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RESIST

September-October, 1978 — 324 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 #126

a call to resist illegitimate authority

THE KAREN SILKWOOD CASE

Lynda Taylor

Karen Silkwood, a plutonium worker and union organizer employed by the Kerr-McGee plutonium facility in Crescent, Oklahoma, was run off the road and killed on November 13, 1974. At the time of her death she was carrying evidence of health and safety violations and falsification of quality control records at the Kerr-McGee plant. Those documents were missing and have never been found. Auto crash experts hired by the union she was working for found evidence indicating her car was hit from behind and pushed off the road. A week before her death, Karen was seriously contaminated with plutonium found in her home. A month later, Kerr-McGee was forced to report that 40 to 60 pounds of plutonium were missing from the plant. These and other suspicious events surrounding her death have led many to believe that she may have accidentally stumbled onto a plutonium smuggling ring, and as a result was being surveilled and harassed.

Attempts to resolve the questions raised by Karen's death were stymied by FBI and Justice Department officials and through repeated interference with two Congressional hearings. A suit was filed by the Silkwood family in the Oklahoma City District Court on November 5, 1976 as the last alternative in a long struggle to unravel the Silkwood mystery, and is still pending.

On September 25, 1978, Frank Theiss, the U.S. District Court Judge appointed to the Silkwood litigation, ruled to dismiss Count II and III in the case. Count I, which charges Kerr-McGee with violations of worker health and safety, collusion of federal agencies and diversion of bomb-grade plutonium is scheduled to go to trial some time in late November of this year. In evidence are reports of excessive radiation contamination to workers, serious lack of training programs, Kerr-McGee dumping of radioactive waste into the Cimarron River, contamination of local restaurants, and falsification of quality control records.

Count II involves labor issues and charges Kerr-McGee and FBI officials with violating Karen Silkwood's civil rights through wiretapping, surveillance, harassment and violence. It is hoped that investigators will discover what happened the night of Karen's death through this area of the case. Also, Daniel Sheehan, general counsel for the Silkwood Estate, hopes to set a legal

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BACKGROUND TO THE BRIGGS AMENDMENT

MARK FREEMAN AND MICHAEL WARD

We ask the non-gay reader to begin with the assumption that there are now homosexuals, always have been and will continue to be homosexuals. We hope to do without the well-worn arguments that homosexuality occurs in pigeons, monkeys and dozens of other species, being no more or less "natural" than other types of behavior. This article will disregard controversies about excess hormones or Freudian complexes, and will deal instead with the existence of a gay subculture in times of political repression. Nor will it drag all the famous figures out of their musty closets. So rest in peace Herman Melville, Bessie Smith, Florence Nightingale. Happy landings to you Amelia Earhart and goodbye Montgomery Clift.

We ask you to begin with your own memories: of sleeping over at a girlfriend's no-boys allowed pajama party; or of the peeking and comparing of adolescent boys in locker rooms. These are accepted as innocent in the young. Male bonding continues into military service, prison, the factory, local bars and social clubs. Virtually everyone has had a same-sex experience, or at least found oneself fantasizing it.

Maybe it is the fear of this grain of gay feelings left in even the straightest soul that is fueling the current Right wing hate campaign. Or the idea that homosexuality is so potent or virulent that it can be spread merely by being in the same classroom with it. That's a hard one for gay people to believe, since we all "caught" our sexual orientation in the very heterosexual homes and schoolrooms.

Despite the gains of the gay movement, homosexuality is still socially proscribed and illegal in most states. Both the Right and parts of the Left continue to claim that it is a sign of decline, of decadent culture, and should be rejected or repressed, or somehow just simply vanish. Even usually progressive political forces, perhaps for fear of guilt by association, have often avoided the question or have taken weak civil-libertarian stands on gay liberation as a marginal issue. The early feminist and gay liberation movements also made mistakes by identifying the nuclear family or straightness itself as the *main* enemy, rather than confronting the economic system at its root. The following brief history, we hope,

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will encourage the kind of communication that is needed in the coming months as people are faced with a common enemy on several fronts.

On June 28, 1969, police in New York City set out on another of the raids on "queer bars" that were routine at the time. They met with an unexpected response. The gay people in the vicinity of the Stonewall Inn decided that they were tired of being intimidated, arrested, exposed and subject to public embarrassment or loss of jobs due to morals charges. One participant recalled: *Pennies were flung at the door of the bar and the mass of evicted homosexuals tittered in defiance. But the mood was somber. Then suddenly rocks were hurled and windows came crashing; an uprooted parking meeter turned battering ram, the paddy wagon's tires slashed. Fire trucks circled, then hosed down the crowd, the Tactical Police force flailing their billy clubs.* The riot continued for three nights.

