

Copyright 1965 by Jack Minnis

For some time we've been looking for information about napalm. We've wanted to know who first developed it for military use, who makes it, how it is made, etc. Judging by the newspaper accounts, napalm is one of the most useful military weapons being employed in Lyndon's Vietnam war. It is very effective, say the reports, in the destroying of the homes, crops and possessions of the people of Vietnam; it is even more effective in destroying the people themselves--American newspapers have carried several pictures of Vietnamese children and their parents who've been horribly burned by the napalm bombs Lyndon has told his Air Force to drop on their villages, their fields and their houses.

We think it's important for everyone in the United States to put himself in the place of the Vietnam people who are being bombed with this "jellied gasoline" If the German people had done this with respect to the Jews who were being slaughtered in the Nazi gas chambers, things might have been different for the 6,000,000 Jews who died. And we think it's likewise important that everyone in the United States know the names of the companies who sell the stuff to the military, and the names of the individual businessmen who run these companies. If the German people had been forced to face the fact that their largest and most respectable chemical company had developed the gas that was used to kill the Jews, that it was making large profits selling the gas to the Nazi, and that some of Germany's most influential and respectable businessmen were running the company--if, we say, all these things had been the subject of general knowledge and discussion among the German people, things might have been different. At the very least, the German people could not, after the defeat of the German armies in World War II, have claimed that "we didn't know what was going on."

As you read what follows, imagine yourself standing in a field or a village street in Vietnam. Imagine an American Air Force bomber flying overhead. Imagine that the the field or the street where you're standing suddenly becomes a sea of flame, engulfing you, your children who are playing nearby, your friends and relatives who are standing or working alongside you. As you imagine your own pain, and while your ears ring with the screams of your children as their writhing bodies quickly crinkle into cinders, decide what you think of the men who administer such horrors in your name--and decide what you think of the businessmen and scientists who devise such horrors and sell them for a profit to be used by Lyndon and his military.

Victor Perlo is a marxist econmist. He writes material

for various Communist Party publications as well as books and articles about economic and political affairs. He has published an article in the People's World of October 23, 1965, in which he details the development of napalm as a weapon of war, and names the American companies who had a hand in its development. We mention Perlo's politics, because we know that many brainwashed American people have been taught to believe that INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM is a monster the horror of which exceeds all other conceivable horrors. We know that such people are much more likely to be worried about Perlo's Communist associations than about the facts he presents. In our opinion, facts stand for themselves, and their truth or falsehood depends not on the politics of the person who reports them, but on whether or not, simply, they are facts. Perlo's facts can be checked for truth or falsity by anyone who cares to read his article and check the sources he cites (all highly respectable, non-communist, native-American capitalist sources). Here, then, are Perlo's facts.

Napalm is a mixture of gasoline and sodium and aluminum. Napth thenates and PALMitates (the capitals indicate the source of the name). The common name of these chemicals which combine with gasoline to make napalm is "metallic soap". The soaps are made into pellets or pills. The pills are put into containers of gasoline. The liquid gasoline then becomes a gellatin, with a consistency similar to that of common household jelly. It can then be packed into bomb casings which are fitted with a detonating device which ignites the napalm either on contact, or with a time fuse. This jelling of the gasoline, according to Perlo, "makes it possible to aim the substance better, causes it to stick to its target, to burn better and longer." (emphasis added) Now remember that the American Military, during World War II, asked American scientists and businessmen to develop a gasoline substance which would stick to its human targets better, and burn longer, than just ordinary, everyday gasoline. American business, believing that the customer is always right, did just that.

The American companies which had a hand in developing napalm during world war II were: American Cyanamid, Armour & Co. Standard Oil of California, Standard Oil of New Jersey, California Ink, Nuodex Products Co. (the last two now owned by Tennessee Gas Transmission Co. whose subsidiary Tenneco, sells gasoline throughout most of the United States), and several smaller chemical companies, including McGean Chemical Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. McGean was recently purchased by Chemetron Corp. (America's 313th largest corporation). In its May, 1965, report of the annual stockholders' meeting, Chemetron management said, in explaining the purchase of the McGean company, "McGean was the original manufacturer of napalm and during the last war the largest supplier...."

