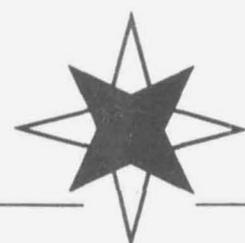


Quaker Service Bulletin



Six-Year-Old Children Work in Fields, AFSC Investigation Finds

Except for the absence of walls, the agricultural child labor scene of 1970 is reminiscent of the sweatshops of the nineteenth century.

This fact was confirmed by five teams who worked on a special AFSC project during the summer and fall of 1970. The teams worked in Ohio, Maine, Washington, Oregon, and California.

The agricultural worker is not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. The child in agriculture is specifically excluded from most child labor laws or, at best, minimally covered.

Paid by piece rate

The teams, wherever they worked, found children from the age of three up working in the fields. Sometimes the children were just there, but too often they were actually working—digging potatoes or picking berries and beans.

Frequently, children were missing school. In Aroostook County, Maine, the schools recess for the potato harvest. Technically, the local children are not missing school. But children from other parts of the county, from other parts of the state, from out of state, and from Canada were missing school while working in Aroostook. In the other states, migrant children were found to be missing two or three weeks at either end of the school semester. Rarely were special summer schools accessible to children working in the fields.

Most often, the teams found, the children, as well as the adults, were paid by piece rate. The money earned went for school clothes or was pooled with the family income for basic necessities.

The teams found that no one knows for sure just how many

children really work in the fields. Officials estimate numbers, often not counting children below twelve, who are assumed not to be working. In California, the team found that a number of children were put on one social security card. In other states, wages were paid to the head of the family. Because of these practices, which are illegal, the teams could determine neither the number of children working nor the amount of money earned.

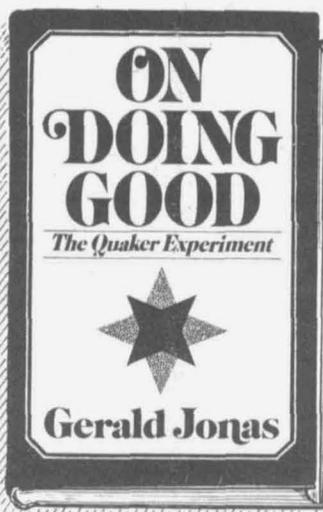
A special report on this project has just been released. It includes sections on each state investigated, made up of excerpts from the field reports. The summary details the kind of work required to pick various crops and touches on conditions in the fields and in the houses of the workers.

In addition, the report points out that the existence of a large pool of children depresses wages for the adults in farm labor, thus making it necessary for entire families to work in order to survive.

Need major shake-up

The project on the use of child labor in agriculture took a hard look at only one aspect of the entire agricultural economy. But that aspect is central to the entire question of the place of farm workers in the American economy. The report recommends that no children be allowed to work as farm laborers. It is dangerous work; it retards physical, emotional, and intellectual growth.

Children cannot wait until the entire problem of the agricultural economy is solved. After working in the fields for a few years, a ten-year-old is no longer a child. He is a seasonal farm laborer.



In the Spring of 1968 a writer on the staff of the *New Yorker Magazine* came to AFSC headquarters in Philadelphia to take a closer look at Quaker methods in action. He had chosen to do so, he told us, because he was increasingly disturbed by the argument that only violent means could produce needed social change. Did the Quakers really offer an alternative?

Now, three years later, Gerald Jonas' depth profile of the AFSC has appeared in the March 13 and 20 issues of the *New Yorker* and will be published in book form by Charles Scribner's Sons, under the title *On Doing Good*. (Scribner, N.Y., April 1971, 376 pp. \$6.95.)

Can effect social change

"Nobody loves a do-gooder," Jonas writes. But a painstaking search of the dictionary revealed to him that this was indeed the most descriptive term to use. "Those who are morally repelled by the alternatives—perpetual impotence or the ruthless destruction of the status quo—will find persuasive the fact that do-gooders can effect social change, that at certain moments in history, certain men have been able to combine the goals of 'doing good' and 'getting things done' on a significant scale, without succumbing to corruption, co-optation, despair, or the temptation to use violence."

Vivid thumbnail sketches

A careful researcher with that rare combination, a probing mind and a compassionate heart, Gerald Jonas ranged far and wide through AFSC circles for more than a year, attending committee meetings, board meetings, and vigils; visiting regional offices, sitting down for depth interviews with dozens of Service Committee men and women. To gain historical perspective, he delved into Pennsylvania history of the 18th century, examining the arguments of historians, pro and con, who have studied the Quaker relationship with the Indians as a key to Quaker pacifism.

Rather than trying to cover the whole of AFSC in encyclopedic style, he has chosen to examine certain events: a meeting of the Chicago Tenant Union; the Avon

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Paris Visitors Urge Total Pull-Out from Indochina

On March 9, a group of 171 Americans from forty-one states returned from a week-long conference with principals in the Paris Peace talks. In Paris, they also met with representatives of the National United Front of Cambodia, a Laotian student group, and various South Vietnamese groups opposed to the war. Their objective was to see for themselves what the prospects and requisites for peace in Southeast Asia really are.



Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, right, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, pauses as her interpreter translates for the visiting Americans Madame Binh's background remarks explaining the PRG's position at the Paris Peace talks.

The project, called the Citizens' Conference for Ending the War in Indochina, was sponsored by the AFSC, Clergy and Laymen Concerned, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The participants represented a wide range of professions and civic involvements. Included were businessmen, lawyers, doctors, professors, clergymen, nuns, officers of the League of Women Voters, an editor and publisher, a paint manufacturer, and a state representative.

At the end of the week, few participants still saw merit in President Nixon's proposal for an unconditional cease-fire. But the majority issued a statement that urged the President to stop the war by "setting a date for the immediate and

total withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel from Indochina . . . and by discontinuing military, economic, and political support for Thieu, Ky, and Khiem, whose government is unrepresentative of South Vietnam."

New and creative interpreters

AFSC's national peace education secretary, Stewart Meacham, felt the conference afforded a large number of American citizens access to, and thoughtful discussion with, many persons long familiar with the Indochina struggle. He said: "We hope the participants will be new and creative interpreters, in their respective communities, of what they really understand the requisites of peace to be."

Most Americans Oppose Draft, Three Quaker Groups Testify

Legislation concerning extension of the current draft law will soon be considered by the Congress. Last February, Lyle Tatum, urban affairs representative for the Haddonfield Friends Meeting, testified on the draft before the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Tatum was speaking for the AFSC, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Friends Coordinating Committee on Peace. Portions of his testimony are reprinted below.

"Quakers often take a lonely position as we testify against war and conscription as violations of our Christian faith. Today, however, as moral and pragmatic objections to conscription have become obvious to large numbers of our fellow citizens, we testify as a part

of the majority rather than the minority in urging draft repeal. The polls indicate, and the addition of young voters to the registration rolls emphasizes, that the majority of U.S. citizens believe the time has come to end conscription. . . .

"Fundamentally, we object to conscription for any cause; it is an immoral and ineffective method of obtaining the services of anyone for military or non-military purposes. The volunteer is much more likely to give effectively of himself for constructive, immediate, and long-term results than the conscript. Furthermore, it is the individual, not the state, that carries the responsibility of determining where and how he might serve his fellow men. We support voluntary service

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Dayton Youth Program Visits Washington, UN

The Dayton Regional Office has expanded its program for, with, and by youth of high school age, the past two years. Called Youth-Education-Action, the program includes seminars, service opportunities, a world affairs camp, and conferences for teachers.

"Seminars on Wheels" conducted two week-long seminars to the United Nations and two to Washington this year. The first two involved some eighty students and leaders from the four states in the region. Friends meetings and other groups helped with some scholarship aid, which made possible a more diversified group. An equal number are expected to go this spring to Washington, April 18-22, and to the UN, May 2-8. Theme of the Washington seminar was "The Military-Industrial Complex"; the theme of the seminar to be held this spring will be "Freedom, Repression and Justice."

Several week-end seminars have been held in Michigan. A particularly effective one was held in Grand Rapids, composed of an

equal number of blacks and whites, students and teachers, and focusing on local school problems. A teachers' workshop in Dayton, although small in the number of participants, was quite effective, and laid the groundwork for examining the ineffectiveness in education for many youth.

The World Affairs Camp, now in its thirteenth year, will be held July 4-10 at Quaker Knoll, near Wilmington, Ohio. As in the past, it will take a world approach to examining poverty, violence, and sovereignty.

