

HUMAN RIGHTS NOW!



Newsletter of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute

SUMMER 2003

AN EXCESS PROFITS TAX ON ALL WAR CONTRACTS IS IN THE WORKS!

May 19: South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council passed resolution introduced by Fred Hirsch (California State Pipe Trades Council) calling on Congress to pass a 100% tax on all excess profits from Iraq war and rebuilding contracts.

May 20: Oakland City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass an Excess Profits Tax on all war-time/post-war contracts, similar to taxes in World Wars One and Two and the Korean War.

The Berkeley City Council passed the first Excess Profits Tax resolution on April 8th, based on research and a draft by MCLI. Congressmember Barbara Lee was the first Congress member to announce her support for this tax.

At the Oakland City Council, MCLI Board Member Victoria Ashley testified about the need to rein in the profiteering from war of corporations like Halliburton. She spoke for Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee.

"The Excess Profits tax brought in 23% of U.S. Government revenue one year in WW 2," Ann Fagan Ginger told the Council, speaking as Executive Director of MCLI, "and Oakland needs taxes from big corporations to supplement city funding for schools, libraries, public health, etc."

A Korean War Vet for the Tax

John Shively spoke as an engineer who is a veteran of the Korean War. He said, "I remember when Pres. Eisenhower terminated the excess profits tax at the end of that war. I also remember what happened to the American economy after the tax was terminated. The country went into a recession." Corporations had been trying "to minimize their excess profits tax expenses by reinvesting in their companies to upgrade their production facilities and make capital improvements and research and development, putting money all back into America. After the tax, they pocketed the excess profits."

Vice Mayor Nancy Nadel introduced the resolution, which is to be sent to every California Congress member, to the U.S. Department of

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COME & TALK & EAT & DRINK & TALK WITH MEIKLEJOHN!

Nancy Hormachea, of Berkeley, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, and places in between, will greet all friends of MCLI at her home on Sat., June 21st. (See page 12)

Meet with the MCLI interns who are hard at work on the PATRIOT Act. Everyone who cares about peace, the environment, democratic government, human rights and economic rights -- the new UN pentagon -- is invited to come and share their thoughts and experiences, including Oakland's Vice Mayor Nancy Nadel (on the Excess Profits Tax resolution), Berkeley Council member Kriss Worthington (on several issues), ILWU's Clarence Thomas, Aimee Allison (on the new Conscientious Objectors), Prothap Chatterjee on Pacifica, and ...

We can't cover everything, but we certainly can try! We will talk about the future of MCLI. And there will be music.

So put us on your calendar ... ask a friend ...and see us there! Call if you can help!

PATRIOT ACT INTERNS HARD AT WORK

Exactly what is illegal in the Patriot Act? The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act? The Homeland Security Department Act? Several Executive Orders, FBI and Attorney General's Directives?

Exactly what sections of the U.S. Constitution do they violate? Do they also violate the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights; the Convention Against Torture & other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or

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When Democracy Failed: The Warnings of History

by Thom Hartmann

Published on Sunday, March 16, 2003 by CommonDreams.org

The 70th anniversary wasn't noticed in the United States, and was barely reported in the corporate media. But **the Germans remembered well that fateful day seventy years ago -- February 27, 1933**. They commemorated the anniversary by joining in demonstrations for peace that mobilized citizens all across the world.

It started when the government, in the midst of a worldwide economic crisis, received reports of an imminent terrorist attack. A foreign ideologue had launched feeble attacks on a few famous buildings, but the media largely ignored his relatively small efforts. The intelligence services knew, however, that the odds were he would eventually succeed...

But the warnings were ignored at the highest levels, in part because the government was distracted; the man who claimed to be the nation's leader had **not been elected by a majority vote** and the majority of citizens claimed he had no right to the powers he coveted. He was a simpleton, some said, a cartoon character of a man who saw things in black-and-white terms and didn't have the intellect to understand the subtleties of running a nation in a complex and internationalist world. His coarse use of language -- reflecting his political roots in a southernmost state -- and his simplistic and often-inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric offended the aristocrats, foreign leaders, and the well-educated elite in the government and media. And, as a young man, he'd joined a secret society with an occult-sounding name and bizarre initiation rituals that involved skulls and human bones.

Nonetheless, he knew the terrorist was going to strike (although he didn't know where or when), and he had already considered his response. When an aide brought him word that the nation's most prestigious building was ablaze, he verified it was the terrorist who had struck and then rushed to the scene and called a press conference.

