

Patient at Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center, Vietnam

War is Destroying A Beautiful People

By HEIDI KUGLIN, Former AFSC staff in South Vietnam

Heidi Kuglin spent two years in the AFSC's Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center in South Vietnam where, as a physical therapist, she treated hundreds of war-injured people. These are her reflections on those years. This article was written before the military debacle in Vietnam.

I arrived in South Vietnam one week after the Paris Peace Agreements were signed. I knew little of Vietnamese history or of the war other than the battle scenes and body counts I had seen on television evening news. I went to Vietnam as a physical therapist to work in a civilian rehabilitation program and teach my skills. I felt I would gain a lot of professional knowledge and experience working with types of injuries I was not likely to see in the U.S.

It did not take long for me to wake up to the reality of what war is doing to a beautiful people. I saw a pregnant Vietnamese woman standing at the gate of U.S. Army Third Field Hospital, Saigon, pleading with the American guard to help her find the father of her child. A name was all she had. The guard just laughed.

I treated political prisoners for convulsions . . . a result of torture. I shared the agony of a young mother whose husband had to flee to Provisional Revolutionary Government-liberated zones because his neutralism was unacceptable. I daily treated patients blown apart, usually by weapons of the army which claimed to protect them. I saw peoples' houses burned by the ARVN (Thieu's military) so they could not shelter "communists" at night. I saw scores of children paralyzed by polio because their government, whose efforts are directed towards the war, have failed to offer immunization and other health programs.

Nguyen thi Chi lost her right leg above the knee and severely injured her left leg when she was forced to clear brush for ARVN soldiers in a heavily mined area. Asked why she did it, she replied she would have been arrested as a "communist" if she had not

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Tools, Detectors Shipped to Laos

AFSC is responding to a request by the Patriotic Forces Side in Laos to assist in the resettlement of refugees who are returning to their homes in the Plain of Jars area. If the returning population does not get the spring rice planted in the next few weeks, there could be starvation in the fall.

AFSC has purchased three diesel-powered Japanese-made roto-tillers, and one Massey-Ferguson tractor with harrow and deep-disc plow. Shipment is also being made of five (Sears) metal detectors, since the fields in the Plain of Jars and other areas are strewn with hidden unexploded ordnance, especially anti-personnel fragmentation bomblets. The metal detectors will be used before the fields are plowed to prevent destruction of the machines, and, more important, injury or death to the Laotians.

AFSC is also considering the shipment of a number of midwifery and medical kits to the Plain of Jars area.

School Principal Cited for Neglect

By JANET WELLS
Southeastern Public Education Program
Atlanta, Georgia

Two high school students in Lowndes County, Alabama, have been the catalysts behind the organization of the Concerned Parents and Students for Quality Education of Lowndes County.

Formed on January 14, 1975, with the assistance of the AFSC's Alabama Community Relations Program Director, Jack Guillebeaux, the organization had within weeks instigated the suspension of the principal, who was held directly responsible for neglect at the school, and prompted a school board investigation.

"After much discussion and analysis," they stated in written charges to the Lowndes County Board of Education on January 26, "we the concerned parents and students of Lowndes County have concluded that the Lowndes County Training School is not only failing to offer an adequate opportunity for education, but is indeed an educational detriment to students who must attend."

In their five-page presentation, based largely on Catherine Coleman's documentation, the parents and students said: ". . . Discipline and lack of respect for teachers and administrators are among the greatest problems facing the teaching staff . . . Teacher morale and lack of support for teachers cause them to take less interest in their students and their profession . . ."

The lack of discipline and morale which make Lowndes County Training School a "detriment to education" are in abundant evidence on the campus:

—The administration ignored an incident in which a student threw a copper pipe at a teacher. At another time, the assistant principal scolded the teacher in front of her class, implying that the administration did not respect her and neither should the students.

—Efforts to organize a student government asso-

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62% Poor Get No Food Stamps

By GARNET GUILD
Washington Public Affairs Program

Hunger in America, unlike hunger in drought-stricken Africa, is a form of punishment for being old, ill, or poor—conditions our majority culture cannot accept or forgive.

Punishment comes in the form of bureaucratic harassment: ever-changing administrative policies; regulations which people cannot get and cannot understand; long trips to a food stamp certification office where there may be no public transportation; weeks of waiting for an appointment to learn whether one is eligible; a 30-day wait after the application before one can buy food stamps; requiring applicants to show documents of rent receipts, utility bills, forms stating income from work or from welfare; and endless prying into personal lives.

Punishment also comes by perpetuating the myth that the poor cannot be trusted and they cannot make sensible choices. One United States Senator con-

AFSC is working on several projects and plans to respond to the food crisis. See
Page 1—food stamp program
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stantly proclaims his belief that people ride to the certification offices in Cadillacs and then buy lobster tails with their food stamps.

While freezing the cost of food stamps at the present level until June 30, Congress requested a study to find any illegalities or irregularities in the program. Instances of staff fraud have been uncovered. Administrative errors have been discovered in approximately a fourth of the certifications. It has not been determined how many eligible families have been denied food stamps by administrative error or by vindictiveness.

With Congress faced with so many national and international crises, reform legislation to meet the needs of the hungry may not be proposed for several months.

Meanwhile, the courts ordered the Administration to develop an outreach to make the food stamp program known to the eligible. The 18 million food stamp recipients represent 38 per cent of those eligible at this time.

The AFSC's Washington Public Affairs Program follows this national crisis by monitoring the Administration and the Congress. As alternative proposals are developed, WPAP will be available to assist the hungry to speak for themselves.

As of July 1, 1975, the AFSC national office address will be 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

FCNL is Quaker Voice in Capitol

E. Raymond Wilson, staff member of the AFSC for 13 years, a founder of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and its executive secretary for 19 years, is the author of a new book called "Uphill for Peace"—the story of the FCNL.

"I doubt that there has been any President since George Washington who has not been visited by some delegation of Quakers," said Raymond Wilson in a recent interview. "FCNL staff have hounded legislators for three decades. Altogether, Quakers have lobbied for or against legislation since 1659.

"FCNL staff do not speak officially for the Society of Friends, but we have endeavored to be spokesmen for the concerns of the Society on scores of issues."

Although retired for 13 years as executive secretary, Raymond Wilson is still a full-time FCNL consultant staff person.

"The FCNL has, in my judgment, the clearest mandate of any religious legislative group to do an intensive job in Congress. We think that lobbying is as American as the fourth of July or hamburger, that it is exercising the First Amendment. We don't support candidates or interfere with elections but we do put out every year a voting record of the Congress, on certain key issues."

It was in 1943 that the FCNL opened its doors as the first official, full-time, religious legislative lobbying group in Washington, D.C.

