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Individual Action - 1953, August 4, Tuesday

John Goldstein

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INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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August 4, 1953

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UNEASY TRUCE REACHED IN KOREA

John's Corner

Once again a candidate for Mayor in New York has vowed that he shall clean up the City. Rudolph Halley, the former counsel for the Kefauver committee, states that because the City is rife with corruption (it always was) he is running for Mayor.

Many sincere people who abhor the inefficiency of the Impelliteri regime will probably campaign for Halley since they are under the ludicrous illusion that he can and will reform the City administration. We are skeptical. We remember another reformer named LaGuardia who week after week berated, scorned and excoriated the so-called racketeers and the legal gluttons. Yet this same man refused to grant the transport workers a 40 hour week and a wage increase, he forbade them to even unionize. And he did not eliminate racketeers, contrary to popular opinion. Just as many bookies operated after he relinquished office as when he first became Mayor.

So we do not have any faith in the "virtues" of politicians. We, on the other hand, contend that the people can not expunge vice and corruption until they eradicate the system which breeds such germs. And we thus should utilize our energies for the purpose of ushering in an anarchist society which would be bereft of crime instead of voting for politicians, no matter what false promises they make. For these reasons, we advise New Yorkers to stay home on election day.

* * *

Other radical publications have written long analytical articles on the East German rebellion. Because we do not want to bore our readers we shall comment briefly on the uprisings behind the Iron Curtain. The significance of the rebellion,

so far as we are concerned, is that the East German workers and their exploited allies through economic action forced the supposedly strong Soviet Government to make concessions. It is true that they were not momentous ones but the fact that the Soviet rulers were compelled to placate the workers proves that Stalinism and other types of totalitarianisms are not invincible. Another lesson we should learn from the rebellion is that we can force our rulers to capitulate if we utilize direct action.

* * *

Many alleged radicals, among them Norman Thomas, believe that the Congressional Witch-hunters are only interested in investigating Commies and are not infringing on our rights. The interrogation of local 65, a union which is conducting a strike at Hearn's, disproves their contention. It so happens that the labor fakers of this local had repudiated Stalinism and re-entered the CIO. In the meantime they called a strike against Hearn's, because the company sought to replace the salemen with a self-service system. The strike was apparently successful, so the Hearn's management pleaded with the witch-hunters to investigate alleged communism within the Union. Jenner, that fine friend of the workers, obliged and asked the union officials whether they were now or had ever been members of the Communist Party. They refused to answer on grounds of self-incrimination, although they are supporting and will continue to support American Foreign policy. The investigation, however served the purpose of Hearn's; the strikers were harassed. Is it any wonder that we look upon the Congressional inquisitors with a jaundiced eye?

Many Problems Unsolved

On July 26, 1953, an armistice was signed in Korea terminating a bloody war that lasted over three years, despite the protests of the infamous and senile Sygmund Rhee. He had demanded that the United States unify Korea, under his dictatorship, by force.

Most of the common people were exuberant over the signing of the Truce. Yet the armistice is a tenuous and shaky one at least because it leaves many problems to be discussed at a post-war political conference.

One of the many insoluble problems concerns the unification of Korea. It is obvious to any thinking person that neither Mr. Rhee nor the North Korean premier will allow his rival to become ruler of the peninsula even if one of them wins an election. Such a chaotic situation may animate one of the dictators to resume the slaughter-fest.

Another issue to be resolved is what to do with the prisoners of war who refuse to be repatriated. The present agreement allows communist truce teams to converse with recalcitrant prisoners for the purpose of persuading them to return home. No doubt that many of the rebels will accede to the Communist "request" since the commies, in all probability, will advise the prisoners that their loved ones will be endangered if they refuse to be repatriated. Still, though, other allied captives will not heed the admonition of their former rulers. And so the fate of these poor souls who have been subjected to inhuman interrogation by both the Iron Curtain and United Nations authorities will be debated at this political conference. Thus either side may use the prisoner of war issue as a pretext for violating the armistice.

Perhaps the most prodigious hoax of the truce is the provision for the ultimate withdrawal of all foreign troops from war-torn Korea. The American and Chinese troops may leave Korea for so long as neither satellite is threatened by either

an external or internal force. But if the workers and farmers of the much embattled nation decided to demand the abdication of Rhee or of the North Korean premier, either American or Chinese troops would enter Korea to restore "law and order".