...He used the occasion -- "a sign from God," he called it -- to declare an all-out war on terrorism and its ideological sponsors, a people, he said, who traced their origins to the Middle East and found motivation for their evil deeds in their religion.

Two weeks later, the first detention center for terrorists was built in Oranianberg to hold the first suspected allies of the infamous terrorist. In a national outburst of patriotism, the leader's flag was everywhere, even printed large in newspapers suitable for window display.

Within four weeks, the nation's now-popular leader had pushed through legislation ... that suspended constitutional guarantees of free **speech, privacy, and habeas corpus**. Police could now intercept mail and wiretap phones; suspected terrorists could be imprisoned without specific charges and without access to their lawyers; police could sneak into people's homes without warrants if the cases involved terrorism.

To get his patriotic "Decree on the Protection of People and State" passed over the objections of concerned legislators and civil libertarians, he agreed to put a 4-year sunset provision on it if the national emergency provoked by the terrorist attack was over by then ... Legislators would later say they hadn't had time to read the bill before voting on it.

Immediately after passage, his federal police agencies stepped up their program of arresting suspicious persons and holding them without access to lawyers or courts. In the first year only a few hundred were interned, and those who objected were largely ignored by the mainstream press, which was afraid to offend and thus lose access to a leader with such high popularity ratings. Citizens who protested the leader in public -- and there were many -- quickly found themselves confronting the newly empowered police's batons, gas, and jail cells, or fenced off in protest zones safely out of earshot of the leader's public speeches. (In the meantime, he was taking almost daily lessons in public speaking, learning to control his tonality, gestures, and facial expressions. He became a very competent orator.)

... He brought a formerly obscure word into common usage. He wanted to stir a "racial pride"

HUMAN RIGHTS NOW! Jim Syfers, Editor

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among his countrymen, so, instead of referring to the nation by its name, he began to refer to it as "**The Homeland**" ... As hoped, people's hearts swelled with pride, and the beginning of an us-versus-them mentality was sown. Our land was "the" homeland, citizens thought: all others were simply foreign lands. We are the "true people," he suggested, the only ones worthy of our nation's concern; if bombs fall on others, or human rights are violated in other nations and it makes our lives better, it's of little concern to us.

Playing on this new nationalism, and exploiting a disagreement with the French over his increasing militarism, he argued that any international body that didn't act first and foremost in the best interest of his own nation was neither relevant nor useful. He thus withdrew his country from the League Of Nations in October, 1933, and then negotiated a separate naval armaments agreement with Anthony Eden of The United Kingdom to create a worldwide military ruling elite.

His propaganda minister orchestrated a campaign to ensure the people that he was a deeply religious man and that **his motivations were rooted in Christianity**. He even proclaimed the need for a revival of the Christian faith across his nation, what he called a "New Christianity." Every man in his rapidly growing army wore a belt buckle that declared "Gott Mit Uns" -- God Is With Us -- and most of them fervently believed it was true.

Within a year of the terrorist attack, the nation's leader determined that the various local police and federal agencies around the nation were lacking the clear communication and overall coordinated administration necessary to deal with the terrorist threat ... He proposed a single new national agency to protect the security of the homeland, consolidating the actions of dozens of previously independent police, border, and investigative agencies under a single leader.

He appointed one of his most trusted associates to be leader of this new agency, the Central Security Office for the homeland, and gave it a role in the government equal to the other major departments.

His assistant who dealt with the press noted that, since the terrorist attack, "Radio and press are at our disposal." Those voices questioning the legitimacy of their nation's leader, or raising questions about his checkered past, had by now faded from the public's recollection as his central security office began advertising a program encouraging people to phone in tips about suspicious neighbors. This program was so successful that the names of some of the people "denounced" were soon being broadcast on radio stations. Those denounced often included opposition politicians and celebrities who dared speak out -- a favorite target of his regime and the media he now controlled through intimidation and ownership by corporate allies.

To consolidate his power, he concluded that government alone wasn't enough. He reached out to industry and forged an alliance, bringing former executives of the nation's largest corporations into high government positions. A flood of government money poured into corporate coffers to fight the war against the Middle Eastern ancestry terrorists lurking within the homeland, and to prepare for wars overseas. He encouraged large corporations friendly to him to acquire media outlets and other industrial concerns across the nation, particularly those previously owned by suspicious people of Middle Eastern ancestry. He built **powerful alliances with industry**; one corporate ally got the lucrative contract worth millions to build the first large-scale detention center for enemies of the state. Soon more would follow. Industry flourished.

