



DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM



Virginia Socialist

March, 1975

Assembly Ends

By Lee Hubert

RICHMOND-The Virginia General Assembly of 1975 ended February 21. Working people across the state suffered a defeat with the rejection of several bills including The Right of Collective Bargaining for public employees, the Equal Rights Amendment, No-Fault Auto Insurance, and additional funds for Medicaid. The Assembly was clearly dominated by Governor Mills Godwin as it was in his Democratic days.

Collective Bargaining was frowned upon by a majority and killed in a Senate Committee. The bill sponsored by Williard Moody, D-Portsmouth, was killed by a 9-6 vote. A poll taken by Del. George Grayson, D-Williamsburg, of the upper part of the Peninsula (a good cross section of Virginians) showed that 60% favored Collective Bargaining for public employees.

A third try at No-Fault Auto Insurance failed. ~~But~~ 74% polled favored N-FAI.

A third try at the Equal Rights Amendment died in the Senate and was

avored by 53% polled.

A bill providing for offshore drilling passed both houses but was rejected by 56% polled.

An extremely moderate land use bill passed the by a 68-28 floor vote. This required that cities and counties have comprehensive plans by 1980. Strong land use legislation to protect the environment was favored by 87%.

A fair campaign practices act which would impose limits on campaign spending and contributing died in the house but was favored by 87% polled.

97% of the people polled favored full disclosure requirements for all lobbying activities. However, this bill was killed on the House floor.

A bill requiring a deposit on all soft drink and beer containers was killed although favored by 85% polled.

More funds for Medicaid were denied, however; an additional \$710,000 was appropriated for the Bicentennial Center at Yorktown.

A few peti reforms were passed: decriminalization of drunkenness and the authorization of the use of school buses to transport the aged to cultural and recreational events during non-school use hours.

"When you keep voting for the lesser of the two evils, after a while you will find that there is nothing left but the evil of the evil."

Dick Gregory-Kent State University, 1971

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THE LESSER OF THE TWO EVILS?

By Greg DeFelice

One aspect of the theatre of politics which most disturbs me is the extent to which much of the public accepts as real the posings of political actors. It seems that most folks, including many leftists, are unable to perceive conflicts at the highest levels of power for what they are: struggles between rival factions of a ruling elite. Particularly, when the position of one side can be seen as being better in our own terms, we tend to identify ourselves and our interests with that side, and to define its representatives as our own. This produces a very odd collection of "good guys": McGovern, Kennedy, Richardson, Ervin, all our "friends" because they, for their own purposes, opposed our enemy Nixon. I maintain that this dichotomy is invalid.

The example of my point is to be seen in the current controversy over the C.I.A. A distinction is being drawn for us between the post-Watergate-morality crowd, featuring present C.I.A. Director Colby and much of Congress, vs. Dick Helms and the Nixon mob. Unquestionably, both Dicks were unbearable pigs who directed and implemented intolerable policies. Certainly, it is progressive that these men and their activities are exposed and condemned. But what of Colby? Is he really deserving of a white hat? Is he actually working for our best interests, or is he motivated by some less worthy purpose of his own. A look into his background would prove helpful.

Like most of C.I.A.'s leadership, Colby went from Ivy League (Princeton, '40) to "Wild Bill" Donovan's OSS in WWII. After the war, a Columbia law degree led to a job with Donovan's New York law firm, which Colby left in 1950 to commence a career in C.I.A.'s Clandestine Service. A series of covert C.I.A. jobs "on the staff" of various U.S. embassies led Colby in 1959 to Vietnam, to be the focus of his efforts for more than a decade. After 3 years in Saigon, becoming C.I.A. station chief, he returned to Langley, Va. headquarters as chief of the Far East Div., overseeing the extensive C.I.A. operations in Vietnam. In 1968 Colby returned to Vietnam to head the U.S. "pacification" program, one outstanding feature of which was Operation Phoenix, designed to "neutralize the infrastructure" of the Viet Cong. In describing Operation

Phoenix, Frances Fitzgerald (*Fire in the Lake*, p. 411-414, vint.) says: "The program in effect eliminated the cumbersome category of 'civilian'; it gave the GNV (So. Vietnam gov't forces), and initially the American troops as well, license and justification for the arrest, torture, or killing of anyone in the country.... The Phoenix program permitted them to indulge in all the practices classical to an irresponsible secret police." The program was quite a success: the goal set for 1969 was 20,000 neutralized Viet Cong; GNV officials reported 19, 534 neutralized. That U.S. intelligence perceived no reduction in active Viet Cong agents, and that only 20% of those arrested were sentenced, led many to conclude "that a large percentage of the 'neutralized agents' were simply people whom the Phoenix agents herded in and out of the police stations in order to fill their quotas." Unfortunately, one-third of the arrested suspects had been killed in the "neutralization process." In reward for 4 years of similar success, Colby was made head of CIA's entire clandestine services operation in 1971. He was appointed Director of CIA in May, 1973.

It seems incongruous to see, aspiring to the role of Mr. Openness, one with so secretive and bloody a past. The situation also calls into question the motivations of those in Congress and the press who now cry murder at revelations of CIA crimes, but who only 2 years ago allowed Colby to be appointed Director of CIA, though having full knowledge of his criminal record. Basically, it leads me to conclude that Colby's much praised openness, and much of the "moral outrage" shown by Congress and the press, is merely an act, an act of political expediency in response to a specific political situation.

We should be pleased to see much of CIA's past bared, to hear popular indignation over the activities of Helms and Nixon and their accomplices. But, as to Colby and the powerful new critics of CIA, we must be cautious. These people are not "of us"; their interests may but incidentally concur with ours. The most we, as leftists, can safely do with them is to guardedly encourage their efforts, ever reminding ourselves that they are potentially as dangerous as those we mutually attack. The enemy of my enemy is not necessarily my friend.

