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Individual Action - 1953, January 27, Tuesday

John Goldstein

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Goldstein, John, "Individual Action - 1953, January 27, Tuesday" (2017). *Individual Action Newsletters, 1952-1953*. 7.

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INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Vol. 1, No. 6

New York, N. Y. January 27, 1953

Price Five Cents

POLITICIANS STILL HARASS THE PEOPLE

Exit Truman; Enter Eisenhower

John's Corner

Many individuals have questioned me about who would care for the children in the future society, since articles have appeared in *Individual Action* advocating the abrogation of marriage. I, personally, do not like to blueprint, but believe that kids should be raised in nurseries that would encourage the child to develop his intellectual capacities without resorting to coercive methods.

Needless to say, some radicals have been disseminating the foolish notion that the parents are the best equipped to manage their children. Through my personal experience, I have discovered that parents do irreparable harm to their offspring. They not only exercise inhuman authority over them but, in many instances, force them to enter occupations for which they are utterly unsuited. Certainly an Anarchistic society would not neglect the children.

* * *

The former secretary of "defense", Mr. Robert Lovett stated before a Senate Committee that a law should be enacted silencing "blabber-mouths." We suppose the distinguished gentleman means that any person who has the courage to speak against the Korean war ought to be imprisoned. But then, Mr. Lovett, how could the U. S. Government claim that it is defending Democracy? Nevertheless, Mr. Lovett's statement corroborates the fact that Governments will deal ruthlessly with those who expose their hypocritical and unethical policies. It is high time that the American people become aware of this.

* * *

Speaking of war and peace, one cannot ignore the hoax of Eisenhower's trip to Korea. One remembers that during the Presidential campaign, Mr. Eisenhower promised that if he were elected, he would go to Korea and bring about an early and honorable peace. Well he took

The Desecration of the USA

MILITARY ("National Security") Appropriations* fiscal year 1938	\$ 1 bil.
COLD WAR "containment" era fiscal year 1947	21E
1948	16E
1949	19E
1950	23
1951	65
1952	74
1953	60

1947 to 1953 total ...\$278 bil.
per family of four \$7,039 bil.

*Includes "cold war" foreign economic aid: e.g. \$12 billion, fiscal years 1950-1953.
E Expenditures.

USA DEFICIENCIES (incomplete)

Housing	\$130 bil.
Highways, roads, streets	47
Schools	20
Hospitals	13
Com. Sanitation	12
River Valley Developments	25 to 100

Total (incom.)247 to 322
- Albert Bofman U.S. Com.
Against Militarization

the trip and proclaimed that there is no easy solution to the problem. Thus the new president is guilty of the high crime of leading millions of human beings into believing that he could and would end the Korean holocaust which has already taken over 100,000 lives.

I, and other radicals, however, were not befuddled by either Eisenhower's or Stevenson's demagogic campaign utterances since we, as well as the capitalists, realize that if the Korean debacle ended, a depression would occur. It cannot be denied that the war has eliminated the unemployment problem and has made possible enormous profits for banks and munition manufacturers. One can obtain such information by reading the financial reports of various banks, notably Chase and First National.

On January 20, the Eisenhower administration succeeded the Truman one. No basic change in policy is expected although big business is more firmly in control due to the appointments of some high corporation officials to cabinet posts.

Ex-President Truman leaves the American people with a dismal legacy indeed. For seven years, his Government has waged — or threatened to wage — war. He condoned — and even encouraged — the use of the dreadful atom bomb. He is the first president to ever institute a peace-time military draft. Witch-hunting has become the order of the day under Mr. Truman's leadership. No other Administration has compiled such a noxious record.

But the muddle-headed nincompoop has upset the Oil men somewhat. Before he relinquished his office, he turned over the Tideland Oils to the Navy for the purpose of preventing the tycoons from acquiring control of them. This was not done, however, to advance the welfare of the people but to enhance the power of the State bureaucracy, a bureaucracy which Truman represented so well. Now it will be more difficult for the Oil Companies to wrest oil lands from the government inasmuch as the bureaucrats can raise the cry of needing the oil supplies for National defense. Nevertheless, the tycoons have some powerful friends in the Eisenhower Administration.

