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# VICTOR RIESEL: INSIDE LABOR

## Answer to Red Guerrillas

WAVERLY, Iowa:—There are dedicated men in this small Midwest city who have developed a counter-insurgency strategy which may yet frustrate Peking and Havana guerrillas in the jungles of the world. For this is the home town of "Self-Help, Inc." into which pour the energies of a few who wearied of asking futilely, "What can we do about it?" and decided simply to "do it."

Actually this story begins back in 1935 when the Chinese Communists were on their retreat into the isolated northwest area of the mainland. They stopped long enough to choose Mao Tse-tung as their leader at the Tsun-yi conference.

Mao became Party leader with an independent strategic concept—the concept of rural guerrilla warfare which is now shaking the world. It is based on winning the support of the impoverished populace in the open fields and tangled jungles.

Here in Waverly some men are working and in undeserved obscurity to frustrate that master strategy.

Self-Help's program is elementary:

Take small, outdated machinery which is lying around and rusting in disuse on a thousand American farms. Then rebuild the equipment and send it to the underdeveloped communities of the world—not as a gift but for a price, no matter how small.

There is, for example, the "thresher that flew" to the remote jungle area of Macuma in Ecuador. Americans attempting to help the Jivaro Indians saw immediately that to maintain their strength the jungle people needed protein which could be supplied by soy beans. Since this crop had to be harvested quickly in order to get the beans in before the rainy season, the Indians needed a big threshing machine.

But the two Americans amongst them learned of Self-Help. They flashed a request for a combine (thresher). Self-Help found an old one, refurbished it, replaced old, worn parts with new ones, painted it, crated it and dispatched it to New Orleans. Then it went by boat to Guayaquil, Ecuador. From this port it was hauled by borrowed truck over the Andes to the end of the jungle road, where it was dismantled and recreated so it could fit into a Cessna-130 plane and be flown to an emergency airstrip in the midst of the forest. There the two Americans reassembled it.

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