For three years both sides have been making protestations that they were fighting for freedom and equality. Nevertheless, the Korean "peoples" government and Rhee's stooges have imprisoned and executed members of the Korean anarchist federation, a group which sought to bring freedom and equality to an enslaved people. Of course the communist and capitalist press did not mention the fate of Korean anarchists in view of the fact that the anarchists abhorred both regimes and the social systems which they represent.

With all our misgivings, about the truce, we hope that the Korean people are spared another holocaust. They have suffered greatly through three years of terror and deprivation. They deserve the sympathy of the World.

Announcement

Russell Rummely, brilliant young anarchist soapboxer, speaks at Ferrer meeting rooms, 91 East 4 St., every Wednesday night. We advise our readers in New York to attend his lectures as they are very enlightening.

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Why were the Rosenbergs killed?

"... And I prophesy to you who are my murders that immediately after my death, punishment far heavier than you have inflicted on me will surely await you . . . You have killed me because you wanted to escape the accuser and not to give an account of your lives . . . If you think that by killing men you can prevent one from censuring your evil lives you are mistaken."

SOCRATES

The long, cruel drama came to an end a little over a month ago. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were finally murdered by the American government.

If you look at it the way the government wants us to look at it, they were murdered because they were atom spies. But it is doubtful if more than a dozen persons, even including the Rosenbergs themselves, had any way of knowing whether or not the charge was true. No matter. It is clear that their supposed guilt was not the real reason why the Justice Department, Judge Kaufman, the Supreme Court majority, and President Eisenhower combined to murder them. And the damning facts from which we desperately want to hide are no less damning whether the dead couple was innocent or guilty.

In either case, the Rosenbergs were victims of the lusts and hates and ambitions of little, fearful men. In either case they were apparently ennobled by their long ordeal to the point where honest men and women should speak of them with respect and admiration. In either case, you and I and the rest of the American people contributed to their murder by the apathetic manner in which we have tolerated inquisitions, purges, and legal blackmail. We were all too disoriented by the anti-Communist war cries, too fearful of being misunderstood by our neighbors, or too enmeshed in our own petty endeavors to be concerned when a man and his wife were held in the death house for 26 long months of a shameful legal farce and finally killed in cold blood.

I can hear people saying: 'Why are you getting so excited? There were many more being killed in Korea every day.'

True. But there are some symbolic issues in which the larger battles of human decency are fought. The fact that the American people were more concerned with Arthur Godfrey's operation than with the fate of the Rosenbergs is in itself a terrifying critique of our American culture. But it also means that it will be easier for there to be more executions — and more Koreas.

It is significant that the greatest concern for the Rosenbergs was in Europe. For perhaps the first time since 1945, reactionaries, middle-of-the-roads, and leftists rose above their political antagonisms to unite in pleading for the pair. Twenty years ago these same Europeans did not recognize the signs which led to Belsen and Buchenwald. Today they are chilled and fearful as they see the United States moving smugly along the same tragic path.

"It was only two Communists", we say. But in France, the extreme right-wing paper, FIGARO, fights desperately to forestall the monumental blunder. FIGARO LITTERAIRE publishes the heart-moving letters of the condemned couple, letters which all the fabled printing presses of Free America failed to make available to those who live across the Atlantic from the Iron Curtain.

"I believe your conduct . . . has already caused . . . the Communist aggression in Korea" solemnly intones Judge Kaufman. The N. Y. DAILY NEWS smirks that "the mousy Julius went first", while the anti-McCarthy N. Y. POST writes approvingly of the wisps of blue smoke that rose from the heads of the two traitors.

But in Paris, Paul Rivet, the beloved and moderate curator of Le Musee de l'Homme, whom one would have thought too old and wise to be moved by the fate of "a couple of spies" writes unashamedly:

"... The atrocious drama is over. Two singed corpses, side-by-side are the terrible witnesses—and two innocent orphans over whom hangs a terrifying curse. I have forced myself to wait a few hours, not that I might become calm but that a slight appeasement might temper the violence of my revolt. And now I believe that I can speak with a little more

Letters to the Editor

Felix Ortiz, Editor,

Dear Editor,

No self-respecting feminist would take your column, "Women, Women and Women" without at least one word for the poor men so over-ridden by these half-wits with few if any "complex convolutions." If woman has any power, domestic or political, she has got it away from her rulers as man did by hard and persistent effort and by risk of life and reputation.

