



Ruchell Gets a Change of Venue

Ruchell Magee, the only prisoner to survive 1971's Marin County Courthouse shootout, has just been granted a change of venue motion. His trial will now take place in San Jose, in the same court where his co-defendant Angela Davis was acquitted.

Ruchell's reasons for filing the change of venue motion do not come across in the establishment media. *Venceremos* newspaper has just received a communication from Ruchell explaining his strategy.

Ruchell's Competence to Represent Himself

Ruchell points out that on August 3, 1972, "one San Francisco County Judge Morton Colvin unlawfully vacated the prior Judge Leonard Ginsburg's order allowing me the right to act as my own attorney (not co-counsel)." Judge Colvin declared Ruchell "Incompetent", and ordered that all of his legal documents be filed through the court-appointed lawyer Robert Carrow.

Knowing that Judge Colvin would fall all over himself in his eagerness to get Ruchell's case moved out of San Francisco, Ruchell laid a trap for him which he fell right into. By accepting Ruchell's motion for a change of venue, over the objections of lawyer Robert Carrow, he proved that Ruchell is not incompetent as an attorney. Furthermore, he has established a precedent for Ruchell's legal documents to be accepted.

Trial in San Jose

Santa Clara County, of which San Jose is the county seat, has extremely few Black people. This will undoubtedly work to Ruchell's personal disadvantage. But Brother Ruchell as usual puts the interests of the people primary. He sees the trial in San Jose as an opportunity to expose the fascist state in another location: "Whatever county they decide to or think they can hide in, I'll be exposing the entire Judicial System. I have the truth on my side, and the fascists can't hide!!!"

Habeas Corpus Motion in Pocket of Ellsberg Judge

Meanwhile the Habeas Corpus motion that Ruchell filed way back on September 1, 1972 is sitting in the pocket of the judge who twice discussed becoming the head of the FBI while he was presiding over the Ellsberg case.

None other than Judge William Matthews Byrne has been exercising a pocket veto over Ruchell's writ. (Magee v. Warden Luis S. Nelson, # 72-2091 WMB)

Did Judge Byrne discuss this matter when he illegally met with the Justice Department and entertained their bribe offer during the trial? Is this why he has refused to follow the legal procedure in dealing with the Habeas Corpus motion, which is supposed to be a means for speedy relief?

The Meaning of Watergate

"I can state categorically that his (John Dean's) investigation indicates no one, either in the White House or the administration, was involved."

Richard Nixon, August 29, 1973

The Watergate Affair began to unfold on June 17, when secret agents of the Republican Party were caught bugging the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. Immediately the press termed the incident a "bizarre" event, "unique" and "scandalous." Even the Washington Post, whose reporters did much of the investigating which finally exposed the culprits in the White House, treated Watergate as an isolated incident; a blemish on an otherwise clean political history.

But Watergate is really nothing more than another chapter in a volume of American outrages, most of which have been much more serious.

How refreshing it would have been if Nixon's press secretary, Ronald Ziegler had come forth the next day and said, "Gentlemen (he always addresses the American people as "gentlemen",) on behalf of the President I would like to state that no one should be startled that our employees were caught at the Watergate. These were top-notch men who received their training from the Central Intelligence Agency. The tactics we told them to employ were used, by us, in Iran, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile, Cambodia, Vietnam and many other fine countries. We had every reason to believe that because this type of operation has succeeded for us in the past, that it would work right here at home. So please don't make a big deal out of it - it's nothing new."

In other words, the Watergate Affair is not unique, nor is it bizarre. "Cleaning up the White House" will change nothing, because it is a matter of this or that bad guy who holds power. The Watergate crooks, from McCord on up to Mitchell and Nixon, are enforcers for an entire class of gangsters - the ruling class. Their plot, much more intricate and criminal than Watergate, is to control the riches of the world and use the rest of mankind to keep it that way. Watergate is a bump on a log.

Perhaps that's why most people just say "So what's new," when they hear that the White House is loaded with spies, agents and hoodlums.

The criminal history of Ameri-

ca began long before Watergate. It began with the slaughter of Native Americans, the enslavement of Blacks, the conquest of Atzlan (and several other nations) and continues today in the form of imperialist wars and wage slavery. At most, the Watergate Affair tells us that one element of the ruling class is a little more corrupt than another section. But our lesson should be more - we should understand that justice will come about, not by replacing Republicans with Democrats, but by replacing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie with the rule of the people.

Phil Trounstein

Inmates Used As Guinea Pigs

(Zodiac)-Approximately one-fifth of the 600,000 inmates in U.S. prisons are used as "guinea pigs" in medical and disease experiments.

According to recent testimony before a Senate subcommittee one of the experiments conducted on prisoners involved the pouring of Johnson and Johnson's baby shampoo into the eyes of 20 inmates for 24 straight hours. In another experiment with fungus, staph and other infectious bacteria, 300 inmates were deliberately infected. Members of two prisoners' civil rights groups appeared before the Senate Health Subcommittee and testified that volunteer prisoners were paid as little as \$3.00 per day to undergo dangerous tests.

They called for a halt in the use of inmates in medical experiments, saying that many prisoners - desperate for money - had no choice but to volunteer for experiments, that threatened their lives.

Joseph Stetler, president of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association, said he opposed the passage of specific laws controlling the conditions under which inmates could be used in drug experiments and argued that the drug industry should monitor such experiments involving human subjects. He said that one of the advantages of using prisoners is that their diet, exercise and sleep can be controlled.