

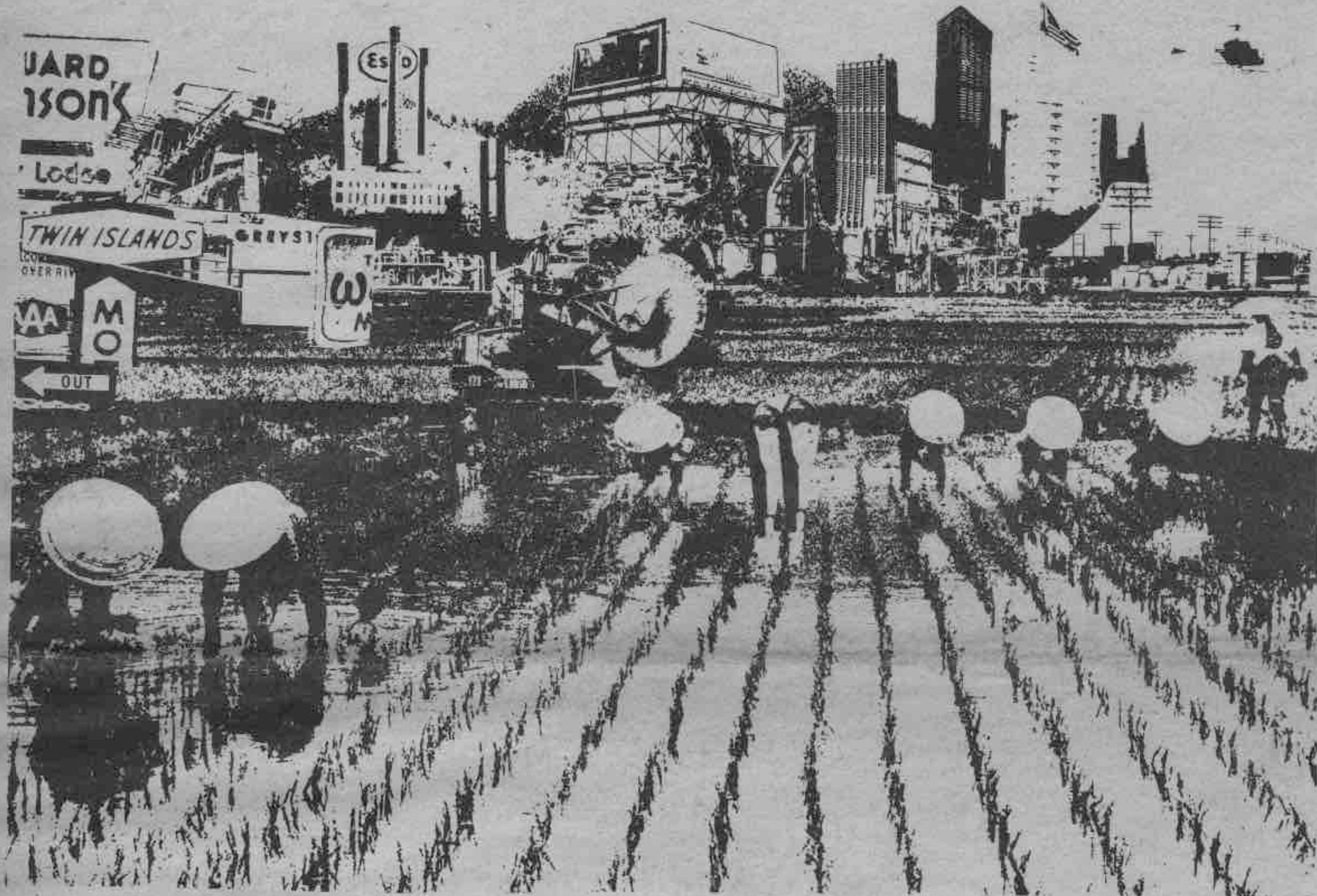
VENICE 5 TESTIFYING

THE FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

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THE VIETNAMIZATION OF OCEAN FRONT WALK

On May 27, 1971, at a public hearing of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission, Commissioner David S. Moir told William Heeb, of the Planning Department, who presented a specific plan for Venice's ocean front community, that he was horrified at the department's "grotesque plan" and proposed that the Planning Department shelve it and go into the community to find out "what the people there need and want."

Mr. Moir took his cue from the 23 Venetians who spoke to the commission (and twice that number who supported them with their presence, applause and cheers). For those of us who have been fighting to "Free Venice" for many years it was an experience on the fantasy level to find ourselves fighting for our community on the same side as erstwhile foes. It was clearly Venice's day. Free Venice, North Beach Resident Property Owners, Venice Civic Union, property owners, renters, real estate people—all spoke against the freeze on new building and most against the specific plan.

Despite Mr. Moir's attempts at the beginning of the hearing to keep the people from speaking about the plan, which was just being reported on, and stick to the freeze, which was being voted on, the people persisted, on the

basis, as stated by Helene Wolff of Free Venice and the North Beach Resident Property Owners, that the two items were of a piece, and dependent on each other. It became evident that the only people who wanted the freeze were the planners. It seems obvious that this illegal freeze was meant to keep costs down when the time came for the city to condemn and acquire property for widening the streets and walks as called for in the Specific Plan.

The plan affects the area of Venice bounded by: the Santa Monica City boundary, Washington Street, Ocean Front Walk and property on the northeast of Pacific Avenue. The Venice Master Plan adopted by the L.A. City Council on October 14, 1970, calls for, among other things, two initial programs—the widening of Pacific Avenue, which had been previously designated as a major highway, and a Specific Plan for the ocean front area.

Major provisions of the Specific Plan call for 1) a freeze on new building except for single-family dwellings until Pacific and Speedway are widened; 2) "the establishment of a funnel shaped arrangement of building setback lines" on certain streets between Pacific and Speedway, [thereby chopping off perhaps fifteen feet from the front yards of area houses]; 3) "the vacation

and use of airspace over speedway" and portions of certain streets between Speedway and Pacific (meaning that above the third story buildings could jut out over the street, forming tunnels); 4) acquisition by the city of air rights on corner lots bounded by Speedway, Ocean Front Walk and the streets mentioned above; and 5) "the vacation of existing Ocean Front Walk with dedication and improvement of a contiguous strip of land to replace it, parallel to and on the beach side of this Walk."

The theme of "consolidation of property" and "high-intensity development" runs throughout the city's ocean front plan—the city is deliberately acting as the bulldozer blade, driving the people out of Venice and shoving the small property owners off their land so the place can be exploited for huge profits by the speculators, the real estate sharks and the giant syndicates that are gathering all the country's land and wealth into their hands.