The response was undoubtedly a sign of the turbulent times. Gay men and lesbians had been active in and learned the lessons of the civil rights, anti-war and women's movements. By all reports, it was a few lesbians, drag queens and Puerto Rican gay men who launched the first rocks and bricks at "New York's finest", but soon a large crowd gathered. And in an ironic twist, they locked the police themselves into the bar they had come to roust. The militancy of Stonewall was a breakthrough — a sense of outrage was to replace the guilt and shame of the past. Not everyone saw themselves as defending the barricades, since the "Gay community" after all cuts across all class and race lines and includes even the most comfortably off. But all have felt their lives limited by being gay in some way.

Nine years later it appears the movement was foolish in not expecting a backlash. Just as the Right is now moving to turn around all the affirmative action gains of the Civil Rights struggles, so it is also mobilizing reaction against the advances of the women's and gay movements. The fundamentalist campaign fronted by Bryant in Miami was not the first time homosexuals were targeted as part of a move toward political repression. One such episode took place here in the Bay Area following the Gold Rush era.

Ever since San Francisco grew up as the financial and entertainment capital of the West, it had a reputation as a wide open town. Lesbians and male homosexuals looking to get away from the prying, petty parochialism and over prejudice of smaller cities and towns have always found their way to The City. In addition to some infamous lesbians who arrived disguised as male cowhands or sailors, and to some outrageous queens holding forth in the bawdy houses of the day, were scores more who lived a workaday life unsuspected by the other miners, clerks, or barmaids.

The flourishing Barbary Coast, San Francisco's red light district, and the general sexual permissiveness of the city came under attack by the newly formed genteel class and by the staid religious zealots. During the 1870's a revival movement led to the passage of a whole slew of repressive laws against a number of "sins and abominations" including homosexuality. These fanatics

preached, as usual, that fire and brimstone would be the reward for this latter day Sodom and Gomorrah. But the 1906 earthquake, unfortunately, flattened most of the respectable parts of town but left the Barbary Coast, with its dens of iniquity, still standing. The fundamentalists were particularly upset by this twist of fate.

For another lesson in homophobia (here defined as the fear of proximity to homosexuals) we can look at the climate of fear and repression in Washington DC during the Spring of 1950. Joe McCarthy's witchhunt for dangerous subversives in government was leaving no accusation unused. The Senator from Wisconsin, searching for any dirt or innuendo to use against his liberal enemies, began an avalanche of anti-Communist — and anti-homosexual — hysteria.

According to a New York Times news story on April 19th of that year, "...Guy George Gabrielson, Republican National Chairman, asserted today that *sexual perverts who have infiltrated our government in recent years were perhaps as dangerous as the actual Communists.*" By December a major Senate Committee interim report revealed that a total of 4,954 cases had been processed, that it, removed from their government jobs for reasons of suspected homosexuality. This included 4,380 in the military service and 574 on Federal civilian payrolls.

The atmosphere of fear spread; the issue of homosexuality is little understood by most people, and its very mystery is able to grab and hold public attention. Better yet, those who have members of their own gender as lovers can be painted as monsters and attackers of small children. This occurred in Boise, Idaho when a city-wide homosexual hunt was started by a group of wealthy lawyers, businessmen and City Fathers. *It was this power elite*, says John Gerassi in his book *Boys of Boise*, *that in 1955 went after the homosexuals because they thought that they could use the scandal to rock City Hall, which was then in the hands of a fairly decent reformist administration.* Thousands of people were questioned about their sexuality. By the time the madness subsided, a number of men were serving long prison terms, convicted of involvement in a sex ring of young boys, a ring that never existed. Gay people fled en masse from Boise. Many eventually moved to San Francisco.

One positive result of this kind of repression was the formation of political groups for self-protection. "Homophile" organizations such as Daughters of Bilitis and the Mattachine Society continued to meet throughout the Truman and Eisenhower cold war years, but often behind closed doors. Harry Hay, the left wing militant who helped found Mattachine in 1950 pointed out that homosexual purges of government agencies were based on the principle that homosexuals were especially susceptible to blackmail. *It is notable*, said Hay, *that not one single political or pressure group among the liberals, let alone the left wing, lifted either voice or finger to protest the monstrous social and civil injustice and sweeping slander of this dictum.*

Last year's sweeping crusade to repeal gay rights ordinances is clearly part of a larger Right wing

offensive. Now California State Senator John Briggs has upped the stakes even higher with his statewide anti-gay initiative. This will have all Californians vote on whether gay people and their supporters are to be purged from employment in California public schools. Briggs has also put an initiative for a more comprehensive death penalty on the ballot, supported Proposition 13 and received Howard Jarvis' endorsement before dropping out of the gubernatorial primary to make way for rabid Los Angeles police chief Ed Davis.

