

UNITE /

UNITE FOR WE MUST BE UNITED. WE MUST FIGHT FOR WHAT WE WANT, AND WE MUST BE UNITED TO FIGHT AND WIN!

GUILLEBEAU TRIAL POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY

The trial of Mr. and Mrs. John Guillebeau has been postponed from November 15 to January 17 at 10:00 AM. These are the people who, with their 7 small children, were brutally evicted from their apartment at S. 4th and Maine Avenue back in August for joining the United Low Rental Tenants Union and going on rent strike against their slumlords.

The wheels of "justice" are slow indeed but the Guillebeau Defense Committee is taking advantage of the postponement to mobilize neighborhood support for this unfortunate black couple. Already over 200 signatures have been gotten on a petition which urges the City to drop the charges against the Guillebeaus. It is also urging organizations in the area to send letters to the District Attorney protesting the eviction and demanding the charges be dropped. In addition the Committee is organizing a protest demonstration and picket line for the day of the trial. We urge you to sign the petition when it comes to your door. Send a letter to the District Attorney (City Hall, Richmond) asking that the charges be dropped (the charges are "resisting arrest" and "resisting a writ of real property"). And be sure to support the Guillebeaus with your presence at their trial on January 17.

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The long-awaited report of the Human Relations Commission on the rent strike at S. 4th and Maine Avenue was approved by the Commission at its meeting of November 9. Unfortunately, we have not been able to see the report yet and neither have the tenants, the people most directly concerned. At the meeting it was protested by members of the audience that the tenants had not been consulted in drawing up the report on the rent strike, that they had not been informed of its completion nor shown a copy of the finished report nor notified of the meeting at which it would be approved. They were thereby denied the right to make their feelings known on the matter. In addition it was pointed out that the report could possibly prejudice the upcoming trial of the Guillebeaus. The Human Relations Commission casually rejected these arguments and approved the report anyway.

We understand that the report is unfavorable to the tenants. But it is also unfavorable to the slumlords of Richmond for the general exploitation of poor Negro tenants and to the City of Richmond for allowing such conditions to exist, indeed for enforcing laws written only to serve the interests of wealthy slumlords. As a result, many slumlords, bankers, and city officials (who are also slumlords) are against the publication of the report. According to City law, it was supposed to have been filed with the City Clerk immediately after it was approved by the Human Relations Commission. Two weeks have passed and still it is not available to the public. We are always amazed by the fact that the slightest violation of the law by a poor working man always results in immediate arrest and jailing. But when city officials and rich white slumlords blatantly break the law nothing at all happens.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION POSTPONES DISCUSSION OF CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

The Human Relations Commission at its November 9 meeting postponed further action on its study of a possible civilian review board for the Police Department until its November 30 meeting.

The meeting opened with a report of what the Commission had done to attract people from the "minority community" to the meeting to discuss the matter. The report was supposed to show that the poor attendance (about 10 people) was not the fault of the Human Relations Commission, but rather showed that there was no dissatisfaction with the Richmond police and no concern for a civilian review board. The Commission reported that the agenda for the meeting had been mailed to about 400 individuals and groups. They didn't seem to realize that there are at least 25,000 Negroes in Richmond, not to mention other poor people who would be interested in police control.

About 7 of the 10 people present spoke, all in favor of more control over the police. All of them spoke against the proposal of Police Chief Brown for a committee of police officers who would consider citizens' complaints and the report to the Chief of Police, who would have the final word. One of the people who spoke, Bill Watson, emphasized that the board should

be composed not just of civilians, but of honest civilians that the people could trust to be fair.

The Commission members continually tried to lead the witnesses into discussions of "communication" and "education" rather than control of the police. They seemed to be in favor of a committee which would have no power over the police. Perhaps their true attitude was indicated by Rabbi Forestein (a member of the Commission), who told one UNITED member in private: "You know there's not going to be a civilian review board in this town."

The next meeting of the Human Relations Commission will be on Wednesday, November 30, at 8:00 PM in the City Council Chamber at the City Hall. You can speak at this meeting if you wish, and you can see for yourself whether the City is honestly trying to control the Police or just trying to hand you another phony sugar pill.

BLACK POWER FORUMS

What does "black power" really mean? What does it mean for black people in Richmond? What does it mean for whites? How can it affect civil rights organizations in the area? These and other questions about "black power" will be discussed

every Sunday afternoon
1:00 PM
320 Maine Ave.
Everybody welcome!

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION POSTPONED DISCUSSION
OF CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW BOARD

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UNITED
c/o 520 Bissell Ave.
Richmond, Calif.

The long-awaited report of the Human Relations Commission on the 7th of November at 8 PM and 11th Avenue was given by the Commission at the meeting of November 9. Unfortunately, we have not been able to see the report yet and neither have the members. The Commission reported that the agenda for the meeting had been set to about 4:00 PM and that the meeting was supposed to be held in the City Hall.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

Richmond, Calif.