We must never accept Colby's assurances that "things are different now"; however different the situation appears to be at this instant, the moment we turn our heads "things" will revert to their prior form. The covert

operations, the spying on U.S. citizens, the "destabilization" of uncooperative governments, the "neutralization" of innocent peasants, these are part of Colby's repertoire, part of the U.S. government's arsenal. If they are allowed to be used again, they shall be used; the will is there, the Colbys and Helms are there. The task we face is to make certain that the U.S. government never again has the secrecy they need to perpetrate these crimes on, here and abroad.

See: Frances Fitzgerald, *Fire in the Lake*, (Vintage, \$2.25) Marchetti & Marks, CIA and the Cult of Intelligence, (Dell, \$1.75) Wise & Ross, *The Invisible Government*, (Vintage, \$1.95) Wiss, *The Politics of Lying*, (Vintage, \$2.25)

Harrington

By Lee Hubert

WILLIAMSBURG—Social welfare programs in this country benefit primarily the rich and only incidentally the poor," stated Michael Harrington, past Chairperson of the Socialist Party and author of *The Other America*. Harrington spoke to a crowd of 350 February 6 about "The State of the American Dream", a lecture series sponsored here by Project Plus at the College of William and Mary.

Harrington left the Socialist Party to form a "socialist presence" within the Democratic Party. Harrington said that he basically agreed with the Socialist Party but felt that working within the Democratic Party would be more effective.

Harrington called capital gains deductions "a welfare program for the rich" and noted that payroll deductions for Social Security are "extremely regressive" with



Social Security Taxes assesed only on the first \$14,000.

Harrington stated that the increase in educational benefits "make you run faster to stay in the same place. He noted that the reason why socialism has yet to make deep roots in the American political scene is because Americans are indoctrinated with the idea that "anybody can become President of General Motors" or better known as the "American Dream".

Harrington ended his speech by stating that what we need in America to build socialism is "a liberal president in 1976": This is where the Socialist Party members attending found themselves in disagreement with Harrington and also his working within a party controlled by capitalist. A "socialist presence" within a capitalist party is another kind of an "American Dream".

The Socialist Party of Virginia
220 N. Boundary St., Williamsburg, Virginia 231

- I want to join the Socialist Party.
- I want to speak with a member.
- Please send more information.
- Keep me on your mailing list.
- I don't want your left-wing crap.

NAME.....
ADDRESSS.....
CITY.....STATE.....
ZIP.....

Letters

Dear Virginia Socialist,

I received a copy of the Virginia Socialist today and think its just great. Keep me on your mailing list. I would like more info on the Virginia Socialist Party and how to become a member. Also, I am a Graphic Arts student and would be glad to help with the Virginia Socialist if help is needed.

Kevin Maloof
Chester, Virginia

Dear Lee and everyone else with the Virginia Socialist,

I received your newsletter and enjoyed reading it immensely. I write a column for WIN magazine and plan on mentioning it in the next issue. Hope that you get a few inquiries.

The only NAM person I know in Virginia lives in Petersburg, and I'm sure that he would be interested in what you are up to. Unfortunately, I've lost his address. I wrote to National NAM and asked them for the complete contact list for Virginia. When I get it I will forward it to you.

I also write regularly for Grass Roots, the monthly publication of the Peoples Party (1404 N Street NW, Washington, D.C.). If you have not already done so, I would suggest that you strongly consider affiliating with the People's Party. While you or others of the SP may not agree with every plank in the platform, it is thoroughly democratic and has just within the last year declared itself socialist (see John Acher's article in one of the recent issues of Hanner and Tong). It is a coalition of small parties like the Socialist Party of Virginia who are socialist

and democratic and, as a result, face repression from the capitalist state. I'm a member of the People's Party and the SP, as are a number of other people. Sid Lens is one of the main organizers in Chicago. Dr. Spock and one of our city council people here in D.C. were the candidates in '72. If you ever put it on the agenda to talk about, let me know and I'll be glad to come down to explain affiliation and the party a little better.

Brian Doherrty
Washington, D.C.

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From NAM



- Sky-rocketing inflation ...
- A sudden scarcity of vital goods ...
- The economy of the nation's great cities thrown into chaos ...
- Average Americans fighting to make ends meet while a handful of rich and powerful families add to their fortunes without lifting a finger ...
- One government tax scheme after another ...
- High salaried government bureaucrats coddling to special interests ...

- Politicians mouthing empty slogans of concern for America and Americans ...
- A change of men in high places without a change in policy ...
- The leak of secret government papers showing corruption and deceit at the highest levels ...

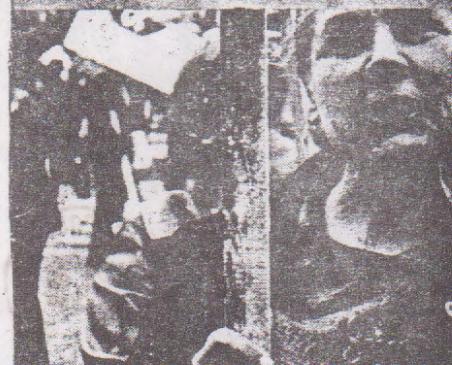
Sound familiar? It should.
This is America in the 70's.
The 1770's.

• • • •

From *Union Leader*

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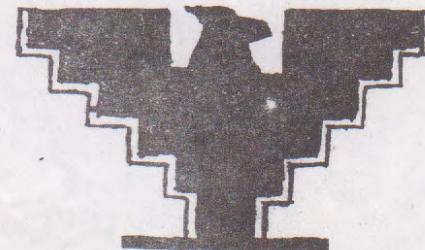
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