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Individual Action - 1952, December 2, Tuesday

John Goldstein

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INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Vol.1, No.3

New York, N.Y. December 2, 1952

Price Five Cents

PEACE & PROSPERITY ELUDE PUERTO RICO

by Ruth M. Reynolds

John's Corner

A crime investigation is once again taking place. The New York State Crime Commission, which is controlled by the Republicans, is interrogating big Democratic politicians. The purpose of the investigation is to uncover enough dirt for the Republicans to use against the Democrats in next years Mayoralty election.

To the surprise of no one, the Committee has discovered that a criminal by the name of three finger Brown is connected with certain politicians, among them Vito Marcantonio. In fact, this gentleman was on the payroll of one Congressman. Now the Federal Government has moved to deport him. It is contending, in effect, that native Americans are good boys while Italians are basically corrupt, three finger Brown is of Italian decent.

The Commission also discovered that former Judge Aaron J. Levy has \$80,561 not accounted for. It is reliably reported that Levy was practically penniless before he became judge. According to the commission he received gifts from firms whose cases he presided over.

The Committee's disclosures are not surprising to me. Neither are they very important when you know that graft is merely one of the manifestations of capitalism. As a matter of fact, the ruling powers are using the issue to divert the peoples minds from a much greater event, the preparation for World War three. While illegal crooks are being investigated, the government is further militarizing the country. So we radicals must not allow the ruling class to deflect us from our main task; that is, the frustration of the war effort.

The case of Stanley Sydow will go to the Supreme Court. Sydow, a war resister, contends that if he permitted the Government to draft him, he would be violating International Law which, according to Sydow, states that anyone who partici-

Turned Down

Albert Einstein, who is responsible for the construction of the atom bomb, a marvelous accomplishment, has declined the Presidency of Israel which was offered to him by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. Now perhaps he will not be able to use his scientific knowledge for producing more deadly weapons for Israel. But we expect he will still be idolized in some radical quarters.

pates in war is subjected to punishment. Even though I, as an Anarchist, strongly believe that law is based on coercion, I wish Sydow the best of luck. It would, however, surprise me greatly if the Supreme Court declares that war or the preparation of war is illegal.

* * *

The despotic Franco regime, which has brutally murdered political prisoners, has just been admitted as a member of the United Nations Educational Scientific, and Cultural Organization. I expect that this will shock many Liberals but we, who eschew all political philosophies, have predicted on more than one occasion that Franco would be ultimately accepted by the great "Democracies".

* * *

Judge Dimock has cited Elizabeth Gurly Flynn, a Communist hack, for contempt because she refused to answer certain questions. While we radicals have a perfect right to deplore the policies of the Stalinists who are utterly unethical, to say the least, it is necessary to fight for their right to express their views for if the Communists are repressed we too might be persecuted.

* * *

I am happy to report that many readers have sent in literary contributions and I hope they continue to do so since Individual Action is one of the few publications which is taking a principle stand against all wars.

Another shooting episode in the relentless war that the United States Government has been waging against Puerto Rico's patriots for fifty-four long years, occurred last week. It was the first since 1950, when the Government's decision to wipe out the Nationalist movement in Puerto Rico by force and violence resulted in island-wide Revolution. Since that time the Movement has been quiescent in respect to public activity, allowing the crowded jails and the police terrorism to write their own indelible messages on the hearts of a valiant but disarmed population. Last week the Government decided to act again, and was met in the way that non-pacifist persons of courage may be expected to meet aggression.

Gabriel Parrilla Fontanez is the son of a barber living in Barrio Obrero, Santurce, Puerto Rico. Twenty years old, he left the University several months ago to continue alone his study of Puerto Rican history and social problems. So serious was he in his determination to learn that he lived alone in a one-room house close to his parents' larger home, eating and sleeping there and spending almost all of his waking hours in concentrated study. He bothered no one and he did not permit anyone, even his own family, to interfere with his program of study.

One major threat to his pursuit of learning lay in his path, however. Not content with taking whatever Puerto Rican land it wants for military purposes, driving the people off to shift for themselves, the long arm of aggression, by virtue of a law no Puerto Rican had any part in enacting, plucks Puerto Rican youths from their homes to kill and be killed in wars allegedly undertaken to stop aggression. Men who don't obey the command to liberate other peoples at the behest of their own country's conquerors are subject to five years imprisonment in a penitentiary in the United States.

