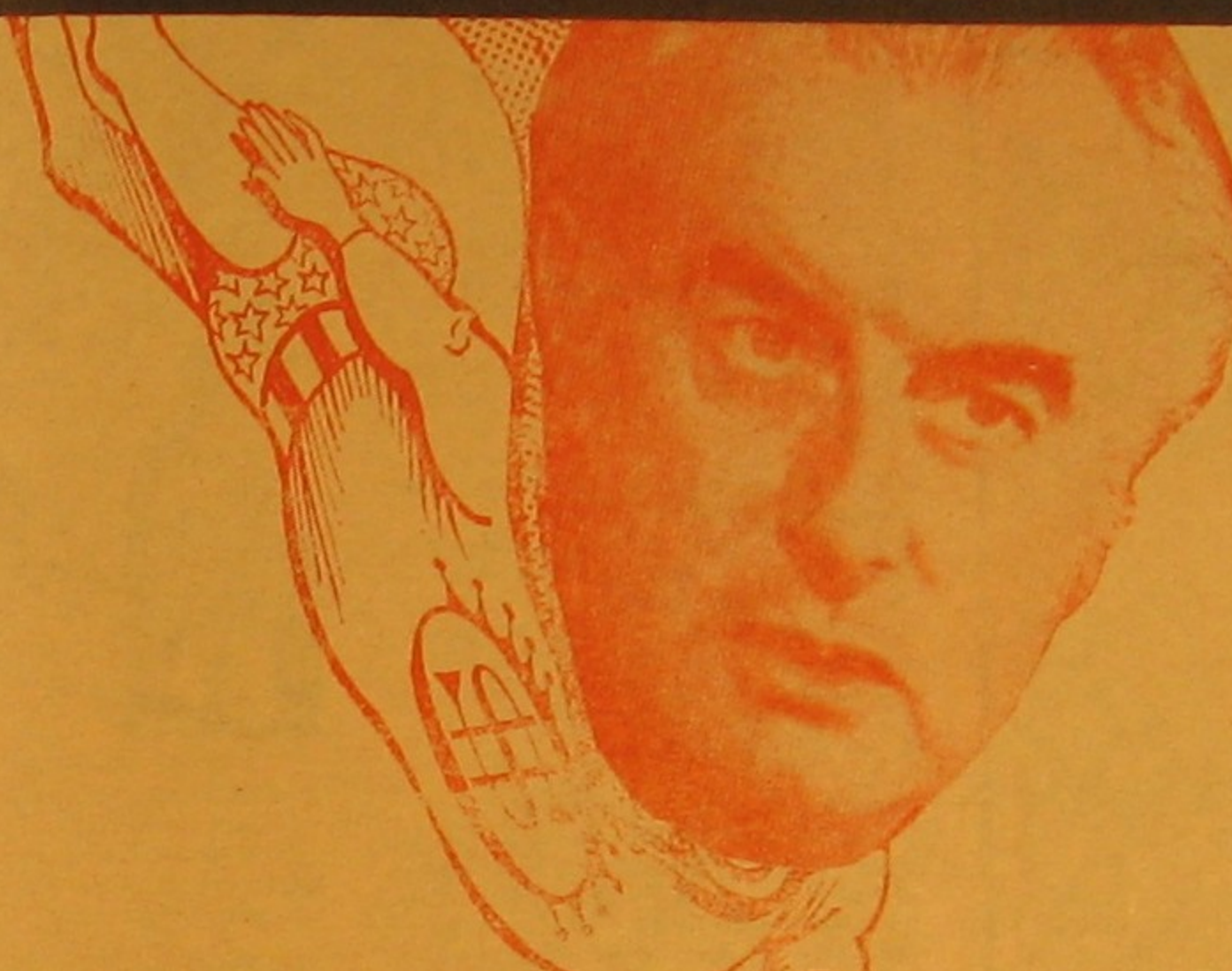


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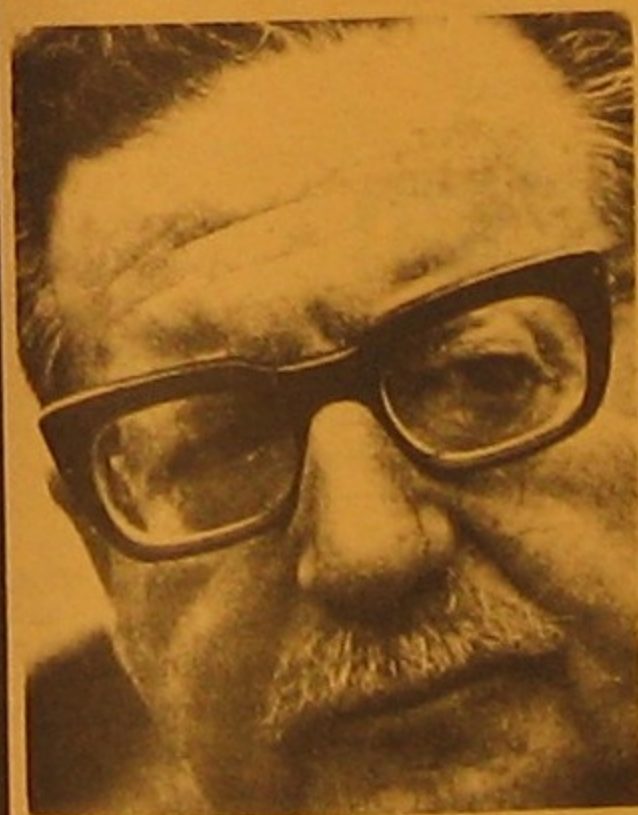


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GAY PRIDE WEEK ACTION

Sydney

BY PENNY CULLIVER

The climax to the activities of Gay Pride Week (September 8-16) in Sydney was a demonstration on Saturday, September 15 by 300 people through the streets of Sydney to protest the oppression of homosexual women and men in our society.

It was intended that the march which commenced at the Town Hall would proceed along the footpath of George Street to Martin Plaza and then back to Hyde Park. However, police tried to redirect the march up Park Street (the most direct route to Hyde Park) in order to minimise the impact of the demonstration on Saturday morning shopping crowds.

There was strong resistance to this change of route and scuffles broke out between cops and marchers. The bulk of the marchers then took the lead in taking to the roadway up Park Street and along Pitt Street against the traffic. People weaved in and out between the cars, chanting such slogans as Two, Four, Six, Eight — Gay Is Just As Good As Straight! and Shout It Loud! Gay Is Proud!

At Centrepoint two people were arrested as police tried to move the march back on to the footpath. Support came from builders laborers on the scaffolding above who threw water on the police as they persisted in trying to disrupt the progress of the march.

Upon reaching Martin Plaza, a wreath was laid in memory of the homosexuals killed by the Nazis during World War II. The death of Dr George Duncan, a homosexual whose mysterious death by drowning in the Torrens River in Adelaide was the subject of an inquiry involving several Adelaide cops, was also commemorated.

