

yellow seeds

黃籽報

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A Newspaper for the Asian Community in Philadelphia

Volume 1, Number 5

May 1973

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SAVE CHINATOWN!



On April 14th, a demonstration was organized by the Phila. Chinatown Development Corp. in a blocked off section of Race Street between 9th and 10th Streets. It was an effort by the Chinatown community to express its concern over the urban renewal and highway projects that are threatening the continued existence of the community. The demonstration focused on the Market Street East Project and the Vine Street Expressway Extension which, if implemented, would encircle Chinatown with garages, ramps, and a highway. In addition, the Holy Redeemer Church and gymnasium is slated to be demolished sometime this summer as part of the Vine Street Project. The speakers included members of the community as well as concerned individuals from different parts of the City. The theme was to save Chinatown and to rally the community to fight against the encroachments of the government agencies and by big business.

RETIRED WORKERS IN CHINA

RETIRED WORKERS IN CHINA—a look at the life of older people in New China

China has undergone tremendous changes since Liberation in 1949. A socialist revolution led by the working class and peasants has transformed the old China into a New China. Today China is no longer plagued by the domination of foreign powers, the oppression of feudal landlords, or the greed of rich domestic businessmen who exploited their own people. What have these changes meant to the ordinary working person? Let us try to examine this question by considering how the life of retired workers today compares with life in pre-Liberation society.

How Life Compares With The Past

Before Liberation few workers and peasants survived to see old age. Then it was not uncommon for people to work 12 to 16 hours a day, 7 days per week for starvation wages. If people did not maim their limbs working at hazardous machines, they wasted their eyes or lungs working in dark unventilated factories. If they did not starve to death, they died of disease spread by widespread poverty and misery. Today China's workers have a standard 8 hour day, a six-day week, and a week of vacation time. This is a far cry from pre-Liberation days. Factory workers in most industries receive regular medical check-ups and all receive free or inexpensive health care. If a worker is in poor health, he is sent to a sanatorium to recover. Meanwhile, he continues to draw his regular salary. Conditions in the work place are sanitary and well lighted; special safety equipment and special precautions exist to prevent endangering the workers' health. Income for a family with two working members is not extravagant, but more than adequate—allowing generally for some savings and the purchase of

consumer goods over a time, such as a bicycle, radio, or sewing machine.

Today's Livelihood

Under the present living and working conditions, many people reach old age in China. Men and women retire at ages 60 and 50 respectively. Workers receive 70% of their former salaries from the State as well as the usual rations and free medical care. In contrast to America, because the government plans production and controls economic growth, there is no inflation. This means that old people on pensions are not confronted with the situation of fixed incomes and rising costs of living. Unlike pre-Liberation times,

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CHINATOWN HEALTH SURVEY

We have all recognized that Chinatown's health problems are particularly different from other racial groups' in the city. But no one seems to be certain what those specific problems are.

Chinese people are often reluctant to take advantage of the health services already available to them. But this is understandable, since many have had unpleasant experiences at hospitals and their emergency rooms.

How many Chinese people have been forced by illness to enter a hospital only to find the medical personnel unable to communicate with them. And how unsafe it is to be unable to communicate our own symptoms and wants!

Continued on Page 2

This demonstration was preceded by a similar event on February 9th. On that day, a protest demonstration was organized by the Phila. Chinatown Development Corp. Two hundred schoolchildren, community representatives, and concerned individuals marched from the Holy Redeemer Church to the State Transportation Dept. In spite of the frigid temperatures and gusty winds, the demonstrators circled the State building for over two hours chanting slogans and passing out leaflets to save Chinatown.

A meeting was called during the demonstration in which the community representatives confronted state officials over the issues of the Vine Street Expressway and the highway ramps on 9th and 11th Streets. Chief Engineer Sorentino was strongly criticized for ignoring the community. The present plans do not only include the demolition of the church and gymnasium but actually threaten to break up the Chinese community in Philadelphia. The State's response was evasive and ambiguous. The heart of the issue was watered down to trivial technicalities and bureaucratic inefficiency. The buck was passed all the way up to Harrisburg.

Two other attempts were made by the PCDC to confront the city with the issue. The first, was a Town Meeting called on May 3rd at the On Leong Association. At this meeting, the community confronted the Redevelopment Authority over the issues

Continued on page 2

HEALTH SURVEY

Are the elderly getting adequate care for their age-related illnesses? Are the young, working families able to visit (and afford) regular physical check-ups. The individual families know what difficulties they've encountered, but do the community groups who are planning help-programs know of the kinds and of the severity of the peoples' problems?