But after an interval of peace following the terrorist attack, voices of dissent again arose within and without the government. Students had started an active program opposing him (later known as the White Rose Society), and leaders of nearby nations were speaking out against his bellicose rhetoric. He needed something to direct people away from the corporate cronyism being exposed in his own government ...

With his number two man -- a master at manipulating the media -- he began a campaign to convince the people of the nation that a small, limited war was necessary. Another nation was harboring many of the suspicious Middle Eastern people, and even though its connection with the terrorist who had set afire the nation's most important building was tenuous at best, it held resources their nation badly needed if they were to have room to live and maintain their prosperity. He called a press conference and publicly delivered an ultimatum to the leader of the other nation, provoking an international uproar. He claimed the right to strike preemptively in self-defense, and nations across Europe -- at first -- denounced him for it, pointing out that it was a doctrine only claimed in the past by nations seeking worldwide empire, like Caesar's Rome or Alexander's Greece.

It took a few months, and intense international debate and lobbying with European nations, but, after he personally met with the leader of the United Kingdom, finally a deal was struck. After the military action began, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain told the nerv-

ous British people that giving in to this leader's new first-strike doctrine would bring "peace for our time." Thus Hitler annexed Austria in a lightning move, and German corporations began to take over Austrian resources under a new leadership friendly to Germany.

In a speech responding to critics of the invasion, Hitler said, "Certain foreign newspapers have said that we fell on Austria with brutal methods. I can only say; even in death they cannot stop lying. I have in the course of my political struggle won much love from my people, but when I crossed the former frontier [into Austria] there met me such a stream of love as I have never experienced. **Not as tyrants have we come, but as liberators.**"

To deal with those who dissented from his policies, ... he and his handmaidens in the press began a campaign to equate him and his policies with patriotism and the nation itself ... And so his advocates in the media began a nationwide campaign charging that critics of his policies were attacking the nation itself. Those questioning him were labeled as "not good Germans," and it was suggested they were aiding the enemies of the state by failing in the patriotic necessity of supporting the nation's valiant men in uniform. It was one of his most effective ways to stifle dissent and pit wage-earning people (from whom most of the army came) against the "intellectuals and liberals" who were critical of his policies.

Nonetheless, once the "small war" annexation of Austria was successfully and quickly completed, and peace returned, voices of opposition were again raised in the Homeland. The almost-daily release of news bulletins about the dangers of terrorist communist cells wasn't enough to rouse the populace and totally suppress dissent. A full-out war was necessary to divert public attention from the growing rumbles within the country about disappearing dissidents; violence against liberals, Jews, and union leaders; and the epidemic of crony capitalism that was producing empires of wealth in the corporate sector but threatening the middle class's way of life.

A year later, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia; the nation was now fully at war, and all internal dissent was suppressed in the name of national security. It was the end of Germany's first experiment with democracy.

As we conclude this review of history, there are a few milestones worth remembering.

February 27, 2003, was the 70th anniversary of Dutch terrorist Marinus van der Lubbe's successful firebombing of the German Parliament (Reichstag) building, the terrorist act that catapulted Hitler to legitimacy and reshaped the German constitution. By the time of his successful and brief action to seize Austria, in which almost no German blood was shed, Hitler was the most beloved and popular leader in the history of his nation. Hailed around the world, he was later Time magazine's "Man Of The Year."

Most Americans remember his office for the security of the homeland, known simply by its most famous agency's initials: the **SS**.

The Germans developed a new form of highly violent warfare they named "lightning war" or blitzkrieg, which, while generating devastating civilian losses, also produced a highly desirable "shock and awe" among the nation's leadership according to the 1996 book "Shock And Awe" (National Defense University Press).

The American Heritage Dictionary left us this definition of the German form of government ...: "**fas-cism** (fash'iz'em) n. "A system of government that exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, typically through the merging of state and business leadership, together with belligerent nationalism."

Today, as we face financial and political crises, it's useful to remember that the ravages of the Great Depression hit Germany and the United States alike. Through the 1930s, however, Hitler and Roosevelt chose very different courses to bring their nations back to power and prosperity.

Germany's response was to use government to empower corporations and reward the society's richest individuals, privatize much of the commons, stifle dissent, strip people of constitutional rights, and create an **illusion of prosperity through continual and ever-expanding war**. America passed minimum wage laws to raise the middle class, enforced anti-trust laws to diminish the power of corporations, increased taxes on corporations and the wealthiest individuals, created Social Security, and became the employer of last resort through programs to build national infrastructure, promote the arts, and replant forests.