Gabriel Parrilla Fontanez, like 100,000 other Puerto Rican youths, hates this law enough to conscientiously disobey it, despite the five year prison sentence. He does not consider himself an American citizen, even though the United States Congress has declared him to be one. He does not think that the United States Congress can change his nationality any more than it can change his sex, no matter how many declarations it makes. He feels no loyalty to any nation except Puerto Rico,

and considers it ridiculous to fight aggression in other parts of the world while Puerto Rico remains aggression's victim. Yet, being of a peaceful nature, he dedicated himself exclusively to study until the day that Aggression knocked personally at his own door.

It was 6:30 in the morning of Wednesday, November 13th, when Richard C. Godfrey, accompanied by another F. B. I. agent and an Insular policeman, tiptoed up to the quiet house. They knocked, and told Parrilla that he was under arrest. His answer was six shots fired at the closed door. The agents dropped to the ground and crawled cautiously back to the sidewalk. There, with a concrete wall protecting them from the youth who preferred shooting at them to dropping napalm bombs on Korean children, they could rise to their haunches and confer. Their decision was that three men were not sufficient to capture this quarry; they would need an army. They put in a hurried request for reinforcements, and soon had at their

(Continued on page 4)

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PEACE

Many Pacifists have unfortunately been promulgating the notion that peace is merely a truce between States. We believe that the term peace connotes tranquility, security, and freedom. In other words, so long as inequality prevails, conflicts, either external or internal, will take place.

A young man who is subjected to military conscription cannot have peace of mind — or any other peace for that matter. It is more than likely that he is at odds with everyone while he is waiting for his induction notice for the young man is debating with himself whether it is moral to participate in killing. It is a salient and plain fact that youngsters will not find tranquility until military conscription is abrogated.

Likewise, a worker is not living a pacifistic life. Even if he does not think so, his is engaging in struggles with his employer. He is constantly faced with the problem of supporting his family on his meagre earnings. Quite probably, he is working near a machine that affects his nerves adversely. He realizes that he is at the mercy of the boss so he may not plan his own life. The workers cannot procure peace until capitalism is replaced by workers control of the means of production and distribution.

Neither is the capitalist at peace with the world. He is forever trying to outstrip his competitors. He is also constantly trying to contrive new ways of exploiting the workers. If he is the least bit human, he has a guilty conscience and is therefore rationalizing his position as capitalist. He too is disturbed by the fact that others are starving while he is filling his belly.

And the politician and soldier are pervaded with internal conflicts. They have taken cognizance of the fact that when they involve civilization in wars, they are acting unethically, immorally, and unjustly. Yet if the politicians and generals eliminate wars, they realize that their jobs would be jeopardized.

Nor does the housewife enjoy peace. Inasmuch as she does the family shopping, she is greatly upset by high prices. It is highly likely that she takes her frustration out on her children and beats them unmercifully.

We believe that we have proved that peace and an authoritarian society are incongruous. And we think that pacifists who propagate thoughts to the contrary are inadvertently deceiving the public.

Then what can we do to promote peace? We must call a General Strike to expropriate the capitalists of their ill-gotten gains and abolish the repressive institution often referred to as Government. When this is accomplished, it is necessary for us to distribute goods according to need.

Of course, decentralization is a necessary process in the attainment of peace. The monstrosities, known as cities, should be destroyed in view that they produce nervous frustration as well as congested air. In a decentralized society, not only would a person be able to assert his individuality, but he would be living a healthy life. Probably, an individual would perform a variety of tasks

WAR is the health of THE STATE

instead of being constrained to do one type of work during a lifetime. Such a condition ought to enrich the individual.

If we eradicate the conflicts that beset mankind, peace and tranquility will prevail. But if pacifists do not challenge the structure of capitalism and Government, we will be subjected to war and oppression.

Letters to the Editor

Dear John:

What about concentration camps?

Every few weeks an article appears in the local newspapers denying that America is setting up concentration camps but below this misleading headline will be a story saying that penitentiary inmates are preparing these 4 areas for political prisoners.

A few local newspapers have said that this is not necessary and undemocratic but no action has been taken. I have talked with various leaders of the American Peace Organizations but they advise writing letters and very quiet discussion.

It seems to me that Gandhi or any other dynamic leader would picket with posters these areas or sit in front of the gate or lie down in front of the entrance. Do you or any of your leaders have any action suggestions.

I live only 20 miles from Allenwood where Lewisburg inmates are preparing a concentration camp and in case of war any person who is suspected or even thinks objections to present policy can be placed in confinement.

I am considering picketing this "hellhole" in my spare time or on

significant holidays. Am looking forward to your suggestions.

