Tensions Ease In People's Park

People's Park was retaken this summer but was it recreated? People's Park was, as one of the original leaflets said, a "calculated political act...designed to put the expansionist and repressive university up against the wall." It was not a civic betterment done by freaks. Control over the park represented more than just a civic betterment done by freaks. Control over the park is the role of women. The park is for those who will control the institutions and property in this country and for what purpose.

The revolutionary character of land seizure is clearer to discern than the revolutionary content of gardening and garbage control. But these are the tasks which the current heirs of People's Park must face.

Today the park is looking pretty good. Corn is growing, the garbage is picked up daily since it was taken.

Wells Webb is 65, Quaker reared. He retired last December after 37 years of working as a chemical engineer (U.C. class of 36) mostly for large companies. Except for a few years when he was organizing a CIO type union in Enservile where he worked as a chemist, Wells' politics were hidden. As he says: "I had to submerge my social consciousness. I had a family to support and would have gotten fired if I had tried to do what I believed."

What I'm not obliged to earn a living and don't feel I'm going to lose my job, I can do what I see needs to be done. When the fences came down, I said, here's my work."

One of Webb's first contributions to the park was its flag. He and one of his sons dyed a sheet and from People's Park flew a red banner. People's sanitary needs came next: Webb rented three portable toilets on credit cards. (One of the fruits of 37 years was mvaluable the first day of the strike. Webb rented three portable toilets on credit cards."

Photo by Louis Benainous

Continues on page 3
Fly on the Wall

Let's watch the Marina loan situation. An historically fertile field for commercial "rip-off" artists, this public property has been turned into a veritable rats-nest of expensive restaurants and other trappings, i.e., an office building. City bureaucrats under previous Councils engineered these give-aways on the basis that commercial development was needed to pay off a loan which financed the parking lots, the landscaping that hides the parking lots, the roads to the businesses, and the harbor.

A second loan is now being sought to finance construction of more boat berths (about twice as many as now). And, of course, more commercial development will be needed to pay off the new loan. Don't be surprised if most of the available open space is given over to car parks rather than people parks.

Commercialism has already greatly devalued the Marina as a Berkeley recreation area. Observe the latest obesity overlooking the Golden Gate. The Marriot INN, which pollutes the finest corner of the harbor, is supposed to fit into the harbor environment. Surprisingly, it looks like the Marriot on the Schuykill Expressway in Philadelphia.

Grassroots is going to carry more on the Marina. Evan Wezniak will do a major investigative article on this waterfront area next issue.

... let me be more precise, when I say minority, I mean black." Councilor Bailey expressed this sentiment while urging the council not to accept the low bid of an Asian firm for a city gardening contract but to seek out a "minority firm." Bailey's attitude toward other minorities is reminiscent of his attitude toward women's rights. Coalition politics be damned.

... It may be hard to change the nature of that work, but doing that work can be made more bearable. Formal half-time jobs (20 hours per week or 6 months per year, or whatever) would make it possible for small organizations or individuals to ease the monotony and allow time for other more creative activities. Couple the option of part-time work with a good child-care system and equality of job opportunities for women and racial minorities and we may see the beginnings of a humane employment system.

All these things are included in the affirmative action program proposed by Lonci Hancock and endorsed by NOW—but it's a good bet that part-time jobs will have only one vote.

Too utopian? Nonsense! Just look at what is happening all over this country. Working people are fed up with their monotonous 40 hours per week jobs. They are tired of being mined by corporations and public agencies.

Community Backs Public Employees

It's too soon to say how the city employees' strike will be settled. But from the developments so far it's clear the city's original scenario is irreparably damaged. It's hard not to agree with, without the organized community pressure of our city's strategy—and its hard-line negotiator, whose avowed policy is "let the workers get hungry before you sit down to talk." Have taken some hard knocks in this strike. Also working is the unions' refusal to be intimidated by the injunction and the threat to arrest pickets and union leaders.

Even some veteran labor journalists, after the July 25 rally, were seeing new combinations in the Berkeley strike and alliance between Left activists, Black community organizations, and organized public employees powerful enough to get the city government moving from its do-in-position.

New Alliance

Recent years have seen plenty of discussion of how to form such an alliance. Here, in a city where left political organization has given a new character to city government, that alliance has come as close to realization as anywhere in the last decade. Union members have learned that they can count on strong support from outside their ranks, and that community pressure—typically a weapon against public employees—can be mobilized on their behalf.

Left activists, on their part, have begun to sketch the outlines of a personnel policy for Berkeley that would include affirmative action, child care for city employees, job retraining, and residency requirements for new hires; such a policy might be the best guarantee against potential disunity between citizens and workers over wage and benefit pressure on the budget. (Ad Hoc Committee literature, besides putting strike issues in the context of personnel policy goals, identified the city's lopsided tax structure as a major source of budget pressure, blaming the University with its free ride on services and its contribution of nothing back to the city.)

For the future, some Ad Hoc members are beginning to plan discussion including union representatives to work out the details of the comprehensive personnel policy so far only vaguely outlined. And future political considerations will have to include the newly formed ties between city workers and at least a large slice of the Berkeley Left.

Subscribe

Subscription rate $5.00 for one year. Any larger donation will be appreciated.
NAME
STREET
CITY ZIP
PHONE

GRASSROOTS

Page 2
Services at the Berkeley Post Office are being cut again. And it’s no small thing. About three weeks ago all Berkeley postal employees with less than six months seniority were laid-off with only one day’s notice. Since then, the Vietnam vets have been given back their jobs. But this is no counter trend. It is a prelude to further cut-backs.

**Removal of Mail Boxes**

The big mail drop boxes, many redesigned with National Liberation Front flags, are being removed from many places in the flatslands of Berkeley. The removal of these boxes is done slowly so as not to draw too much attention. First, the schedules on the boxes are reduced and then, poof, just like magic they’re gone. In the past week, the areas along Telegraph and Shattuck avenues have been particularly hard hit. The boxes in front of the UC dorms have also disappeared. This cut-back in services means only one thing: more postal employees will be put out of work.

**Berkeley Alliance Fights Back**

The Berkeley Alliance, an affiliate of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, has been putting a lot of pressure on the postal administration to stop cut-backs in services and lay-offs. There were the basic issues in the wildcat Postal strikes led by the National Alliance two years ago. The Alliance represents mainly clerks at the Berkeley post office and is predominantly Black. Because of its militant opposition to government reduction of Postal services and lay-offs, the Alliance is threatened with being eliminated as a national union for postal employees.