To the extent that our Constitution is still intact, the choice is again ours.

Thom Hartmann lived and worked in Germany during the 1980s, and is the author of over a dozen books, including "Unequal Protection" and "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight." This article is copyright by Thom Hartmann, but permission is granted for reprint in print, email, blog, or web media so long as this credit is attached.

REPARATIONS: An African American Movement

Faulkner said, "The past is not dead. It isn't even past". Many issues that loom large historically, such as reparations for African Americans to repair the damage left by the slave legacy, are in that category.

General Sherman first enunciated the reparations proposal for '40 Acres and a Mule' for freed Blacks at the end of the American Civil War, 1865. It was implemented as part of the federal reconstruction program, then attacked more quickly than the equal opportunity/ affirmative action programs of the late 20th century. Post-civil war politics quickly shifted government emphasis from emancipation and reconstruction to reconciliation exclusively. Three months after the Civil War there was no 40 acres and no mule. Twelve years later there was no Reconstruction program, no other recompense. This was fatal to most African Americans' ability to build their own future or to contribute to the nation's re-creation.

The Present Reparations Movement

Several circumstances aid the present reparations movement. They include the recovery of historical records of African Americans' experiences in the U.S., the international recognition and use of reparations as a remedy for injustice, the actions of the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), the individual acts, resolutions and laws passed by parts of the secular and faith communities and the energy and interest of a new generation. After an extended work period the difficult WCAR Conference reached final agreement on the Declaration and Platform of Action. Legal and moral wrongs committed and "crimes against humanity" were defined. The UN documents name perpetrators, identify victims, describe acts -- kidnapping, deportation, slave trading, forced free labor, enforced breeding, land theft, separation of families, torture, repression of language, culture and identity, apartheid, and murder -- and harm done. The final documents recommend remedies. Reparations are included among remedies.

The historical record shows that many ethnic, national and international groups have sought and received reparations from governments: New Zealand Maoris, Asian comfort women, Japanese Americans,

German Jews, Australian Aborigines, Canadian Inuits, Kuwaiti nationals, African American survivors of the Roseville, FL race riot and South African Blacks, as well as the survivors of the 9/11 attack are among them.

The Legal Questions

Was harm done? Was government responsible? Does the group still suffer harm (economic, humiliation, etc.)? Can government take action to address the harm?

These questions for the slave and Jim Crow period are: What responsibility does the U.S. government have for counting 3/5 of Africans in determining seats in Congress in the U.S. Constitution while not permitting slaves to vote? Or in setting 4 million Blacks, 19% of the U.S. population, free without money, property or education? Were states functioning as collective slave masters through state-enacted Black Codes and Jim Crow laws that created a peonage system? Is the U.S. Agriculture Department guilty of illegally denying government loans to 24,000 Black farming families?

Author Randall Robinson says the answers are all "Yes, a debt is owed". (*The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks* [2000]) Multiple approaches, education, legislation and litigation are underway to collect the debt. Charles Ogletree, Harvard Law Professor, has led a group of lawyers, scholars and artists to launch a series of class action law suits. He says this movement will make the United States better by generating a national debate about the significance of slavery to this nation's development. The NAACP, national sororities, fraternities, civic and other social-action non-governmental organizations are supporting the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA), in a united effort to educate and organize for individual and collective justice. Conferences, NCOBRA June 20-22, 2003 in Dallas, and National Reparations Congress May 25, 2003 in New York, and local town meetings are being held in major cities to further this process.

Who should be sued?

Who should be sued? Is it the federal government where sovereign immunity is a barrier? Can attainder be the focus since the Constitutional ban throws a shadow on action that punishes a group whose members

or descendants were not participants? Is statutory culpability relevant since the statutes that legalized slavery and segregation were state, not federal law? All avenues will be explored.

Corporations currently targeted include J. P. Morgan, Chase & Company, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Holdings, Inc., Fleet Boston, Hartford and Aetna Insurance Companies, CSX Railroads, Dartmouth, Brown and Georgetown Universities.

Actions by Governments

The Chicago City Council calls for federal payment of reparations. California requires insurance companies doing business in the State to investigate and report past benefits gained by activities involving slavery. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting H.R. 40, Congressman John Conyer's Bill to "establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes." And the Los Angeles City Council just voted to require any corporation doing business with the County to disclose whether it benefited from slavery.

