

ANS NY VOL. I No. 1 Dec. 1970

Asian Americans for Action

Ed. Note: This editorial is reprinted from the Asian Americans for Action Newsletter, October, 1970. Subscriptions are available by writing to

Asian Americans for Action
545 West 126th St. Apt. 3B
New York, N.Y. 10027

After months of absence, the Newsletter is back, and since our last issue, the AAA has undergone still another transformation. We are presently largely a group of Nisei who feel we can contribute in some small way to the Asian Movement by sharing our past experiences and, ahem, perhaps some wisdom gained therefrom. As the latter remark would indicate, we are rather a crusty bunch, admittedly not the "Quiet American" type, who believe that not only the voice of the young should be heard but that it is of utmost urgency today for ALL Asians to participate in determining our collective future.

For those who are perturbed by the many changes that AAA has had to absorb--and since its inception one and a half years ago, we have experienced innumerable changes in direction, organization, emphases--it might be well to recognize them as responses and reactions (albeit at times imposed, but other times creatively induced) to a burgeoning Asian Movement in New York. In fact, AAA takes pride in having spawned many of the activities and new organizations that comprise that Movement--for there were AAA members who desired to go beyond a radical perspective to form a revolutionary group in Chinatown; there were AAA members who saw the need to reach a wider audience and thus helped to organize the Community Forum; it was the AAA who worked toward creating an Asian Coalition which was responsible for the successful Hiroshima-Nagasaki March and Rally (the first of its kind in the Asian Community), a Coalition which now calls itself an Asian Nation (with a storefront) and has founded an Asian News Service.

Then, too, during the early phases of formation, repercussions ensued from AAA's need to formulate our own Asian-American politics, by, of and for, Asian-Americans--and we have had to battle

advocates of other movements and ideologies which were felt to be less intrinsic to the needs of Asians in America. Our history, therefore, is one that was wrought not without pain, even some trauma. Yet, as one transcends the negative vibrations, it becomes apparent that these were positive birth pangs and growing pains of a new-born and fast-growing Asian Movement in the city of New York.

And now the exigencies of the times demand an even greater acceleration of growth. For this country is fast becoming a police state--violent repression is the order of the day. The Nixon-Agnew-Mitchell gang with their forked tongues can no longer conceal their true constituents--not the silent minority whom they extoll so piously and whom they use for their own ends, but the silent minority who are the real masters of this vast modern-day plantation called America. This is the syndicate which Nixon's late hero, Eisenhower, has dubbed the military-industrial complex whose sordid machinations so shocked even the General that he was compelled to warn the nation against them. Their man is now in the White House, and so felicitous is this arrangement to all parties concerned that they are employing any means necessary to secure this alliance--thus the vicious slanders, the Big Lies, the Law and Order "business" (all reminiscent tactics of an ambitious corporal in Germany in the 30's). No scruples deter the quelling of restless natives nor zeroing in on all those who oppose them. And no exception is made of the Asian Movement--for Asian FBI hirelings have been prowling after and harassing AAA and Chinatown brothers and sisters.

Clearly, then, the time for shrill rhetoric and sloganeering is over, necessary as they were to express growing political consciousness. Rather, it is a time for getting together, for delin-eating between simple catharsis and political action, in order that the greatest number of fellow Asians of all persuasions can be mobilized in a massive effort to combat the sickness around us. The only threat to those in power who have all the nation's wealth and military might at their command, is a people's united will to achieve justice and freedom. Our

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Vietnamese Brothers and sisters have dramatically and heroically laid bare this Achille's heel. This, then, is the crux of our task--to get us Asians in America together, so that we can jointly strive to create a new humane society free of racism, of inequities, of exploitation and aggression. We in AAA dedicate our efforts toward this end.

--Asian Americans for Action
October, 1970

Meat Inspectors in Chinatown:
Health or Harassment?

The people of Chinatown are subjected to all forms of disgusting and racist treatment by the U.S. government, tourists, and countless ignorant people. The most recent example of this is the harassment of our grocery stores by meat inspectors from the N.Y. State Department of Agriculture and Markets. On Oct. 23, the Tay Loi Company on Bowery St. was visited by a meat inspector who had been abusing his "so-call" legitimate powers. During that week, this inspector named Cornelius Robertson went wild and threw away over 300 lbs of preserved bacon (highly expensive and difficult to make). He grabbed the meat out of the oven, threw it into the garbage and sprayed lysol all over it. When we went to investigate the situation we found that for the past 6 months these inspectors have been harassing Chinese stores throughout Chinatown. They have created so much trouble, causing so much loss of business and money, that one store was almost forced to close. While they are supposed to insure adequate health standards, the actions of these inspectors show they are interested only in harassment and intimidation. One inspector found a hole in the floor and said that the entire floor must be rebuilt. Another ordered a wooden chopping board thrown out and the grocer paid almost \$100 to get a new one. Then, this fool decided that it wasn't good enough since it was wood and not metal.