JOHN BAILEY

* * *

The Nov. 1952 Presidential Election discloses: 33 million voting for Eisenhower, 27 million for Stevenson, perhaps 1 million for the dozen or more minority, including peace-slanted, parties. and at least 34 million potential voters who did not vote though they outnumber any single party except the Rep. - Dem. "containment" war coalition. The blackout that makes it possible for these 34 million potential voters to be not informed about the minority parties which they might have supported, may be shown in another matter. GI "battle" casualties in Korea totalled 94,453 per U. S. Defense Dept. but 291,011 per Chinese reports — for the same period of Oct. 25, 1950 to Oct. 15, 1952.

ALBERT BOFMAN
U.S. Com. Against Militarization
6329 S. May St.
Chicago 21, Illinois

Notice

A Party will be held on the night of Dec. 12 at 429 E. Houston to raise funds for Individual Action. The price of admission shall be \$.50.

Take Subway to 14th Street and then take Ave. D bus to Houston.

May we suggest that if you cannot come to the affair, you send a small donation to the paper.

Visitor

The Belgrade Radio has declared that Premier who is a "good" communist will visit England in the latter half of March. Churchill had previously invited him to do so. Tito will probably be pictured as a great Democrat before his arrival.

ABOLISH MARRIAGE

—Felix Ortiz

The sexual question is the most neglected of all social problems. Books on Marriage Problems with a heap of advice on how to solve them are plentiful. But I have very seldom read a word in defense of Free-Love as such.

As a supporter of Free-Love I favor the abolition of the State and Capitalism because this revolutionary act, by ushering the people into a rational and intelligible relationship toward each other based on a footing of equality, will help to free them from traditional errors. It will give a terrific impetus to the acquisition of a new sense of values; to the acquisition of a new morality, or rather, to the practice of that morality which is now natural to man instead of the false "morality" of the law, which is based on the institution of private property and supported by coercive authority.

The transformation from an authoritarian, capitalist society to a State-less, class-less and free society will make conditions psychologically better for the propagation of the idea of Free-Love, and economically better for its practice.

It is the avowed noble aim of honest revolutionaries to help bring about a form of society in which there will be no reason for people to go hungry—hungry because of lack of food. Some also include cultural hunger. But these good people do not seem to realize that in our country today there is a hunger infinitely more prevalent and pressing than the hunger caused by lack of food. I mean sexual starvation. I believe that these people realize it, but they refuse to be honest with themselves. To them the word sex is still something to be shame-facedly hushed.

The world is full of women. There should be no reason why a man should be driven to rape. Yet, rape cases are numerous. The sexually-starved are too many to be ignored. The majority of them restrain themselves by painful, and harmful, self-control. Yet, some do rape despite the extremely severe penalties the unhappy souls must risk. This makes it evident that there must be something wrong somewhere. It is true that the majority of rape accusations are false because the females are voluntary participants in the affairs, but this does not take away from the fact of widespread sexual starvation, but is, rather, a tragic manifestation of it. I repeat: there must be something wrong somewhere. The wrongness lies in our social customs. Because of our social con-

A Good American

Pete Crain is a good 100% American. He supports the marvelous capitalist system, and with it, the humanitarian Government of these Benighted States. He has received accolades from such enlightened organizations as the American Legion and the AFL. Pete is a great man and if you do not think so, you are a terrible subversive.

Peter, like other intellectuals, loves his boss. In fact, when some of his fellow workers become a bit impetuous, he tells the boss. For example, a few years ago, the workers decided to slow down on their jobs, a subversive endeavor indeed. They asked him to do likewise. But Peter would not betray his employer and so he informed the unappreciative workers that if they carried out their plan, he would report them to the poverty stricken boss. The workers, realizing that Peter would perform his function magnificently, renounced their idea. Three cheers for Mr. Crain.

One day an AFL organizer visited Pete's shop. Pete was simply horrified in view that he was taught that unions are horrible. His boss, however, told him that the AFL is constructive since it eliminates from its ranks radicals and other troublemakers and bargains with the employers in good faith. Thus the boss was able to persuade Peter to join it.

The AFL gained a valuable member. At union meetings Pete of course supports increasing the official's salaries whenever the wonderful union leaders bring up the issue. He pays his dues regularly in addition to contributing money to the political fund. And he never neglects to speak in favor of the executive committee's resolutions. Mr. Green learned of Pete's good work and rewarded him with a distinguished service cross. It is an undeniable fact that Mr. Crain earned this reward.

Peter, naturally believing that red blooded Americans are

continued on page 4

ventions a person cannot satisfy his desire directly, but must first go around a myriad of obstacles thrown in his way.