We cannot say for certain that McGean (now Chemetron) is presently supplying the napalm pellets to American forces in Vietnam, because the contracts for this kind of military supply are highly unpublicized. However, as Perle notes, it seems reasonable to suppose that Chemetron wanted to purchase McGean because of the high profits that could be expected from the vastly increased American involvement in the Vietnam war, and the consequent increase in the use of napalm. The directors of Chemetron Corp. include:

George Booner

Chmn. Ex. com.; Chmn. Premier Thermo Plastics Co.; dir. Louisville Trust Co., Mem. Ky. C. of C. Republican Louisville.

C. J. Haines

Dir.; Pres. 1937-1960; dir., Armour & Co., Midwest Carbide Corp., Am. Nat. Bank (Chicago), Mem. American Chem. Society--Chicago

Joseph A. Martine

dir.; Pres., Nat. Lead Co.; American Broadcasting Paramount Theatres, Inc.; dir., Chase Manhattan Bank, The Fidelity and Casualty Co., of N.Y., Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Titanium Metals Corp., Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corp., Baker Caster Oil Co., trustee East River Savings Bank, Mem. bd. of lay trustees, Fordham U., U. of Notre Dame

J. L. Adank

vice pres., dir. Midwest Carbide Corp., Pan Gee Atlas Corp., Chemetron Foundation

John G. Seiler

vice pres, dir., mem. finance com.; dir. Glenmore Distilleries Co.

W. R. Wood

vice pres., dir., Commonwealth Life Ins. Co., Brown-Forman Distillers Corp., Louisville C of C

Since napalm is a combination of the pellet described above, and ordinary gasoline, the gasoline suppliers for America's military in Vietnam must also bear some responsibility in the use of napalm. We reported earlier in these pages that Standard Oil, Shell and Caltex (Standard of California and Texaco), were building refineries in Vietnam to supply gasoline and other petroleum products to the U.S. military there. We could reasonably suppose that at least some of the napalm gasoline comes from these

page four

suppliers.

Finally, Perle reports that the Reimers Missile Components, Inc., a small Alabama company, has a contract for making the bomb casings into which the napalm is packed for dropping on the Vietnamese people. We think it's so fitting that at least one of the components of this kind of weaponry originates in George Wallace's Alabama.

These then are the facts which can at present be determined about the sources of napalm and the individuals and corporations who are involved in its manufacture for Lyndon's military in Vietnam.

Lest anyone think that napalm use in Vietnam has halted or lessened, or that it's used in some kind of secrecy, here's quote from a New York Times dispatch from Baimehuot, South Vietnam dated October 24. (The dispatch was written by Neil Sheehan, of the Times, as he accompanied U.S. Senators Teddy Kennedy and Joseph Tydings and U.S. Representatives John C. Culver and John V. Tunney on a tour of the action fronts in South Vietnam):

"From the windows of the plane the legislators could see in the distance United States and South Vietnam Air Force fighter-bombers strafing and bombing the Vietcong and could watch the orange bursts of napalm canisters."

The men who appropriate the money of U.S. taxpayers to purchase napalm from the chemical and gasoline companies, so the napalm can be used to burn the people of Vietnam, had come to see the results of their hardiwork.

Long live the Great Society.

*

*

*

The Southern racists have been red-baiting civil rights organizations for so long that many of us may tend to dismiss such tactics as just the blabber of the southern politicians who are looking for an argument against racial equality which might be popular outside the South. The red-baiting may have much more serious proportions.

In 1963 the Alabama State Legislature established the Alabama Legislative Commission to Preserve the Peace. The purpose of this commission, as stated in the resolution which established it is to "study, investigate, analyze and interrogate persons, groups and organizations who may be engaged in activities of an unlawful nature against the sovereignty of the State of Alabama and which may be detrimental to the peace and dignity of the State of Alabama."

Recently, the Commission has issued a report one of the findings of which is:

"The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, commonly known as SNCC, is extensively Communist dominated, and its leadership substantially follows the Communist Party line. This Commission finds that SNCC is an agent for the Communist conspiracy and measures up to every definition of a Communist Party Front."