Starting March 25, a survey of the health problems of Chinatown residents will be conducted. Approximately 15 pairs of volunteer interviewers from the University of Penn, various medical schools in the city, and various Chinatown workers and residents are now visiting families and restaurants in Chinatown. They will conduct the survey in either Chinese or English by asking the approximately 200 households various questions about the medical and dental care of the family members. The data will be analyzed to determine the areas in which health care is lacking. The final report will be distributed to the different community groups working in Chinatown to aid them in planning their programs.

No names will be taken, and all information will be kept confidential. The Philadelphia Chinatown Health Survey Committee has no ties to any government organization and wants to assure all the people of Chinatown that the information obtained will not be linked to any specific individual or family.

Several community groups in Chinatown have given their endorsement of the survey, but the committee itself is acting entirely independently of any Chinatown group. The Philadelphia Chinatown Health Survey Committee is a group of workers, residents, and students who want to help provide Chinatown residents with a better understanding of the community's problems.

The committee asks everyone to please help the interviewers. The information obtained may very well help the Chinese community receive better health care in the future. For more information call EV2-7414 or MA7-5736

The Philadelphia
Chinatown Health
Survey Committee

asian women are awakening

The oppression of Asian women in American society is three-fold. As a woman, she is pressured by the standards upheld by a predominantly sexist society. As an Asian, she is confronted by the discrimination of a racist society. As a worker, she is economically oppressed. As a result, Asian women experience common economic and social problems.

The idea that a woman's role is in the home is not a concept unique to American society. In America, women serve as a reserve labor force and a source of cheap labor. In the traditional familial structure of Asian society women were discouraged from pursuing social, educational, or occupational interests outside the family sphere. Asian women have been psychologically conditioned by their cultural backgrounds to accept a full-time domestic role. Lack of adequate, inexpensive childcare affords a woman little, or no other

alternative to childrearing and housework.

When economic necessity compels her to take a job, lack of skill, language difficulties, and racial factors force her into the lowest paid menial jobs on the economic scale. Long hours in the family's laundry or restaurant business or working in the factories, is her usual lot. Women, in general, are often paid less than a man doing the exact same work because of her sex.

Asian women are socially oppressed by stereotypes which have essentially made them invisible individuals: the homegirl-reserved, conservative, sexless; the domestic-obedient, servile, hardworking; the lotus blossom-exotic, sexy, Suzie Wongs and Nancy Kwans'. Such images are reinforced on American minds time and again by the mass media.

We, Asian women seek to educate ourselves to the nature and roots of

VISITORS TO CANTON SPEAK IN PHILA.

On April 9, 1973, the Philadelphia Overseas Chinese Service to the People Organization sponsored a talk and film show given by a group of Overseas Chinese from New York who recently returned from a visit to the People's Republic of China. The event, held at Yellow Seeds, was attended by about 100 persons. A large sign welcoming the group was among the decorations. Mr. Chi-Cheung Moy, a former New York Chinese Benevolent Association president, and other members of the group narrated in Cantonese a film taken during their visit. The three-hour film included Toishan, Kwongchow, Shanghai, Peking, and other places.

After the film, Mr. Wu Ping introduced the other members of the group. A question and answer period followed. Mr. Chi-Cheung Moy stated that questions will be answered to the best of their ability to inform the audience of the people and conditions in the People's Republic of China. Many people asked questions. One asked to what extent agriculture was mechanized in Toishan. Some wanted to know about the standard of living in the country as a whole. Another topic in which many people were interested was the procedure and expense necessary for a visit to China. The audience was informed that agriculture in Toishan is moving toward more mechanization step by step. As for the living standard, people in China are secure about their daily needs. The Chinese people are well-fed, and adequately clothed and housed. Starvation and not having enough cloth to wear, though common in pre-liberation days, no longer exist. The conclusion drawn by the speakers is that everything in China have improved tremendously and are still improving. At the same time, China is winning more and more friends in the world.

After the meeting, everybody enjoyed the refreshment donated by Mr. Chen Kum-Chow. On behalf of all who attended, we would like to thank Mr. Chen and our fellow Overseas Chinese from New York.

SAVE CHINATOWN

of the ramps, the highway, and urban renewal. Lynn Abraham spoke for the Redevelopment Authority. She avoided all questions related to positive programs for better housing. Instead she tried consistently to rationalize the city's mistakes. It was clear from her statements that the city will not abandon the interests of big business for the interests of the "little man." At one point, the audience booed Ms. Abraham. The panel, made up mostly of businessmen and association heads, rang a bell a few times and warned the audience to remain silent while she was speaking.