In our country today there are millions of healthy, sexually mature persons who go through the agony of sexual starvation for many, many years. This causes many mental disorders, as psychologists very well know. Economic, legal, and conventional barriers to healthy sexual relationships combine to bring forth a race of neurotics.

to be concluded

Good News

According to President Truman, the shipments of arms to Europe have fallen behind schedule. But the muddle-headed nincompoop says that there has been enough progress to justify optimism. It would not occur to the politicians that the Europeans are in much greater need of food than they are of military equipment. Government officials, however, are not concerned whether millions are starving or not.

THE KERN CASE

On December 18, 1952, Dick Kern will appear before the Court of Special Sessions to defend himself against charges of using violence against two officers of the law.

On the night of the 30th of September, Dick Kern, and other members of the War Resisters League, passed out leaflets at Times Square during a civil defense drill.

The Cops began to interfere with their activity and ordered the leaflet distributors to move on. Dick and his girl friend refused to obey them and continued circulating the leaflets.

Suddenly the cops seized the girl's leaflets. Dick vehemently protested and read the leaflet to the crowd which had recently gathered at the spot. Then the police grabbed Dick and hurled him to the ground.

A few minutes later, two cops threw Dick into a cab. While they were driving to the police station, the hoodlums, wearing police outfits, gave Dick a good beating and decided to charge him with assault and battery.

When they arrived at the police station, the officers of the law, in addition to fingerprinting Dick, inflicted physical punishment on him. Finally, the War Resisters League was able to acquire the required bail so Dick was released.

The press, except for the Post and Compass, distorted the story. They reported that Kern struck the policeman, which is a palpable falsehood. But it is foolish to expect the press to report events unbiasedly since it is controlled by the capitalists.

It is up to us radicals to support Dick, in whatever way we can, during his trial. We would suggest that those who have an opportunity to attend the trial do so.

Too Bad

The Wall Street Journal has lamented the fact that Iceland's defense budget is exactly zero. If we had our way, military supplies would not be produced. Others, we imagine, agree with us.

Book Review

Neither East Nor West

by Marie-Louise Beneri
Freedom Press, 192p.

It is regretful that the author died at such an early age for she was one of the few females whom I could consider a genuine revolutionist. Women today — there are exceptions — are the pillars of our chaotic system; They own at least 75% of the property and give verbal support to the status quo. And more often than not, the fine ladies persuade their somewhat recalcitrant husbands to become conformists.

The book proves that the author was a rebel of the first order. It is composed of her articles which appeared in **War Commentary** and its successor **FREEDOM**. Marie-Louise castigated both Roosevelt and Churchill during the second world slaughter-fest when it was quite dangerous to do so. Nor was she afraid to expose holy Russia at the time when Stalin was being pictured as a great Democrat. And despite the fact that her intellectual father was murdered by the Stalinists, the author indicates that she would not support either the capitalist imperialists or the Russian Commissars.

The first section of the book exposes the alleged Democratic powers particularly the United States of America. Marie-Louise cites the hypocritical utterances of one Franklin D. Roosevelt. She shows that a nation which treats the Negroes and other minorities as cruelly as the American Government does, cannot and will not fight for Freedom. The United States entered the war to solve its unemployment problem and to make the world safe for Wall Street Bankers.

The deal with Darlan, the author emphatically points out, demonstrates the baneful role of the Allied powers. Darlan was the Vichyite ruler of North Africa during the American invasion of

continued on page 4

No Like War

The West German lower house voted against discussing Allied-West Germany Peace treaty and The European Defense Community pack. The EDC provides for a European army to which the Germans would contribute at least 500,000 soldiers. Reliable sources indicate that the German parliament was forced to postpone action on the treaty because the Germans are opposed to a new war. They should be in view of the fact that they have suffered immensely from the last two slaughter-fests.

Broken Promises

Senator Taft, the great friend of labor, has just announced that taxes cannot be decreased because of Truman's commitments although the Republican orators promised a tax reduc-

tion. Action of this sort can and should be expected from politicians. They promise to do everything for everybody during a campaign, but once they acquire power the people are left holding the bag.

PEACE ELUDES PUERTO RICO

Continued from page 1

sides the FBI personnel of San Juan and a goodly contingent of Police, headed by Salvador T. Roig, a Colonel in the United States Armed Forces and Chief of Police of Puerto Rico. One line of soldiers squatted behind the cement wall; another barricaded itself behind the automobiles and garbage cans that lined the street; the public had already been evacuated from the immediate vicinity. In this undignified trench position they waited — one hour, an hour-and-a-half, two hours. Meanwhile Parrilla, behind a barricade he had hastily improvised from bed, mattress, and pillows, waited in equal silence.