**IT AT May Get Post Office**

George Banks, president of the Berkeley Alliance, sees many foreboding signs for the future. The key to the future is the planned reorganization of the Post Office. The federal government is now holding Congressional Subcommittee hearings on the U.S. Postal Service. They are talking about the possibility of turning the Post Office into a private corporation, like the public utilities companies in this country. Mr. Banks feels there is a good chance that the Post Office may be turned over to T. & T. (International Telephone and Telegraph) which already owns a controlling interest in most of the country’s communications industry.

**Council Passes Affirmative Action**

The Berkeley City Council this week adopted the long awaited affirmative action programs for women and minorities. Pressured by community groups and an eleven month hiring freeze, a majority of the council voted for a draft proposed by Personnel Director Larry Williams.

"The program is good," states Loni Hancock. "It is far more rigorous than what generally passes for affirmative action. And it is an excellent beginning. I now expect to see women and minorities hired in all jobs formerly closed to them—from department head to fire fighter."

One of the unique features of the Berkeley affirmative action program is that it calls for citizen input and participation. An affirmative action subcommittee consisting of at least two minorities and two women will be added to the ongoing implementation. "I hope we continue to see the same enthusiastic support by community groups that we have seen thus far," Hancock said of the subcommittee.

She said further that she hoped the Council would soon agree to the job restructuring section she had attempted to add (part-time jobs, parental leave, special training and employee day care). "Women—and all those interested in alternative forms of work—still have a long way to go."

"I especially want to thank the many groups and individuals who have worked on this, the women and men who came to meeting after meeting—often when affirmative action was supposed to be discussed but wasn’t—and kept on coming back."

The Council’s vote Thursday concluded some months of intensive effort on the part of community groups. Some fifty people testified at a public hearing on May 2nd. They represented such groups as National Organization for Women, Women for Affirmative Action, the Black Caucus and Union Women’s Alliance to Gain Equality. And many were just individuals who were interested in changing the city’s hiring patterns. 91% of the administrative staff is male, according to the latest Personnel Department report; 94% of the law enforcement staff and 100% of the fire maintenance and custodial staff. The fire department of 187 employees had only 11 Blacks and 2 Spanish; the police department of 251 had only 16 Blacks, 7 Oriental and 3 Spanish.

Affirmative action is a systematic employment program designed to correct the effects of past discrimination. It is now mandated for federal contractors in the recent guidelines of the Department of Labor Office of Federal Contract Compliance "Revised Order No. 4." Such a plan includes specific goals and timetables and covers areas such as recruitment, promotion, job classification and other employment practices.

A special report on the ins and outs of the year long campaign will appear in next month’s Grassroots.

**People’s Park**

*From page 1...*

usual bullshit comes on. Webb says that if a woman is obviously being bothered someone will come to her aid. Of course, by the time that this occurs most women get the picture. Male turf—male rules, Webb admits that the lack of the political presence of women is critical and a presence is necessary if People’s Park is to be a true political forum and cultural exchange area, as was originally envisaged.

**Help!**

People’s Park Maintenance Committee needs funds to help maintain the Park. Send donations to: P.O. BOX 341 Berkeley, Ca., 94709

**August**

GRASSROOTS
Recently in Saigon, a group of South Vietnamese student leaders told foreign journalists that the Thieu government is using the press release on Con Son to suppress and arrest dissident elements in the cities. The reporters were shown a note from the Central Police Headquarters, which was circulated among students in various high schools and universities. The note read: "The people who are being detained in Con Son are those who are involved in various anti-war activities, and their aim is to drive the Thieu government toward peace."

NGUYEN TANG HUYEN:

"I am a student at Berkeley, who is facing deportation to Saigon. I have been involved in various anti-war activities around the bay area, speaking out against the bombing and supporting the South Vietnamese people. I have been arrested and charged with 'illegal assembly.' The Thieu regime wants to drive me and other students toward peace, but I will not be intimidated."

HUE

A representative from the Hue student union told the reporters that student leaders had been arrested in Hue after receiving a letter from the Ministry of Education for their work in opposing the South Vietnamese government. According to his report, when the students were arrested, they were not permitted to speak with anyone. The government demanded that all refugees be moved into government camps, and that the organizers according to local and home villages and more easily controlled for security reasons. The people living in Hue have decided they didn't want to be moved again, and they demanded to be able to stay in Hue. Then, on April 7, the government began forcibly moving people out of the student center and arrested the ten student leaders.

The students feel there are two main reasons for the arrests:

1. The students supported the refugees in their resistance to moving into government camps.
2. The students were openly opposing the ARVN/US bombing of populated areas in Tri province.

SAIGON

Recently in Saigon, a group of South Vietnamese student leaders told foreign journalists that the Thieu government is using the press release on Con Son to suppress and arrest dissident elements in the cities. The reporters were shown a note from the Central Police Headquarters, which was circulated among students in various high schools and universities. The note read: "The people who are being detained in Con Son are those who are involved in various anti-war activities, and their aim is to drive the Thieu government toward peace."

NGUYEN TANG HUYEN:

"I am a student at Berkeley, who is facing deportation to Saigon. I have been involved in various anti-war activities around the bay area, speaking out against the bombing and supporting the South Vietnamese people. I have been arrested and charged with 'illegal assembly.' The Thieu regime wants to drive me and other students toward peace, but I will not be intimidated."

HUE

A representative from the Hue student union told the reporters that student leaders had been arrested in Hue after receiving a letter from the Ministry of Education for their work in opposing the South Vietnamese government. According to his report, when the students were arrested, they were not permitted to speak with anyone. The government demanded that all refugees be moved into government camps, and that the organizers according to local and home villages and more easily controlled for security reasons. The people living in Hue have decided they didn't want to be moved again, and they demanded to be able to stay in Hue. Then, on April 7, the government began forcibly moving people out of the student center and arrested the ten student leaders.

