

EDITORIAL

By PAUL C. SMITH

YOUR NAACP AND YOU

The NAACP's Freedom Ball on March 8th with Roy Wilkins, Executive Director as the main speaker should be the largest gathering ever held here in Las Vegas.

Every black working in the hotels and casino's owe their jobs to the NAACP for making the fight for them to get where they are—NAACP action and protest brought about the justice department's suit to force the hotels into hiring and upgrading blacks.

Not only should they show gratitude by buying tickets—they should be fighting to see how many tickets they can buy for their relatives.

The NAACP has caused their standard of living to be raised. Tickets to the dinner or out-right donations is a small price to pay for so much.

Not to give support to this once-a-year event is the same as biting the hand that feeds you.

Any brother or sister who does not attend should bow their heads in shame.

The NAACP has lead the fight for equal rights—The right to go any place—the right to attend better schools, the right to sit at the economic table and not wait for the crumbs.

Lest you forget.

DO YOUR PART — ATTEND.

THEIR CAUSE MUST NOT DIE

BY Bayard Rustin

In expelling author Alexander Solzhenitsyn from his native land, the Soviet Union apparently hopes to smother internal dissent without provoking the outrage of free men. This must not be allowed to happen.

Exile is, of course, a deep personal tragedy for Solzhenitsyn, as he loved Russia and derived artistic nourishment from the people and history of his homeland. That he did not meet a darker fate, as has befallen so many other Russian dissidents, should not obscure the writer's sense of personal loss or minimize the monstrous disregard for justice and decency of the Soviet government.

But Solzhenitsyn's expulsion is an even greater tragedy for the dissident movement. Having lost their most compelling and admired spokesman, the dissidents must now confront a government that has signaled to the world its intention to still any voice that rises in protest. And the systematic injustices of Soviet society of which we, have learned only because of the courage and honesty of dissenters, will continue unchecked.

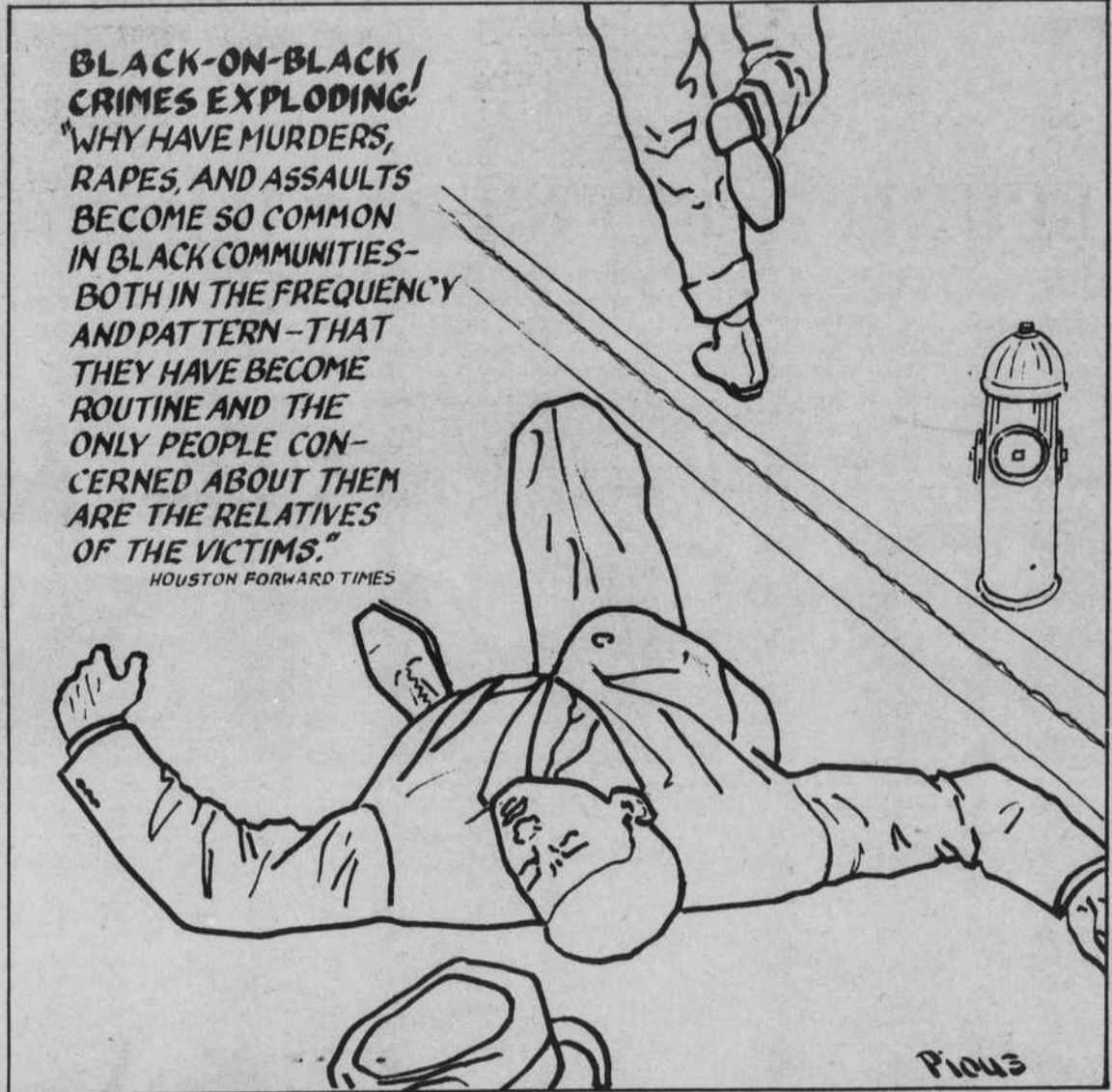
As Andrei Sakharov, the prominent dissenter has noted, Soviet repression takes many forms: political trials, religious persecution, the harassment of writers, restrictions on emigration, and discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Discrimination against racial minorities, much of it officially-sanctioned, was and is an American sickness. That segregation's legal foundation has been destroyed, and thousands of blacks brought into the social and economic mainstream, are direct results of democratic safeguards of the right to dissent. America's institutions are not perfect, but they are sufficiently open and free to permit the growth of a massive movement capable of transforming national habits and attitudes.