Barricades were already set up in the Plaza, in preparation for a ceremony at the Cenotaph later in the morning commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of Britain. As soon as the police arrived, marchers moved on to the steps of the GPO, where they continued to chant slogans.

The police then began dragging people off as the marchers attempted to move back through the barricades and continue on their way to Hyde Park. Some dozen people were arrested, and later fitted with charges of "resisting arrest" and "unseemly language".

Undeterred by this brutal harassment the march forged ahead up Martin Place and along Elizabeth Street to Hyde Park, where speeches were made condemning the police violence and pointing out how this treatment was symptomatic of the violence and backward attitudes of the whole of the society towards homosexuals.

United by a common anger and revulsion at the police brutality, the majority of the marchers proceeded to Phillip Street police station where most of the arrested were being detained. Solidarity with those inside the cells was expressed by marchers singing songs and chanting slogans. A further two arrests were made by the cops.

From there it was decided to return to the Gay Liberation headquarters at Glebe. When police tried to redirect the

marchers at George Street back towards the Quay, people poured on to three government buses which were waiting at the kerb. The buses took off along George Street with flags, banners and placards streaming from the windows, followed by a convoy of police vehicles which stretched along two blocks.

A meeting was held at Gay Liberation headquarters to arrange bail for the arrested and to organise witnesses for them. A press conference was also held later in the afternoon.

Those arrested appeared in court on the following Monday morning and have been remanded to appear on October 17.

