

Alternative

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TOWN SANTA CLAUS KILLED IN FREAK ACCIDENT

Death Mars Holiday Festival; Top Secret Weapon Involved

CONSTERNATION struck the little town of Wakehampton, Mass., on Christmas Day when it was discovered that the town Santa Claus had suffocated to death in a chimney the night before, while disappointed children waited for him a few feet below. The tragedy occurred at the Wakehampton Civic Center where the town's population had gathered on Christmas Eve for its annual Christmas party. While the merry-makers celebrated below, Santa Claus had struggled desperately to free himself from a series of wire springs which circled the inside of the flue and gradually tightened as he struggled.

The wire springs were a local product manufactured by the town's Well Built Window Company, manufacturers of steel sash for modern homes. They had been placed in the chimney a few weeks earlier by workmen from Local 107 of I.W.S.M.U. (the Interantional Wire, Steel, and Manure Workers Union).

Events Leading to the Tragedy

This is how newspapermen pieced together the complicated series of events which led to the tragedy.

A few months earlier unemployment had threatened in Wakehampton. Not enough new homes were being built to keep everyone busy at the Well Built Window Company. The situation was especially difficult because many of the workers, veterans of the recent war, were living in trailers, chicken coops, and overcrowded apartments. Several divorces and crimes were directly traced to the overcrowding and lack of work. This made the more ignorant workers susceptible to the propaganda of assorted agitators and bunk merchants.

The local Peacemakers, a subversive pacifist organization, distributed leaflets and called meetings at which the men were urged to take matters

into their own hands. They were urged to work together putting up their own low-cost modern homes. It was asserted that the facilities of the Well Built Window Co. could be used to supply not only windows but also prefabricated forms.

The plan was clearly un-American because there was no provision for private profit. Funds were to be raised by confiscatory taxation of incomes over ten thousand dollars. Another objectionable feature was brought to light when residents remembered that Peacemakers had suggested that the work should be planned and carried out by the unemployed themselves thru their own co-operative instead of through proper governmental channels.

Free Enterprise Solves Problem

Fortunately unemployment was threatening in other parts of the country as well. So the situation in Wakehampton was saved when Congress was forced into action on a national scale. It passed its famous Armaments for Freedom Bill, with huge new appropriations for Military Defense. The Well Built Window Company received a million dollar contract for manufacturing circular wire springs.

Drama and patriotism were added to the scene because the exact use of the springs was a top military secret.

But something went wrong somewhere along the line. The Secret Weapon for which the springs were designed—if there was any secret weapon—was never developed to the point where there was any use for the springs. Carloads of them were shipped to the West Coast where they were melted down and shipped back to the East Coast to be shipped as bullets to the Marshall Plan Countries. This was a fairly satisfactory procedure but agitators found out about it and began to make capital of it. They circulated inflammatory literature taking advantage of simple-minded people who do not understand the intricacies of modern economics.

At an emergency conference of local business and union officials with representatives from the

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Alternative

Successor to *Pacifica Views and Direct Action*

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Editors: Robert Auerbach, David Dellinger, Ralph DiGlia, Roy Finch, Roy C. Kepler, Wm. Kuenning, Louise Abell Mack, Anne Moffett, Irving Ravin, Margaret Rockwell.

In prison for refusing to register for the draft: Sander Katz.

Letters

Belfast, N. Ireland.

To the Editors—

In the *ALTERNATIVE* for Sept.-Oct. is a very interesting letter from my old friend, Ammon Hennacy, entitled: "Notes from Arizona" in which he rightly castigates those who would plunge the Working Class into World War No. 3. In this letter of condemnation of the various working class organizations who do not, or have not taken a strictly anti-war attitude, he writes en passant of the "Industrial Workers of the World" . . . "The I.W.W. presents many pacifists arguments in its paper but does not want to disrupt the organization by another anti-war fight."

I. W. W. Position

To those readers not acquainted with the principles and theories of the I.W.W. the above quotation might mislead them as to what the goal of this fine Trade Union (the ONLY one of its kind on the entire globe) really is. To begin with, the I.W.W. has always opposed the slaughter of the world's workers in any and every war brought on by the Capitalist Class, but it must be fully understood that we of the I.W.W. regard war as only one of the many evils brought on by the Capitalist system of life, whether we exist and toil in New Zealand, Australia, Russia, British Isles or the U.S.A., for in all these countries are poverty, unemployment, sickness and mass exploitation, all directly attributive to our Master Class. Therefore, it is essential that the I.W.W. oppose all these evils and not just one. Again, although we are against taking any part what-so-ever in any war engendered by any Capitalist Class, we also recognize the basic fact that a few hundred conscientious-objectors will not stop the present day War Mongers in bringing about another mass slaughter worse than any previous one in history.

