

Leading Negroes Flay Kennedy; Accuse Both Major Parties

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Mounted Police Assault N.Y. Civil-Rights Pickets

By Fred Halstead

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 — Police twice broke up peaceful civil-rights demonstrations with horses and clubs on Sept. 20, the day President John F. Kennedy addressed the United Nations here. It was the first use of horses against civil-rights demonstrators in New York City.

The demonstrations began in the UN's Hammarskjold Plaza, with some 50 pickets from various groups forming one line to protest to Kennedy about the Birmingham bombings.

Participants included members from such groups as the Congress of Racial Equality, Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee, National Committee for a Freedom Now Party, Young Social Alliance, Socialist Workers Party, Progressive Labor Movement, and Youth Against War and Fascism. Slogans ranged from "Uphold Human Rights" and "Arrest Gov. Wallace" to "Kennedy is Responsible," "Federal Troops to Alabama," and "Armed Self Defense is the Only Guarantee That the Negro Will Be Protected."

The plaza is around the corner from and out of sight of the UN buildings where Kennedy was speaking, and even large demonstrations there are usually ignored and get little publicity. The pickets therefore decided to move to the United States Mission to the UN which is in sight of the main UN buildings and where they could present their grievances directly to the U.S. government.

In front of the U.S. Mission, police, claiming the area was closed, turned the pickets back. The demonstrators were moving up the block in accordance with police instructions when the cops started brandishing clubs and three mounted police charged into the crowd. A 19-year-old CORE member, Willie Blackmon, was arrested and charged with striking a plainclothes cop.

The demonstrators regrouped and decided to march a half-mile to the 51st St. police station where Blackmon was supposedly held, to demand his release. There, they were told the prisoner was at the 53rd St. precinct, so they marched there and sat down on the sidewalk across from the police station. At this point another police attack occurred, and two more demonstrators, Thadd Beebe and Calvin Hicks were arrested. All three arrested demonstrated against Negroes.

Beebe, a 19-year-old professional guitarist and accompanist to folk singer Jimmy McDonald, described the scene as follows: "We weren't blocking traffic or anything, just sitting on the sidewalk behind barricades the police had put up, and talking to reporters. We had presented demands to the police that they release Willie Blackmon and apologize for their actions. The cops removed the

By William Bundy

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 — Leading Negro spokesmen delivered scathing indictments of the Kennedy administration and both major parties at meetings held here last week end in memory of the six Negro children murdered in Birmingham.

Authors James Baldwin, John O. Killens and Louis Lomax blamed the atmosphere in Alabama which proved the murders squarely on Kennedy's refusal to clamp down on Gov. Wallace. Baldwin called for a break with the Democratic and Republican parties. Killens and Lomax challenged the policy of non-violence-under-all-circumstances and flatly supported the right of Negroes to armed self-defense.

The three authors addressed an audience of 1,500 on Sept. 20 at a meeting in Town Hall sponsored by the newly formed Artists and Writers Committee for Justice. Baldwin also spoke two days later at a memorial massing in front of the Federal Building at Foley Square. This was attended by 12,000 and was sponsored by the March on Washington committee.

The earlier meeting set the tone for the Foley Square demonstration. It was clear that as Town Hall Baldwin, Killens and Lomax had put into words what the ac-



James Baldwin

tive civil-rights fighters were thinking, and even the more conservative Negro leaders were pushed along.

For example, the conservative pacifist, Bayard Rustin, who at the Town Hall had referred to the writers' talks as "emotional harangues," used militant-sounding phrases at the Foley Square gathering.

Support Grows for Demand To End Ban on Cuba Travel

As a federal grand jury in Brooklyn, N.Y., continued grilling "judge" about the "feds" by Cuba by 58 recently returned U.S. students, opposition to the Kennedy administration's ban on such travel appeared to be mounting.

A statement by John de J. Pemberton, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, denounced the travel ban and the subpoenaing of the students by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

"Both HUIAC's subpoenas and the State Department's passport policy violate the American tradition of exchange of opinion and free association," Pemberton declared. "They deserve to be condemned by Americans concerned that such fundamental parts of the Bill of Rights not be sacrificed because of pressures of the Cold War."

