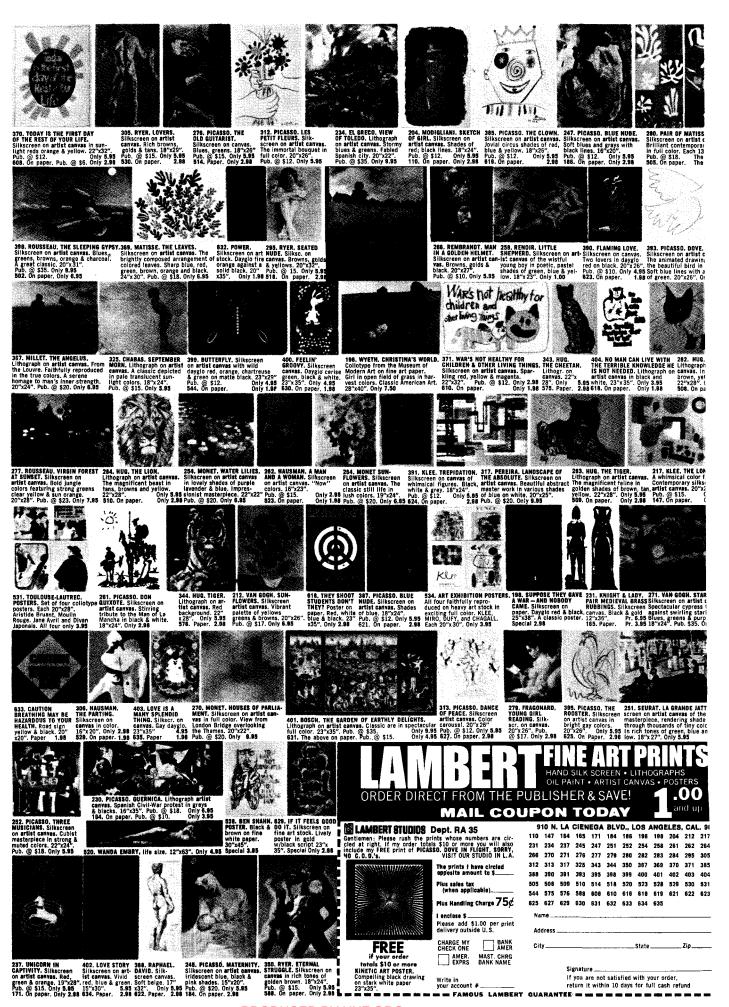
The government has revealed a new strategy for a quick end to political trials that is even more dangerous than the original trumped-up charges of conspiracy and crossing state lines to incite riot. As the defense began to destroy the government's shoddy case, both the prosecution and the judge knew they would have to alter their strategy to railroad these political activists into jail.

The judge managed to stop the trial on the flimsy pretext of our "hopelessly prejudicing the jury" against ourselves by apologizing to them for being late to the courtroom. Then he found us in contempt and sentenced five defendants to one year in jail and two to six months. He denied bail and then refused to follow the order of the 9th circuit court of appeals to set bail After five weeks in federal jails the defendants were finally released on \$25,000 bail apiece. The appeal on the contempt charge starts this month and a new trial on the original charges will begin soon. Our resources are totally depleted—the bail money was borrowed and must be repaid, and the expenses of the appeal and trial will be crippling. The defendants are confident they can beat the initial charges and attack the government's ability to use conspiracy laws agains political activists. Please help us.

Love in Struggle,

Joe Kelly The Seattle 8

# Seattle Conspiracy Defense Fund Box 1984, Seattle, Washington 98111



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