While the government is partly funding the construction of the new Gimbels Department Store and the Reading Railroad Terminal, it was claiming that it has no funds to implement housing projects for Chinatown. The only money that is allocated for use in the Chinatown area is money to tear down houses and to build ramps and highways. A Mr. Jacobs also spoke for the city as a representative for the Mayor. He conveyed the Mayor's intentions to help the community. However, what do the Mayor's words really mean? Since his election, he has done nothing to stop the drug problem, gang problem, or any problems. While he is proposing a \$2 million program to expand police house stables, the Holy Redeemer Church is one the verge of being demolished. While he is having his personal feud with Council President Schwartz, he has done nothing to improve the housing situation for the people of the city. We should judge the Mayor by his actions and not his words.

The second attempt was a public hearing at City Hall. The meeting was attended by the Redevelopment Authority, PCDC, and about a hundred people from Chinatown. The testimony focused on the 9th Street ramp. Again, Lynn Abraham spoke for the Redevelopment Authority while George Moy spoke for PCDC. The Rules Committee headed by Council President Schwartz questioned Ms. Abraham on the moving of the ramp from the middle of the block to the very edge of 9th Street. In addition, the Committee objected to the lack of concern for the community on the part of the Redevelopment Authority. On the other hand, the Committee supported and recognized the community's effort to save Chinatown.

Although President Schwartz vocally supported the community's efforts, he has actively supported the Market Street East Project. In addition, he has personal reasons for opposing City Hall because of his feud with the Mayor. If City Council had genuine concerns for the Chinese community, the ramps would not have gotten off the drawing tables in the first place. The public hearing may be nothing more than a charade to gain public confidence.

The government agencies have placed the needs of a long established community below the needs of big business and commuter traffic. Both the city's and the state's responses clearly place profit above people, office space above homes, and traffic above ecology. The struggle exists between the interests of big business and the democratic rights of the ordinary citizen. If the government is truly representative of the people, the choice is obvious. As it stands, the government agencies are being used by big business to further its' profits. The tax dollars from Chinatown are not being used to build up the community. Instead, they are being channeled to projects that threaten to destroy the community.

Both the city and the state have abandoned the cause of community self-determination for the cause of corporate profit. To rely on them would be to guarantee defeat. The people of Chinatown, young and old, working people, housewives, and businessmen should unite to fight for decent and adequate housing, for better recreational facilities, and for a viable community. There is no time left for standing around. The community must come together, solicit support from the people of Philadelphia, and actively organize to save Chinatown.

the problems we share and work toward redefining ourselves. We seek a change in the passive role which we have held in the past to a more meaningful role in society. Only by bridging the alienation which exists among ourselves and learning from each others experiences and ideas can we hope to do so.

In the past months, a group of students and working women from the Philadelphia area have been meeting on an informal basis. Our purpose is not to create alienation from other races or sexes but to raise questions and seek answers to our common oppression through discussion of reading material and personal experiences and exchange of ideas. We invite all our Asian sisters interested in working with us and sharing some thoughts.

For more information you can call MA7-5736.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

may

Peoples' Republic of China gymnastics team vs. U.S. Olympic team at the Spectrum.

23

26

African Liberation Day Demonstration: Church of the Advocate 18th and Diamond 11:00AM

5PM, Channel 10, "Eye on Phila.", program will feature Chinatown.

June

18

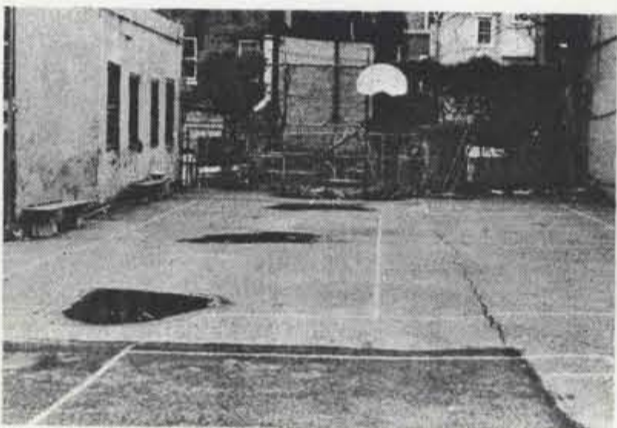
Channel 6, "Save Chinatown", a T.V. documentary on Phila. Chinatown by Jon Wing Lum.

C.C.C.C. Playground Summer Opening Hours: afternoons 3-5:30PM evenings 7-9PM.

Meetings of the Phila. Overseas Chinese Service to the People Society are held every other Tuesday at 7:30 PM at 1006 Winter St. Next meeting is May 29.

PAVE THE PLAYGROUND

The High School Group of the Chinese Christian Center would like to thank all those who donated towards the resurfacing and repaving of the playground on Spring St. between 9th and 10th. We appreciate your help in making the drive successful.