Since then the staff have devoted their energies to many humanitarian issues. Among them, disarmament (an FCNL delegation in 1952 talked to Candidate Eisenhower, urging him to make disarmament a major plank in his political platform); rights of conscience (particularly rights of conscientious objectors); opposition to the Korean and Vietnam wars and to U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Cuba and other places; race relations; economic issues; American Indian rights; world population; and world hunger.



E. Raymond Wilson

"We are still hammering away at the Ford Administration to allocate more food to the 32 most desperate countries," said Raymond Wilson. "Up to now, the U.S. has had surplus food to give away overseas—in fact, at one time it was cheaper to do that than to store it at a cost of a million dollars a day."

The FCNL seeks to work legislatively on most of the concerns in

which the AFSC is carrying on projects and educational activities. So the FCNL supports the Service Committee by trying to shape the laws needed to achieve the goals of racial, economic and international justice and peace—which are the heart of the AFSC's programs.

Raymond Wilson's book, "Uphill for Peace", recounts some of FCNL's early days. It is also, as the author says, "an attempt to describe some of the major historical highlights of the FCNL, with an introduction by my favorite senator, Mark O. Hatfield."

Asked whether he plans to retire, Raymond Wilson answered: "Well, for the past 12 years there's been a myth going around that I've retired. I tell people that I retire every night at Quaker midnight—10 o'clock. But as far as retirement from work or the FCNL goes, I haven't retired a single day. I'm a young man of 77 and want to use what strength of mind and body I have left to be productive."

"Uphill for Peace" is published by United Press, Richmond, Indiana. 472 pages, illustrated, at \$7.95.



ArLinda Knight and Catherine Coleman, high school students at Lowndes County Training School, Alabama

School Principal . . .

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ciation and a PTA were blocked because the administration regarded organization as a threat.

—Every day is a holiday for students (and teachers) who leave campus at will, congregate socially in the halls, library and principal's office during class hours, and regularly leave classes to attend fund-raising dances and movies.

The list of the training school's defects is endless. It does not offer: a gym, an athletic field, a band, a ball for the basketball team, an honor society, social clubs, sheet music for the choir, sufficient textbooks, lockers, a newspaper, truant officers, college counseling, clean restrooms, foreign language courses . . .

Lowndes County is in many respects typical of the rural areas in which the AFSC's Southeastern Public Education Program assists community people seeking educational improvement. The county is predominantly poor and still dominated by wealthy, land-owning whites. In such districts, the education system is part of a political structure engaged in a constant struggle with change.

"The students are so scared they don't want to say anything," Catherine said. "The education system is designed not to educate, but to train. They're either preparing you to type or clean up or feed somebody's cows," she said. "They don't have any college prep and they're not preparing you for higher education."

Some black students go to college, but most enter one of the two area vocational schools. There, too many students are trained for the same field, and they head for the cities to try to sell their skills.

Catherine Coleman has been speaking at public meetings since September, 1973, when she responded to citizens' complaints that her school was not producing doctors and lawyers. How could it? she asked.

In July, 1974, she came to the attention of Freddie Fox, a Robert F. Kennedy fellow working out of the AFSC's Montgomery office on student problems. On Fox's advice, she began documenting conditions and incidents at school which fell into the pattern of what she had begun to call "educational genocide." By winter she had a spiral notebook filled with the evidence which would form the basis of the Concerned Parents and Students' complaint to the school board.

The AFSC sent Catherine, with two other students, to the National Education Association's February conference in Washington, on neglect. Catherine denounced the Alabama association's neglect in Lowndes County and urged the delegates to make education, not teachers, their first concern.

What is the job to be done in this school? Installation of a new principal uncorrupted by the old system, continued organizing of parents and students, insistence on necessary educational tools, and development of a community definition of "quality education." (It has been suggested that community people take field trips to other school districts to see what a "real" school looks like.)

"Quality education," Catherine says, "starts in elementary school. A student should learn to read with understanding, to count so that he can manage his affairs. He should learn to think. He should learn to write in order to share himself with others, and he should learn to analyze—to interpret and break down everything."

Hunger Combatted In Texas Valley

By JIM DOUGLAS

Community Relations Division, San Benito, Texas

The Lower Rio Grande River Valley is the four-county area at the southern tip of Texas, down by what local chambers of commerce call "the border by the sea". According to Department of Labor statistics, it is the poorest area in the country as measured by per capita income.

Poverty produces real hunger in the Valley. Organizaciones Unidas, supported by AFSC, has been working to combat this hunger as one of its top priorities. Five years ago, Cameron and Willacy Counties had poorly run and totally inadequate commodity distribution programs, which were simply not reaching hungry people. O.U. developed a food advocacy project and helped lead the successful fight to pressure the counties into applying for and obtaining food stamp programs. As the result of a visit by O.U. staff to the governor and state welfare director, major personnel changes occurred in the food stamp program with more competent and cooperative staff.

There are seven O.U. community food stamp advocates functioning today. Approximately 65 per cent of eligible Texans do not receive food stamps, partly because no money is spent by the agency on outreach or publicity. O.U.'s food stamp advocates have attempted to provide publicity where the state has not.

Food stamp advocates also assist applicants or recipients in filling out application forms. They advocate on behalf of people whose applications have been refused, or whose benefits have been reduced or terminated. This may lead to an administrative fair hearing to contest the agency's ruling. O.U.'s food stamp advocates represent the recipient at such hearings.

Hunger is a perpetual problem to the thousands of poor people living in the Valley. Active, effective participation in the food stamp program is one way in which these many people can partially alleviate the problems of hunger. Organizaciones Unidas, supported by AFSC, will continue to provide trained community advocates to help people who are confronted with problems in the food stamp program.

War Destroying . . .

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cooperated. Em Thuong is a beautiful 16-year-old girl, paralyzed from the waist down. An ARVN soldier used her as target practice while she was planting rice with her family. Five little boys were burned severely by a phosphorous canister they found on the ground.

In the U.S. people repeatedly express to me their fears that should our government cut aid to Vietnam, communism would come and the Vietnamese would lose their freedom. In my mind's eye I see the Thieu zone of Vietnam and ask, "Is this freedom?" The press is censored, peasants and refugees are arrested for going back to their land, others are arrested for being neutralists (anyone who is anti-Thieu, whether anti-communist or not). People can be arrested as communists if they do not carry I.D. cards. People confined to resettlement camps are starving because the government does not provide the rice the U.S. government sends to Vietnam specifically for refugees.

What the Vietnamese people wonder is: Why does the U.S. continue to support a government (Thieu's) that does these things to its own people? Humanitarian aid should of course go to South Vietnam, but not to President Thieu. It should be channeled through the proposed National Council of Reconciliation and Concord, which was authorized by the 1973 peace accords.