Some African Americans Differ

African Americans' positions on reparations are not monolithic, however. Shelby Steele, Fellow of the Hoover Institute, makes a case against affirmative action, a form of reparations created during the 1970s, the Civil Rights era. He says it is social engineering by means of quotas, goals and timetables. This is a form of preferential treatment, to which he objects. (*The Content of Our Character* [1990]) John McWhorter, author of *Losing The Race: Self Sabotage in Black America* and Linguistics Professor at U.C. Berkeley is among a few other African Americans who publicly oppose the reparations movement. He joins David Horowitz*, Jewish author of *Uncivil War: The Controversy over Reparations* and former radical leftist, now radical conservative, to take issue with the African American fight for reparations. They maintain those who fought and lost their lives during the Civil War have paid the debt. AFDC payments made to Black families, affirmative action and set aside programs are also named as debt payments.

Support for Reparations

The Unitarian Universalist Association, the Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, Episcopalians and Presbyterians are among U.S. protestant denominations that have passed resolutions supporting reparations. The Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, an interfaith coalition, responded to the race riot that destroyed the city's African American neighborhood in 1921 by initiating reparations payments in 2001 to 131 survivors of the riot.

African Americans share many of the values, some of the hopes and expectations of most U.S. citizens. Activists in the reparations movement accept this as a long-term effort and are aware of competing agendas. Of immediate and urgent concern are our nation's change of character since 9/11, the fragility of U.S. international relationships, the failing economy, compromised civil liberties, degradation of environmental protection and budget cuts that impact the quality of life.

It is also accepted that support for the reparations movement will advance African Americans' commitment to make, for all people, a better nation and a better world. This is worth doing.

**by Dorothy Smith Patterson
MCLI Board member in MCLI
delegation to WCAR**

Excess Profits Tax, cont. from page 1

Defense, Pres. Bush and to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Ginger reported enthusiastic response to proposal of an excess profits tax from Ward Morehouse and National Lawyers Guild corporate accountability project, from folks at the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, the UU Service Committee in Boston. "And audiences smile or clap at the many meetings I have been addressing since March 15th, when I began handing out MCLI flyers at peace rallies."

To get involved, order MCLI's flyer, (on Order Form, p. 11), or ask for copy of particular resolution. Invite MCLI to send a speaker to your organization, council, etc. Call MCLI for notice of July speaker training session.

THE ANTITRUST ANGLE

In the age of high-profile corporate misconduct it is easy to forget that corporations commit illegal acts beyond accounting frauds that cheat the public. Certain corporations also directly defraud consumers by committing antitrust violations:

- price-fixing
- bid rigging
- allocating customers or markets
- boycotts and exclusions that prevent competition from entering a market
- using a monopoly in one market to secure a monopoly in another market
- tying arrangements in which a consumer of a particular product is forced to buy a second product/service not desired or necessary.

Many law firms are involved in bringing suits on behalf of plaintiffs who have been victims of corporate securities fraud in bringing suits against corporations that violate antitrust laws. My firm is quite busy now! We have sued corporations that have illegally restrained competition in everything from prescription drugs to the ingredients for animal feed, and we have been quite successful in recovering money for those injured.

Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890

There are both federal and state antitrust laws by which a person might sue a corporation one believes to be fixing prices or monopolizing a market. The Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1, provides: "Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal." § 2: "Every person who shall monopolize, or attempt to monopolize, or combine or conspire with any other ... persons, to monopolize any part of trade or commerce ... shall be deemed guilty of a felony."

California's Cartwright Act specifically prohibits: two or more persons acting together to: restrict trade or commerce; reduce the production of any merchandise, produce or commodity; prevent competition in manufacturing, transportation, sale or purchase of any merchandise; increase or fix the price of any merchandise, or to enter into a combination or contract to do any of the same. California Business & Professions Code § 16720.

Similar laws exist in each state. There are multiple tools to deal with corporate fraud, and anti-trust laws should not be forgotten.

by **Elizabeth Guarnieri**
MCLI Board member,
with Berman DeValerio Pease
Tabacco Burt & Pucillo

Interns / PATRIOT Act, cont. from p. 1

Punishment (CAT); and the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)?

And precisely who has been targeted? Whose rights have been denied? By what agency? For how long? And who is trying to stop all this? Are they winning or losing, or just holding on?