The prevention and cure for all wars lie directly in the hands of the Working Class. For who is it manufactures the equipment of war, provides the Armed Forces with the potential cannon fodder, and toils long hours to grow the food for this "cannon fodder"? The Workers themselves! For the past number of years the Working Class has been humbugged and misled by an increasing number of Politicians and reactionary Trade

Unions which has culminated in reforms such as the "Socialism" of the present English regime—a phoney socialism run for the sole benefit of politicians, reactionary Trade Union officials and the same old Boss Class that has exploited the workers for years.

To end all this misery, it is necessary for the workers to take charge of all the industries that have been built by the workers themselves, and to start production for use, and not, as at present, for the profit motive which ultimately leads us to war.

The "INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD" with their control of all industry from the bottom up, not from the top down as at present, is the only answer to Capitalism, and for this very reason has been condemned by all Trade Unions and all the political stooges of the Boss Class, ever since its inception in 1905.

We members of the I.W.W. recall the words and teachings of Debs, Ben Salmon, E. Goldman and Berkman, but we also remember with pride those I.W.W. boys coldly murdered for the working class principles taught by our organization which guide our lives. We recall the brutal murders of Joe Hill, Wesley Everest, Frank H. Little and a lot of others who gave their lives that their class . . . the Working Class, might be free of all exploitation and for the first time in human history, gain their emancipation. We who are left still carry on where these boys left off and call on all workers to struggle to this end.

Fraternally and cordially,

GERALD WILLIAMSON

From a Japanese Schoolgirl

To some Schoolgirl in Australia:

I am afraid you may not like receiving this letter or answering it, because I am Japanese. But I hope it is not so.

I am not your enemy: It may help a little if I tell you that I too have suffered—my three brothers are asleep and my house it is burnt.

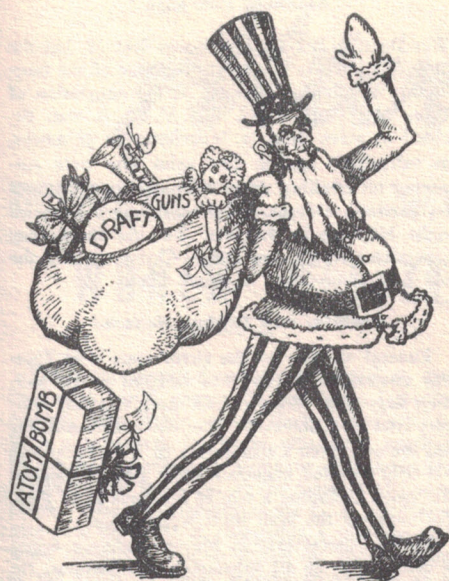
Out of all this cruelty and hatred and mistake, could we not arrange that there should be peace and prosperity and happiness for all countries? I want it that way.

Even to a war-scarred land like mine, Spring will come. It is coming now, with plum-blossom and cherry and happiness and warmth. How do we arrange that it might be Spring for all the world?

I would beg you believe that I write this letter not with my pen, but with my heart.

HIDEKE INOURIE

From the English Periodical *PEACE NEWS*. (*PEACE NEWS* says that Hideke Inourie does not mention that she lost her hand through an incendiary bomb.)



UNCLE SAM'S OWN CHRISTMAS

Financial Report

In the last issue we promised our readers a financial report. Here it is:

	No. of Contributors	Amount	Cost of the Issue
Vol. 1, No. 1:	32	\$56.90	\$84.79
Vol. 1, No. 2:	29	91.40	71.70
Vol. 1, No. 3:	30	48.35	78.27
Vol. 1, No. 4:	36	73.20	107.65
Vol. 1, No. 5:	13	27.35	93.35
Totals.....	140	\$297.20	\$435.76
Contributions CNVR.....		60.96	
Total Income		\$358.16	358.16
DEFICIT.....			\$77.60

We did not have the books handy last time when we estimated a \$65 deficit in our last issue, but the estimate was close. It is interesting to note that the average contribution has been \$2, though there have been some substantially higher, and some less than that—all welcome, of course. We are now mailing out 1500 copies, and have 1500 more copies printed for hand distribution. MORE SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOME OF THE REMAINING 1360 ON THE MAILING LIST WOULD PROBABLY WIPE OUT THE DEFICIT AND PUT US BACK IN THE BLACK.

