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The Story Of Waikiki--'Reclamation' For Profit

(MT would like to thank Barry Nakamura for the following article, the majority of which is taken from his master's thesis in history. This is the first of a three-part series)

This is the story of Waikiki, a world-famous resort and the heart of the leading industry in Hawaii, tourism. It is also the story of the changes that have occurred in Waikiki, particularly the radical changes in land use during the early 1900s. Most importantly, it is the story of how capitalist entrepreneurs were given a helping hand in their exploitation of Waikiki's land and people.

It may come as a surprise to many that Waikiki--as recently as the 1920s--was one of the most important areas in Hawaii for the cultivation of agriculture and aquaculture. Today, Waikiki has the highest concentration of hotels, shops, restaurants, entertainment facilities and other commercial enterprises in the state. It also has a high crime rate, congested traffic

and frequently polluted beaches.

Waikiki's profits from tourism and related land developments are among the highest in the state. But, for the workers who clean the rooms and serve the tourists' meals, the wages are the lowest of any major industry in Hawaii.

EARLY WAIKIKI

As early as the 14th century, Waikiki was regarded by Hawaiians as the ruling seat of Oahu. Utilizing the abundant water resources from the Manoa and Palolo Valleys, the Hawaiian people developed extensive taro pondfields and fresh and brackish water fishponds and irrigation systems during the first half of the 15th century.

The civilization which Cook found in 1778 was predominantly agricultural, with the growing of taro as its foundation. At the time of Cook's visit, there were at least 250 varieties of taro known and cultivated, and this staple of Hawaiian (continued on page 12)

Filipino Labor Leader To Talk On Philippine Struggles

Ernesto Arellano, Secretary-General of the two-million-strong Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawang Pilipino (Solidarity of Filipino Workers) will be arriving in Hawaii on February 15 on the first leg of a speaking journey through the United States and several European countries.

Arellano has been imprisoned three times and severely tortured by the Marcos regime for his involvement in the Filipino workers' movement. His speaking tour of the United States is sponsored by the National Organization of the Friends of the Filipino People.

One of the first steps that the Marcos government took when it declared martial law in 1972 was to ban workers' strikes and to arrest numerous labor activists. Arellano was one of those arrested during the first wave of arrests. Despite these measures, the Marcos government never completely suppressed the burgeoning labor movement. During the entire eight-year period of formal martial law in the Philippines, thousands of workers defied the ban on strikes and went on countless demonstrations and other forms of mass actions to denounce the Marcos government, its multinational corporate supporters and imperialism.



When martial law was "lifted" in the country in January, 1981, the workers stepped up their protests. Between January 17 and May 28, 1981, there was a total of 138 strikes, or an average of more than one a day. (continued on page 2)

FILIPINO LABOR LEADER TO SPEAK (continued from p.1)

Many of these strikes were met with State violence and several workers were killed. In 1980, the May First Movement (Kilusang Mayo Uno), of which Arellano is also Secretary-General, held a convention of 35,000 workers, during which the Marcos regime and its imperialist backers were identified as the main enemy of the Filipino workers. Shortly after this, the KMW offices were raided and Arellano was arrested. However, on May 1, 1981, the KMW led a mile-long procession of workers through the streets of Quezon City, Philippines, protesting worker oppression and the murder of labor organizers. The KMW, itself a federation of several unions of garment, hotel, sugar and other workers, merged with the Solidarity of Filipino Workers (PMP).

The Filipino workers have a long tradition of involvement in the anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movement in the Philippines. A warehouseman, Andres Bonifacio, formed the revolutionary organization Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (Union of the Sons and Daughters of the People) in the late 1890s to overthrow Spanish colonial rule. During the period of American colonization, despite efforts to divert the workers' movement along approved trade union lines, the workers' movement rejected economism and instead concentrated on the demand for Philippine independence. A union of printers, the Union de Impresores de Filipinas (Union of Printers of the Philippines), formed the core of the Communist Party of the Philippines when it was established in 1930.

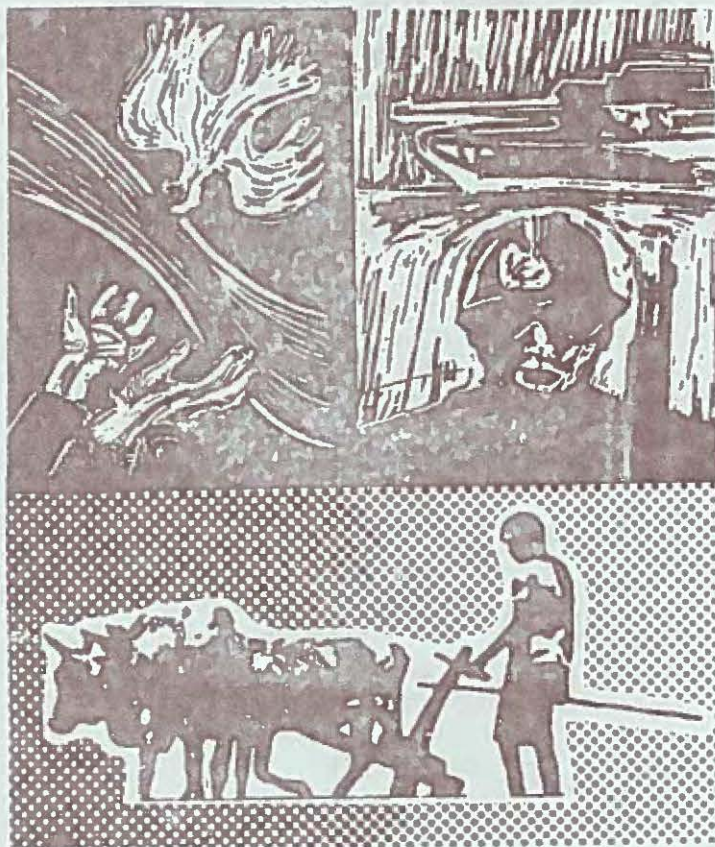
Filipino workers were at the forefront of the anti-Japanese guerilla struggle during World War 2, but the workers' movement suffered huge setbacks in the 1950s because of the right and "left" errors of the revisionist leadership of the Communist Party.

Upon the re-establishment of the Communist Party in 1968, however, the workers' movement began to move forward again. Workers' organizations played leading roles in the mammoth demonstrations against imperialism which rocked the Philippines in the late '60s and early '70s.

The Filipino workers understand their historic role in the Philippines. Workers spearhead the urban mass movements and the armed struggle against imperialist rule and feudal exploitation. Although the workers' organizations, whether small union locals or the giant Solidarity of Filipino Workers, demand wage increases and better working conditions, such demands are always linked to the imperative of overthrowing the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines and instituting in its place a people's government.

For this reason, the workers' movement has been harassed constantly, its leaders imprisoned or murdered, and its activities severely curtailed by the State. However, it has been able to function, pursuing a semi-legal existence, because the Marcos government is unable to suppress a mass movement numbering in the millions.

Ernesto Arellano, as a leading member of the Filipino workers' movement, will discuss all these before labor, community and other interested groups when he comes to Hawaii. If your group is interested in hearing him, contact Amy, telephone 948-7348, for information.



Feb. 2-4, UH/Manoa Campus Teach-In On Central America

The Hawaii Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (HCISPES), in conjunction with the Students in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (SISPES), will present a three-day "Teach-in" on Central America and the Caribbean on February 2, 3 and 4 at the Campus Center of the University of Hawaii (Manoa).