The students feel there are two main reasons for the arrests:

1. The students supported the refugees in their resistance to moving into government camps.
2. The students were openly opposing the ARVN/US bombing of populated areas in Tri province.
Racism in the Berkeley Police

by Paul Foreman

The police are the most obvious symbol of the political control of Berkeley by elitist wealthy business interests in the city and the state. By and large, these bosses of industry and politics are white, from Anglo-Saxon, Irish, German, or Italian descent. The make-up of both the police and fire departments, in Berkeley and other California cities, is almost as lily-white as these upper echelons of the business community. The reason? Because the fire and police are the obvious first line of defense for these same interests, the banks and realtors with their mortgage-death-on-the-installment-plan financial centers.

With over 200 sworn officers and an actual overall work force of 279, the Berkeley police department has at a recent count only 7 black police officers and even fewer Chicano or Asian-American workers. The discrepancy between the general make-up of the city and the men and women who police it, becomes apparent when one considers that 25 to 30% of Berkeley's population is black, and a sizable number are of Asian or Latin American descent.

OUT-OF-TOWN COPS

Couple this with the fact that 85% of Berkeley's policemen live outside the city limits in such places as Orinda, Walnut Creek or Pleasanton. Chief of Police Bruce Baker has stated on several occasions that if he had to recruit police only from within the city of Berkeley, he could never find enough people to fill the jobs. Obviously not, since the work of the police in Berkeley has increasingly become one of political control. The protests against the Vietnam War and the commercial values that perpetuate the war have been intense among the youth, of all backgrounds, in Berkeley. To counter the strength of the anti-war protest in Berkeley, the police developed some of the most inhuman technology such as pepper-fogging automobiles, gassing from the most inhuman technology such as Berkeley, the police developed some of the strength of the anti-war protest in Berkeley's policemen live outside the city limits in such places as Orinda, Walnut Creek or Pleasanton. Chief of Police.

The economic tailism exhibited by the community control of the City government includes the Coalition, Ilona Hancock, Continue on page 5.

FEW BLACK COPS

Even when black men who live in Berkeley get a job on the police department, the racism of the oldtimers and their political suspicions work to drive them off the force. Last year in the heated controversy over the Community Control of Police amendment, ex-mayor Wallace Johnson boasted that Berkeley couldn't keep its black officers because they always went on to bigger things, and he always referred to the one black Berkeley policeman who became a T.W.A. airlines pilot; that same man actually left the department because his girlfriend was caucasian and he could no longer tolerate the racist slurs from other Berkeley cops.

Wilmont Sweaney in his debate with Ron Dellums that same spring committed the faux pas of telling how one black Berkeley cop went on to the 'finer' life of being a Secret Service agent. When Wilmont went on to say that the two-years of college requirement was no handicap to black applicants since anybody could pick up two years of college nowadays, Ron ripped into him, saying, "Bill, WHERE have you been!!!" The two-year college requirement, the police-picked psychiatrist, and the culturally biased "I.Q." test all work against black applicants for the job.

FORCED TO RESIGN

Two of the more recent cases of righting black Berkeley policemen being forced to resign their jobs due to the racism and right-wing politics of the Department are Ron Charles and Johnnie Porter. Report has it that the Berkeley police forced Ron to resign because they suspected him of tipping the Black Panther Party of the impending raid on their headquarters, then in Berkeley. Of course the department never had a scrap of proof that Ron had done this, but he was the logical suspect; he was black. What happened to the faux pas of telling how one black Berkeley cop went on to the 'finer' life of working in the Kidney wards? Or, in the case of James Rector, Alan Blanchard, and many others, a bullet wound in the face.

"what we've got here is a failure to communicate." ........ COOL HAND LUKE

Johnnie Porter would never have gotten on the police department if he did not have the quiet courage and determination (the ability to stick to a case) that makes a good policeman, one who serves the people rather than controls them. The police psychiatrist recommended that Johnnie not be hired because he was too "nice" and "passive." Johnnie, in his characteristic "passive" way, organized a large segment of the black community behind him and the department reluctantly hired him. Although he wrote good reports, the sergeants kicked back nearly every one of his reports for rewriting. After seven weeks on the job, Johnnie was called in and told to resign because other officers didn't want to work with him, and because a sergeant in a "raid" on Johnnie's apartment at 5 a.m. (Johnnie was off-duty sick, and the sergeant came by to see if he really was sick) discovered a FREE ANGELA poster.

Under duress Johnnie did sign a resignation slip, but now wants his job back, for People's Park. Too many of Berkeley's policemen, the blacks, the longhairs on the street, and the radical youth from "that little red schoolhouse on the hill" (quoting a police officer) are all "singers & freaks," fit for nothing but a head smashing, or a leaded glove in the kidneys. Or, in the case of James Rector, Alan Blanchard, and many others, a bullet wound in the face.

THE TWO APPROACHES

Two approaches are called for in combating the problem of racism on the police department. One: we will never stop playing kingmakers, and work with the people, which certainly includes the Coalition, Ilona Hancock, COOL HAND LUKE

Page 5

August

GRASSROOTS

"what we've got here is a failure to communicate." ........ COOL HAND LUKE

Johnnie Porter would never have gotten on the police department if he did not have the quiet courage and determination (the ability to stick to a case) that makes a good policeman, one who serves the people rather than controls them. The police psychiatrist recommended that Johnnie not be hired because he was too "nice" and "passive." Johnnie, in his characteristic "passive" way, organized a large segment of the black community behind him and the department reluctantly hired him. Although he wrote good reports, the sergeants kicked back nearly every one of his reports for rewriting. After seven weeks on the job, Johnnie was called in and told to resign because other officers didn't want to work with him, and because a sergeant in a "raid" on Johnnie's apartment at 5 a.m. (Johnnie was off-duty sick, and the sergeant came by to see if he really was sick) discovered a FREE ANGELA poster.

Under duress Johnnie did sign a resignation slip, but now wants his job back, for People's Park. Too many of Berkeley's policemen, the blacks, the longhairs on the street, and the radical youth from "that little red schoolhouse on the hill" (quoting a policeman) are all "singers & freaks," fit for nothing but a head smashing, or a leaded glove in the kidneys. Or, in the case of James Rector, Alan Blanchard, and many others, a bullet wound in the face.

