



# CALL SELLER BUSTED

After having his hands slapped over the *Bird* sellers case last year, Massell and the police had been steering clear of newspaper peddlers until the police murder of a black Muslim who was selling *Muhammed Speaks* occurred on Broad Street last June. You may remember that in April of 1972, the mayor decided to harass the *Bird* out of existence, after we refused to cooperate with the city's plans for destroying the strip.

After nine people were arrested in one day for selling the *Bird* without a license, we went to court. Shortly after that, the city withdrew the ordinance knowing full well that it was unconstitutional. At the same time, US District Court Judge Moyer enjoined the city from further harassment of *Bird* sellers.

Since the Muslim shooting in June, the city has renewed its attacks on sellers of left wing and alternative newspapers. This time however they're using different tactics—enforcing charges like creating a turmoil, impeding traffic, etc. In addition to *Muhammed Speaks*, sellers of the Black Panther Party Newspaper, the *Bird*, the *Call* (newspaper of the October League), the *Militant*, (newspaper of the SWP) and *Challenge*, (newspaper of the Progressive Labor Party) have all been either harrassed or arrested.

Earlier this month, Carolyn Eubanks of PL was carried off in a paddy wagon while selling *Challenge* at Broad and Hunter Streets. Although Eubanks was peacefully hawking the paper, it took five cops to arrest her and twenty minutes to come up with charges. She was eventually charged with violating the safe street and sidewalk act, creating a turmoil and using profane and abusive language.

The neighboring police of East Point and Hapeville are also taking up the attack on newspaper sellers, and on Monday, Aug. 20th, seven people were arrested while selling the *Call* outside the Ownes-Illinois plant in East Point. The October League (OL) has sold at this plant for the past three or four months and sales of the paper have been going quite well. At the same time there's been a lot of militancy inside the plant. Company officials have become increasingly concerned about having a communist newspaper sold outside Owens, and have been harassing *Call* sellers for the past month.

On the morning of the arrests, a man and a woman came out to the plant to sell the paper and the man was beaten up by a foreman. That afternoon, four more sellers came back and started hawking the paper. This time the company tried to get a goon squad together from amongst the workers, but all they could muster up were some foremen, company officials, and two older white workers. The goons surrounded the sellers, thinking

that no one would pass the line and buy the paper.

People did, however, walk through the line and buy the paper, while everyone inside was getting a view of what the company was trying to do. After 10 papers were sold, the East Point police arrested the sellers for criminal trespass and impeding traffic. All four were actually standing on the sidewalk in front on the plant. It's pretty obvious, of course, who was impeding traffic.

Exercising their first amendment right to a free press, members of the OL went back to Owens that night. This time they were standing on the other side of the street, which is in the city of Hapeville. Two white women workers were outside the plant talking with the Hapeville police and plant management, when one of the sellers was arrested—the charge was public indecency. (One of the women had said that he had urinated in front of them.)

When the two others walked across the street, they were arrested for trespassing. So by Monday night, seven people had been arrested for selling the *Call* and a total bail of \$3500 had been imposed. (\$500 bond a piece, an incredibly high bond for such charges)

In an open show of cooperation with Owens, the *Atlanta Constitution* published a short article on the incident which included the names and addresses of all those who were arrested. Some of these people have already lost their jobs and others certainly have been inconvenienced. There was no reason for the *Constitution* to have done this except to expose the seven people arrested to a public trial by the most anti-communist and reactionary elements in Atlanta.

The OL attributes this harassment to the rising popularity of the *Call*, both in plants and in the downtown area, as well as to the general harassment of left wing newspapers in Atlanta.

At a press conference in front of Owens last Friday, Sherman Miller of the OL said "The arrests made here at Owens are the culmination of a whole series of attempts by the Atlanta and East Point Police Departments the two city governments and a number of factory owners to harass and intimidate *Call* sellers and October League members off the streets. My presence here today is an indication that these tactics have failed.....These tactics are in direct violation of the first amendment. The October League will continue to sell its newspaper the *Call* and will react to any further attempts at harassment. All those who wish to see the continuation of a free press—join us in this fight."

The October League plans now to take Owens to court and fight this illegal harassment.

—paula

## 3rd Time Now

Dallas, Texas—Fred Bell, who helped organize Dallas SNCC and was a chairman of the Angela Davis Liberation Party, is coming up for trial again on September 17 in Paris, Texas.

Because of a strange quirk of federal fate, the "law" which Bell "broke" may put him in prison for the third time on the same charge.

Fred Bell became politically active while he was still an economics student at the University of Texas in 1966. His growing consciousness led him to become one of the first SNCC organizers in the Dallas area and that same consciousness and the activity surrounding it led the police to arrest him, along with two other SNCC workers, on a bank robbery charge in August of 1968. The move, along with the arrest a few weeks later of Lee Otis Johnson, virtually destroyed Texas SNCC's effectiveness.

Bell's attorneys, who had won the confidence of his family, persuaded him to plead guilty rather than face a possible life sentence from an all-white Texas jury.

To make an amazing story short, the guilty plea was reversed and Bell was released from prison in 1970.

In June of 1971, he was tried on the same bank robbery charge and sent back to prison. After winning an appellate court decision—defied by a Texas judge—and after thousands of petitions demanded his release, Bell was let go.

Now the federal government has decided that another law has been broken. Bell, by fraudulently pleading guilty to the original, and fraudulent, bank robbery charge and then pleading innocent to the repeated but "acceptable" charge, is allegedly guilty of "false declaration," or criminal inconsistency.

And even though the first charge—and therefore the first plea—was declared inoperative, Fred Bell may go back to prison. This time for violating a law that wasn't passed until two years after the guilty plea was made. Strange. But unfortunately true.

—teddi lane

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