



The Volunteer

ORGAN OF
VETERANS OF THE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

— "AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE
PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE
EARTH."
Abraham Lincoln

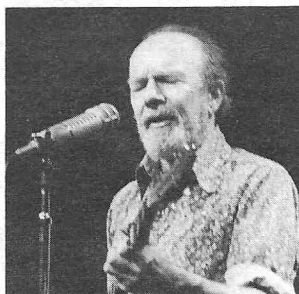
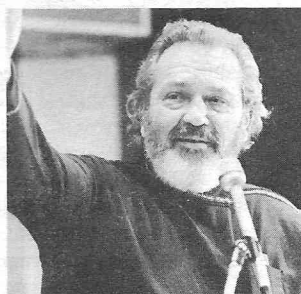
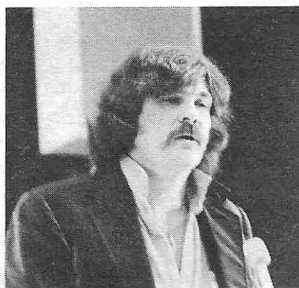
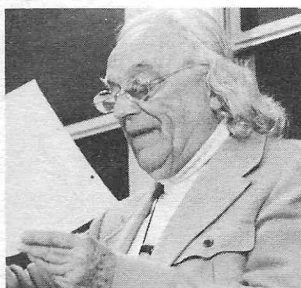
Vol 3 No. 5 1981



New York Dinner — Full House

NANCY WASSERMAN

Photos by



Speakers at Dartmouth Top L & R Raphael Alberti Tony Geist
Bottom L & R Abe Osheroff Pete Seeger

SPAIN!

By JULIE FLINT

MADRID—At no time since the death of Gen. Francisco Franco have Spaniards been so nervous about their future. And the cause lies not with the Basque guerrillas of ETA, bloody though they are, nor with the economic crisis, bad though it is, but with the determination of a group representing 2% of the Spanish people to have done with democracy.

The fears started with the coup attempt of Feb. 23 and have grown steadily since, culminating with the seizure last month of 260 hostages in a Barcelona bank—a seizure that was almost certainly planned by some of the people involved in planning, and financing, the coup attempt. Deepening the fears are the passivity of the government and the increasing passivity of an opposition which, seeing the failed coup make its dreams of government little more than pipedreams, has given up acting like an opposition.

Even Communist leader Santiago Carrillo now shouts "Viva Espana!"

The death of Franco in November, 1975, seemed to take all the fight out of his followers. The ease with which his regime collapsed after 40 years of absolute power astonished Spain and the world—lulling both into a false sense of security. The Common Market agreed to start negotiating with Spain, but saw, and apparently sees, no reason to hurry the country into its fold. Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez was the golden boy of the West

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When fire destroyed the main ballroom of the Statler Hotel, it looked as if we would have to forego our 44th anniversary dinner. But thanks to Sam Gonshak and the Dinner committee, and with only five days to go, we were able to find another hotel, and notify the Vets and their guests of the new arrangements. So instead of dining at the Statler Hotel on April 26, we held our dinner at the Hotel Biltmore.

Steve Nelson, our national commander, spoke a few words of greeting to the 750 people assembled, and presented a model of Roy Shifrin's statue to Dr. Irving Adler because of Dr. Adler's work in behalf of the memorial at CCNY for those students of that school who fought and died in Spain. He then turned the chair over to Henry Foner, an old hand at all our affairs.

Abe Osheroff reported briefly on the Symposium on the Spanish Civil War that was held in early April at Dartmouth in New Hampshire. The highlights of that symposium, according to Abe, was a round-table discussion which featured some of our Vets, and Pete Seeger singing songs of the SCW—a discussion at which over 1000 students and townspeople were present.

The chief speakers at our dinner were Victor Navasky and Gloria Steinem. Victor Navasky, editor of *The Nation*, and famed author of the recently published book "Naming Names", emphasized in his speech, the dangers that we are facing in this country from movements such as the Moral Majority, and warned of the increasing attacks against civil liberties. He also warned that there is the renewed possibility of another HUAC, and lauded the Vets for their struggle against that infamous committee. I quote from his speech: "To honor the honorable is to pass judgement on the dishonorable."

An honored and honorable guest at our dinner was Rafael Alberti, famous Spanish poet. Although the years have bowed him down a bit, his voice was as strong and vibrant as ever, and it was thrilling to hear him recite some of his poems. For the Vets present, his poem "To The International Brigades", was especially moving.

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DARTMOUTH REMEMBERS SPAIN AND HONORS VETS

By Leonard Lamb and Bill Susman

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Second Spanish Republic, was celebrated at Dartmouth College the weekend of April 9th—12th, before a participating audience of 1500 students, residents, visitors and a dozen veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

The symposium, "Art and Ideology of the Spanish Civil War", was sponsored by the Dean of the Faculty, the Department of Spanish-Portuguese, Dartmouth College; the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA); and Kenneth and Harle Montgomery, whose generosity helped make the symposium possible. Professor Anthony L. Geist was the masterful organizer. Abe Osheroff, ALBA Fellow, assisted in the preparation and execution of the events.

There were panels on history, the novel and on poetry. Some of the panelists who offered papers on history were: Professor Gabriel Jackson, Ronald Fraser, Author of "Blood of Spain", Professor Marysa Navarro, History Department, Dartmouth College. Professor Will Watson who participated on the history panel offered an interesting paper on "The Politics of Literature: Dos Passos and Hemingway". Carlos Fuentes read a section from his novel "The Death of Artemio Cruz" and spoke on the impact of the refugee immigration following the Spanish Civil War on Mexican culture.

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TO THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

You have come from very far, but what is distance to your blood which sings without boundary or frontier? Death is the country which claims you today and forever, fallen in the fields or cities, death claims you, fallen here.

From one country and another, from the large one, from the small one, from one that bearily lends color to the map on the wall; talking together, simply and anonymously, you have come to join us, because our roots are in the same dream, because it has nourished us all, You do not even know the shape and color of our city where your invincible pledge crests a barricade.

You defend the small piece of earth where you will lie buried, Meeting death as in a personal encounter, unafraid.

Stay with us, for such is the wish of the very trees, the hillsides, of each little particle of the all-embracing light.

The same wish moves the sea. You are our Brothers!

At your names Madrid glows, is illumined in the night.

Katherine Garrison Chapin, RAFAEL ALBERTI

“ANDA BURRO ANDA”

Maury Colow

After leaving the hospital in Barcelona, I was stationed in Tarrazona for a little while. Our food was meager and it was our custom (while off duty) to hike the surrounding countryside looking for contacts. Perhaps to meet peasants and swap army food for vegetables and eggs. At the time, I was doing just this with a good friend, Dick Fein.

Dick and I got to know Carlos de Fuentes and his family. They had a small hut about a mile outside of town. De Fuentes was given a few acres of land in a re-distribution by the government after the fascists were chased out of the village. Fuentes was tall, wiry and had a deep scar on his cheek. He was well into his fifties. He had an intense, tired-looking wife who seemed a lot older. His son was in the army somewhere on the Madrid front. They had two sparkling and delightful daughters... the youngest about nine years old. The family also had a tired burro to whom they were much indebted. It was the burro's job to walk in a perpetual circle, hauling water up in buckets from their deep well... water needed for irrigation.

Breakfast for the De Fuentes family was a kind of brunch. Meaning the family could afford to eat only twice a day. We were invited to join them one Sunday morning and arrived about 10 AM. There were embraces and protests when we insisted on contributing whatever rations we could get our hands on. By the standards of the day, the meal was sumptuous... eggs, fried chicken, fruit and wine. A word about the wine. It was homemade and their best vintage. we noticed with some dismay that their nine year old was swinging the gota (wineskin) and taking it in her stride. The water in the area was bad, so everyone in the family drank wine and was used to it. Not so for us. Dick and I were becoming almost drunk but still under control. We sang, recited poetry and warmly thanked our hosts for sharing their chicken with us. Carlos said it was an honor and laughingly pointed out to his family: "Look how sweet and joyous our American friends are. Que espirito". What spirit? The truth is we were tanked.

After the meal and still more toasts, I — feeling no pain — looked out the open door and saw the tired burro making his rounds. I suggested the family tie up the burro in the shade of a tree and let him rest. Dick and I would put on the harness and march around to draw water from the well. They protested. We insisted. So there we were, the noonday sun beating down fiercely, walking endlessly round and round with Dick yelling out to me: "Hey burrico, anda, anda" (walk, walk). In addition, we were singing at top voice and waving to the family. And the burro, quite content, seemed to be looking out of the corner of his sleepy eyes and saying: "Look at those Americans. They are stark, raving mad".

STEVE NELSON HONORED

About 90 persons, among them some of the nation's most prominent leftist scholars and human rights activists, gathered at Cicero's restaurant in Provincetown Tuesday to honor on his 80th birthday Steve Nelson, who led the Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish civil War.

Nelson, a jovial, fiercely political man who now lives in Truro with his wife, Margaret, was presented with a huge birthday cake that was a replica of his soon-to-be released book, "Steve Nelson, American Radical."

Joining Nelson for his birthday celebration were five of his fellow veterans of the Lincoln Brigade, a group of American citizens who in 1936 fought the fascists in the Spanish Civil War.

In addition to a group of leftist activists who live in Provincetown, Truro and Wellfleet, friends and admirers of Nelson came from Boston, New York and from as far as San Francisco to honor a man who devoted his life to fighting injustice as he saw it.

As the guests exchanged greetings, they reminisced about the struggles that joined them in the past—the fight to unionize mine workers, the struggle to gain equal rights for minorities, the movement to halt America's involvement in Vietnam, and the refusal to succumb passively to the witch hunts instigated by the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy in the 1950's.

But the group of mostly elderly writers, editors and academicians, who joined in a rousing chorus of "We Shall Overcome," continue to actively devote time, energy and print to the fight against oppression in America and abroad, and to the nuclear disarmament movement.

Still going strong at the age of 80, Nelson himself, had spent Tuesday afternoon picketing at Camp Edwards in protest of a simulated tactical nuclear weapon demonstration.

A close friend, David Goldway, attributed to Nelson the "highest achievements of radicals of his time."

Nelson's life is in itself a chronicle of social and political struggles since the early part of this century. In the late 1920's and early 1930's he led coal miners in marches and protests that led to the unionization of American mine workers. Friends recall that the miners took Nelson in as one of their own.

In 1936 Nelson became the universally acclaimed leader of the Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. His contribution to that struggle pervades the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives at Brandeis University.

In 1956, when he was a Communist Party organizer in Pittsburgh, Nelson was indicted under the Smith Act and eventually convicted under the Pennsylvania Sedition Law. Imprisoned for almost two years. Nelson acted in his own defense and succeeded in having the Pennsylvania Sedition Law nullified. Nelson was also a key organizer in black civil rights struggles throughout the country.

During the 1980's Nelson worked with America's youth to halt the nation's involvement in Vietnam. Addressing the group Tuesday, Goldway praised Nelson for his "dedication to justice and the fight against oppression in any form or any place."

Bill Sussman, a fellow veteran of the Lincoln Brigade, reminisced about Nelson's show of unfaltering courage and integrity during the Spanish struggle and spoke of the love and admiration Nelson received from his Spanish as well as his American comrades.