The program on Tuesday, February 2, from noon to 1:30 p.m., will focus on the current situation in El Salvador itself. A slideshow on El Salvador will be shown, followed by a discussion, with Prof. Walter Johnson as moderator, on the U.S. government white paper, as well as the relationship of U.S. involvement in El Salvador to the possible resumption of the draft.

On Wednesday, February 3, also from noon to 1:30 p.m., another slideshow will be shown, focusing on multinational corporate involvement in Central America and links with Hawaii. This will be followed by a general discussion on the situation in Guatemala and Nicaragua.

The program on Thursday, February 4, will be held in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., centering on the screening of an updated version of the film "El Salvador: Another Vietnam?" which contains footage shot in El Salvador recently. Following the film there will be a featured speaker as yet to be announced. The program will conclude with a general discussion on a variety of Central American issues.

Hale Mohalu

HALE MOHALU'S DAYS IN COURT

After long delays, the patients of Hale Mohalu and Kalaupapa got a day in Federal Court, actually 4 days, to argue their case against the State's gross deprivation of their rights and denial of utilities and services. For over 4 years, the State administration of George Ariyoshi has attempted to evict or force out the remaining patients from their home and grounds at Hale Mohalu, Pearl City. In Sept. 1978, the State cut off all utilities, food service, and medical care to those residing at Hale Mohalu. The patients resisted, with the backing of the Kalaupapa (Molokai) patient community and their support Ohana, and continue to reside at Hale Mohalu, despite hardships, expenses, and even loss of life (the passing of Mary Duarte) in part caused by the State's cruel and illegal measures in attempting to evict the patients.

The Federal district court in Honolulu initially ruled a few years ago that the patients had no standing to sue. That incredible ruling was reversed by the 9th Circuit Court in San Francisco, and the Honolulu Court was ordered to hold hearings on the substantive facts involved in the patients' plea for an injunction on the State to compel it to restore utilities and services while the main case was being heard and decided. Judge Pence conducted the hearing last January 20-25, and Sid Wolinsky of Public Advocates, assisted by Legal Aid attorney Bob Harris, argued the patients' side. It is unclear whether Judge Pence or the 9th Circuit Court will rule on the injunction.

But the Hale Mohalu Ohana will continue to marshal public support, with leafletting, slide show presentations, fundraising, and weekly picketing (3:30-5 p.m.) Fridays in front of the State Capitol. A benefit concert is also being planned, probably in March. To donate time or monies or to schedule the Ohana's slideshow, contact the Ohana, 787 Kam Highway, Pearl City, Hawaii 96782 (Phone 456-2585).



Hale Mohalu patients and supporters picketed a Year of the Disabled banquet held at the Ala Moana Hotel to protest the selection of Health Department Director George Yuen as the main speaker. Yuen and Governor Ariyoshi ordered the assault on the patients' rights at Hale Mohalu.

MORE DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sun., Feb. 14, Bookstore Benefit picnic at Magic Island, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 16, Sentencing of Jim Albertini by Fed. Judge Sam King.
- Mon., Mar. 1, Nuclear-Free Pacific Day.



NUKOLII CASE HEARD IN STATE SUPREME COURT

Before a packed courtroom audience last January 18, the Save Nukolii Committee of Kauai brought its case for an injunction against the developers to the Hawaii State Supreme Court. Sid Wolinsky of Public Advocates, Inc. (San Francisco) argued the case of the people against the Nukolii developers, an international hui involving Pacific Standard Life Insurance, John Graham Partners, and Hasegawa Komuten. Wolinsky assailed the bad faith of the developers and the collusion of Kauai County officials in granting the key building permit for the condo-hotel development on Kauai's limited beachfront land just one day before the November 4, 1980, plebiscite on the issue. Kauai voters, by a 2-to-1 margin, rejected the zoning for the project and reverted the zoning to open agricultural. Wolinsky sought an injunction against further construction on the site and the removal of the illegal condos.

Even the justices seemed amazed by the developers' attorneys' arguments, though the justices' tough questioning may have been more for show than an indication of how they will decide. The developers argued that they had proceeded in good faith and the \$4.3 million they had spent (mainly in payments to their own subsidiaries) gave them a "vested right" to develop, regardless of the referendum. "We proceeded like any businessman would," argued the Standard Life Co. lawyer, who went on to bemoan that the referendum had intruded on "the constitutional rights of private landowners." The Kauai County counsel, who sat with the developers' attorney, told the Court that the people's plebiscite right is not absolute and decried the "race of the people" in mounting opposition to the development, implying that the people were in "bad faith" and not the developers.

All in all, the hearing went very well for the people and the Save Nukolii Committee who had over a dozen of their people on hand. The judges may take months in deciding the issue, but the Committee intends to continue building mass support, leafletting patrons of Hilton Hotels (the management company for the Nukolii resort), and raising funds. Donations can be sent to the Save Nukolii Committee, P.O. Box 194, Hanamaulu, Kauai 96715 (Phone: 822-9455).

Dates to Remember

- Tues., Mar. 2, AFSC/catholic Action panel on denuking West Loch, 7:30 pm at the Friends Meeting House
- Thurs., Mar. 4, MSC Forum on Micronesia and the Military, 7 pm, Crossroads Ch (call 942-0437 for more info)
- Sat., Mar. 6, Hawaii Alliance annual conference, 8:30 am-3 pm, Harris Church (Nuuanu & Vineyard).
- Sat., Mar. 6, Protect Kahoolawe Ohana commemoration of George Helm & Kimo Mitchell (call 947-4946 for info).

Health Care Coverage Under Attack

A Congressional fact-finding hearing was held in Honolulu on January 7 in connection with a House resolution which would allow Hawaii to keep its Prepaid Health Care Act despite a recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court which rendered the Act inoperative.

Since January 1975, the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act has guaranteed comprehensive coverage to all wage earners who work 20 hours or more a week. Now, as a result of a challenge brought by Standard Oil of California, the court has ruled that the Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) supersedes Hawaii's Act.

The loss of the Prepaid Health Act would be a major blow to all of Hawaii's workers but would fall particularly hard on the 46% of the work force who are women. The vast majority of Hawaii's women workers earn only the minimum wage or just slightly above. Six out of every ten are employed as either clerical or service workers, the lowest paid and most marginal occupations. Only 15% of Hawaii's women workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements and, thus, most women in Hawaii have little job security and no guarantee that fringe benefits will remain the same.

Testifying on behalf of Working Women of Hawaii, Judy Sobin explained that "the adoption of Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act gave to many of Hawaii's women their first medical coverage provided, at least in part, by the employer. For other women, their medical coverage was improved with the passage of the Act. For the thousands of women who work for temporary agencies, medical coverage was at last guaranteed."

"Temporary workers," continued Sobin, "will verylikely be the first to lose their medical coverage. Those women in service industries, such as restaurants and non-unionized hotels, will probably be next. For those women working in offices, the change will probably be more subtle. If the recession takes a greater hold on business, medical benefits will more than likely be trimmed."

Congressman Philip Burton of California conducted the hearing on the resolution which has been introduced by Congressman Cec Heftel. During the hearing, Bernard Stern, chairperson of the Prepaid Health Care Advisory Council, testifying in support of the resolution, indicated that "50,000 employees in small marginal operations that had never before been covered for health care protection received comprehensive coverage." He further stated that "possibly another 50,000 or so . . . had their benefits upgraded in order to order to meet the minimum standards established by the Prepaid Health Care Act."

Working Women of Hawaii suspects that employers will gradually begin to tamper with health care benefits, but that cuts in benefits or increases in premiums paid by employees may not be openly apparent. Albert Yuen, President of the Hawaii Medical Services Association (HMSA) confirmed this suspicion by noting that some employers have already begun to invoke a 3 to 6 month waiting period (the Act mandated coverage within 30 days) before health coverage becomes effective.

The Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act has been an unqualified success, resulting in 98% coverage of Hawaii's workers. Even employers testifying against the Heftel resolution admitted the importance of comprehensive health coverage, but nevertheless say that they do not want to be "forced" to provide it.

Women and all working people need the guarantee--not the promise--that they will have comprehensive health care coverage. The resolution to amend ERISA to allow the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act to remain in effect is important to all workers and must be supported. For further information, contact Working Women at 734-8671.

Mon., Mar. 8, Int'l Women's Day.



WORKING WOMEN OF HAWAII

FUNDRAISER

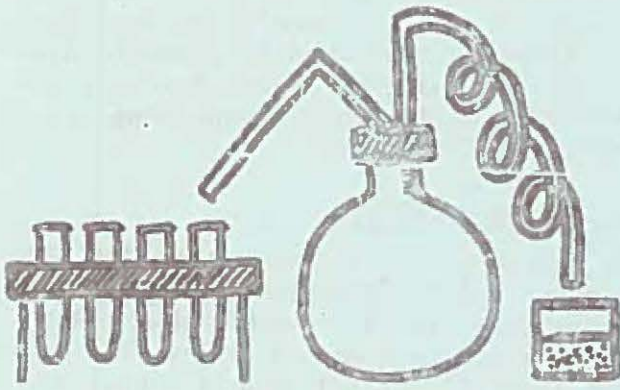
Working Women of Hawaii will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday, February 27, tentatively scheduled at the Women's Center at the University YWCA. There will be good food, a cash bar and great entertainment.

FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION

CALL 734-8671

A Scientist Speaks Out

The Politics Of Capitalist Science



Scientific controversies present special difficulties for socialists. The right has no problem presenting its arguments in the form of predigested slogans and appeals to god and prejudice. Socialists, however, are acutely aware that their own political views are the results of intensive efforts (exemplified by Marx) to analyze real-world information about objective conditions. We don't have this easy out. We have too much respect for data to just dismiss conclusions when they don't fit our expectations. We have to analyze, explain and allow for this as well as we can.

In the long run this is a great strength. In the short run it leaves us at a disadvantage against the "Nuclear Gang," the poison industry, the genetic engineers, the environmental destroyers, and the whole mob of peddlers and their addicts with a technological fix for everything.

The basic reason is money. They have it, we don't. With money they can buy control of most of the data which, in many of these areas, can be obtained only by expensive experiments and field observations, or by extensive literature searches by highly trained people. For most of the data in most of these controversies, the costs of full collection are far beyond federal agencies like the EPA, let alone citizen organizations.

They can do two things with controlled data. They can lie about it and they can select from it. The first is obvious enough. The second is the reason for the saying that "you can prove anything with statistics." This saying is false. In fact, you can't prove anything (true or false) with statistics, merely show what's likely. Honestly presented statistics will rarely lead you astray. However, if you have enough data, then it's easy to select from it to "prove" whatever you want. For example, if I could hire 1,000 researchers and ask each of them to choose 10 men and 10 women at random and record their heights, the chances are quite good that at least one of my researchers will find that the women were taller than the men. (If it doesn't work, I'll hire another 1,000 researchers, and keep going until I'm satisfied.) I can then present this researcher's results, ignoring the other 999, as "proof" that women are taller than men. If you didn't have the evidence

of your own eyes and didn't know the existence of the 999 groups I kept secret, how could you argue?

Finally, having manipulated the data, they can publicize their distortions. Virtually every advertisement that trumpets the environmental benefits of nuclear power, timber cutting, pesticides, etc., involves data selection and the likelihood of distortion. And they are all brought to you by money: it would be interesting to compare the costs of a week's supply of the openly political Mobil ads to the combined total spent by all leftist parties for election year 1980.

The basic problem is actually a little deeper than money. If, say, Dow Chemical merely wanted to spray its own land and buildings, they might play the usual tricks with data, advertisements and lawyers, but they'd be bankrupt whether they won or lost just as the environmental groups are. But in fact Dow's poisons are sold for profit, so the money they spend in legal and legislative struggles is not a cost, as it would be for us, but an investment. A victory leaves them not exhausted but richer and stronger. There is an accelerating accumulation of political power very similar to the accelerating accumulation of capital described by Marx. This seems to me a virtually unbreachable barrier to full democracy, and its source is not as much wealth and money as private control of the means of production, i.e., capitalism.

What about scientists outside the corporations? These, usually university scientists, are frequently the only people who can produce the data and analyses to counter corporate distortions. They are the most likely to know what to look for and where to look, and to have the time and equipment to do it. But although they are indispensable, they are far from reliable.

Why? As with data selection, it is not quite a matter of outright lying. There are no certainties in science. Most of the controversial areas contain a lot of unknowns, plenty of room for opinion and bias, of which scientists have as much as anyone. Much of scientific work is guesswork, to be verified (or not) by later experiments and analyses. In the public arena, though, scientists' guesses can be influenced not only by their data, but by their non-scientific desires and beliefs as well.

Here's a short list, in no special order, of some pitfalls between the lab and the courtroom (or the TV ad):

Bribery: Corporations usually pay handsomely for courtroom testimony--citizens' organizations can't.

Pride: It isn't easy for, say, a nuclear physicist to decide that s/he has done the world far more harm than good in 40 years of hard, perhaps brilliant, work. The same goes for a pesticide chemist who may have

(continued on page 14)

LEFT JABS



U.H. IMPLEMENTS H.U.D.'S ANTI-FOREIGN CAMPAIGN

In a December 14 memo sent out to chancellors, University of Hawaii vice president for academic affairs, David A. Heenan, announced an eviction notice for all foreign students residing in federally-funded housing units in Hawaii. This reactionary move by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.) is, as Heenan put it, "in response to disturbances instigated by Iranian students several years ago" and means the forced removal of foreign students from residences funded or run by the Hawaii Housing Authority (H.H.A.).

"In all cases, landlords will be required to ascertain the citizenship status of renters, and all illegal or temporary aliens will be evicted or given terminal leases," said Heenan. Students residing in subsidized Palolo housing, including many East-West Center grantees, are being forced to leave within 30 days of the notice, conveniently enacted during the school break when protests are harder to organize. Heenan said state-funded housing residents may also be affected.

Nothing was mentioned about penalties for those landlords or foreign students who refuse to comply. Deportation? Imprisonment? Being pinned with a scarlet letter "A"---for "Alien"---perhaps?

GIMME SHELTER

While Ronald Reagan was partying on New Year's Eve with Caspar Weinberger, Frank Sinatra and other California luminaries, his super corporate patrons were reaping one of the administration's lucrative resolutions for 1982.

The New Republic (Dec. 30) reported that Reagan's "most exotic invention in tax history: the tax benefit sale" will allow corporations to sell unused tax exemptions to escape certain tax brackets, a transaction profiting both corporate buyer and seller. As a result of the administration's generosity toward the capitalist elite, General Electric is said "to have sheltered its income for the next five years." Ford passed on \$1 billion in tax benefits to IBM. Occidental Petroleum, which has so many foreign tax credits that it pays no U.S.

taxes, was able to sell \$100 million in tax benefits to the insurance corporation Marsh & McLennan.

Exxon is also big into the benefit-buying market, but it won't disclose how big. It seems that when it comes to discussing its financial power, Exxon is uncharacteristically shy in expending its energy.