One 14-year-old patient of mine, whom I fitted with artificial legs, was not eager to be discharged and return to his Provisional Revolutionary Government village where he believed life was better than in the Thieu areas of South Vietnam. I asked him why he didn't want to go back to his village. "Because," he said, "every night the ARVN shell our village, and now I can't run fast."

Food Programs Need Reform

By MARIA PAPPALARDO
National Office

Between 37 and 41 million Americans live at, or below, the poverty level. Because of growing unemployment, or inadequate income, more Americans are added to this figure all the time.

While programs to feed the hungry exist, anti-hunger organizations, citizens groups and the Congress must spend time and energy to fight administration efforts to curtail, tighten up or eliminate these programs. Those in need are continually short-changed, harassed, and in danger of losing even the few benefits they now receive from food assistance. Federal food programs for children are intended for all children, not just the poor, yet the current administration would cut back the federal subsidy so that only those children rigidly defined as "poor" can benefit. Federal food stamps were recently under threat of being beyond the reach of those who need them most, the elderly poor. This was but one of many maneuvers to eliminate categories of individuals from food program benefits.

The AFSC has worked more than six years with those who use federal food programs, and believes, while such programs are better than nothing, a guaranteed adequate income would be best of all.

In addition to working to ensure that the food stamp program benefits those most in need, the AFSC seeks to improve and expand those programs which should be available to all Americans. Children in school need access to breakfast and lunch. The elderly need access to meals which they may not be able to afford or to prepare themselves. All pregnant women need access to special supplemental diets.

While the federal government continues its assault on the poor by attempting to curtail or eliminate federal food programs, continued citizen monitoring and action are needed to ensure everyone adequate food.

"They Aren't Interested In Killing"

"There is a lightness about life in Laos that is refreshing. Laotians are the biggest lovers of puns and jokes I've ever met," said Marty Teitel, who recently returned to AFSC's Asia Desk after eight months in Laos.

"One American official told me the Laotians are the worst soldiers in the world. The trouble is," Marty added, "they just aren't interested in killing anybody. And they take their Buddhist religion very seriously."

Marty Teitel's assignment in Laos was in two parts. As field director, he oversaw current Quaker projects in that country, and worked to develop new ones. Secondly, as Indochina Representative he kept in close touch with various governments and groups in Indochina with an eye to new program possibilities.

The sawmills, three of which AFSC sent to Laos in 1974, are being used in northeastern areas . . . some of the most heavily bombed areas in history. The local people are cutting beams and timbers to rebuild the schools, clinics and community centers which were destroyed by the bombing.

Building of the new market by Hmong tribe refugees on the Vientiane Plain for selling surplus vegetables, handicrafts and other articles is well underway, with framing and floor completed. (AFSC is helping with funds.)

AFSC objectives in Laos are to respond to human suffering caused by the war. Most of the injury to and displacement of people, and damage to buildings and land was caused by U.S. bombs and anti-personnel weapons. One third of the Laotian population are refugees, and AFSC is placing particular emphasis on helping them get resettled in their original home areas.

Laos is the only Indochinese country to achieve a stable coalition government. As long as the so-called great powers agree to let Laotians work out their own solutions to their political differences, there is an excellent chance that Laos will remain peaceful.

Boston Program Seeks Equal Education

By MARY NORRIS
Cambridge Regional Office

"Members of the Boston School Committee have . . . knowingly carried out a systematic program of segregation affecting all of the city's students, teachers, and school facilities and have intentionally brought about and maintained a dual school system . . . The entire school system of Boston is unconstitutionally segregated."

Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Boston

Last fall, as a school desegregation court order and process exposed the educational inadequacies of the Boston school system and the violent racial tensions in the Boston community, the New England AFSC Executive Committee began to explore ways to add AFSC experience and perspectives to the efforts of people involved in the crisis.

Based on consultations with AFSC education staff in the South and West, national Community Relations staff and involved Bostonians, the Executive Committee approved in principle a five-year commitment to work on public education issues, and appointed a task force to find funds, hire staff and formulate a program. In February 1975, the task force began its work.

AFSC's concern is that all children have an equal right to education and the opportunity to make choices about the direction of their own lives. This means that students, parents and other concerned people must ensure that the public school system functions on a fair and equal basis.

The tendency is to lay desegregation problems at the doorstep of desegregation itself. Our experience, however, leads us to conclude that the roots of the problem lie in a long past of inadequate and impoverished education systems and in the racist attitudes and practices present in school systems. In Boston, where schools have been largely segregated, black and Hispanic people have suffered cultural isolation. But it is also clear that almost all Boston schools, regardless of location, are inadequate, resulting in poor opportunities for all Boston children.

AFSC's education program will be focused on local communities with one staff person each in the Hispanic and black communities, one in the white areas. Community associates (people who already live in the community and are willing to devote time and energy to the problem) will work locally, their costs paid and technical assistance supplied by AFSC. Another staff person will speak publicly on education and segregation issues, trying to link public policy and action to daily experience at the community level. A fifth person will keep close to what is happening in the communities and share this with other staff. All staff will live in Boston.

Through this program, and based on our experience in conflict resolution and work in communities, we hope to build a flow of information from communities to policy-makers, to communities about resources available to them, and to all communities about their common problems.



AFSC's Pat Hunt visiting Quaker Service office in East Jerusalem



AFSC's Phyllis Tyler with kindergarten children in Gaza

Political Solution Sought in Middle East Program

By ROBERT S. VOGEL
National Coordinator, Middle East Peace Education
Pasadena Regional Office

The Peace Education program is increasing its concern for the Middle East, focusing its efforts on the role of U.S. citizens and government. Stimulating this concern has been the October 1973 war, the danger of a fifth war in the area, the heightened arms race, and the not-too-veiled threats of a U.S. military invasion of the oil fields in the Persian Gulf, should the West be threatened by economic strangulation.

Although Quaker Service has long been concerned about the conflict in the region, with refugee assistance and child care centers in Gaza and Jordan, and with AFSC International Affairs representatives living in Israel and others travelling throughout the Middle East from a Cyprus base, it was not until the summer of 1974 that peace education work began in the U.S., involving most of the regions. To prepare for further and more intensive work, a travelling seminar to the Middle East for AFSC peace staff and volunteers is being planned for late spring 1975.

The Committee seeks a political, not a military, solution in the Middle East and toward this end is mounting an educational program dealing with these issues: (1) the aspirations of the people of Israel and the Arab countries, including the Palestinians; (2) the polarization of public opinion on Middle East issues; (3) highly partisan information from both the Arab and Israeli sides; (4) apathy among large sections of the U.S. population and general lack of public discussion; (5) the politics and economics of oil; (6) the arms buildup; and (7) the role of the super powers.