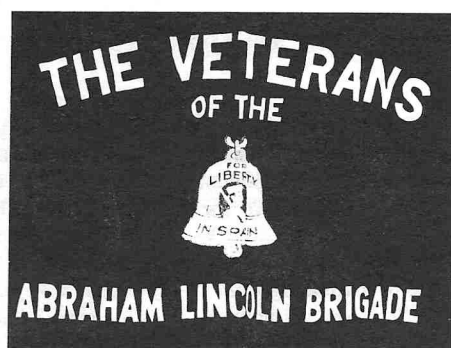
In Spain Nelson met a Provincetown man, Douglas Roach, whose family still lives here. Roach, who was one of the few blacks to join the Lincoln Brigade, was a seaman in the Coast Guard, and went to Spain with the Boston contingent of the brigade.

After a speech by Goldway, several of Nelson's friends offered brief speeches describing what Nelson's leadership and devotion to human rights has meant to them. Among them was Dennis Pearl of Truro, who met Nelson 10 years ago.

"I'd like to tell you what your accomplishments have done for my generation," said Pearl, who is in his 30s.

Quoting from a speech once delivered by Horace Mann at a graduation ceremony at Antioch College, Pearl said "be ashamed to die" unless you have made one victory.

SEND YOUR CHECK TODAY THE VOLUNTEER NEEDS THEM



New York Dinner

Those of us who heard him, will never forget the singing of Paul Robeson. Ted Regan, who sang some songs, sounded like a latter-day Paul Robeson, and when the words of "Ole Man River" filled the hall it was most evocative. Was it really so long ago?

Gloria Steinem, eminent fighter for women's rights, and editor of the magazine "Ms" was our last speaker. She excoriated the Reagan administration because of its reactionary position on ERA, abortion, and women's rights, and she pointed out the many parallels between the statements of Reagan's supporters, and the statements made by the Fascists and Hitlerites during the thirties and forties. And of course, she won our hearts, when she told us, how, when she was growing up, she had admired us, and now we had been a stimulus for her in her later activities.

There was a collection without a lengthy collection speech, and for this we were all grateful, and, I believe, most generous. . . We broke even on the food and rental, and made a little on the collection.

The informal part of the dinner, the hour at the bar, before we sat down to out chicken and potatoes, was as usual, most enjoyable. It was good to greet old comrades and to remember and talk about the days of our youth.

The news media were present, and flash bulbs were popping, and Vets were being interviewed and tape-recorded all over the place. There were evening news reports of our dinner, and WBAI, a N.Y. radio station, broadcast a couple of hours of interviews with Vets on its after-midnight talk show. There was also a National Public Radio Broadcast which featured some taped interviews with Vets - heard by many millions of people. And so - Hasta next year!

WHAT THEY SAID . . .

May 8, 1981

To the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade,

Late as it is, I wish to tell you how moved I was at your dinner. This was my first at one of your affairs. I think Mr. Navasky and Ms. Steinem were real guides.

While I had some slight knowledge of the Spanish Civil War, it was here that, for the first time, I understood the stimulus your volunteering provided to so many other decent people. I was moved when Gloria Steinem, describing her early years in smug and conventional surroundings, spoke of how her encounter with your history demonstrated that alternatives existed, and that life did not have to be a dreary round of narrow and egoistic ambitions.

In fact, it was her talk that led me to go to Washington and take part in the protest march around El Salvador.

And so, I suppose it can be said that your deeds back in the '30's started a chain of events affecting the lives of many.

Sincerely,
Hannah Meehan

April 30, 1981

Dear Sirs:

I write to congratulate you on last Sunday's excellent anniversary dinner. I have attended a number of Vets' dinners in the past, as well as those of other organizations. Usually, the best you can say for such affairs is that you weren't totally bored, and at least the organization raised some money. They Vets' dinner this year was different. It was both educational and at the same time pleasurable. The poetry reading was quite beautiful, even for one who doesn't understand Spanish, the singing was enchanting, and both speakers were enlightening and inspiring.

I discussed the affair with a friend who attended, and who, like me, is a law student at Rutgers. We agreed that the very special nature of this dinner came from the message conveyed by both speakers; that we had much to learn from your experience, much that will be helpful as we work together in the coming days. It was very encouraging to know that people of your experience and sagacity are committed to working on the problems we will all face in the future.

I wish you would convey my appreciation to all who had a part in putting the dinner together.

Sincerely,
Jill Hanson

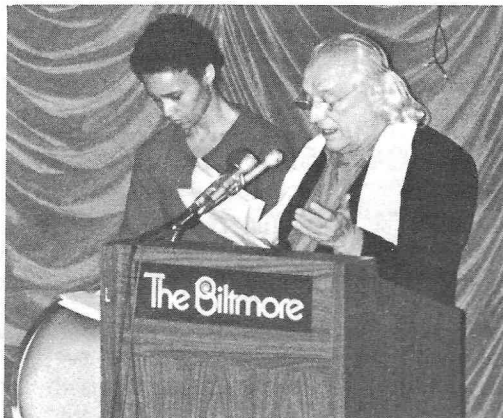
SEND YOUR CHECK TODAY THE VOLUNTEER NEEDS THEM



GLORIA STEINEM



VICTOR NAVASKY



RAPHAEL ALBERTI

PROF. CAROL BEANE-TRANSLATOR



PART OF THE 750 GUESTS

Photos by JOSHUA SILLS

A GUY NAMED JOE

From The Dartmouth Alumni May 1981

In a tribute written long after his death, a writer for *The Dartmouth* called Joseph Anthony Dallet '27 "the first Dartmouth man killed in World War II." He died October 17, 1937, near Sargossa, Spain — an officer of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade leading an attack across open ground in the face of fascist gunfire.

Last month, a dozen of Joe Dallet's old comrades-in-arms came to Hanover for what was probably the most comprehensive academic gathering ever held to assess the Spanish Civil War. The old soldiers told old war stories. Pete Seeger sang them the songs of that war. An exhibition of the poster art and the literature emerging from the conflict was mounted at Baker Library and Hopking Center. Spanish poet Rafael Alberti, who had read his work to the soldiers of the republic in the trenches near Madrid, now in his ninth decade came to the College to read again those same poems.

Steve Nelson, Dallet's best wartime friend, came from Pittsburgh to talk about the young soldier, whom he recalled as "bent on fighting fascism." Nelson expressed the hope that one day a memorial to Dallet might be established at the College or that "maybe some student can learn something from what he did."

According to his delayed obituary, Dallet was the son of a prosperous Long Island garment manufacturer. Although he was a good athlete and a good scholar, he was generally considered a loner and a misfit during his years at Dartmouth. He sold insurance for a time after graduation, then became a union organizer in the Pennsylvania coalfields, joining the Communist Party along the way.

Dallet was intent on going to Spain, Nelson said, and the two went together, on a boat that was sunk from under them off the French coast. They were among 17 who were arrested as they made it to shore. Marching off to jail in chains, Dallet happened to spot a piano in an elegant French home. He com-

plimented the owner, was invited to play, then impressed a hastily assembled audience that included the local magistrate with his musical talent. Adding the "Marseillaise" to Chopin in his spontaneous concert soon had Dallet and his friends out of their chains and over the Pyrenees into Spain. Ordinarily, Nelson added, Dallet avoided admitting he could play the piano or that his parents had money or that he had indulged in such elite pleasures as traveling first class in Europe or graduating from an Ivy League college.

The words in the long-delayed obituary made an appropriately flowery tribute for a victim of a much-romanticized war: "Winters are cold in the Spanish city of Sargossa, and its two ancient cathedrals point skyward like dead fingers — or rusty rifles thrust in the earth — and cold winds sweep the outlying barren hills that hold the dust of Joe Dallet. He sleeps in Spain beneath a soil he thought would be free. Not that it was his soil — America had no war in 1937. But Joe had a war; the war against fascism — the war for freedom."

Abe Osheroff, a Lincoln brigade veteran who came to Hanover to show a film he made recently about the Spanish Civil War, said, "There are no beautiful wars. There are beautiful causes." Osheroff, Nelson, and the others who came to the Dartmouth symposium obviously believed — as had Dallet — that in Spain, in the late thirties, they had found a beautiful cause.

The democratic government, now again in power after Franco's 36-year reign, has made available a great deal of new material on the civil war, which was discussed for the first time here last month. They also threw a party for the men who had been there.

Nelson offered the College his thanks for "opening its doors," and a librarian from the official brigade archives at Brandeis University called the seminar "a dream come true." "We don't want to be a place for old documents to collect dust," he said.

DARTMOUTH REMEMBERS CONTINUED

On Saturday afternoon, Rafael Alberti, one of the great poets of the world who inspired the Spanish people during the Civil War with readings in the trenches, gave a two-hour recital to a standing-room only audience. His poetry was dramatically interpreted by Professor Carol Beane. Alberti asked the vets present to stand beside him as he read a poem to the International Brigades. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. Again the vets were given a standing ovation.

Saturday night was devoted entirely to the vets. Abe Osheroff showed his film "Dreams and Nightmares" to Jammied auditorium. During his introduction, Abe Osheroff explained that he had recently felt his picture to be dated but that the victory of Reagan and Haig had once more made it relevant. The film was followed by panel of four vets moderated by ALBA Chairman, Professor William B. Watson, Steve Nelson, Irv Weissman, Bill Susman and Leonard Lamb had the students laughing and cheering by turns as they answered questions about their personal lives, political activity and their attitude to the present.

Saturday's activity was capped with a party for all the participants given by the Spanish Embassy at the Hanover Inn.

For two weeks prior to the symposium, many of the civil war posters, books and memorabilia held at Brandeis were supplied by ALBA to Dartmouth and were on exhibition both in the Baker Library and in the Hopkins Student Center. Daily tours of the civil war posters were led by vets.

Six films on the war were shown prior to the weekend.

There were three one-hour radio interviews with professor Geist and Abe Osheroff as well as a TV session.

The local press and the college paper carried important stories about the event and as the weekend approached, interest heightened.

At the end of the symposium, a meeting was held between Abe Osheroff, Professor Tony Geist, Dr. Irving Adler and the Dean of Faculty, to discuss the possibility of erecting a plaque to the memory of Joe Dallet, a Dartmouth graduate, and of offering an annual prize for the best essay on American participation in the Spanish Civil War.

Before the vets departed from Hanover, many of them were approached by both students and faculty who said that this was one of the most memorable events in the recent history of Dartmouth.

ALBA has already been approached by five universities asking for help in organizing similar events. Veterans who have connections with universities should contact ALBA, GPO Box 1332, New York, N.Y. 10116.

Dartmouth College made video tapes of the proceeding which will be available through ALBA.

The special events which highlighted the weekend were: A Friday night concert by Pete Seeger before an audience of one thousand. He asked the vets to come up on stage as he sang "Viva La Quince Brigada". The students gave the vets a standing ovation lasting several minutes.

"SUCH A GOOD FRIEND"

On the weekend of April 11th, Dartmouth College sponsored a magnificent symposium "Literature and the Spanish Civil War". I am limiting myself to reporting on the Pete Seeger concert which took place on Friday of that weekend.

Pete Seeger is such a good friend of ours! I first met him in 1940. We were raising money for the Rehabilitation Fund for our guys who were hospitalized. We were given a truck, a mike and a route to travel. Pete sang and I made the pitch. We collected money from workers in the garment district, on the East side and the Bronx. We worked from mid-morning until dusk and Pete was hoarse at the end of the day.

What a friend Pete is to us! His Six Songs for Democracy must have been sung six thousand times by now. But the concert at Dartmouth was something special. His program would have made a perfect outline for a speaking engagement. He sang the songs of the thirties, of Woody Guthrie, of organizing the unorganized, of picket lines . . . all to explain that the Volunteers came from those struggles and that perhaps that was the best expression of progressive America.