"No-Tickee, No Money", OOPS! so sollee

After many letters from individuals and community groups Governor Shapp issued a public apology and recall of an advertisement for the Pa. state lottery using the slogan "No-Tickee, No Money". Ridiculing Asian people with stereotype phrases is another form of racial discrimination in the media. The poster appeared on billboards, buses, trollys, subways and taxis. In most cases this recall only amounted to pasting a "t" over the "e" in "tickee".

WAR IN CAMBODIA

Troops of the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces now control 90% of their country and have come within two miles of the capital city of Phnom Penh, the last outpost of the puppet government headed by Lon Nol. The U.S. government backed the Lon Nol coup against Cambodian head of state Norodom Sihanouk three years ago and now keeps Lon Nol's government alive with its air force. Planes, directed by the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, have dropped bombs as close as the suburbs against the advancing Liberation forces. U.S. business and military interest are still trying to keep their control in Indo-China even after their defeat in Vietnam by spending millions of dollars on killing Asian people fighting to free their own land.

The war in Indo-China is also losing support in the United States. Committees of both houses of Congress have recently passed bills to cut off funds for Nixon's policy of continuing the war in Cambodia.

MEAT BOYCOTT

During the week of April 1-8, tens of millions of American people did not buy meat to protest the high prices of beef, lamb and pork. The truth is that almost all food has risen in price, not just meats. At the same time wages have been kept down and people laid off, resulting in record profits for big business. Wage raises are restricted to 5.5% a year. Up to 200,000 meat cutters and butchers were reportedly laid off during the meat boycott. People who cannot afford to buy meat for their families at home, cannot afford to eat out in restaurants. Workers, small business owners and consumers, angry at each other because of high prices, are not the ones collecting the profits.

FILM CELEBRATION

With money donated by Overseas Chinese from the Chinese community, the Philadelphia Overseas Chinese Service to the People Organization bought a new movie projector and 44 chairs. One of the goals of Yellow Seeds and the Overseas Chinese Service to the People Organization is to show movies of the Asian-American experience and the People's Republic of China and her people to the Chinatown community. With the new projector, we will be able to serve the people better.

On May 21, 1973, in a film and party celebration, the projector and chairs were presented to the people in the Yellow Seeds Community Center. About 100 people came to see "The East Is Red," a film showing the history of the liberation of China in songs and dance. Between showings of the movie, the people visited with each other and enjoyed the donated refreshment. Because of the efforts of many members of the Chinatown community working together, the event was very successful.

PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

The "Chinese and American peoples friendship night", jointly sponsored by the Phila. Tiao Yu T'ai Committee and Yellow Seeds, was held on the evening of April 21, at the Unitarian Church. The 250 Chinese and American people came to enjoy a home cooked Chinese meal and entertainment in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Entertainment included songs from China, Asian-American songs and a movie about the agricultural struggle in China. This first time event in Philadelphia to promote friendship and understanding between two peoples will be held again in the future.

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A Center for the Asian Community in Phila.

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Yellow Seeds is published bi-monthly by Yellow Seeds, Inc., a non-profit organization, 1006 Winter St., Phila., Pa. 19107. All labor is donated. Subscriptions: \$5.00/yr., supporting subscriptions; \$2.50/yr., regular; 15¢, a single issue. Contributions in the form of articles, photographs, poems, letters and announcements are welcome. Vol. 1, No. 5/May 1973

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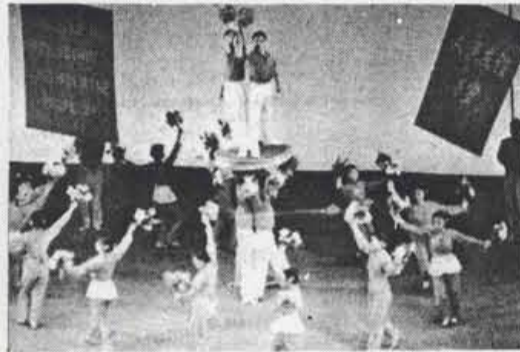
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These are pictures of the Shengyang Acrobatic Troupe's January 1973 performance in New York. If you look closely you can see a wire attached to some of the acrobats doing dangerous acts. This is because China does not allow acrobats to risk their lives just to give the audience thrills, and respects these acrobats as athletes. The audience gave them eight very loud and cheerful curtain calls, and went away with great feelings about the friendship between the American and Chinese Peoples.



Continued from Page 1

Retired Workers

when the economy was in chaos, people no longer have to worry that between the time they are paid and the time they reach market, prices will have risen 25% and devaluated their money. In fact, as factories and communes improve on production techniques, prices even go down. Food and rent are consistent-low. One can buy fruit or vegetables, depending on the season, for between 3 and 6 cnets per catty (a little over a pound). Rent is only 3-7% of a family's income.