Connections have been researched and established between Miami campaign backers and the nationwide drive to block the Equal Rights Amendment, repeal abortion laws, hold back labor organizing, and initiate the citizens "tax revolt". Involved are groups with names like the Conservative Caucus and the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress. A loose affiliation of friends like Senators S.I. Hayakawa, Orrin B. Hatch, Jesse Helms, Representative Lawrence McDonald and Ronald Reagan are aiming for a conservative-controlled congress by 1980. A real power behind the throne, the man in charge of the purse strings, appears to be fundraiser Richard A. Viguerie. He once raised \$6 million for George Wallace and now turns his attention to the numerous separate issues capable of mobilizing new converts and constituencies for the Right. Viguerie's main tool is his growing collection of mailing lists and computerized files of potential supporters of Right wing causes. His organization employs 250 people and is estimated to have from one to ten million names on file in locked safes.

The New Right, though it traces its roots and leadership back to the Old Right, has a strategy that is slicker and far more dangerous. Rather than coming on like extremist kooks and paranoids of the John Birch variety, it seems to have learned lessons from 'New Left' strategies and is now mobilizing campaigns and petition drives, even calling mass demonstrations. It aims at a new audience of people feeling the bite of inflation and disillusioned by Vietnam and Watergate. It has backing by large corporations such as Coors, and has been very successful in using the 'born again' fundamentalists. Its rallying cry of "defend the family" runs like a chorus through the campaigns of busing foes, abortion foes, ERA foes and, of course, homophobes.

This moralistic emphasis, coupled with a kind of rampant nationalism evident in their position on the Panama Canal, is disturbingly reminiscent of the tone taken by the Nazi Party as it came to power in Germany, with only 37% of the population actively behind it. As John Burnett points out in his new pamphlet *The Meaning of Gay Liberation*: "The seeds of American fascism are found in the white racist movements in South Boston, Louisville and Chicago, the hate campaign against gay people and the anti-feminist movement. While the leaders of these movements are not fascists, they contain fascist elements and are moving in a fascist direction. In Oklahoma City the KKK has recruited over 100 punks for the purpose of inflicting violence on gay people there. . . . Fascists are a growing minority within the right-wing movement."

SAVE OUR CHILDREN CRUSADE Comes to California



In Germany the Nazis used the complaints of a people suffering from the effects of a declining imperial power and widespread inflation, diverting the blame onto the backs of minority groups and radicals. And the appeal to the German masses was often couched in sexual terms — defend the 'purity of the race' and the Motherland herself. The first stage of the "final solution" to the Jewish Problem was a law prohibiting Jews from holding civil service jobs. The first major book burning in Nazi Germany was the library of homosexual advocate Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute of Sexual Science in 1933. During the round-up for the concentration camps Gypsies, prostitutes, communists, labor leaders and homosexuals, as well as Jews, were collected. Homosexuals were tracked down, arrested and marked with pink triangles, just as the Jews received yellow Stars of David on their armbands. Gay people provided 220,000 victims to the ovens, a fact which has only come to light in recent years.

This year the immediate danger in California of the Briggs Initiative (Proposition 6, which sets up mandatory witch-hunts in the school districts against any covert homosexuals *or* supporters of gay rights) was reflected in a more somber event. Gays under 21 years old, parents of gays, ethnic minorities, labor rank and file officials, and many non-gay supporters are coming together to fight this offensive by the New Right. Because of the difficulty and danger involved for many gay people to "come out" on the job, non-gay people in California are especially needed to help raise this issue in schools, workplaces, union meetings, churches and community organizations.

Supporters outside the state can also be very helpful. For one thing, a campaign of letters and postcards to friends, family and associates who do live in California, letting them know your opinion could be effective. Funds are also needed immediately. We are asking for contributions to the California Outreach Group, a mixed progressive group that is printing educational and organizing materials and helping develop hundreds of concerned activists to bring the issues involved to groups throughout the state, focussing on smaller cities and outlying counties. The above article is part of the packet, which is available on request. Checks can be made out to A UNITED FUND, earmarked "for California Outreach Group" and mailed to AUF, 1 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102.

A CIA COUP IN MANILA?

Philippine Liberation Courier

Upon arriving in Manila in June, newly appointed U.S. Ambassador Richard Murphy's first declaration was that his country had "no intention nor would it engage in any attempt to de-stabilize" the martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

If ever a statement was made with tongue-in-cheek, it was Murphy's promise, according to a number of authoritative sources in Manila. These sources are solidly convinced that as the Philippines concludes its sixth year under martial rule, a silent drama whose main protagonists are Marcos, the CIA, and the elite opposition is about to reach its violent climax.