Although the Committee proposes no easy formula,

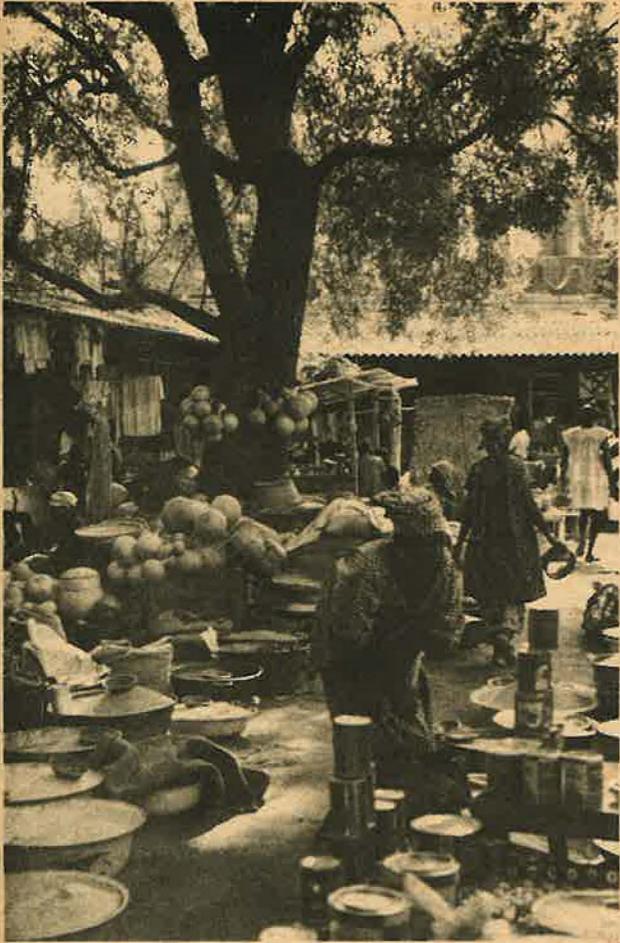
it is hard to imagine a lasting peace in the area without the continued existence of the State of Israel as well as the creation of a State for the Palestinians. The U.S., U.S.S.R., the United Nations must all use their powers of creative diplomacy to bring the conflict to an end and to help parties negotiate a genuine peace.

Programs throughout the country involve discussion groups around the AFSC's own "Middle East Peace Packet", and audio-visual materials prepared by others. Many regions are making available the film strip, "Arabs and Jews: The Crisis", by Prentice Hall, with a study guide for high school students; the two CBS Documentaries on "The Israelis" and "The Palestinians", each with study guides; and a slide show, "And None Shall Make Them Afraid", produced by the Middle East Mobile Education Project. A new AFSC publication, "Questions and Answers", will be published in the spring.

Several regions have organized multi-faith dialogues. In California, two day-long leadership workshops on "Middle East Conflict: Its Effects on Our Communities", were held, planned by representatives of the Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Arab—both Christian and Muslim—communities. In December, the AFSC in several communities sponsored Chanukah-Christmas vigils calling for mutual recognition among all the parties, self-determination for both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and a negotiated settlement.

There is strong interest and deep concern that the Committee involve itself in this most difficult area of work. To date, most of the Middle East peace education has been carried forward on a part-time or volunteer basis. Staffing and funding are very real problems which will determine the future scope of the work.

AFSC SEEKS SOLUTION



Bamako (Mali) market

Poor People Suffer From Unfair Food Distribution

By PAM COE
Des Moines Regional Office

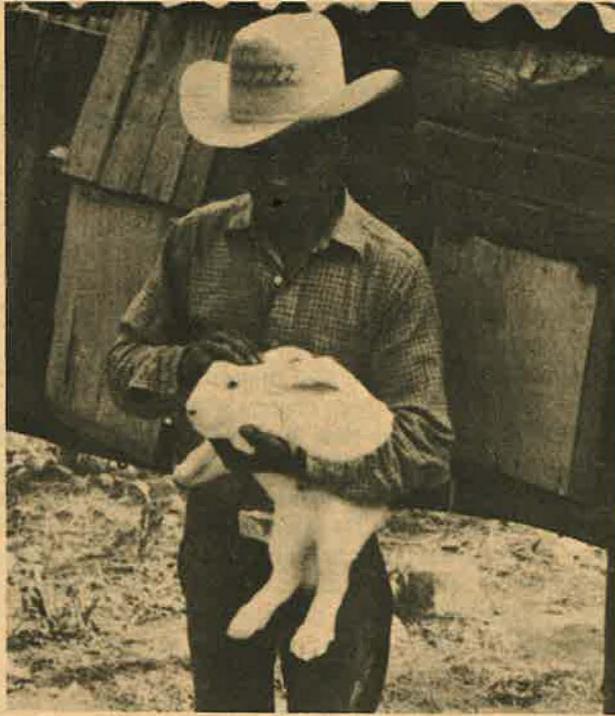
As inflation and depression nibble at all incomes and food assistance is first to be cut in the effort to hold down federal spending, we must find ways to bring about profound changes in the economics and politics of food. In two years of operation in eight mid-western states (the AFSC's North Central region), the Hunger and Human Needs Program has encountered much evidence that the country's basic resources, like food, are unfairly distributed.

In August 1974, the defendants in the Lincoln, Nebraska, Wounded Knee trials and many of their supporters were arbitrarily cut off from food stamps in an apparent effort to pressure them into "plea bargaining". A Chicano self-help group in southern Colorado, AHORA, is struggling to own a few acres of land to avoid frequent eviction by unsympathetic landlords, whom the local government apparently is able to pressure. AHORA wants Chicanos to be able to stay on the land and earn an independent living, an increasingly difficult goal as agricultural production and distribution are controlled by large corporations whose motive is profit, not food for people.

Typical of malnourished people is a group of low-income women I met with in Shenandoah, Iowa. Most were grossly overweight, all had lifeless hair and complexions—signs of chronic, low-level malnutrition—yet they did not see any relationship between constant "stretching" of meals and their being "in and out of the hospital all the time". One woman proudly introduced her seven-year-old granddaughter. For the first time in her life, the child had just completed two weeks of school without illness.

Another woman complained that food stamps eat up the only flexible area of her budget. She said she fell behind on house payments for the first time when she went on food stamps but she now "eats like a king". This reflects on her former diet, for many nutritionists question whether the diet which can be bought with food stamps meets minimum nutritional needs.

The Hunger and Human Needs Program, with two part-time staff, provides timely information, technical assistance, and sometimes financial support to Native Americans in the Dakotas and Minnesota, Chicanos in Colorado, whites in Iowa (through the state Welfare Rights Organization), and to a food stamp campaign reaching low-income whites and blacks in Wichita, Kansas.