Summer projects groundwork

At least one service project a month has been held in the way of institutional service in Michigan, and staff in the region is currently laying groundwork for summer projects. Both national and regional program projects will be held.

A new venture in recent months is a joint effort of the Youth—Education—Action Program with the Peace Education Committee to undertake a special campaign to repeal the draft. It is expected that youth and parents will unite in contacts with congressmen.

Charles Sutton will complete five years as the director of this program and has laid the groundwork for future growth.

AFSC-Soviet Seminar Discusses Arms Control, Aid to 3rd World

Pitsunda is a new complex of high-rise hotels on the coast of the Black Sea in the Republic of Georgia. The hotels are health resorts for blue-collar workers from all parts of the Soviet Union. At this site last December, twenty Soviet and American academic and professional people held a week of intensive discussions on the theme of "U.S.S.R.-U.S. Relations in the Year of Lenin's Centenary." Pitsunda was selected as the site for the residential meeting by the Institute of Soviet-American Relations in Moscow, with whom the AFSC co-sponsors these annual reciprocal seminars.

Must lead the way

The ten Russian participants came from the Institute of the U.S.A., the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations, the Institute of Trade, and the Novosti Press. The American participants came from a variety of academic disciplines, from journalism, and from the business world.

By the end of the week's discussion, there was general agreement among the participants that resort to nuclear war was unacceptable and that the two countries must lead the way toward more far-reaching agreements on the control of nuclear and other arms. It was also agreed that even limited wars endanger world peace and that therefore the major powers have a responsibility to develop interna-

tional means to resolve such conflicts.

The persistence of the Vietnam war and its spread to other parts of Indochina was a matter of deep concern. The participants also felt that rapid technological development holds promise of a richer life for all mankind but that it presents risks that must be anticipated. There was also general agreement that the advanced technological nations of the East and West should facilitate the economic, social, and technical development of the Third World countries, but in harmony with the desires of the people of those countries.

The residential site for such a seminar is vital, since in plenary sessions the Russians are often unwilling or unable to express the kind of analytical criticism of their own society or government that Americans express almost habitually. In free time or at meals, there are opportunities for private and more informal talks, often exploring seminar topics with more candid exchanges. Excursions that included a visit to a state citrus farm, a state wine factory, and a nearby resort town helped to cultivate friendships between the Russian and American participants.

Following the seminar in Pitsunda, the Americans flew to Moscow for a week of meetings with a variety of institutes and people, arranged by the Institute of Soviet-American Relations at

the request of the Americans. A farewell party for the Americans included Russian participants from the previous three reciprocal seminars. No small contribution to cementing Soviet-American relations was made at this party by the five Americans who accepted the challenge of a basketball game with a team from the Institute of the U.S.A. The game turned out to be a delightful occasion in which the referee was obviously given orders to favor the Americans. It was followed by a banquet where medals were bestowed on the intrepid Americans in a spirit of real fun and friendship.

Strong mutual respect

Since 1966, the AFSC has co-sponsored these reciprocal seminars in order to open and maintain lines of communication between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. The Pitsunda seminar was especially important in the current context of deteriorating U.S.-Soviet relations. One American participant concluded: "I felt very strongly from the Russians a professional and personal rapport and camaraderie and a strong mutual respect that made our policy disagreements at the level of statecraft seem somewhat unreal and the product of an international political system that was increasingly irrelevant to life. Such bonds can be critical to the survival and transmission of those universal human values and concerns necessary to help us all weather the period of increased U.S.-Soviet hostility that seems to be upon us. A slim reed, but slim reeds are precious at a time like this."

analysis

OLD WORLDS AND NEW WORLDS

The Nile, the Euphrates, the Ganges, and the Yangtze witnessed the rise of great civilizations while the Seine, the Thames, the Tiber and the Potomac ran, pure and unsullied, through undeveloped land, the abode of primitive men. Gradually these cultures, wherein world religions were born, arts and philosophies flourished, and systems of government evolved, lost vitality and lay fallow. Then the brash young west arose, vigorous and ambitious, to dominate history for several centuries. Nations spilled out from crowded Europe into the world. Later their empires waned while two super-powers, each of continental proportions, grew to towering strength and cast shadows over the earth as they measured each other in uneasy rivalry. Yet both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were of the west and it looked as if mankind's center of gravity still lay in the Euro/American orbit.

It has been very difficult for western man, raised in the certitude of his own first-class citizenship, to persuade himself that his dominating position was not necessarily eternal or the result of his virtue. Now his astonished eye sees the rest of the world stirring, the parched and fallow fields greening, and his productive genius rivalled by non-western peoples.

Two more super-powers are on the eastern horizon. One is the giant of them all, comprising the Chinese quarter of mankind, moving inexorably into the front rank of nations. Japan, small by comparison, houses in its thin island chain a people whose dynamic surge into the technological age is a wonder of the century. Other great nations may one day reach equal stature and power, but for the rest of this century it seems that these four will play the dominant role.

Two momentous facts emerge. The first is that the great new powers are not of the west. We western people find easier to accept this fact with our heads than with our hearts. We know intellectually that "Caucasian" domination is past, that the "Herrenvolk" idea is an indecent one—but deep down we have difficulty, individually and nationally, in accepting the idea of shared responsibility, side by side with those of other races, for the ordering of mankind.

The second momentous fact has to do with geography. The meeting place of the four super-powers is not in the west. Two are East Asian in their entirety. For them many of the tensions and issues of the west are remote and parochial. One is a western power encompassing vast lands and many people of Asia. One, the U.S.A., is in East Asia, not by geography but by design. Each has and will continue to have complex relations with all of the others. Action by any which worsens relations between the four will be a menace to all and, indeed, to the world.

How can the AFSC play its part in seeing that the western segment of humanity becomes sensitive to the new and constructive role these facts call for? For in truth we are living in a very new world, and must learn to make our proper contribution to it.

COLIN W. BELL, *Washington Public Affairs Program*

Conference at Geneva Explores Seating of People's Republic

At an AFSC-sponsored seminar on China, held in Austria last year, the suggestion was made that countries favorable to the seating of the People's Republic of China in the UN be asked to give this objective greater priority than in the past.

Breaking present deadlock

To explore this idea, the AFSC sponsored an invitational consultation on China and the UN, in Geneva last January. Eighteen participants came from fifteen countries, selected from the nations which, with one or two exceptions, have diplomatic ties with the People's Republic but which did not sponsor the Albanian-Algerian Resolution calling for the seating of the People's Republic in the place of Nationalist China. The participants represented every major sector of the globe—North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Evan Luard, St. Anthony's College, Oxford, and author of *Britain and China*, prepared an eighteen-page advance paper covering the existing situation, Communist China's conditions for accepting membership, possible effects of China's membership, and possible procedures for breaking the present deadlock.

Part of new orientation

One point brought out in the discussion is that there is a clear desire on the part of the People's Republic of China to take its seat

in the UN. Although membership in the UN is not a top priority of foreign policy for the Chinese, it is a part of their new orientation towards the other great powers. The members of the conference were not impressed with arguments often put forward in the past about the intransigence and disruptiveness of the People's Republic. In fact, they were not convinced that, once in the UN, the People's Republic will even become a revolutionary force or a leader of the extremists. The problems for the Chinese in adapting to the UN framework are serious they felt, but not insuperable, and will certainly be outweighed by the advantages of the Chinese presence.

Best hope of a solution

It was the sense of the conference that the UN cannot solve the problem of China by offering a "two-seat" or "dual representation" solution, so that the present best hope of a solution is the Albanian resolution.

Quaker staff felt that the discussions were most useful. But other questions also need to be asked at other places. Many of the participants believed that the major issue is not the Chinese puzzle over representation of Peking in the United Nations but whether, in fact, the United States is developing a new policy toward China. This question is on the agenda for an AFSC working party to be formed in the United States.

Oppose Draft

continued from page 1

and see it as the only service in harmony with the ideals both of democracy and of our religious faith.

"We object to the draft because of the major role it plays in disrupting the fabric of our society with the uncertainties, injustices, and sacrifices it lays on our young people, young women as well as men. The draft makes much more difficult their struggle for roots and meaningful identity in a world beset by immensely complex problems.

"We object to the draft because of the base it establishes for rapidly expanded quantities of manpower for military purposes. Immediate draft-provided reserves of men make it possible for U.S. foreign policy to be based on military might and subject to military adventurism. In all probability the Vietnam War, a nightmare which should never have happened, could not have escalated as it did if Congress had to approve a reinstatement of the draft for the specific purpose of providing soldiers for Vietnam. If Congress wishes to reassert its influence over foreign policy, one useful step would be to close the door on the conscription of manpower at the discretion of the President."