A wild story in a city that seems to live on rumor? Not according to a number of recent visitors to the country who are disturbed by the "passionate certainty" with which these normally reliable and impeccable sources speak of a U.S.-backed coup to depose Marcos as early as September or October.

The key elements of this conspiracy are said to be:

- A move by elements within the U.S.-trained Philippine military to oust Marcos. The sources are "sure" that the military, which gets about 95 per cent of its arms from the U.S. and has had more than 15,000 of its officers trained by the U.S. since 1950, will "swing."

- The assassination, in the midst of the chaotic situation, of key leaders of the National Democratic Front and Communist Party presently imprisoned by the regime, with the blame pinned on Marcos agents. This move would apparently be taken to deprive the left of a significant role in any post-Marcos political arrangement.

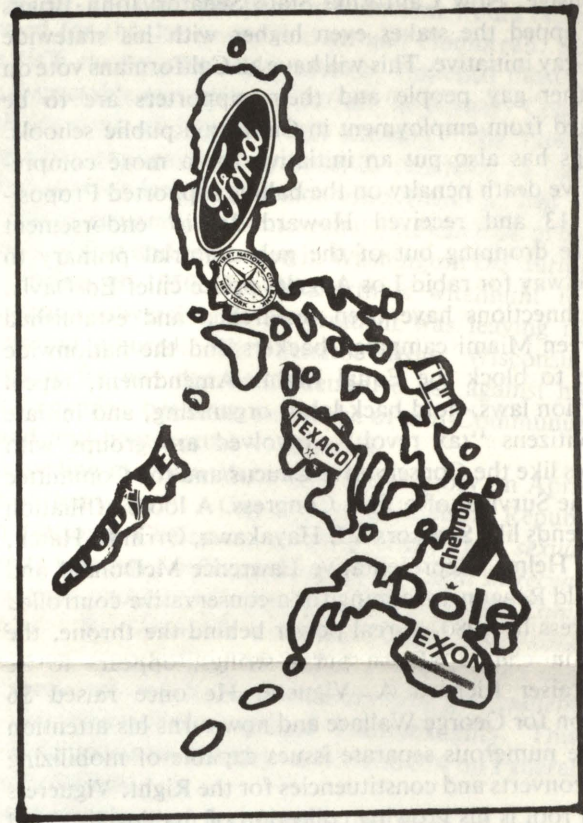
- The installation of a transition government of anti-Marcos elite politicians which would ritually call for elections to legitimize Sen. Benigno Aquino, the U.S. choice, as chief executive.

To carry out the project, the CIA is said to have fielded a number of key experienced coup-makers in the country, including a high Southeast Asia operative named Rafferty, who has recently been observed making the rounds in Manila.

BUT WHY NOW?

The moment of truth and decision for the U.S., these sources assert, came in the wake of Marcos' disastrous elections on April 7. This revealed three convincing facts: the extreme unpopularity of Marcos, the apparent popularity of Aquino, and the confirmation of the reality that the National Democrats constitute the main nationwide, mass-based, and organized resistance to Marcos.

The Americans' main preoccupation is said to be the containment of the National Democrats, who have forged an increasing number of rural guerrilla bases



through the NPA and mounted the bold demonstrations, strikes and rallies which have hit Manila since 1975. As one prominent leader of the "People's Alternative," a grouping of elite personalities and politicians which maintains close ties with the U.S., recounted with dismay to one visitor, "Marcos lost the elections. The democratic forces lost. Only the communists gained. They convinced many that armed struggle is the only solution."

The project then, these observers contend, is in reality a "preventive coup" aimed at blunting the increasing popularity of the mass-based revolutionary opposition before the situation gets out of control. Thus the priority assigned to the assassination of the imprisoned revolutionary leaders, in the hope that decapitation of the movement would lead to its dissolution.

These reports from the Philippines appear to substantiate accounts on the activities of the right-wing elite opposition in the United States. Knowledgeable observers have reported that these circles are buzzing about "something big" which will "speed up" their return to the Philippines. The "elimination" of a number of key Marcos aides, including General Fabian Ver, Marcos' personal security chief, it has been learned, is one of the elements of this project. These sources also note that a key "exile" leader with long-established State Department and CIA contacts has apparently been in and out of the Philippines in the last three months, possibly through Clark Air Force Base. In addition, a number of Filipino officers undergoing training in the U.S. were recently observed in the company of members of the right-wing opposition and, interestingly enough, Col. Edward Lansdale, the key CIA operative in the Philippines in the 1950's who now lives "in retirement" in a Washington suburb.