Rabbit-raising in Lagunita, Mexico



School breakfasts in Chicago
Photo: George Martin

Chicago School Coalition Asks:

Who's Flunking Breakfast?

By BARBARA McLAUGHLIN
Midwest Regional Office

Hunger hurts. It hurts the body and hurts a child's ability to learn. And yet, millions of federal dollars to provide free or low-cost breakfasts for American school children are going unused.

In response, the Midwest Regional Office (MRO) of the AFSC organized a Chicago coalition of representatives from community, ethnic and social organizations, called the School Breakfast Coalition, which asked the Chicago Board of Education to make school breakfasts mandatory citywide. The Board began a school-by-school study of the need. In addition, the Coalition is forming a citizens' organization to oversee all Chicago school feeding programs, focusing on the nutritional value and quality of food served.

"Only 133 out of 620 Chicago schools serve breakfast", said Judy Gottsegen, education program director for MRO, "and over 60 of those not participating are in high poverty neighborhoods. With food prices rising and employment falling, more and more children are needlessly going without breakfast."

It is difficult to understand why there has been no nationwide move to take full advantage of the available money. Over \$19 million of federally appropriated funds for Chicago alone was unspent last year.

It is no revelation that there are children going hungry in America or that malnutrition severely affects a child's attention and participation in school. Educators have been finding that breakfast has a pivotal relationship to the educational process within the classroom and that, in fact, other steps to improve learning may be futile without it.



Bangladesh baby brought to Health Center for feeding

Hunger is the stark symptom of unequal sharing of the resources of developing countries, but many millions of people must speak to people's needs at all economic levels in order that solutions must be found.

To this end, AFSC has formed a Hunger Task Force and expertise of AFSC staff in this country and overseas and hungry people. In addition, experts from outside the Force will devise an AFSC position paper on hunger, of

AFSC Overseas Programs

Mali

AFSC has been invited by the Mali government of West Africa to participate in a pilot project among the Maure, Tuareg, and Fulani nomadic people of that area. Hardest hit of the millions who suffered the recent 6-year drought, these people had lived in government camps where food was distributed.

The project has moved 100 of the families (who volunteered for resettlement) from the camps to the shores of Lake Faguibine. There they have already harvested two crops. A Malian agriculturalist, veterinary technician, nurse, two primary school teachers and a social worker will help the settlers develop their new lifestyle. AFSC, the first private relief agency to be invited to participate in such a project, has sent a staff person to live at the site and use her skills in community development to assist with the project. AFSC will also provide transportation so that a medical officer and other professional staff can service the new community.

Bangladesh

The Quaker Service program in Rajoir Thana, Bangladesh, in which AFSC has been working since 1972, became in 1973 Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP) under the direction of an all-Bangali team.

In the wake of disastrous floods in the summer of 1974, starvation conditions developed throughout Bangladesh. In response, GUP launched a series of food-for-work projects in which young people and adults are building schools on higher ground and

TO WORLD'S HUNGER



Same baby approximately a month later

the world's resources. It besets not only people in the U.S. as well. Solutions to the problem, which the U.S. and abroad, are difficult and complex. But its purpose is to gather together the experience of those who have for many years been working with poor people. The Service Committee are being consulted. The Task Force is the basis of which new programs may be developed.

Programs Help the Hungry

raising roads above flood level in return for wheat allocations for themselves and their families. In addition, 106 young people were trained in vaccination and 10,000 people vaccinated.

Since 1972, the AFSC-related project has run a 24-bed intensive care center for children seriously undernourished. Mothers stay with their children at this Children's Health Center, and learn about nutrition, child care, and family planning.

Chile

In a shantytown of Santiago, the Service Committee supports a feeding center for infants (zero to two years) who are in the first stages of malnutrition. This center services 300 children a year and also provides aid to six other neighborhood child feeding centers. The children receive a hot, balanced midday meal, and additional food is provided for an evening meal at home. Mothers are taught nutrition.

Mexico

The AFSC is working in a number of rural communities in Mexico in programs of improved food production, animal husbandry, nutrition, health, education, literacy, and skill training. The people of these areas eat mainly beans and corn, and suffer as a consequence from undernourishment. AFSC staff are working with villagers to introduce new vegetable crops, irrigation, sanitary drinking water, and the growing of fruit trees, and the raising of rabbits and turkeys.



Gray Panthers protest in Chicago
Photo: James O'Leary, Chicago Tribune



Hunger briefing in Ford Foundation conference room, in New York Photo: Elijah Cobb

What Can Be Done About "Hunger on Spaceship Earth"?

By VIOLA HALE
New York Metropolitan Regional Office

The World Hunger Project at the New York Metropolitan Regional Office is the busiest place in town these days. And the town is ultra-busy New York City. Jerald Ciekot, the project director, is an Associate Secretary in New York's Peace Education and Action program.

On March 21, this project sponsored a briefing in the Board Room of the Ford Foundation Building. Speakers dealt with the importance of the world's hungry of beef cattle-raisers shifting, where possible, from grain-feeding to range-feeding.

Less than two months earlier, the project held a consultation featuring the head of the UN's World Food Council, John Hannah; Senator Dick Clark of Iowa; and the Overseas Development Council's president, James Grant. Community leaders who attended also heard Jerald Ciekot describe the model developed in his grassroots pilot projects for involving members of a community organization in a sustained focus on the issue of world hunger.

In addition to this, Jerald Ciekot has produced "Hunger on Spaceship Earth", a kit containing background and program materials and a simulation game, and a slide show on world hunger. The kit is available from the New York office of AFSC, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, New York 10003, for \$2.50.

Educating teenagers to the global dimensions of world hunger is the objective of a course for New York City high school teachers offered by Martin Smith of the Peace Education staff. AFSC provides leadership, speakers, films, simulation games, and materials for many schools as they work to raise the awareness and understanding of their students to this problem.

Gray Panthers Challenge Govt. Assault on Elderly

By JOE BUTE
Midwest Regional Office

No one escapes the impact of inflation. But people who exist on fixed incomes, especially the elderly, are very often hit the hardest. Now President Ford has hit them even harder by demanding cuts in aid provided under the Older American Act in areas like transportation and meals.

Consider, too, the problem caused by the rising cost of food itself. Recent reports to the Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs indicate that the foods most affected by inflation are those most commonly consumed by low-income individuals and families.

Coupled with President Ford's assault on federal assistance for the aged is Governor Walker's recent veto of tax relief for the elderly in Illinois.

Add it all up and the poor and elderly are getting clobbered. So who cares?

A group of activist senior citizens are organizing to protect their interests and their right to eat and exist in this country. Their organization, with the motto, "youth and age in action", is called the Gray Panthers. The Chicago chapter of the Panthers is challenging the Ford assaults, the AFSC is lending support.

