

## Berkeley VDC Fights Administration Curbs

The Berkeley Vietnam Day Committee was officially banned from the University of California campus Aug. 17 in a transparent move to stifle antiwar activity on that campus. The VDC is probably the most well-known antiwar group in the country.

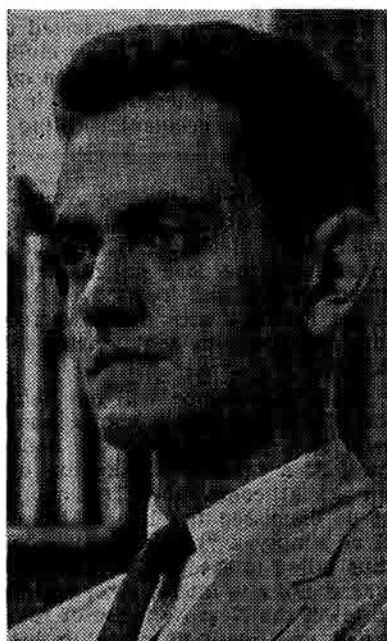
The grounds for banning the committee, according to one university official, was that it had failed to notify the administration when it sponsored a rally including non-campus speakers, and it owed the bursar "more than \$500" in unpaid bills. Within 24 hours, the VDC had disproved both these charges and demanded an impartial public hearing on the question of the banning of the committee.

Peter Camejo, a VDC steering committee member, pointed out that the rally in question had not been sponsored by the VDC but rather by the ad hoc committee for the August 6-9 days of protests; and he produced a bill for \$281.72 which had been charged to the VDC, but was actually owed by a San Francisco rock n' roll promoter for a dance sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

### "Deliberate Act"

"It's obviously a deliberate act on the university's part to suppress us rather than enforcing the rules," Camejo charged. "The French Club, for instance, wouldn't be penalized this way." In a letter to the administration demanding a public hearing before a non-partisan group, Camejo protested that the university had violated the right of free speech and was acting "as judge, jury, and executioner all at once."

In a related development, the university fired a 22-year-old graduate student, Karen Liberman, from a campus job on the grounds that she had been su-



Peter Camejo

spended earlier in the year for activities in the Peace Rights Organizing Committee. It was a mistake to hire her, one official stated. Her suspension "was regarded as necessary for the welfare of the campus community."

At a rally held to protest both the banning of the VDC and the firing of Mrs. Liberman, Camejo called the administration a "monarchy by appointment. . . It's easy to find a criteria to kick groups off campus if you write the laws."

He stated that "the firing is the first political firing in California in many many years," adding that people have a right to hold campus jobs regardless of their political beliefs.

The ban on the VDC will run to Oct. 3, at which time the Committee will have to request recognition from the administration.

## Detroit Cops Create a 'Riot'; Ghetto Residents Framed Up

By Judy Hagans

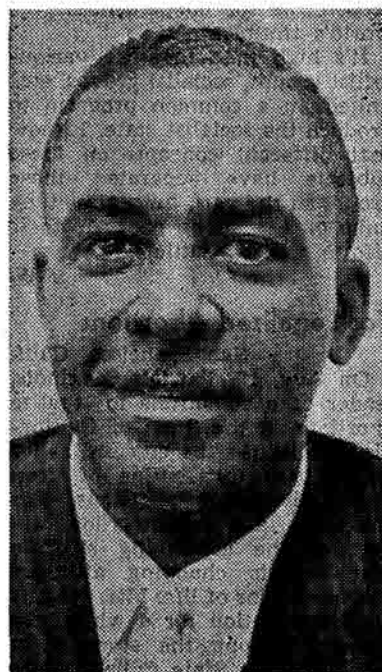
DETROIT — A broad defense movement is coming to the aid of victims of a police frame-up of ghetto residents and black militants here. One hundred and eighteen people were arrested between Aug. 9 and 12 in a so-called "riot" in Detroit's predominantly Negro east side.

Every leader and many members of two organizations, ACME (Adult Community Movement for Equality) and AAYM (Afro-American Youth Movement), were arrested during the three nights. Al Harrison, Thomas Abston, Moses Wedlow and James Roberts have been charged with inciting to riot. Their arrests were based on the testimony of two juvenile police witnesses who said they attended AAYM meetings and were instructed in terrorist tactics to be used against white people and the police.