Speculation acquired more substance three weeks ago, when a major Filipino newspaper based in Chicago banner-headlined an appeal to the U.S. to "sell us arms to topple Marcos" by a well-connected exile previously identified to our sources as a central figure on the U.S. end of the project. Interestingly enough, the article spelled out almost word for word what sources in Manila asserted to be the new U.S. posture toward Marcos: "Because of the April election, the U.S. Government is now placed on formal notice that Marcos does not have the support of the Filipino people and is undoubtedly ruling because of one-sided force. . . . There is all the legal and moral grounds for the U.S. Government *not* to pursue talks on the bases with Marcos. Also there is every justification for the United States to reconsider its former position of supporting Marcos. . . ." This statement has since been mass-circulated in the U.S. as a letter of appeal by a group called the "Filipino Freedom Fighters."

Was this an attempt to cushion the public for an impending change?

That Marcos suspects "destabilization" moves against him is clear enough. On May 6, in a speech before ROTC cadets, the dictator warned the U.S. that destabilization of his regime "would hurt America as much as it would hurt us." Immediately after that, he announced the retirement of 44 of the military's 77 generals — a move which observers interpreted as a method of neutralizing possible conspiracies within the general staff while coopting discontented junior officers through promotions. His recent moves have been a mixture of pleading with and threatening the U.S. On the one hand, he has speeded up the "institutionalization" of his fraudulently elected National Assembly to meet a major U.S. concern: that there would in fact be a "Legislative Body" to ratify any new treaty on the U.S. bases. On the other, daughter Imee has publicly called for the withdrawal of the bases. Lately, First Lady Imelda has alternately denounced "CIA plotting" and begged for continued U.S. support from skeptical congresspeople in Washington.

It is doubtful, however, that Marcos' renowned expertise in the politics of intrigue would be of any help if the U.S. decided to move decisively against him.

Observers of the Philippines are justifiably wary of coup stories. However, the depth of conviction around this coup story among reliable sources in Manila, coupled with the buzz of activity around a "happening" in elite opposition circles in the U.S., indicates at least that even if they have not yet made a decision, influential elements within the U.S. government are now seriously considering replacing Marcos and communicating more intensely with the anti-Marcos elite opposition.

U.S. INTERESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

What a coup would accomplish for U.S. interests, apart from a temporary slowing down of the trend toward massive, radical opposition to the whole structure of semi-feudal, semi-colonial rule, is open to question. U.S. policy toward the Philippines is a particular manifestation of the universal quandary of U.S. foreign policy. As in South Korea, Argentina, and Chile, U.S. cor-

porate interests have increasingly required dictatorships in the Third World to impose the conditions of labor-repression and total economic penetration which generate the super-profits on investments and loans needed to counter the declining profit levels in the U.S. Yet these repressive regimes have high political costs which, at some point, begin to offset the short-term corporate gains; they inevitably create the conditions of political radicalization that threaten to explode the whole structure of U.S. domination. But to revert back to the more "open" and "democratic" systems of elite domination characteristic of the fifties, when such conditions of mobilization and heightened political consciousness were not general, might be extremely dangerous: a "democratic opening" may only result in the expansion and open mobilization of a nationalist and left mass movement already toughened by repression.

Can an elite opposition in the Philippines with a fragile mass base really contain the leftward movement of the Filipino masses without resorting once again to military dictatorship? Martial law has transformed the political terrain. No amount of charisma, U.S.-backing, or "Christian Socialist" rhetoric can bring back the conditions for the existence of the narrow, elite democracies of the 1950's. So long as the fundamental ills of imperial and feudal strangleholds repress the Philippines, it is hard to see how any post-Marcos elite government will be able to avoid the weapon of dictatorship to neutralize the masses.

This article is reprinted from the September 8, 1978 issue of the Philippine Liberation Courier. Subscriptions to the Courier, which appears monthly, are \$5 per year from PO Box 24737, Oakland, CA 94623.

A CORRECTION... Last month's article by Boone Schirmer on the Philippine support movement in the U.S. mistakenly implied that the U.S. Congress believed that more cuts in aid to Marcos is warranted. In fact, it is the Congress *Education Project* which holds this view. We hope they are able to transform our mistake into reality.

...AND AN UPDATE: The Telephone Workers Legal Defense Committee, whose work was described in the July-August issue of the newsletter, has scored a victory. Earlier, a Court of Appeals ruling had stated that a union could decertify a steward who criticized the union. However, a Federal District Court judge has issued a permanent injunction against the union's action, pointing out that it served to "stifle and inhibit members from exercising their rights to express their views and to run for union office." The injunction was stayed, however, pending an appeal by the union. The appeal will be heard by the Appeals Court in early 1979, and contributions are still needed by the Telephone Workers Legal Defense Committee, 410 Seventh St., Brooklyn, NY 11215.

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precedent which would give union leaders protection and redress under the Civil Rights Act.