What a friend Pete Seeger is to us! When he introduced the songs of the Brigade he mentioned that whether in France, Italy, the USSR, Vietnam or Indonesia, the response to our songs was resounding. At one point he invited those vets present to the stage and all of us were moved by the standing ovation the students gave us. Can you imagine Moishe Briar, Johnny Tisa, Steve Nelson, Abe Osheroff, Lenny Lamb, Bill Sussman, Irv Weisman, Carl Geiser and yours truly singing in harmony? It should have been taped so that we could have been held accountable.

The students were learning about Spain; about the Spanish people and their fight against fascism; about the role of American volunteers; about its relevance to today and about our involvement in El Salvador. Pete's concert brought all the parallels together. It was a magnificent evening. What a friend we have in Pete! And how much we appreciate and love him for it.

Jim Persoff

When the 14th anti-aircraft battery took up a position in Madrid, somewhere between the Parrios "Tetuan" and "Chamartin," a team of three, Franz, a reichsdeutscher, Toon (Anton), a hollander and myself, started to string a telephone line to an observation post overlooking "La Universitaria."

For the most part it wasn't too difficult, for we strung the line on the existing telephone poles along the streets; but when we ran up a cul-de-sac in the "Barrio Colonia Buenavista," in order to save time and line, we decided to throw the telephone wire over the roof of one of the houses confronting us.

The occupants of the house, a man and wife, came out to watch. Toon, picked up a coil of wire, and flung it over the house. The wire unravelled, only to stop dead and snarl on a protruding spar on the roof. Annoyed at the spar that should not have been there, Toon shot out a long string of Dutch curse words, to which the man of the house, animatedly asked, "Spriks Hollands?"

The owner was a Hollander who lived in Madrid with his Spanish wife. He was a cellist in the Madrid Symphony Orchestra, sympathetic to the Republic and warm to the International Brigades. He invited us in for a glass of wine and used the opportunity to practice English with me. He showed me a four foot shelf of "Tauschnitz" Editions, and offered to lend me any book I wanted.

"Tauschnitz" was a German publishing house, that published English classics to be sold in non-English speaking countries, in order to avoid royalty payments and copyrights. They were easily identifiable in their white paperback covers. Not having read an English word in six months, I chose Sinclair Lewis' "Arrowsmith."

A week later, on an eight hour pass, I returned the book and took another. The Bos' asked me to stay for dinner, which was a chick pea soup which I didn't care for, some melon and coffee. But we all had a great time. Madrid was understandably dour. The war and the air alerts made dinner at home with friends, the best of diversions.

The battery moved out of Madrid, and though we were sent to various sectors, I kept up the correspondence I had established with the Bos'. I remember one letter, "Senora Ros had won one hundred pesetas in a lottery. She went out and bought four cans of "carne de buey," tinned beef, called in the neighbors and they all had a grand dinner."

Our relationship was only a thread, but it must have been warm because sometimes a package of cookies would come through the mail for me from the Bos'.

In October 1938, when the battery was in the Cuesta de Reina sector, we received an order that all Internationals were to be returned to their homeland, and all arms and equipment was to be turned over to Spanish personnel. A cadre of four was to remain behind, of which I was one. At first it was great, showed off how much I knew about an anti-aircraft director, but after, they "caught on" and my position became superfluous, I asked the Spanish captain for permission to proceed to Valencia, where all the Internationals in the central sector were being assembled.

The captain said nice things to me about the invaluable help I had been for the past month, wished me well, paid me 315 pesetas, ten pesetas per day plus fifteen pesetas for my "cabo" rating, gave me a "vale" or voucher for a railway ticket to Valencia, a "Vale" for three days rations, and a personal gift from him, a pack of "Looky Estrikeres." Lastly he embraced me. It was a little longer than the usual embrace which generally lasts for a couple of seconds, and I got the feeling he was saying, "You lucky bastard, you're getting away Scot-free." So when I was disengaged I gave him a sharp clenched fist salute and muttered "Viva la Republica," and with a nagging guilt, got a lift on a waiting truck, halfway to the "intendencia," or supply depot.

The "Intendencia" was an unused railway roundhouse that had been turned into a supply depot. Posted on the wall were the allowable rations per man per day. The Intendencia was not meant for individual soldiers, but for military units drawing gross quantities. I looked at the rations list:

Pan — 1	Aciete — 10 ml.
Garbanzos — 20 gr.	Ajoes — 5 gr.
Lentejas — 20 gr.	Vino — 250 ml.

What could I do with chickpeas or lentils? I didn't want the olive oil and I didn't know what "ajoes" were, so I asked the "sargento" in charge to give me three loaves of bread and a litre of wine for my "vale."

I was waiting at the railroad station for the Valencia train when I was struck with the thought "I may never see the Bos' again." "Why not go to Madrid? It's not too far, and anyway, I have 'till Thursday to Report in Valencia."

I ran over to a gasoline station where an army truck was filling up and

Oiva Halonen 1912-1981

On April 11th nearly two hundred friends, many coming long distances, paid homage to Oiva Halonen in a Senior Citizens Center in Seattle. It was a very moving affair, and will be long remembered by those present because it was a tribute to his active life, including his time in Spain. Instead of long mourning, bowed heads and subdued music there were songs and dance and "Oiva" stories, including Oiva's voice on tapes telling of his experiences before, during and after Spain.

He was a machinist by trade and retired a few years ago — busier after he retired than before. At the time of retirement he was given the royal treatment at the shop where he worked. One of his young co-workers told of Oiva in the shop — "a machinist like they don't make anymore" — a shop where he was kicked out of the union by the Internatinal during the McCarthy days.

Oiva was active in a number of groups over the years; both he and his wife Taimi in the Finnish community and elsewhere. He was Chairperson of VALB AND FRIENDS in Seattle, and a member of VALB National Board. During recent years he showed *Dreams and Nightmares* in countless places, community colleges and elsewhere. He touched the lives of many people, as was evidenced by the tributes paid to him on April 11th.

NEXT ISSUE WILL CARRY AN OBIT. ON RODGER HARGRAVE

PLEASE SEND YOUR OBIT'S TO THE VOLUNTEER

asked the driver if he would take me to Madrid. While I was asking him, his partner was filling the tires with air; as he lifted the air hose from a tire valve, the escaping air made a "wheeee swish" sound, like a round from a 75 mm piece. I fell to the pavement and covered my head with my musette bag only to hear the "chofer" laughing as though it was a grand joke.

Yes, of course, he'd take me. "Don't we 'combatientes' have to help each other?" It was after twelve noon when we were approaching Cinchon. The driver stopped the truck alongside a nondescript house and explained to me that only the drivers of the "Guerpo De Tren" were permitted to eat here. I would not be permitted. "But if you go down the road you might be able to buy a melon or something from a farmer. I'll see you in an hour," he said, and took off to eat. A nearby farmer agreed to sell me a melon. "Three pesetas," he said, and recognizing me as a "Notteamericano," added a sales tax. "And two cigarettes."

Hanging from the rafters in the back room of the farmer's house where this great transaction took place, were strings of garlic. An idea captured me. I'll bring Mrs. Bos a bouquet of garlic. It'll be a great gag! "How much is one of those strings," I asked, pointing to them. "Oh those are five pesetas and five cigarettes." His quote was high. For five "Lucky Strike Cigarettes" one could buy salvation, but I was "loaded." So I asked him for two strings of garlic and paid him his price.

I met the "camion" and hour later and we continued to Madrid. I amused the driver and his partner with stories of "Nueva York," which they found interesting. It killed the monotony of the trip for them, so by the time I left were fast friends. They wished me health and luck. "Salud, Suerte," they yelled as the truck pulled away when they left me off.

Madrid, despite the two hour daylight savings time, was dark. The Madrid wind which "can't snuff out a candle yet can kill a man," sent all the people scurrying. The men wrapped their faces in long black mufflers, leaving only a slit just below their pushed-forward berets to see through. The women already wore overcoats. Those that had none wore bathrobes. They wore them with an air of "their contribution to the war effort."

The Madrilenos had been besieged on three sides for over two years. Light bulbs needles and thread were scarce. Food was rationed, public services curtailed. The blackout and the various check points manned by The Assault Guards didn't allow for promenades. Everybody moved quietly almost stealthily, intent on something, somewhere. It was eerie. A city of a million

CONT. ON PAGE 16

WE ARE SHORT OF THE \$500 THE ISSUE COSTS. CAN YOU HELP.

**SEND YOUR CHECK TODAY
THE VOLUNTEER NEEDS THEM**

POST REPORTS

N.Y. POST

From the minutes of the combined meeting of the Dinner Committee and Executive Board of the New York post held Wed. May 6th. Sam Gonshak reported on the April 26 44th Anniversary Dinner. He read the letter from Ms. Jill Hanson (see the reprint) Its tone and enthusiasm are typical of comments from all sources — veterans, our traditional constituency, and the substantial numbers of new people for whom this was a first.

Sam noted the friendly answers to our invitations that we had received from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations and from the Consul General of Spain in New York, and the presence at our dinner of the latter's colleague and representative, Jose L. Dicenta, the Consulate's Press and Information Counselor.

Every one agreed that a novel spirit and afresh approach had characterized this event, and that the main speakers had made their mark because of their thoughtfulness, logic and detailed exposition. Louis Lefkowitz remarked that his union people had liked it more than they had past affairs.

Sam reported that the hall was filled, with 750 present. The proceedings were taped, and, in the week after, W B A I gave the affair two hours of radio coverage. (Since then it has repeated its coverage on several occasions; the last such was on May 18th when it rebroadcast Navasky's entire speech) W N Y C gave a 15 minute broadcast of the proceedings. On Tuesday, May 5th, National Public Radio, on its All Things Considered program, broadcast taped interviews with veterans at the dinner, as well as excerpts from the main speeches. This went out over 200 to 240 stations, with an audience of 5,000,000 people.

The collection was short and sweet — all of ten minutes — and more successful than at our last dinner.

While the entire Dinner Committee was to be congratulated, Sam Gonshak in particular had paid constant attention to all details. The committee presented him with the surprise gift of a piece of luggage for his trip to Spain from which he is to return June 6th.

MEETING OF N.Y. POST - MARCH 29, 1981

Fifty vets were present at the meeting chaired by Irving Weissman.

After listening to a speaker, Bob Astortag, from the Committee in Solidarity With The People of El Salvador, the members present voted unanimously to protest the activities of the U.S. government in el salvador and to vigorously support the May 3 demonstration in Washington.

Lenny Lamb gave a most timely and comprehensive report of the recently attempted military coup against the Spanish government. There were many questions addressed to Lenny, and some spirited discussion.

Vets March In Washington

On May 3rd, a contingent of Vets marched behind the banner of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade as part of the Largest anti-war demonstration to be seen in Washington since the "sixties." Most of us came by bus, some by auto, and a couple even flew in by plane.

From the participants in the staging area, and all along the route of march to the Pentagon, the applause we received was continuous. People fell in with us, — some with recording machines, some as reporters but most just to talk to us, and comments ranged from "Your group is an inspiration", "You are the real heroes", to "What made you volunteer?" What is most significant about this is that from the few sectarian leftists to the many who belong to church groups, we represented a common, unifying idea with which all anti-war activists could agree.

Our participation in this demonstration as a group under our own banner, was made possible by a resolution passed unanimously at the N.Y. Post meeting held on March 29th. The actual implementation of this resolution was initiated by Bob Steck, with the active assistance of Moe Fishman. They contacted the organizers of the demonstration, arranged for the buses, and organized the phone squads. (About 30 Vets marched in our contingent.)