The police and the white press of Detroit have cooperated completely to present a biased, one-sided accounting of the events. An organization called Citizens for Fair Law Enforcement was forced to buy a large ad in the *Detroit Free Press* to counteract and refute the distortions which had been printed about the incident.

### An Invasion

What actually occurred was an invasion of a Negro neighborhood, intimidation and harassment of the residents by the police and provocation and wholesale arrests of many innocent people. Those bearing the brunt of the police attack were the militant members of the two groups. For the last two years, first ACME and then its predecessor, AAYM, have been waging a war against police brutality and



Milton Henry

harassment from their office on Kercheval Avenue. They have staged demonstrations, held street rallies, circulated petitions, and published periodicals exposing the police for their brutal actions in the ghetto.

The trouble began when Wilbert McClendon, Clarence Reed and James Roberts were ordered by four cops in a cruiser to move from where they were standing. McClendon, a former co-chairman of ACME asked, "For what?" The three were immediately arrested for loitering. During the arrest, Clarence Reed was beaten so badly that he was taken to Detroit General Hospital for treatment. The police say that the trio began yelling that the riot had started, so additional forces were requested. Within a minute, between 15 and 25 squad cars arrived. For the next 72 hours, the area was literally under martial law.

### 2,500 Cops

The *Free Press* of Aug. 12 reported that in accordance with a three-year-old "Riot Plan A," Police Commissioner Girardin assigned 2,500 cops to the area. This massive force included 19 "heavily armed, specially trained" Tactical Mobile Unit (TMU) cars, and "two squads of motorcycle patrolmen trained as commandos and armed with rifles, shotguns, tear gas and machine guns."

The *Detroit News* reported that "Mounted Division men with bayonets on their riot guns were rushed into the area." Three squads of cops on foot marched in forty-man "waves" down Kercheval, using bullhorns to tell the angry and indignant residents to go back home.

The presence of this terrible display of force was answered with bricks and bottles hurled at the invading army.

Despite the use of a riot plan and riot cops, Girardin continually insisted that there was no riot. The elements weren't present for a riot, he said.

### Councilman's Statement

Detroit's only Negro councilman, Rev. Hood, issued a statement that the police were harassing the residents of the community.

A cop shouted out of his TMU car window at a group of people standing outside the AAYM office, "Get off the street, niggers." The group contained members of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and U.S. Representative Charles Diggs.

Four affiliates of the AAYM,

General Baker, Glanton Dowdell, Rufus Griffin and Nobel Smith, were also arrested early Aug. 10 on the freeway. They were charged with carrying concealed weapons. Police reports concerning these arrests are contradictory. Different versions as to where and why the arrests took place have been presented.

### Will Be Tried

The four have been bound over for trial. Prosecuting attorney Nolan had tried to enter a statement by an FBI agent working among black militants in the city which supposedly led to the arrests, but refused to present the witness at the pre-trial hearing. Defense attorney Milton Henry objected to what he referred to as the "words of a faceless informer" and the evidence was thrown out of court.

The charges against the original three arrested have been increased to participating in a riot, conspiracy to incite a riot, inciting a riot and obstructing an officer in the performance of his duty. Six white persons arrested on their way to the area with molotov cocktails in their car were never arraigned.

### 19 Lawyers

Despite the fact that members of both ACME and AAYM were seen trying to calm down the crowd during the nights of police harassment, these high-punishment charges still stand. Nineteen lawyers have pledged their energies to the defense of all those arrested. Federal suits have been filed demanding that charges be dropped because the constitutional rights of those arrested have been violated.

Protests are also being made that a fair trial is impossible at this time because the defendants have already been tried by the newspapers. The only paper which has reported the events fairly has been the Negro weekly, the *Michigan Chronicle*.

This vicious attack on black militants is another attempt by the ruling class to stifle all voices of opposition to its racist policies. And, the attack has served as a training ground for Detroit cops. They staged a fake "riot" so that they could better prepare themselves for a possible real revolt.