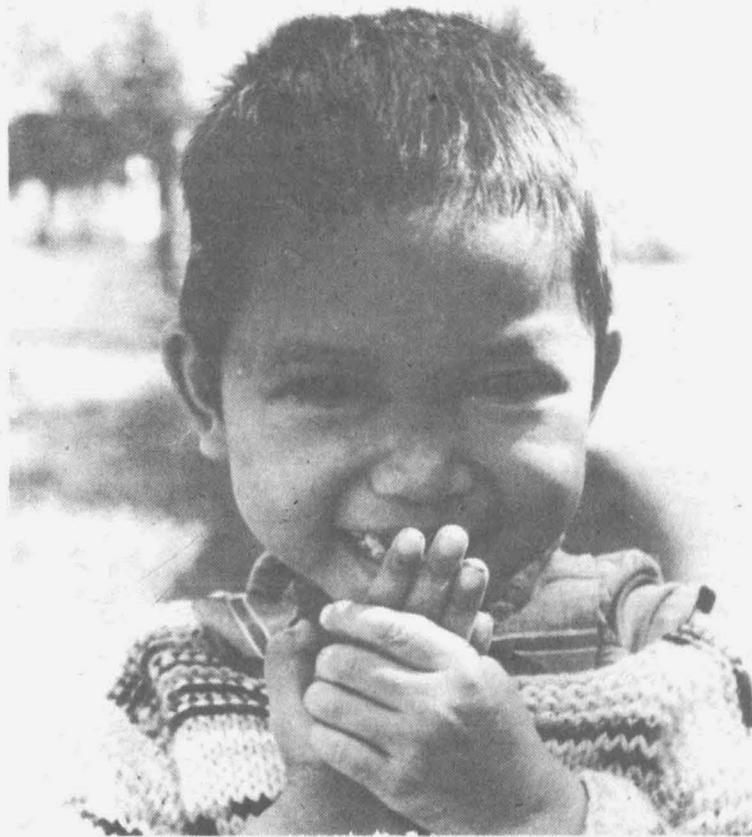
Anyone desiring more information on the draft legislation pending in Congress, or on the subject of draft repeal, is encouraged to write James Bristol at the National Council to Repeal the Draft, 101 D. St. S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003.

AFSC AROUND THE WORLD

Working in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the Service Committee has expanded its program of preschool play centers for refugee children in the Gaza strip. During this past year, the eight centers established and originally operated by UNRWA have been increased to twelve. The staff, made up of refugees from the camps, has been enlarged to thirty-nine teachers and fourteen attendants. About fifteen hundred refugee children, or thirty-nine classes, now attend the preschool centers daily.

Separated from their families

A lingering tragedy of the late civil war in Nigeria has been the plight of children separated from their families by the fighting. In South-East State, where there were 4,500 of these children, Quaker



"Em Truong is one of the beautiful people of Quang Ngai. She lives in the paraplegic ward next to our hostel. She is the only person around to take care of her dying mother. It is quite a common sight to see her trundling in with tea she has bought outside the hospital gates." (From Quaker staff in Quang Ngai, who sent this picture of Em Truong in a sweater hand-knit by a contributor to AFSC's Material Aids Program.)

Service child welfare consultant Rhoda Veney has been working with the Nigerian authorities to help arrange for the return of children to their families.

First Christmas for many

An important part of Rhoda Veney's work has been to help in the planning of child-care centers in six divisions of the State for children who cannot be returned to their families. At several of these centers last Christmas morning, hundreds of Nigerian orphans woke to find soccer balls, jumping ropes, and windup cars under their beds. The emergency plea for toys had arrived from Rhoda Veney just in time for AFSC's purchasing director Will Patterson to send a supply on the last ship from Philadelphia to reach Nigeria in time for Christmas.

"The bales arrived here on the twenty-third," Rhoda reported. "The little ones were asleep. Next morning, they were so surprised and happy that all I could do was to sit down and laugh. We had no idea that this would be the first Christmas for many of them."

About seven hundred children in ten orphanages received gifts.

Elsewhere in Nigeria, Quaker Service staff continue the work of reconstructing war-torn villages, restoring medical services, and

operating feeding stations. To help in the rehabilitation of villages, 370 tons of steel roofing and seventeen tons of nails left for Nigeria last month. Quaker staff working to restore Abiriba Hospital in East-Central State received six cartons of diphtheria, tetanus, and polio vaccine last February to begin a mass program of vaccination. The shipment will yield 18,000 doses of DPT. To help supply the feeding stations where Quaker service staff continue to distribute a high protein supplement, junior food, donated by Heinz and valued at \$21,500 left Baltimore in February. The steamship company marked the 6,000 cases at no charge.

Making a solid contribution to Nigeria's postwar recovery

Quaker Service staff in Nigeria now numbers fifteen Americans, four Britishers, and fifty Nigerians, of whom forty are community welfare workers. After a recent visit to the program, AFSC's executive secretary Bronson Clark reported: "The morale of our team is extremely high; they are deeply engrossed in their work and feel convinced that they are making a solid contribution to Nigeria's postwar recovery."

(For picture story on self-help housing in Zambia, see page 7.)

history

"IT WAS A HARD BLOW"

Clarence Pickett, for twenty-two years executive secretary of the AFSC had a genius for finding simple solutions to complex social problems. Some of these solutions, put into action, have changed the course of AFSC history. But one which was never acted upon, might have changed the course of world history.

Help Jews emigrate

The problem in question was the plight of the Jews wanting to leave Hitler's Germany and Austria. The staff of the Quaker Centers in Berlin and Frankfurt had begun to help Jews emigrate as early as 1931, and American Quakers had been involved in supplying them with affidavits since 1934. So the problem was not new to Clarence Pickett. But in the fall of 1938, when he visited Germany, the situation had become far worse than anyone dreamed it might. Outside the Quaker Centers long lines of people formed in the dawn hours and stood all day, waiting for a chance to talk with someone, anyone, about immigration to the United States, while the various American consulates through the country were simply overwhelmed by would-be refugees.

Lack of sufficient staff

After his return to the United States, Clarence continued to be haunted by a vision of those long lines.

The situation continued to deteriorate rapidly and the Quaker workers wrote desperately that the lines were getting longer. Clarence put his mind to the problem, and remembered that he had been told repeatedly that one of the blocks to emigration was lack of sufficient staff at the consular offices to handle the growing number of applications for visas. In other words,

the United States could have admitted more Jewish refugees at this crucial juncture in world history if they had enlarged their consular staff.

Response at first favorable

Why couldn't the AFSC make a contribution toward ending this shortage, Clarence asked himself? Why not recruit young men and women fluent in German to help the hard-pressed American staffs in opening the mail, interviewing clients, answering phones, filling out applications? AFSC had found volunteers in years past to feed hungry German children, to set up clinics for unemployed West Virginia miners, to help shepherd Spanish refugees across the Pyrenees. Why not volunteers for this badly-needed work?

He voiced this idea to a friend, a wealthy Jewish woman, who became so enthusiastic that she offered to supply most of the funds needed by AFSC. Bolstered by this promise of support, he took his idea to the head of the visa division of the State Department. The response was at first favorable, and a plan was worked out whereby the Service Committee would present State with a list of some twenty potential candidates. If approved, the consular service would pay these young people a maintenance salary, and assign them to offices in Germany and Vienna, while the AFSC met the costs of transportation.

Time to look for candidates

Next it was time to look for candidates. It was midwinter; not the best time to recruit young college age students for overseas work. Nevertheless the heart-rending tales of Jewish suffering that were sent home from abroad by AFSC workers were percolating

rapidly through Quaker circles, and many young people were motivated to drop everything to respond to the need. Within a few weeks AFSC had seven candidates appointed and a number of good prospects.

On February 17, 1939, Clarence Pickett went to Washington to see his contact at the State Department, a Mr. Warren, and go over final details of the plan. While he and Warren were chatting, a phone call came from Warren's superior to warn that this man saw serious objections to the scheme. Later, over lunch, Clarence Pickett was told these objections; if the State Department worked with the Quakers it would appear to be discriminating against other relief agencies, and if young people were appointed by both the AFSC and the State Department they would have divided loyalties. Clarence saw both of these objections as unreal, and argued against them, but it was clear to him then that the tide was running against him.

Waited for a chance that never came again

Later, he had an appointment with the Assistant Secretary of State, the substance of which he recorded in his autobiography *FOR MORE THAN BREAD*. "(He) reminded me that the State Department could run its own affairs, and that if it desired to add to its consular staff it could and would go to Congress and ask for an appropriation to do so. It was a hard blow."

