

COPY

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Seattle, Washington  
June 7, 1968

Jack Barnes  
Organizational Secretary

Dear Jack,

Militant sales continue to go very well here. As of this writing, we have only four of this week's issue left. Vancouver reports that they are getting a very enthusiastic response up there: they sold 103 at Simon Fraser University yesterday and are having a factory sale this morning.

We have sold all over town this week and have found pretty much an equally good response from all sectors of the population. Two of us had an excellent sale at Seattle University (a Catholic college) and, despite the fact that they were in the midst of exams, we sold some 50 in less than an hour. We sold again at high schools and on the street, both downtown and in the University District; we sold also in the black community at a shopping center. Yesterday we sold at Boeing and easily sold 48 in some 45 minutes.

We have not experienced any red-baiting or hostility during any of our sales. On the contrary, motorists have stopped to buy a copy; I was given a fruit drink by a delivery truck driver who had heard me hawking in the sun; several comrades received donations and several people bought more than one copy. We stepped up sales after the RFK murder, as had been scheduled, and only one comrade reported any reaction on this basis to our sales -- and that was at the University of Washington. Neither at the Catholic university nor at Boeing, nor on the street were any comments or disturbance at our presence expressed.

We also had a bit of drama around our sales this week. On Monday night, when Tom and a new SWF comrade were selling in a shopping center in the black community, Tom got arrested. They were standing in front of a supermarket when the store manager asked them to move. Tom protested that he was within his rights; the store cop was called and then the city cops. Tom warned them they better check with the precinct before they arrested him, which they did, and eventually took him in. All of these maneuvers took about an hour, during which time black people reacting speedily to the police harrassment, made a point of buying the paper. Two white youth stood by, and one offered to be a witness. A black store clerk lined up two black youngsters, 8 or 9 years old, to sell on another corner, which they did and returned with the money. Within less than 30 minutes, 40 papers were sold and black people stood around reading them and watching to see what the cops would do. As he was about to get arrested, Tom sent Steve off to tell me -- one was enough!

For \$100. I bailed him out; he was charged with "loitering in a doorway." We contacted the ACLU who immediately offered to fight the case if we wanted to. Their lawyer, Mike Rosen, also told us it might get thrown out. And that was exactly what happened. The next morning

in court the judge merely said, "No valid claim" before Tom could open his mouth. At this point, as agreed, we went to Rosen's office. He alerted various members of the press with the theme "husband of candidate gets arrested for 'loitering'" and also called the store manager, informing him the case had been thrown out and that a Supreme Court case had just ruled on the legality of such sales in shopping centers. He warned him, if it happened again, we might choose to sue for false arrest. He also called the prosecutor and told him to inform the cops as we would be selling all over town. That night Tom and Steve returned to the same place and experienced no problems selling.

Besides some press coverage resulting from Rosen's calls, it happened that a TV station (ABC) came to interview me at the HQ that day as a result of the press release we had just put out on the French revolt. Naturally they jumped on this incident and I appeared in a prime spot on the news for about five minutes Tuesday evening. A number of people recognized me as I sold the following day and one high school youngster was anxious to know if my husband was still in jail.

We are planning to increase our plant gate and street sales for next week as all high schools and colleges will be closed.

Comradely,

Debbie Leonard