Count III involves more civil liberties issues, and is designed to expose the government cover up in the case.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE...

The investigation has uncovered evidence of a nationwide political surveillance system aimed at anti-nuclear organizers, workers at facilities, civil rights advocates, dissident politicians, etc. On a local level, through deposition testimony, Sheehan has sworn statements that Oklahoma City Police officials used wiretap equipment illegally on Karen and other union members, although Oklahoma law expressly forbids wiretapping by local and state police. David McBride of the Intelligence Unit there has verified the existence of electronic surveillance equipment, transmitters and wiretaps at the Department.

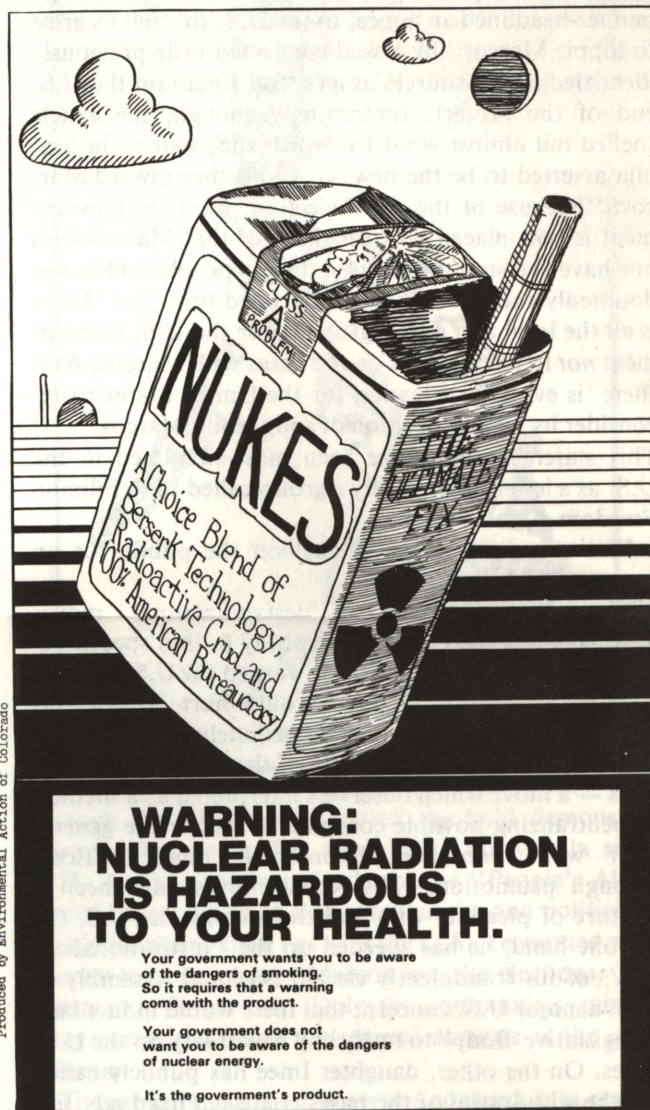
Lt. Smith, who now heads the crime fighting squad, admits the Department holds the equipment illegally and stated "A lot of the electronic stuff — which I don't know what it was meant to be used for — is the stuff we need to get rid of." Chief of Security at Southwestern Bell Telephone, James Harvey, testified that in the past he cooperated with Oklahoma Police in allowing illegal wiretap equipment to be placed there, but when questioned specifically on the Silkwood case, he refused to answer on "national security" grounds.

Connecting Kerr-McGee with the Oklahoma City Police Department (OCPD) is evidence and statements by Captain Bob Hicks and Patrolman Bill Byler of a meeting between James Reading, Security Chief of Kerr-McGee and OCPD officials, which took place on October 15, 1974, to discuss a joint effort to investigate Karen Silkwood almost a month before her death. James Reading was a former OCPD official who came to know of the Department's unlawful possession of the equipment needed to wiretap Karen's phone. In deposition, Reading admitted paying an informant, Steve Campbell, for information he gathered on Karen before her death, and that Campbell and Officer Bill Byler visited Karen's apartment in early November, 1974, and secretly took photos of handwritten notes on union activities, kept by Karen's boyfriend, Drew Stephens. Reading has also supplied the FBI with information concerning Karen and other union members as well as anti-nuclear activities of various persons in the Oklahoma area.

THE FBI...