The most significant feature of the demonstration was the determination and solidarity displayed by gays in struggling against their oppression. The march and the activities of the preceding week have given inspiration to those many thousands of homosexuals who are oppressed in sexist, nuclear-family-oriented capitalist society.

BY KEN DAVIS

In Sydney, Gay Pride Week began with a speak-out on Saturday September 8, where homosexuals related their personal experiences of the oppression they suffer. It was followed the day after with 300 gays and supporters participating in a festival in the Domain which included singing, poetry readings and discussions. After these activities there was a spontaneous march to Kings Cross.

During the week a projected "Gay Outrage" in Martin Place provided a focus for police harassment. On Monday about 20 police prevented gays from distributing leaflets and threatened them with arrest for "failure to obey an order to disperse" and "holding an illegal public meeting." On Wednesday, after picketing some psychiatrists' offices in Macquarie Street, gays were harassed by city council inspectors who threatened to call in the "vice squad" (1). Later Richard Jessop, one of the organisers of Gay Pride Week, was arrested by two uniformed police on the trumped-up charge of assaulting a city council officer.

After being arrested his whereabouts were withheld from the other gays in the protest, thus hindering attempts to bail him out. As a reaction to the arrest 30 people demonstrated by marching around the city on the following day. It is noticeable that while gays were not allowed to hand out literature or even protest silently during the week, other groups were not prevented from engaging in similar activities.

On Wednesday night a public support meeting was held in Paddington Town Hall. Speakers representing various organisations included Mary McNish for the Australia Party, Jamie Doughney from the Socialist Youth Alliance, Mike Hourihan of the NSW Teachers' Federation, Judy Munday from the Communist Party of Australia, the Reverend Norton from the Presbyterian Church and a gay activist from the USA, Wayne Nelson. The meeting was attended by about 250 people.

On Saturday evening a large dance was held at Sydney University. The week's activities concluded with a picnic in Centennial Park on Sunday.

The activities of Gay Pride Week represented the most ambitious attempt by the radical gay movement yet to take the consciousness of gay pride to the many

homosexuals who presently suffer from the physical oppression, stigma and contempt imposed on them by this society and its institutions.

Melbourne

BY DORCOTHY TUMNEY

On Friday September 14 Gay Pride Week activities in Melbourne concluded with a demonstration of about 200 people, the overwhelming majority of whom were gay. The demonstrators assembled in the City Square and then marched around the city blocks, where leaflets were handed out to shoppers and city workers.

Marchers chanted a variety of slogans such as, Two, Four, Six, Eight — Gay Is Just As Good As Straight; Three, Five, Seven, Nine — Try It Our Way Just One Time, and dialogues like: What are you? — Gay! What does it mean? — Homosexual! Are you proud? — Yes! Will you change? — No! Banners carried in the march included one which read Repeal All Anti-Homosexual Laws, and another, making a parody of prevalent attitudes, simply read Pootlers.

Originally the march had intended moving to Flinders Street railway station, however as it approached the station it was stopped by police and redirected back to the City Square.

The week's activity in Melbourne began with an Inaugural Dance on Friday September 7 and the first major activity was a picnic attended by about 150 people held in the Botanic Gardens on the Sunday afternoon.

The next activity was a gay poetry night held at the Guild Theatre, Melbourne University. It was attended by a capacity audience of 200. Poetry read included work by the American feminist poet Robin Morgan, but was mainly work by Melbourne gays who read their own poetry. A gay singer also sang a number of his own songs.

Tuesday night saw one of the activities oriented towards the conscious gay population. This was the parents night, which was arranged as a meeting between parents of homosexuals and gay liberationists.

The speakout planned for Wednesday was cancelled owing to poor attendance. Lack of publicity was probably one of the main factors contributing to this. A paid advertisement for one of the daily papers, The Age, was not printed. This was rather hypocritical in view of the fact that The Age had only recently published an editorial justifying the printing of advertisements opposing trade sanctions on South Africa saying that it printed paid advertising from any source.

It is unfortunate that this particular action was unsuccessful because it had the potential of relating to wide numbers of homosexuals and explaining the nature of the oppression of gays.

Thursday was designated as "schools day" and its major activity was leafletting schools. A forum held at La Trobe University drew a crowd of about 200. Speakers from gay liberation were very well received and the forum was very successful. The leafletting also included a special team of beats and camp bars in an attempt to reach larger numbers of homosexuals with Gay Pride Week ideas.