An L.A. Times article dated March 12, 1967, entitled "Riviera-Like Resort Envisioned for Beach," quoted Dr. Fred E. Case, professor of business administration and acting director of the Real Estate Research Program at UCLA as saying if private investment could be encouraged, "Venice, in time, could

BROUGHT ARIZONA DYNAMITE INTO L.A.

On April 6, 1971, a Federal Grand Jury convened in Tucson. This was the second grand jury to be convened. Both were concerned with people and activities in the Los Angeles area and were looking into charges of purchase of explosives, their interstate transportation, and crossing state lines to incite or promote riot, disorder, etc. ("Rap Brown" Act). The charge of conspiracy was also added.

The first grand jury had sent five people from Venice to jail for civil contempt—refusing to answer questions after being granted immunity—until such time as the grand jury would disband (maximum 18 months) or they agreed to testify.

During this period, the Tucson Working Committee had been debating the issues presented by the grand jury and a possible trial. It came up with several criteria for making the decision of whether or not to testify. These criteria concerned: 1) What information does the witness have; 2) What information does the government need; 3) What information does the government have; 4) Is there a need for immunity; 5) How do others feel about being testified about; 6) What is obviously public information; 7) How to deal with the secrecy of the grand jury.

A smaller security group, covered by attorney-client privilege, made up of the

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Mass Canals Protest Set For June 15

The controversy over the Venice Canals Waterways Project will come to a head June 15th in the chamber of the Los Angeles City Council.

That is the day the Council has scheduled the Public Protest Hearing on the 26-million dollar assessment district, the largest assessment district in the history of California. The property owners in the canals, who petitioned the city to meet its obligations in repairing and maintaining the bridges, walkways and banks and the canals themselves, agreed several years ago to be assessed an average of about \$10,000 per lot above taxes to rehabilitate the area. Because the number of owners in the assessment district has been constricted, and because of delays, resulting mainly from the fact that the City Council originally authorized the project under the wrong law and had to start over again, the minimum assessment is now \$20,900 per lot in the area north of Washington Street (and higher south of Washington). With the steep increase in Venice property taxes of last December, and the doubling of the amount of the assessments, a great deal of opposition to the plan from small property owners is expected June 15th. (According to a feasibility study by the UCLA Department of Land Economics, no one can afford the present assessment unless they are in a bracket where they could sustain a \$90,000 mortgage).

In addition the Save the Canals Committee and the Free Venice Organizing Committee, groups that serve as spokesmen for the interests of the renters in the area, are organizing

(Continued on page 7)

FREE VENICE & TRAILER CITY people celebrate the Community's first effort to do what the City has refused to do for 46 years...SAVE THE CANALS
photo by Ted Organ



TRAILER CITY BARBECUES RADFORD

by Marge Buckley

and/or developers consider providing a new trailer park site.

On the May 1st deadline, the tenants held a bulldozer party. Free Venice joined the tenants to make their stand against the threatened invasion.

On May 5th at 6:30 a.m., process servers arrived to serve the tenants with evictions. Anyone who answered a door was handed one, two or three summonses. If no one answered, the papers were dropped on the doorstep or placed in a door handle.

Immediately Marge Buckley of Venice Neighborhood Legal Services filed motions to void half of the services and filed answers for the rest. At the hearing, the judge agreed the tactics were improper; the whole process had to be repeated.

Settlement is underway. The first demand, the right to remain until the end of school, has been won; all the remaining tenants may stay until the end of June without paying rent, costs of suit or attorney fees. Additionally, a suit for damages on behalf of all the tenants is still pending and negotiations are in progress to determine the monetary value of the harassment and expenses of relocation.

Although the tenants may not win their demand for a cooperative trailer camp to be established by Radford and McLain, significant gains were made.

First, the tenants did win some of their demands by organizing and working together.

Second, the nucleus of a county-wide trailer tenants council has been formed. The Trailer City people have made contact with Topanga trailer people who are also being faced with evictions by L.A. in its effort to "improve their area by denying trailer park permits.

Third, although it can't be proved, the fact that the large property owners south of Washington are talking about splitting the Assessment District at this time seems significant.

Fourth, Free Venice reached out to another part of the community. Trailer City tenants began to fly Free Venice flags and wear Free Venice Buttons.

Both Trailer City tenants and Free Venice benefited from working together to solve their common problem, the consequences of the Venice Canals As-

The threat of the Venice Canals Improvement Project to canal residents is evident. Not so evident to many is the drama south of Washington Street. For years, the slightly-past-its-prime Trailer City Park has existed at the foot of Grand Canal in the midst of the Assessment District. The trailers are older, the people a mixture of young, middle-aged and old, some working people, some on welfare and some students. The Park had a certain charm, even with all its defects—the flowers, the trees, the awnings and cabanas which the tenants used to make the area homelike.

Rumors floated—the Park was going to be sold to a developer named Alan Radford. Radford talked about the development of the area all around town, at the City Council Planning Commission, at local schools, assuring people of his support of relocation and his desire to see that the tenants would not be hurt. The purported owner, Polestar properties, was supposed to be the villain, interested only in squeezing rent out of the tenants. In fact, he rented to a young couple momentarily expecting their first child in February of 1971. A month later, everyone got notices to vacate the property on or before May 1, 1971.

At a tenants' meeting, Radford admitted that he insisted the tenants be removed. His actions became understandable when it got out that the Assessment District was scheduled for passage in June or July. As the Canal Property Owners Association had pointed out so succinctly: "If the tenants aren't there, you don't have to pay them relocation."

The tenants did not take this attack lying down. They had all sorts of problems in relocation, small children, old trailers, pets and close ties with Venice.

So with a little bit of help from their friends, the tenants, under the leadership of Dick and Eleanor Cramer and Chris Kirk, formed the Trailer City Park Tenants Committee and drew up a list of demands, which included the right to remain at the park until after school closed, assistance, funds to relocate, an end to the intimidation and harassment, maintenance of the premises while ten-

collective health

by
Sandy Nystrom, M.P.H., Pat Duncan,
R.N. and Bob Buker, M.D.

Sandy Nystrom (a public health person), Pat Duncan (a nurse) and Bob Buker (a doctor) will be moving to Venice in July to work together. We have been talking with the Venice Health Council. We have all lived or worked in Venice for two years. What we want to do is provide more health care for Venice. How?