In order to block questioning of Lawrence Olsen, the first FBI agent assigned to the Silkwood case in 1974, government attorney Glenn Whittaker set up a private meeting in Judge Theiss' chambers in early May, 1978 with Olsen. The Silkwood attorneys were excluded. After the meeting, Theiss told Sheehan "Well, you can believe that it's sinister and secret. The information I have seen should never see the light of day." Sheehan is trying to redepose Olsen to find out why he never followed up on the knowledge he had of an eye witness to the Silkwood auto crash. Also, Olsen had been denied permission by FBI higher-ups to pursue leads he

Produced by Environmental Action of Colorado



had on the possibility of a plutonium smuggling ring at Kerr-McGee. Justice Department lawyers have also used the cloak of national security to prevent Jacque Srouji, an FBI operative and journalist, from answering questions by Silkwood attorneys. She has stated she has possession of secret FBI documents on the Silkwood case.

...AND THE CIA

Another government agency, the CIA, has been drawn into the case as well. It is known that Kerr-McGee sent a shipment of weapons-grade plutonium, not on regular consignment, to the "Special Projects Program" in Hanford, Washington, a few weeks before Karen's death, yet there is no such known project at the Hanford nuclear facility. A report obtained from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, anonymously written, claims plutonium was being smuggled out of the Kerr-McGee plant and sold to agents from Middle Eastern Countries, including Israel, implicating the CIA. Also, both Dean McGee and the late Robert S. Kerr, founders of Kerr-McGee, have longstanding ties with defense and intelligence agencies, and it is known that the CIA provided money and political assistance to Kerr in his first Senate race.

A CIA funded operation in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has provided training in illegal surveillance techniques to Oklahoma City Police officials, such as Captain William Vetter of Intelligence Division and Thomas Bunting, Director of Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Audio Intelligence Development Corporation (AID), the Florida enterprise, also specializes in developing, manufacturing and supplying illegal electronic surveillance equipment. The inventory record at the OCPD lists 11 separate devices purchased from AID. John Holcumb, President of AID, will be deposed by the Silkwood attorneys to provide proof that Kerr-McGee and OCPD officials conspired to conduct illegal surveillance of Karen Silkwood. Holcumb was a former detective who was involved in the electronic surveillance of activists during the McCarthy era and other intelligence activities.

Silkwood attorneys are also trying to find links between Oklahoma City Police intelligence units, the FBI and the little-known Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU). This private investigative operation concentrates on investigating persons perceived as nuclear activists. Bunting and Vetter are both members of the LEIU. Information collected through its network throughout the country is fed into a central computer in East Lansing, Michigan, run by Search, Inc. It has been learned that the CIA is tapping into Search's sophisticated computer. A CIA financed and operated Naval Intelligence secret training center, where Jacque Srouji has worked and which prepares civilians and police to conduct illegal surveillance, also uses Search's computer.

MOTION TO DISMISS

The motion for dismissal filed by attorneys for Kerr-McGee and the FBI stated there is no claim upon which relief can be granted under the Civil Rights Act of 1871 — that the legislation was “designed to protect rights of racial and ethnic groups” and not union organizers, and that even if the facts were true, the Court has no jurisdiction over the matter, claiming the dispute “belongs before the National Labor Relations Board.” Dan Sheehan had hoped for a favorable ruling on this point to set a precedent for protection and redress for union organizers under the Civil Rights Act. Judge Theiss, however, by the narrowest interpretation of law possible, has granted the defendants’, Kerr-McGee and the FBI, dismissal of both Counts II and III, involving the civil rights violations and the cover up.

The Silkwood attorneys will appeal the decision to the tenth circuit Court of Appeals in Oklahoma where they hope to have Judge Theiss’ decision overturned. In the meantime, motions will continue to be filed to obtain further testimony and documents from members of the OCPD, FBI and others in what has now become the “Watergate” of the nuclear industrial complex.

NEW ENGLAND SUPPORTERS OF SILKWOOD

New England Supporters of Silkwood (NESOS), a Boston group, has been formed to provide the vehicle through which the information obtained through the Silkwood case gets out to the public, and to assist groups throughout New England, especially Greater Boston, in planning local activities around Karen



Silkwood Memorial Week to commemorate her death. A Memorial and candlelight vigil in Oklahoma City on November 13, sponsored by the Washington-based Supporters of Silkwood (SOS), will provide a national focus, supported by activities throughout the country. NESOS is participating in a coalition of various groups, including anti-nuclear, labor, environmental, religious, feminist and civil rights groups which has been formed to plan a memorial service and a rally. The rally, scheduled for November 19 at the Arlington St. Church, Boston, at 7 p.m., will feature such speakers as Sam Lovejoy (from Clamshell), Kitty Tucker (president of SOS), and Dick Greenwood from the Machinists' union. We urge groups to plan activities locally. Packets with background information in the Silkwood case, bulk literature, buttons, T-shirts, etc., as well as information on what's happening nationally, are available through NESOS. Contact Lynda Taylor, c/o NESOS, 50 Moore St., Winthrop, MA (617-846-4306) for more information. Contributions to help NESOS defray the cost of its educational outreach and newsletters are always welcome!