The New administration, except for Martin Durkin, the expiecard of the AFL plumbers union, is composed of business executives and bankers. Some Republicans thought — and still think — that the appointment of Mr. Martin Durkin to the office of Secretary of labor was ill advised if not a traitorous act. But from their own class position, they are mistaken. Eisenhower — or rather his advisers — knew that if the labor faker was appointed he could lure the unions into supporting Government policies. Already at this early date he has been quite successful for he has induced the AFL and CIO to merely seek revision of the Taft-Hartely law instead of demanding outright repeal.

In the future, Durkin will perform more marvelous deeds for the ruling powers.

Charles Wilson, the ex-President of General Motors, is the most infamous of the Business executives who are entering — or who have entered — the Government. The new Secretary of Defense has the responsibility of awarding war contracts and altho he was forced to sever formal connections with General Motors, it is expected that the company will receive many fat war contracts. Other corporations will also probably get their share of war contracts. Big Business will not suffer with Wilson as Secretary of Defense.

John Foster Dulles, the architect of the Atlantic pact, has become Secretary of State. Mr. Dulles, who represented Standard Oil with great efficiency, has supported the Korean war and Cold war enthusiastically. He had even urged the Truman administration to take the offense against Communism. It is safe to assume that Mr. Dulles will not bring peace to this war-torn world.

We, who eschew all forms of politics, have reiterated again and again that politicians cannot and will not ameliorate our miserable conditions. We pointed out, during the Presidential campaign, that it did not matter whether Stevenson or Eisenhower was elected since both of them endorse a system that enables man to exploit his fellow

continued on page 4

Individual Action

Single copies: 5c, Bundle orders of fifty up: 4c, Yearly: \$2.00, Six months: \$1.00, Three months: 50c

Order from Individual Action, Apt. 2F., 15 Sheridan Square, New York, N. Y.

Published every two weeks by John Goldstein, Apartment 2F, 15 Sheridan Square, New York 14, N. Y.

Editors: John Goldstein and Felix Ortiz

Make all checks and money orders payable to Individual Action

Editors' Statement

We regret to announce that beginning with the issue of February 17, **INDIVIDUAL ACTION** will be published once every three weeks until it is financially feasible to continue on a bi-weekly basis, which we hope will be soon. Since both editors are forced to work for a living, they cannot possibly afford to issue the paper bi-weekly without financial contributions and subscriptions.

With your help we will be able to return to a fortnightly basis and later, if the editorial staff is enlarged, a weekly basis. All contributions will be acknowledged. Individual Action is the only English language newspaper, coming out regularly in this country, that is propagating libertarian ideas; it needs your help. —John Goldstein
—Felix Ortiz

Benevolent Unionism

The New York bus strike and the Philadelphia transportation crisis have revealed the inadequacies of pure and simple trade unions. It is a palpable fact that until the recent strikes, the transport workers were among the most poorly paid workers and worked longer hours than most of their brothers.

We should be especially sympathetic with the plight of the transportation workers. For example bus operators have the dangerous task of driving overcrowded busses for the ignoble purpose of bringing us to our bosses on time. The riders are usually excessively noisy and thus cause many drivers nervous aggravation. And the subway workers are as miserably exploited as the bus riders although they are not subjected to as much nervous tension. But their work is even more unhealthy from the physical point of view since they labor underground and breathe poorly ventilated air.

No wonder the transportation workers are dissatisfied and often take their frustration out on the riding public. But their union officials have done little or nothing to alleviate their abominable conditions. Despite the incessant demands of these workers for a 40 hour week during the last decade, many of them are still working about 44 hours a week. Thus the New York Bus drivers became so incensed with their degrading conditions that Mike Quill, the union piecard, was forced to demand the 40 hour week at the same pay for them. The com-

panies were willing to grant the request provided that they would be allowed to increase their fares. But the Mayor of New York, who is fully aware of the facts that an election is around the corner and a raise in fare would be unpopular, vetoed the pending deal.

And so on New Years day, the bus workers called a strike. But even, then, the CIO gave very little aid to them. The bus Strikers, we believe, could have won their demands, without a fare increase, if the Subway workers also struck. But Mike, despite the workers desire for such action, refused to allow the Subway workers to walk off their jobs. He, in fact, did not even encourage a slowdown by them. Of course, this detestable labor faker gave an excuse for sabotaging the strikers, a dismal excuse to say the least. He proclaimed that since he promised the City politicians that he would not call a subway strike until next year, it was impossible for the union to help the strikers in that way.