DIAL "O" FOR OPERATIVE

As Reagan tries to distract public attention to Polish "repression," his administration has steadily been moving toward building a police state at home. The media clamor about Libyan hit squads supposedly gunning for the President, a claim later repudiated by F.B.I. chief William Webster, virtually ignored the implications of the sudden decision by Reagan to unleash the C.I.A. on domestic political groups. The move is reminiscent of the dirty tricks campaign launched by Nixon against the anti-war movement, but now on a grander scale.

Covert Action (Oct 1981) revealed that the next stage in setting up a domestic spy apparatus is now pending in Congress where "a complicated and technical revision" to the 1934 Federal Communications Act is being worked out "which would give supervisory control of the U.S. telephone system to the Pentagon, even without any declared national emergency."

In 1980, the British publication New Statesman revealed that the U.S. National Security Agency, together with British intelligence, had already secretly installed an international wiretap system on all telephone and message transmissions between the U.S. and the U.K. and between the U.K. and the European continent. But as the bulk of transcontinental traffic is among

transnational corporations, such cloak and dagger maneuvers also suggest that all is not so amicable between the trilateral sluggers and the Pentagon buggers.

A BLOOPER REMEMBERED

No edition on the wit and wisdom of Ronald Reagan would be complete without including an episode that occurred when the ex-Hollywood actor was public relations man for General Electric in the 1950s.

Norm Bentley of United Electric Workers Local 205 (U.E. News, Oct 26, 1981) remembers Reagan visiting and stopping to chat with G.E. workers in the Worcester, Mass., plant in 1954. Bentley recalls how "He walked by one woman who was working on one of the assembly lines and asked, 'How's it going?' She answered, 'Terrible.' He stood there, smiling with his make-up all over his white collar, and said, 'That's nice,' and walked on.

"I couldn't believe it," Bentley mused. "That was his job for G.E."

Ronald Reagan---ever the P.R. smoothie.

--J.S.

Poland And The Philippines...

Parallels In Conflict

The martial law declared in Poland on December 13, 1981, by General Wojciech Jaruzelski under pressure of the Soviet Union hardly differs from the martial law declared by Ferdinand E. Marcos in the Philippines on September 21, 1972, at the behest of U.S. imperialist interests.

While some left organizations see Jaruzelski's declaration as a necessary means to crush Solidarity, a workers' trade union movement they view as "counterrevolutionary," it is obvious to all that the emergence of Solidarity in 1980 as a potent force in Polish politics is not to be denied, whatever reactionary elements there may be in Solidarity--as most certainly there are in the Polish dictatorship and elsewhere.

In the Philippines, Marcos "lifted" martial law on January 17, 1981, but it continues in substance, still banning strikes, salvaging workers, etc. Yet, on May 1, 1980, more than 30,000 workers, representing 40 labor unions, gathered in Manila and founded the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), or May First Movement. One can see in the KMU's demands marked similarities to the demands of Solidarity: (1) Raise the minimum daily wage to at least 33 pesos (\$4.34), a level barely sufficient to meet the needs of the average worker's family; (2) Restore the right to strike; (3) Abolish preventive suspension; (4) Recognize the right of all workers to organize unions and bargain collectively; (5) Restore all civil liberties; and (6) Nationalize industries controlled by multinational corporations.

In response to the KMU's demands, the Marcos dictatorship raided KMU's offices and, among others, arrested its general secretary, Ernesto Arellano (who has since been released and will soon visit Hawaii and the U.S.; see related article in this issue).



What is especially painful about the Polish martial law situation is that Ronald Reagan may use the situation to attempt to intervene militarily in Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, and against the democratic forces in El Salvador and Guatemala. Second, Reagan could well use the situation in Poland to substantiate his claims that additional U.S. missiles are needed in Western Europe to confront the Soviet Union. Third, Reagan may break off the discussions in Geneva with the Soviet Union about nuclear arms reductions, especially if the Soviets continue to pressure Jaruzelski to maintain martial law.

Certainly the rapidly ascendant right will continue to use Polish martial law to augment their reactionary views about the Soviet Union. In this light, the defections of the Polish ambassadors to the U.S. and Japan contribute immeasurably to the rabid anti-communist hysteria building up in the U.S., very much like in the early 50s when Senator Joseph McCarthy ran amuck, and many Americans suffered as a result of this demagogue's rantings.

The U.S. must cease its support of the Philippine dictatorship, and the Soviet Union must let Poland determine its own destiny as a socialist state. Most importantly, Solidarity must play an important role in this determination.

--J. J. Kaufmann



POTATOES: A STARRY NIGHT

Potatoes
on the table:
brown roots
of soil tilled
by shadows
now clustered --
mute mourners
about a bare dinner.

The calloused hands are tired . . .
the mouth which shares kisses
with the brown earth
refuses
protests
against the bitter menu.

The glow of the oil lamp
intimates, threatens.
Van Gogh, think of it:
In their breast
they held squeezed the eruption
of a starry night.

-- Manuel D. Pambid
(translated by N.R.)

Ti Mangyuna: Rebuttal To Teodoro Review

I am sure that Luis V. Teodoro, Jr. put a lot of work into his review of Ti Mangyuna. The play, of course, can stand on its own merits and played to appreciative audiences all over Hawaii. The question brought up in Teodoro's review is not whether the play was "good or not" but what criteria are we to use to judge a work of art? I found myself wanting to rush over to Waipahu and Ewa to see some old Visayan friends who worked on the plantations (and saw the play) and ask them, "Did you find the play adequate theatre but inadequate drama? Did you feel that the play revealed adequately the clash of the vast social and cultural forces both for the individual and ultimately human destiny within the Philippine and Hawaiian context?" I know what they would say: They liked the play. It rang true to their own experience; a few cried because they remembered something almost like it was in the play. They remember the struggle, the doubt, the division

There is a school of thought in sociology, influenced greatly by the European philosophers like Alfred Schutz, which holds that the most relevant knowledge for sociology is precisely that of the "person in the street" --the common sense knowledge as opposed to the theoretical constructions of the intellectuals. Following from that--farther down the trail--you can put a lot more trust in folk research done by slum dwellers on their own situation than you can on research done by professional researchers hired by a city administration.

"Vulgarization has always been the main pitfall of committed art and this presentation is not immune to it," Teodoro states. The word "vulgar" is taken from the Latin and originally referred to common people, to the non-Romans who brought their "inferior culture" into the empire and eventually subdued it. In that sense, I think everyone agrees--Ti Mangyuna was from the people and for the people. It's an important criterion for a committed art presentation--it has to be vulgar. Ti Mangyuna was a good vulgar play.

Edward M. Gerlock

LUIS V. TEODORO, JR. REPLIES:

The core of Gerlock's argument is that Ti Mangyuna is a good play because people liked it. Gerlock calls it a "good vulgar play."

It is this kind of cheerful Philistinism that has transformed much of what passes for committed art into parody, ammunition with which the cultural spokespersons of the ruling classes snipe at the literature and art of the oppressed. Hasn't Gerlock ever heard of the charge that committed art is simple-minded, mechanical, hortatory, etc., precisely because there have been numerous instances of simple-mindedness, etc.?

The populist sociology Gerlock refers to--logical positivism's counter to

radical Marxist sociology--has an equivalent in populist criticism: what people like must be good. The dangers of this viewpoint are immediately apparent. It leads to the affirmation of prevailing tastes and values that the ruling classes want the oppressed to have because these help keep the oppressed in their place. A lot of people in the Philippines, for example, like the soft-porn movies that the government encourages because it doesn't want films which deal with the Philippine social reality. The question now, Edward, is: are these soft-porn movies "good vulgar" movies because people like them?