You are doubtless too young to remember before suffrage and have evidently not read of the fifty or more years of persistent writing, lecturing, and talking that was done by those few consecrated women to get even that small privilege. If you can get hold of a copy from some state library of "Jailed For Freedom," by Doris Stevens, or "Angels or Amazons" by Inez Hayes Irwin, read them and you will see that getting the suffrage was no "Push over."

But that was only the beginning. There are still on the law books of our 48 states over one thousand laws that discriminate against women, and intelligent women are persistently blocked in their efforts to have these laws repealed, either one state at a time or by Constitutional Amendment of the Federal government. How can you say that men are ruled by women, when as a matter of fact, the men are so afraid that the women will take over and do away with war and political crookedness, and find out all they have been able to keep covered that they leave no stone unturned to defeat a woman who dares to run for office, when one does?

Nor are the professions open to women. It is still very hard for a woman doctor to get into most medical schools, and while women teach, how often do they get the big paying jobs of superintendent?

As for your final argument that men are beggars to women for sexual favors, the men prefer it that way, do they not? And you as an adult know that every man and woman, too, can satisfy their own sexual urges and no thanks to anyone.

It is a shame for a radical especially an anarchist to divide our cohorts, small as they are by attacking the female section. We should be united for our common ends, men and women together. Women do not want protection, for it has too often meant not protection but restriction so that men could have the best jobs. Women want equality of opportunity in politics, and business life. How can a good anarchist deny these to any person?

OLGA K. ROBINSON

Democratic Israel

The Israel parliament, which had passed a bill conscripting all except orthodox women for military service, now has enacted a law requiring ultra-religious ladies to serve two years on an Orthodox Communal farm, in an immigration camp, or in some "social" service. Day in and day out, one hears how the Israelis are building a democracy, but seldom does one notice the fact that the government is utilizing measures utterly repugnant to a libertarian spirit.

objectivity of an execution the news of which created amongst the people of France a unity which has not been seen for years in such a noble cause, and which produced throughout the whole of Europe a spontaneous reaction which didn't seem possible amongst peoples who had been so desensitized by the horrors of war."

The bitterly anti-Communist Jean-Jacques Bernard reacts to "The Tragedy" by writing straight from his heart in a paper which is normally considered to be Communist-controlled:

Some of those who are so vehemently aroused on behalf of the Rosenbergs know that although I am in agreement with them in this case, I cannot countenance their silence about tragedies in certain other countries. (Nevertheless) what overcomes and revolts us is the ease with which, in some countries human life is sacrificed, life on which we in France still place such a high value . . .

"The most friendly explanation would be that President Eisenhower, in sacrificing these two lives actually thought that he was protecting peace for millions of others. He said, and we should believe him, that he is sincere. But it is this very sincerity, shared by the majority of Americans, which so appals us. Is it a crisis of chauvinism, or a phenomenon of collective fear? Or is it simply a superiority complex so dangerous amongst childish peoples?"

DAVID DELLINGER

Next Issue: Part II of The Significance of the Rosenberg Case

"I would rather die . . . than speak in your manner and live."
Socrates to the Athenian government

WAR

It is not too late to mention a dispatch from the Canadian Press, dated, March the 7th, according to which, half of the Canadian soldiers sent to the Korean front do not fire at the enemy. This statement, from a Canadian infantry officer, finds its echo in an article written by major W. E. Carber in which he asserts that fifty per cent of the American infantrymen act the same way. Canadians and Americans feel a certain reluctance in doing away with human life, a fact which, no doubt, does not fit with the business of military officers.

Thus, one of them, the major just mentioned, proposes, as a remedy, to attach a special instructor to each combatting unit in order to raise men's morale; that means to prepare them to slaughter without fear and without remorse.

Now, what a wonderful proposition: A KILLING PEDAGOGUE IN UNIFORM, this is one of the last discoveries of warfare!