"what we've got here is a failure to communicate." ........ COOL HAND LUKE

Johnnie Porter would never have gotten on the police department if he did not have the quiet courage and determination (the ability to stick to a case) that makes a good policeman, one who serves the people rather than controls them. The police psychiatrist recommended that Johnnie not be hired because he was too "nice" and "passive." Johnnie, in his characteristic "passive" way, organized a large segment of the black community behind him and the department reluctantly hired him. Although he wrote good reports, the sergeants kicked back nearly every one of his reports for rewriting. After seven weeks on the job, Johnnie was called in and told to resign because other officers didn't want to work with him, and because a sergeant in a "raid" on Johnnie's apartment at 5 a.m. (Johnnie was off-duty sick, and the sergeant came by to see if he really was sick) discovered a FREE ANGELA poster.

Under duress Johnnie did sign a resignation slip, but now wants his job back, for People's Park. Too many of Berkeley's policemen, the blacks, the longhairs on the street, and the radical youth from "that little red schoolhouse on the hill" (quoting a policeman) are all "singers & freaks," fit for nothing but a head smashing, or a leaded glove in the kidneys. Or, in the case of James Rector, Alan Blanchard, and many others, a bullet wound in the face.
ELECTION ANALYSIS: Flatlands Pass Rent Control

by David Mundstock

Although Loni Hancock was the only member of the Berkeley City Council to support Rent Control, the majority of Berkeley voters showed that they agreed with her position by passing Proposition i on June 6th. The final totals for Rent Control, Proposition i were Yes - 27,915, No - 25,301.

The map indicates which precincts had a majority in favor of rent control and which had a majority opposed. Rent control won in those precincts which are shaded. What the map cannot show is the huge variations between precincts, a range that went from a low of 15% for Rent Control in one precinct to a high of 88% in another.

Rent Control won in a total of 115 precincts while it lost in 68. However, in the conservative, anti-rent control precincts there was a higher turnout than the pro-rent control precincts.

Rent Control did best in the campus area and worst in the Berkeley hills, Thousand Oaks, and Claremont. No surprise. In West and Southwest Berkeley, where rent control carried over half the precincts, the margins of both victory and defeat were smaller than in other parts of the city with neither side winning by decisive margins.

CAMPUS

As the map shows, Rent Control carried every precinct in the immediate area North, South, East and West of the University of California campus. The highest vote in favor of rent control was 88%, a margin of 7 to 1 recorded in a south campus precinct. In 20 campus area precincts Rent Control received over 75% of the vote, winning by a margin of better than 3 to 1. All of these precincts have a very high student population. Most of the remaining 30 campus area precincts supported rent control by a margin of between 2 to 1 and 3 to 1.

Hills, Claremont, Thousand Oaks

Rent Control lost every precinct in the Berkeley Hills, Thousand Oaks and Claremont. The lowest vote for Rent Control, 15%, was recorded in a pair of precincts—one on the Contra Costa line at the tip of the hills in Northeast Berkeley and the other the Claremont precinct at the extreme Southeast tip of Berkeley. In the 26 precincts north of Sonoma Avenue and Eunice Street, an area that incorporates most of the hills and all of Thousand Oaks, only one precinct showed Rent Control getting more than a third of the vote. In the majority of these 26 conservative precincts, rent control lost by more than 4 to 1. In the four Claremont precincts east of Claremont Avenue, the wealthiest part of the city, rent control also lost by at least 4 to 1.

WEST AND SOUTHWEST BERKELEY

In West and Southwest Berkeley the results were mixed. The margins of both victory and defeat were narrow. Only in a single Southwest Berkeley precinct did rent control lose by a margin of 2 to 1. Only in a pair of West Berkeley precincts along University Avenue between Sacramento and San Pablo did rent control win by a margin of 2 to 1.

Rent control received from 50% to 66% of the vote in over half of West and Southwest Berkeley precincts. A comparison of the rent control results with the election returns of the April 1971 Council race reveals for instance that:

Seven out of eight precincts between San Pablo and the Bay were carried by Wilmont Sweeney in his race against Warren Widener for mayor. In all eight precincts, however, rent control won. In predominantly Black Southwest Berkeley, Sweeney carried eleven out of twelve precincts south of Dwight Way. This area, however, gave nine precincts to rent control.

The location of the precincts in which Proposition i won may point to a new political alignment in Berkeley. At least on the question of the housing crisis, the flatlands and campus are united against the Hills-Claremont interests.

...And Beyond...

When rent control is finally instituted obvious benefits will immediately be available to tenants. Yet the long range effect of rent control in Berkeley will need to be considered in planning the future of the city. Several positive long term effects which deter speculation and the accompanying physical deterioration and social disruption are:

1) With rents regulated, the development of a comprehensive city rezoning plan (restricting apartment house construction) will not allow landlords to take advantage of a more restricted market by raising rents. Down-zoning and tougher zoning laws will benefit ALL of Berkeley rather than just the middle-class white areas, making the flatlands a more attractive residential area.
2) A municipal income tax can be developed for Berkeley without subjecting tenants to a financial double jeopardy. A rent control board can see that property tax relief is passed on to tenants.
by Rich Birger
Fair Rent Committee
With the threat of the Rent Control Charter Amendment on June 6th—finally by a total of more than 2,600 votes, or 56% of the registered voters, the City Council has voted to pass the Fair Rent Amendment. This adoption of an ordinance directing the Council, after an election on this issue just before a technical November election. It is absurd to have an election in the middle of a crisis. The council has until August 1st to pass the Fair Rent Amendment.

California real estate interests attempted a telegram and letter-writing campaign (via the Berkeley School Board) to defeat this resolution. However, approval of Charter Amendments by the Berkeley City Council, formally designated by the people, have rubber stamp approval.

Following action by the Legislature, the City Council will have an election for the five Rent Control Commissioners. This election could occur at either the November General Election or in April at the next regular Municipal election. The Commissioners are elected at-large in the same manner as the City Council and School Board. It is imperative that tenants be organized to insure that favorable Commissioners are elected. The money and power of the real estate interests should never be underestimated—as demonstrated by their outspending of $2,600 to 40 to one in the rent control campaign. Ninety days after the election of the Board, all rents in the City will be rolled back to their August 15, 1971 level—the first day of the "Wages-Price Freeze." As the Board will have difficulty in determining what rents were, anyone who moved in Berkeley on this date should save all receipts to prove rent levels.

After rents have been rolled back, they will be controlled on the basis costs of operation. Both tenants and landlords have the opportunity to request adjustment of their rents individually; but for the vast majority of cases, the Board can pass rent adjustment guidelines. These guidelines would allow across-the-board increases or decreases within the guidelines, if the other side does not change the adjustment. The Board will also be overlooking existing and future rent control regulations. Any certificate of eviction must be issued by the Board before an eviction will be allowed. No certificate will be issued if the eviction is arbitrary or retaliatory.