It should be apparent by now, even to Gerlock, that progressive leadership, whether in culture or in politics, should not merely mirror "what people want"; it is also its responsibility to learn from them and to teach them. To give them what they want is to patronize and, ultimately, to betray them: it is to succumb to dominant tastes, values and ideas, all fostered by the ruling classes to make their rule easier.

The distinction between theatre and drama is more relevant than Gerlock thinks--and I'm not saying that the people who went to see Ti Mangyuna should have known the distinction, but that the playwrights and the producers should have. Theatre is a feast for the eye and the ear, in terms of color, movement, sound, etc. Drama examines the specific, human significance of events (Gerlock assumes that I wanted the audience to understand the "clash of social forces" which brought Filipinos to Hawaii -- I do, but only insofar as those have had an impact on the lives of people). Drama proceeds from disequilibrium, from conflict, from contradiction. A play asks to be judged as a play, because it is a play, not a street manifesto. The power of art to educate rests on its fulfilling itself as art, in its own terms. As one Filipino poet once put it: Kung tatagpas ka ng ulo, hindi mo ba ihahasa ang iyong gulok? ("If you will cut off heads, must you not hone your machete?")

The art that would "cut off heads" must know its techniques -- and this isn't an argument for the high fallutin' either. A bad play is, quite simply, an ineffective play. The primary flaw of Ti Mangyuna proceeds from its attempt to put forward a line that "those who led the way" into unions of Hawaii have thereby led the Filipinos into paradise. This is a difficult theme to realize because it is false -- and no amount of clever lighting, spirited singing, ethnic humor or slick choreography can conceal that falsehood. The use of these techniques, indeed, amounts to deception.

Finally: it is the duty of criticism to criticize, in the hope, often futile because too few people can regard their work with objectivity, that something can be learned from past mistakes. I said that Ti Mangyuna "will have to do", implying that it is a beginning. Without criticism we'd all still be seeing films in the manner of The Ten Commandments.

IRS—In Resistance And Survival

A fine anti-war documentary on the Vietnam era recently aired on Hawaii TV began with a close-up shot of a young man, draft age, taking a check out of his wallet--in payment of federal income taxes--and burning it before the camera. The effect is startling because we are expecting the youth, of course, to burn his draft card.

We begin an article on tax resistance with this anecdote in order to focus on the fact that, with or without the draft or draft registration, the U.S. is a nation with a permanent war economy. Under the Reagan administration's proposed budget, there will be a massive shift of capital, produced by workers as taxpayers, to the non-labor intensive war- and weapons-related industries. Thus, on the way to nuclear annihilation, the people will also be sweated and starved to pay the taxes to wipe out jobs which produce goods and services for them.

Interestingly, while the media focuses on the highest draft-registration non-compliance record in American history (800,000 have failed to register, or a rate of 25%), the Internal Revenue Service revealed that tax refusal has jumped 300% in the last three years. Given the number of taxpayers as opposed to the number of males required to register for the draft, the tax resistance rate is astonishing--too astonishing for the media to report too often.

The increase in resistance or refusal represents an instinctive recognition by the tax-paying, wage-earning classes of the need to resist an economy which threatens immediate, personal annihilation. It is this spontaneous breakdown of compliance with the rules of the bourgeoisie that may make it possible to funnel the tide of resistance into more conscious channels of political action.

The task will not be easy. As always, Congress will attempt to mask the massive shift in productive priorities nationwide by seeming to respond to the taxpayer "revolt," favoring now one and now another segment of the work force with tax "credits" and "deductions," confusing the overall picture while an ever larger number of people move from being the working poor to the unemployed.

The task for progressives, as a visible anti-war force, will be two-fold: addressing the twin issues of the draft and the drafting of our collective labor in the form of war taxes. It will require that we set for ourselves education and direct-action initiatives to keep people conscious of their direct cooperation in their own destruction--as individual hostages to nuclear annihilation and as classes whose earnings fuel the disintegration of some jobs and the export of others to captive labor forces overseas. The media, this time around, cannot be allowed to distort workers' hostility to the government's

policies as it did in the Vietnam war era. (Contrary to popular belief, blue-collar opinion was not uniformly and consistently hawkish: "A 1968 study found 59% with low social position, 40% with intermediate . . . and 31% with high social position favoring withdrawal of American troops." Milton Rosenberg, Vietnam and the Silent Majority)

Today, workers' consciousness of the offensive being mounted by the Reagan administration is higher and sharper thanks to Reagan's treatment of the PATCO strikers. Significantly, the PATCO strike was broken by an army of military scab air-traffic controllers, the strikers were labeled as lawbreakers, and consumers are now receiving reduced and less-safe service.



Such lessons must be driven home by an anti-war movement as openly opposed to the collection of war taxes as it was openly opposed to the draft during the Vietnam era not because, as Americans, we are necessarily pacifist but because we are not passiv-ists, bowing our necks to a form of slavery as wage earners.

Mass public burning of war tax checks may be the shot--the camera shot--heard round America come April 15, 1982. It may be that, as progressives, we are only helping to develop a "positive" from a negative that is already being worked on in the privacy of many a conscience. Or so that 300% statistic may be saying.

For information on what you can do, contact:

American Friends Service
Committee
2426 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu, HI
988-6266

War Resisters
League
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY

Sample literature is also available from:

Frances Viglielmo
163 Nenu Street
Honolulu, HI 96821
373-1560

--Frances Viglielmo

Packaging Politics, Hollywood Style

Three Views On 'Reds'

ON VIEWING A COUPLE WHO HAPPEN TO BE "REDS"

Considering all the fuss, one goes to see "REDS" with the expectation of being able to say something profound about it. Mid-way through the movie, one realizes that this is not possible because (a) the movie is not profound and (b) despite publicity to the contrary, it has no intentions of being so.

It is first of all a romance -- staple of all themes -- and the years of political turmoil in which the story unfolds are meant to cast the romance into epic proportions. Otherwise, everything is ordinary: two people run after a Meaning in a chaotic world, going through the tensions that a couple who have definite ideas about what they should be go through, and trying to resolve the conflict between the demands of private life and the demands of the world. In the end, love triumphs and brings its poignancy. Tragedy comes in the shape of death. Are we summarizing "REDS" or Segal's "LOVE STORY?" No matter. Plot-wise, there is not that much difference.

There are a number of reasons as to why the movie fails to achieve epic dimensions. For one, the political upheavals are not integrated into the account of the relationship between Reed and Bryant. That cannot be helped, one supposes. They are, after all, observers of the Revolution, not movers of it. For another, one may disagree with the characterization of the hero and heroine. They seem to be take-offs on the usual kookie-Annie Hall type that's become the norm for the "liberated soul." There is something unpleasant about the characterization of a liberated woman as, first of all, being sexually free. One may ask why, whenever one talks about liberation in relation to men, it is immediately equated with political or economic freedom whereas whenever the subject is raised in connection with women, the expected reply is: "I'd like to see you with your pants off, Mr. Reed." Granted that Warren Beatty is a pleasing object with or without his pants, still there must be ways to delineate a liberated female other than simple amorousness.

The third reason is technique. Beatty and Keaton are pretty but their acting is flat. In one particular scene, for instance, when Bryant, after having crossed what seemed to have been the last Ice Age in search of Reed only to be confronted with what could be his corpse -- one expects to be overcome by the magnitude of the pain of that instant. What comes through is a pinch. The scenes that leave one breathless are those of Jack Nicholson (D'Neill). One expects Reed to have the same intensity so as to inspire a passion that would ford the fjords of Finland. Unfortunately, Nicholson has it and Beatty, who plays Reed, doesn't. That leaves one with the question of what is so unique about this man that propels him into the vortex of both history and passion.