The media, and the police, as is usual in such demonstrations, underestimated the number participating. The police estimate was 20,000. The march organizers said there were 100,000 marching. I myself would estimate that 40,000 to 50,000 was nearer the truth.

Mac Krauss

THE LOS ANGELES POST CONTINGENCY FUND

In the early 1970s, through the generosity and sensitivity of Charles Small (one of our most dedicated and loyal supporters) a fund was set up on the West Coast and East Coast. His purpose was to provide funds to aid those Vets who might have a difficult time meeting their medical, or economical needs.

In the years that the West Coast fund has existed, it has been used for helping five Vets, and been offered at numerous other times. It has been used both for grants and loans.

In every case that becomes known to this Post, we remind the comrade that the fund exists and to use it if needed. Other similar funds exist in San Francisco Bay Area and New York.

Recently one of our Post members, who wishes to be anonymous, donated a large sum of money to bolster our meager contingency fund.

However, if the Posts are unaware of a comrade's needs medical or financial — it is impossible to fulfill its responsibility. However — if a comrade knows of the needs of another comrade, then it is HIS responsibility to communicate the information to the nearest Post or the National Office.

It therefore comes as a shock, to read Ed Lending's letter in the last "Volunteer". This Post has also been criticized for neglect, in a letter signed by some comrades, despite the fact that on at least two occasions, the members of the L.A. Post were informed of its existence (in addition to announcements at meetings), and the aid given to the five comrades. We also urge "Shooting from the lip", without first ascertaining the facts, can do damage to our reputation — both inside the VALB and outside as well. Many of our supporters read "THE VOLUNTEER".

When criticizing our organization, our comrades ought to be concerned for truth as well as for criticism.

And contributions to these funds are always welcome.

SEATTLE POST

VALB AND FRIENDS of Seattle held its annual affair on May 10th in the form of a dinner and program at St. Joseph Social Hall. About 250 people were present and Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Sam Martinez, Director of a local social Agency SER/ Jobs for Progress. Speakers were Bob Reed, speaking for VALB on "Spain, Then and Now," and Reverend William Wipfler, Director of Human Rights Office, National Council of Churches, speaking on "U.S. Latin American Policy and the Tragedy of El Salvador." Taimi Halonen, widow of Oiva, made the collection speech, and entertainment was provided by professionals, La Romera and Jaime del Puerto — the ArteCale Duo. La Romera spent eight years in Spain, much of that time among the gypsies of Southern Spain and they performed in the Gypsy style of Flamenco.

This was about the best of the annual Seattle events, and was made possible by the support of numerous organizations and non-veterans. Endorsement by the Seattle Church Council Task force on El Salvador was a big help. The El Centro de la Raza staff prepared the meals and helped to get support from other organizations involved in Central American concerns. The audience was a mix of old-timers and young people, some of whom knew very little about Spain in the thirties. The response to the program was tremendous.

Veterans participating were AL Chisolm, Max Farrar, Frank Alexander, Elias (Dutch) Schultz, Irving Portnow, Jimmie Crooks and Bob Reed.

Emphasis was made in the speeches on the fact that what happens in Central America, the support of the U.S. Government for right-wing military dictatorships may well influence what happens now in Spain as the military makes its move to take over.

Bob Reed

COLLEGE COURSE ON SPANISH CIVIL WAR

This fall, the New School for Social Research in N.Y. will offer a course on the Spanish Civil War and Its International impact. The course is being designed, coordinated, and will be chaired by Al Prago.

In eight 1½-2 hour sessions, students will see two films, hear four guest professors (John Gerassi, Carl Marzani, Dante Puzzo and Robert Colodney), enjoy a song and poetry recital, see a slide show, and hear Lincoln veterans tell of their personal experiences.

While conventional college credit courses on the Spanish Civil War have been given in this country — not very many — this innovative, multi-faceted course is, to our knowledge, quite unique. It could serve as a model for similar programs to be given at other colleges.

Most assuredly, some of our Vets would be interested in enrolling in the course. More information can be secured by writing for the Fall Bulletin to the N.Y. School for Social Research on West 12 St., N.Y.C.

Cracker Barrel

Dear Manny

After the recent Southern California rains, floods and devastation; midst the resurgence of quiet life, with Screwball-our dog-at my side and tax-our cat-calmly contemplating a flock of chirping noisy birds fluttering about, I sat in my patio browsing thru our "Volunteer" and the latest National Board material. I see we have a committee re-writing a Constitution and By-Laws. I must confess I never knew we had one — the Constitution. After 43 years we're still mixed up. Sad. It did occur to me to wonder: Who'll be here to observe and/or abide by it?

"What are you doing?" interrupts My Little Women, "writing a message, Huh?" She does that to me: cheers me on, reinforces my self image, bolsters my ego.

"Yes, I am" I respond firmly, flashing her my best confident smile.

"What I want to know, is anybody listening?" She follows thru her opening gambit like some character out of "Godot."

Drawing myself to my full height I respond: "I am not writing for now, or today, I'm writing for posterity!"

The vehemence and profundity of my words stunned her for a moment; but, only for a moment.

If women are ever drafted she'll make an excellent drill sergeant.

"Come and help clean this garage, like you promised months ago." I hear her calling, stomping and rummaging in the garage.

These are trying times. I respond to her call, with a nagging feeling made a mistake in coming out for the E.R.A.

With many L.A. Vets I recently attended the Oakland, vets banquet. Really an impressive affair. Sheer joy to see Vets greet each other after a lapse of years. The old soldiers reunion.

Dellums spoke as you've read. Never mentioned the Dullums Bill. He was topical.

As we know, many bills are introduced in Congress: curtesy bills, private bills, token bills, etc., mainly for the record. Ours is such a Bill, which it is said, will give us a chance to tell our story to a wider audience. I certainly hope so. For there is no point in convincing the convinced. Some Vets misunderstood and are advocating all kinds of "activity" some of which would be damn silly; would not change the Bills chances either in committee or in Congress. Obviously, any serious Bill in Congress must be heard and/or passed and reported out. Neither the political atmosphere nor the electorate mood are conducive to the passage of the Dellums Bill on Vets Rights.

Tell our story. Lets not, however, mislead anyone into quixotic forays — the wild goose chase.

Nations seldom fully honor their heroes until history is ready to embrace them to her bosom.

One of the personal joys of attending the Oakland Banquet, was to have been personally able to greet and embrace Marion Merriman and Beth Yale Stuart.

Salud,
John R Gerlach

Dear Manny,

Could you please place this announcement in the next **Volunteer**?

Alan Rockman has just finished his graduate thesis at Cal State Fullerton. It is entitled "Jewish Participation in the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939." He is interested in marketing the opus and those who might be interested in a copy should write him at: 1537 Glenwood Way, Upland, CA. 91786

Rockman is also interested in obtaining the following: English translations of Diamant and of Gina Medem's work(s); also copies of "Let My People Know" (about Wilfred Mendelson) and "Jewish Captain" (about Mark Millman, published in Tel-Aviv in 1945). Also Lincoln Brigade members participation in the OSS.

Sincerely,
Alan S. Rockman

Dear Manny:

In the "Editor's Notes" of the last issue you credit me with having "in the neighborhood of 100 names" of our Lincoln Vets. (in the Lincoln Brigade Book)

Sorry, Manny, but I've been collecting signatures since 1966, and now have over 200 (20 of whom are no longer alive).

I take this book wherever I go, as many of you know - to dinners, meetings, to Europe when there are gatherings of Vets such as the 30th and 40th Anniversary of the I.B.

Gabby

Dear Manny:

That was a great issue of the Volunteer! That article by Bob Steck was a beauty — that article about the Thaelman-vet and the Condor-vet. And both the poems seem appropriate.

Thanks for sending me the extra copies. I'll give them to my friends.

I suppose you have time for the news. If it weren't that so many people are going to starve and be murdered the situation would be a circus of comedy. It's almost inconceivable the way Reagan has chosen all the worst possible people for his crew — not even one half-way decent one! The cartoonists, anyway, are having a field day. Herblock is doing a great job, and we've got a good one in Boston — Szep.

I've written a bunch of plays and sent them to contests. I joined the dramatists Guild, which accepts members over 65 free. They're really a good outfit. They asked me to send a script, to prove at least that I could write a play, and accepted me. Through them I learn all the contests and markets available.

I'm working on a novel now entitled, WAR AND PEACE: AMERICA. If I could only live up to that title, boy, I'd have something! Well, I'm trying, anyway, and it keeps me interested in life, even at 75.

Enclosed \$5 for expenses.

Salud,
Al Amery

TO THE DRAMA DESK: ELS JOGLARS

ELS JOGLARS are a drama-desk, and a feature-desk, story. When a Spanish military tribunal put 4 of them into prison for 2 years, and the other 2 into flight, the N.Y. Times editorialized: "We hope that Els Joglars will in time visit this country."

This "celebrated Spanish pantomime group" **will be performing in this country June 15-20**, in the Baltimore International Theatre Festival, in "Laetius", "the story of a new form of life which might appear after a nuclear cataclysm"; and, possibly, thereafter may perform elsewhere in the U.S.

The 4 were sentenced in March 1978 for "insulting the armed forces". The insult was "La Torna", a wordless play parodying military trials and executions by garroting which had occurred in 1974 during the Franco era. One execution, of an anarchist, was based on thin evidence. To buttress this was another execution on the same day of a mentally unbalanced, stateless Pole, in each case for killing a policeman; the play centered on the second. The personal force behind the prosecution was the captain-general of Catalonia, a general who had been Franco's army minister for a long time including 1974.

The Times editorial commented: "They must be extraordinary performers to have gotten across the essence of Franco's system of military justice without words."

La Torna had been approved by the Ministry of Culture in Sept. 1977, and had played 39 times before the military closed it in Dec. 1977. The military prosecutor made explicit the basis for overriding the civil government: - the military was "the basic pillar of our national being, given its transcendental mission".

This exercise of the military's "transcendental mission" provoked much civilian protest. But the civil authorities did not wish to confront the military, and the 4 remained in prison. However, the director, Albert Boadella, who had fled, returned, to Madrid about 6 months later, in Oct. 1978, to direct or put the final touches to rehearsal of a play, his play (M7 Catalonia?), on the boards, advertised; and he publicly proclaimed his return. This challenge was not taken up by the authorities, evidently. Presumably, the other Joglars who had fled, also returned.

Then, in the spirit that infused the development of post-Franco Spain, the 4 imprisoned Joglars were released during the periods necessary for their rehearsing in the play. Unfortunately, I do not know the rest of the story. Eventually, the 4 prisoners finished serving their terms.

When Els Joglars took on so formidable, and so critical, a target as the military-and-police caste that survived Franco, they were playing, in real life, a political and educational role (even though without words) that required courage, if not daring. In this, they were not only "extraordinary performers"; also they were historically vital Spaniards; the military attempt at a "transcendental mission" earlier this year in Spain emphasizes this. Our drama critics and our press ought to make sure that we in this country know this.

The 4 imprisoned Joglars: Maria de Maeztu; Gabriel Renom; Andres Solana Planes; Arnau Volardebo Cladellas. The Joglars who had fled (in addition to the director): Ferran Rene.