In Philadelphia, however, the workers were more rebellious. Mike Quill had agreed to a contract which would bind them to their jobs for two years. But the workers upset the apple-cart. Spontaneously they called a general strike among transport workers, a strike that paralyzed the City.

No matter if the transportation workers win their demands or not, they will be battling for crumbs so long as the ludicrous wage system lasts. It is high time that workers unite to abolish money and all other forms of inequity.

—J. G.

Letter to a Working Class Boy

Dear Sonny,

You say that you expect to do great things when you grow up. Let's hope you do, but let me tell you what is more likely to happen.

When you grow up the first thing you'll have to do is start looking for a job. When you find a job you'll have to get up early in the morn and be a slave to a machine until night. This you must do day in and day out whether you feel good or not. You may get headaches or a cold, or you may get a bit emotionally disturbed. But you'll have to go work anyway. Because if you let these things keep you from work every time they occur you know you will get fired. Or at least your paycheck won't be big enough to give you a living. When you come home at night you will be so tired that you won't feel like doing anything. You know that if you go out with the boys you won't get enough sleep and you'll regret it next morn.

Ah! but on Saturday night you can go out and get drunk. You may get stinko, make a jackass out of yourself and regret it next morn. On Sunday morn you will swear that you will lay off the booze. You will never touch the stuff again. Never! The next weekend the process is repeated.

If you don't get yourself a wife, either because you have a hard time supporting yourself, let alone a wife and kids, or because you don't believe in marriage, or because of any other reason, you'll spend a lot of time trying to pick up girls to go to bed with. Most of the time you won't be able to pick them up. What the girls want is a good meal ticket.

But if you do get married, you'll have to slave and stick to your job no matter how hateful it may become to you. You'll probably become a docile slave, simply because you don't want your wife and kids to starve. Such a situation can even make a fink or a scab of you.

Whether single or married, if you don't have a job it's bad and if you do have a job it's bad.

To escape this miserable situation you may become a drunk or a dope fiend and end up either in the clink or the bughouse.

But these things don't necessarily have to happen to you. You may turn out to be such a dull-headed fellow that you won't bother to take time off to acquire some knowledge and culture. You may work hard enough and steadily enough (as the books in school told you to do) that in a few years you'll have a little money saved (provided that everyone in your family stays healthy). After you have saved this little money you

may have some "good luck" and be able to open a little business of your own by borrowing some extra money. You will be so anxious to make the business succeed that you'll be determined to dedicate all your time to it and to the Devil with everything else. At least for the first year, you say.

Your business may flop in the first year, as ninety percent of businesses do — and you'll have nothing all over again. But suppose it doesn't flop. The second year you'll want to make more money, the next more, and so on. You'll spend your time trying to make more and more money. Yet you will still be unhappy. You'll wonder why. You will then think that if you can only accumulate enough money you'll surely be happy. You can retire and enjoy yourself for sure.

Who knows? When you get older you may become one of the rare few who have risen from poverty to great wealth. This is not totally impossible in this wonderful land of free-enterprise. So let's look into the crystal ball. I now see you as a millionaire! What! You're still unhappy? You're wondering why. Perhaps it is because you sacrificed your whole life to the pursuit of money and had no time to acquire a genuine culture to develop talents. Perhaps your wealth has so separated you from the realities of life that your mind has become an intellectual vacuum. You find that you've been dallying with superficialities and false values. You feel bored to death. So you try to dope yourself by going to horse races, swanky night clubs, etc.

But putting the crystal ball aside the odds are that you won't get rich at all. Most likely you will continue slaving for the bosses until they kick you out when you get too old to make them a profit. Then your relatives may support you, or you may go on relief, or get some kind of miserable pension. Then you can sit at your window and gape at the people hurrying by on the street until you die.

All this may well happen unless you get killed in a war first.

Doesn't sound like a very nice way of life does it? Well, brother, that is the "American Way of Life." If you don't like it don't go commit suicide in Korea just because your girl-friend wants a nice picture of you all dressed up in a nice uniform. If you don't like it declare yourself a rebel and join the ranks of the wisest, most principled and courageous rebels of all; the Anarchists! You have nothing to lose!

Your friend,

FELIX

The Rosenberg Dilemma

By the time **Individual Action** comes out the Rosenbergs death sentence may have been commuted — or they may have been executed. Nonetheless it is the purpose of the writer to deal with the vicious propaganda propagated by both the United States Government and the Commie committee to save the Rosenbergs.