The use of the time-collapse technique of splicing and repeating scenes to convey (a) the swiftness of time's passing, and (b) the repetitiousness of events is both an advantage and a disadvantage. An advantage in that it capsulizes the ambiance of the era but a disadvantage in that it glosses over details. We cannot see the roots of the tension between Reed and Bryant. What comes through is a certain arbitrariness and flatness -- the last best describes the topography of the film itself. It has, as it were, something for everyone: a Revolution for the Left, disillusionment for the Right, continued idealism for the romantic and for the emotional, a love that spans continents and oceans.

The film does have its pleasant moments. The correspondence drawn between a Revolution on the march and Love deepening (just before the intermission) can be turned into a statement: in both circumstances, the noblest of man's emotions are involved. The same sense of creativity, the same feel of the romantic, pervade both activities. After all, what can be more romantic than the effort to create a society based on one's highest hopes? That, in a way, is an expression of youth -- and we know that youth is necessary for the kind of passionate love that lies close to being an aesthetic experience. Unfortunately, the statement does not hold through -- and the second half of the film goes into the conflict between marriage and commitment. At this point, one finds it difficult to comprehend Bryant's intransigence. She is supposed to have gone through the same experience as Reed. What flaw in her soul has rendered it so callous as to leave it untouched? Yet, she speaks of the Russian people with "shining eyes." Alas, it must difficult to transfer one's allegiance to the Revolution abroad to the Revolution at home.

As the film draws to an end, one realizes one message: better red yet bedded than not at all. Which is a rehash of "better to have loved and . . ." Etc. One doesn't have to take a political position on that.

"REDS" is competent soap. Let's leave it at that.

-- N. R.

Reds is an interesting phenomenon. The film is good historically, and unsatisfying in its politics. Beatty as Reed and Keaton as Bryant seem like spoiled adolescents playing with avant-garde radicalism, rather than committed revolutionaries. The sexual politics are also troubling. They speak of free love, but the audience laughs at their naivete and doesn't believe they mean it. With good reason: Beatty/Reed and Keaton/Bryant speak of non-monogamy but fight over jealousies and lovers...not honestly trying to understand how they feel and why it is so difficult to be non-monogamous, but like most of us, with damaged egos and lots of social baggage.

The film doesn't challenge politically-- although Beatty does imply that the Revolution was a noble moment in human history,

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that moment of hope, the film contends, was betrayed by Soviet bureaucracy (and, shudder—perhaps human nature.) And yet, it's still remarkable that the movie is being shown in these anti-Soviet times....The audience was there, listening to the *Internationale*; they learned something about the I.W.W. and Emma Goldman (particularly that she repudiated the Russian Revolution), and heard a few positive remarks about Lenin, and listened to something at least ambiguous about the Revolution. Not a small feat—and perhaps if the film had been more overtly political, they wouldn't have gone....—M. May, Richmond, Va.

"Reds" is a film dealing with the life of journalist-activist John Reed, one of the more important figures in the history of the U.S. left. Reed was present in Russia at the time of the revolution and thus much of the film deals with the period leading up to the Bolshevik revolution and with events thereafter. As such, the film deals with subject matter virtually unknown to the U.S. public. The viewing audience is exposed to ideas about party-building, Comintern strategy, the conflict between anarchism and Bolshevism, and the movement in the United States against World War I.

As a whole, "Reds" is a very positive portrayal of the Russian Revolution. However, because the film is a creature of the capitalist system, a way had to be found to package this message and also to water it down. Hollywood found the way, through use of a love story. Indeed, from the advertisements, one would not know the film had had anything to do with a revolution.

The entire first half of the film is taken up mostly with the ups and downs of Reed's love affair with Louise Bryant, an American journalist. Reed's radicalism is clearly present, but essentially it is a back-drop to the love affair. The love triangle among Reed, Bryant and the playwright Eugen O'Neill takes up an immense amount of time, and at this point politics much flies out the window and one finds oneself in a soap opera.

Reed and Bryant finally arrive in Russia. They are both taken up with writing about what they see and one gets a fleeting glimpse of Lenin and Trotsky; however, one never hears them speak. Reed speaks at a rally and from this point on he becomes more of an activist and less of a journalist. The insurrection of November 7 is almost turned into a musical. "The Internationale" is sung by hundreds of marching workers. Kerensky, the Provisional Government leader, is thrown out.

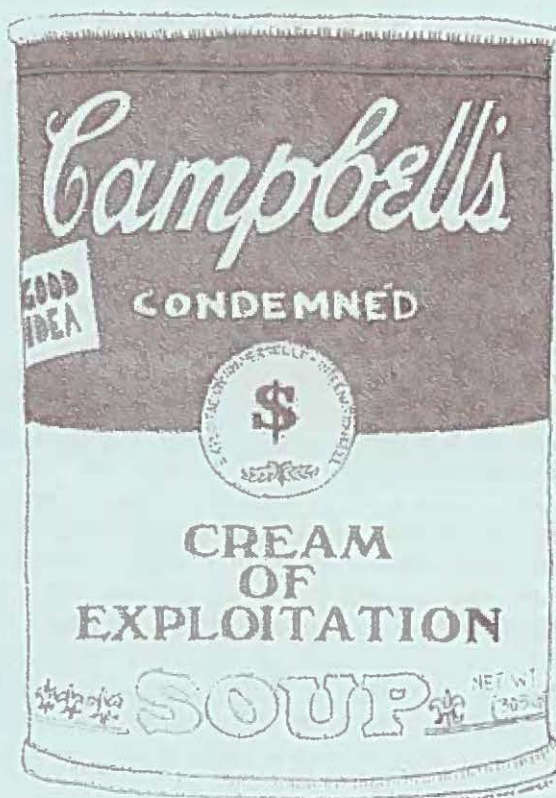
Back in the U.S., Reed becomes a full-time activist in the Socialist Party. This is one of the most interesting parts of the film. The left-wing of the party splits off, one section forming the Communist Party and the other the Communist Labor Party.

Reed returns alone to the Soviet Union as the American representative from one of the two U.S. parties to the Communist International. Later he is sent to Baku, in central Asia, for a gathering of revolutionary representatives of Middle Eastern peoples. There occurs one of the more dramatic scenes when Reed views Uncle Sam burned in effigy.

"Reds" is one of the most original films to come out of Hollywood. All socialists and progressive persons should see this film. We can only welcome its coming in the reactionary age of Reagan. —M.V.

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The Waikiki Story

(continued from page 1)

life depended upon water for its growth and productivity.

Fish was also an important part of the Hawaiian economy, and fish farming ranged from small individual efforts to large-scale cooperative undertakings directed by ruling chiefs.

British Naval Captain George Vancouver, captain of the Discovery, visited Waikiki in 1792 and left us a vivid description:

"... Our guides led us to the northward through the village to an exceedingly well made causeway, about twelve feet broad, with a ditch on each side.

"This opened to our view a spacious plain, which, in the immediate vicinity of the village, had the appearance of the open common fields in England but, on advancing, the major part appeared divided into fields of irregular shape and figure, which were separated from each other by low stone walls, and were in a very high state of cultivation. These several portions of land were planted with the eddo or taro root in different stages of inundation; none being perfectly dry, and some from three to six or seven inches under water. The causeway led us near a mile from the beach, at the end of which was the water we were in quest of . . . At the termination of the causeway, the paths of communication with the different fields or plantations were . . . very rugged, and where one person only could pass at a time. The gentleness and civility of the natives tempted us to extend our walk through the plantations, which we found very pleasant. . . . In this excursion, we found the land in a high state of cultivation, mostly under immediate crops of taro; and abounding with a variety of wild fowl, chiefly of the duck kind, some of which our sportsmen shot, and they were very fine eating."