The Alabama Code, in Title 14, Section 97 (4a) provides:

"Each person remaining in this state for as long as one day who is a communist, nazi or muslim or is knowingly a member of a communist front organization, shall register with the department of public safety on or before the fifth consecutive day that such person remains in this state...Failure to register as herein required, or the making of any registration which contains any false statement or any omission, shall constitute a felony and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than two or more than ten years, or by both." (emphasis added)

Thus it would appear that the State of Alabama has officially declared that SNCC comes under the statute. Since no SNCC staff has registered with the public safety department, it would appear that all persons associated with SNCC in Alabama are technically in violation of the statute and are at any moment liable to be, arrested by an Alabama "law enforcement" officer, hauled before an Alabama "judge", given an Alabama "fair trial", and sentenced to a heavy fine and a long prison term.

The decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court with respect to these state "Anti-Communist" laws indicate that they are unconstitutional and that it would be possible to invalidate such a conviction by an Alabama "court" and avoid the sentence. But this would require expensive and time-consuming legal action in federal court. While this was going on the Alabama newspapers and the Alabama politicians would have an hysterical heyday of red-baiting.

Now George Wallace, whatever else he may be, is no fool when it comes to politics, and we have no doubt he is smart enough to know just how phony all this red-baiting is--we don't think for one moment that Wallace thinks SNCC is a front for anything or anybody. But if Wallace decided it would help him politically to use this statute against SNCC people, or those with whom they work, we think it would be foolish to suppose he would not use it.

This is just one example of how far from "fun-and-games for Southern racists" the red-baiting can be.

And, of course, every time J. Edgar and his associates talk about "communist-infiltration" of the civil rights movement, they are laying a foundation of acceptance throughout the country, for Wallace to move if and when he decides to do so.

*

*

*

When Tom Coleman was acquitted in Hayneville, of the killing of Jon Daniels, by an all-white friendly jury, Katzenbach said that is the price you pay for the jury system and that he didn't think the price was too high. Then, when Wilkins was acquitted of the Liuzzo killing in the same courtroom, the pressure began to mount throughout the world. The newspapers and many people in European and African countries were beginning publicly to point to difference between what the Great Society says it is, and what it really is. Thus it became necessary for Katzenbach to replace his "fair price" position for something a little more militant. Not much, mind you, but a little bit. So he said that the Justice Department is going to do something. He said more legislation might be needed. He didn't explain, so far as we know, why more legislation is needed. He has a law on the books which makes it a crime to keep a Negro off a jury because he's a Negro. It looks like he could have moved into Lowndes County some time ago and made some arrests of July Commissioners, Judges, Court Clerks, and others who keep Negroes off juries there.

But no. That's not how the Great Society works. It doesn't enforce civil rights laws. It passes them. And passes them. And passes them.

*

*

*

There's been a lot of hullabaloo about organizations helping draft-eligible people to avoid the draft, about how unpatriotic that is, and about all the legal penalties for doing so. We wonder if that criticism, and those penalties would apply to the man who has made it his business for the past twenty-five years to provide young cannon-fodder for American's wars--Lieutenant General Lewis B. Hershey. General Hershey, last Saturday, issued a set of instructions on just how a young man can avoid the draft.

"If he tells the examiner," quoth General Hershey, "that he's a homosexual, he'll be rejected. We recognize that he might be lying, but a person who'll say that has certainly got something wrong with him. We have enough men to defend this country without having to draft self-proclaimed homosexuals."

Thank you, General.

*

*

*

page seven

A reporter for the Washington Post is doing a series of stories on the Washington, D.C. slums. And, of course, that newspaper maintains a constant watch on Lyndon so they can report to the people every grunt and belch of the GREAT MAN. It's interesting to juxtapose two paragraphs from the Post of October 25, as a comment on the Great Society and the man who runs it:

From the slums: "They're packed five to a room and no door on the john /toilet/ and the stink's enough to make you gag. Animals. They live like animals.... the youngsters hang out the back windows counting the rats hunkering along the alley, tails dragging through the garbage."

From the GREAT MAN: "Wearing a jaunty red tam and a matching sport shirt, the President took the wheel of his 310-horsepower speedboat after lunch and roared around Lake Lyndon B. Johnson.

Jack Minnis

October 28, 1965