

SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

VOL II
NO. 3



BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS
FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTION · SESPA OCT. 1970

WHAT HAPPENED ? ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In August Vol.II,#2 of *SESPA Newsletter* became *SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE* "scheduled to be issued the second week of the even-numbered months." About 5000 copies have now been distributed and the response is most encouraging. In our mail are many statements of support and requests for additional copies. Money is beginning to come in but there is a long way to go.

When the first issue in the new format was mailed out four weeks late we weren't terribly upset. We were proud of the magazine, we'd learned a lot and the next issue would be easier. But we didn't reckon with vacations and we didn't reckon with fatigue. The fatigue came in three colors: emotional, physical and financial. All of us are full-time working scientists and all our funds come from you or our own pockets. 5000 copies of one issue of *SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE* takes about 400-500 person hours and about \$1000 cash. We do feel confident that we'll get out of the red, that more people throughout the country will be contributing articles and that the editorial function will become better organized. The question has been, when? and would we be able to survive till then?

Since we think continuity is more important than going out in a blaze of glory we've taken one step backward in order to take two steps forward. The October collective stopped working on a full-fledged, type-set, two-color, 20-page issue of *SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE* and shifted much of its resources to the December collective who had begun working on an issue scheduled to come out in time for the actions at the AAA\$ in Chicago after Xmas.

A much reduced October collective brings you this interim issue. But we are not selling it, just marking it free for the membership. In addition to our concern that you might think we had vaporized if you didn't get some kind of October issue, we felt it essential that you be informed about the legislative attempt at repression of scientists and technical workers and about the planned actions at Chicago.

SESPA is growing and judging from the letters we receive *SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE* is responding to a real need among scientists and engineers. We feel reassured in our efforts by the letters of those who want to organize in their work place or school. Those who send money make this work possible and those who send articles make the magazine more relevant to more people -- those are some of the ways you can help. Let us hear from you.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE*

AND MEMBERSHIP IN SESPA

SESPA is defined by its activities. People who participate in the (mostly local) activities consider themselves members. Of course, there are people who through a variety of circumstances are not in a position to be active but who would like to maintain contact. They also consider themselves members.

The magazine keeps us all in touch. It encourages people who may be isolated, presents examples of activities that are useful to local groups, brings issues and information to the attention of the readers, presents analytical articles and offers a forum for discussion. Hence it is a vital activity of SESPA. It is also the only regular national activity.

We need to know who the members are in order to continue to send *SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE* to them. Please supply the following information:

1. I am a member

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Occupation:

(if student or unemployed please indicate)

If you are working, do you work in industry [],
government [], university [], other _____

2. Local SESPA chapter or other group in which I'm active:
3. I am enclosing money according to the following scheme: (a) regular membership -- \$10, (b) indigent membership -- less than \$10, (c) affluent or sacrifice membership -- more than \$10, (d) completely impoverished -- nothing
4. I will sell _____ magazines. This can be done on consignment to bookstores and newsstands, to your colleagues, at meetings. (If you want to give some away free because you are organizing and you can't pay for them let us know)

Please add any comments on the magazine or SESPA or your own circumstances. We welcome criticism, advice, and we'd like to get to know you.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION THREATENS TO SILENCE SCIENTISTS

*In Germany, they came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.*

*Then they came for me—
and by that time no one was left to speak up.*

Pastor Martin Niemoller

The Defense Facilities and Industrial Securities Act of 1970 now pending in the Senate would require security clearance for workers in, "any plant, factory, industry, public utility, mine, laboratory, educational institution, research organization, railroad, airport, pier, waterfront installation, canal, dam bridge, highway, vessel, aircraft, vehicle and pipeline." Workers are denied employment if they have committed, "any act . . . which effects any plan, policy, recommendation, directive, tactic, or strategy of any communist, Marxist, Leninist, revolutionary socialist, anarchist, nihilist, Nazi, fascist, or any other organization which has its purpose the destruction of the constitutional form of government of the United States by any means deemed necessary to that end." Rep. Louis Stokes, House Leader of the opposition to the bill points out that, "The range of activity which, under this definition, would constitute an act of subversion is boundless."

A campaign against the bill has been launched by thirty petition signers whom the *Falmouth Enterprise* describes as "a distinguished cross-section of the Woods Hole scientific community." Including ". . . three former scientific advisors to Presidents of the United States and three Nobel Prize winners."

In a letter soliciting signatories to the protest petition (to be returned to Professor Walter S. Vincent, Box 145, Woods Hole, Mass. 02543), the thirty "distinguished scientists" point out: "Among the dangers to liberty in this measure is the denial of recourse to the courts until administrative procedures are exhausted. There is no provision either for full disclosure of charges or for cross-examination of adverse witnesses; it also denies the right of individuals against self-incrimination." A most revealing comment on the attitude of liberal establishment scientists to this attack is in an editorial in *Science* (2/27/70): "This bill could have a decisive effect on the employment or prospects of employment of many people and an equally adverse impact on the *careers* of people who might be denied access to research information or research facilities." [our italics]

Of course every scientific and technological worker (and everyone else) should oppose this bill, but these "distinguished scientists" should also try and transcend the element of self-interest and protection of special privilege that is evident in their response. After years of holding security clearances and sitting on government councils, they feel threatened. The broken lives of victims of the last two decades of 'industrial defense security' did not seem to trouble them. The daily brutalization of black Americans seemed so remote. Now that their privileges are threatened, will they learn that there is but one struggle, one repression?