A total cast of 6 will present the play

Benjamin Goldring

VETERANS RIGHTS

The Veterans' Rights Committee announced that it had completed and mailed out about one hundred booklets to sundry Vets and friends. The booklet, sometimes called a "brief" or "white paper" or "argument" (suggestions for a proper designation are in order) attempts to make the case for enactment of H.R. 1251, a Bill introduced — for the third time! — by Congressman Ronald V. Dellums (D:Calif). If enacted, the Bill will accomplish two things:

1) Entitle those veterans of the SCW who, for one reason or another, could not and did not serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II to the same rights and benefits as those who did;

2) Go far to advance the concept of one war, a war against fascism begun in Spain in 1936 and ending in the victory of the United Nations on August 15, 1945.

The booklet is, at the present time, in galley form. A letter enclosed has asked the recipients for their comments and corrections and additions, if any are needed. One point that has raised some hackles will be cleared up in future editions: the Bill speaks of members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and members of the Fifteenth Brigade as potential beneficiaries. We are trying to get Congressman Dellums' office to change the language to read "... those American men and women volunteers who served on the side of the Spanish Republic during the war of 1936 - 39. . ." and to have them remove the words "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" and "Fifteenth Brigade" entirely, as those designations are neither official nor do they cover all of the American volunteers who served in various capacities and in different units. However, we have been assured that in any case this correction can be made when the Bill comes up for a hearing. (It is now in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee).

We assume that this will not happen until supporters of the Bill feel that it has a chance of passing. It will probably be re-introduced at each new session of the Congress, or as long as there remain in the Congress Representatives who care.

Some Vets have expressed doubts as to its ever getting out of Committee. Well, obviously, not right away or in the very near future. But the mere existence of the Bill says something about how we view the war and how we are seen as anti-fascists, pre-mature or otherwise, in one great crusade to defeat and destroy for all time the fascist Axis, an action in the best interests of our country. By carrying on a continuous campaign to win support for the Bill we assure, at the very least, the inclusion in history of this concept of one war, the Great War Against Fascism. Such an ongoing campaign becomes part of the struggle for peace and freedom everywhere, thus fulfilling our pledge to resist and defeat fascism wherever and whenever it raises its lethal head. We can do no less in memory of and in honor of our dead in Spain and the fifty million dead of World War II.

We ask that you take the case to your friends, your elected officials at all levels of government, institutions, organizations, etc. Argue it with conviction and ask for endorsements and support.

Most helpful would be to get your Congressperson to co-sponsor the Bill. Congressional expressions of support, such as a pledge to vote for it when it comes to the floor, are also helpful — very. As are endorsements by people in all fields. Members of Congress are sensitive to positions taken by their constituents. We propose to include such expressions of support in the final version of the Brief, a sort of Friends-of-the-Court addendum.

We hope that the final brief will serve as the definitive piece on the war in Spain insofar as that phase of the war defines the broad anti-fascist character of World War II, and at the same time serve to establish our place in history based on our early and continuous service in the war.

"Just received the proposed brief in re H. R. 1251. Great idea. Must be supported. A for effort. I'm putting my money . . . where my pen is. I'm enclosing a couple of quotes (and some helpful criticisms and suggestions-mw). Can you send me about 20 copies?"

Salud,
Al (Prago)



LARRY CANE, SPAIN CO. COMMANDER RECEIVING SILVER STAR, W.W. 2

To Congressman Phil Burton, 5th Cal. Dist. from William Sennett

As one of your constituents I am writing to ask that you consider supporting H.R. 1251, introduced by Congressman Ron Dellums, to provide for recognition and entitlement to veterans benefits for Americans who fought in the Spanish Civil War.

I am one of the some 300 vets still alive of the more than 3,000 who volunteered in that struggle against fascism and the attempt to halt the onset of World War II. While many of us who fought in Spain are entitled to veterans' benefits because we also are vets of the last world war, there are a number who do not qualify for having served only in Spain.

The matter of veterans benefits is important to those who need such assistance in their old age, but even more important is the matter of historical recognition of the participation of Americans who understood the need to defeat fascism in order to prevent war.

Many European nations and Mexico have granted veterans' benefits and rights to their nationals who served in the International Brigades. And, ironically, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy continue the veterans' rights granted by Hitler and Mussolini to their nationals who took part in the Axis intervention in Spain!

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of H.R. 1251 which, I understand, is now in committee. The only error that I find in the bill already introduced is that Americans were in other units besides the Fifteenth International Brigade and non-Americans were also part of that military body. The booklet, with a copy of the Bill, is a draft version of the proposed Brief which will be published in final form and submitted to all members of Congress.

I would appreciate your support and your thoughts on the Bill.

To Congressman John Burton, 4th Cal. Dist. from Alvah Bessie

I am asking you and brother Phil to support H.R. 1251, which was introduced on 23 January of this year by Congressman Ronald Dellums and which would amend Title 38, U.S. Code, to provide for the entitlement to veterans' benefits of Americans who fought in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade during the Spanish Civil War.

On the off chance that you do not have a copy handy, I have asked the Veterans' Rights Committee — which is working in behalf of this Bill — to send you a copy of it immediately, together with material supportive of the Bill's provisions and arguments. . . .

TS H.R. 1251

From a tape cassette from Herman (Gabby) Rosenstein, L.A.

Excellent. . . Very good. . . I like the method and layout. . .

From Steve Nelson, Truro, Mass.

Just got your letter and brochure re Bill H.R. 1251. I hasten to say that it is a good way to reach our vets and friends and get them active on behalf of the bill. Although I am away from New York and there are not many vets whom I can personally reach from here, nevertheless I will get to some people who are likely to write to their congressmen re the bill. I am enclosing \$10 and would like to have 15 or 20 copies and I will make use of them in Mass.

From Clarence Kailin, Madison, Wisconsin

Just got your most valuable Veterans' Rights Committee booklet. . . Will you please send me a few copies. I will need these if I am to try to get some endorsements. Enclosed \$10.

From William (Bill) Sennett

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Phil Burton. . . Your draft Brief was a good historic reminder of the facts that buttress and justify the case for U.S. recognition of the nature of the war in Spain and the contribution made by American vets who volunteered and fought in that war.



NEW MEMORIAL IN SPAIN HONORS I.B. FALLEN INCLUDING 1600 AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS

From Bob Steck

Congratulations. . . impressive job. . . Enclosed \$10 for how ever many copies you'll furnish. I'll distribute selectively.

From Carl Geiser

Thank you for the copy of "H.R. 1251" It is a fine piece of work. . .

From Randall (Pete) Smith

Estupendo! Vets Rights pamphlet beautiful. . . I need 25 copies. . . Enclosed \$10. . .

From Joe Brandt

I'm very much impressed with this H.R. 1251. . .

From Rose Sorkin

I contacted 4 vets on this booklet and all were in agreement. We would like 3 more copies. It was voted to send \$25 for now.

From Vincent Lossowski, Rochester, New York

. . . it will take some doing for any passage of H.R. 1251 in the early future. Nevertheless it has to be pushed. . . I would like about 10 copies of the bill to bring before a few of the people that might be sympathetic for its enactment. I have been speaking before student groups at some local colleges. The teachers sponsoring my appearances should certainly be approached. Enclosed \$5.

Dear Clarence (Kailin),

I support H.R. 1251 Recognition of these Americans who volunteered as the first to fight fascism almost 50 years ago, is overdue.

David Clarenbach

State Representative, Wisc. assembly

Most of the responses as of this date, and Gabby's tape especially, include corrections of errors and suggestions for condensation or expansion. All are helpful and will most certainly contribute toward making the final version better. You can help too. Write and let us know what you think. Address: VRC, 8371 Kent Drive, El Cerrito, Ca. 94530.

Copies are yours for the asking.

Excerpts from Correspondence

Congressman Leon E. Panetta, 16th Cal. Dist. to Dave Thompson

Thank you very much for your letter expressing support for legislation introduced by Congressman Dellums to provide veterans benefits to American citizens who fought during the Spanish Civil War. I appreciate having the benefit of your thoughts in this matter.

Like you, I feel that American veterans of the Spanish Civil War deserve some form of recognition for their sacrifices in the fight against the forces of fascism in Europe. Clearly, the struggle in Spain was precursory of the World War which followed. . .

Response from Thompson to Congressman Panetta

I appreciate your response to my inquiry re support of H.R. 1251, a Bill entitling American veterans of the war in Spain (1936 - 1939) to those rights and benefits now enjoyed by veterans of World War II.

I am especially intrigued by your statement that ". . . I feel that American veterans of the Spanish Civil War deserve some form of recognition for their sacrifices in the fight against the forces of fascism in Europe. Clearly the struggle in Spain was precursory of the world war which followed."

I believe that it was just this need for "some sort of (official) recognition" that motivated Congressman Dellums when he introduced the Bill. I for one, and I am sure most of the volunteers who fought in Spain against the Axis Powers, would rest content if such recognition were forthcoming, even in a form other than H.R. 1251 which I now support. After all, as of great importance to us as any benefits the remaining volunteers might receive — those who were unable to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II — is official recognition that it was one anti-fascist war and that our being "premature" in our participation was in the best interests of our country.

I would greatly appreciate any steps you might take to achieve this goal. . .

Congressman Fortney (Pete) Stark, 9th Cal. Dist. to Lillian Kessler

Thank you for letting me know your feelings on Ron Dellums' H.R. 1251 which would procure veterans benefits for the "Abraham Lincoln Brigade" of the Spanish Civil War. The bill has already been introduced and is now in committee. When it does come before the House, I will certainly give it my full support. . .

Congressman Paul McCloskey, 12th Cal. Dist. to Marion Wachtel

Because of the press of legislative business, there is not a prayer in the world that the veterans benefits will be expanded to members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Can you give me some idea of how many members are still living and how many might be in such financial straits (sic) that they would require veterans assistance.

I have a daughter residing in Spain at the present time and would look forward to talking with you and learning of your experience at some future constituent meeting. Thanks for caring enough to write.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Jacques Grunblatt

Jews in the Spanish Republican Army 1936-1939 by David Diamant in French

The Ebro Front and the Part Poles Played in It by Michal Bron in Polish
In these difficult times when the reactionaries, the racists, the anti-semites, the KKK and the neo-nazis raise their ugly heads it is time to counter-act. The old lie that Jews are docile, submissive and cowards is trying to be revived in spite of the millions of proofs to the contrary. This is one reason why the book of Diamant is timely and should be read and spread around.

Jews have been and are in the forefront of every just cause and pay for it dearly with their blood.

Diamant's book talks about Jews in the Spanish Civil War. A small group of Jewish athletes came to Barcelona for the workers' Olympiad and immediately joined the ranks of the fighters against the fascists. There was an original Thaelmann group (not to be confused with the Thaelmann Brigade) under the leadership of Max Friedmann, a German Jew, among the first on the Front of Madrid.

Thirty percent of American volunteers were Jews.

The majority of Jews, the ones who spoke Yiddish, were concentrated in the Dombrowski Brigade. They had a hard time to escape the reactionary East European regimes. They had to cross illegally many frontiers under great danger, jailed many times. Many came from Israel.

There were Jews in all IB Brigades: in the artillery, the tank corps, air force, medical group and all supporting services.

Some Jews conceived the idea of forming a Jewish company, which will eventually become a battalion or a brigade. This became a reality on the Aragon Front on December 12, 1937. The second company of the Palafox Battalloon of the 13th Brigade was formed under the name of Naphtali Botvin.

The company grew very quickly. New volunteers arrived in rapid succession. The official language of the company was Yiddish.

