

## COPS STRIKE IN OCEAN HILL-BROWNSVILLE

by Charles Hightower

LIBERATION News Service

NEW YORK, Oct. 9 (LNS)--Seven black residents were arrested this morning in front of Jr. High 271 in the strife-torn Ocean Hill-Brownsville section of New York. (It is this local school board which has insisted on its right to hire and fire its own teachers in opposition to the United Federation of Teachers. The teachers' union struck for three weeks in September in an attempt to force the local board to retain teachers fired last May.)

The arrested included one woman, age 25, who was beaten by the police "so badly she had a miscarriage."

An eyewitness account described the action as follows: A group of several hundred residents of Ocean Hill-Brownsville congregated around J.H. 271, where police were putting up barricades. On signal from a white police lieutenant -- "Get those black motherfuckers" -- police surged into the crowd of residents, hitting at will. After attacking the residents, white policemen were withdrawn and a line of black policemen was installed in front of the school.

The seven were charged with various counts. The injured woman was charged with resisting arrest and "first degree inciting to riot." Her name is Dorthy Morrow.

Among those arrested were Black Panther Lieutenant Ron Hill, also beaten, who was charged by the police with "first degree inciting to riot" and assault. Bruce Middleton, a member of the Black Caucus whose "head was split wide open!" was charged with "inciting to riot," felonious assault, and resisting arrest. "Police picked the ones they wanted."

When the white police were withdrawn, the black police were brought up from the rear to man the line in front of the school. Black cops were facing black people from the community. Some of the community people began to taunt the cops with cries of "Come on over to our side, brother" and "Make a choice: the system or your black brothers and sisters."

Following the police attack, some 300 black residents marched through the streets of Brownsville to Jefferson high school.

The seven arrested were arraigned in night-court in downtown Brooklyn. They have all been released on \$500 bail. (Note: A man identified as Edward Fishman who had shown a badge from the Human Rights Commission while talking to one of the residents, was later seen with a policeman chasing Donald Lee, one of those arrested.)

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## MASS. COURT A BIT RICHER:

"A TYPICAL CASE OF AMERICAN BLIND JUSTICE"

GREENFIELD, Mass., Oct. 5 (LNS)--Eleven members of Liberation News Service reluctantly pleaded guilty to breach of the Peace charges signed by Marshall Bloom and Ray Mungo in the District Court of Greenfield, Mass., last Friday morning. The guilty pleas were entered to avoid trial on kidnapping and extortion charges filed by the same group and punishable in Massachusetts by life imprisonment.

Both sets of charges grew out of the New York group's attempts on August 10 to reclaim \$12,000 in funds (from a benefit showing of the Beatle's Magical Mystery Tour), as well as the LNS press, collator and files, from a farm in Montague, Mass.

The day before that, Marshall Bloom and a few other members of the news service had raided the New York office and carted the equipment to a farm which had recently been purchased in Bloom's name and paid for with collective funds from the LNS benefit. The kidnapping charges were filed August 11. The New York group refused to file counter charges of embezzlement and theft even though advised to do so by their lawyer.

After a meeting of the judge, the county DA and the New Yorkers' lawyer (held before the trial on Oct. 4), the defendants were told that the charges would be reduced from kidnapping to breach of the Peace. They collectively decided to plead not guilty to the lesser charge.

Once in the courtroom, however, they were not only faced with breach of the peace charges, but with kidnapping as well. The judge said that he had expected a guilty plea on the lesser charge and if he didn't get it, the defendants would face immediate trial on breach of the peace followed by a hearing on the kidnapping charge.

Both sets of charges were then read and all the defendants pleaded not guilty to both. A recess was then called and the New York group was given five minutes to decide a very complex issue. A hectic strategy caucus ensued.

It was felt that the judge was clearly in a hanging mood and if crossed on his plea-copping expectations, would mete out stiff sentences on the breach of peace charges. The kidnapping charges, more legal fees and grand jury appearances would then still be pending. Also, members of the Montague group had publicly declared they would not testify on the kidnapping charges; however, one of them had phoned the New York office before the trial and threatened to take the defendants "through the pits of legal hell." There was, as well, a strong desire to get the whole thing over with.

So, a bitter and grudging concession was made to Bloom and the courts, and the pleas were changed to guilty on the second reading.

Fines totaled \$450. (In a tribute to male chauvinism, the judge fined the men \$50 each and the women only \$25.) Both sides agreed that the fines would be paid out of \$6,000 in disputed funds still being held in an Amherst bank.

Perhaps the most significant lesson to be learned from this whole affair is that once you start playing the Man's games, you're in for it. The way the court system works, guilt and innocence are irrelevant. It gets you by the balls and you have to pay. Justice is meted out through back-room deals. Attorney's fees, transportation costs and such set-up charges as breach of the peace amount to "convictions" even if no testimony is heard.

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#### MAIL GETS THROUGH

NEW YORK, Oct. 8 (LNS)--A half-dozen large sacks of mail were delivered to the Liberation News Service headquarters at 160 Claremont Avenue by the U.S. Post Office on Monday, October 7th. The mail bags contained letters, copy and newspapers which had been held by the Post Office since early August. Regular mail delivery to the LNS office has since resumed.

The Post Office had been holding mail addressed to LNS in New York since Marshall Bloom filed a "change of address" form in August requesting that all LNS mail be forwarded to a farm in Montague, Massachusetts. This had been contested by LNS in New York and the Post Office had responded by keeping the mail for itself.

If anyone benefitted from this state of affairs, it was those noseey governmental agencies that enjoy reading other people's mail.

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#### AEROSPACE ZOOMS

WASHINGTON (LNS)--The aerospace industry, heart of America's military-industrial complex, has grown from an \$18 billion-a-year to a nearly \$30 billion-a-year business in the 1960's. In the past three years alone, aerospace firms, led by Lockheed Aircraft and General Dynamics, have received \$60 billion in Federal orders, most of them from the Defense Department.

Writing in a recent issue of the New Republic, Ralph Lapp, a military expert, points out the tremendous political pressure exercised by this rich industry.

"There are 1.6 million workers in the major aerospace industries," Lapp says, "and these together with relatives, friends and community beneficiaries of federal funds add up to around five million votes."

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#### BUFFALO NINE

BUFFALO, N.Y. (LNS)--Nine anti-war protesters face court action after federal agents, marshalls and police invaded a church and arrested them.

The arrests came after two draft resisters, Bruce Beyer and Bruce Cline, took sanctuary in the Unitarian-Universalist Church to make public their stand against being drafted for the war in Vietnam and against the increasing repression by Federal troops of black people.

Among the arrested individuals are three Vietnam war veterans.

The police used chains and blackjacks against the crowd surrounding the resisters. Bail was set at \$10,000. The Buffalo Nine Defense Committee characterized the bail as "so excessive as to constitute obvious repression and intimidation. Contributions can be sent to the committee at 937 W. Ferry, Buffalo, N.Y.

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