The best defense against this and other repressive acts the Government may attempt in order to stop the growing struggle for a just and humane society is to increase the awareness of all Americans and to persistently state and pursue with meaningful action criticism of the present system that rationally pursues irrational ends. Large numbers of scientific workers must actively oppose the policies of the Government; then such legislation as HR14864 will have less chance of passage. When they threaten us with prosecution for "conspiring to cross state lines to incite to riot," we must cross state lines to incite people to criticize criminal government in word and deed. When they threaten our jobs if we speak out, we must speak out.

If every signatory of the statement denies his present security clearance and calls on his colleagues and students to do the same, the insidiousness of the thought control act would be best exposed. That is the difference between a forceful call for redress of grievances and a timorous supplication. And the historical lesson of fascism is that timorous supplications are only interpreted as weaknesses.

To recognize that the various repressive acts of the Government against different groups are all part of one reaction of a moribund system against fundamental change, is to avoid being divided and conquered. "Distinguished scientists" should speak not just to save their threatened privileges, but for everyone's threatened rights. They should understand and speak of the relationship of today's attack on them to yesterday's attack on others, to every day's attack on our black brothers.

To put into practice the idea of a coordinated, mutually informing struggle, scientists should call meetings at which blacks, students, chicanos, and other victims of repression could show the relationship of their repression to this new threat to the scientists and technologists. In every statement against the bill, scientists and other technical workers should include expression of support for liberation struggles. It is the Government that is isolated; but to demonstrate that, we must unite. H. F.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Political action is being organized for the December meeting of the AAA\$ to be held between Xmas and New Year's at the Conrad Hilton, Sheraton-Blackstone and Pick-Congress Hotels in Chicago.

*Chicago coordinating is in the hands of the

Science Organizing Committee (SOC)
c/o Larry Lambert
Department of Physics
Chicago University
5801 South Ellis Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
(312) N07-4700

Proposals for actions, leaflets, guerrilla theatre, counter meetings, petitions, de-tours, etc. should be communicated to them as also should housing needs, local equipment needs (mimeo, projectors, etc.).

*Local groups should examine program of meeting (available on pages 1348-1353 of the September 25 issue of *Science* magazine—also see pages 101-103 of October 2 issue) and work up activities.

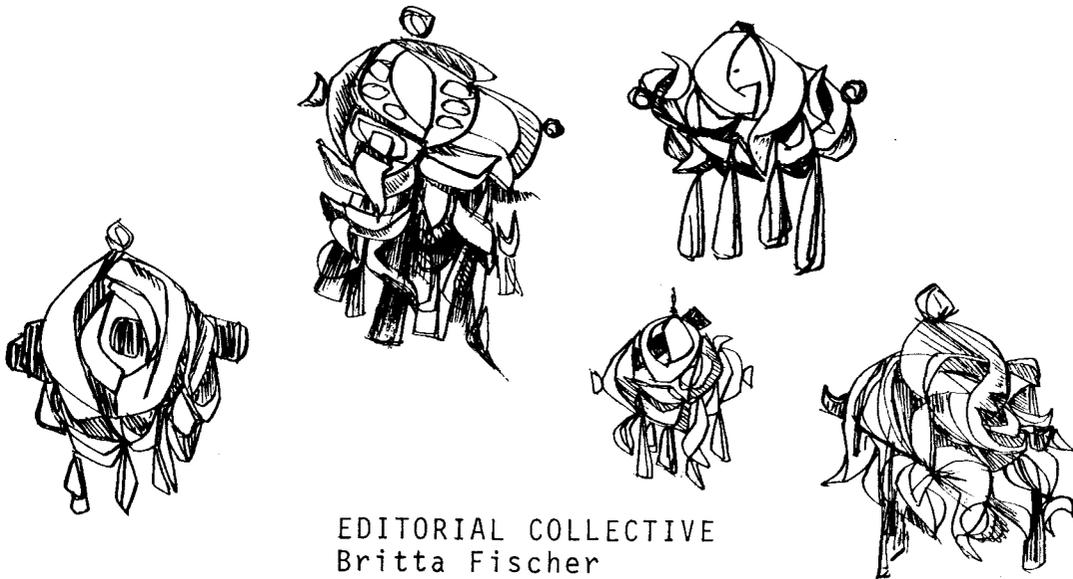
*December issue of *Science for the People* will be keyed to AAA\$ meeting. Critical articles should be submitted soon to *Science for the People*, December Collective, Box 59, Arlington Heights 02175.

*A national Radical Scientists Meeting to plan political and social action and to exchange experiences is proposed for the last day of AAA\$ conference. Send in your suggestions and proposals to SOC.

*Packets of demonstration material from last year's AAA\$ actions are available from Boston SESPA, AAA\$ Action '70 Collective, Box 59, Arlington Heights 02175.

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