Thousands of dollars must be raised for the defense of the victims of the police "war games." Contributions can be sent to: Afro-American Youth Movement, 9211 Kercheval, Detroit, Mich.

### Protests Urged For Hugo Blanco

An appeal has been made for letters of protest against the reported plan of the Peruvian government to execute Hugo Blanco. The revolutionary socialist peasant leader has been held prisoner since 1963 and now faces a secret military trial.

Blanco had organized peasant unions in the Cruzco region of Peru, which led struggles for land reform.

Letters of protest should be sent to: Presidente Fernando Belaunde Terry, Lima, Peru, and to the Tercera Zona Judicial de Policia de Arequipa, Peru.

Any contributions for Blanco's defense sent to this paper will be forwarded.

## PHILADELPHIA 'DYNAMITE' CHARGE

### Rights Forces Hit Frame-Up

PHILADELPHIA — A preliminary hearing was held here Aug. 22 in the case of six young men charged with possession of dynamite. The case has been the subject of a big scare campaign about civil rights "terrorism." James Forman of SNCC and other rights leaders have branded the whole affair a police frame-up. At the hearing, more than 300 people packed the courtroom in response to a call by SNCC.

Four rights activists and two unaffiliated individuals were arrested Aug. 13 in sensational staged raids involving 200 heavily armed cops. The raids were on the SNCC headquarters, the Freedom Library, the Young Militants Corps and a private apartment. After the raids, the cops claimed they found two-and-a-half sticks of dynamite (without caps) under a couch in the private apartment, which they falsely labelled a SNCC headquarters. Only literature was seized at the other offices.

### Police Slander

Acting Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo, well-known for his hostility to the rights movement, told newsmen the raided headquarters were being used as a storage place for arms. He branded those arrested as "thugs and hoodlums" and asserted a serious incident had been averted.

The dynamite was found in the apartment by an unaccompanied officer after ten cops had searched it for 15 minutes. Pictures of the "evidence" splashed all over the

papers were made at police headquarters, not where it was allegedly found.

The police said they acted on a tip from an informer whose identity they refuse to disclose.

Those originally arrested were Barry Dawson, a SNCC worker, and George Brower, Eugene Dawkins and Carol West of the Young Militants Corps. They were advised by their attorney, NAACP President Cecil Moore, to cooperate with the police. The cops then reportedly got some kind of a statement from Dawson which they have frequently referred to, but never released.

Assertedly on the basis of this statement, warrants were issued for Winston Eley, unaffiliated, and Fred Meeley, former Philadelphia SNCC chairman. Eley gave himself up. He, too, made a statement leading to the arrest of John Jenkins, also unaffiliated, a construction worker who allegedly obtained the dynamite.

Bail was originally set at \$50,000 each. But at the hearing, the prosecutor moved to reduce bail for Dawson to \$7,500 and to \$1,000 each for Eley and Jenkins. The others were released as "peripheral" to the case.

Len Holt, the civil rights attorney, was retained by SNCC to represent Barry Dawson. He sought unsuccessfully to obtain copies of statements allegedly made by defendants, and the name of the police informant. He also sought to obtain a copy of the original complaint, charging that

an FBI agent had been one of the plaintiffs.

Presiding Judge, Leo Weinrott, who recently convicted four rights demonstrators who had been beaten by cops at Girard College, rejected Holt's contention that no criminal intent or conspiracy had been shown. He read from an editorial in the morning paper and from a speech by President Johnson on the need for "responsibility," the rule of "law" and the protection of private property in seeking social change. He expressed his gratitude to the police.

The case has been used for an orgy of anti-civil-rights propaganda which seeks to associate black power with terrorism. SNCC has been the principal target of this smear campaign.

Forman, who came here to take charge of the defense, has been denounced by Commissioner Rizzo as an "outsider" who had "injected race" into the case!

After the hearing, a rally was held outside City Hall. It was addressed by Forman and Walter Palmer, a militant nationalist leader. Palmer denounced the war in Vietnam and "white racist capitalism." He said black people must take a revolutionary course, declaring: "Take down JFK and Jesus from your wall and put up Malcolm X."

Forman urged a grass-roots defense in the case. He too called for withdrawal from Vietnam and spoke of black consciousness and unity as part of a world-wide black revolt.