Realtor's Challenge
Real estate interests will not sit idly by while rent controls go into operation. They announced during the campaign that they would take to court on a number of grounds, including:
1. federal rent control regulations prohibit the enactment of any other rent control ordinance;
2. rent controls are not within the jurisdiction of Berkeley;
3. and there is no emergency in Berkeley; and
4. no emergency exists in Berkeley according to the Federal guidelines. None of these court challenges are valid however.

In Massachusetts passed rent controls two months ago and they were held to be valid by the federal Rent Board, as long as increases were within federal guidelines, and IRS has said this no conflict with Berkeley's controls.

2. rent controls are not within the jurisdiction of Berkeley;
3. and there is no emergency in Berkeley; and
4. no emergency exists in Berkeley according to the Federal guidelines. None of these court challenges are valid however:

Did you know that Tilden Park, AC and RE, and your water bill are all controlled by publicly elected Boards of Directors? East Bay Regional Park District, AC Transit District, and EBMUD elections have traditionally been ignored by most of the people. How much has this complacency cost us in money and service?

These districts are surrounded by counties and elections seemingly designed to encourage community involvement in their elections.

The Park District and AC Transit redistrict to equalize population in the voting wards before each election. The boundary lines are announced a few days before filing opens for candidates for the Boards. This insures that no advance planning can be done, as candidates must reside in the Ward in which they plan to run, in last time the Park District redistricted, in 1970, whole cities were moved from one district to another.

The redistricting of AC Transit is done after the first five directors must live in their wards but are elected at large. EBMUD has not had a contested election in the four years that a law was passed that calls for candidates to pay for having qualification statements in the voters handbook, so the directors haven’t bothered to put their statements in. If someone should decide to run against an incumbent this time, that person will be faced with the fact that the candidates who put their statements in the book will have to divvy a bill of about $270.00. What a nice way of insuring that only well-heeled candidates run a similar procedure applies to the other two districts.

The International Union of Pharmacologists is meeting in San Francisco the week that I’m writing this article. Dr. Friedman, from the Washington office of the Food and Drug Administration, expressed some opinions that are hardly reassuring in his talk on July 25. He believes that there is a safe dose for every toxic substance; that is, there is a threshold for bad effects. This is similar to the argument of the AEC that a little bit of radiation won’t hurt you; it hasn’t been proven that there is a threshold for all toxic agents.

Friedman also believes that if only one molecule of a chemical is present per cell, there cannot possibly be any resulting bad effects. Some chemicals exert their effect by reacting with the generic material of a cell, one molecule of such a substance can cause a mutation if the cell has no means of repairing the damage. One mutation may kill an organism—Why is Friedman so sure that one molecule in a cell can’t do any damage?

In the audience the speaker spoke about a number of his patients who have “Chinese Restaurant Syndrome”—they get sick from food with a lot of oyster sauce and glutamate in it. He has found that many prepackaged “convenience” foods have high levels of MSG to make them taste better. He asked Friedman what the FDA planned to do about this.

The response! Friedman said that the FDA asked the National Academy of Sciences for a report on MSG. The report concluded that MSG was not responsible for any permanent damage, so FDA will take no action. Who cares if some people get sick from too much MSG, it’s not permanent.

Isn’t it comforting to know that the Framedmers in the FDA are looking after us?

by J.B. Neilands

The proposal to take over the electric system of PG&E in Berkeley is facing yet another crisis. The council has until August 22 to decide if the PG&E sponsored referendum will be on the November ballot, otherwise the vote must occur in efforts to defeat this resolution. However, approval of Charter Amendments by the Berkeley City Council, formally designated by the people, have rubber stamp approval.

The campaign to bring a referendum to the voters. By this February RIOT had 12,000 signatures and the Council, after...
Jubilant and incredibly good natured from the 7th Congressional District. This report is by her husband, J. L. Kelley. Sunday, July 9

The lobby of the International Hotel at the LA airport is jammed. An unusual assortment of people: blacks, whites, Chicanos and Asians, young people, middle-aged and old people, and lots of women. This is California's McGovern delegation, ready to fill a 747 for the trip to Miami. We're excited and jubilant—an incredibly good natured mood.

It takes two hours of shuffling to get the luggage labelled and boarding passes assigned, and we load the buses to go to the plane. Another hour and a half wait while each of us walks through a metal detecting gate and each purse and briefcase is searched. One delegate is practically stripped. He wears a concho belt and the detector registers "jackpot" each time he comes through. We're finally in the plane and with loud cheers take off for Miami.

It is too much to expect these activists to just enjoy themselves for the four and a half hour flight. Politicking starts immediately, and there is a bit of initial grumbling from some of the Northern Californians on arrangements. We'd had to come to LA to get the flight, while an earlier charter left SF Saturday. A lot of misinformation on the subject was dished -- apparently the earlier plane was the fast charter flight, but apparently the earlier plane was the fat chartered flight (Credentials Committee) and except for 30 places held by Willie for black caucus delegates, all of us had to travel to LA.

The delegation takes off, nine of us altogether. Ying and I wander back to the room in our pajamas. Ying takes a short nap and I watch on TV all the damn night. The anti-war people, Fred Brainman and others from Maui, are getting their stuff together.

Jerry Rubin, one of the young who planned a picnic of watermelons and peanuts for the senior citizens in the park.

The convention is on and all minus the Credentials Committee has assigned, and we load the buses to go to the plane. Another hour and a half wait while each of us walks through a metal detecting gate and each purse and briefcase is searched. One delegate is practically stripped. He wears a concho belt and the detector registers "jackpot" each time he comes through. We're finally in the plane and with loud cheers take off for Miami.

It is too much to expect these activists to just enjoy themselves for the four and a half hour flight. Politicking starts immediately, and there is a bit of initial grumbling from some of the Northern Californians on arrangements. We'd had to come to LA to get the flight, while an earlier charter left SF Saturday. A lot of misinformation on the subject was dished -- apparently the earlier plane was the fast chartered flight, but apparently the earlier plane was the fat chartered flight (Credentials Committee) and except for 30 places held by Willie for black caucus delegates, all of us had to travel to LA.

