

# Demonstration Set For Stockade Victims

By Peter Countryman

On June 5 of this year, a rebellion occurred at a concentration camp in what comes close to being a total police state. Siberia? No. The stockade at Fort Dix, N.J., USA. Some 200 political prisoners, men guilty of seeking asylum without leave (A.W.O.L.) or otherwise questioning the right of the U.S. Army to control their lives to the point of training them to kill peasants; these men under the threat of heavy punishment, sought to tell the world of their humanity. It didn't last long. Mattresses were burned, footlockers thrown out windows, exuberant shouts of momentary liberation hurled over the barbed wire to the other, "good" citizens of that uniformed state... and then the M.P.'s came.

It was embarrassing; indeed, it must have been frightening to our military leaders. Autocratic societies necessitate the rigid maintenance of normality. Men can be repressed only if there is a single reality, of discipline, obedience, mass cohesion, silence before the master's voice. There had to be a crackdown, the crazed conspirators ferreted out and hung in a quiet, orderly fashion. Thirty-eight were arrested, but only a handful will face general court martial on charges of rioting, excitement to riot, conspiracy to riot and aggravated arson. They are the most political men in the stockade, three being organizers for the American Servicemen's Union. Each of the charges carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. That is a long time to hang.

## Roots Everywhere

What are the roots of such rebellions: Long Binh jail in Nam, the Presidio, Dix, last week the brig at Camp Pendleton. First of all, they stem partly from the very overcrowding of all military prisons--Dix was built for 350 and now holds 800 men--which in turn reflects the breakdown in legitimacy of our drafted imperial army. Second, the purpose of the stockade is not merely penal; it is to a large extent terroristic, based on the need to convince both the prisoners and the "free" soldiers that the former have stepped outside the bounds of human society. They MUST be not only punished but rehabilitated. Thus, prisoners are beaten for the slightest infraction of rules, or placed in segregation where cells are 8 x 7 x 5; food is minimal, ability to communicate with others is nil.

## Dropping

A special form of punishment involves strapping a man's hands and legs behind his back and dropping him on his chest. On the day of the rebellion one of the cell blocks involved was forced to stand for five hours in the sun, and all prisoners had to stand in line three hours for dinner. This is why I use the term "concentration camp".

But the whole thing isn't working. The Army, if not falling apart, is very shaky. For every man gone (A.W.O.L.), there are a hundred on the verge. For every "A" company that refuses another probe of the bunkers, there are many more greatly reluctant. It is in fact the horror of the stockade system that holds the Army together. And now it appears that even that coercion is weakening.

## Radical Group of GI's

The reason, of course, is that it is difficult to coerce men to behave in what seems to be totally irrational ways--killing under orders and especially killing Vietnamese--when they are surrounded by much more free space. One of the major factors in the Dix situation has to be the Shakedown, a newspaper and coffeehouse started by SDS-types but increasingly dominated by soldiers themselves,



G. I. Joe

It is a very radical group of GI's--a petition they are now circulating calls for not only the freeing of the Fort Dix 38 and an end to the stockade system, but the freeing of all political prisoners (Presidio 27, Huey Newton, Panther 21 and draft resisters) and an immediate end to the war. These guys got guts.

But how far can it go? The political implications of a breakdown in the Army are shattering. How to maintain a nearly global empire without a mass army? And if that can be done, how to deal also with the ever-present threat of domestic insurgency? What happens to the morale of the men who run and benefit from this imperial political economy if they cannot count on an efficient armed forces? The old joke--what if they called a war and nobody came--becomes a macabre nightmare of the ruling class.

## Sept. 28 Demonstration

I think it is possible. That is, I think it is critical now to put as much civilian support as possible behind the forces subverting the Army. That means money for coffeehouses and newspapers and legal defense; that means people going into the Army to organize if they can possibly stomach it; that means bodies for support demonstrations. An opportunity to do the latter occurs Sunday, Sept. 28, when a demonstration has been called at Ft. Dix to support the 38. Buses are leaving Haverford and 30th Street at 11 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m. Cost is \$1.75. Call Resistance, 561-5080, for more information.

What we need to realize--and what people in the Army who manage to continue to feel the possibilities of life realize very well--is that this society is censorable. Not only in Vietnam, or Santo Domingo, or Cuba, or a black ghetto, or the People's Park, but anywhere life manifests itself in opposition to the interests of profit, property, contracts, regularity, obedience--the American government will rip off as much as they can. And the Army is both the most dramatic statement of what that government is all about, and the most critical instrument for its dominance. If it goes, if it really breaks down, there is no telling what possibilities open up for a society committed to life and being human. So Down with the Army, up with People, Right on with Life, On to Fort Dix.



"under certain circumstances there are few hours more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea." -- James

darjeeling, jasmine, oolong, or earl grey one drinks the elixir twice to the day, at four and at ten high tea falls with constant comment and gossip of the halls, sometimes girls, sometimes men but then-- not after ten.

"come to tea" was the young thing's request

and i so set out, tradition to test, i climbed the stairs up under the eaves to sip a brew of water and leaves, tea time they call it in civilized parts, only one among a mawrter's arts, said she:

if you bring a mug when the water is hot then you may partake of the steaming pot of tea.

(and i thought they were studying)

maximly,  
applebee

## Panel Discussion

A panel discussion entitled "Freedom and Rebellion-Whither the Establishment", featuring Julian Bond, the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Dr. Kenneth Keniston and Dr. Raymond Waggoner will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, at the New Holiday Inn, Philadelphia. The program will last from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at a cost of \$10.

The speakers will examine student dissension and "the future of the establishment." Interested students should contact Prof. Howard Kee at Bryn Mawr.

## Secretarial Election

Wednesday Oct. 1 elections will be held for the Secretary of the Students' Association. This election will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jon Delano, and women are eligible. Nominations for the office should be given to Stan Murphy by Sunday night. All nominees should prepare a brief statement to be circulated to the student body Tuesday. Voting will be during lunch in the dining room and later in the afternoon in Union building.

search warrant bills, and a conservative Supreme Court, we'd much rather have a liberal State Court than a corporation lawyer's court."

Other strong endorsements went to Nolan Atkinson the first black ever to run for the office of Lower Merion's Town Commissioner, and Thomas Gilhool, an Independent Democrat candidate for Philadelphia City Council, first district.

The bulk of the group's autumn activity will consist of canvassing

for Mandarino, Atkinson and Gilhool in Philadelphia, Lower Merion and Norristown.

Still unresolved is the kind of work the Young Dems will perform for Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers. The City of Philadelphia and all major food chains in the city have stopped purchases of grapes. Suburban stores have been more reluctant to participate in the boycott. Leafleting at stores will go on, according to Kleiman, "if I have to do it by myself."