It was the police whose patience gave out earliest. Through a loudspeaker they called upon Parrilla to surrender, promising to protect his life. Silence continued from inside the besieged house. Finally they threw two teargas bombs against the closed door, shattering it with the impact. So powerful were the exploded bombs that the police themselves had to retire a little, fleeing the fumes that reached into the street. Naturally Parrilla, inside with the bombs, had to come out gasping for air. Thus he was captured and taken off to jail.

He will probably stay in jail for five long years, even if he is not charged with attempted manslaughter, as Nationalists were two years ago when they answered violent intrusion with violence. He is only the tenth of Puerto Rico's 100,000 draft violators to be imprisoned under the 1948 draft law, since the policy is to jail only those whose competent devotion to the cause of Puerto Rico's independence is feared. Had Parrilla's tastes run to cockfights and to rum, his refusal to fight in Korea would in all likelihood have been ignored. Since he had dedicated himself to a study of Puerto Rico's history and problems, without benefit of the adulteration that passes for education at the University of Puerto Rico, he could not remain free.

Parrilla does not feel sorry for himself. He is refusing counsel and refusing to defend himself for not cooperating to stop aggression in Korea, before a Court established by and serving the cause of aggression in Puerto Rico. He considers himself a

prisoner of war of an aggressor nation, from which he will not humiliate himself by requesting anything.

GOOD AMERICAN

continued from page 3

greatly superior to other people, thinks foreigners and minorities should be kept in their place. He refers to Negroes as "niggers", to Puerto Ricans as "spics" and to Jews as "kikes". He is especially incensed with the Puerto Ricans because they are moving into his "pure" neighborhood. We should all be sympathetic with Peter's plight.

As was to be expected, Peter is not merely a good family man, but an exceptional one. He buys his wife all the fur coats her little heart desires whether he can afford to do so or not. He attends Church each Sunday with the rest of the family and confesses his sins to the understanding Priest. One wonders, however, how this man can possibly sin considering his record. He attends Baseball games in the company of his sons and roots for the Yanks. And he listens to Jazz and reads comic books. He considers people who like the classics in any form as disloyal. Pete is an exciting individual.

His love of his country cannot be questioned. Some time ago, Pete noticed some pacifist distributing anti-conscription leaflets. He was so terribly shocked that he reported it to the great American Legion. The legion acted immediately. Some of the more patriotic members seized the leaflets and clubbed the pacifists. Peter was simply delighted when he watched the event. The Legion honored Crain by bestowing a medal on him. Peter Crain has proved that he is a good patriotic citizen.

One day Peter decided to visit a psychiatrist like normal people do. He revealed his life history to the eminent gentleman. Peter was pronounced normal and well adjusted inasmuch as the good book states that conformists are utterly sane.

Philosopher Weds

Bertrand Russell, perhaps the only living philosopher, has announced that he will wed Edith Finch, an American. This is the fourth wedding for the advocate of Free Love. Individual Action wishes him a great deal of happiness.

O Heh To North Jersey

Not all North Jersey towns are a William Paterson. Where one mans mind can make the compass whole. But it is mostly steel and s---. The people are the by-the-bye product of tins and tins of candied condoms. also packaged breakfast hoods. that make ya go.

I remember the senseless drunks of Hoboken
Brief product of that candle cargoed town.

The unioned suburbbling of Rah-Rahway
And the foundered Negro shacks of New Ark (beyond the brassiere mill).

The vomitus of Smellcarcus and the prism mills of ribbons and the young girl lives

And I could speak of scabrous Saltine marshes where the Jersey Robins (O bulbous mosquitoes that dive and take their globby cup of blood)

But here I do not wish to speak of honest things

But only blots that capsulate the living sun.

(O Lord when will North Jersey towns be done?)

—N. Bauer

NEITHER EAST NOR WEST

Continued from page 3

the continent. The representatives of the United States restored Darlan to his position in order to cope with the "trouble-makers".

Perhaps the American and British role in Italy was more reprehensible than their African policy. Marie-Louise excoriates the democracies for bombing cities and towns which were expropriated by the Italian workers. According to Blood Sweat and Tears and the Savior of American democracy, the allies performed this "humanitarian" task to crush "anarchy". No wonder we Anarchists could not condone the last holocaust.

The author also discusses the British repression of the Indonesians, the sophistry of the United Nations, the plight of the Czeck people under Communist rule, and the Marshall plan. This book should be read by those who support neither capitalism or Stalinism inasmuch as it suggests a third alternative; that is the establishment of an anarchistic society. It is very sad indeed that Marie-Louise Beneri died without seeing the attainment of Anarchy.

—John Goldstein

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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