Law students Kevin Cunningham and Rebecca Tennant from Golden Gate, Rupneet Sidhu from Hastings, and Jenna Steele from University of San Francisco will work at MCLI. Jennifer Van Bergen will email from Florida and Mark Petr from Albany, NY. They will build on work being done by many others in courts and on stories in the media and e-mails.

The interns will end up with a report to submit to the U.S. Secretary of State that he could use in preparing the reports the U.S. owes to the three UN human rights reporting committees under the treaties. And they will send their findings to the three UN committees in Geneva to use in their realistic appraisal of problems the U.S. administration is creating for itself in the new laws and rules since 9-11.

The interns' work will go into a book for U.S. activists and lawyers – all finished this summer!

"If MCLI had not undertaken similar impossible tasks with interns in the past, we would not be so foolish as to think we could accomplish this goal in three months in 2003! But MCLI's latest, **How To Use 'New' Civil Rights Laws after 9-11**, was prepared by interns in summer '02 and is selling well," Ann Ginger reported.

What you can do: If you know of any recent violations of rights in the U.S., or by the U.S. abroad, please send all the facts, and law, to MCLI for inclusion. Send clippings, briefs, letters to the editor, etc. The interns will use them!

Letter To The Editor

"I look forward very much to reading/studying your book which sounds invaluable. I will definitely plug it at our library, at the local Resource Center for Nonviolence, at Bookshop Santa Cruz and at Bay Tree Books up at UCSC. ..."

--Marcia Rider

DIRECTOR'S DIARY

March 8: Alameda High School Teach-In on the war attended by 500 students; spoke on panel; distributed 400 copies of 'LAWS THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS VIOLATING.' Back May 16th for presentation to all 11th graders on **Conscientious Objection**.

March 18, 11 a.m.: Called by **Dan Rather's** office to be interviewed on why peace marches were not effective; said they were; interviewed on tape for 15 minutes; appeared on **Evening News** for 15 seconds. (My name and MCLI on screen covered up the UN flag I was wearing.)

March 18, 4 p.m.: Long radio interview with Daniel Tsang, **UC Irvine** Subversity.

March 19: radio interview with "**Daily Florida**," on the war.

March 19: California Coalition for Civil Rights adopted resolution proposed by MCLI to go to Sens. Feinstein and Boxer opposing U.S. attack on Iraq and Patriot Act under UN Charter, U.S. Constitution.

March 31: Spoke to **Chico State** students and faculty at Trinity Methodist Church on Patriot Act and War and history of successful protests in 1930s, and excess profits tax needed now.

April 5 Coalition for Peace & Justice: attended many evening meetings to help plan walk through Oakland streets to STOP War on Iraq, War on us.

April 10: Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council: panel on current situation. Received from Chief of Haight-Ashbury Police Station copy of 1995 SF Police Regulations on Enforcement of Immigration Laws; 1999 Guidelines for First Amendment Activities.

April 18: "Testified" before **Berkeley High** class on Power & Politics on the war.

April 22: Fell down, hurt right leg and foot.

April 25: Delegate to receive award from **Unitarian Universalist Pacific Central District** for Berkeley Fellowship of UUs Social Justice Committee work.

May 2: Last day for **Monica Alanis** at MCLI; **Jeff Melcher** started as fund-raiser.

May 3: MCLI Board meeting: well-attended, full of discussion and decisions on new MCLI actions.

May 8: Distributed 70 flyers on Excess Profits Tax and of Bush Violating Laws at **Justice for Janitors** rally in Oakland; 100 flyers May 10 at **Bolshevik Café**, Berkeley; 100 flyers May 11 at Tilden Park **Robin Hood/May Day Picnic**.

May 15 noon: Oakland Federal Building: One of speakers at Attorneys Protest Assault on Constitution, called by National Lawyers Guild (with a Bush puppet and many signs).

May 15 evening: Oakland Democratic Party Club: on Patriot Act plus war and excess profits tax, with much discussion of what are "practical politics" today.

May 19: Spoke at celebration of **founding of UN** in SF in 1945: UN Plaza, SF.

May 27: Berkeley Senior Center presentation on election in Florida and ethics of U.S. Supreme Court.

May 28: The vote in Congress to fund Pentagon building "**tactical nukes**" violates the law! See "NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ILLEGAL: The Historical Opinion of the World Court and How It Will Be Enforced", Ginger (on Order Form, p. 11).

This diary does not begin to describe the hundreds of warm contacts with friends old and new, the excitement of walking with thousands down a main street ... or watching faces open up to a new idea ... or getting research help from many.