Adelaide

BY GRAEME TUBBENHAUER

A march through the streets of Adelaide on Saturday, September 15 of 150 gays was the culmination of a week of activity by the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) for Gay Pride Week.

The march moved off with balloons, placards and banners at about 10.15 am from Victoria Square. Leaflets explaining why lesbians and homosexual men need to assert their rights and march on the streets were handed out to the Saturday-morning shoppers.

Many of the shoppers were too shocked to even abuse the marchers. A truck driver who yelled "bloody pootlers!" was greeted by cheers and raised voices yelling "and proud!" Another young man who felt his masculinity being threatened wanted to fight the whole demonstration.

The demonstration arrived at the gardens opposite Elder Park at about 11.15 am. As it was still very early, small groups of gays walked back into the city to distribute more leaflets to the shoppers. Groups of about 20 marched through all the large department stores singing, chanting and handing out leaflets. After the shops closed a speak-in was held and although not well organised was still successful.

Except for one television station (a GAA member is an interviewer with that station), the press did not cover the march at all. As a result the full impact of the march was not felt by a large section of the Adelaide population. Some of the Adelaide press did attend a press conference held the previous Friday, September 7. The press conference which was held at the Women's Centre was the official start of Gay Pride Week.

Activities preceding Gay Pride Week included leafletting of the traditional "camp" bars and coffee lounges. Hundreds of painted slogans began to appear on walls around Adelaide.

On Monday, four dummies dressed in police uniforms with signs — "Cawley", "Clayton", "Mildenhall" and "Hudson" were hung from the University Footbridge over the Torrens River just near where Dr George Duncan drowned on May 10, 1972. The four police mentioned were "involved" in the murder of Dr Duncan.

On the same day 60 pink crosses representing the thousands of homosexuals murdered in Nazi concentration camps were planted in the memorial gardens on North Terrace. Needless to say, by 10.00 am the same day, car loads of police removed both crosses and effigies.

On Wednesday about 100 Adelaide University students attended a forum on gay liberation at the university. During discussion time a raging debate developed between a small group of anti-homosexual, sexist, male Christians and the rest of the audience.

Gay Pride Week was the first action of its kind in Adelaide and the first large action planned by the Gay Activists Alliance. During Gay Pride Week gays in Adelaide acquired a feeling of pride and solidarity in our gayness. We showed the people of Adelaide that we are no longer willing to politely remain invisible.



Gay Pride Week demonstration in Sydney

More Watergate Gangsters Indicted

BY CHRIS GRAHAM

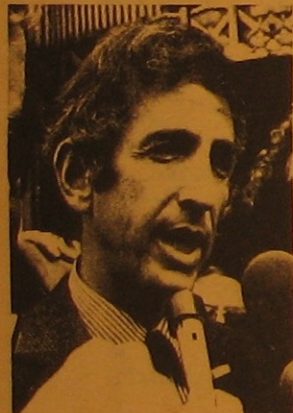
"The time has come to turn Watergate over to the courts." So exhorted Nixon in his Watergate speech on August 15. There are now certainly enough court cases in progress for us to judge how successful Nixon has been in submerging the explosive revelations of the Watergate scandal in legal effluvia.

It now seems likely that the ultimate decision on Nixon's Watergate tapes will be made by the Supreme Court, following unsuccessful attempts by the Administration to secure a compromise out-of-court settlement. The fact that Nixon rejected a proposal for an Administration representative and Watergate prosecutor

Cox to jointly determine what tapes are relevant to Watergate — a compromise which falls a long way short of the unrestricted publication of the tapes which the situation demands — is clear proof of the dilemma which confronts the ruling class as it searches for a way out of Watergate.

Nixon's decision to "tough it out" implies a strategy of continuing efforts to hamstring the Senate Watergate committee and special Watergate prosecutor Cox, hoping that the public will eventually tire of the scandal. When and if that point is reached, Newsweek magazine reported in its September 10 issue, Nixon is expected to fire Cox and sweep the whole affair under the rug:

"The underlying premise... was that Nixon could hold off a final (court) decision (on the Watergate tapes) with various delaying tactics — appeals on the constitutional issues, the merits of the case, perhaps even Judge Sirica's evaluation of conversations on the tapes — and spend the time rebuilding his public support. By then the thinking goes, he could argue that any Supreme Court ruling closer than 8-1 or 7-2 in favor of Cox was not the 'definitive decision' he had promised to obey; given enough public exhaustion with Watergate, he might even get away with it. 'Who's going to lead the charge at that point?' asked one White House operative. 'The Chief Justice? The Attorney-General?'"