Archibald Menzies, who was the surgeon and naturalist on that voyage was impressed as well and wrote:

"... The verge of the shore was planted with a large grove of coconut palms, affording a delightful shade to the scattered habitations of the natives ... We pursued a pleasing path back into the plantation, which was nearly level and very extensive, and laid out with great neatness into little fields planted with taro, yams, sweet potatoes and the cloth plant. These, in many cases, were divided by little banks on which grew the sugar cane . . . and the whole was watered in a most ingenious manner by dividing the general stream into little aqueducts leading in various directions so as to be able to supply the most distant fields at pleasure, and the soil seemed to repay the labor and industry of these people by the luxuriance of its productions. Here and there we met with ponds of considerable size, and besides being well stocked with fish, they swarmed with water fowl of various kinds such as ducks, coots, water hens, bitterns, plovers and curlews ..."



DECREASE IN HAWAIIAN POPULATION

The Hawaiian Islands were discovered over one thousand years ago by Polynesian settlers. From probably a small handful of people who arrived perhaps as early as 500 A.D., the population of Hawaii increased until, at the time of Cook's arrival in 1778, perhaps as many as 300,000 people lived in the Islands.

The Hawaiians had had a subsistence economy. The European concept was private gain, i.e., profits based on private ownership of the means of production, while the Hawaiian concept involved the welfare of the community based on sharing the work and its products. Cook's arrival in 1778 introduced the Hawaiian people to a different way of life--the market economy in which people were motivated by profit, buying cheap and selling dear, and the accumulation of individual wealth.

The idea of trade for profit was totally foreign to Hawaiians. Westerners were able, therefore, to take advantage of the people, especially the chiefs, who were impressed by the material offerings of the westerners. The chiefs soon found themselves deeply in debt to the aggressive western traders, a condition that rapidly hurt the Hawaiian population as a whole. Commoners were sent on hazardous and frequently fatal treks into the mountains by their chiefs to cut and haul down tons of sandalwood to the coast. Oppression of commoners by the chiefs became much greater in post-European times than in the pre-contact period.

After 1778, the Hawaiian population entered a period of rapid decline as a result of the combination of the scourge of western diseases and the effects of western imperialism on the Hawaiian subsistence economy. The Hawaiian population declined 38.5% for the 27 years from 1823 to 1850, and by nearly 50% in the 40 years from 1850 to 1890.

By the early 1800s, use of the agriculture and aquaculture resources at Waikiki declined, helped along by the tragic decrease in the Hawaiian population.

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HAWAIIAN AND PART-HAWAIIAN POPULATION, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, FOR SELECTED YEARS		
Year	Number	
1778	300,000	
1823	134,750	
1832	124,049	
1836	107,354	
1850	82,593	
1860	67,084	
1872	51,531	
1884	44,232	
1890	40,622	

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LAND TENURE CHANGES

In the last half of the 19th century, the taro pondfields, fishponds and irrigation systems previously developed at Waikiki were again utilized. This was caused by several factors.

First, changes in the way land was held, initiated by westerners in the period 1845-1850, led to the development of commercial agriculture dominated by western capital. Prior to that period, Hawaiian farmers had undivided "use rights" in the land; capital investments in agriculture by westerners were almost non-existent. Land was controlled by the Hawaiian people through the monarchy and was not generally alienable.

In 1845, a process aimed at changing the Hawaiian land tenure system was begun by westerners working in the Hawaiian government. In the interests of the merchants, the western concept of private, fee-simple land ownership was instituted in December, 1845, with the establishment of a Board of Commissioners to Quiet Title.



This Board, commonly known as the Land Commission, recommended the division of the land of the Hawaiian Islands. This division or "Mahele" took place between January 27 and March 7, 1848, with King Kamehameha III and 245 chiefs relinquishing all claims in each other's land and, in exchange, receiving clear title to their own lands. A second step in the "Mahele" was the setting aside of part of the King's lands as "Crown Lands" for his own personal use and part as government lands.

Then a law was passed in July, 1850 giving aliens who resided in Hawaii the right to acquire and hold land in fee simple and to dispose of it to any person living in Hawaii.

Finally, with the passage of the Kuleana Act in August, 1850, small parcels of land were awarded to commoners. Because private, fee-simple ownership of property was a western concept and not a Hawaiian one, Hawaiians were at a distinct disadvantage in understanding it and successfully manipulating it. By 1852, thousands of acres of prime Hawaiian land were in the hands of foreigners. According to Neil M. Levy in an article in the California Law Review entitled "Native Hawaiian Land Rights":

"...More importantly, western property concepts were imposed on the legal structure and would facilitate the rapid, steady takeover of Hawaiian owned lands during the next several decades. Moreover, the government's commitment to selling its remaining land put westerners, with their access to capital, in a position to take Hawaiian land through the legal procedures they had established. Western imperialism had been accomplished without the usual bothersome wars and costly colonial administration."

A second factor in the revitalization of Waikiki's agriculture and aquaculture resources was the sugar and pineapple plantations' needs for massive numbers of workers. After the changes in land tenure, commercial agriculture in Hawaii developed rapidly, particularly sugar. Between 1855 and 1857, the amount of sugar exported annually from the islands averaged around 500,000 pounds a year. Between 1870 and 1872, the average exceeded 19,000,000 pounds, more than 37 times as much! And, after the signing of the commercial reciprocity treaty between Hawaii and the U.S. in 1876, sugar production grew at an extremely rapid rate. In 1875, the last year before the treaty went into effect, the amount exported was slightly more than 25 million pounds. By 1890, the amount had grown to ten times that volume.

The plantation economy required massive amounts of workers to function. Because the population of Hawaiians had decreased, laborers had to be imported, mainly young males from China, Portugal, and Japan who by 1896 outnumbered the Hawaiians. By 1890, the Oriental population--Chinese and Japanese--constituted over 50% of the total population.

RICE CULTIVATION

The staple food of the Oriental workers was rice which, like wet taro, grows in an environment of fresh, running water. The taro pondfields which had been developed by Hawaiians centuries before were ideal for the cultivation of rice. By 1892, over 500 acres of rice were planted in Waikiki alone and rice production increased from 22,595,000 pounds in 1882 to 33,442,400 pounds in 1899. Commercial use of the fishponds at Waikiki was also increasing.

EARLY URBANIZATION AT WAIKIKI

Agriculture and aquaculture were not the only activities utilizing the resources at Waikiki. The steady increase of the foreign population of the City of Honolulu in the late 1800s had caused a rise in the demand for residential land. Waikiki, which had a nice beach and friendly climate, became a suburb of Honolulu with a select few living there and traveling to their offices in "downtown" Honolulu. Residential homes appeared on the beach alongside the seaside houses of the alii (chiefs). Soon land values began to increase.

The merchants of Honolulu began to look at Waikiki as a profitable area for land speculation. In the 1860s, they successfully demanded that the road to Waikiki be widened and improved and public transportation in the form of an omnibus was introduced.

The Waikiki road and others, as well as the growing number of residences along the beach, would become obstacles to the drainage of fresh water which flowed from the mountains to the sea. The urbanization of areas adjacent to "downtown" Honolulu also increased, and to the northeast around Punchbowl Crater and further east to Makiki, a drainage system was installed. The sur-

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The Waikiki Story

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face water from the Punchbowl and Makiki areas had formerly drained directly into the ocean. The new drainage system diverted this surface water to the Waikiki area, thus compounding the drainage problems of Waikiki--problems caused by urban developments which restricted good drainage.