The Botvin Company had a tragic baptism of fire on the Front of Extremadura. They were attacking with the 13th Brigade. They fought valiantly and advanced quickly outdistancing their right and left flanks by two kilometers. They became encircled by Moorish cavalry. The Brigade gave them up for lost. Although encircled they did not stop fighting. They defended themselves heroically with machine guns, hand grenades and bayonets inflicting losses on the enemy. After a long battle they broke free. On approaching their own trenches they were thought to be enemy troops and

were shot at. It was a while until the Dombrowskis realized their tragic mistake.

The author follows them through the Battle of the Ebro and until the recall of the International Brigades.

He describes their life in the French concentration camps, their heroic escapes and fights in the French Underground, their betrayal and delivery to the German hangmen.

The most tragic of all is the fate of the few who survived all those horrors only to fall later as victims to Stalinism.

The value of the book lies in our getting to know those soldiers intimately, we read their letters, we see their faces in pictures. A mother advises her son to say Shma Yisroel in case of danger. We hear them sing a beautiful prayer, Shma Kolini (Hear Our Voice). All these small details give this book a distinctive Yiddish face, and there is nothing wrong with that. Only Hitlerites hated that face.

Even if the book is not perfectly organized the world of information it gives, the names, the pictures, make it very valuable. I read it avidly and at times with misty eyes.

It is a pity it is not translated into English to give it a broader circulation.

For the sake of contrast I would like to make a short review of the book of Michal Bron written in Polish about the Battle of the Ebro. It is an excellent book. It is a remarkable analysis of the military tactics of this important phase of the conflict.

The objective of this attack was to help the Front of Valencia.

The crossing of the Ebro started on the 25th of July 1938. Its initial success was beyond every dream. In the first few days the Republican forces realized an advance of 20 kms. in depth and 30 kms in width. They were able to hold the territory at great sacrifice of men and materiel until the 16th of October.

The description of the bloody battles is epic.

One thing makes me unhappy. In all the 326 pages not once is the word Jew mentioned. Naphtali Botvine is described as the Polish communist hero shot by the order of the Polish reactionary government.

Michal Bron published his book after the cruel repression of Jews by the Communist government of Poland, after the expulsion of 30,000 Jews the remainder of 3,000,000 of Polish Jewry.

We hear lately that several present Polish intellectuals are asking the Polish government for amends for the persecution of Jews in the late '60s. Maybe justice will prevail.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Dear Manny,

I am sending you \$25.00, my honorarium for speaking before the class of English literature at the University Of Rochester on Mar. 5, '81 and at St. John Fisher College on Mar. 10, '81. This turned out to be a new twist for me as in the past any time I spoke on anything before any group I also had to initiate contributions by making the first donation. So not only have I made history but the "Volunteer" is the first recipient of this event.

Your suggestion about an interview with a student or students in respect to their reaction to Spain, our government policy, myself etc. is a good idea and something that I will work on in the future. At both schools I would start off the session with Ernest Hemingway's taped eulogy to the American Lincoln War dead "those that sleep cold in Spain" then the showing of the Spanish Civil war film taken from the series of "Between the Wars" I then spoke on the background leading to the attack on the Spanish Republic using mostly Landis' book for source material for about 45 minutes and then opening up the class to questions. And that was the most interesting aspect of the session. Its amazing how much the students were genuinely interested in this part of history that has been kept under cover by a conspiracy of silence in academia in the past. I had no difficulty tying in what had transpired in Spain and the rape of Guatemala, Chili, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. It was the students that drew the parallel for me.

As a consequence of the speaking engagement at the University Of Rochester I stumbled on a story whose denouement reads like a novel. Let me begin by pointing out that there were four men from the Rochester area that volunteered to fight in Spain. In addition to myself there was Jack Shulman, Mike Costa and a John Field who was to subsequently die in

Spain. John Field a graduate of The University of Rochester, class of 1935, and the Captain of the Varsity track team left for Spain from Mena, Arkansas with his father a fellow volunteer, who incidentally passed himself off as John's brother in order to cover up his age. Ralph Field, the father, was a former civil engineer working mostly in South American countries.

John Field, while leading an attack was cut down by enemy fire on the frozen outskirts of Teruel during the early part of January 1938. Art Landis mentions both and Ralph Field in his book "The Abraham Lincoln Brigade" pgs. 378-380.

In discussing the talk I was to give on Spain at the University with Peter Linebaugh, the sponsoring professor, I broached the possibility of getting the University to commemorate in some appropriate manner one of their students who as a casualty was in reality the first from our area to fall in WWII when we consider Spain as the first battlefield of the opening guns in WWII against the fascist aggressors.

As a result Peter Linebaugh got a couple of students to do some preparatory research. In looking up John Field's records he discovered that John Field had a brother, Will Field who upon further search was found to live in Rochester as a retired architect. Will got in touch with me and was present with his wife at my talk on Spain. I found that he has a number of newspaper clippings relating to his brother while at school on the track team. I am approaching him to make some copies which I intend to send to you and to Brandeis University.

Salud,
Vincent Lossowski

A DISPUTE IRVING WEISSMAN

An exchange of letters of interest to veterans and others concerned with the Spanish Civil War took place in the New York review of Books of April 16, 1981.

On the one side was Mr. Bernard Knox, a classicist, the Director of the Centre of Hellenic Studies, Washington, D.C., and a veteran of the fighting in Madrid in November, 1936. In its November 6, 1980 issue of the New York Review, Knox had reviewed three recent books on the war and on Spanish Republicans in exile. . . Knox made several points, not the least of which was the Republic's need for "an efficient army." "What alternative was there?" he wrote. "The social revolution may have been (for some people) Paradise Now, but it was a fools' paradise; without an efficient army its days were numbered." Knox contracted this necessity to the anarchist position of "libertarian discipline" which, for all the "superhuman courage" which Anarchists had displayed in Barcelona showed itself incapable of stopping the fascist advance.

The rest of Knox's article consisted of fascinating accounts of his experiences in Madrid in those days.

William Herrick took it on himself to dispute Knox. In his letter, printed in the New York Review of April 16, 1981, he adopts the political stance that the Communist party destroyed "the Anarchist led social revolution. . . We also know that when the Communists gained control (!) of Republican Spain, they lost the war."

Who is William Herrick?

He is one of the handful of six veterans who acted as government witnesses in 1954 before the Subversive Activities Control Board in its defeated efforts to get us to register as a Communist or Communist front organization, with all that would have meant in the way of demanding that we yield the names of our members and supporters, so that they be in line for more harassment and persecution than they had already suffered.

By lending himself vigorously to this purpose in those McCarthyite ears, Herrick contributed to the undermining of the democratic ethos in our country and to the governments attempt to glorify informers and equate anti-Communism with patriotism.

In his later effusions Herrick kept silent on this act in his career. Now he parades only a political stance.

Thus, in The New Leader, of January 3, 1977, on page 2, he stated.

"What lives with me most is what the commissars did to the Spanish people and the Civil War — the fraud that was constantly in front of my eyes."

Neither in this statement, nor in his article in that same issue of The New Leader describing his return to Spain after the death of Franco, nor in his letter disputing Knox's review, does Herrick even refer to German and Italian intervention, France and English non-intervention and American neutrality.

In 1969, Herrick published "Hermanos!" — according to the blurb on its paperback cover "a shattering novel of the Spanish Civil War." It is hard to imagine a more vulgar depiction of a great and complex historic event, with its leftwing John Wayne type hero ("Jacob Starr tore about the country with

great elan, a swashbuckling revolutionary. A brawny, powerful man of twenty-five, he organized party units among steel-workers in youngstown Ohio, black and white sharecroppers in southern Georgia, cocktail guerrilla fighters on Fifth Avenue, New York City." — the opening sentences of his novel), with its dips into fashionable sexual explicitness and human cuss words.

Our New York post held its 44th Anniversary Dinner April 26. A week or so later National Public Radio broadcast tapes of this dinner to an audience of 5,000,000. Some one tacked on an interview with Herrick, repeating his familiar litany, at the conclusion of this broadcast. (We have, of course, asked for a format in which to rebut him.)

The distortions are obvious.

As the war developed, the People's Front governments, especially that of Negrin, had as their policy the creation of a regular army and the subordination of all production — agricultural and industrial — to the needs of the war, and the centralizing of the planning of this production.

It is to the credit of all the political parties and other groups that they worked to implement this policy. There was no other way in which to conduct an adequate defense of whatever gains had been made.

To say that, on many of these matters, the Communist Party of Spain took the initiative is not to close our eyes to the faults in their own practise. I think they could have worked more effectively for unity with other sections of the working class than they did. But some of their problems had roots which went back as far as 1919, with the schema laid down by the Communist International making it impossible at the time the party was founded to work out a flexible approach to the anarchist-led masses who, in this one country of Europe, composed the majority of the industrial workers as well as a substantial section of the agricultural proletariat and peasants. I think too that, in the course of the war, the imported Stalinist obsession with "Trotskyism" weakened the efforts towards unity. But such phenomena should not becloud the main picture. The policies which were pursued by the Negrin government — and many of these were initiated independently of the Communist party — were the only policies capable, in the event of victory, of safeguarding whatever gains the Spanish people had made. To shift the attack to the Communist Party, as Herrick does, is to becloud the enormous complexities with which the Spanish Republic had to deal, as well as to absolve the foreign governments which assured the Franco victory.

Why chew these cuds in 1981? Thousands of young people, eager to contribute to social progress, turn back again and again to the Spanish Civil War, seeking to learn from it. In the light of the existence within our own society of so many disparate forces whose unity is desired, they seek to work out the mechanics of social change. I am of the opinion that a clear view of the past, free of easy one-dimensional answers, and sensitive to the complexity of factors involved in any social movement, will help all who are engaged in today's struggles for social progress and against the further spread of war.



HORSE RUSS HARRIS

Stakes honors great writer

Monday's Evan Shipman Stakes at Belmont honors one of the outstanding sports writers in the history of American journalism. Shipman, who wrote about horses for the Daily Racing Form, was educated at Groton, the University of Louvaine, the Sorbonne and, as a friend noted, Longchamp, Auteil and similar places of learning.

A friend of Ernest Hemingway, who dedicated the book, "Men Without Women," to him, Shipman

RACING

was wounded and captured while fighting against fascism in the Lincoln Brigade. He was a man who backed his opinion with everything he had available. I have the good fortune to have saved more than 300 of the columns Shipman wrote before his death in the summer of 1957. They are about the glories of Nashua, Native Dancer, Misty Morn and other stars of that era in prose unmatched. After Shipman died, Tom O'Reilly wrote of him: "He had a passionate devotion to truth and I'm sure he never wrote an insincere line in his life. . . Like Bernard Shaw, he hated anybody who didn't give his best at all times. He did. And his best was the greatest. I could write 40 more columns about Evan Shipman and never get his true worth on paper."

SPAIN

and his many accomplishments blinded his allies to the failures of his government—most importantly its failure to communicate with the people and to put flesh on the framework of democracy.

In 1975, the left was strong, despite 40 years of dictatorship. The Communist Workers Commissions Union was the largest organized force in Spain. The Socialist Party emerged after a bare year of legal activity with 29% of the vote to the government's 35% in the first general elections of 1977.

Franco's rubber-stamp Parliament voted itself out of existence. Francoists agreed to the legalization of the Communist Party with a little bark but absolutely no bite.