We did not go into the red until Vol. 1, No. 4, our six page issue on the draft resistance. Our

GO LEFT, YOUNG WEST

EVERY year more people move to California. They come from all over the country attracted by the climate and the untapped possibilities. The news that it never snows in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and that people can go swimming in warm sunshine in mid January acts like a magnet. The growth of the state has been phenomenal. If it continues, California will be the number one state in population in twenty-five years. After that the political and cultural shift may finally break the hold of the Atlantic seaboard.

Many Contradictions

California is different from the rest of the country. To many Easterners it seems like another country altogether. There is more of a willingness to accept change and novelty, more openness and carefreeness. It is a country of paradoxes: stronghold of the IWW—and of the reactionary Bank of America; home of a people who almost elected a socialist governor a few years back—and of the infamous Japanese relocation camps; center of innumerable cooperative communities—and of huge concentrations of power like the DiGiorgio Farms. Here much of the land was grabbed by the railroads before anyone else saw it (the Southern Pacific got two and a half million acres) and yet there was enough left for thousands of European immigrants to start small farms in the fertile central valleys.

Need for Action

Both extremes are here in unresolved contradiction. No other state (except possibly parts of the South) has so exploited cheap labor from Chinese, Filipinos, Mexicans and Okies. And no other state has so much overall material wealth in minerals, produce and natural power.

Such contradictions call for militant radicalism to assure that they will not be decided in favor

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printing and folding costs have gone up from \$55 to \$67.05 for a 4-page issue. The six-page issues cost \$88.35 to print and fold. The balance of the expenses are mailing costs. The labor is contributed by the editorial committee and others who come in to help us get out the mailings.

This may sound like an appeal. It is. At the same time, we want to continue sending issues FREE ON REQUEST to those who cannot afford to contribute. Let us hear from you if you want us to keep sending *Alternative*. Most of you have now received at least three or four issues. We are again revising our mailing list in response to readers' interest. Your name may be taken off our mailing list if you do not tell us that you want to get future issues. If you have notified us at some time, don't worry. You're IN.

GO LEFT, YOUNG WEST

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of the few. California is politically and culturally unsophisticated to a surprising degree. In Los Angeles and San Francisco picket lines are so rare that they make front page news. Non-violent techniques generally would receive far more publicity than they get back East. The climate and the temper of the people is favorable to radicalism of the libertarian rather than of the totalitarian variety.

California already has good sized branches of most left-wing movements. There are numbers of anarchists in the San Francisco Bay area, among them the poet Kenneth Rexroth. The IWW has groups in Los Angeles and Frisco. The Socialist Party and the World Socialist Party are active in Los Angeles. The Fellowship of Reconciliation and Committee on Racial Equality have good sized locals in both cities. The first pacifist operated radio station is being set up in the Bay Area.

The people out here must resist dictation from Washington and New York. California needs more radical magazines and papers. New things can be started here more easily than in the East. To date many people have poured their energies into weird cults and quack religions. Some of this may have been because constructive radical possibilities were not available.

There is a wide open opportunity here for existing radical groups to capitalize on this situation.

—R. A. & R. F.

SANTA CLAUS KILLED

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War Dept. in Washington, it was decided that the only solution was to start using some of the huge springs locally—as springs. At the suggestion of Pres. Morey of the I. W. S. M. U., it was decided to place them in Wakehampton chimneys, as safeguards against Red spies who were suspected of sneaking down chimneys to eavesdrop on patriotic citizens. This would have been all right 364 days in the year. But the Emergency Committee forgot one thing—Christmas and the old American custom of Santa Claus.

Widow and Orphan Honored

Funeral services for the victim were held Tuesday afternoon. The day was declared a civic holiday, flags were flown at half mast, and full military rites were observed. The hero's three-months-old son was given a scholarship to West Point and his wife received numerous other gifts to assuage her grief, including a trip to Bermuda from Pres. Nicholson of the Well Built Window Co.

In his funeral oration Mayor Anderson urged a crack-down on all subversive organizations. He particularly attacked Peacemakers and the Self Help Housing Co-operative, two of whose officials are already in jail for refusing to register for the draft.

Reverend Johnson pronounced the Benediction.

—D. D.

ALTERNATIVE

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