After retirement workers stay in their neighborhoods--sometimes with their children but not necessarily. If they live alone, everyone around--neighbors and relatives--help out; they help wash, clean, cook, shop, and even nurse older people when they get sick. The responsible people on the revolutionary committees in these districts see to it that the older people are well taken care of. When children have grown up and moved away, older people are not forced to move into smaller quarters but are permitted to stay in same apartment. Retired workers have their own centers for activity--places they can go to read, study, meet their friends, play chess and pass enjoyable hours.

In some areas where there are many retired workers without family, there are "homes of respect for the aged". In one in Kwangtung Province there are about a hundred elderly people averaging 78 years old. Here old people live together in well-kept simply furnished rooms; they receive prompt medical care and nourishing meals prepared according to their special dietary needs. Old people have their own courtyard to sit out in as well as an activities center. Unlike the atmosphere of American nursing homes, retired workers in these homes are not forgotten and walled off by the rest of society. People frequently come to visit them. Leading members of the revolutionary committee (the local unit of government) as well as children from nearby schools and members of cultural troupes drop in often to chat or perform. There is no so called "generation gap" in China and old people are not considered a burden on society. Moreover, they are greatly respected for the suffering and exploitation they lived through at the

hands of the old society and for the struggles they fought in to make China what it is today.

An Active Role In Society

Retired workers continue to contribute to society. As one retired worker herself said, older people in China are "retired physically but not ideologically and politically". This means that although these workers no longer engage in productive labor, they are still active in performing important tasks in their neighborhood. Older people are still determined to "serve the people". They continue to work actively to ensure that the advances in society gained through socialist construction are safeguarded and transmitted to the next generation. Retired workers are kept well integrated into the mainstream of life by participating in study groups, organizing large scale sanitation campaigns (e.g., for eradicating mosquitoes), and teaching the young about life in the past. This last task is one of their foremost responsibilities.

In the neighborhood elementary schools, the teachers, parents, and retired workers work together in a "three-in-one" combination to plan the educational activities of the children. This group develops the curriculum of the school and does the administrative work. It is the primary work of the older workers to impart to the children a sense of the suffering and exploitation that existed in pre-Liberation society. More significantly, they impart an understanding of the painful, yet heroic, struggles that took place to overcome the three great mountains--imperialism, feudalism, and the capitalism of Chinese compradors and rich businessmen. Frequently, retired workers tell the youth of their own lives before Liberation. They tell of their own experiences as child laborers chained to their machines, as servants to cruel landlords, or as the one survivor of seven children who died of starvation after a bad harvest. They also of the historic moments of China when the broad masses of people rose up and fought; they tell of the Canton-Shanghai Railroad Strike, the Peasant

Associations, the 8th Route Army, the War of Resistance against the Japanese and the establishment of state factories and people's communes. In this way the young remember that China's achievements in the past 25 years were founded on the great struggles of their predecessors and not paid for without great hardship, perseverance, and bloodshed.

Sharing in the Fruits of Production

Even though China is still very backward materially, many retired workers say that in the old days it was impossible to imagine life as good as it is now--so many times better. As a country of laboring people, China has turned her attention to providing her people with the basic necessities of life and privileges denied them by the ruling class of pre-Liberation times. Whereas it was common for people in the old society to be without clothing, wander about homeless, be without means to make a living, and to starve to death, the State today guarantees each person enough to eat, clothes, shelter, and --in almost every case--employment. Although conditions are not always so fine, the people's livelihood is insured. Moreover, everyone in China is entitled to a free education and free or low cost medical care. Unlike countries where the profit motive dominates, people in China are treated as human beings. In spite of their old age, the elderly are an integral part of society. They are not cast aside like some worn-out mechanical part when their efficiency and ability to do work declines. It will be a long time before the material standard of living in China equals that of the United States. Nonetheless, with what resources China has, she has tried to allocate these to benefit the great masses of people and not to hoard them for the benefit of a privileged class. For retired workers, this means that even though their days of productive labor are over, they are still highly respected for their contributions to socialist construction and continue to be able to share in the fruits of production.

The next issue of Yellow Seeds will investigate the lives of the elderly in America.

energy crisis?

Throughout the winter of 1973, "energy crisis" was a frequent topic in newspapers and other mass media. The symptoms of a crisis seemed real enough. In parts of the country, homeowners were waiting anxiously for the delivery of heating oil. Some high schools had three-day weeks to save fuel. Throughout the nation, factories had to shut down at least briefly when fuel tanks ran dry.