However, we realize that in regard to the Korean war, it is very difficult to make the "pa-

Straining at a Ghat

By Internationalist

Few more sardonic pieces of news have recently graced the pages of newspapers than two emanating from Madrid and New York.

The fanatical monks and priests who are Franco's most avid supports can look with equanimity on the bleached bones in the ravines that represents opposition to the Falange, but they have long been dissatisfied even with the meagre display of living flesh allowable on the beaches of Spain.

It has now been ensured that their blushes will be spared. The Falange has enforced "decency" decrees that will eliminate the

triotic string" vibrate.

Furthermore, Major W. E. Carber proposes a combat allocation for each soldier. Yes, killing pedagogue, combat allowance . . . that is really the price of progress.

* * *

Yet, according to Wasington military high command's statistics the regular army has had

modernism of swimsuit and bring in the less fashionable modes of 1913 beachwear. Women's midribs and men's chests will no longer disturb the Catholic minds of the Fascist regime.

This is in a minor part due to some anxiety over too much tourism, and the fact that tourists might see too much. In this respect it is an endeavor to limit the increasing flow of tourists without cutting off the financial benefits brought. But more particularly it is the epitomising of Catholic fears that sunbathing and the worship of the human body is destructive of the old regime. The fanatical Carlists still keep alive the mem-

46,000 deserters of whom 11,000 have never been found; the navy 1242, aviation 551, marine 1377 a total of 49,450 in 30 months.

Well, it deals here with human beings who, after reflection have decided that it is essential for them to save their own skin.

(De "l'Unique" by J.S.)

Unionism and War

Possibly one of the most tragic ironies of our cruel and ignominious age is that American labor unions, together with their liberal allies, are not only bewailing the cuts in the "defense" budget, but are demanding more war work. Recently, the CIO auto workers criticized the government for cancelling contracts for bombers, and the Amalgamated workers have demanded more war contracts. It is apparent that the unions instead of bemoaning and excoriating imperialist wars are promoting prospective slaughter fests — and with enthusiasm.

Many people are bewildered by such reprehensible action on the part of the present day job trusts. We are not. In the first place, both the CIO and AFL are approved and supported by the Government and the capitalist class. They are thus constrained to sanction government policy, even though they may be cognizant of the fact that this aforementioned policy can lead to nothing but disaster for the working class.

Secondly, since the unions are merely dues-collecting agencies and since the union bureaucrats realize that if the government reduces war contracts, they will lose dues payers, the AFL and CIO want to perpetuate the cold war. The labor fakers have no aspiration for a society bereft of war, exploitation and other

ugliness, and so they are encouraging, and will continue to encourage, the capitalists to manufacture war goods that may cause havoc and deprivation among the workers of other countries.

In short, the American unions — if one is so inclined to designate them as such — have no international perspective. They reject and eschew the old labor axiom that an injury to one is an injury to all. No wonder piecards can enrich themselves with impunity at the expense of foreign workers who are being killed as a result of American war production.

Perhaps, the workers are more to blame than the union officials for these pury times. Few, if any workers, refuse to pay dues to the phony unions. Seldom do we hear of a worker refraining from producing instruments of destruction. In fact, the workers seem anxious to acquire war jobs. They believe that jobs of this sort will enable them to purchase television sets and other junk — and we do mean junk. They do not seem to care whether or not the weapons they are constructing will kill or incapacitate another worker. The American scissorbill has a selfish attitude, in effect. He is only concerned with his narrow problems and never thinks of his exploited brethren.

We do not, nevertheless, feel that the present dismal situation

cannot be altered. On the contrary, we believe that the workers and other socially conscious individuals can forestall the impending war. The workers of the world — and we do include the ones of the Iron Curtain countries — must tell their rulers that they will not engage in imperialist ventures, that they will not produce war materials, and that they will not disseminate brazen patriotic propaganda. In other words, the exploited should inform their governments that they will no longer serve as cannon fodder.

And it is imperative for the workers to discern that they can banish war if they extirpate a system that thrives on imperialistic blood-baths. Only an anarchist society, we feel, will obliterate war, for anarchism will obrogate all rivalries, be they commercial or otherwise. A libertarian social order, moreover, will stress cooperation instead of competition among individuals. And if it is necessary for an individual to satiate his ego, he will in a free society, be able to do so by indulging in creative endeavor.