There are at least two medical clinics (Youth Clinic and Venice Community Family Health Center) open in Venice now. Also there are a few private doctors. But that's about it, and it's not enough. Also some people can't afford regular medical prices but could afford low cost health care. Right now they go to the "free" clinics (some clinics request a small donation) because that's all they can afford. This means people with zero money have to wait longer. We can help by running a health place (not a regular-type doctor's office but not a clinic either) where costs are kept low (small building, and all health workers getting the same salary). We hope we can keep the cost of a visit as low as possible and still stay open and pay the bills—and make it so that poorer people can afford to come to us.

We hope also to develop a new emphasis in health care services, that is, preventive medicine and health education. If we can teach people to take better care of themselves, then the cost of being sick will be less. We want people to be their own healers and health experts. As many of these services as possible will be free.

Why come to our place instead of a "free" clinic? Patients who need to be seen more than a few times need to be seen by the same health people who know both them and their cases well. Besides this, any money above our salaries and expenses will be used for community health projects. Our patients will participate in deciding how this money is spent.

We won't see patients until we have enough equipment and arrangements (like where to take people that need a hospital) to do a good job. But we do have a place—1625 West Washington Boulevard—and we are going to start fixing it up.

We will be working with the Health Council and patients we see to fit all the health care in Venice together better.



Hey Sister Hey Brother

We are set to disturb, stir and agitate all those in Venice who say, "Not me, no, never," those who follow the straight and narrow and have never gotten busted for anything. They need the experience of visiting brothers and sisters in jail. And for those who do understand and have felt prison chains, too many words should not have to be spent on urging them to make the prison visit with us next time. We carry out this trip during the daytime.

Last month some Venice people visited the Study of Black History Group in C.R.C. Prison in Norco, an institution which is set aside for caging black brothers, supposedly for protecting them from themselves and their drug habits. We brought books and news from Venice and rapped with these men. They understand the reasons for their imprisonment, and their desire to study the history of their oppression should be fulfilled. They need relevant books and art supplies to express their feelings, besides warm contact to strengthen our common bonds as sisters and brothers.

Write the Beachhead, P.O. Box 664, Venice Post Office 90291, for more info and your name and phone number if the prison visit is your thing.

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INJUNCTION SHOOTS DOWN CROOKED POVERTY ELECTION

by Randy Watsek

The people of the Venice community have been done in again, this time by the Economic Youth Opportunity Agency (EYOA).

The EYOA has 2 functions: 1) to determine what poverty programs are accepted, funded and implemented in the communities of L.A. County and 2) to coordinate and administrate certain poverty programs.

The decisions involved in these activities are made by the 27 members of the EYOA board. Nine members are appointed by participating agencies, 2 are appointed by Mayor Yorty, 2 by the City Board of Education, 2 by the State Board of Education and 2 are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. This amounts to 17 people appointed by agencies, people whose loyalty and energy is to their respective agencies, not to the people in the poverty communities.

The other 10 people are elected as community representatives from the ten different poverty areas of L.A. County.

This year each area was supposed to elect its representatives. This is what happened:

1) The incumbent community representatives were not allowed to run for re-election; 2) The communities were not informed about the function of the EYOA, the election, and the role of the community representative; 3) Therefore 2 weeks was not enough time to obtain 100 signatures; 4) The registration was changed during this 2-week period—this meant potential candidates had to go back to the people who had previously signed the petition and registered to vote and have them sign the new forms; 5) The registration form discouraged people from participating in the election by asking people how much money they earned; if they misstated their income it was a felony, subject to a fine or 2 years in prison or both if convicted; 6) Filing petitions weren't available; 7) The EYOA did not give complete information, but gave misinformation about the EYOA and election procedures; 8) Some people were not notified of the

screening interviews, then were disqualified as candidates; 9) People who did attend screening interviews said that they were dehumanizing; 10) The EYOA kept changing election procedures and requirements, thereby alienating and discouraging people from participating.

In Areas 8 and 10 there was only one candidate. Sixty-three people originally filed to be candidates in the ten poverty community elections; 39 were disqualified.

The 24 candidates who were certified by the EYOA had their petitions checked by the District Attorney's office to validate the 100 signatures. Not one so-called candidate had 100 valid signatures.

The EYOA decided to go ahead with the shuck election on May 18, 1971. This was a deliberate, dishonest, act on their part, in spite of protest by the community representatives currently on the EYOA board.

Area No. 8, the Venice area, had 3 people, who were not allowed to run in the election: Mrs. Marie Banks, Mrs. Catalina Cordova and Mr. Wayne Williams.

Mrs. Levertice Lewis was the only person allowed to run. She did not obtain her signatures personally as required, and 79 of the 100 signatures were invalid.

This situation would never have developed if the EYOA were controlled by people who live in the communities, instead of by agency people.

Marge Buckley, of the Neighborhood Legal Service office in Venice, filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of the disqualified candidates and the people of the poverty communities of L.A. County against the EYOA challenging the validity of this election.

On May 26, 1971, the EYOA community election was declared illegal and invalid by Judge Wisot of Superior Court, Division 65.

How long will poverty agencies and programs be allowed to manipulate, control and exploit the people of the poverty communities?

o'front hearing

(Continued from page 1)

become one of the better, exclusive areas, in the country... Venice has beautiful beaches, the climate is ideal... if someone would only grab hold of it, they could do something with it." The article itself went on to say, "While police powers... can be applied to individual properties, only the availability of large parcels could make a redevelopment feasible. This could be accomplished by condemnation procedures by federal authorities who would 'assemble properties' and then offer them for sale for development by private enterprise."

An important delay has been won. Victories, however, bring responsibility and the challenge of still more work. The people of Venice have foiled Los Angeles's plans to turn our city into a "Riviera-Like Resort" so far. The Venice Rehabilitation Program was deemed a failure by the FHA as failing to drive the small homeowner out of Venice. Ground has not yet been broken to turn the canal area into a private yacht basin, the freeway will not belch its way thru Venice, West Washington still is zoned to allow small shops, Oakwood has not been further isolated from the rest of Venice by tricks of zoning.

We have won concessions, but the philosophy aimed at driving the present residents out of Venice has not changed. There was talk Thursday at City Hall of

rollbacks in zoning. The ocean front area is presently zoned for high-rise. There was talk of banishing automobiles from Venice and establishing a model pedestrian community.

Rick Davidson, of Free Venice, was not dragged from the hearing room in handcuffs this time. He drew some of the loudest and broadest-based applause from his neighbors for his visionary architectural demands that Venice have the best planning possible—not the second-rate expediency planning of the Los Angeles bureaucrats.