The actions of these meat inspectors

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is identical to the treatment experienced during the first years of our immigration to the U.S. After being driven from the railroad constructions sites, we were intimidated physically and legally from setting up business in the big cities. They said we were dirty, immoral and ignorant, unfit to work. To this very day their attitude toward us has not changed. IWK decided that these actions can no longer continue. The next morning, about 20 people from IWK stopped Robertson on his rounds. When confronted with his actions, the meat inspector tried to get away from accepting responsibility by denying the facts. But as the workers of the grocery store and us got more and more angry, he got more and more scared. The guilt of the meat inspector enraged us because he had used the intimidation tactic of the U.S. government scaring Chinese people into believing that we are the guilty party.

The actions of the pig Dept. of Agriculture and its puppet think they can control any part of our lives whenever they want. Can we no longer eat the food we choose? Chinese people have been cooking and eating food this way for one hundred years. Now all of a sudden the government wants to determine even this part of our lives. (These inspectors come into our community as if they own the place, push us around and throw things all over the place.) It is too much when they want the grocery stores to provide them with uniforms, places to work, filing cabinets, and pay for overtime under the guise of the law. And whenever possible these greedy dogs try to milk us of some money, one inspector attempted to dupe a grocery store owner by getting a contractor to fix a refrigerator. The contractor gave a price of \$600 but we found out that in reality it only cost \$100. It is really ironic that the pig should pay such careful attention to the needs of Third World Communities.

Look at the American food and meat industry. Here is a industry full of disease, filth and corruption. Practices like mixing horsemeat with beef and selling of it as hamburger meat to make more money go on regularly. Rats, roaches and all kinds of filth are ground into food we buy and eat. We don't see any

inspector cracking down on this typical

criminal filth and corruption. Instead they come into our communities to tell' us what to do. These uncivilized fools don't have a leg to stand on when they tell us about health standards and cleanliness.

The only way to deal with people like these meat inspectors is to get together and kick them out. Force is the only thing they understand. Pig Robertson found that the Chinese people were united because our people is the only thing we can depend on. We cannot depend on the CCBA. When the merchants went to the CCBA for help they could not or would not do anything. Just like all the other times, CCBA fails to meet the needs of our people. Chinese people live in a hostile racist society. And there are no rights of our people that the American government is bound to respect. Just like in the case of these racist inspectors, if we stand together on all issues we will be a strong people that nobody can intimidate.

Enough is enough!

If anybody in the community is hassled by these same inspectors and wants some help, we'll come to help!

--I Wor Kuen
November 1970

Asian Conference in New York
A Press Release

People of Asian background have since first setting foot on the American continent have had to deal with various forms of social and economic repression and the consequent psychological and cultural crises that arose from discrimination. More recent Asian immigrants particularly those from Hong Kong arrive in America and are forced to live in the deteriorated, disease infested, crowded, filthy and unsafe Chinatown ghettos. These problems of Asian communities and individuals have been too long ignored or concealed by people both within and without the community. Realizing that any movement to improve the lives of a group must first be initiated in that group, a number of Asian community

organizers, students, and young professionals have met over the past several weeks. These meetings have resulted in the organization of a conference which will examine and seek possible solutions to the problems of Asian-American society and the world community.

The conference will feature knowledgeable speakers on topics relevant to the goals of the conference as well as the workshops. The workshops will provide more comprehensive backgrounds to such topics as Asian and Asian-American history, Chinatown community, racism and stereotyping, Asian Women's Movement, and the general Asian Movement in America. There will also be a workshop on the general Asian experience conducted in Chinese.

This conference, entitled Asian-American Reality, is scheduled for the weekend of December 5 and 6, 1970 at Pace College, located at 1 Pace College Plaza, New York City near City Hall, 10:00 a.m. SHARP! Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. There will be a \$1.00 registration fee for all participants to help defray expenses except for high school students who will be admitted free. Overnight accommodations will be available at the registration desk; please bring your own sleeping bag. Further information and updates may be obtained by calling the phone numbers below:

526-8250 9 p.m.-2 a.m. ask for John
280-3063 11 a.m.-12 noon
1 a.m.- 7 p.m.
227-4567 10 a.m.-12 p.m. ask for Corky

--Asian Conference Committee
November 1970

Women in the World Revolution

Ed. Note: The following is a speech made by a member of I Wor Kuen, a radical social action group in New York's Chinatown, at the Third World United Front March in Harlem on November 1, 1970.