In January, 1977, the far-right gave an indication of what it could do when it assassinated five Communist lawyers in an office on Atocha Street. Elections the same year showed Francoists enjoying less than 1% of the national vote. (In the following elections of 1979, the far-right, already emboldened, won 2% of the vote and a single seat in the 350-member Parliament for Blas Pinar—the bull-headed notary who organized the neo-fascist New Force Party and became the new Franco in the eyes of Francoists). The violent fringe of the far-right, which previously specialized in hit-and-run attacks that pitted men with shotguns against one without, began to spread its violence. Late in 1979, something called the Spanish Armed Groups appeared on the scene, killing a separatist counselor in the Basque country. The following year, right-wing violence took 21 lives—most of them in the Basque country—with bombs left in cafes and shots in the neck at night. Perhaps the most cowardly act, as yet unmatched by the Basque guerrillas of ETA (a Basque acronym for Basque Land and-Liberty), was the kidnapping and subsequent assassination of a 19-year old Basque girl in Madrid mistakenly thought to be an ETA informer.

The Atocha assassins, all members of the Nazi-styled Falange Party, got sentences that ensured they would remain behind bars for 30 years, the maximum permitted by Spanish law. But neither their backers, nor their brains, nor their paymasters, nor their accomplices were fully investigated—setting a pattern that has yet to be broken.

The Civil Guard officer who this year led the seizure of Parliament in the coup attempt was convicted of a plot to kidnap the entire Cabinet and given seven months already served by a tribunal of his peers.

The usual suspects always were rounded up after Basque attacks. Until very recently, the far-right was left undisturbed. Francoists gradually regained the confidence they lost when the dictator died.

At the same time, democracy took its knocks. The economy sagged, as everywhere. Suarez's muddled home-rule thinking alienated moderate Basque opinion and gave ETA a new lease of popular life. An opposition consensus with Suarez to write a new constitution outlived its natural life and left-wing voters grew disenchanted with the men they voted for. Key sectors of the nation—banks, social services, the judiciary, police—remained unreformed.

Today, the 2% of the nation that opposes divorce, regionalism, democracy and "Reds" increasingly gives the impression it holds the other 98% by the throat. Much of the blame for this must lie with the government of Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, which is letting the far-right act as if it were running the nation—which some Spaniards believe it is.

Although 288 Civil Guards stormed Parliament in February and the military region of Valencia rallied behind the rebels by putting tanks and anti-aircraft guns in the streets, only 30 military men, as of last week, have been indicted in the coup attempt. Only one civil-

ian—a Franco union leader with uninvestigated links to the Atocha assassins—has been indicted, although the government two months ago said more than 100 were under investigation. The newspaper *El Alcazar*, which on Feb. 22 printed a front-page photograph of Parliament with the caption, "Everything ready for Monday's action," continues its anti-democratic scribbling.

All but a handful of the Civil Guards who held Spain's elected representatives at gunpoint for 18 hours are now back on the job. The officer who demanded the videotape of the seizure of Parliament remains free.

With police reportedly preparing to refute the government thesis that the gunmen were hired by right-wing extremists, most Spaniards are convinced there has been a massive cover-up. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

It is unlikely we will ever know just who was behind the February coup and the May seizure, just as we still do not know who was behind the Atocha massacre.

Those we do know include the Civil Guard, a superfluous police force in the 1980s with arms designed for rural areas and totally unsuitable for cities, and sectors of the army—distilled politically after the Civil War and shaped by a unique mixture of religion, military values and decades of training in the conviction that it, and it alone, is the repository of Spanish sovereignty.

The national police, the main prop of Franco's state, appear to have assimilated democracy better than any other security force. Although its intelligence arm is a big black mark on its post-Franco record, there is no evidence it was in any way involved in the coup.

The paramilitary Civil Guard, which was, is now caught up in a new scandal over the deaths of three young men first reported to be Basque terrorists, then common criminals, and then, correctly, ordinary young men traveling to a first-Communion party. According to the Civil Guard, the three died in a fiery car crash on their way to questioning in Madrid—a crash that killed them but left their escort unscathed. Other reports indicate torture: one corpse without hands or feet, another reportedly without teeth; the car missing the cap of its gas tank and an empty gas can nearby. Early morning fishermen who stopped to help were told by the guards: "Go on. Nothing's happening." And a single fisherman who was told: "Don't worry. No one's in there."

After the military come the tiny, far-right parties whose most prominent figures and roughest toughs weave in and out of the official and unofficial reports of every right-wing atrocity—the Falange, New Force and, on the fringes of the coup, a group of old Franco ministers and transition figures who seem to have acted as sounding boards for foreign opinion.

Behind them, the remnants of Franco's intelligence services, bankers (including the Basque-born banker of the coup), a gaggle of journalists (including a prominent news executive tagged for information minister had the coup succeeded) and a small sector of the Spanish public which never got democracy in its bones.

If the government treats the extremists with kid gloves, the key to Spain's future will lie with the military—not in a return to Francoism, which Franco himself did not expect to survive his death, but perhaps in a Turkish-style situation with military participation, if no more, in government and a cutback in liberties—a trend already beginning to emerge with penal-code reforms lawyers say are anti-constitutional, emergency laws giving powers Franco never used and changes threatening social if not formal political life.

Already there are rumors of a government reshuffle that would put a military man back into the deputy prime-ministership. Already there are rumors that a general who has criticized democracy may replace a moderate as chief of staff.

Weak government is giving the opponents of democracy encouragement and a free road. Strong government can put the 2% of voters and the undisciplined minority of the military back in their place—in a dark corner of the nation's life, not its center.

A STUDENT PAPER

Danny Wasserman

University of Rochester Class 81

President of the U of R Student Association 1979-1980 (Junior Year) This speech was selected as a Co-Winner of the Isaac Davis Speech contest given annually to a member of the graduating class whose original oration shall exhibit the first grade of excellence in thought, composition, and delivery. (Speech delivered in May 1981)

James Wilmot and John Field Jr., were born just two years apart in 1911 and 1913 respectively. Both managed to contribute in the waning years of their lives, to the same institution; the University of Rochester. Wilmot who died at the age of 68, this past summer, will not be forgotten at the UofR. In July, 1980 the university announced that the prestigious Institute of Optics would be permanently named in Wilmot's honor. The memory of John Field, who died in 1937, at the age of 23, fighting for the loyalist cause in the Spanish Civil War, has faded from the university.

A small but growing number of people at the UofR, however, would like to see that memory resurrected with as much permanence as Wilmot's. To trace the lives of both men to cut across sections of history that have shaped the world as we know it today. John Field contributed to the University of Rochester is his lifetime, as an honors student, as an outstanding athlete, and as a student leader and activist. A James Wilmot contributed to the university as an active Trustee and as a most generous benefactor.

In their own way both men were fighters to the end. The ideals and interests they fought for, however, are as different as their deaths. James Wilmot died in his bed laid down by lung cancer. John Field died in a frozen wasteland cut down by a spray of bullets from a Fascist machine gun.

During the most recent of the Wednesday evening University Lecture series, former Dean of Arts and Sciences Kenneth Clark voiced the question "Where have all the Heroes gone," Clark contends that contemporary society lacks the "general purpose" heroes who are admired by the entire population. Clark is hardly alone in this premise. Articles echoing this theme have recently appeared in *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and most recently in last Sunday's *Democrat and Chronicle*. As Dean Clark noted, past cultures have always recognized their heroes in different ways. For instance, the church canonized its saints. In today's society institutional structures are often named after an individual, much as the Institute of Optics was for Wilmot. "An age reveals its values, in its choice of heroes," wrote columnist George Will.

It is my contention that if we can memorialize a James Wilmot as a hero, and not a John Field, then we do not suffer a shortage of heroic figures, as Dean Clark contends, but rather we have looked in the wrong places for all the wrong reasons. As James Fairlie the British journalist wrote "If we no longer have any heroes, it may not be because no one is fit to be a hero, but because we are no longer fit to recognize one."

The place of James Wilmot in history has already been secured. It might be appropriate to say that Wilmot's place in history has been bought and paid for. It is difficult to justify his actions as those of a hero. In his lifetime he built an empire composed of Page Airways as well as a number of construction, housing, and real estate firms. But inquiry and doubt must be cast upon the manner and means by which Wilmot built this empire. His business and political career are fraught with corruption and dubious distinctions. His enterprises have been implicated in kickback scandals, and have been convicted of violating U.S. currency laws. Most offensively, Page Airways can be credited with keeping Idi Amin's fiercely suppressive regime alive in its last two years. These acts are hardly heroic.

John Field was born in Paraguay and came with his parents to the United States in 1919. He grew up in Rochester and graduated from West High in 1931. His four years at the University reveal the growth, of a serious minded, active, and yet shy young man. Field graduated with the Class of 1935 with honors and a degree in economics. Politically conscious, he was involved in a number of campus organizations and publications. In his junior year he was elected and served as Vice-President of his class. During his college days however, Field was best known as a cross country and track star. According to a *Democrat and Chronicle* sportswriter "It took him just three weeks to become the University of Rochester's Paavo Nurmi." He accomplished what was considered to be the impossible task of winning a varsity letter in the first sport he ever tried. John served as Captain of the Track team in his Junior and Senior years. During these years the UofR sported its strongest track team in two decades, attesting to Field's ambition and leadership ability.

After graduation in '35, full of idealism, he became interested in the

organization of white collar workers. It has been recorded in print that the Shoe Worker's Union and the Worker's Alliance in Rochester benefitted from his activities. In order to prepare for even more useful work in the labor movement, in the Spring of 1937 he hitchhiked to Mena, Arkansas, site of Commonwealth College, where his father Ralph Field was teaching engineering. Here, by organizing sharecroppers and tenant farmers, he attacked the last vestiges of slavery in this nation.

After only a few months in Arkansas, Field and his father decided to fight with Republican Spain against Franco's invading forces. The Spanish civil War was one of the most important, political and military struggles of modern times. The harbinger and testing ground of WWII, it pitted the left against the right with an undeniable clarity that history has rarely recorded.

In 1935 the people of the 2nd Republic participated in a Democratic general election. At this point, the long, hard fought road to equality of the Spanish working people seemed close to fruition. However, this was not to be. In July 1936 Generalissimo Francisco Franco, backed heavily by the Fascist Regime of Italy and the Nazi regime of Germany, began his invasion of Spain via Morocco. His mission, to regain control of Spain for the privileged, wealthy landowning classes in the North. His means, to kill ruthlessly any man woman or child suspected of sympathizing with the legitimately elected Republican Government.

The plight of ordinary working people in Spain stirred the imagination of millions throughout the world. Many like Johnny and Ralph Field perceived the broader intent of the Nazi-Fascist coalition and its spreading oppression. The Allied governments of France, Britain, and the United States turned their backs on the government and people of Spain. Thousands like the Fields, however, displayed the strength and conviction to follow their individual consciences. The Spanish Civil War was truly international in scope. Despite tremendous obstacles of politics and geography, thousands of volunteers poured in from all over the world to fight with the Loyalist Republicans and to preserve a free Spain. The blatant attempt to deny the Spanish people their freedom touched a common nerve in fairminded people throughout the world. More than anything else it is this sympathy for dignity of humanity that led Johnny Field and his father to seek illegal passage to Spain.

John Field served in Spain as a Captain and commanding officer of a platoon in the legendary Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Shortly before Christmas of 1937 the Loyalist forces were routed in one of the last major battles of the War at Teruel. During a retreat Field's platoon seized a hill to cover the rearguard of withdrawing Loyalist troops. When a crucial message needed to be delivered to a company of British Loyalists, Captain Field elected to deliver the message himself, most probably because of his natural running abilities. The message was not received.