Sandy Heller of the AFSC staff, along with volunteers and staff of Uptown Hull House (a community center) are assisting the Panthers' efforts to increase the chapter's membership, organize a national food stamp campaign, heighten public awareness of the hunger problems that exist right now in Chicago, lay the legislative and informational groundwork for a national hunger campaign, and develop position papers and practical skills, such as street theater, to demonstrate the issue.

In addition to funds, committed volunteers are now being sought to interview elderly welfare recipients to determine if they have been treated fairly and legally.

In response to a current governmental study on abuse of welfare by recipients, the data collected by AFSC volunteers will be gathered into a study of abuse of the welfare system by the agencies. If interested, you may contact Sandy Heller at AFSC, 407 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. 60605.

Hunger... Why?

"We must find ways to bring about profound changes in the economics and politics of food."

No easy task. This line from one of the reports on AFSC hunger programs carried in this issue of Quaker Service Bulletin suggests the nature of the problems involved in assuring the world's population of an adequate food supply. They are complex problems.

There are pressures for simplistic solutions. Yet the closer one gets to the problem of hunger, the clearer is the interrelatedness of its many aspects and the less satisfying are the "easy" answers.

AFSC staff and committees are close to the compelling human situation of hunger. This newspaper carries reports of work in areas of great need in the United States and around the world.

In the U.S. one immediate AFSC response is to help people gain access to government food programs and train them to hold government accountable to them.

This work produces measurable results. In Texas, program efforts brought food stamp programs for the first time to an area of pervasive poverty. Across the Midwest and Great Plains the hungry people so surprisingly found in this food-producing region are being given the information and support they need to assert their rights. In Chicago, school breakfasts are now being served (or being planned) for half the schools in the city, where before less than one-fifth of the schools served breakfasts. AFSC hopes soon to be active in Detroit where there are now more than 200,000 hungry people.

These efforts meet a vital need, but they touch just a piece of the problem. Hunger stretches around the world, and there are links between its existence in Cameron County, Texas, and in Africa's Mali, links between hungry children in Chicago and those who have recently been made hungry in Cambodia. The links lie in political and economic decisions.

Working to meet human needs compels the AFSC to ask itself where the bottlenecks lie to the production of adequate food and its equitable distribution.

To find the answers we must look at the use of food as a political weapon. We must look at economic choices. "Cash cropping", for example, involves a choice of what to produce based primarily on quick cash return, not taking into account the need for certain foods. It is one root of hunger.

We must look at the myth that large corporate farms are the most efficient way of producing food. We must look at the use of land and consider the implications of choosing roads and tourism and developments over carefully considered agricultural production.

We must discover what economic and political choices will produce jobs at adequate pay and a floor of income below which no one can sink.

We must analyze the consequences of the choice made by many who are deeply concerned about world hunger to eat less and change patterns of food consumption. The short-term effect may be to reduce the availability, at prices they can afford, of foods on which the poor have relied.

All these questions, and more, must be addressed, along with continued attention to the accountability of government food programs to those they were designed to serve.

AFSC experience suggests that the wisest answers to complex questions are often found from the base of day-to-day struggles to meet urgent needs. Informed by such experience, AFSC addresses itself to the question of HUNGER, WHY?

Barbara Moffett

BARBARA MOFFETT
National Community Relations Secretary



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Study Blames State For Thin Salmon Runs

From Seattle Regional Office

One year after Judge George Boldt's historic decision on Indian fishing rights, the controversy still swirls in Washington State. The Boldt decision and Indian fishermen are being blamed for most of Puget Sound's fishing problems. A newly created "citizens" group has mounted a drive for signatures on petitions calling for Congress to rewrite federal treaties. However, a recent study conducted for the AFSC suggests that State fisheries management practices, not Indian fishermen, are to blame for declining salmon runs.

Recent data shows current salmon catches holding at about 4 million fish a year. This is a dramatic decline from the 16 million salmon catch recorded between 1913 and 1916. This decline can be traced to the encroachment of industrial development and the failure of State and Federal agencies to control known sources of depletion because of the risk of conflict with powerful land developers, logging firms, electric power companies and other industries.

Moreover, despite the generally declining catches, the State has failed to limit the number of commercial fishermen. Commercial licenses have nearly doubled in the past four years. Growing population has increased the number of sports fishermen to over 1/2 million. In short, there are more and more fishermen competing for declining salmon runs.

The AFSC believes three questions to be at the heart of the controversy: (1) Can fish-rearing technology be improved and applied so as to reverse the pressures of urbanization and industrialization upon the salmon population? (2) Can governmental regulations be established which will match the number of fishermen to the available resource? (3) Can the true facts underlying the fishing controversy be brought clearly to public attention so that intergroup tensions will subside and a basis for constructive action be established?

Religious Groups Discuss World Food Crisis

By CHARLES ZOELLER
Middle Atlantic Region

Is it possible for the average American to respond to world hunger in 1975, when we are all being hit with inflated food prices? The Pacem in Terris World Hunger Task Force (with which AFSC is associated) has been doing that moving of people—mostly through the churches and synagogues of Northern Delaware. Although it has not been easy, we know it is possible and we think our successes should be shared so as to encourage others.

In the summer of 1974, Pacem in Terris (the peace education arm of the local ecumenical agency) began the task of awakening and challenging the greater Wilmington area religious community to respond to the world food crisis. We point out that enough food is presently produced world-wide to provide an adequate diet for everyone. We emphasize eating less meat as one way we Americans can adjust our life styles to conform to the realities of the maldistribution of the world food supply. The film, "Diet for a Small Planet", was purchased and has been shown widely. Its ideas on substituting balanced vegetable protein for meat-based meals has become a central part of our message.

Since September 1974, our Hunger Task Force has been responsible for 30 "hunger meals", over 30 showings of "Diet for a Small Planet", 30 presentations and discussions before church and community audiences, church-study programs, development of a local speakers bureau, high school seminars, publication and sale of books and many other "hunger activities".

Two religious denominations in our area, Episcopalian and Presbyterian, have adopted our "Call to Conscience" program.

UPDATE

AFSC staff have been newly appointed—

TO PHILADELPHIA

"The rich-poor gap is not only between nations but between the elite and the poverty-stricken within a country," says **Roberta Levenbach** who has been appointed director of the Task Force on Hunger, based in AFSC's national office.



Three years spent in East Asia as AFSC Quaker International Affairs Director and Associate have given Roberta insight into the problems of the poor.

"Those problems are compounded by low wages and the fact that economic aid does not reach the people," says Roberta.

TO CYPRUS

The new Quaker International Affairs Representative in the Middle East is **John E. Horner**, a retired diplomat with experience in the Middle East. John's wife, Catherine, is his assistant. Through travelling in the region and through personal contacts, the Horners will try to keep communications open among the many factions in the area. John Horner, who succeeds Henry Selz, has been living in Cyprus for two and a half years, helped establish the International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies, and is an author.