Daniel Ellsberg

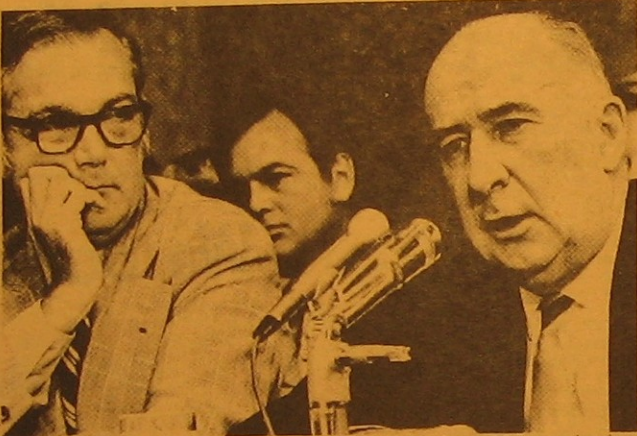
"The tough-it-out strategy currently taking form counts even Cox and Richardson (Nixon's current Attorney-General) expendable; the White House is no longer quite so tremulous as it once was at the reaction that would surely follow if the two men whom the President himself brought in to clean up the Watergate mess should suddenly depart with their mission unaccomplished. 'Cox couldn't have been dumped a month ago and if he quit now or was fired, and if Richardson quit in protest, it would be tough to handle,' said one insider. 'But it would be less tough further down the line.'"

Nixon also faces another battle with Congress. The Watergate scandal has provided the Democrat-controlled Congress with an opportunity to reassert its power which in recent years has become more concentrated in presidential hands.

While mindful of the repercussions that would result if it went too far in pursuing

this aim, Congress nevertheless is forced to respond to pressure from public opinion and push forward legislation which, although quite inadequate in meeting the needs of the American working people, is nevertheless a bit too radical for Nixon's liking. Such legislation includes the ban on funds for the bombing of Cambodia, social services legislation, and so on.

While Nixon has usually vetoed these bills, his loss of credibility, as a result of Watergate, with its corollary of increased popular pressure on Congress, has enabled Congress to muster the necessary two-thirds majority to override Nixon's vetoes.



Mitchell testifying during Senate Watergate hearings

A major clash now looms on proposed legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$US2.20 (\$A1.43) an hour. Even if passed the bill is unlikely to make great inroads into inflation, which is expected to reach twenty per cent this year. Nixon has nevertheless denounced it as "inflationary". (According to Nixon any increase in spending other than defence spending is "inflationary".)

MORE GANGSTERS INDICTED

In the meantime time is catching up with the rest of Nixon's gang. John Mitchell, Nixon's former campaign director, is now on trial to answer indictments of perjury and illegal campaign spending.

In another potentially explosive development four of the Watergate burglars, Frank Sturgis, Eugenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzalez and Bernard Barker, have reversed their previous guilty pleas to the Watergate bugging and are now pleading not guilty and demanding a new trial. They filed statements with Judge Sirica alleging that they were the victims of a "criel fraud perpetrated on them to obtain their participation in the (Watergate) activities."

Nixon's former top aide John Erlichmann is on trial for perjury, burglary and obstructing justice. The perjury charge arose out of Erlichmann's assertion, subsequently disproved, to a grand jury last June that he did not authorise and had no knowledge of the breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971.

Earl Krogh, one of Erlichmann's aides who is also on trial has submitted a 6-page affidavit swearing that Erlichmann authorised the break-in. In addition, Krogh has supplied a memorandum initialled by Erlichmann authorising the break-in. "If given with your assurance that it is not traceable."

Another disclosure which proved that the break-in was part of the Nixon Administration's vendetta against Ellsberg in retaliation for his publication of the Pentagon Papers was the disclosure of the transcript of a phone call from the White House "dirty tricks" expert Charles Colson to Watergate Howard Hunt in which Colson said:

"We might be able to put this bastard (Ellsberg) in a hell of a situation... we should go down there and nail the guy cold."