I want no less than incorporation—I want Venice to be an independent city of its own, as it used to be. I realize the whole city of Los Angeles would have to vote to let us go. But, I saw Mr. Moir's face change from apathy to horror at the atrocity being committed on a community that wants to take care of itself—to work with its areas of agreement and interest rather than to continually fall for propaganda that tells us we are divided by enmity and inimical differences. Julie Mulvaney, the last Venetian to speak before the Commission, said Venice was together and that, although she had heard that Venetians never agreed on anything, we perhaps had just had bad publicity. She also said that we would be back. We will!

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Master Plan as Genocide

by Robert Wells

It is unconstitutional for a city to plan or zone itself so that all poor and minority people are "zoned" out of town. This presented an obstacle to the well-dressed rulers who run Los Angeles. They had already decided that all "undesirables" would be pushed outside the city limits, and now to get away with it they had to find a way around the Constitution.

The way they found was sweet. Instead of planning all of Los Angeles at once, they would plan it "community by community," and then when all the community plans went together you'd have the overall Los Angeles Master Plan—so that by the time there was an overall plan to squawk about, the people of Venice, Watts, Bunker Hill, East L.A., Pacoima—all the people who speak the wrong language, have the wrong color skin, and can't afford \$200 a month rent—would be long gone.

To make this look good, they went back East and hired a big-name city planner, Calvin Hamilton, to head the City Planning Commission—not to dream up plans, but to front for a plan that was already made. In exchange they let him rake off little pieces of the action, like buying airport land in Palmdale before the new airport was publicly announced.

On Bunker Hill the City destroyed thousands of low-income dwellings occupied by American Indians, Chicanos, Asians and others; high-rises are going up there now with apartments renting for \$300 a month. Similar projects are set for poor and minority communities all across Los Angeles—all low income communities in Venice are scheduled to be offed.

The big push is taking shape right here in the City Council district of Mrs. Pat Russell. In the Westchester part of her district the City Airport Commission is bulldozing an entire community to make an empire for itself.

The thing that's really killing Westchester, making it easy for the Airport Commission to move in, is aircraft noise. Engineers found that when the planes come in to land the noise goes over the threshold of pain.

So they made a recommendation. For the full width of the airport there should be an industrial zone back from the runways—factories, storage, like that—but nothing residential.

Fold out your gas station street map—it really helps if you can see this and not just hear it. L.A. International Airport sits right on the water. Century Blvd. (100th St.) comes out of the middle of it, heading due east. If you follow Century to the right it takes you

like an arrow straight to the big word "WATTS."

Keep in mind that after the '65 burnout Watts was not rebuilt—deliberately. Many of the "charcoal alleys" are still charcoal. Many burned houses have been replaced with factories and warehouses. Residential areas are slated to become "industrial parks." At least 5 freeways are planned to go through the South L.A. black community.

Now, how far back from the airport did those engineers say their "industrial zone" had to go? Seven miles. A mile wide and 7 miles back. Seven miles due east from the end of the runway takes you all the way to Avalon Blvd. Five more blocks and you leave the City of L.A. and enter Watts proper.

That's exactly what Genocide Sam Yorty has in mind. Out! If you're gonna burn his city and embarrass him—out! Yorty has never forgiven black people for 1965. How does he make sure there's no more Watts riots? Easy—no more Watts.

Besides being unconstitutional, this qualifies under the 1948 United Nations definition of genocide. It's not surprising our absentee Mayor is such a supporter of the genocidal war against other "undesirables" in Southeast Asia.

Here in the Venice part of Mrs. Russell's district, the City fully intends to destroy all the low-income housing in the Canals and replace it with a yacht club for millionaires. If that happens, the oceanfront will inevitably turn into the "Miami Beach" the land-hustlers dream about—the end of another community. (Literally the end for the old-timers of Ocean Front Walk—"relocating" people is like transplanting flowers, and these old flowers don't transplant—they die.)

If the Canals and the beach go, rising rent and taxes will push the Chicanos out of Venice into whatever other overcrowded barrios are left. The blacks of Oakwood will be completely driven out of Venice, and considering what's happening in Watts and elsewhere, probably out of Los Angeles altogether and, in some cases, out of Southern California.

This is why it's so important for all of us in Venice to fight against Mrs. Russell, City Hall, and the Planning Commission, and to support the battle of the people in the Canals to save their community—out of simple justice, because we want to save our own neighborhoods, and because the Canals are the place now where we can best fight this scheme of the Los Angeles Establishment to engineer a "Final Solution" for its old people, its poor, and its minorities.

(Continued next page)

(Continued from page 4)

their part in it. To purposefully avoid thanking them publicly because of a belief that the people's awareness of the danger of the enemy would be dulled is to dehumanize the situation. Rather, the people's desire for a society where the public safety agency did protect and serve us might be heightened — and its possibility given more credibility.

John's open letter to Lt. West and Sgt. Payne was not the result of any collective decision. It was an individual act. It was signed by no one but John Haag and bore no organizational title. It was an expression of gratitude from a private citizen to two other private citizens. It, of course, was not written in a political vacuum — and certainly was not without political implications. Hopefully, and certainly intentionally, these were positive and constructive.

Helene Wolff

Planning For April March Described

The Free Venice Organizing Committee (FVOC) and the Peace and Freedom Party (P&F) came to an agreement in early March of 1971 to co-sponsor a march and demonstration to be held on April 25, 1971.

After this resolution, there were no mechanisms developed by the FVOC and P&F to establish 1) a collective organizational decision of what were the political purposes of this political action; 2) no process of making and implementing collective organizational decisions; 3) no collective determinations as to what areas of activity, collective organizational time and energy would be channeled; 4) no mechanisms were established collectively by FVOC and P&F to generate full participation by anyone in the whole Venice community who wished to participate in this political action.

What followed after this agreement by FVOC and P&F to co-sponsor this political action was this:

The FVOC abdicated its responsibility to follow through and implement its political principles by not doing the above-mentioned five actions. Two of those political principles were 1) collectively deciding and implementing any political actions it has agreed to participate in; 2) establishing mechanisms to generate complete community participation in this political action.

This created a void, a vacuum, that allowed P&F to make a series of unilateral, authoritarian actions, such as the letter written by John Haag to the police. These P&F actions took place in a time period from early March, 1971, until April 26, 1971, when the letter was written by John Haag to the police.