An editorial in the Sept. 19 New York Times stated: "Any Iron Curtain is a symbol of fear. Our country against Cuba suggests that we do not trust our own citizens to see with their own eyes and make up their own minds."

Arthur Hoppe, the witted columnist of the San Francisco Chronicle, whose columns are now also ap-

pearing in the New York Post, after examining the travel ban on Sept. 17 concluded: "Meanwhile I suggest these angry students just remember this is a free country. Where one of our rights has always been to travel where we please. But to keep this a free country with the right to travel where we please, we have to give up certain rights. Like traveling where we please."

"And it behooves all of us in these times to help our Leaders preserve our precious freedoms. By giving them up. One by one. Or, as my friend Miss Amanda puts it: 'Anybody who says this isn't a free country should be clapped in jail!'"

Meanwhile, a three-judge federal court in Hartford, Conn., set Oct. 7 for arguments by Louis Zemel, who is suing the State Department for refusing to validate his passport for Cuba.



Thadd Beebe

barricades. A little while later, without warning and without an announcement or anything, horsemen charged us and the cops came in swinging and pushing us down the street. Calvin Hicks just turned them and asked why they were doing this and they arrested him." (He was charged with disorderly conduct.)

"I ran up the street. People were falling over each other, trying to get into doorways to get out of the way of the horses, but the cops were pulling them out. One group sat down on the sidewalk again and a horseman rode right through them. A girl was pinned between a tree and a horse.

"I turned around and saw a friend of mine being pushed down the street by about four cops. I reached out to help him keep his

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Negro Group to Demonstrate Against Robert Kennedy in N.Y.

NEW YORK — The national committee for a Freedom Now Party has called on all New-York-area civil-rights organizations to join in picketing Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy Sat., Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m. in front of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Park Ave. and 50th Street.

The Col. Vigo Post of the American Legion is honoring the President's brother at a banquet there. Attorney Conrad Lynn, chairman of the Negro committee, also appealed to Mayor Robert Wagner to withdraw as the main speaker of the evening.

Lynn said: "Under auspices of the Jim Crow American Legion, it would be a mockery of justice

for the mayor of the city with the largest Negro population to participate in a testimonial to an attorney general who permits brutal treatment of Negroes, North and South."

"Only recently in Albany, Ga.," Lynn added, "the attorney general vowed unheeded-up indictments against the Negro leaders of the Albany Movement for alleged conspiracy to obstruct a justice that does not exist for black men."

The civil-rights attorney said the pickets would also protest the Justice Department's two-year delay in admitting Negro newsmen, William Worthy who is currently appealing a three-month jail sentence for coming home to his native land without a passport.

ering. Rustin called for a massive campaign of civil disobedience, denounced the New York police for using horses against civil-rights demonstrators (see story this page), and even said that if the federal government doesn't protect the Negroes "you will not be men with red blood in their veins if they did not take whatever weapons were at hand."

At the Foley Square meeting, Baldwin was by far the most popular speaker and was besieged by autograph-seekers after his talk.

After pointing out to the audience that Negroes are used as a source of cheap labor by Northern as well as Southern capitalists and that these interests control the two major parties, Baldwin declared:

"I will not vote for any Republican candidate as long as the Republican party contains Goldwater. I will not vote for any Democrat as long as the Democratic Party contains Eastland. . . . We have been tied up with this lesser-of-two-evils theory. I myself was so terrified of that salesman Nixon last time that I allowed myself to be stamped into the Kennedy camp. It was a Kennedy phone call, you will recall, that did it. But it's time to serve notice that they can't have us that way. . . ."

"All we got from Kennedy's election was excuses. They say they can't act in Alabama, but when it comes to Cuba they can act. I, Jimmy Baldwin, speaking as an American, don't see any reason why I should invade Havana. . . . We are here to begin to achieve the American Revolution, to take the government into our own hands. . . . We don't have to go along with the old political machines. There is the possibility of a third party, you know."