Perhaps the most outrageous contention made by either side is that the Rosenberg case is similar to the Sacco-Vanzetti one. A good anarchist is — or should be — shocked at such a comparison. It is a matter of record — and it can be verified — that Sacco and Vanzetti ab-

hored the inhuman and intolerant Russian regime — and they expressed grief when the Comies "defended" them. Besides, the two Anarchists advocated the obrogation of state power and the freedom of the individual while the Rosenbergs were — and would be today if they were not caught — working for the Soviet Union, a Government that is not only the strongest one existing but one which has eliminated all civil or human rights. The lives of Sacco and Vanzetti symbolized the struggle between the oppressed and the ruling class; the lives of the Rosenbergs, on the other

Continued on page 4

The Colonial Struggle

Space does not permit us to deal with all the subtle excuses put forth by supporters of Imperialism concerning the colonial problem. A typical excuse is the "over population" humbug. Intellectual defenders of the Empire are very fond of pointing to "over population" as the cause of all the evils in the colonies. They shout "over population" from the housetops in order to hide the root causes of the misery involved.

Concerning Puerto Rico's misery, for example, apologists for American Imperialism try to explain it away by repeating over and over again that there are too many people there. These Neo-Malthusians cynically advise birth-control and emigration, but never do they utter a word against the the immigration of Continental Americans to Puerto Rico. Many thousands of Continentals have moved into Puerto Rico and this is very much encouraged. (In the past I guess there were "too many" Indians in the West so that the Whites had to go there and displace them.)

The truth of the matter is that there is no such thing as "over-population". Even a very small community would be "over-populated" if it is so exploited by Imperialist bloodsuckers that there is not enough food to go around to all. It has been demonstrated that if the land were to be scientifically cultivated for the use of the community instead of it being abused, as at present, for the profit of parasitic landlords there would be more than enough food for all.

Another trick employed by the Imperialists is to urge their colonial subjects to vote for the "right" politicians. But the people of Puerto Rico are more and more realizing the futility of voting for politicians to redress the wrongs.

The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico is a "party" in name only. In reality it is a direct action group that long ago recognized the futility of political action. They urge the people not to vote. This group is highly respected by the vast majority of the population because of its principled integrity and unflinching and uncompromising devotion to the anti-Imperialist cause. The best element of the population is in the Nationalist Party. The most intelligent workers are in this group and there are no opportunists in its ranks. This group is definitely not supported by the native bourgeoisie as some radicals in the U. S. may suppose. Those who so contend are more familiar with general theory than with the facts of this particular case. The middle and upper classes are generally inextricably tied to the native political bureaucracy which in turn is dependent on Imperialist interests. Many revolutionists outside of Puerto Rico don't realize how close they are to the Puerto Rican Nationalists both in ideology and spirit. The Nationalist ranks offer a fertile field for the dissemination of the most advanced libertarian ideas.

We of **Individual Action** are Internationalists and as we advocate the universal brotherhood of man we hold that artificial national boundaries must be removed. We are against all National Chauvinism. But we also believe that all true revolutionists should be at least in sympathy with the National revolts of the downtrodden colonial peoples thruout the world. The fight against Imperialism is an important aspect of the general struggle against the ruling classes of the world and should not be neglected.

—F. O.

On Mutual Criticism and the Virgin Birth

There is always a tendency for friends to suppress their disagreements with each other, and either to feel or to pretend to feel that their views on a wide variety of subjects are more nearly identical than they actually are. This results from an immature experience of friendship and prevents the association from being as significant as it might otherwise be.

To be most vital a friendship should reflect a mutual, uncompromising search for truth and a sense of community that is dynamic enough to transcend differences of belief. Somewhat as the unity of a man and a woman is enhanced by the coming together of different temperamental and psychological makeups (the so-called "secondary" sex differences), so the relationships between fellow-revolutionists should be enhanced rather than weakened by the very differences which in a more superficial association would lead to distrust or even contempt.

It is an unfortunate fact, however, that those of us who advocate greater understanding amongst "enemies", often fall to quarreling with our friends. The history of every radical movement, including our own, is replete with internal bickering and hostility. The answer, I believe, is not to be found in avoiding discussion of differences, but in learning to express them openly without hostility (instead of griping behind each other's backs), and in learning to listen to criticisms of ourselves and our ideas without taking personal affront.