Reluctantly, the Service Committee wrote its young candidates to say the opportunity no longer existed. One insisted on going anyway, on his own to see if he could help; the rest waited for a chance that never came again. The wealthy donor was told the sad news, and in Germany the lines grew longer and longer. The war clouds deepened over Europe; by September, the world was at war.

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QUAKER SERVICE - VIETNAM
American Friends Service Committee

267, Phan-Bội-Châu
Quảng-Ngãi, Việt-Nam
Cable Address: QUAKAMIS
QUANG-NGAI

AN EMPTY WHEELCHAIR

The face of a young girl about ten appeared in the window. She wore patched peasant pajamas and carried a hat of leaves. "Will you take my father home?" she asked. Her father had died the night before in the province hospital where he had lain for two years paralyzed from the waist down by a gunshot wound. She was very composed.

We went with the child to the hospital morgue. Dave and Bill picked up the stretcher and slid it into the back of the Honda truck. Ba (Mrs.) Xang, weeping slightly, lifted her husband's two-year accumulation of belongings into the car: three small cardboard cartons, a wheelchair, and an empty bottle. Then she climbed in, with her daughter and a cousin, and we pulled away from the group of curious children and patients that had gathered.

As we hit a bump at the hospital gate, the head wobbled beneath the rough blanket that covered it. Ba Xang leaned over. Her hand, the skin cracked and coarse, the nails stained and scarred from many years of labor, looked like a bird's claw, but her touch was gentle as she held the head firmly. I couldn't get over the composure of the child next to me, the courage it must have taken to come into our strange American house, and the patience with which she had nursed her father during his final illness. The death had been a long while in coming.

The Xang family lived in Son Hoa, a refugee camp on the road to Son My, some ten kilometers from Quang Ngai. The drive to Son Hoa is one of the most beautiful in the provinces and was a welcome change after the barbed wire of Quang Ngai. The countryside moved past us—the Tra Khuc River, a cluster of houses, Buddha Mountain reflected in the water of the rice paddies newly planted at its foot, men turning the soil with wooden plows pulled by water buffalo, a row of stooped women planting seedlings.

The road became bumps, the bumps holes, and the holes an impassable wallow. Bill and Dave carried the stretcher carefully over the paddy dykes and around the mudhole while the rest of us followed with packages and the wheelchair.

Once we got past the wallow, the road was even, sandy, and pleasant underfoot. People in the fields looked up at the strange procession moving down the road and nodded greetings. The mid-afternoon sun was warm as it spread its brightness on the water in the paddies and made the rice glisten in the wind. It was a peaceful scene I passed through, pushing an empty wheelchair.

Lady



Seattle AFSC Aids Chicano School and Culture Center in Granger, Washington

"Now that the Escuelita is no longer a dream, we have a long way to go. Our children were denied the privilege of being able to learn their culture, history, and, most important, their mother tongue. The Escuelita made it possible for the dream to become a reality, and thus we cannot afford to give it up. Our children need all the rights that were denied to us. For them it is not too late."

MARY ELENA VILLANUEVA

One out of 500 Mexican-American children completes elementary school. One out of 5,000 completes high school, and one out of 30,000 completes college. Because Anglo schools do not reach the culturally different child, thousands of bronze, black, and red children are being psychically mutilated by our school systems.

Unique "little school"

In 1969, through a plan by Mexican-American people to create the environment necessary for the intellectual and spiritual self-development of Chicano children, this unique "little school" was formed in the Yakima Valley com-

munity of Granger, Washington. Here, housed in a picturesque historical chapel that was formerly St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Chicano children, with grandmothers, parents, brothers, and sisters, have an opportunity to learn and retain the dignity, beauty, and value of the Chicano life-style and cultural heritage. At La Escuelita, an ethnic school and culture center where Spanish is the first language, they learn their language and literature, their folk-lore and history, their arts and crafts, theater and dances, songs and games.

Community worker hired

Recently, the Education Working Party of the AFSC Northwest Regional Office in Seattle decided to provide a \$250 a month stipend for a community worker selected and hired by the Escuelita school board. For a seven-month period beginning in February, Roberto Treviño of Granger will be forming programs, communicating with Chicano people, and doing whatever the board and the Chicano community decide is needed for the development of La Escuelita.

Migrants' Program in Southeast Region Focuses on Housing

For the past five years, the AFSC, through the Southeast Regional Office, has conducted a program with migrant farm workers who are home-based in Florida. During the first three years of this period, project staff moved up and down the migrant stream with the farm workers, acting as ombudsmen on the road and training farm workers to act in this capacity in the future.

Leave migrant stream

Staff soon found, however, that the greatest good could be accomplished by concentrating on the home base in Florida, helping migrants to improve conditions there and encouraging them to leave the migrant stream by finding year-round work in Florida.

The Florida staff now concentrates on housing, job placement, and family planning.

Housing is one of the most critical needs of migrants and seasonal farm workers. Decent housing, particularly home ownership, is one of the most important steps toward helping farm workers stabilize themselves as permanent local residents and move out of the migrant stream. While home ownership may seem an impossible financial responsibility for such a low-income group, many of these exploited citizens pay out more in weekly rentals for substandard housing than middle-income Americans pay in monthly mortgages for decent homes.

Main objective

The main objective of AFSC's housing program in Florida has



been to bring the benefits of the subsidized interest rate program of the 1968 and 1969 housing acts within the range of the farm workers. The primary success to date has been with the section 502 loan program of the Farmers Home Administration. In the first eight months of AFSC housing activity, staff were able to get forty-two housing loans approved under this program. Most of these houses are now built or under construction. In some cases, staff members were able to get 100 per cent loans with interest rates as low as one per cent. They are now working with thirty-three new applications, of which eight have been approved, three have been turned down, and twenty-two are still in progress. Staff feel they have grounds for reopening all three disapprovals.

One staff member devotes full time to finding jobs in construction and industry for farm workers and

to helping them enroll in training programs that will lead to better jobs.

Family planning program

The project is beginning its fifth year as an active and effective family planning program. Migrant women have been trained as house-to-house visitors who teach women about family planning and recruit them to take advantage of existing services. The family planning services of three county health departments are used in this program.



Committee Helps Community-Owned Alabama Factory Start Production

Nearly two years ago, the AFSC began work on an income-producing program in the South. Now, the Lowndes Wood Products Company, Inc., in Lowndes County, Alabama, will soon begin production. The first wooden pallets—platforms used by industries to store and transport goods—are expected to be built within the next few weeks.

Racial discrimination in Lowndes County and other parts of the Deep South has long called for independent, community-owned industries. Blacks have been able to find only menial, low-paying employment in businesses and farms owned and operated by the white minority. Not only were those who remained in the South kept poor, but they were also prevented from exercising their civil rights for fear of economic retaliation.

A management consulting firm concurred with the AFSC's belief that there was sufficient black leadership in Lowndes County for a community-owned business. They recommended that simple products, like wooden pallets, be made, and helped find guaranteed markets with major industries.

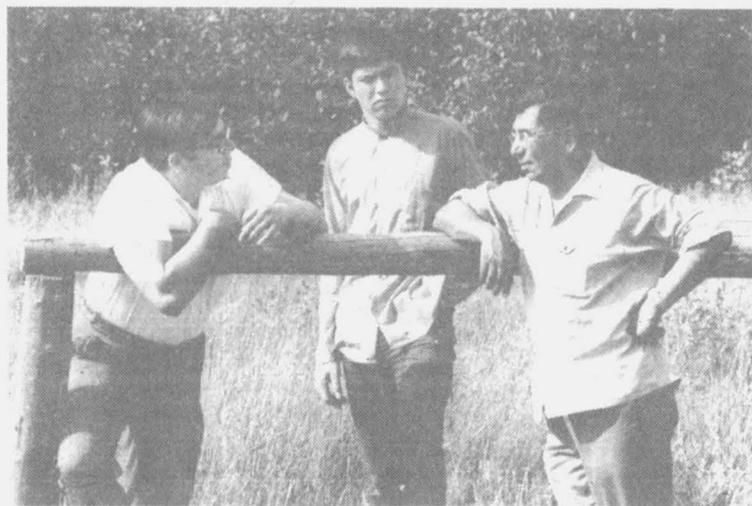
The AFSC's role in its income-producing program was to present the idea to local residents and then to provide needed help, including a loan, wide ranging technical and legal assistance, and community organizing.