The coffee shop is crowded, and the waitresses harassed and irritable. They get five dollars a day and tips and this isn't a rich crowd. Don't think it's an union shop but if it is, it's not much of a union.

Ying and some other Asian delegates are already involved deeply, planning to use the convention for anti-war activity and to increase Asian participation in the anti-war movement. I wind up as porter, secy, and busboy for the Asians. They plan to take a huge sign (50 feet long, NOT ONE MORE DEAD) onto the convention floor.

The California delegation has its first formal caucus at 1 p.m. The three co-chairpeople are Willie Brown, John Burton and Dolores Huerta. Willie is a small black man, very sharply dressed, articulate, a real comedian, wheeler-dealer, ambitious, and magnificently theatrical. John Burton is dressed casually and comes on as very thoughtful and sharp. Rather low key speaking style, barefoot boy with cheek, shows sensitivity on issues. Dolores Huerta (UPWOC) seems shy but is very much out front on organization. There is a lot more talk about the selection of the 120 and the discontent seems to have died down. Cranston the peacemaker is in evidence.

The convention is on and all minus the Credentials Committee has assigned, and we load the buses to go to the plane. Another hour and a half wait while each of us walks through a metal detecting gate and each purse and briefcase is searched. One delegate is practically stripped. He wears a concho belt and the detector registers "jackpot" each time he comes through. We're finally in the plane and with loud cheers take off for Miami.

Jerry Rubin, one of the young who planned a picnic of watermelons and peanuts for the senior citizens in the park.

The state that demands that we stop bombing the dikes, votes... The anti-war people, Fred Brainman and others from Maui, are getting their stuff together.

Ying goes off to work. I haven't drawn a pass so I go to McG headquarters at the Doral Beach Hotel to see if I can pick up a late pass and, if not, to watch the nomination from there. Arrive and find the lobby full of young demonstrators, all up tight about McG's statement on Thailand. McG has already talked to the demonstrators and it looks very peaceful to me. No cops. I talk to some kids. Try to go upstairs to try for a late pass, but the elevators are turned off and the stairs are blocked by McG workers. One of them, apparently called for extra duty, gives me a pass to the convention hall and I take off.

Meet Ying in the lobby of the hall. There's a fopup on the pass for one of the delegates and I make like an errand boy on and off the floor for an hour or so. By then my hand is marked with the purple spot used to check people going on the floor, so I leave my gallery pass a bit, stick out my hand and go back on the floor. A real demonstration after Illinois' vote puts McG over, and another when the vote is all in. So home and to bed. It's 4:30.

Another caucus, and Mike Gravel and other VP candidates make their pitch. We get the Eagleton word and a sales pitch from our leaders, and Cranston speaks up for the junior senator from Missouri. Asians try to arrange for a group chant on the floor, but I stand up my gallery pass and stick out my hand and go back on the floor. A real demonstration after Illinois' vote puts McG over, and another when the vote is all in. So home and to bed. It's 4:30.

The delegation takes off, nine of us altogether. There's a fopup on the pass for one of the delegates and I make like an errand boy on and off the floor for an hour or so. By then my hand is marked with the purple spot used to check people going on the floor, so I leave my gallery pass a bit, stick out my hand and go back on the floor. A real demonstration after Illinois' vote puts McG over, and another when the vote is all in. So home and to bed. It's 4:30.

The delegation takes off, nine of us altogether. There's a fopup on the pass for one of the delegates and I make like an errand boy on and off the floor for an hour or so. By then my hand is marked with the purple spot used to check people going on the floor, so I leave my gallery pass a bit, stick out my hand and go back on the floor. A real demonstration after Illinois' vote puts McG over, and another when the vote is all in. So home and to bed. It's 4:30.

The delegation takes off, nine of us altogether. There's a fopup on the pass for one of the delegates and I make like an errand boy on and off the floor for an hour or so. By then my hand is marked with the purple spot used to check people going on the floor, so I leave my gallery pass a bit, stick out my hand and go back on the floor. A real demonstration after Illinois' vote puts McG over, and another when the vote is all in. So home and to bed. It's 4:30.

The delegation takes off, nine of us altogether. There's a fopup on the pass for one of the delegates and I make like an errand boy on and off the floor for an hour or so. By then my hand is marked with the purple spot used to check people going on the floor, so I leave my gallery pass a bit, stick out my hand and go back on the floor. A real demonstration after Illinois' vote puts McG over, and another when the vote is all in. So home and to bed. It's 4:30.
In an atmosphere as confused as it was tumultuous, the Berkeley City Council voted on July 18th to approve the Berkeley Child Care Development Council’s controversial Comprehensive Child Care Plan. The vote (Hancock, Widener, Home, Price, Bailey and Simmons for, Kallgren abstaining, Sweeney and McLaren absent) came on the heels of an often tense and racially polarized presentation by the strife-ridden BCCDC, asking the city to allocate to them the $168,000 necessary to fund their Plan and capture matching federal and state child care grants.

BCDC supporters were angered by a motion passed at a previous City Council meeting setting up a tripartite committee of Council, School Board and BCCDC to work out matters not dealt with in the Comprehensive Plan but germane to the transition of the BCCDC from an advisory to an agency status. BCCDC saw this as an attempt to undermine its authority in child care matters and demanded that the Council rescind the Tripartite motion and immediately fund the Comprehensive Plan.

Substantive questions regarding the merits of the Plan were voiced by the black leadership of the BCCDC as attacks on them and the organization. Adding to the confusion was the largely abstract format of the Comprehensive Plan. The BCCDC has been charged to bring to the Council a picture of Berkeley’s total child care needs together with its recommendations for funding specific proposals prepared by community groups wishing to operate child care centers.

Instead of specific recommendations, however, the Comprehensive Plan took the form of a series of model budgets for various categories of child care (full-day, drop-in, etc.) In addition, the Plan indicated that the BCCDC had not as yet established its guidelines for funding, leaving up-in-the-air the fate of the community-originated child care proposals hoping to open in September who had sought funding at the City Council’s partially completed public hearing on child care last June 29.

The ambitious relationship of community child care programs to the Comprehensive Plan was not discussed, however, for Mayor Widener ruled against public discussion of child care until after the Council had voted on the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilwoman Hancock attempted to bring together the community child care proposals and the BCCDC’s Plan by moving to grant immediate funding to the community proposals, and in addition set aside $50,000 (to be matched by the school board) for funding further child care proposals upon the advice of the BCCDC.