FVOC's only input into the April 25th political action was this: 1) announcing the political action in the Free Venice BEACHHEAD; 2) posting of leaflets in the community announcing the action; 3) posting of political posters relative to the revolutionary struggle; 4) a collective determination by FVOC and P&F that the political action belonged to the community, thus if an order to disperse came from the police (which never came about) that it was a community decision as how to relate to that order and that P&F and FVOC would participate in whatever decision or decisions would be made by the community; 5) FVOC participated in monitor meetings as monitors; 6) FVOC rapped with community residents, who lived along the route of the march and the perimeters of Westminster Park about publicly displaying Free Venice flags on their residences because: a) to show community support for the

These commentaries on the April 25th Venice Peace March speak only for the opinions of the people who've signed them. They are not statements of any organizations these people may belong to, including the Free Venice Organizing Committee and the Peace and Freedom Party.

march; b) to announce the march; c) in case people who were participating in the march needed refuge from the police those residences would be a refuge for the people.

All these actions by FVOC members took place approximately 10 days before the April 25, 1971, political action.

Certain political qualities that are inherent in American society and in America's actions and participation in the Indochinese war weren't addressed to the April 25, 1971 political action.

America is a white male supremacist society, therefore it is sexist and racist.

1) None of the speakers addressed themselves to the issue of sexism and how it perpetuates the Indochinese war and oppressive conditions in American society.

2) There were no chicano and black speakers who addressed themselves to racism and how it perpetuates the Indochinese war and oppressive conditions in American society.

John Haag's analysis of the relationship between the community and the police is an example of an individual political action that affects the lives of the people of the Venice community. It is an irresponsible action because 1) he did not attempt to consult with anyone in the community; 2) made no attempt to have a collective process to get feedback on his analysis; 3) his analysis doesn't relate to the everyday reality of the relationship of the police and the community.

Randy Watsek
Sarah Brannon
Steve Clare
Rick Davidson
Bob Wells
Don Woodland

Police 'Helpfulness' Seen As Expediency

On Sunday, April 25th, the day following the massive anti-war marches in San Francisco and Washington, more than a thousand Venice people marched down Ocean Front Walk and around to Westminster Park in an impressive and peaceful demonstration of solidarity against the war.

... At one point in the afternoon, during the proceedings in Westminster Park, Jerry Wright of Peace & Freedom approached two men in civilian clothes sitting on the grass and said, "L.A.P.D., I presume."

One of the men acknowledged that they were in fact police. Once he did so he pointed out to Jerry (who was wearing a monitor's headband) that a group of people in the crowd was smoking pot.

"We don't want to go in there and arrest them," he told Jerry, "but we can't let them keep doing it. I wonder if you fellows could do something about it."

Jerry relayed the info to John Haag, and John got on the microphone and asked the crowd to cool it. Apparently the people did, since there were no arrests.

Now, this sort of attitude is not always typical of the police. Police have



photo; susan levine, levine-tennen photography

made dope arrests in other crowd situations [such as the Watts Summer Festival and Griffith Park Love-ins, etc.], and frequently the arrests were so provocative they resulted in split heads, street warfare, mass arrests and worse.

There is always an element of unpredictability in what will happen at a march or demonstration; but while the police cannot determine in advance what other people will do, they can determine what they themselves will do. And the decision as to whether they will look for opportunities to provoke the crowd to "riot," or whether they will ignore even felony violations in their actual presence in order to avoid trouble is not a decision that is left to the individual officer on the spot. This is a decision made at a very high level within the police department, by command officers who are in close harmony, as well as close actual contact, with the local and national political establishments. In other words, the police decision on whether to keep a demonstration cool or to provoke it into riot is not a law-and-order decision, but a partisan political decision.

Likewise, when the undercover officer at our peace rally in Venice asked Jerry Wright to cool it with the joints, he was simply following a directive that had been laid down in advance by superiors high above him in the department.

Our brother in the Movement, John Haag, of Peace and Freedom, has come under certain criticism since the march for having "cooperated" with the police in the planning of the affair, and for having supposedly "allowed" undercover cops to be on the march.

Actually, all the plans were made on our own initiative, with no consultation with the police. After our planning was final the police lieutenant, on his initiative, came to the Peace and Freedom office, and John discussed the march with him at that time.

Prior meetings with the police have been characteristic of many civil rights and peace demonstrations (including the demonstrations in Chicago during the Democratic Convention in 1968). In those situations where the police have had no independent intentions of provoking disorder, prior communication has narrowed the margin of unpredictability that might otherwise result in clashes not intended by either side.

None of the plans for the April 25th Venice affair, nor any details of the plans, were altered as a result of police consultations.

As for undercover cops being "allowed" on the march, the police lieutenant did inform John Haag that they would be there. This was something we all took for granted anyway, and which no one, including John Haag, could have done anything about in any case. The monitors group did agree that anyone who joined the march carrying a weapon would be ordered to leave—a device which the Chicano Moratorium had used successfully to eliminate under-

cover men. We are not aware that any cops were eliminated in this way from our march.

Our disagreement with John Haag come in relation to certain sentiments expressed in a letter he wrote after the march to the Venice police, which was reprinted in the *Independent Journal*. In the letter John complimented the police for their "active and thoughtful co-operation with the Venice Community walk and gathering," which he said was, in his opinion, "a fine example of thorough police protection."

He said he wished publicly to thank the police for their help, "which successfully averted a possible disaster to many Venice residents, including uninvolved bystanders. As you know," he wrote, "the day passed peacefully and allowed hundreds of us to share a truly beautiful celebration."

"I think that all of us who were there would agree that your help was as important as our own preparations. I hope that Sunday's experience can contribute to further improvements in communications and relations between the Venice Community and the Los Angeles police."

John Haag, and certainly many others of us, long for a state of affairs in which we could have decent and humane relations with some public safety agency which did truly serve us and protect us. But John Haag's letter suggests that on the basis of the April 25th experience it is possible to hope for such a relationship with the present police department, and that is misleading, and to be misleading in a thing like this could lead people to serious personal injury. The L.A.P.D. behaved as it did in Venice April 25th not out of any humane or decent sentiment, but from political expediency. And it is important to keep in mind who it was expedient for: a political establishment that intends at one and the same time to murder a nation in Vietnam and to completely destroy the Venice community as it now exists. Eventually, and inevitably, that expedience will require them not to cooperate with the people of Venice, but to attack us.

It is the duty of the radical, of the revolutionary, to keep this fact constantly before the people. To the extent that John's letter interfered with people's awareness of the danger of the enemy, it was a lapse of revolutionary judgment.

The letter John Haag wrote to the police has been reprinted to clarify the issue and to provide the reader with complete information. Our purpose is to criticize the analysis that letter exemplifies and not its author, a brother, whom we respect but, on this occasion disagree with.