Two corporations were established, Lowndes County Development, Inc., and, in January, 1971, the Lowndes Wood Products Company, Inc.—the company that will own and operate the factory, hire the people, make a profit, expand, and hire more people.

May become part-owners

At first, the company will employ fifteen community people, most of them untrained. The president of the new firm and its manager are also community residents. Voting stock is being issued at \$10 a share, non-voting stock at \$25.00 a share. The company will offer the stock to community residents, and will ensure that even the poorest families may become part-owners.

The land has been leased, the factory has been built, markets for the products have been guaranteed, and production will begin shortly.



NERO Continues Support for Maine Indians on the Move

For almost twenty years, the New England Regional Office of the AFSC has been working with American Indians in the state of Maine. The three reservations of the Penobscot and the Passamaquoddy Indians have played host to numerous AFSC summer work-camps; AFSC-sponsored conferences on Indian problems have been held in various parts of Maine; visitation to the reservations during the long winter months has been a regular role for AFSC staff; Quaker representation to the State Department of Indian Affairs has continued since its inception in 1964. More recently, the AFSC

has seconded a staff member to work as a full-time assistant to the State Commissioner for Indian Affairs with a special emphasis on developing self-help housing.

Over the past five years, the Maine Indians have emerged from their relative isolation in the Maine woods. A new political awareness has developed and a drive to preserve their culture. Two Passamaquoddy Indians have served on the staff of the AFSC as community organizers on the reservations. Other organizations throughout New England have taken an interest in working with the Indians in

an ecumenical effort that has included Unitarians and the Roman Catholic Church. An Indian school, entirely under Indian management, has been opened in Bar Harbor for Maine and Canadian Indians, in order to provide the bi-cultural education that they feel is necessary. Maine Indians are on the move.

Non-reservation Indians

The AFSC in New England is now exploring the possibility of working with non-reservation Indians in Aroostook County, who may number as many as a thousand. A group of Malecite, Micmac, Penobscot, and Passamaquoddy Indians have recently formed an Aroostook Association of Indians in an effort, among other things, to gain some recognition from the state of Maine, which tends to feel responsibility only for the reservation Indians. Scattered over the 6,000 square miles of Aroostook county, these Indians form pockets of rural poverty and all too often are the victims of racial discrimination in employment and in the distribution of welfare benefits. In cooperation with the Division of Indian Services of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, the AFSC is now preparing to add an Aroostook Indian to its field staff in another effort to build a sense of community and common purpose among these forgotten Americans.

AFSC Support of Farm Worker Union Efforts

As a former co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the American Friends Service Committee is privileged to nominate candidates for the award. This year, the AFSC has nominated Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

In the nominating letter, the AFSC said:

"Cesar Chavez has brought a quality of leadership to the long struggle of farm workers for human dignity which lifts up to world view the possibility of effective and creative processes of change in dealing with even the most resistant problems. The farm workers' movement to which Cesar Chavez lends his leadership and inspiration seeks to deal with the injustice of our economic and social order and the violence it does to human dignity. The agricultural economy of the United States—its growers and workers, its marketers and consumers—is the specific arena of this struggle; its ramifications are world-wide; the large issue is the violence of the status quo and how it can be successfully challenged."

For the past five years, the

AFSC has played supportive roles to UFWOC in many parts of the country.

Providing direct support

The Pasadena and San Francisco offices of the AFSC have had the closest relations with UFWOC, providing direct support to the union that includes a house for union activities in Los Angeles, funds for food for striking workers, fund-raising for special union projects, like the clinic at Delano, and, with the national office, a full-time staff member. David Burciaga, formerly with the AFSC's El Porvenir project went to work with the farm worker movement at the request of Cesar Chavez. David's role is to assist Chavez in the interpretation to union members of UFWOC's basic philosophy of non-violence within the context of the struggle for justice, and to help AFSC better understand the ingredients of the farm worker struggle. Burciaga has recently organized a workshop in non-violence for new union members.

Legal complications

AFSC staff in Mobile, Dayton, Chicago, Denver, and the national office in Philadelphia have helped organize the Grape and Lettuce boycotts, and have sold buttons and posters to raise funds for the union.

Today, the United Farm Workers faces a new boycott and strike. "Sweetheart contracts" signed by some lettuce growers with other unions are causing legal complications in farm worker organizing. The Pentagon has increased its contracts to corporations who refuse to sign with UFWOC. As the farm workers settle in for another long effort, AFSC officers are preparing to help in any way they can.

Denver Office Chief Resource Agency for Center Farm Workers

When the cry "Huelga" (strike) rocked the southern Colorado farming town of Center last June, more Mexican-American families joined the rapidly growing movement of Chicanos who are deciding to take control of their own lives. Two hundred men, women, and children walked out of the huge corporation-controlled fields, demanding the right to bargain collectively for better wages, more humane working conditions, and all the other benefits that most working men have enjoyed for decades.

Three crucial areas

Around the single key issue of the strike, even more important strides in three crucial areas took place: the development of indigenous leadership, the beginning of community-controlled facilities, and the emergence of community-wide support (outside of Center) for local efforts.

Thus far, these three developments have combined to give birth to a medical clinic that the people hope will someday be the first comprehensive health-care unit in Saguache County. Until now, the entire population of the County has been served only because of the heroic efforts of one doctor, Willard Haskins. Now, through the efforts of a local board made up of seasonal and migrant farm workers—the same men who marched and picketed and lived on \$5.00 a week per family—medical services are being provided for the people of the area on a two-day-a-week basis. Doctors and nurses from the Denver area are volunteering their talents.

With the continuing support of the American Friends Service Committee in Denver, whose staff members made contacts with local medical resource people, the clinic has now been guaranteed a longer life. Through negotiations with Doctor Emil Blair, chief surgeon of General Rose Hospital (who believes that a private hospital ought to be out into the community), long-range plans for the adoption of the Center clinic by General Rose are now being formulated. Ultimately, this plan will entail nearly total financial support for the clinic.

Grass-roots decision-making

Starting this July, resident doctors and interns from General Rose will be spending two days a week in Center and the surrounding area. Soon thereafter, permanent medical services will be available from General Rose with doctors and interns rotating in Center on a monthly basis. In Denver, General Rose has made their hospital open to the people of Center on an out-patient basis, free of charge.

Last September, the AFSC became the chief resource agency in the Denver area for the farm workers of Center, assisting in the collection of food and clothing, helping to raise money, and working in support of the clinic. The key to the progress made by the Center workers so far is grass-roots decision-making, coordinated with the efforts of committed resource agencies.

Tulare County Program Continues; El Porvenir Emphasis Changes

The oldest AFSC current rural affairs program is the Tulare California Farm Labor Program, administered by the San Francisco regional office. The program started in 1956 with one community developer as staff (Bard McAllister, now with the AFSC's Zambia program—see story, page 7), has continually sought to pioneer in new ways of serving farm workers and promoting basic changes in the structure of farm labor employment and the workers' relationship to the total society. Self-help housing, training programs, a workers' cooperative, improved water systems, and adult education are among some of the projects developed and devolved during the first ten years of the program.

Rent subsidy program

Ernesto Loreda became the Farm Labor secretary for the San Francisco office in 1968. He moved the office from urban Visalia to the farm worker community of Farmersville and has initiated a wide variety of special projects growing out of the expressed needs of farm workers living in that area. The program helped develop an experimental rent subsidy program, out of which grew a tenants union at the two farm labor housing projects at Woodville and Linnell; helped eighteen Chicano farm workers in their campaigns for election to the school board; continues to cooperate closely with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee; and helped Woodville residents in the establishment of a cooperative grocery store. The AFSC also helped write proposals for legal assistance and for a tenants' newspaper that would be served by graduate students as a part of their field work.

The tenants union has been a force for change. The Farmersville Housing Authority now has, for the first time in its history, a Chicano member. Two other members of the Authority are sympathetic to the farm workers' needs.

Housing a major need

One of the major needs of farm workers is housing. A decade ago, Bard McAllister helped seasonal farm workers acquire land near Three Rocks, formerly a decrepit farm labor camp, and start a self-help housing program. The workers decided to call the new community "El Porvenir," which means "the hope of the future." Today, forty-three homes have

been built by the farm worker families. Another seven families are currently building their homes, and four more are awaiting mortgage approval. When these last four homes are built, the fifty-four spaces set aside for homes in El Porvenir will be filled.