Baldwin continued: "We've got to bring the car out of hiding and where he is hiding is in the bank. . . . You have segregation in New York, and it's not an act of God, it's not by law, it's by act of the real estate agents and the banks. . . . This Christian nation may never have read the Bible but it understands the money. . . . what would happen if Harlem refused to pay the rents for a month?"

As he had at the Town Hall meeting, Baldwin blasted the FBI: "The FBI has been unable to find a single bomber after 50 bombs in Birmingham alone. You know why? They can't afford to. If they did they would find their own. . . ."

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IN MEMORIAM. Part of crowd of more than 10,000 that gathered at steps of Federal Building in New York Sept. 22 to mourn murdered Birmingham children and to demand meaningful intervention by Washington.

Negro Unionists Speak Up

Answer Attack by Bureaucrats

By Jim Campbell

DETROIT, Sept. 9 — A front-page editorial in the September issue of the Vanguard — newspaper of the Trade Union Leadership Council, Detroit affiliate of the Negro American Labor Council — takes up the challenge from within the United Auto Workers to TULC's independent role in the civil rights struggle. The attack on TULC's leaders was launched initially by UAW Local 600 President Carl Stellato in Ford Fairs (reported in the Sept. 3 Militant).

According to Robert Battle, TULC president, the source of the attack goes much further, that is, right into Solidarity House (UAW International headquarters) itself. Battle reports, "It was called to my attention recently, and I have a copy of one of the letters, that certain UAW International representatives are going around the country agitating local unions and Negro workers to join the protest against Horace Sheffield and TULC." Sheffield is both a vice president of the TULC and an international representative on Reuther's staff.

He reports further that "it is being rumored all over that the UAW International Executive Board is going to discuss Horace Sheffield and TULC at its next board meeting."

It is not clear from this report whether the rupture between the TULC leaders and the UAW apparatus of which they are a part?

Undoubtedly the spark that lit the fuse was the TULC's "Open Letter" in the July Vanguard calling on the labor leaders to fight for more jobs through the shorter work-week. This runs counter to Reuther's policy of substituting phony profit-sharing schemes for the shorter work-week demand in order to avoid a struggle with the auto barons.

The TULC belatedly — only this year — assumed an active role in the Negro people's civil rights revolution. It is now in a fight with the UAW brass because it was forced by the pressure of the Negroes in the mass movement to take a more militant posture — or be left on the sidelines.

Even so, it has allied itself with the left-line, more respectable and conservative wing of the Negro organizations in Detroit. Robert Battle makes much of the fact that TULC has made progress and thereby prevented Detroit from becoming an open battlefield.

Weekly Calendar

CHICAGO

JOHN T. GOJACK, militant unionist indicted for contempt of Congress reports on his fight against anti-labor and anti-Negro HUAC. Fri., Oct. 4, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 215 302 S. Canal St. Aup. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

DETROIT

The High Cost of Leaving, a discussion of the great American financial racket. Speaker, Norma Lofgren, Fri., Oct. 4, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 1737 Woodward Ave. Aup. Friday Night Socialist Forum.

LOS ANGELES

Theodore Edwards of the Socialist Workers Party presents a Marxist view of the news in his bi-weekly commentary. Fri., Oct. 4, 4:45 p.m. KPRC-24, 907 on Myrtle.

NEW YORK

DR. ANNETTE T. RUBINSTEIN, author and literary critic, speaks on The Negro Writer in American History. Fri., Oct. 4, 8:30 p.m. Adelphi Club, 111 E. 11th St. (between 50th & 51st). Aup. Militant Labor Forum.

PHOTIANANNI Starling DAVE VAN BOMK, theory critic, speaks on the Negro Party presents a Marxist view of the news in his bi-weekly commentary. Fri., Oct. 4, 4:45 p.m. KPRC-24, 907 on Myrtle.

seriotic of the American trade-union brass that any activities sanctioned by the "top officer" is suspect.

Reuther's role in this dispute is clouded in ambiguity. But it is entirely logical and safe to assume that his hand is somewhere near, if not directly on the helm of the attack on TULC. Reuther, the arch trade-union bureaucrat, knows he is in danger when his hirelings begin — however timidly — to respond to mass pressure rather than to his orders.