The acquittal of the Gainesville Eight, members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War who were found not guilty on all counts of a conspiracy indictment (see DIRECT ACTION 47, September 13, 1973) has provided important lessons for anti-war activists. The indictments were based on fabricated "evidence" supplied by FBI provocateurs who attempted to get the VVAW to organise terrorist actions.

Leading VVAW member Mike Damron provided a particularly telling account in an interview published in the September 14 issue of *The Militant*, a revolutionary socialist weekly published in New York, reflecting the views of the Socialist Workers Party.

nities and morals of our country."

Fitzsimmons' charitable, to say the least attitude to Nixon, was in part motivated by the fact that the leadership of the Teamsters' Union donated \$US100,000 (\$A65,000) to Nixon's election campaign. This bureaucratic leadership is also currently engaged in helping the government suppress a strike in California by the United Farm Workers' Union, to the extent of assisting scab labor and even inspiring goon squads to attack the farm workers' picket lines.

By such reactionary methods the Teamster bureaucrats have won a few concessions from Nixon. The chief of these was Nixon's calling off of an investigation into alleged links between the Teamsters leadership and the Mafia.

Not all the bureaucrats can afford to remain silent, however. The tremendous radicalising effect of Watergate on the American working people has forced some sections of the bureaucracy to attempt to relate to this upsurge, for fear of losing the allegiance of rank-and-file workers.

George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor/Congress of Industrial Organisations — the American equivalent to the ACTU) attempted to pay lip service to the widespread revulsion at Watergate in a Labor Day speech. Meany only referred to Watergate indirectly, but expressed his "concern" at Nixon's repressive methods which were being directed with increasing ferocity at the trade unions. Meany's solution however was simply to elect more Democratic politicians to Congress — not a very inspiring solution when one recognises the role that the Democratic Party has played in suppressing the struggles of the American working people.

A rather (unintentionally) humorous comment on the Watergate affair was made by Vice-President Agnew — who is experiencing some problems of his own as a result of Watergate. At a Republican fund-raising function held in Illinois on September 8, Agnew attacked the Evinrude committee and defended his boss with a not very flattering comparison. Lyndon Johnson, Agnew said, once told Nixon that "the presidency is like being a jackass caught in a hailstorm — you've just got to stand there and take it."

It remains to be seen whether Nixon will succeed in "taking it" until the American people lose interest in Watergate. Nixon still has left a number of shelters not available to the unfortunate beast of Agnew's parable.

The chief FBI informer in the VVAW, William Lemmer, was considered by Damron before his exposure to be his closest friend. Damron detailed numerous attempts by Lemmer to involve the VVAW in terrorist actions. For example Lemmer suggested that the VVAW use a meeting at which Dean Rusk was to have spoken to discredit the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), another radical group. The plan suggested by Lemmer was to disrupt Rusk's speech and blame it on SDS.

Damron suspected that Lemmer was prepared to actually "blow something up and blame it on SDS." Damron talked Lemmer out of a bomb attempt, but fell for the old trick of pitting movement groups against each other, by planning with Lemmer to fabricate a bomb threat and blame it on SDS. Damron continued:

"So Bill (Lemmer) wrote out the bomb threat in longhand and I clipped the letters from the newspaper... and pasted together this bomb threat."

A month and a half later Damron was arrested. The police said they found his fingerprints on the bomb threat. Damron spent 30 days in gaol.

Lemmer's conclusion deserves serious consideration by all radicals:

"I'm convinced that most of the violence that comes out of the left is a result of provocateurs and not the people who are involved in the left."

"I'm sure that the bad name the left has is a result of provocateurs. Of course, that's why the provocateurs are there."

WATERGATE AND THE LABOR BUREAUCRACY

America's conservative labor bureaucracy greeted the Watergate affair with silence. The bureaucrats' silence on Watergate was motivated by more than inertia, or even diplomacy, which is their trademark so far as their dealings with the American ruling class is concerned. No, what motivated the bureaucrats' silence on Watergate was simple political survival.

Take the attitude of the president of the Teamsters' Union, Frank Fitzsimmons, for example. At the height of the Watergate controversy Fitzsimmons stated, "There is no time like the present to support our leaders and uphold the dig-



George Meany