Furniture-building shop

While the self-help housing portion of the El Porvenir program was recently devolved onto Self-Help Enterprises, Inc., a group which grew out of AESC programs, AFSC continues to supply a community organizer to the farm workers. Ed Moncrief, present staff, helps the El Porvenir corporation, made up of community residents elected by their neighbors, administer property and community services.

Recently, a new organization, called the West Side Planning Group, Inc., working in the part of the San Joaquin Valley where El Porvenir is located, was given a planning grant by the Office of Economic Opportunity. WSPG included in their Funding Request a number of proposals developed by the El Porvenir Community. These include a welding shop, which would provide repair services to local growers, who now have to transport their irrigation pipes some distance away for maintenance work; a garage, which would provide repair and service for the workers cars, as well as for farm machinery and vehicles; and a furniture-building shop, which would make easily assembled furniture from plans prepared by a local designer. All of these projects would be located on El Porvenir property. If funded by OEO, they will provide needed year-round employment opportunities for El Porvenir residents, as well as vocational training.

Forming own policies

A small revolution is happening at El Porvenir. Where once farm workers followed the crops, living in hovels provided by the growers, they are now living in houses they own and have built with their own hands. Where once farm workers had to follow the policies and rules laid down by the farmers, they are now forming their own policies and governing themselves. And, if recent economic development plans are realized, the farm workers who struggled with overpowering poverty may now manage and operate community-owned businesses. El Porvenir, the hope of the future, may soon be realized.

Affairs

Texas Consumers Organize to Plan Community Health Care

Even President Nixon, not widely known for his sensitivity to domestic problems, asserts that this country is facing a major crisis in health care. That assertion must not have come as a surprise to the poor, particularly the rural poor.

In February, 1969, the AFSC began a demonstration project in Houston, focusing on the Settegast area, a predominantly poor, black community. The purpose of the project was to demonstrate that the people with the problem—the poor who need health services—can contribute to the planning of health care programs that affect them. In 1970, the program was expanded to include the rural Cameron and Willacy counties of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Three sites within those counties were chosen for intensive work, and three staff members were hired: two to work in the sites of intensive activity, and one to work with established groups and the "dominant community" in the two counties.

The AFSC's role in the lower Rio Grande Valley has been to help the consumers of health services to organize and to find effective ways in which to participate in the planning of health services affecting them. In the three sites

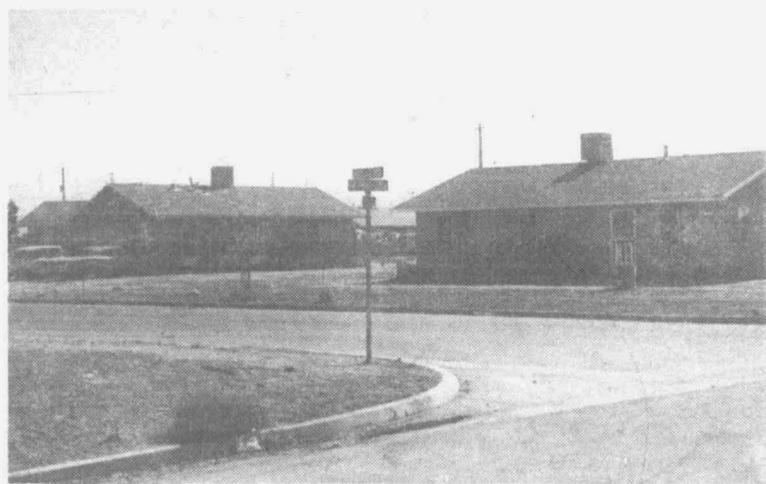
of intensive activity, community groups have been organized around health-related concerns of the residents: medical and social services, a water system, school lunch programs, and food stamps, for example. The residents "set the agenda."

Potentially friendly and cooperative members of the establishment—providers of services, physicians, religious and community leaders—have been identified, and a relationship between them and the consumer community has been developed.

Family health center

Health consumers, organized in a two-county group, have formulated and submitted a proposal for a family health center and two preventive health clinics. Some key professionals have moved to the support of these proposals. The consumer groups have also begun a nutrition education program.

A major problem has been the breaking down of barriers to communication based on racial and economic prejudice and traditional attitudes of the establishment toward those less knowledgeable and privileged.





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The Light at the End of the Tunnel

"History is repeating itself in Southeast Asia," said the *New York Times* in January, 1971, surveying the lengthening and deepening U.S. involvement in Cambodia. "The war is winding down," said the President and his colleagues, and, in that respect, history seemed to be repeating itself also. For just around the corner, where it was still invisible to the *Times* and to those hoping that the war was really winding down, was an Allied invasion of Laos, the purpose of which, said the President and his colleagues, is to protect the withdrawal of American troops.

The "protection of withdrawal" story wears thin with repetition, and so does the "protective reaction" story after some new bombing or rocketing in North Vietnam. For the sharp of eye, it wears even thinner when a White House press aide says that, after the April deadline for taking Americans out of ground combat in Vietnam, there will remain some forty to fifty thousand combat troops (along with the 284,000 un-withdrawn non-combat troops about whom no promise has been made). Senator Scott says the number of combat troops will be reduced to "a very bare minimum" by March of 1972.

What are the intentions of the Administration?

So, in another sense, history repeats itself, namely, in the loss of public faith in the words from the White House.

What are the intentions, really, of the Nixon Administration?

The California-based peace organization, Another Mother for Peace, is asking the Senate to investigate reports that U.S. military activities in Southeast Asia are presently determined by the will to stabilize the political regimes of the region in order to allow for maximum profit-taking by the large U.S. petroleum interests. Seventeen highly sought-after leases to drill for oil off the coast of Vietnam are to be awarded by the Thieu-Ky government to international petroleum companies, many of them, says Another Mother, American companies. Jacques Decornoy writing in *Le Monde* asks whether the oil companies have received some solid assurances from Washington concerning U.S. willingness to "hold" Indochina and South Vietnam in particular.

Such questions must be answered more convincingly than Secretary of State Rogers recently has. Unanswered, they lead us to wonder whether "Vietnamizing the war" really means "Americanizing the offshore oil."

Recent confidential reports, which have "leaked" out of the Far East, suggest an Administration interest in the South Vietnamese economy after withdrawal, or, more precisely, after U.S. military reduction. This interest suggests a desire to "leave" a South Vietnam which has an economy as well as a political and military structure which will be West-oriented. American experts are already studying what will happen when the U.S. military budget shrinks from the pulsing golden flow that it now is to the dimensions of a trickle, comparatively speaking. There is reason to believe that American policy assumes a survival of the Thieu-Ky regime or successor regimes of similar orientation.

In such a spirit, more than we think likely is possible

If this is true, what real hope for an end to the fighting is there? What real hope for self-determinism in South Vietnam? What promise of justice for a tortured people, trying still, after decades, to free itself from a suffocating alien influence?

The real world in which we live is not one where the charming young prince slays the dragon and life thereafter is lived happily. When the dragon of the Vietnam war is finally slain, there will remain the questions: how can Vietnam achieve its own destiny? How can neighboring and far distant nations, including the U.S. turn from the politics of power to the demanding task of regional peace-building in the Pacific?

To the religiously concerned, and to many others, these are the deeper questions about Vietnam, these are the questions the war prevents those most concerned from addressing. They are added reason for us, if any more are needed, to press on for an end to the war. If, as now, the way seems dark, the words of Lincoln may be illuminating:

"I am not bound to win but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to the best light I have."

In such a spirit, more than we think likely is possible.

JOHN A. SULLIVAN, AFSC Information Services

DECENT HOUSING: To Meet a Basic Human Need

Inadequate and dilapidated housing represents one of the most degrading aspects of rural poverty. Half of America's unfit housing is rural housing. Literally millions of rural Americans seek shelter in shacks, hovels, tents, car bodies, or the remains of old school buses. Tens of thousands of farm workers pay exorbitant rent for houses for which the description "substandard" is a gross understatement.

In spite of the grandiose claims of the 1968 and 1969 housing acts, of great promises for "Operation Breakthrough," this nation has made no real commitment to solve its housing problem. We lay out 68½ billion dollars for defense, 5½ billion for farm subsidies, 4 billion for space, 2¼ billion for air and highway programs, and a paltry 325 million dollars for low-income housing.

Meager expenditure resented

And yet, there are those middle-class Americans who resent even this meager expenditure for housing for the poor. "Why should my hard-earned tax money go to subsidize housing for a guy who can't make his own way?" Few middle-class and upper-income Americans are ready to acknowledge the federal subsidies they receive in the form of tax deductions on mortgage interest payment, property taxes and real estate depreciation. We provide such annual subsidies in the amount of six billion dollars per year to middle- and upper-

income families, while we spend less than one billion on low- and moderate-income housing. Almost half of these federal subsidies go to families with incomes of \$10,000 and above.