This motion was greeted with loud protest by BCCDC supporters, and failed to pass. The motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan was then passed by a 6-0 vote, Kallgren abstaining.

While it is unclear precisely what “approval” of the Comprehensive Plan means, it is presumed that BCCDC now has sole discretion over the funding of community child care proposals. It is hoped that BCCDC can establish guidelines in time to fund at least those child care centers ready for a September 1st opening.

Photograph: Betty Segal
and council members unanimously refused to make public comments about strike issues or the progress of negotiations if any.

SCENARIO CHANGES
Up to this point the scenario followed the typical course of strikes by public employees—employer intransigence, heavy-handed legal shenanigans, and the likelihood that citizens, impatient about interrupted garbage collection, would soon begin to see union members as responsible for the trouble and resent them accordingly.

Not for the first time, though, the familiar pattern went off the rails in Berkeley. Instead of community hostility, a wave of community support for striking workers began to take shape with the formation over the July 15 weekend of the Ad Hoc Committee to Support the Strikers. The group included a wide spectrum of Berkeley activists—members of the April Coalition and the Black Caucus, the chairman of the Co-op Board of Directors, officers of U.C. union locals, and others.

HANCOCK PICKETS
First result of the group's activity came when Councilmember Hancock joined pickets outside City Hall July 14. Ms. Hancock, continuing to respect the Council's self-imposed secrecy rule, offered no comment on substantive strike issues, but reiterated her opposition to the city's outright injection and added, "I support without reservation the right of city employees to organize and to strike, when necessary, for their needs."

No progress toward a settlement had been reached—and the city's negotiator had begun a four-day Oregon jaunt—when the Council held its next regular meeting July 18. Ad Hoc Committee members attempted to read an open letter to the Council but could not get space on that night's high-pressure agenda. The letter criticized the injunction and secrecy permitting the Council to hide behind Ray Smardon, expressed support for all the union demands, and called on Council members to state their positions publicly and begin good faith negotiations. Signers included Black Panther Chairman Bobby Seale as well as a long list of Committee sponsors. The Committee then switched its focus to the next Council meeting, scheduled for July 25. Plans were made for a support rally outside City Hall and for union members and supporters to attend the Council session in force. Some 125 members distributed leaflets, stating the Committee's position and outlining its strategy, were handed out over the weekend at shopping centers and door-to-door.

SECRECY COLLAPSES
Monday, July 24, the secrecy wall began to crumble. Councilmember Hancock was the first to break it down, concerning strike issues. In a press conference at the Corporation Yard, she announced her support for agency shop and arbitration and for a cost of living wage hoot—better than the city's take-it-or-leave-it offer though still less than the unions' demands. She also urged her fellow councilmembers to come out from behind closed doors and make their positions known. Her stand was welcomed by union members and their supporters as a step toward settlement and a reasonable basis for negotiation. The same morning, State Senators Moscone and Petris and East Bay Assemblymen Meade and Miller urged the city to begin real talks, though they took no position on strike issues themselves.

Only a few hours before the Council met July 25, Councilmen Bailey and Simmons added a new element to the by now wide-open discussion of the strike. In simultaneous statements, they asserted their support for a 15% raise for refuse collectors—much more than the unions' overall demand—but disavowed other city workers whom they characterized as overpaid. Bailey and Simmons charged that a deal existed whereby Police and Fire Department employees would get increases paralleling those awarded the four striking unions. Their statements also bore down heavily on the fact that most refuse workers are Black while electricians belong to an old-line craft union with a long racist history. Overlooked in their statements were other underpaid city workers—such as Community Health Workers, also Black and paid even less than refuse collectors. Finally, Bailey and Simmons warned, binding arbitration could be used to undermine the new city affirmative action hiring plan to end racist and sexist hiring and promotion practices. This although Local 390's executive secretary, Paul Varacalli, had supported affirmative action at public hearings long before the strike began, and Locals 535 and 2077—with large Third World and women members—were on record in favor of affirmative action. Varacalli had agreed to include in a new contract language specifically protecting affirmative action from being hindered by an arbitrator's decision.

COUNCIL MOVES
By the July 25 Council meeting the situation was ready to shift—and shift it did. The Ad Hoc Committee rally drew several hundred union members and supporters—including about 100 Black Panther Party members and their Chairman, Bobby Seale—who heard union spokespeople demand the council deal with the striking unions immediately. Inside the council chamber, Hancock moved the council accept arbitration and the agency shop, offer a cost-of-living benefit package and get down to serious bargaining. She did not get a second. Union members and supporters present backed her up but the Council went into executive session as soon as the roll was called.

While the Council deliberated and the crowd outside picketed and chanted, people in the council chamber conducted an informal public hearing at which one union member after another told the crowd their side of the strike and recounted the city's unwillingness to bargain.

After almost two hours, the Council came back in with a new offer—partial agreement on agency shop and arbitration and a benefit deal adding up to about 50% over eighteen months, with an additional premium for refuse workers. Hancock abstained in the vote on this offer, since it did not represent her position. While the crowd inside and outside waited, 390's Paul Varacalli asked Mayor Widener if this represented a final offer or a negotiating stand—"because if its a final offer I'm going to say no right now, and you guys can go back in there and come up with something better." At this Widener called a ten-minute recess.

BAILEY ON SPOT
About this time Councilmember Bailey got into a public debate with union members, who had earlier expressed resentment of what they saw as his attempts to divide united striking workers along racial lines. Bailey, unused to being on the defensive, tried all his time-tested routines—"it's not have black people arguing with black people"—but met mounting hostility from union members, reaching a peak when Cornelius Moore, a refuse worker and member of 390's negotiating committee, furiously charged that one of Bailey's aides had called him a "motherfucking honky." Mr. Moore, who is Black, told Bailey, "You can't pull that shit on the rough and ready garbage men of Berkeley . . . we are together and we're staying together.

He was backed up by a woman health worker from 535 who, to shouts of support, denounced "D'Army Bailey's sexist politics."

Temporary resolution of the dispute finally came when Widener announced that the new city offer represented a bargaining position and that he and other council members would begin talks with the unions the early next morning. Union members and supporters, seeing this as a major step forward, went home to await developments.

GRASSROOTS BERK STRIKE cont.
and council members unanimously refused to make public comments about strike issues or the progress of negotiations if any.