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Sarah Brannon
Steve Clare
Rick Davidson
Randy Watsek
Don Woodland

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Los Angeles City Overrules Itself

by Rick Davidson

On Nov. 16, 1970, I, along with over seventy-five Venice residents, went to City Hall to speak to the City Council. We wished to speak on the first item on their agenda: THE VENICE WATERWAYS PROJECT. The Council pretended we weren't there by refusing to follow their own rule of taking a vote to see if non-members (the public) could speak on an item before them.

In the Council's effort not to notice us I was arrested while the others from Venice left without being allowed to speak. Their parting remark was, "We'll be back!"

I was charged with two counts: PC 403, disturbing a public meeting and PC 415, disturbing the peace.

The American Civil Liberties Union said they would take the case, yet, being true to form regarding the Venice Community, they never came through. As the hour grew late Marge Buckley, my wife, and Peter Young, a close friend, decided to handle the case, especially since it concerned the First Amendment right of free speech; it was not simply City Hall vs. Rick Davidson, but was an attack on the FREE VENICE movement.

We decided that Marge would do the trial and Peter would research the law and prepare a trial brief.

On Feb. 17, 1971, trial began, but not before Marge bent Judge Dittmar all out of shape by wearing a pant suit into court. After forcing him to reverse his decision on women's fashions we ended up in Division 17, Judge Mullendore's Court (Marge still wearing a pant suit). The trial ran over two weeks, mainly because the majority of the witnesses were councilmen and the judge would only call them in the afternoon, since they were working on important matters in the mornings.

Although caught between the City's team of judge/city attorney, facing a mixed jury and arguing with an impossible client, Marge managed to bring forth the real issues in the case, i.e., the total lack of democracy in the Los Angeles City Council.

At trial's end the jury hung on both counts: Count No. 1-7 for and 5 against; Count No. 2-10 for and 2 against. The City's verdict: we'll try him again.

By this time Hugh Manes, Director of Neighborhood Legal Services, told Marge and Peter, "No more criminal cases... not even on your own time." Since it is obvious there aren't enough lawyers to go around and since the legal work was done and I had seen a sneak preview I decided to defend myself.

After spending a week in Mullendore's Court waiting for someone to make up his mind I was transferred to Division 13, Judge Light's Court. Judge Light said no, concerning my acting as my own attorney until I raised my constitutional right to do so and after the judge questioned me on basic legal questions. I then started by making a motion to dismiss, on the grounds that the City failed to produce sufficient evidence to prove their case. Judge Light said that motion should be made before Mullendore, since he tried it the first time. So back I went to Division 17, where Ol' Mullendore listened quietly while I stumbled through the motion, citing all the cases Marge and Peter had suggested. "Motion denied." Meanwhile, back in Division 13

Judge Light said that he couldn't see how the two counts together made good sense, much less good law. "You couldn't be found guilty of Count No. 2 without being found guilty to Count No. 1," i.e., I couldn't be found guilty to disturbing the peace and found not-guilty of disturbing a public meeting. He then reversed Mullendore and dismissed Count No. 2.

So it was in an air of fairness trial number 2 began. In fact, throughout the week-long trial (it went much faster since Judge Light said Councilmen were no different than other witnesses and could be called anytime) I had nothing but good feelings toward this judge. From time to time I had to push hard to get something in, but once I would explain something in a straightforward way he went along with me at least 75%

Dynamite

(Continued from page 1)

five people who were subpoenaed, their legal people, and others whom the government seemed to want to indict used these criteria and applied them to the specific facts of the case in order to come up with a decision about testifying in Tucson.

The conclusion was that the maximum results desired were: get people out of jail (or prevent them from going to jail), minimize any possible intelligence gathering function of the grand jury, prevent further subpoenas and indictments and, if that was not possible, to prepare in the best manner possible for that future trial.

On May 11 an appeal, centering around double jeopardy, was denied by the Ninth District Circuit Court of Appeals. This meant that the five people could be sentenced to jail for 18-month periods for as long as the government decided to convene grand juries and subpoena the five. Taking the general and specific factors, as well as this last court decision into account, a decision was made to have Lee Weinberg, David Scheffler and Teri Volpin testify. (Karen Duncan and Pam Donaldson's appearances have been continuously delayed—they're now scheduled for June 15.

Their testimony revealed that David and Teri were indeed "guilty" of having bought dynamite in Tucson, and implicated two others who had gone underground months earlier.

This was a bombshell, not only in itself, but in the fact that some of the Tucson 5 defense had been erected around a public posture of innocence of all charges.

However, we ought not to base our defense of people like Teri and David, the Panthers or Angela Davis on a presumption of innocence. We should not adopt the Government's definitions of 'guilt' and 'innocence' as our own. Even if they did everything the Government charges, their actions are justified in the sense that they are part of the Movement's struggle against imperialism and oppression of all kinds.

Grand Jury inquisitions in Tucson and elsewhere remain a primary tool of repression against those people who are fighting against that imperialism and oppression. Teri and David's testimony does not and could not alter that fact.

of the time. Yes, in the established libertarian sense he was a good judge.

The judge disregarded *In Re Kay*, the major First Amendment case cited in my favor, by saying, "That case doesn't apply. Yours is a very simple case: did you disrupt a public meeting? That's the only issue in question." His was a legal opinion, as opposed to a political one, and this is the point I want to speak to.

The Mullendores and the Hoffmans are political judges. They not only know what is going on in city halls, state capitols and in Washington, D.C., but are also conscious of their part in the play. While the Judge Lights don't think they are in the cast. The latter group separates legality from political reality and deals only with the legal question, "Was the law broken?" They are not interested in intent, cause or purpose. They don't ask questions as to any reason to be for or against the LAW; no question as to punishment being handed out by the mere enforcement of the LAW before any verdict is rendered; no question as to who the LAW is designed to protect and serve; and of course, no question as to the inability of minorities to protect themselves against the LAW... no, for those are political questions for political beings to struggle with.

Yet, today's reality demands a comprehensive approach to human development. We must become more generalists, not specialists. We must begin to see the whole and understand it as the sum of its parts—not simply deal with a detail as if it were an independent whole by itself. Also, today's reality informs us that unlike Darwin's ideas of the cause and effect of evolution humans are radically transforming their environment and must look to themselves as creators of heaven or hell.