George Meredith once said that a truly cultivated man is one who realizes that the things which seem to separate him from his fellows are as nothing compared with the things which unite him with all humanity. In a more narrow area, I would like to think that Robert Ludlow, John Goldstein and I (and others who have similar differences of outlook) could present quite honestly and uncompromisingly the views which might seem to separate us without losing our consciousness of the more fundamental convictions which unite us. At all events it was not my intention to show any lack of respect for Robert Ludlow or the Catholic Worker movement when I wrote recently in **Individual Action** that "the Catholicism of the Catholic Worker is to me a strange mixture of revolutionary love and of the outmoded superstitions of a pre-scientific age". In case others interpreted my words as Ludlow apparently did, I would

like to make clear that I know of no other contemporary organization which admire as much as the Catholic Worker. And whether Ludlow realizes it or not this feeling is shared by many others who nonetheless will continue to believe, as I do, that their "cardinal Catholic dogma" of the Virgin Birth is a "fairy story."

I have written at this length not so much in order to apologize to Bob (which can be done as well privately) but because I think that this problem of having (and expressing) differences without coming to mutually degrading antagonisms is an important problem for all of us to explore. So long as pacifist organizations continue to come apart at the seams over our relatively limited differences, it is hard to see how we can convince non-pacifists that the Russians and the Americans (for instance) can resolve their conflicts non-violently.

Now, with full consciousness that the Catholic Worker holds a contrary view and nonetheless manages to exemplify a revolutionary spirit that puts the rest of us to shame, I would like to point out briefly why I think the Virgin Birth is a fairy tale and why I think it is important for those of us who think so to speak up occasionally on the matter.

I will not press the point of "higher criticism", which Bob dismisses as "Protestant" and "unconvincing." Higher criticism is the term used to refer to critical examination by scholars of the original language texts in the various and often conflicting manuscripts that are still available.

Personally I consider it of some significance that the Aramaic word which was translated by later Churchmen as "Virgin" is a word which was originally used to describe any "young married woman", or "young woman of marriageable age". I also find it interesting that it was the custom for several centuries before and after Christ for enthusiasts of numerous religious sects to claim that their founder was a God who had either sprung from the unsullied womb of a virgin or whose birth was characterized by other miraculous circumstances.

More important than understanding the psychology of the people who first invented the miracles is a realization of the psychology of the people who have either preserved or elaborated such miracles right up to the present day. —D Dellinger

to be concluded

Felix Says

Murray Kempton is the fair-haired boy of many liberals, social democrats and bourgeois socialists. He is the "labor columnist" of the New York Post, a Daily that caters to Jewish capitalists who supply most of its ad money and who exploit workers just as viciously as gentiles do. In a recent piece this bourgeois weaver of fancy phrases ridiculed the Czech communists for acting as if they considered the working class to be a "fount of instinctive wisdom." There's no reason why the working class should be placed on a pedestal as some Marxian sects seem to do. But the working class does possess a sort of instinctive wisdom that totally escapes the understanding of bourgeois reformers like Mr. Kempton.

P.S.—The last "labor expert" the Post had is now doing his dirty work for Hearst.

* * *

The Individual Action "Cow Dung" award goes this week to Bernard Baruch, the shreud financial manipulator who runs the country from a park bench. This protector of Broadway racketeer Billy Rose has advised all U. S. Presidents from Wilson to Eisenhower. He is now playing

Therefore it is better not to sing
the saddest song

1.

The morning years!
Geraniums on the shock-grey sill
DENT DE LOIN on the story book
hill
Ecstasy within the childish fears

The years of afternoon
Sun-blue waves of feeling
Surging dancers reeling O reeling!
Drunk in beauty's lyric grape

And years of evening
Aged beyond believing
And then the old man dead
Orange shards in the black seed
bed

2.

WE HAVE RINGED A GREAT CIRCLE
THE RHYTHMS CANNOT LAST
WE DARE NOT WATCH
OUR LIVES ROLL PAST

The eye cannot watch
The mouth cannot call
The song and the journey
That waits us all

3.

Therefore it is better not to sing
the saddest song
For if we did, who then would do
anything but love?

—N. BAUER

and will continue to play a sinister role in the preparations for World War III; a behind the scenes role similar to the one he played in pushing this country into the last World War. One of his tricks is to get the Zionist organizations to pressure the government into war.