BAILEY ON SPOT
About this time Councilmember Bailey got into a public debate with union members, who had earlier expressed resentment of what they saw as his attempts to divide united striking workers along racial lines. Bailey, unused to being on the defensive, tried all his time-tested routines—"it's not have black people arguing with black people"—but met mounting hostility from union members, reaching a peak when Cornelius Moore, a refuse worker and member of 390's negotiating committee, furiously charged that one of Bailey's aides had called him a "motherfucking honky." Mr. Moore, who is Black, told Bailey, "You can't pull that shit on the rough and ready garbage men of Berkeley . . . we are together and we're staying together.

He was backed up by a woman health worker from 535 who, to shouts of support, denounced "D'Army Bailey's sexist politics."

Temporary resolution of the dispute finally came when Widener announced that the new city offer represented a bargaining position and that he and other council members would begin talks with the unions the early next morning. Union members and supporters, seeing this as a major step forward, went home to await developments.
CITY MANAGER

priorities, and passed legislation in its own interest, not in the interest of the professional or working classes. The members of the NCF saw the need to solidify their own influence on the local level in order to survive the onslaught of monopo-
ly capital and socialist revolution.

It was under these conditions that the concept of council-manager government arose. The NCF adopted some programs put forth by the socialist movement like unemployment and health insurance but were basically very conservative. They wanted to adjust capitalism to favor interests of their class. Between 1912 and 1915, Chambers of Commerce all across the country adopted stands in favor of council-manager government. They used arguments pointing to the need for more professionalism like the analogy of suc-
cessful business with a board of directors (city council) and the appointed presi-
dent (city manager) who could run the operation efficiently and business-like.

NCF saw the need to solidify their own influence on the local level in order to survive the onslaught of monopo-
y and socialist revolution. The mem-
bers of the NCF saw the need to solidify their own influence on the local level in order to survive the onslaught of monopo-
ly capital and socialist revolution.

The comparison of the key issues used to forward the Charter Amendment in 1923 with today's political struggles in Berkeley is striking for its similarities. First, the waterfront development was a battleground for the Berkeley Manufacturing Association and the Berkeley Gazette. Second, the municipalization of garbage collection was violently opposed by the protectors of free enterprise. The moderate-conservative alliance against the socialist political forces foresaw creeping nationalization in city run services. The Gazette mounted the kind of campaign for which it is now famous against the left forces in the city which then held considerable power.

Only one-fourth of the registered voters went to the polls in the special charter amendment election in 1923. But the higher percentage of those voting in north and east Berkeley more than offset the opposition in south and west Berkeley. The City Manager Committee had done its job well. Thus professional city manager government came to Berkeley.

CHARTER ACTION

Joel Rubenzahl
Jeff Koon
Topey Schwarzenback
Gene Turitz
Sandy Martin
Fosler Foreman
Clara Camarda
For more information call 841-0370.

Photos by Louis Benaimous

1. Paul Vara cali, Exec. Secretary Local 390, saying “Mr. Mayor, if that’s your final offer, the answer is NO!”
2. Women from Local 535 on the firing line. 3. A 390 worker lays it down at the dump. 4. Dwight & Telly stand knee-deep in refuse. 5. Meter readers on strike, too. 6. Councilmen Price & Bailey take their ease.

‘Army On Trial’

Vietnam Veterans Against the War is planning a Winter Soldier style tribunal which will be called “The Army on Trial” at which testimony will be given and read by veterans and active-duty GI’s on racism in the military and repression of political organizers in the military. This tribunal will be put on just before Billie Dean Smith’s court martial begins, September 6. The issues of racism and political repression of organizers are key to Billie’s defense. Billie is a black GI accused of “fraging” two white officers in Vietnam. If any vet or GI can give testimony or affidavits for “The Army on Trial” or help with Billie’s defense, contact VVAW in San Francisco (415) 861-7700. The address is: VVAW, 1380 Howard Street, San Francisco 94103.

ARLENE SLAUGHTER

6436 Telegraph, Oakland
Office 658-2177
Eve. 849-2976
TOWN AND GOWN STRIKES

A backward look at the ten-week strike by University of California employees—settled on June 22—shows some sharp contrasts with the current Berkeley employees’ strike.

The U.C. strikers—never a majority of University employees because State workers have still not won the principle of collective bargaining—struck in a holding action to try and defend their existence under heavy attack by Regents and the Regents. From the start, they faced an employer who could not be hurt in the pocketbook, unlike a private industry, and which (unlike the Berkeley city government) is not subject to political pressure. (U.C. Regents are appointed to 16-year terms by the Governor, who for his part could care less about antagonizing students and U.C. workers.)

On wages, U.C. strikers sought to hold the line on prevailing rates paid in comparable jobs by private industry. On union rights, the workers struck for binding arbitration of grievances—a key issue in the city strike—and for affirmative action policies in hiring and promoting Third World and women workers.

LACK OF SUPPORT

In contrast to the Berkeley strikers, U.C. unions yielded to pressure from lawyer Victor van Bourg and area labor leaders not to seek strike support from their community—the students. Thus, while a handful of students lent some support, most ignored picket lines and went to classes—keeping alive the image that the University’s community—the students. Thus, while a handful of students lent some support, most ignored picket lines and went to classes—keeping alive the image that the University’s community—"the students."

Support from the rest of labor was feeble until the last week of the strike. AFSCME Local No. 1695—one of the striking unions—got only $1000 from its International.

POLICE ATTACK

In the end, though, as one union official told Grassroots, "the University—as ever—built our movement for us.” U.C. police brutally attacked pickets at University Hall on June 8, sending one 58-year-old striker to the hospital with a fractured skull. The response was a show of organized strength from several powerful local unions and labor councils that forced the University to begin negotiations after nine weeks of silence.

The final settlement, according to Dave Rynin of AFT Local 1570, was “a victory—under the circumstances.” U.C. workers held off the Regents’ attack on pay scales except in the building trades and bought time until the question of prevailing rates is reopened—possibly next year.

On arbitration, the unions won University recognition of the principle—but not binding on the University. The agreement permits the University, the Venceremos the NLF in South Vietnam and the Brigade had as the theme of their 26th of August celebration, "Cuba, Vietnam, y Nosotros: Venceremos." "(Cuba, Vietnam, and We Will Win!)"