Battle takes an equivocal attitude toward Reuther in the Vanguard editorial — at one and the same time exonerating and warning him. Battle writes: "How can these unprincipled attacks keep coming from within the UAW, when Walter Reuther is striving so valiantly to make it a great liberal organization?"

But Battle says he decided to make the facts of the dispute "public because I want the UAW Board and President Reuther to think about what our record is against the record of our reactionary critics."

TULC is going to do its part. Battle warns, in the fight for full equality everywhere, "no matter whose toes you step on."

At the question at the moment, will the UAW Board attempt to dump Sheffield as an international representative? Because of this publicity, most likely not.

Stellato

ground between the Negro movement and the labor movement. As an instance, Sheffield's role in getting one Negro into the plumbers union, after six months of agitation and negotiation, is cited as "responsible activity." Battle boasts that what Sheffield did "was something the industrial unions have been unable to do with the building trades . . ."

Unquestionably this independent activity of TULC has nettled the bureaucratic mentality at Solidarity House. It is an increased charge

Leading Negroes Flay Kennedy

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If I had done half what General Walker has done, I'd be in jail now. Look at Robert Williams of Monroe, North Carolina. [Local NAACP leader and advocate of Afro-American self-defense who was framed up by Monroe racists on a phony kidnap charge.] He floundered him out of the country. I saw the posters in the post offices listing him as a criminal psychopath. But General Walker is white and Williams is black. That's the reason one is in exile in Cuba and the other is here, collecting from the Defense Department."

Killens' Stand

At the Town Hall meeting, Killens — author of And Then We Heard the Thunder and Youngblood declared: "We must question the tactic of nonviolence . . . We must assert and defend the right of the Negro people to defend themselves . . . We must protest the inaction of President Kennedy . . . I John O. Killens, speaking for myself, say that I cannot love those who persecute and kill Negroes, nor can I love those who allow this to happen."

Louis Lomax, author of The Negro Revolt, at the same meeting announced the formation of the new artists' and writers' committee saying: "We have decided to speak out for ourselves . . . We're no longer for sale . . . We are going to say to our government: 'How can you run Vietnam? How dare you invade Cuba?'" This was greeted with loud applause.

Lomax continued: "What difference does it make how high the standard of living is when the murderers of children can go free . . . Until there is justice all the rest is the tinkling brass of phony liberal lies . . . President Kennedy turned his back to our demands for federal protection in Alabama . . . He should have taken Carolyn by the hand and gone to the national stadium to make a speech about his tax program . . . and about the last-ban treaty. Well, we'll him the treaty he's better wrothy about in a treaty with the American Negro, because that's where the war is."

Lomax said the writers were going to open up a frank discussion around two issues: integration and non-violence. "When I

support integration," said Lomax, "I do not mean losing our identity." Lomax said he supported non-violence as a tactic in sit-ins and picket lines, but that "there is something immoral about the kind of non-violence that says you can get away with anything against me."

Actress Ruby Dee took up a collection for tombstones for the murdered children and announced the new group's address as Committee of Artists and Writers for Justice, Box 1681 Grand Central Station, New York City.

At the close of the Town Hall meeting Baldwin read on behalf of the committee a statement which was adopted by the audience. It called for: 1) The impeachment of Gov. Wallace. 2) Immediate abolition of the committee composed of General Kenneth C. Royal and ex-football coach Earl Blaik, which Kennedy appointed to investigate the Birmingham situation. The statement calls this appointment "an insult to all Negro people." 4) A boycott of all Christmas-gift shopping "until this country is worthy of celebrating the birth of Christ."

What made the government's persecution and conviction of the Mine-Mill leaders particularly loathsome was the fact that they were being retried under a section of the Taft-Hartley Act that was repealed four years ago.

In spite of this continuing campaign by the government to intimidate and weaken organized labor, no top AFL-CIO leaders have come out for the defense of the Mine-Mill defendants.

Barragans Corp., the country's largest producer of business machines and computers, employs some 8,000 workers in four Detroit plants. Over the years the company has succeeded in defeating at least three UAW organizing campaigns and remained the largest anti-union strong-hold in Detroit.