According to the Oil Industry

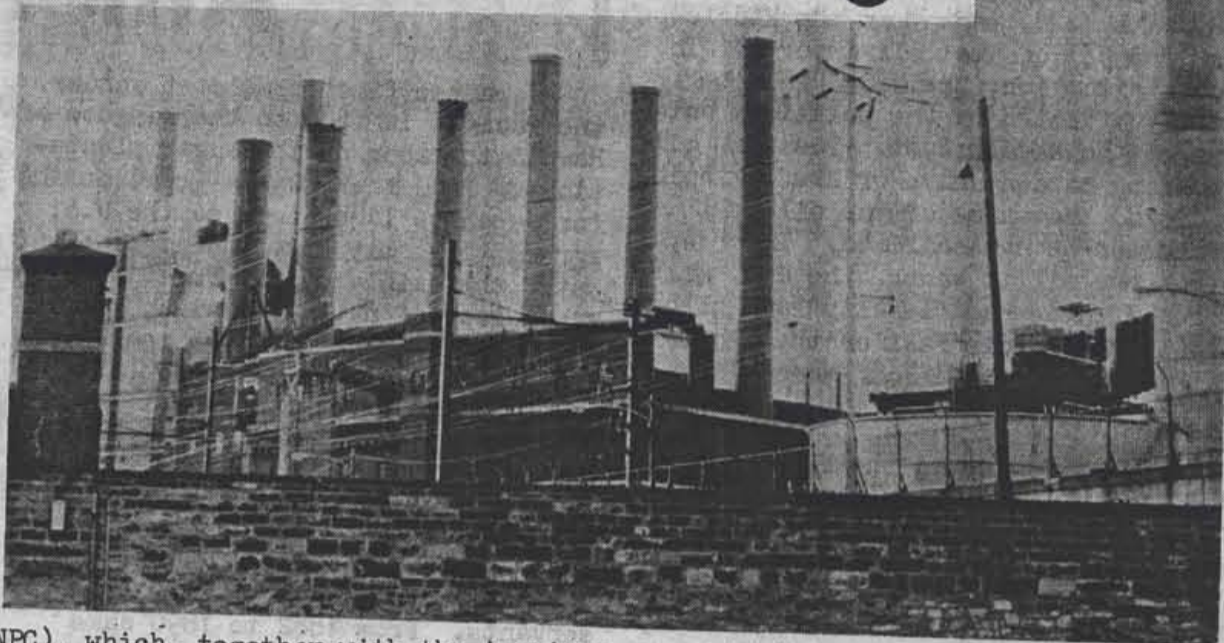
The oil industry, with its financial resources and advertising skills, tells the public what to think of the crisis: its origin, its nature, its solution. The American Petroleum Institute, chief lobbying and public relations organization of the oil industry, spent \$3 million on an advertising campaign with the key slogan: A Nation That Runs on Oil Cannot Afford to Run Short. The oil industry tells us that the energy crisis was due not only to growing demand and limited petroleum reserves but also to oppressive environmental restrictions, unfavorable tax treatment, federal control over the price of oil and gas, and the quota placed on imported oil. All these things, the oil industry insisted, was making it difficult and costly for exploration, drilling, and refining.

The solution to the crisis, according to the oil industry is to give the oil companies what they want in the view that what is good for the oil industry is good for the country. As Mobil Oil puts it in one of its advertisements in the New York Times, "Oil Companies knew the shortage was coming, they know how it could be averted. For the past twenty years we have told everyone who would listen what we knew, but we failed to convince policy makers to take the necessary steps".

Nixon's Energy Policy

But the oil companies reached at least one person: President Nixon. In his energy message given on April 19, 1973, Nixon loosened present limits and tariffs on imported oil. Oil companies' newly constructed refineries will not have to pay fees on imported oil for the first five years after construction. \$242 million more federal funds will be spent for energy research and development in 1974 than in 1973. At the same time, funds for the Environment Protection Agency are due to go down. There will no longer be any price control on natural gas supplies from gas wells. Nixon plans to provide to the oil companies investment tax credits for the drilling of new oil wells. Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz said that this tax break would cost the American people \$60 million in lost revenue the first year alone.

If President Nixon's energy proposals seem to be just what the oil companies wanted, this is no accident. The Department of the Interior, responsible for federal government dealings with the oil companies, always has many top officials with private oil company backgrounds and attitudes. Department of the Interior officials along with oil company executives dictate the policies of the National Petroleum Council



(NPC), which, together with the American Petroleum Institute (API), form the legislature of the private government of oil. The basic data upon which government officials such as Nixon must depend for their decision making on petroleum matters is provided by the NPC and the API.

Oil companies spend large sums of money in Washington D.C.. For example some \$2 million in large contributions was donated by a dozen contributors, all of whom are executives or major stockholders in oil and related industries. Richard Mellon Scaife, a principal stockholder in the Gulf Oil Corporation, gave \$1 million.