Nor does it suggest the major problems we face in many organizations in learning how to listen to each other when we disagree, and finding ways to come to agreement on tactics and strategy without getting so tired we droop out.

And I have left out the many, many phone calls and emails and faxes from people we have not heard from in years, all wanting to get more active ... for peace, economic rights, human rights, democracy, and the environment ... the **new international pentagon** we must build ... soonest.

Letters To The Editor

Al Mangan, strong MCLI supporter from Spokane, W A: looking for cases in which U.S. courts upheld the Nuremberg Principles, to use in arrests of anti-war demonstrators. He knows of acquittals at Bangor Sub Base. Contact aam2122@ice-house.net

"**I have an idea for a law** that might help soothe the burn of corruption in the government: 'No government employee of GS-10 level or higher shall hold ownership or any position of employment with any corporate entity.'" Gus Peterson welcomes your thoughts: gustable@yahoo.com

MCLI Welcomes New Staff

Monica Alanis, Project Director and Office Manager, has moved on to pursue her career in cinematography. Ex-videographer **Soula Culver** of Richmond is taking her place in the office, happy to be able to devote her energies and office skills to an organization with meaningful goals.

Welcome Jeffrey Melcher

I am a graduate of Central Michigan University, with a B.S. in Mathematics and a minor in Sociology, and certified as a high school teacher. As a student I was interested in international peace activism, nuclear non-proliferation, gay rights, education reform, and environmental land use (I started on the vegetarian path in 1984). I moved to Oregon in 1986 and spent a decade teaching in alternative schools while continuing my environmental activism protecting old growth trees and watershed areas. I am involved with the Unitarian Universalist movement, recently serving as a board executive for four years, helping to bring growth and financial stability to a progressive activist UU congregation.

I am the new Development Director at MCLI. I intend to help strengthen and fund MCLI's many important programs, including the MCLI endowment, the Tom Ginger/Ole' Miss Student Exchange Project, and the summer intern research program. I hope to meet you at one of our teach-in fundraising parties around the country: in Chicago on June 6th; in Berkeley, CA on June 21st; in Minneapolis during mid-October; and in Los Angeles during the Fall of 2003.

If you are interested in hosting or helping with a teach-in fundraising event, please contact me. I look forward to meeting you!

-- May the work of our hands be powered by the knowledge in our hearts and the passion in our souls.

~Jeffrey Melcher

We are compiling a speakers' bureau on a number of critical topics including:

- PATRIOT Acts • excess profits tax • Reparations • Iraq war • Iran • International Law violations in Israel/Palestine • Conscientious Objection • UN treaties affecting local, state, and federal laws. If you are interested in inviting someone to speak on one of these topics, please call Jeffrey at MCLI.

From an MCLI Intern of the '90s:

I'm now teaching at the University of Arkansas (developing the legal communication area in the Dept. of Communication for graduate and undergraduate students and have my hand still in legal practice, limited to Social Security Disability law.

I've decided to run for the Arkansas legislature in an open House seat in my district to work to do some good for the State of Arkansas, particularly with the education system, human services, environment, etc. I'll keep you in touch with the campaign.

-Lindsley Smith

Dropping in at MCLI

On May 21st, Wes McGee of Minneapolis, who was attending a conference of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists in SF, phoned to ask if we still have the book "The Cold War on Labor" which had been recommended to him years ago by Fred Hirsch. Brother McGee came to the MCLI office and we had a delightful visit with him. While he was here, he perused some of the other materials and decided he had to have a copy of "How to Use the 'New' Civil Rights Laws After 9-11". He also agreed to take part in the MCLI fundraising event that will take place in Minneapolis during the end of the National Lawyers Guild convention Oct. 16-20.

Grandmotherhood in These Parlous Times

Amid the horror and turmoil of seeing my country embark on an illegal preemptive strike against Iraq while economic hard times devastate people at home, the bright light in my life was the long hoped for birth of my first grandchild, a healthy, beautiful girl. Someone said, "It must be awful to see a child come into this world at such a terrible time," but in fact, for me, it was a calm center of happiness that helped me through the dark world events and gave me courage and determination to keep fighting for truth, justice, and peace in the small ways that I can. Thank goodness for the babies!

by **Zipporah Collins**

MCLI Board member

Zipporah Collins is a dedicated board member and supporter of MCLI. Thanks for the inspiring news of new life and hope.

Contributors to our Endowment Fund: Francis Petschek and Evelyn Lundstrum

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to prepare MCLI for hiring a new Director of the institute after the retirement of Director Ann Fagan Ginger. This transition could be as soon as two years from now, and we still have a ways to go.