On Sept. 14 following an organizing campaign that stressed the need for job security, the company's production workers voted to join the UAW.

Rank-and-file members of Local 6 of the Hotel and Club Employees Union in New York have been



More than 300 striking garbage collectors participated in a sit-down demonstration in front of the Dallas, Texas, city hall Sept. 17. The unorganized strikers are demanding the same 40-hour week and the same 4 per cent pay raise recently given other city employes. The current pay scale for city garbage collectors is a miserly \$1.38 an hour.

More than 50 per cent of the city's three-man garbage collecting crews have joined the strike so far, and other crews are reporting for work short-handed.

At a meeting in the Dallas Labor Temple the night before the sit-down, more than 600 strikers met to discuss strike strategy. Representatives of most of the city's union locals who attended as observers are considering throwing the support of organized labor behind the strikers. One of those AFL-CIO council representative Allan Maley, had appeared before the city council on behalf of the garbage collectors. He said, "I do not wish to know in these parts as a Roy Bean hearing and you know who he was. He was the man who presided over the case as judge and jury and said, 'Hang 'em.'"

Six past and present leaders of the international Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers were convicted of violating the "non-communist" section of the Taft-Hartley Act by a U.S. District Court jury on Sept. 21. This is the second conviction of Mine-Mill leaders on the same charge in the ten years they have been under attack by government with hunting agencies. Their first conviction in 1949 was reversed by a U.S. Appeals Court. The defendants were all Oct. 7, to appeal the second conviction. They include: Albert C. Skinner, president; Irving Richter, secretary-treasurer; Malice Travis, former secretary-treasurer; Harold Sanderson, controller; Raymond B. Dennis, executive board member; Charles H. Wilson, international representative. One defendant, international representative James R. Van Camp, was not convicted.

Union statements have referred to the trial proceedings as strange and weird. Much of the government "evidence" is based on notes and private discussions that go back 18 years. In addition, the late Bill Mason, a former Mine-Mill board member, was introduced as evidence against the defendants despite the fact he was killed in an auto accident last October.

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Rank-and-file members of Local 6 of the Hotel and Club Employees Union in New York have been

picketing their union headquarters to protest the policies of a leadership which has been in office for over 20 years.

The pickets claim the leaders have collaborated with bosses to dismiss members who challenge their rule.

A spokesman for the pickets said the same leaders had allowed hotels and clubs to violate job classification and anti-discrimination clauses in the union contract.

The pickets added that the union had a Civil Rights Committee for years that was used only for "window dressing and propaganda."

Braceros (Mexican migratory workers) were killed and two subsequently died from injuries received when the truck on which they were riding was struck by a freight train near Salinas, Calif. Thirty-one other workers were injured and two remain on the critical list.

Over 40 braceros were riding on the flatbed truck which had makeshift benches lengthwise on the bed. This hazardous form of transportation is typical in an area where braceros are underpaid, underfed, and provided with squalid shelters by profiteering ranchers.

The governor of California has told the Mexican government that a "full investigation" is under way and the U.S. Department of Labor has also promised an investigation. However, both the state of California and the Labor Department have long ignored the misdeeds of the braceros, including the dangerous methods used to transport them.

An attorney is already under way to shift the whole blame for the accident onto truck driver Francisco Gonzales Espinosa. He has been charged with the serious crime of felony manslaughter.

John T. Gojack to Speak At Forum in Chicago

John T. Gojack, veteran trade unionist and defender of the First Amendment, will speak at the Chicago Friday Night Socialist Forum on Oct. 4.

Gojack was president of United Electrical Workers Local 9 when he was subpoenaed in 1955 by the House Un-American Activities Committee. This was on the eve of NLRB elections involving the union and the hearing had been arranged by an industrial relations director at one of the company's factories. Gojack contested HUAC's right to probe his private opinions and was cited for contempt of Congress. His conviction was reversed by the Supreme Court in May 1962. But his victory was short-lived. He was re-arrested by the same agency last October and his civil-liberties fight goes on.

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