TO MALI

AFSC will be represented in the West African nation of Mali by **Eva Lidia Mysliwiec**, who has been appointed Community Development Program Representative there. She is helping resettle nomadic families, victims of the Sahel drought, so that they may become self-sufficient again. Eva, whose home is in Massachusetts, was a Peace Corps volunteer in Upper Volta. She is a native of Poland.



TO VIETNAM

A former Army Captain, who was about the only American in a South Vietnamese hamlet for eight months, has been named with his wife to be co-field director of AFSC's Quang Ngai Rehabilitation Center in South Vietnam. **William S. Gould** lived in the hamlet rather than coming back to the U.S. for discharge after he had become disenchanted with the war. He helped people find missing relatives and construct a market place.



TO MONTANA

A member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, **Ralph Redfox**, who holds a Master's Degree in Sociology, will direct AFSC's program for the economic and cultural survival of northern plains Native Americans. He will work from the newly opened office in Billings, Montana, with Pam Coe. The program deals with strip-mining and power plant development as they are intertwined with Indian self-determination, especially on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations.

TO PHILADELPHIA

"Struggling against sexism as well as developing positive feminist perspectives throughout AFSC is as crucial as the Committee's concerns of peace, racism and justice," says **Saralee Hamilton**, recently appointed coordinator of the new nationwide women's program. Saralee will work with AFSC's 10 regional offices and with overseas programs. She will help plan AFSC's participation in International Women's Year, 1975.



Peace and Justice Through Nonviolence

"Fighting for Their Lives"—Nonviolently

The grapes of California are sweetening on the vines and coming toward the harvest, and the head lettuce is coming, too. Coming with them is a summer of contention, as the United Farm Workers of America with Cesar Chavez at its head presses its double purpose of getting solid union contracts for farm workers and educating them in the values of functional nonviolence.

The labor camps of the lush San Joaquin Valley are full of poverty-stricken Mexicans brought in crowded carloads by "coyotes", the recruiters of border-jumpers, to the labor contractors who peddle their labor to growers at cut wages. Many of the fields organized by the UFWA now have contracts with the Teamsters Union, "sweet-heart contracts" that favor the employer, according to the UFWA. Local and county police are ready, the union says, to harass and arrest UFWA pickets and strikers, but not the labor contractors or growers who exploit and profit from the cheap labor of Mexicans brought here illegally.

Fighting for their lives, as they say, the farm workers have spread a grape, wine and lettuce boycott across the nation and into Canada, using the only technique they see at hand that is both nonviolent and effective. The boycott reports coming in to union headquarters at La Paz stir excitement and optimism among the volunteers (board and room and \$5 a week). The spirit of the union has also received an enormous boost from the late winter march from Delano to Modesto that ended in a rally of 15,000 to 20,000—a turnout that startled the growers, made politicians pensive, and filled Cesar Chavez and the farm workers with renewed vigor and purpose. It came at what had been a low point for the union in the winter of '74-'75, and a surge of feelings of renewed solidarity resulted.

Now the union believes that contracts will be signed, the union funds will be replenished, and the work of changing the lives of poor and rejected people will go forward irresistibly.

But no one at La Paz or Delano or the field offices of the union thinks it will be easy. They know better. They know every inch has to be won. It isn't going to be handed over on anyone's silver platter.

As the summer scene unfolds, the farm workers will have before them Article VII of the UFWA constitution which says the goals and purposes of the union "will be achieved by nonviolent means only . . . every member of this union is sworn to reject the use of violence in any form of union activity."

Beautiful words. But are they real or window-dressing?

As the UFWA sees it, violence occurs at three points in the life of farm workers. The first is the point of confrontation between the grower and worker. Increasingly, taught by example and chastened by memory of Cesar Chavez's long fast to discourage violence, persuaded by each other, the farm workers of the union are learning to abandon fear that provokes violence and discover the dignity that gives strength to a nonviolent person.

The second is at the negotiating table, as the UFWA's chief negotiator, arbitrator and head of union field offices faces the lawyers and representatives of the growers. Soft-spoken but firm and experienced, David Burciaga has met again and again with outraged workers, reasoned with them about what is due to the grower as well as to the union, and then gone into bargaining sessions with the sense of cooperating workers ready to back him up nonviolently.

Cesar Chavez says that David's approach to negotiating has set the tone for the leadership among the "ranch committees" and that the whole approach to negotiations had changed with David, because David's commitment to nonviolence is "internal, he has got it with him, he carries it out." David's way of training the farm workers and influencing the growers, Cesar Chavez said, is "training by deed". He recalled how David had worked with the ranch committee during the negotiations with Gallo wine. Leadership in that strike was almost completely that of the ranch committee, a reason, he said, for the low incidence of violence in the strike.

He said David uses situations which arise in the course of negotiations to deepen the workers' understanding of nonviolence. David is firm in his insistence on justice for farm workers. But as the negotiations are surrounded by distrust and suspicion, David seeks to prevent the raising

The AFSC seeks to find and use, or to support and encourage, practical means of nonviolence in pursuit of justice and peace. For some years, AFSC has given moral and other support to the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) headed by Cesar Chavez, the farm worker who had a vision of nonviolence in practice and put it into effect. AFSC has helped farm workers with self-help housing, with community workers, and currently funds the work of a confirmed believer and user of nonviolence, David Burciaga.

Five years ago, David Burciaga was assigned to work with the UFWA when Cesar Chavez asked AFSC if a person could be provided who could help strengthen the union in its commitment to nonviolence. David is sponsored jointly by the national AFSC and the San Francisco and Pasadena regional offices. He has been given the responsibility of negotiating UFWA contracts, heading the union's arbitration work, and directing the union field offices that have direct contact with farm workers.

To observe and report the role of nonviolence in the UFWA, John A. Sullivan, Associate Executive Secretary of AFSC, visited the San Joaquin Valley of California, and wrote the reports on this page.



United Farm Workers working on their own land in Parlier, California

of false issues and insists that the union's word must be above criticism and, when given, must be carried out.

The third point is in the daily lives of poor people, often handicapped by language and lack of knowledge of rights due them. The UFWA has spawned a series of service programs, staffed by volunteers, many of them farm workers whose potentialities the union has seen where others have seen only people too ignorant to do anything but stoop labor under a burning sun. I watched farm workers punching out data processing cards, operating calculators in the accounting office, running a printing press, working as technicians in a health clinic, dealing with tax and public agency forms for perplexed people, serving as social workers coping with families suffering from malnutrition or alcoholism. I saw the physical reality of Cesar Chavez's belief that, given motivation and training, there isn't anything a farm worker cannot learn to do.