* * *

The Individual Action Medal of Merit goes this week to Sam (Schnozzola) Schwartz, the Mayor of Union Square. Schnoz (as he is affectionately known to us) is the most cynical man on the Square. He has done excellent work in debunking the political propagandists who gather there. All the Stalinist hacks, as well as the Trotskyites, have felt the terrible sting of his incisive wit. His great wisdom and humor make him an excellent conversationalist and a superb debater. But he is intensely disliked by all hero-worshippers and by all those who wish to be worshipped as heroes, for Schnoz is a very irreverent man. His favorite targets are Ryan, the Square's spokesman for the Catholic Church, and his psychotic lieutenant O'Brien. Both Ryan and O'Brien are stool-pigeons).

Schnoz is not a very respectable man, in fact, he's a bum. This very well informed man never works, but gets his food as well as his women by devious means. My co-editor and I, however, find it hard to shed tears for his bourgeois "victims". When the weather gets a bit warmer we shall go to the Square and see the great Schnozzola hold the fort against all comers.

—o—

Politicians Still Harass -

Continued from page 1

man. We cannot possibly rid ourselves of the ills that beset us until we manage our own affairs. Politicians will always afflict us with poverty, war and other frustrations.

—o—

Political Necessity

It has been announced that John Foster Dulles and that perennial political hack, Harold Stassen, will take a trip to Europe for the munificent purpose of determining European conditions. The two lovely gentlemen, we expect, will visit the Paris night clubs and dine with big European politico's, but it is not likely that the two misrepresentatives of the United States will go slumming for if they did, they might discern the utter deprivation of the European working class. But the American workers, of course, will pay the bills of Mr. Dulles, Harold and all other politicians.

The Rosenberg Dilemma

Continued from page 3

hand, were dedicated to the perpetuation of privilege, exploitation, war, and other miseries that beset mankind.

Neither do we care for the Commies assertions to the effect that since Julius and Ethel desired a second front during the last holocaust, their lives should be spared. It apparently does not occur to the Stalinists that the invasion of Europe precipitated the death of thousands of helpless human beings and otherwise caused colossal destruction. The writer would be more sympathetic with their plight if they were conscientious objectors in the last war. Obviously one who is opposed to bloodbaths should excoriate all warring powers.

Furthermore, the Commies charge of anti-semitism in connection with the Rosenberg case is absolutely nonsensical in view that the presiding judge and prosecutor are Jewish and no anti-semitic remarks were rendered by government lawyers. And the Stalinists should be the last ones to raise the issue of anti-semitism since they, in the recent Czech trials, used language which was reminiscent of that great humanitarian, Adolph Hitler.

Equally upsetting, is Julius's proclamation that the information he gave to the Russian Government concerning the atom bomb is innocuous. Mr. Rosenberg was perfectly well aware of the fact that the Russian Government — or any other Government — would use the deadly weapon for the purpose of strengthening its power, no matter whether millions of workers were killed or made homeless as a result of its action. This writer does not feel sympathetic-

cally disposed towards the Rosenbergs.

But I do not support the Government's case either. First of all, Judge Kaufman, a political hack, asserted that the Rosenberg's crime was the worst crime ever committed. I can think of many more dreadful crimes perpetrated by the Government of these Benighted States. For example, the killing of Sacco, Vanzetti, and the Haymarket martyrs, the incarceration of Tom Mooney, the Centralia massacre, and the prosecution of world wars one and two.

If the Rosenbergs' sentence is not commuted, it will be the first time that people have been executed for treason during peacetime. The execution, moreover, would tend to show that the United States Government is almost as ruthless as Stalin in dealing with its enemies.

I hope that the Rosenberg's lives are spared, not because I consider them martyrs, but because if they are executed, it will lead to the persecution of others who are sincerely opposed to both war camps. I believe that the Rosenbergs are traitors, traitors to the human race, and not to the American Government. However reprehensible their actions were, the State has no right—either legally or morally—to kill them.

—John Goldstein

Reds, Reds, and Reds

Three Congressional committees have asserted that they plan to investigate subversion at Colleges. They have stated that they are not merely looking for Communists but Communist thinkers. A Communist thinker is, according to Joe McCarthy, a person who has a dangerous thought. We need more thoughts that are dangerous to the status quo.

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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Sec. 34.66 P.L.&R.