A conflict was developing at Waikiki between wet agriculture and aquaculture, on the one hand, and urbanization on the other. Urbanization was adversely affecting the good and proper drainage of surface water flowing from the mountains to the sea. This restricted water, in turn, was to be labeled unsightly and unsanitary by those who wanted to see wet agriculture and aquaculture at Waikiki destroyed.

(NEXT ISSUE: "The Dole Republic and the Reclamation Project")

CHECK OUT THE WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP OF THE
WAIANAE COAST AND THEIR NEWSLETTER!....

The last issue of this excellent newsletter from Waianae is a real treat--with articles on Reagan's school lunch cuts, union and anti-nuclear news and poetry and women's features from Japan, the Pacific and, of course, the Waianae Coast. From pesticides to PEACE, nuclear issues to questions of diet and economy, this issue and past issues of the newsletter are a real treat. Judy Franklin's "A Child's Reflection of his Mother" is a moving essay on a child's perception of the threat of nuclear arms to human existence. "Can I grow up?", her 7-year-old questions her. Her searching and concern over the issue of peace and spending priorities really brings a gut-level issue of immense magnitude home, to Waianae and all of us. Send donations to the Women's Support Group, 85-786 Old Government Road, Waianae, Hawaii 96792--and ask to receive their newsletter.

Rimpac Bombing Opposed

Mar. 20 or 21, Friends of Kahoolawe
"Stop RIMPAC bombing" Rally (call
947-4946 for more info).

Politics Of Capitalist Science

(continued from page 5)

"created" more pests than s/he has eliminated.

Fear: There's no doubt that universities, heavily influenced by corporations, distribute rewards and punishments on political grounds as well as academic ones. At the University of California, for instance, Edward Teller has long been "first among equals" although he has no Nobel Prize and many of his colleagues do, while two outstanding pest management researchers, Robert Rudd (Pesticides and the Living Landscape) and Robert van den Bosch (The Pesticide Conspiracy), have both been punished in various ways for failing to toe the agricultural line (see the latter book). There's also a great fear of being wrong. Reagan's inane untruths (e.g., on air pollution) are quickly forgotten, but a scientist's self-respect, and the respect of other scientists, can really be hurt by pretending to be certain and turning out to be wrong.

Elitism: This occurs in many forms, but generally in favor of highly trained upper-middle class professional white males (with good table manners) over disrespectful women, minorities, poor people and eco-freaks (with bad table manners), who have no battle scars (i.e., Ph.D.'s).

Needs: Corporations provide the funding for equipment, travel, computer time, etc.; jobs for graduate students; peace, quiet and respect for one's work. (See The Pesticide Conspiracy for the intense and long-lasting campaign of vilification and character assassination carried out, sometimes with university help, against Robert van den Bosch; or Since Silent Spring for the even worse campaign carried out against Rachel Carson.)

I, therefore, don't assume you're wrong when an academic scientist opposes you; the more they appeal to authority (theirs) and pour scorn on ignorance (yours), the more suspicious you should be. But don't give up on academic scientists yet!

--Allan Oaten

University of California, Santa Barbara

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RIMPAC EXERCISES TO BE OPPOSED

A coalition of organizations, led by the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, is mounting an opposition campaign to the planned joint bombing exercise which will target the island of Kahoolawe sometime this spring. The naval forces of Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. are slated to be involved in the allied bombing practice which will internationalize again the desecration of Hawaiian land. The campaign against the RIMPAC bombing exercise will focus first at the Legislature, building public support to get the Legislature to declare against the RIMPAC bombing of Kahoolawe. Watch for further news.

Dear MT

On November 3, the guard changed in Santa Cruz. The first progressive City Council was elected by a decisive margin. The victory was the result of support from labor, women, renters, senior citizens and other groups that have common concerns. The new majority proudly accepts the title "socialist-feminists."

Measure E was also approved by a 2-1 margin. The City Council called on the federal government to end all military and economic aid to the government of El Salvador and to withdraw all military personnel from that country. Copies have been mailed to Reagan, Bush, Haig and to the congressmen representing this area.

Aloha,
Jim Gagnon
U.C.S.C., Santa Cruz, CA

Feedback

Dear Sirs:

I have carefully read Modern Times, Vol. V, Nos. 5 and 6 and would like to share my thoughts with you.

I was profoundly outraged by your vicious libels against citizens of the People's Republic of China who are presently studying in Hawaii (p. 15). I cannot recall ever seeing such a vile piece in any publication of the bourgeois press. In this matter, you "socialists" have outdone the bourgeoisie!

I suggest you owe an apology to the Chinese citizens whom you have libeled. Otherwise, people may consider that your publication exists only to give a bad name to socialism.

Your animosity towards the People's Republic of China is also expressed in your amazingly sanctimonious condemnation of alleged "capitalist-raoding in China," the "rightist dispensation of Deng Xiaoping," and "affluent revisionists." Such unctuous criticism seems to imply that you "socialists" identify yourselves with the Jiang Qing faction of the Communist Party of China!

...

I would like to ask you: Do you know what socialism is or might be? Do you think that socialist societies are now actually being built in any country in the world -- or is "socialism" simply an idea which properly exists only in your own heads?

One reason I have for asking these questions is that the same issue of Modern Times contains two attacks on what hundreds of millions of people across the world consider to be the world's first socialist state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics! You also printed (p. 15) an attack on the socialist governments of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland! You characteristically do not mention sources for this latter libel, which

is, by the way, a very dubious charge indeed.

...

The bourgeoisie always calls for "constructive criticism." I suppose for them that means criticism which will strengthen their position, rather than topple them from power. May I suggest that the very commendable examination of the national question which you have begun with John Reinecke's article would be an excellent topic for a public forum or workshop sponsored by the Hawaii Union of Socialists and perhaps one or two other community organizations. I am sure a carefully planned forum on the "National Question in Hawaii" would be very well received.

Finally, I would like to urge you to identify the authors of all material published in your bulletin. That would give writers a sense of responsibility for what they have written.

Mahalo.

Russell McLeod

Editor's Reply:

"Left Jabs" features short news items aimed at exposing and debunking the puffery of modern day capitalist ideology and also noting some of the ironies and foibles of socialist societies. In part, we wish to be informative and in part, to bring a bit of much needed satire to our serious political commitments.

Modern Times believes that critical reviews of left politics and parties is part of moving forward in the struggle against reaction in all its many forms and guises from whichever quarter. Furthermore, we are not alone among the left in our misgivings about certain directions that the Deng government is apparently pursuing, although our publication is certainly open to varying interpretations of these developments. Your accusation of "vicious libels" against the people of China and against other socialist states is not only incorrect but seems innocent of the vital need to go beyond that kind of socialist theory that uncritically rests on articles of faith and doctrine and that conveniently ignores disquieting contradictions.

"Left Jabs" is carefully researched and we would be happy to share our sources with you. The item on computer flight bookings in the 3 Warsaw Pact countries that you questioned is documented in several places, including Anthony Smith, The Geopolitics Of Information, p. 129. Our editorial policy is to allow individuals to submit pieces anonymously or with pseudonyms, initials, etc., providing that the editorial committee is familiar with the identity of the author(s). For unsigned or editorial pieces, the publication takes responsibility. Signed articles (including those with pseudonyms, etc.) do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial committee or of Modern Times.

We hope we have satisfied some of your concerns.

-- M.T. editorial collective

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