"We Asians wish to express our support and solidarity with all Third World Brothers and Sisters. Our people have angrily stood up and issued a call for the revolution that is now taking

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shape. We, with great determination will march on until our final victory is won. Like all the past heroic victories of our struggle, today's Third World United Front march is another milestone in this long-protracted war.

The world revolution is now at its highest peak. People all over the world are uniting. But women, half of the world population, because of male chauvinism and feudalism, have been neglected and looked upon as not so revolutionary or non-revolutionary. Women are restricted in every way possible and have been denied as an equal force in the revolution. In this fascist system women not only have to face racism and exploitation, but also male chauvinism. Women's mind and energy have been confined to trivialities such as cooking, cleaning house, sewing, and caring for the children. Women must be emancipated from the drudgery and narrow confinement of the home. The role of Women must extend beyond this, to decision-making and active participation in every area in order to create a new socialist society in which the human rights and dignity of all are a true reality.

Look into every corner of the world where struggles are occurring; women have picked up the gun, fighting side by side with their male comrades. The indictment of sisters like Angela Davis and Erika Huggins are proof that women are considered a threat to the system. Long before most of us thought of armed struggle, a woman, Lolita Lebron on March 1, 1954, led a group, Los Caballeros de la Raza, in an attack on the pig U.S. Congress which was deciding the fate of the people of Puerto Rico. In Vietnam, women are taking the major responsibility for defending their homeland. A Plesinian sister's courageous hijacking has shocked the international pig system. And, the liberation of China would not have been possible without the influence of women.

Arise, sisters, in this crucial stage of our struggle; this spirit must be carried on. With the true liberation of all people as the objective, let us

work with each other, deal with each other's male chauvinist attitudes, fight male chauvinism with concrete actions, not just screaming for equality, educate each other and combat all chauvinism every minute of everyday in whatever form it takes.

Third World women play an important role in the liberation of all oppressed people as well as in the struggle for the liberation of women.

The Liberation of women will advance the revolution to a higher level. The triple oppression of Third World women from capitalism, racism and male chauvinism has forged in women's minds the indomitable spirit of liberation. The struggle of women is the revolution within the revolution.

Seize the time

-- The Sisters of I Wor Kuen
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CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST CHICKENS COME HOME
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The first Uptown New York ASIAN DROP-IN CENTER

On Saturday morning, October 17, a crew of about 25 Asians and friends liberated a storefront on the upper westside in New York City. This is territory of OPERATION MOVE-IN, a group of people fighting Urban Renewal, which eliminates poor people's housing, replacing it with high risers out of their reach. Since this Spring, over 190 families have moved into buildings in the area of 90th and Columbus which were emptied by the city and left empty because the city did not have enough funds to complete the project. The people have challenged the city and by moving into this badly needed housing.

There are many Asians in New York City with the problem of not having any roots in a geographical community. In need of a center, without funds, and welcoming the challenge, they decided to join the squatters. With the support and help of the community we are slowly restoring the disaster that was once a restaurant and building a DROP-IN CENTER which would serve the Asians, not ignoring the Third World Community outside its door.

The CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST storefront welcomes other Asian groups to utilize its facilities for meetings and other activities. ASIAN NEWS SERVICE a national communication network for Asian groups will have its eastern regional headquarters here. Programs are in the planning: Topical raps, film showings, martial arts, Media workshops. We welcome participation and suggestions.

The neighborhood is moving. There is OPERATION MOVE-IN headquarters, a film center, EL COMITE - a Puerto Rican group like the Young Lords, and a people's coffee house soon to be opening. This being primarily a Puerto Rican community, we have the opportunity of sharing the Latin and Asian experiences in America.

FUNDING: The storefront will be supported by monthly pledges by participants and interested people. Other sources will be sought and appreciated, but we hope this will truly be a community supported thing.

Words would not capture the beautiful feeling working and building together. There is more to build!! WE NEED YOUR HELP. This is your center. DROP IN!

613 AMSTERDAM AVE. BETWEEN 89th and 90th FRIDAY - MONDAY 12 - 7

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