Even our subsidized interest rate housing programs, such as the FHA Section 235 program, do not reach the truly poor. Senator Ribicoff has pointed out that it takes a family income of about eight thousand dollars per year to qualify for current federal subsidies in housing.

Arbitrarily turned down

Farm workers are discriminated against even further. Local FHA officials arbitrarily turn down farm workers who otherwise qualify because they leave their homes for three months to harvest crops in the north, though they live in free housing during that time. For reasons that do not apply to other citizens, FHA has decided *these* applicants must live in their houses twelve months out of the year. Farm workers are also turned down because they cannot produce a W-2 form to document every cent of their income. FHA officials are not willing to look beyond the traditional middle-class credit rating standards.

Even Farmers Home Administration officials, who are supposed to understand rural problems, are reluctant to make programs available to the rural poor. A "safe," risk-free loan seems to be their

prime objective. When a group of applications is submitted, the "cream" or higher-income people are skimmed off first. It takes persistence to get the lower-income interest subsidy cases through.

Neither the Farmers Home Administration nor Federal Housing Administration were originally set up to deal with the current low-income housing programs. The same old officials with their same old attitudes are still there. They have little more sympathy with, or understanding of, the housing problems of the poor than the average suburban mortgage banker. We have laws on the books, but we still have no housing program for the poor.

Need major shake-up in attitudes of administrators

Adequate funding of federal housing programs is, of course, a major problem. But, in addition to money, we need a major shake-up in the attitudes of those administering these programs. Nothing will really work until the Congress makes it plain to the federal housing agencies that they expect low-income programs truly to serve the poor. But the Congress will never make it plain to the bureaucrats, my friends, unless you and I, and our allies, make it plain to the Congress. It's up to us.

WILLIAM CHANNEL
director of the
Southeastern Region
migrant project

From the Heartland of America

Quietly and steadily the American people have been shifting toward an anti-Vietnam war stance. While some peace people bemoan the lack of huge marches, and Administration leaders have congratulated themselves on defusing the war issue, Middle America has continued, as recent polls show, to shift steadily from support of the war toward alignment with a peace position. Further support of this thesis comes from Vietnam itself where the real reason for the winding down of American ground fighting appears to be the growing refusal of American soldiers to fight in "search and destroy" missions.

People are listening

Solid evidence that this thesis makes sense comes from recent attempts to carry the peace message to the heartland of America where it has been assumed the war has some of its strongest support. In two months of steady lecturing and use of the film, "Once Upon A War" (AFSC work at Quang Ngai), Eric Wright, just back from three years at Quang Ngai, has been telling his story to small town audiences—clubs, churches, high schools, colleges—in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado. No one can listen to Eric's report on these experiences without having new hope that people are listening—asking questions indicating doubt about the Administration's policy and sometimes stepping out in their own community into new leadership for the peace movement.

Because of Eric Wright's success, the AFSC has asked Judy

Danielson, back from two years with the Vietnam Christian Service, to spend six months lecturing in these same states. Judy's first experiences support Eric's conclusions that Middle America is ready to listen and often to talk sense on the war question. By the time Judy has finished next June, she will have spoken to over three hundred community groups of various kinds.

Courses in nonviolence

My own experiences fully support this guarded optimism. Even in conservative audiences the usual querulous complaints about lack of patriotic support of "our boys" in Vietnam are less frequent now and, more important, receive less support from the audience and clearly are seen as a kind of minority report. College audiences in traditionally conservative institutions are increasingly responsive to the challenge to war. Courses in nonviolence are being introduced on many college campuses. Even high schools now ask me for

lectures on nonviolence and unilateral disarmament. Draft counseling has become respectable, with some schools, as in Des Moines, incorporating it into the work of the school counselors with instructions to cooperate with local agencies, including the AFSC.

Slow, steady growth

Of course the Administration has an enormous advantage in the disposition of people in Middle America to support the government. Therefore, the slow, steady growth of the peace movement is of great significance. In the last three months of 1970, the North Central AFSC Office gained over 450 new contributors—the war issue triggering most of them. This is unprecedented, as is the sale last year of nearly \$30,000 of peace literature in this eight-state region, a figure nearly double any previous year.

CECIL E. HINSHAW
executive secretary of the
North Central Region

THE HARDEST LESSON

An assistant principal in Quang Ngai visits staff member Lady Borton at the Quaker Rehabilitation Center twice a week to give her a lesson in Vietnamese and to receive a lesson in English. Recently, Mr. Buu had to take a degree examination in English and stopped by afterwards to show Lady Borton his test. The examiners had asked for an example of a simple sentence, and Lady wanted to know what sentence he had used. He glanced at the AFSC poster on the wall, smiled, and repeated the words printed there: "Love is the hardest lesson."

First Zambian Families Finish Their Homes



The first group of families have now moved into their new homes in the Chawama self-help housing project in Zambia.

Conducted by the township council of Kafue, Zambia, the Chawama project now includes over 130 families. The AFSC is providing administrative personnel and technical assistance in cooperation with the government of Zambia.

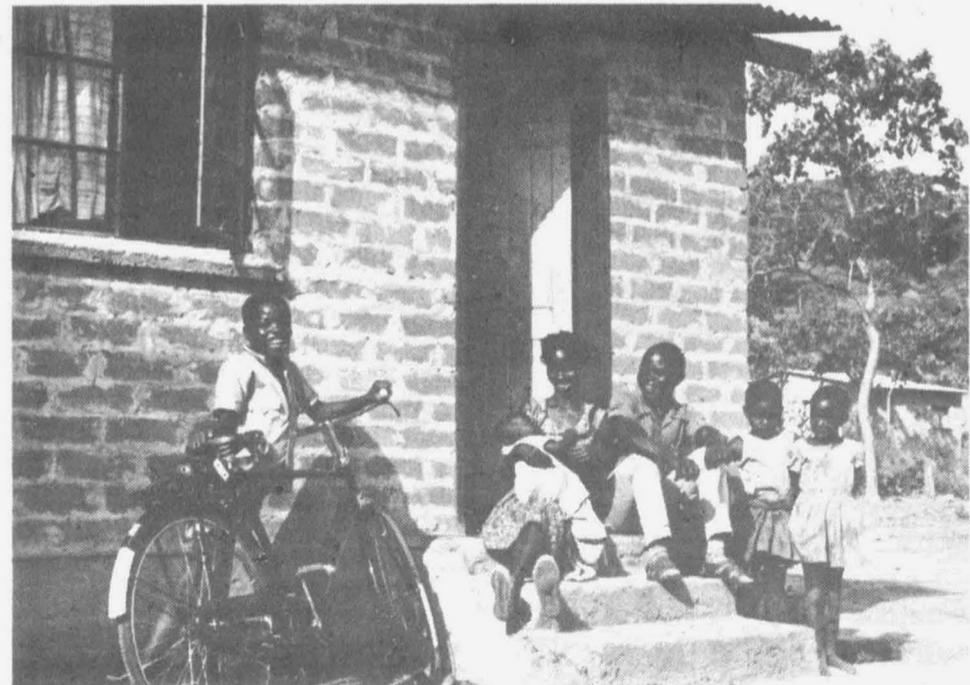
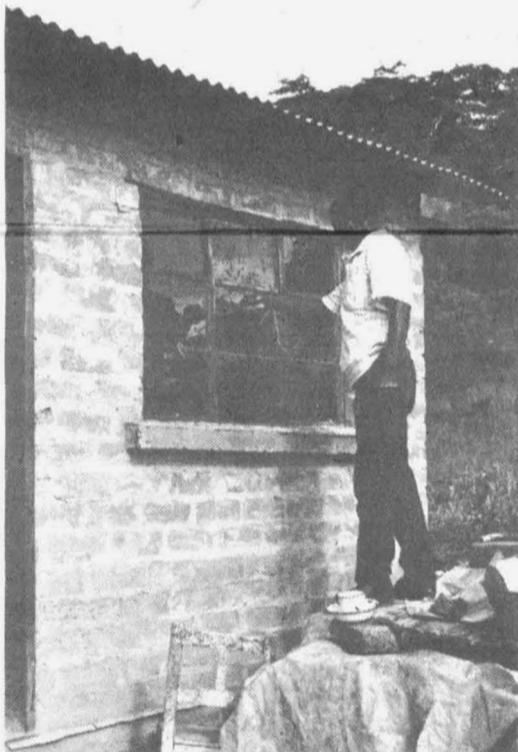
Because the villagers in Zambia are migrating to the cities in vast numbers, there is a critical housing shortage in the industrial areas. One purpose of the project at Kafue is to cooperate with the government of Zambia in experimenting with new approaches to relieve this severe shortage. Another purpose is to help the residents of the squatter compounds to develop a sense of community through the cooperative activity of self-help housing.