Maximize Profit

Nowhere in the oil companies' and Nixon's discussion of the energy situation was there any mention that the energy shortages might have been due to policies that grew out of the oil industry's desire to maximize profit. But there are many indications that this was the case. "The energy crisis could well serve as a smoke screen for a massive exercise in picking the pockets of the American consumers to the tune of billions of dollars a year," charged S. David Freeman, Director of the Ford Foundation's Energy Policy project and a former White House energy advisor.

As early as March of last year, there were signs that the level of heating oil was running low. But the government was told by the major oil companies that there would be enough heating oil to last through the winter. So the oil companies were producing gasoline instead, since it provided more profit than heating oil.

Tax Breaks

Nixon's new tax-break to the oil companies will cost the American public about \$60 million in the next year alone. But tax breaks are nothing new to the oil tycoons. Jean Paul Getty, of Getty oil, has an income of \$100 million a year. With the help of tax-breaks, he only pays a few thousand dollars a year in taxes. In 1971, when American corporations were paying about 40% of their net income in taxes, the largest oil companies: Gulf, Mobil, Texaco, and Standard Oil of California, and Standard Oil of New Jersey, only paid on the average, 4% of their net income in U.S. taxes. The special tax features that allow the oil companies to pay such a low amount of taxes are written into the tax laws by the United States Congress. They are costing the U.S. Treasury (i.e., the taxpayers)

about \$1.6 billion every year. For a comparison, this \$1.6 billion amounts to 4 times the funds for the "Head Start" program for preschool children and 21 times the funds for the Neighborhood Youth Corp.

Monopoly of Oil

One of the top demands of the major oil companies is an end to federal regulation of interstate natural gas prices. Now President Nixon has given them that. What this means is that natural gas prices would go up. The oil and gas industry is a shared monopoly. Standard Oil of New Jersey, Mobil, Texaco, and Gulf control 55% of all oil sales in 1970. By concentration, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Getty Oil, Atlantic-Richfield, and other oil companies control the flow and price of oil all the way from the well to the gas pump. The public needs oil and gas. With little control on their prices, the public will have to pay what the oil companies ask for.

Have you ever wondered why a gas station only sells one brand of gasoline? This is because almost all the gas stations are controlled by the major oil companies. This control is in the form of telling the gas station retailers what brand to sell and at what price. If a dealer decides to be an "independent" businessman, the oil companies will change his mind quickly. The major oil companies can refuse to sell gas to the "independent" dealers or buy him out.

Imported Oil

25% of the crude oil used in the U.S. is imported. Some are from countries in Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. But most of the imported oil comes from the Middle East. With the help of the U.S. government in the form of diplomatic intervention in behalf of the multi-national oil companies and lax enforcement of antitrust laws, the major oil companies have been allowed to corner oil production, worldwide. In the Phillipines, at the same time he declared martial law, President Marcos insured U.S. businesses that their interests would be protected. According to one U.S. oilman, "Marcos said, We'll pass the laws you need—just tell us what you want." Seven major oil companies, Jersey Standard (now Exxon), Royal Dutch-Shell, British Petroleum, Mobil, Standard of California, Gulf Oil, and Texaco, now control almost all of the production and market-

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5
energy crisis

ing of Middle Eastern oil.

It is predicted that by 1980, the U.S. will be dependent on the Middle East for 55% of its' oil imports. In such a situation, the U.S. will be greatly affected by the political outcome in the Middle East. The Arab oil producing nations have or are beginning to demand that some of the oil well refineries be nationalized. In order to get the oil it wants, the U.S. will no doubt intervene "legally" and illegally in the Middle East on the behalf of the multi-national oil monopolies.

Contradictions

Meanwhile back in the United States, with only 6% of the world's population, the U.S. uses up 33% of the world's energy. Little emphasis is placed on the conservation of energy. As a result, the U.S. population and industry waste 50% of all the energy it burns. People are encouraged to consume as much energy as their money can buy. President Nixon likes wood-burning fireplaces. He likes them so much that he has been known to turn up the air conditioning in the summer to get his office cold enough for a fire. And, last winter, like the winters before, children in the ghettos of Philadelphia were getting sick due to the lack of heat in their homes. And in Chinatown, old men sat in their rooms shivering in front of only a small coal burner. At the same time 6 oil companies, Standard Oil(N.J.), Mobil Oil, Texaco, Gulf Oil, Standard Oil of California, and Standard Oil of Indiana, are among the top fifteen largest industrial corporations in the United States. These six oil companies had a net income of \$4,358,000,000.