Governments, throughout their existence, have perpetrated wars. We, individuals, must promote peace — and we mean real peace and not phony agreements arrived at by the rulers of the world.

—John Goldstein

ory of a long-forgotten king, and appeasement of them and their old enemies, the Monarchists, together with the Mussolini-type Falange, is only possible by virtue of the bonds of the church. Catholicism must be strengthened. Hence the monks have their own way in a decree that has caused a gust of laughter through Europe, which has its ironic character when one considers the nature of the fascist regime with the mass executions at which no churchman boggles in the least.

A clear parallel can be seen in the Rosenberg case. The full details of the electrocution did not appear in the press because of their ghastliness, but it stands out as certain that Ethel Rosenberg died a patricularly ghastly death, it necessitating several charges to finish her off. This after two years of delays while the courts debated the legal niceties, and others considered the political issues involved.

And then at the last moment came a concession, full in the tradition that caused Franco to worry about swimsuits. The Rosenbergs were to die, but four hours earlier than planned, so as to avoid any transgression of the Jewish Sabbath. It is true that orthodox Jews do not work in any way after dusk on Fridays, but it is doubtful if even the most legalistic could point to a period when it was forbidden for others to kill them. It is doubtful indeed if the U. S. Supreme Court would have heard any plea based upon the argument that one's religion forbade one to be killed at all. However, the formalities were observed: the rights of orthodoxy were maintained but not the sanctity of human life.

Such instances show the hypocrisy of governments particularly in regard to religion, where they maintain the trimmings of something that has long since lost all essence. Most thinking people come to very similar conclusions. It is not, however, enough to be merely cynical regarding our rulers and would-be rulers: we have to do something more positive about it.

(London)

Eisenhower's Pronunciamento

President Eisenhower has praised his first six months in office. He asserts that the country is making progress. We, however, are still being exploited, are still paying tribute to landlords and are still subjected to government regulations. It does not make a particle of difference who rules us, whether they call themselves Democrats or Republicans.

Women, Crooks and Feminists

(An answer to Olga K. Robinson's letter)

By Felix R. Ortiz

"Women are no damn good"—Diana Barrymore, actress

Dear Olga,

First of all I want to retract my statement about the "complex convolutions". I consider your sarcastic remark about this to be the strongest point in your letter. To Hell with scientific "authorities"! To rely on them is like building a house on sand. I was not really relying on them, but I gave that impression to many readers and that's why I retract it. Mea culpa, mea culpa! Now that that's settled I proceed.

I was born many years after suffrage (I'm still in my twenties and — I might as well say it — not bad looking), but I have read several books about the women who fought for it. You recommend that I read a book by "Inez Hayes Irwin". Shame on you, Olga, "Irwin" was her husband's name. Some feminist you are! Incidentally, the name of the book is "Angels and Amazons". That conjunctive in the middle changes the whole meaning of the phrase. Your "or" was a Freudian slip.

I admire some of the female martyrs of the suffrage movement because I feel that they were moved to action by noble and unselfish motivations. I feel the same way about some militant females in the communist and socialist parties and in many other political groups. As an anarchist, however, I consider them all to be in error because of the obviously Statist implications involved in their propaganda. That's why Emma Goldman ridiculed the suffragettes. But the anarchists were not the only ones who considered them misguided. So did the reactionary politicians who failed to foresee that women would vote for them and support their laws. So did the innocent husbands who imagined they were Kings. And so did the "smart-girl-looking-for-a-husband" who saw these consecrated militants giving up their best weapons (the feminine snares) in the fight.

Putting the statist implications aside I have another objection. This second objection, by the way, is quite original and therefore not yet part of anarchist doctrine generally. An anti-State female feminist (if such a creature exists today) is also wrong because if she really wants equality she should fight for the men instead of women. To coin a phrase, she should be a "female Masculinist." The disdain for the "feminine snares" exhibited by many of the suffragettes,

considered in the abstract, was a tendency that benefitted the men, altho they couldn't see it. The "smart-girl-looking-for-a-husband" saw this and she said to the feminist: "Don't be silly. That's not the way to hook a man and enslave him." So much for that.