Acreage was allocated and developed in 1969, and the project broke ground in January, 1970. Staff members now expect that 228 houses will be completed by the end of this year.

The staff proceeds by selecting work crews of squatter families interested in improving their housing. These groups then select their own leadership. The project staff, currently consisting of two Americans and six Zambians, spends two to three months with each group of families before actual construction begins, helping the members to get acquainted with one another, with the local authorities, and with the many problems of home ownership. Zambian staff members give instruction in homebuilding techniques.

The basic house is 290 square feet. It is made of stabilized earth bricks and has a corrugated roof.

Though small, the Chawama project has attracted widespread interest. Town councils from other parts of Zambia have traveled to the site, and officials of other African countries have expressed an interest in visiting the project.



How POW's Are Being Used

Both the United States government and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam use the 339 captured American airmen who are now held prisoner in North Vietnam. The important question is not whether they are used, but what they are used for. The United States consistently has used them to keep the war going. The North Vietnamese with equal consistency have used them in efforts to get peace going.

In early 1968, about three years after the first American airman had been shot down over North Vietnam, the North Vietnamese Peace Committee invited Father Daniel Berrigan and Professor Howard Zinn to come to Hanoi to receive in the name of the American peace movement three U.S. captured flyers and return them to their families in the United States. The peace symbolism of the gesture was clear.

In response, the U.S. made a war gesture. As soon as the three released men got to Vientiane, U.S. authorities took them from Father Berrigan and Howard Zinn and shipped them back to the United States by military plane. Dan Berrigan and Howard Zinn never saw them again. Even so, this incident highlighted the fact that while the U.S. military had gotten the men captured, the U.S. peace movement was able to set them free. Rather than encourage additional releases proving this point, the U.S. government whisked them away and out of sight as quickly as possible, leaving it up to the Vietnamese to decide whether to release others.

Interestingly enough, this U.S. militaristic response to their peace gesture did not deter the North Vietnamese from trying it again. Later that same year, I went to Hanoi on a similar prisoner release mission along with two peace movement colleagues, Anne Scheer and Vernon Grizzard. In this instance, the U.S. authorities changed the script but only slightly. The three released

pilots were permitted to fly back to New York with us before they were carted off by the U.S. authorities. But to underscore the basic militaristic U.S. response to the DRV peace gesture, two of the men soon were assigned to training duties by the U.S. air force, teaching others to do the bombing which they had been doing when they had been shot down a year before.

More recently, the U.S. has encouraged exaggerated charges of mistreatment of captured flyers not borne out by the known facts. It has falsely charged that the DRV has not allowed the captured men to write letters home and has failed to reveal the number of men held. It has even gone so far as to risk the lives of the prisoners with a hare-brained prison camp raid at Son Tay. Currently, it is encouraging a wide-ranging popular campaign in the United States for their release, while at the same time it is expanding the war into Cambodia and Laos.

The DRV for its part persists in linking the prisoners to its peace initiatives, pledging to enter into immediate discussions for their release as soon as a definite date for early U.S. military withdrawal from Vietnam is fixed by President Nixon.

In this connection, it is important to keep in mind that Article 118 of the Geneva Convention dealing with matters of general prisoner release says, "Prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities."

Thus, it seems clear that to subordinate the release of these men to continued war as the U.S. has consistently done is to leave them sitting indefinitely in prison in North Vietnam. Their best hope, if not their only hope, is linked to peace, as the North Vietnamese have been saying all along and as the Geneva Convention recognizes.

STEWART MEACHAM
national peace education secretary

GIVING FOR INCOME

In addition to outright gifts, AFSC friends can make gifts which will provide a regular lifetime income to the donor (and spouse if desired) or to another person, and then will go to support the work of AFSC.

Such gifts can be made under a variety of plans to fit the different needs of donors. They avoid the usual expenses and complications of probate. Irrevocable gifts afford significant charitable tax deductions. Moreover, most gifts of appreciated securities or other property do not incur any capital gains tax.

- 1. Fixed income plans.** Cash or securities may be used for a life income gift. A set amount will be paid each year for life to the beneficiary(ies), depending on their age(s) and the amount placed in the plan.
- 2. Variable income plans.** Cash, securities, or other property may be used. Payment is made to the beneficiary(ies) for life based on income earned each year by the life income gift.
- 3. Life-estate plan.** The owner of a farm or home deeds it to AFSC, retaining the right to use (and the responsibility to

maintain) the property during his own or another person's lifetime.

- 4. Revocable or 'Deposit' plans.** Similar to the above plans except that in addition to a regular income the beneficiary(ies) can also withdraw some or all of the capital. There are no tax benefits. However, estate settlement costs and delays are minimized.
- 5. Short-term Trust (Interest-free loan).** This plan is for persons who have investment income from capital funds they can release temporarily but not permanently. AFSC invests the capital and receives the income during the agreed period. The donor is not taxed on the investment income if the period is at least ten years.

There are necessary limits on minimum age and minimum amounts to be placed in the various plans.

More and more individuals are turning to the AFSC as they consider the right use and disposition of their life's earnings and savings. For full information write to the address below. Inquiries are held in confidence and do not obligate you in any way.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, Inc.
160 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102
Attention: Paul Turner—or your regional office.

M.A.R., Des Moines Appoint New Regional Executive Secretaries

RALPH KERMAN, new executive secretary of the Middle Atlantic Regional Office, began his duties in Baltimore on March 1. For the past eight and a half years, he has served as the Michigan area program coordinator with the Dayton Regional Office. He and his family lived in Ann Arbor, where they were active in Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Ralph Kerman joined the AFSC staff as the first area program secretary. When he left Michigan, he was the coordinator of a fulltime staff of five and many additional volunteers. He was working with three strong committees, composed of nearly a hundred members.

Ralph Kerman has been a member of the Religious Society of Friends since 1955. He served as a member of the Central Committee of Friends General Conference for ten years and as a member of its Executive Committee for four years.

Before joining the AFSC, he taught physics at Kalamazoo College. He was active on AFSC committees, worked for the Service Committee in Lebanon in its food distribution program in 1956, and occasionally directed AFSC family camps and seminars.

Warren Witte appointed

The Des Moines executive committee and the national personnel committee have announced the appointment of WARREN WITTE

as executive secretary of the Des Moines Regional Office. Warren succeeds Cecil Hinshaw, who shifts to a four-fifths schedule as secretary of interpretation and finance in the North Central Region.

Extensive AFSC service

Warren Witte is currently serving as coordinator of recruitment in the national personnel office. He has had extensive service with AFSC, as a summer project participant; college and youth program assistant in the North Central Region; counselor and director of two summer projects; college secretary in Denver; and director of the Colorado area program. Warren also served in Hong Kong with the overseas refugee program.

Warren has a B.S. in political science from the University of Colorado. He and his wife Patricia have two children.

On Doing Good

continued from page 1

Institute of 1968 and 1969; AFSC participation in and reaction to the Chicago Democratic Convention; the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the decision was taken to send penicillin to the NLF-held territories. Vivid thumbnail sketches of Tony Henry, Kale Williams, Stewart Meacham, and Bronson Clark are among the delights of the book.

Jonas writes with the simplicity and clarity that has come to distinguish the *New Yorker* writers. Though clearly partial to Quakers, he maintains throughout the book a refreshing objectivity. If we wish to be taken for saints we may be disappointed by this cool view. If we are willing to be taken as we are—men and women who struggle and fail, and struggle and succeed, and struggle some more to have an impact for good on this complex society, then we can take pride in this candid and lucid portrait.

The book will be available in late April through all AFSC regional offices as well as local bookstores.

INNOCENT UNTIL PROVED POOR

According to a survey of 596 inmates awaiting trial in the District of Columbia jail, one-third had been locked up for three months or more, twenty-three for more than a year, and four for more than two years. Ninety per cent had court-appointed lawyers, but only one-third had seen their lawyers since arraignment, less than one-third had been visited by their lawyers in jail, and only one in six had received mail from their lawyers. Most were unable to raise bond. The survey was conducted by George Washington and Howard University law students, and the findings issued in a report by AFSC's Pre-Trial Justice Program in Washington.

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