The sad truth is that even in terms of separate legal areas our legal specialists fail to address themselves to much-needed laws, i.e., there are no laws against starvation, against poverty or lack of housing, inadequate medical treatment, bad education. And when the specialists fail to advance their fields of special interest then it is up to lay people to get on with the work of evolution. When the professionals fear to accept the direction it spells revolution.

The distinction I am trying to make is between those acting consciously as opposed to those acting unconsciously. Society polarizes into left and right—each pole being relatively small in number—it is the vast middle (the mass middle?) that rules or allows either the

left or right to rule. Here the unconscious plays its important role through fence sitters, middle of the roaders and others. When the Movement speaks of racism, sexism and elitism as being institutionalized it means that these isms function on an unconscious level and needs no out-front education. It's not that laws are written regarding these isms, but the application of all our LAWS add up to them.

So a Judge Light can be fair when dealing on the surface of the LAW, but unless he is willing to look beyond and see the whole his fairness is but a facade covering the inhuman power relationships of the Haves over the Have Nots.

The second jury hung, too. The City said, "We'll try him again." The judge said, "Not unless you produce new evidence." After a week's delay the City failed to produce any new evidence or new witnesses. CASE DISMISSED!

FREE VENICE!

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES BELONG TO THE PEOPLE

Venice, are you tired of hearing of rip-offs? Does it all remind you of the blasted war that seems to have no end? Yeah, it's been coming down too on the homefront and harder now, like the thing in the Venice Library, where six workers are being cut loose.

The workers in the library have been considered so blamed good at reaching ghetto kids the big boys send visitors from everywhere to show off the Venice touch and knowhow. These workers have been bringing special kinds of books to stimulate interest in black and brown heritage to ghetto kids, parents and teachers. They also bring films, records and all sorts of enlightening programs to the whole community, trying to bring a glimmer of light into our dark corners. But now the federal funds are running out June 30th and the government hasn't seen fit to renew the project, since we the people haven't given them a taste of our anger, nor has the City Council been interested in putting all the programs back into the library budget. Instead they cut the city library budget by 10%. Well, politicians don't need libraries. People do! And the sooner and harder you make your needs and feelings felt to the keepers of your monies, then, and only then, will the people begin to demonstrate that the libraries belong to the people. Come to your library at 610 California to pick up action material. Save your library from the philistines' hatchets.

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Mass Protest Continued

(Continued from page 1)

busloads of protesters to go to the City Council the day of the hearing.

Don Woodland of Free Venice characterizes the issue as a question of human rights versus property rights. "The big land speculators, working through City Hall, are fixing to make a big killing in the canals, and a community of people is going to be destroyed so they can do it." The city's canal redevelopment plan, part of the Venice Master Plan, calls for the demolition of more than 200 low-income and middle-income housing units in the area, to be replaced by luxury canal-side dwellings, including front-door yacht slips. The canals are to be deepened to accommodate yacht traffic, and the section of Washington Street between the canals and the sea will be replaced with a high bridge.

Rick Davidson, an architect with the Free Venice Committee, says the 26-million-dollar price tag (which he is convinced will go well over \$30 million before the job is complete) is based solely on the proposition of turning the canal community into an exclusive yacht basin for the wealthy. "Free Venice is preparing an alternate plan," he said, "that will refurbish and rehabilitate the whole area—without removing the people who presently live there—for about four million dollars. In the City's plan, the Washington Street bridge alone will cost upward of three million by the time they get it built."

Doug Marshall, of the Save the Canals Committee, contends the city's plan is a "blatant injustice," using governmental processes "to destroy a unique, organic community for the convenience of wealthy yachtsmen and the profit of a few big speculators and land syndicates."

Although Marshall's group is composed principally of canal residents, he says everyone in Los Angeles will suffer from this project. "The main point," he says, "is that this project is designed to benefit a very small number of people who are already very wealthy—and this is being done with the tax money taken from all the people of Los Angeles." Besides three million dollars for the bridge, he says, the city will pay out four million more in assessments on the

59 city-owned lots in the area. "Perhaps the most important thing to stress is that city tax money is underwriting this whole project. If any owner defaults on his assessments, the city has guaranteed to make it up out of tax funds—and the city itself predicts a 15% default rate."

"This becomes an arrogant kick in the teeth to the Los Angeles taxpayer when you realize that after the project's done the canal area will no longer be open to the average citizen. The public sidewalks around the canals are going to be given to the real estate developers, and the private property line will extend right to the water's edge. With only a very few breaks, the private property will form a solid wall between the people and the canals. What's more, they're going to have private guard shacks by the few entrance streets, just as in Bel-Air and Malibu Colony, and if you don't live in the canals or have an invitation from someone who does, you won't be allowed in."

The groups who are opposing the canal assessment plan are urging all Los Angeles taxpayers to attend the City Council protest hearing at City Hall June 15th. For those who cannot be at that hearing (as well as for those who can), the Save the Canals Committee and the Free Venice Committee suggest that citizens call the offices of their Council representatives at City Hall (485-2121), or John Gibson, President of the City Council (485-3347), or Councilwoman Pat Russell, whose Sixth District includes the canals (485-3357), to inquire about the details of the city's redevelopment plan.

Those citizens who oppose the plan are urged to clip the following coupons and send them to their own Council-(wo)man.

For more information contact Steve Clare or Judy Goldberg at 392-4177 or Sharon Brannon or Don Woodland at 821-2889. Anyone living in or around Venice who needs a ride to the hearing, or anyone who doesn't but would like to ride with us in Free Venice buses, call the Free Venice Switchboard at 821-6101.

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book review: Living The Good Life

Living the Good Life: How to Live Sanely and Simply in a Troubled World, 1970, with introduction by Paul Goodman

By now the need to escape polluted, eroded, corrupted, oppressive environments is universal. How to do it and how the Nearings did it makes interesting reading. The acid test for the validity of the words of these old socialists is their own survival in a rural Vermont community as their practical success in reaching healthy, ripe old age.

It took twenty years of experience (Have we got that much time?) for the Nearings to reach certain positive conclusions of the importance of cultivating land without fertilizers, living on a vegetarian diet, eschewing doctors and

drugs, being physically active and learning how to live on slim means. In their suggestions for liberation from the city, the authors show how they had worked out a balance sheet.

Living the Good Life is a must book for organic gardeners, builders, rather than destroyers, those who seek good health, home food canners, nutritionists and plain community people. In our polluted social stream, where wholesome avenues of escape become ever less attainable, those interested in rural communities or small communes like Skinner's in Walden Two or the Nearings' Vermont Haven will find *Living the Good Life* requisite study. The books mentioned in this review on the subject of saner living for SURVIVAL are in your Venice Public Library.