There is a oneness between our civil rights movement and the movement for individual freedom in Russia. This special relationship, borne of a common struggle, is recognized by the dissidents, who followed closely the progress of the civil rights movement, and greatly admired Martin Luther King.

This brings us to a basic point. One of the reasons for Dr. King's success was his ability to mobilize the support, not simply of Americans but of people around the world. The cause of American blacks was a cause with which all men of good conscious identified. And the weight of this global moral force played no small role in changing the American government's attitude from that of passive observer to one of advocate and supporter.

CRIME MUST BE CURED



But if world opinion was one element in the success of the civil rights movement here, it is the basic issue for the Soviet dissidents. If we do not raise our voice against Soviet repression there soon will be no dissident movement, nor any substantive liberalization of Soviet society for years to come.

To support the dissident movement does not signify that one is not committed to world peace Andrei Sakharov has stated that the dissidents themselves "welcome all that is denoted by the word 'detente.'"

The problem, as Sakharov has observed, is that "external detente is tragically not accompanied by internal and human detente." The point is that there is no detente for the Russian citizen if he cannot speak, or write, or think as he likes without fear of imprisonment or exile.

To achieve "human detente" Sakharov, in accepting the Norman Thomas Freedom Award from the Social Democrats, U.S.A, urged that an international coalition of conscience work for a series of specific reforms. These include amnesty for political prisoners, freedom of expression, freedom of emigration, an end to discrimination against national minorities, and outside inspection of prisons and mental institutions.

There are already encouraging indications of the potential for success of such a movement. It was sufficient for Sen. Henry Jackson to merely introduce legislation denying trade benefits to nation restricting emigration to bring about a relaxation in the Soviet policy toward Jews who wanted to settle in Israel.

But more can and must be done. It falls to us to support the dissidents, both politically and through moral persuasion, and to ensure that society responds to their pleas. Having experienced the good that protest can accomplish in an open society, we have a particular obligation to uphold the right to dissent where that right would be denied. We must listen; otherwise Soviet dissent will die.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I am a prisoner in the State of Ohio, and I am writing you this letter for print. I have been in prison for over 12 years and I am seeking friendship outside these walls.

But for some reason, Black Brothers & Sisters are very unwilling to accept the fact, that there are people, Black people in prison who don't even receive mail, and who have no one.

However, my mother is still alive, than God for that.

But, if there is anyone out there, willing to write me or another Black Brother, please feel free to write.

Jerry Jones, 116-021
Box 787
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

a voteless
people is a

hopeless
people.

LAS VEGAS Voice

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. Publisher
PAUL C. SMITH Managing Editor
DOROTHY S. WEST Treasurer
BEATRICE BRYANT Office Manager
RAY FEASTER Art & Layout
DOROTHY JOHNSON Food Forum
LETHANIEL DILLIGARD Religious News
HENRY P. MILLER Advertising

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
900 West Bonanza Road, Lobby Suite (Moulin
Rouge Hotel) Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Telephone 648-2615
ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ • One year - 7.50 • Two years - 12.50
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)