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Japanese in America Part I

Japanese first came east across the Pacific in 1868 to the Kingdom of Hawaii to labor on the sugar plantations. Soon there was a great demand for Japanese labor because the U.S. agreed to permit Hawaiian sugar to enter the mainland duty free. There was a lack of native Hawaiian labor and importation of Chinese ceased after the Chinese exclusion act of

Till 1900, when Hawaii was annexed to the U.S., the sugar plantations contracted Japanese to work for as little as \$9.00 a month under slavery-like conditions. In the 1870's a few Japanese came to the Mainland U.S. as "schoolboys"-really domestic servants. From 1882 to 1890 came Young men who jumped ship in California. From 1902 til 1909 (when reemigration was prohibited) Japanese reemigrated from Hawaii to California. 1900 to 1924 (when the oriental exclusion act was passed) was the period of greatest Japanese immigration to the U.S.. The first immigrants were single young men seeking their fortune. Some worked then returned home. Some, when they got themselves established here, returned home for wives if they could afford it, or resorted to proxy marriages to "picture Brides", and began to build families in the United States.

The new immigrants worked as farm laborers in sugar beets, fruits and vegetables. We helped to build the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, and Great Northern Railroad lines. We worked in the lumber mills and fish canneries of the Pacific Northwest, in the coal and copper mines of the Rocky mountain states.

The fruit growers, railroads, fish canning, mining, beet and cane sugar industries were eager for cheap, industrious skillful workers. Not only were we used to doing the jobs no one else wanted, but were also used to threaten American workers as a reserve labor force ready to fill their jobs if they pressed demands for higher pay and better working conditions. Big business, through control or local politicians and the press, stirred up racial hatred among American workers--so that on the one hand the Railroad worker or sugar refinery worker thought his enemy was the Japanese immigrant out to take his job and bring down wages--while the Japanese immigrant thought the American workers and the unions were his chief competitor for a place in the American sun. In fact, both groups were manipulated by a common enemy: the American Capitalist System.

In 1894 a railroad workers' strike brought disgruntled white workers to California farms from the East. They resented the presence of Japanese farmworkers and in the town of Vacaville attacked the Japanese labor camps until repulsed by vigilantes. Just a couple of summers ago, Japanese Americans organized by a group called the Nesei Farmers' League, were sent in busloads to pick grapes in order to break the strike by United Farm Workers--a union of racial minority and immigrant farmworkers. In both incidents the only one to gain was the railroad companies and the agribusiness combines.

The "Yellow Peril" hysteria of the early 1900's was not primarily an attack on our Asian race, rather, the issue of racism was raised to divert attention from the economic crises of those times,--the unemployment caused by completion of the railroads, the struggles of workers to organize in unions. It is true however, that the results of anti-Japanese agitation--our ineligibility for citizenship, the alien land laws, the Oriental exclusion acts, anti-Japanese fishing laws, our incarceration during World War II, frustrated our progress in every endeavor and caused us many hardships.

I don't know how the epithet "Quiet American" got to be applied to us. Japanese spoke up individually and collectively against unfair treatment. One "Fireball" Bunkichi rode alone into Cascade Utah to challenge the cowboys--he was chased out. In the early 1900's there was a large scale shoot-out between Japanese railroad hands and cowboys in the town of Chester, Utah. I don't know who won.

In 1922, Delano California was the scene of violet anti-Japanese demonstrations. Signs saying "No Japs Wanted" were posted at the North and South entrances to the town. Japanese community leaders talked things over with the town leaders and persuaded them to take the signs down. In 1913, for mutual support and protection against rising anti-Japanese agitation, the California Central Farm Association was organized in San Francisco and later in Southern California. The association advised on farm planning and pest control, provided cooperative purchasing and selling and established a credit union. In 1916 the Southern California Fisherman's Association was formed to combat unfair anti-Japanese fishing laws.

From the Japanese Fisherman's Association to the Japanese American Citizens' League of today, our history proves we correctly saw the need to unite to confront common problems. But we have not yet identified our true enemy. We tend to think our prime enemy is racism and our prime goal to make ourselves somehow safe from discrimination. We must realize that racism is inextricably woven into the American Capitalist System. It is a tool to make exploitation easier, by dividing the victims against each other. We must realize that we cannot be safe from racist attacks unless we eliminate the exploitation of one group of people by another. We should not have allowed ourselves to be used to break strikes or allowed our experiences to be distorted to serve as an example of passivity in the face of oppression. If Japanese Americans examine our experiences objectively--with our own eyes--I think we will see that racism has not been the root cause of the problems we have faced in three generations in the U.S.. Racism is the mask worn by our true enemy--- who is also the enemy of the majority of white, black and brown Americans. This enemy is economic exploitation--the pursuit of profits in total disregard for human rights and needs.

See next issue for Part II

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