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PFP REPORTS



APRIL 25, 1971. About 1,000 men, women and children joined the Venice Community Walk and Gathering to celebrate signing the PFP peace treaty with the Vietnamese people.

TREATIES TO PARIS

The PFP National Organizing Committee, which works out of the PFP office in Free Venice, is preparing to deliver to the Vietnamese people signed originals of the People to People Treaty of Peace collected by the California PFP and other anti-war groups.

The treaties will be sent to Paris, where Jane Gordon, PFP candidate for Congress last year in the 28th district, will present them to the negotiators from North Vietnam and from the liberated South.

The PFP expects that delivery of the treaties directly to the Vietnamese will spark renewed interest in signing the historic treaty. To join the PFP effort for people's diplomacy, pick up treaty forms at our new office at 1621 W. Washington Blvd.

The drive for treaty signatures will continue until no American men or dollars are being used to dominate the lives of the Vietnamese people.



MAY 23, 1971. An Armed Forces ceremony on Santa Monica Mall attracted equal numbers of military supporters, and anti-war veterans and PFP activists.

VENICE PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY & PFP NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
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JUNE 15 - CANAL PUBLIC PROTEST HEARING, 10 A.M. at L. A. City Hall.

JUNE 20 - PFP 4th BIRTHDAY PARTY, 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. Echo Park

JUNE 23 - VENICE PFP BIRTHDAY & OFFICE WARMING 8 P.M.

1621 Washington Bl.

JUNE 30 - CARAVAN LEAVING FOR ALBUERQUE 9 A.M. 1621 W. Wash. Bl.

JULY 2-5 - INDEPENDENCE DAY 1971 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

NOTE: PFP MEETING EVERY WEDNESDAY 8 P.M. 1621 W. Washington Bl.



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WILL BE CELEBRATED IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

AT A 4-DAY CAMP-OUT TO LAUNCH THE SUMMER OFFENSIVE TO BUILD A NATIONAL RADICAL PARTY FOR '72

TO ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. LEAVES 9:00 A.M. FROM 1621 W. WASHINGTON BLVD. JUNE 30

AGENDA:

JULY 2 & 3: Workshops on organizing techniques

JULY 4: Drafting of platform for presentation at a later platform convention

JULY 5: Discussion of draft platform & nomination of 'Shadow Cabinet' for the National Party

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 821-8526



MAY 5, 1971. PFP members and high school students gathered in Santa Monica to talk with factory and office workers about conversion from war work to peace work.

NATIONAL PARTY

The PFP National Organizing Committee has been working to build a national radical party in time for the '72 election. Besides reviving the PFP in other states, the committee now has working relationships with the New Party in several states, the Wisconsin Alliance, the Independent New Mexican Party, the People's Party of Kentucky and others.

The first national meeting of the new coalition party is scheduled for July 2 through 5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A caravan to the meeting will leave from Free Venice at 9 A.M. Wed., June 30.

The new and larger PFP office in Free Venice is seeking volunteers to learn the skills of electoral and movement organizing. Anyone interested in practical organizing work locally or anywhere in the country should phone or write to the PFP National Organizing Committee at the PFP office.



MAY 29, 1971. PFP members from Venice, Santa Barbara, L.A., San Jose and Cotati are shown at a caucus with New Party activists in Sacramento.

STOP

IMPORTANT HEARING

Final Protest Hearing on the Venice Canals... your community needs you to tell City Hall how you feel about Venice 15 June, 1971, 10 A.M. in L.A., 200 N. Spring St. for info. Call FREE VENICE, 821-6101.

venice of america

EARLY HISTORY

"Venice of America" was the vision and accomplishment of one man, Abbot Kinney. Kinney was a capitalist and a dilettante who envisioned an American Renaissance in Los Angeles and set about in 1900 to plan a proper seat for that rebirth—a new world Venice, as beautiful and exciting as her old world counterpart. Construction of the canals, walkways and streets themselves began in 1904 and most were completed the following year.

Kinney died in 1920, leaving his son Thornton to watch over his town. Pressure to create a more stable community, continual breakdown of public services, a state-wide trend toward progressive reform and incompetent and often unscrupulous municipal administrators (in 1922 the treasurer absconded with most of the City's money) all worked to undermine Thornton's influence and to build support for a movement to annex Venice to either Santa Monica or Los Angeles. In spite of what has turned out to be prophetic protestations that "ANNEXATION MEANS SLAVERY," Venetians voted in 1925 for consolidation with Los Angeles. That mistake cost Venice dearly.

Ignoring her pre-annexation promises to refurbish and maintain the canals, Los Angeles, rather, filled them in and paved them. Of the 16-mile network, only the grid of Grand, Eastern, Linnie, Carroll, Howland and Sherman Canals remain. In 1930 the city opened the area to oil companies, and soon the entire Venice peninsula became pock-marked with derricks.

RECENT HISTORY

In 1961, canal property owners petitioned the City of Los Angeles to create an assessment district to restore the canals. The project was to cost about \$3,600,000, about half of which would be paid for by property owners within the district. The city, naturally enough, was delighted by the idea and saw in this project just the tool it needed to effect its own plans for Venice. So what began as a modest restoration project was worked and reworked until it assumed, finally, its present form—a 25-million-dollar "slum clearance" project to spearhead the redevelopment of the entire Venice area.

The City Council has stated that the alternative to the canal assessment district is to fill in the canals. The SAVE THE CANALS COMMITTEE has motivated a second alternative—a renewal area agency.

RENEWAL AREA AGENCY

The California State Legislature has recently passed legislation which provides for small-scale rehabilitation projects to be initiated and controlled by residents and property owners of the renewal area. Under this law any blighted area can be designated

a renewal area by petition of 20% of its residents and approval of the local legislative body.

Our petition has been signed and presented to the Council and is being studied by the L.A. Planning Commission. Also the Community's estimate of the cost of cleaning up the canals—using the City's cost figures, with only the design approach being changed—is 4 million dollars, as opposed to \$25 million, according to the City's figures.

PROTEST HEARING

FOR INFORMATION, RIDES AND WHAT HAVE YOU, CALL THE FREE VENICE SWITCHBOARD, 821-6101, OR DROP BY THE COMMUNITY HOUSE, 468 HOWLAND AVENUE, BUT WHATEVER... COME TO THE PROTEST HEARING JUNE 15... WE NEED YOU...



PLATTER PUSS RECORD STORE Supports the Venice People in Their Struggle to Save Their Community from Destruction — We urge you to go to the hearing.

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