[A recent Resist grant went to the New England Supporters of Silkwood (NESOS). After working on the Silkwood case for several months in Oklahoma, Lynda Taylor is now on the staff of NESOS.]

THE RESIST PLEDGE SYSTEM

The most important source of our income is monthly pledges. Pledges help us to plan ahead by stabilizing our monthly income. In addition to receiving the newsletter, pledges get a monthly reminder letter, containing some news of recent grants. If you would like to learn more, drop us a note. Or — take the plunge! — and fill out the handy form below.

Yes, I would like to be a Resist pledge for

☐ \$5/month

☐ \$50/month

☐ \$10/month

☐ _____ (other)

☐ \$25/month

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GRANTS

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS NEWSLETTER (3244 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60657).

The Reproductive Rights Newsletter is a project of the New American Movement. The goal of NAM's work in this area is "to protect abortion rights, end sterilization abuse, and win pregnancy disability payments." Twenty-six NAM chapters have created projects or joined coalitions around abortion, sterilization abuse, and gay rights; and the Reproductive Rights Newsletter reports on the work of these organizations. Resist's grant is to support the continued publication of the newsletter.

LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE (17 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011).

Readers of this newsletter are familiar with the excellent work of the people at Liberation News Service. Each week a packet of well-written articles and supporting graphics arrives in our office — and in the offices of more than 200 papers and newsletters throughout the country. Since 1967 LNS has given us an alternative to the AP and UPI, combining short articles with longer, in-depth studies. Recently LNS has begun typesetting its packets, allowing subscribers to reprint articles without the need to spend money on typesetting. Resist's grant is to support a drive to increase the number of LNS subscribers.

CASA MYRNA VAZQUEZ (PO Box 18019, Boston, MA 02118).

Casa Myrna is a residence, community-based, developed, and controlled, providing protective shelter and supportive advocacy and referral to women and their children who have experienced assault and harassment in their homes, as well as rape, burn-out, eviction, and other abuse. Located in Boston's South End, Casa Myrna was organized by neighborhood women in 1975. It is named after Myrna Vazquez, a Puerto Rican actress who worked to bring dramatic arts to the Hispanic community, and died in 1975. Resist's grant is for general support.

BLACK AND PROUD LIBERATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PO Box 11235, Jackson, MS 39213).

The Black and Proud Liberation Elementary School has just completed its first year of full-time school operation, after nine years of providing part-time programs. Their goal is "to provide a complete education to our children, independent of the established institutions which instill degrading, irrelevant, and anti-social images and values." The school depends on their cooperative farms to feed pupils; and Resist's grant is to help buy a second freezer to preserve food for the coming winter.

PACT (97 North St., Burlington, VT 05401).

PACT (People Acting for Change Together) was formed in 1974. It maintains a tenants and welfare rights program, and publishes a monthly newsletter. Responding to Burlington's housing crisis, PACT helped to initiate the Burlington Tenants Organizing Committee to work for rent control. Another major focus of PACT's work is against redevelopment, and against the cutbacks in welfare and social services. Resist's grant is for general support.

COMMITTEE TO END STERILIZATION ABUSE (PO Box A244, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10003).

CESA is a national network of groups and individuals which has been concerned with sterilization policy and its accompanying abuses. All evidence shows that Black and Puerto Rican women are sterilized at a much higher rate than white women; and this is particularly critical now that HEW's policy is to reimburse 90% of the costs of sterilization while providing no funds for abortion. The New York Chapter of CESA is engaged in a monitoring project, attempting to ensure that hospitals and doctors comply with new guidelines requiring informed consent for sterilizations. Resist's grant is to support this project.

SOUTH AFRICA CATALYST PROJECT (PO Box 177, Amherst, MA 01002).

The goal of the Catalyst Project is to provide support for the growing student anti-apartheid movement. The projected goals of the project include establishing a travelling organizer to maintain contact with campuses, producing monthly national and regional newsletters, and publishing a pamphlet-length organizing guide. Resist's grant is to support this publication, which will be a guide for activists engaged in organizing around university investments, and will also attempt to broaden the issues around which groups organize by providing information on bank loans to South Africa, material aid, and legislative action.

PACIFIC STUDIES CENTER (867 W. Dana St., #204, Mountain View, CA 94041).

A current project of the Pacific Studies Center is the establishment of an Electronics Safety and Health Organizing Project, aimed particularly at the needs of workers in the electronics industry in the Santa Clara Valley. Approximately 50,000 workers, 75% of whom are women, are engaged in this low-paying, dangerous work, which is described in the Center's excellent pamphlet, *Silicon Valley: Paradise or Paradox?* Resist's grant is for general support.