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# Marx & the Outlaws: Recruiting in the ghetto

by Howard Blum

Gang youths in Brooklyn are joining a new gang, a political organization run by a 52-year-old white Marxist who worries more about brainwashing and Nelson Rockefeller than zip-guns and the corner cop.

The National Caucus of Labor Committees, a predominantly white Marxist group, has been actively and successfully recruiting members from the Outlaws, a black youth gang police describe as "the largest gang in Bedford-Stuyvesant."

The Labor Committee in the past year has contributed \$16,350 bail money to free Outlaws arrested on charges ranging from robbery to attempted murder, has transported groups of Outlaws to other states for "organizing purposes," has conducted classes for the Outlaws in subjects as diverse as Beethoven and political philosophy, and—according to a confidential investigation presently being conducted by the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms bureau—has allegedly provided the Outlaws with guns.

A shotgun found by police in an Outlaw clubhouse has been traced by federal authorities to a store in Newark, New Jersey, where it was originally purchased by a female former student at Rutgers who has been identified as a member of the Labor Committee now living in Washington Heights, according to police sources in Brooklyn.

"We have an on-going investigation concerning the Labor Committee and certain of their members suspected of federal gun control violations," said Michael La Perch, Special Agent in charge of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms New York District. However, Mr. La Perch would neither confirm nor deny the specifics of the investigation.

Isiah Scott, the Labor Committee's chief organizer in Brooklyn and a former Rutgers student, denied that the group has distributed guns to the Outlaws. "It's the police and the CIA who are distributing the guns in the ghetto," said Scott. "It's part of the Rockefeller plan to have blacks shoot blacks and cause riots in the ghetto."

Caught in the middle of the federal investigation and the Labor

Committee counter-charges is Bruce Foster, 21, who identifies himself as "Godfather" of the Outlaws and as a "Revolutionary Youth Movement (a political arm of the Labor Committee) organizer."

"Since I joined RYM in January the police have come down hard, telling me to stay away from those white Communists," said Foster, also known as Tea. Tea is presently free on \$5000 bail raised by the Labor Committee after he was charged along with four other Outlaws with the attempted murder of a police officer. In addition to the murder charge, Tea has been arrested twice since January for robbery charges that were later dismissed.

The Labor Committee contends that while Tea was imprisoned on Rikers Island for a week in April before bail was raised for his attempted murder charge, Tea was brainwashed by the "covert arm of the CIA, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration."

Tea's court-appointed attorney, Paul Fink, says Tea was visited in jail on two occasions by Agent Gunner Erikson of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms bureau and shown pictures of Labor Committee members. Yet Fink describes the charges of brainwashing as "100 per cent false."

Fink insists, however, "that in all fairness something is going on regarding Bruce Foster." Fink has noted what he terms "irregularities" in the charges against Bruce Foster and argues "once is a mistake, but twice is something else," referring to the two dismissed robbery charges.

Tea, himself, is "not certain" he has been brainwashed. He admits that since his questioning by Agent Erikson he is "afraid to go to the RYM office in Manhattan." "My friends tell me I act different since Rikers. Maybe something did happen," explains Tea.

Without Tea's active participation, the Outlaw commitment to the Labor Committee has weakened. Prior to Tea's arrest in April for attempted murder, 30 Outlaws and seven Outlaw women were attending RYM lectures, according to Tea.

Yet despite Tea's present personal fear of further involvement with the Labor Committee, he said in a recent interview, "If RYM is ever ready to fight the government and pick up guns, the Outlaws will be right behind them."

recruitment of the last July when Richard Scott, a RYM organizer meeting between So Muhammad, a leader Richard X is present homicide.

At this initial meeting invitation was extended to Outlaws to attend Committee meetings. It was not long accompanied by him was making regular Labor Committee he 29th Street and spending members on the Up

Isiah Scott was assigned by RYM to work full-time at organizing the Outlaws.

By last fall, Lyn Marcus, the Labor Committee's 52-year-old leader and theoretician, after consulting with RYM field workers in Brooklyn had developed an analysis of "CIA gang strategy" that has become gospel to the Committee's more than 1000 doctrinaire members.

Lyn Marcus's theory of alleged CIA gang strategy, which he dubbed "Operation Nuremberg," is basically this:

Youth gangs are being cajoled or coerced into accepting treaties and forming large groups. Government agents in the ghetto are inciting these large gang formations for "revolutionary guerrilla war against all whites." Then, "the CIA intends to foment race war in major urban areas and under the hysterical cry for law and order, call in military or semi-military (LEAA) forces to control the country."

"To understand Brooklyn, you have to understand the entire international pattern," explains Allan Salisbury, head of RYM. The Labor Committee has incorporated its analysis of the Brooklyn youth gang situation into its own particular world view, a world view where Nelson Rockefeller manipulates international politics through oil shortages, Henry Kissinger, the SLA, and now youth gangs. The Labor Party contends that just as it believes the SLA and the BLA are Rockefeller- and CIA-controlled organizations formed to undermine public confidence through terrorist situations, so are youth gangs similarly "brainwashed Rockefeller agents."

The Labor Committee, though originally formed seven years ago from elements of Students for a dramatically different analysis of the role of blacks in radical politics

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(NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES)

Scott, Isiah  
MARCUS, Lyn  
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Salisbury. There is none of the "politics of guilt" that Staughton Lynd criticized in the middle-class SDS attitudes toward ghetto blacks in Labor Committee theories. In fact, ghetto blacks are the subject of brutal and often mocking harangues by both black and white Labor Committee leaders.

The problem with gang kids is the agony of transition from jungle bunnies to self-conscious class leaders," explains Tony Curry, a white Committee member. Lyn Marcus at a weekly Labor Committee mass meeting criticized the "turf-honcho mentality and compensatory reaction of ghetto youths where the only way you relieve boredom if you're black is to dig up a couple of women." And Allan Salisbury, the black RYM leader, lectured at a recent national conference, "Something has got to be wrong in the ghetto when kids walk around in red suits and pink high-heeled shoes . . . and spend their time practicing the jungle boogie so they can be the baddest boogie in the jungle. They look like they're masturbating in public. I tell these kids I don't want to talk to them until they're human."

When Tea officially joined RYM in January, other members of the Outlaws began regularly attending Labor Committee meetings and classes in Manhattan. The Committee arranged "organizing trips" for the Outlaws. Three carloads of Outlaws were driven to a rally at Warren High School in Hartford, Connecticut, and Tea, along with other Outlaws, has made weekend trips to Philadelphia and New Haven, trips paid for by the Labor Committee.

The Outlaw involvement with the Labor Committee has not gone