If you want to make a contribution to the future of democracy and MCLI, then consider a donation to the MCLI Endowment Fund.

Thank you for helping us create a future for MCLI.

I am learning more about the astounding achievements of MCLI, its Board and its Director. Since 1965, MCLI has been teaching how to use international law at the international, national, state, and local levels through conferences, publications, and training interns like Michael Tigar.

MCLI sent a delegate to the UN Conference on the Status of Women in Beijing in 1995, and sent a delegation of twelve to the UN World Conference Against Racism in 2002, and David Gespass to a follow-up conference in 2003. We are sending Board member Victoria Ashley to the 2003 National Forum on the UN to represent MCLI.

The books, oh, the glorious books and reports that have come out of MCLI! *The First Shadow Report to the UN Human Rights Committee on Civil & Political Rights*, *The Cold War Against Labor*, *How to Use "New" Civil Rights Laws After 9-11*, and eleven comprehensive editions of *Human Rights Organizations and Periodicals Directory* which are used in organizations, libraries, law schools and student career centers such as The Rose Foundation, UC Berkeley, Notre Dame and the College of Wm. and Mary. **MCLI is making an impact.**

Who collected and saved all the papers in the case against students in the Free Speech Movement? Yes, MCLI. MCLI also archived the Pentagon Papers case, the Angela Davis case and 11,000 short descriptions of human rights cases and made them available on the Bancroft Library web site <http://Bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/meiklejohn/project.html>

All of these projects are supported in part by individuals like you, people who know that making a difference takes time, money and dedication. I ask that you take the time to make a donation to MCLI so that we may continue this work now and for many years to come. Give to our Endowment Fund; make a general donation, and subscribe for another year to this newsletter.

Thank you for your support,

Members Who Have Given Generously Since March 2003

Thank you very much for your contribution!

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Yes, I want to help: update MCLI Web page I am contributing \$_____ to the Endowment Fund
 I am making a tax-deductible donation of \$500 \$250 \$150 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$_____
 I am subscribing to the *Human Rights Now!* Quarterly newsletter for 2003 (\$10)

MCLI publications that I want to order:

		<i>qty.</i>	<i>amt.</i>
• How To Use 'New' Civil Rights Laws After 9-11: The basic book on legal issues under Exec. Orders, Patriot Act, FBI/CIA actions, for activists, lawyers, teachers, media. Full texts of U.S. Const., UN Charter, 8 ratified treaties, sample complaint in 9-11 incarceration, sample ordinance. (320 pp.) MCLI. Nov. '02.	\$36.95	_____	_____
• Human Rights Organizations & Periodicals Directory: 11th Ed. '03-'04. 1,200+ entries, incl. internships, subject index.	<i>Individuals/NGOs:</i> \$75.00 <i>Libraries/Institutions:</i> \$125.00	_____	_____
• Laws Bush & Co. Are Violating: Text of Bill of Rights, UN Charter	FREE	_____	_____
• How To Be A Conscientious Objector	FREE	_____	_____
• Excess Profits Tax information	FREE	_____	_____
• MCLI Issue Sheets (Shadow Report) for 1st U.S. Report to UN Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in and by the U.S. ('01)	\$12.00	_____	_____
• MCLI Issue Sheets on U.S. Violations of Convention Against Torture. (1999)	\$12.00	_____	_____
• Socially Responsible Cities: Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, Immigrant Rights, Human Rights Ordinance, Resolutions regarding Sept. 11th.	\$15.00	_____	_____
• The Cold War Against Labor. MCLI, reissued. (2 vols.). A rich anthology.	\$10.00	_____	_____
• Carol Weiss King: Human Rights Lawyer (1895-1952). By A.F. Ginger. (1993)	\$10.00	_____	_____
• Nuclear Weapons Are Illegal: The Historic Opinion of the World Court & How It Will Be Enforced. (14 judges' opinions) By A.F. Ginger. (1998)	\$33.00	_____	_____
• Alexander Meiklejohn: Teacher of Freedom. Cynthia Stokes Brown. MCLI, 1981.	\$10.00	_____	_____
• The Relevant Lawyers. By Ann Fagan Ginger, editor. (S&S, 1972)	\$19.95	_____	_____
• Breach of Contract: The State & Higher Education. A pamphlet.	\$2.00	_____	_____
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**to talk and eat and talk and drink
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Meet with Ann Fagan Ginger in Chicago
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