There is no doubt that people receive direct benefits from the service centers, health clinics, the Robert F. Kennedy medical insurance plan that the farm workers created themselves, the Agbayani retirement village at Delano, the daycare centers, the credit union, the legal services. But some things far greater are being received: the dignity and sense of self-worth that come from perceiving that others see the farm workers as valid people, the sense of achievement when the clinic doctor praises the good job done by the lab technician (until recently a farm worker), the sense of value that comes when those who receive benefits are asked, "Now what can you do for someone else?"—and then are assisted to do exactly that.

That may be why, without being asked, a farm worker sewed a rug for the clinic waiting room, or why someone brought in food just before the noon hour for all present to share. The farm workers know they get more pay when they are working than the volunteers, and the doctor gets far less than he could command.

There is a long way to go before the farm worker members of UFWA "have it made" in terms of job security, union-based service programs, and an expanding



John Sullivan interviews Cesar Chavez

sense of assurance that they are in an organization that will enable them to provide each other with economic and social welfare through their working days and beyond into retirement years and, finally, death benefits.

But there is recognition already of the danger that UFWA members some day can become an elite in the midst of rural poverty, a state of affairs that Cesar Chavez says would be an "institutional sin". Thus, this spring UFWA is laying the groundwork for a poor people's union which will reach beyond the union membership to others whose rights and status are depressed. House meetings, the union's standard first approach, are already bringing together old people whose condition is distressing, hearing from them what their needs are, and working with them to discover how to meet them. They will pay minimal dues, but Cesar Chavez estimates that may cover only 10 per cent of the cost—the rest coming from fund-raising efforts. If it works—and the union's belief that it will is infectious—there will be a reaching out to all the poor in rural America, not just UFWA members, with a program of service and involvement in which ultimately each will be expected to do something for his or her neighbor.

Service as nonviolence? Yes, says Cesar Chavez. "We don't get the effect of loving one's neighbor by words and books, but by doing. You secure the soul because you give it the recognition it needs. This is the physical part of nonviolence. The service erases the injustice and you give someone a reason for being. Anger and violence can be spread by a mob, but nonviolence can be equally contagious and people begin to teach each other, one to one. The ultimate is to become the servant, and the more you serve, the better the nonviolence becomes. It works!"

In UFW, Service Is a Way of Life

Just off route 58 on the way from Bakersfield to Tehachapi is an old sanatorium nestled in the peaks of the Tehachapi foothills. A sign says, "Nuestra Senora de La Paz." Inside the unarmed security zone, made necessary by acts and threats of violence, is the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America. Over the doorway to Cesar Chavez's office is a black eagle, a little larger than the ones that frame the doorways of all the offices. Chavez, handsome, dark-skinned, black-haired, gives the impression of a relaxed man with a coiled spring inside.

Cesar speaks of a shooting at the San Jose home where some of his family lives and a nephew who had been shot in the head, "by a bunch of 13 to 15-year-olds with guns." He shakes his head, but turns to his interviewer: "Nonviolence is training, not because people are good or bad. It doesn't just happen. It's a whole question of putting purpose into lives, thinking in terms of what you can do for other people. If a man is hungry, you don't talk to him about nonviolence. You try to erase the injustice and give him a sense of purpose. People who aren't ready for nonviolence who volunteer with us don't last. But our veterans can take care of whatever comes up, except shooting."

Racism is sinister, when it comes from Anglo or Chicano, he says. It's the biggest problem, he adds, and tells how a Chicano was chastened by his fellow-Chicanos when he talked about "gringos" or how a white volunteer spoke of farm workers as "good people but they can't learn." That, he said, "is worse than if she had said they're damned dirty Mexicans."

Chavez smiles, "Around here there is a tremendous pressure for nonviolence. Some people who call themselves nonviolent came here, but some of them couldn't make it. We don't split hairs. Our basis is service."

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B-1 Bomber Would Produce Unemployment

By JOE VOLK
Dayton Regional Office

"Don't you think this is the wrong time to try to stop a military spending program like the B-1 bomber when so many people are facing unemployment?" The WHIO-television reporter's first question, put to our Peace Education Secretary, was asked in Dayton, Ohio. Dayton is the home of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Air Force Systems Command (whose initials are also AFSC!), the Headquarters for the Air Force's B-1 bomber program, and the home of approximately 18,000 civilian Air Force employees and 8,000 military personnel.

Twenty-five persons turned out to vigil in downtown Dayton on the occasion of the first test flight of the B-1 bomber, in Palmdale, California.

"No, this is the right time to oppose the spending of \$50 billion on the B-1," AFSC staff answered. "Bureau of Labor statistics show that the letting of the B-1 contracts might create 192,000 jobs, but spending the identical sum in the public sector—in health care delivery, mass transit, or housing—would create approximately 222,000 jobs. Purchase of the B-1 means buying into unemployment while neglecting the security of our people's welfare."

The peace vigils that started with the roll-out and the first flight of the B-1 bomber have initiated an educational process in our region that has led to participation in a nationwide campaign for peace conversion.

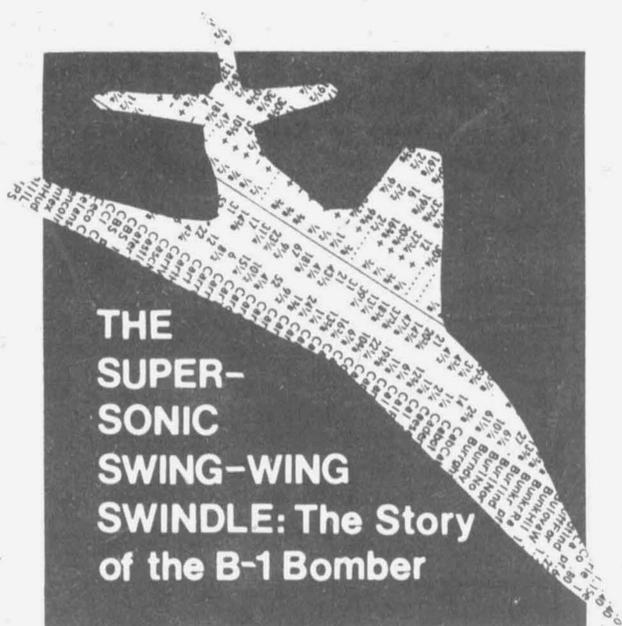
Our Akron peace education staff at Humanity House will sponsor a conference in April on "Priorities 1975: Military Spending versus Jobs . . ." The conference, which is co-sponsored by 11 area and national religious and educational groups, will bring Congresspersons Aspin and Dellus, Rear Admiral Gene La Rocque (U.S.N. Retired), AFSC's Ron Young and others together as resource persons.

We hope through all these efforts to help create an organized and informed constituency for peace and justice.

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