Believers in "progressive legislation" like Bertrand Russell were dismayed and disappointed by the result of suffrage. Women were for prohibition. All efforts to regulate prostitution for reasons of health have been blocked by the women. (unfair competition?)

As to war: Would having more Oveta Culp Hobby in the government do away with war? Mrs. Roosevelt, a champion of "women's rights", supported war. And what about Anna Rosenberg?

As to crookedness: The former Chief Tax Collector in Washington (a male) was caught cheating. He cheated in order to supply a woman with mink coats. I suspect that if she had been the Tax Collector she would've kept the loot herself and would not have bought him even a cheap pair of pants.

The ex-Mayor of New York, William O'Dwyer, "accepted" money in order to keep his attractive wife living in style. When he had to go to City Hall every day and sweat and struggle at the nerve-wracking job of out-maneuvering the other political crooks she was taking life easy, just showing off the latest fashions in dress. When things got too hot for Bill he was kicked upstairs by his friend Harry the Horse Thief and she went along with him to the Land of Pancho Villa. Now that her "Fugitive Bill" has lost both the mayoralty and the ambassadorship she has been hanging around Franco's Heaven looking to catch another Big Fish. Some creatures in Spain still have titles you know. Soon after she left him, Bill furtively began to circulate rumors that he was about to establish a big business South of the Border. But she didn't bite. She figured she might do better in the peninsula. Being good Catholics a Mexican Bishop's itchy palm had to be greased to untie the knot and thus prevent an indiscreet spilling of beans. But she has a surprise coming. She will not be able to settle down in Spain as she intended to do because, as she will soon discover, there ain't no Big Fishes available South of the Pyrenees. A

gal with her perspicacity should be able to make this discovery very soon. Prediction: She will return to the U.S. within two months. As for Bill's future: He will be taken for another ride by a beautiful Mexican Gold-Digger in her twenties.

Many small-time con-men are jailed every year, but the women who set them up to take the rap stay in business. The con-men are easily out-conned by their sweetie-pies — who have much more skill at playing innocent.

Do men prefer to be the beggars? No. Shame on you, Olga! Don't you remember what the authoritarian anti-feminists (innocent dupes) used to say? They said: "So women are dominated. So what? They prefer it that way, do they not?"

Should we be united? Yes.

Should we have equality? Yes, but women should have a few privileges because she is biologically different from man. Frinstance, she should not be expected to work a little before and a little after giving birth. Woman is not only biologically different, she is also intellectually inferior. She is not capable of abstract, analytic thinking. That's why there has not been one female philosopher in history. The men will have to do the thinking. There was once a husband who, becoming annoyed by the emotional subjectivism of his wife, said to her: "I don't like to discuss theories with women. They always take things personally". To which she replied: "That's not true. I don't".

Anarchists reject the Platonic idea of "equality under the State" more politely called "equality under the law". It is said that in Russia men and women are equal — they are both equally exploited. Real equality cannot exist under the law. It can only exist in a free society.

You sent me a pamphlet containing a collection of statements made by about two dozen feminists. All of these fem-

inists are worshipers of the State. And it is a terrible thing when people of both sexes are looked upon as the "greatest resource" the State has — something that needs to be "fully developed" like the State's other resources — minerals, lumber, etc. The State is urged to gain this development of it's human resources by granting them equality.

Another thing, if you want freedom and equality you should advocate Free-Love. "Marriage is obscene in principle in so far as it transforms into rights and duties those mutual relations which should be founded on a spontaneous urge" — Simone de Beauvoir in "The Second Sex".

In order to gain freedom and equality let us work for the abolition of all authoritarian institutions, including the Holy Trinity — Church, State and Family.

And let us have no beggars, please!

Freedom — Vatican Style

Once again the Vatican has shown its true colors. It has "justified" the suppression of Protestant religions in predominantly Catholic countries. The Vatican, as has been said before, only favors freedom of religion in countries where Catholics are in the minority. In Catholic Spain and Italy, for example, it supports, with elation, the censorship of Protestantism and other heresies. What we need is freedom from religion.

Tito Land

Yugoslavian authorities have announced that they will not allow the families of those who preach hate against the Tito Government to leave the glorious workers state. One can hear the same directives from Soviet Sources. The difference, of course, is Tito is now a stooge of Washington. Nice man.

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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