A confirmed report of his death was relayed to his family in Rochester several months later. A *Democrat and Chronicle* article dated June 18, 1938 began "Somewhere in a soldier's grave in Spain today lies the body of the first Rochester youth to give his life for the Loyalist Cause." Shortly thereafter several hundred people jammed into the Central YMCA Auditorium in a memorial service, for young Field. Among those to speak were the Rev. James E. Rose, and a UofR classmate Joe Platt, who today is President of Claremont Colleges in California. The Rev. Robert Kazmeyer, also present, paid this tribute: "He felt the impulse, which has been the impulse of humanity at its best - to live for a dream and to die for it."

James Wilmot upheld and exploited a system that leaves power and privilege constantly tilted towards the minority. In contrast, Rev James E. Rose noted in his eulogy of Field, "His life has come to be identified usefully with the great movement to set free all the oppressed peoples of the world." If James Wilmot can be memorialized at the UofR, then clearly the heroic and tragic memory of John Field is worthy as well. This is the hope of those who have persuaded the University Development office to undertake a fundraising drive for the new sports center in the name of Johnny Field. In John Field this institution has produced a hero, a man in whom we can and should rightfully be proud. It is only fitting that we should give the university and John Field the honor that is their due, by dedicating the new indoor track in his name and memory.

SUPPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER SEND CONTRIBUTION TODAY

STORY — REPORT — LETTERS

HE KNEW DIALECTICS

It was beautiful along the Mediterranean in early Spring. The Fascists had not yet cut through to the sea at Vinaroz.

There were about a dozen Americans in the hospital at Denis. Those of us who were ambulatory used to walk to the sea every day. On the beach, there was a little cafe with a multi-colored tile roof, and with tables facing the Mediterranean. We were the only ones ever there, and we drank the sour vino, and were always a little stewed when we walked back to the hospital in the late afternoon. There were fishermen's rowboats drawn up on the beach, and some of the guys talked about the possibility of rowing to Africa in an emergency.

No one really knew how close the Fascists were to cutting Spain in two, and the precarious military situation was ever in our thoughts and conversation. Most of us were pretty gloomy about the immediate prospect, but Gilbert, an optimist who was always ready with a quote or a cliché, said "the Fascists couldn't get through," and "even if they did", he added, "it would be better for us as our lines would be shortened." He even tried to illustrate his "line shortening" by drawing a crude map on the wine-stained table.

"If you know dialectics," he said, "you'll know the Fascists can't make it."

"Walters, who had just come from the front with an arm wound, shook his head disgustedly, and interrupted him:

"To hell with your map and dialectics. The Fascists have artillery and aviation which works better than our dialectics. They're bound to get through."

And a few days later, Gilbert fucked-off to Valencia, and then when we heard that he had somehow reached Barcelona, Walters drily remarked:

That cono knew dialectics - we didn't.

B. Iceland

Editor:

Re Ed Lending's letter. He and those who may have read his letter and not known better should be informed that the need of Spanish comrades who were prisoners, whose property was expropriated, who are without social security and so forth, and who are now of our age, DO need assistance, as any of our vets who visited with them in Barcelona and Madrid will testify to. We have a complete file of correspondence from the Ex-Presos further confirming this. Lending's assumption is pure speculation and without merit. There are not "millions" floating around among the democratic forces. On the contrary, they are hard put to raise funds to carry on their most basic work.

Further lack of communication of facts is evidenced in Lending's assumption that we "do not take care of our own". No vet to my knowledge was ever turned away by VALB "hungry". The NY, LA and Bay Area Posts have welfare funds and all have met the needs of Vets at one time or another. It would have been appropriate for the Editorial Board, resident in LA whose Post has the largest welfare fund of all, to point this out at the time of publishing Lending's letter.

I hope this clarification will help undo whatever misunderstandings and harm may have been done.

Salud
Milt Wolff

This Mailgram Is A Confirmation Copy Of The Following Message:

4152321584 TDRN EL CERRITO CA 71 02-24 0245A EST
PMS SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON RPT DLY MGM, DLR
US SENATE

WASHINGTON DC

WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO REAFFIRM THE SENATE'S
COMMITMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN
SPAIN AS SPELLED OUT BY THE SENATE IN THE TREATY OF
FRIENDSHIP SIGNED BETWEEN OUR 2 COUNTRIES IN 1976. A
STATEMENT ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE CAN HELP AVERT
THE TRAGEDY OF 1936-39 WHICH CLAIMED 1 MILLION SPANISH
LIVES AND THE ENSUING 35 YEARS OF FASCISM WHICH TOOK
THE LIVES AND FREEDOM OF COUNTLESS THOUSANDS.

MILTON WOLFF COMMANDER BY AREA POST VETERANS OF
THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE

Status Report on History of American POWs in Franco Spain

We have good news, and bad news. First, the bad news.

Last March 31st, we submitted a 36-page grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Just before funding decisions were made at the end of November, a special Reagan Transition Team (a Dept spending less than .03 of 1% of the Federal Budget rated a special team!) visited NEH with a new definition of 'Humanities'. It includes only the elite with a sound point of view. A previous grant to promote cultural and artistic activities by and among office workers was strongly condemned. A few days later I received a computer printout with a polite 'No'.

However, the effort was not totally wasted for it forced me to detail a budget and a schedule and to define more precisely the objectives of the history. With appropriate modifications, we are using the proposal to approach other Foundations.

Now the good news. First, through the dedicated and very able work of Frances Goldin, our Literary Agent, I received a contract from Lawrence Hill and Co for the publication of the history. It provides an immediate advance of \$1000 and specifies I am to submit a finished manuscript by Dec. 31, 1982. It also involves an agreement with the Executive Committee of the Prisoner Historical Committee to supply them with books at half price and that the Committee will distribute 4000 copies within the first year.

Second is our success in raising funds to cover research costs. Research is essential if we want broad circulation. Critics and academic authorities, whose reviews will determine how wide a circulation the History will have in libraries and schools, insist on references which can be examined to check the accuracy of the History.

For example, we have wonderful escape stories, but we do not know the dates nor the names of those who escaped nor do we know their fate. The Gestapo grilled and photographed us but again we lack dates and independent proof. We had at least 13 visitors, but in most cases we are uncertain of their official titles and in only one instance are we certain of the date. We have no trial records of those of us who were court-martialed. We do have good leads to archives and libraries both here and in Europe where we may find the needed documentation. We had allocated \$9000 to conduct this research in our budget submitted to NEH.

In addition, we had budgeted \$14,000 for locating and preparing short biographies of each of the approximately 200 American volunteers who were captured. Of these about 80 were summarily executed. We already have the names of 156, of which we have located 51. 27 of these are dead. To find the missing requires visiting towns all over the USA . . .

Today, we have received over \$8000 from individuals thanks to Ring Lardner, Jr. who provided a very effective appeal letter, and to Bob Steck who has organized and carried out the fund raising activities, and to those who have supplied lists of possible contributors. Bob's goal is to double this amount, which will make it possible to do most of the planned research and much of the locating of individuals. Bob is also preparing the brief biographies.

As for myself, I shall retire in March, 1981, to devote full time to the History. I do want to thank the many hundreds who have contributed in one way or another to making the History possible. And I do want to assure you that your efforts will result in a Memorial to the American Volunteers who fought Franco in and out of prisons and concentration camps in the form of an indictment of fascism and a defense of democracy badly needed today.

Carl Geiser

Dear Mr. Wolff,

Thank you very much for your telegram expressing concern over the attempted coup of the Spanish government by segments of the Spanish military.

I contacted the Department of State to express my concern in this matter. The Department advised me that President Reagan personally called King Juan Carlos to congratulate him on successfully resolving the crisis and that Secretary of State Haig had also been in touch with the Spanish government has restored order in the country and that a thorough investigation of the attempted coup is already underway in Spain.

I am confident that U.S. — Spanish relations will continue to improve and strengthen. I look forward to King Juan Carlos' visit to the United States later this year.

I appreciated having your thoughts on this issue.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,
Alan Cranston

Dr. Irving Adler was honored at the Banquet on April 26th for his initiative in carrying through the CCNY Scholarship Program.

Over 150 vets have endorsed the concept of the bronze monument to the Americans who died in Spain now in production by Roy Shifrin. Many famous people have also warmly endorsed this project.

The VALB has purchased copies of hundreds of pages of documents from the F.B.I. revealing details of illegal surveillance of VALB activities during the McCarthy period.

Steve Nelson's memoirs are being published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

The Prisoner Book Committee held a very successful fund raising reception with Harry Belafonte as the guest of honor on 3/26/81 in N.Y.C.

The new book on **Frank Ryan** (Volunteer in Spain from Ireland who was captured and later died in Germany) is a remarkable documented account of this important story. The author, Sean Cronin, is correspondent of the Irish Times who attended the N.Y. Banquet.

Sol (Cohen) Newton has produced a documentary film on 3 Mile Island called "**We are the Guinea Pigs**" and is now in Australia showing the film. (Sol is the father of an 18 month old baby!)

A woman in Australia, whose brother, a German refugee was a volunteer pilot killed in Spain in 1936, read about George Watt in the January 1980 issue of Esquire. She contacted Esquire, (Harrison Salisbury, Abe Rosenthal) and finally reached George, who contacted the Republican aviators, who helped locate the grave of her brother in Alicante !.

A film-making conglomerat (EMI) and a T.V. film company, (Granada TV) in England, are **both** producing films on the Spanish Civil War.

The ALB film project (Sam Sills) is in active production. John Gerassi is seeking financial assistance to transcribe the 140 taped interviews with Vets for his Oral History.

Peter Wyden is nearing the half-way mark on his book on the SCW (Wyden's son was elected to Congress from Oregon in the recent election.)

Hopefully, a **Historical** newsletter, tentatively titled "Salud", will be published shortly, featuring news briefs about SCW events, books and people, over 50 Vets, and **non** Vets, have already indicated active interest in such a newsletter. Start up costs, for the first issue, will be several hundred dollars. Donations are welcome! Donors are assured a years subscription.

Copies or originals of Volunteers for Liberty for the years from 1940 to 1975 are seriously needed to provide a complete file. Please let us know if you have any, or will make copies for us. Thanks!

Willi Schutt, German American vet now living in the G.D.R.welcomes letters from us, His address is 5020 Erfurt, Meinerstrasse, 11-G.D.R.

Jacques Grunblatt reports contact with a former doctor in the 139th Brigade his name is Dr. Gabriel Easler, Stethner Strasse, 3-G, 5100 Aachen, Germany.

A German T.V. documentary film "**Irreconociable Memories**" which contains interviews of a Thaelman vet and a Condor Legionaire, was recently shown at the MOMA Vets who saw it are enthusiastic and we are endeavoring to arrange another showing Room. Also, the film "Guernica" was shown at Columbia University and is reported to be of special interest.

A "Film Festival" of these and other historical films is now an active historical project being undertaken the S.C.W.H.S.

Tens of thousands of people attended the Beacon Theater film last year and additional thousands visited the Robert Capa photograph exhibit which just closed, after 2 months, of the Institute of Photography in N.Y.C.

In what has now become an annual event, the SCWHS held an informal gettogether on Feb. 22 at the Toja Restaurant in N.Y.C.

Jim Yates has finished the first draft of his memoirs. Several Vets including Fishman, Levinson, Steck and non Vets met to discuss ways and means for a rewrite to ready it for publication. Milt Ost, Al and Ruth Prago sent letters with helpful ideas.

We agreed that the first half of the book is exciting and well done . . . the second half needs more work. It is an exciting story of how Jim came from the cotton fields of Mississippi where going to grade school meant walking ten miles each way. In Chicago he joined the Railway Porter's Union and signed up the first one hundred members. The depression drove him to New York for hopeful but non existing better opportunities. He lives with a Garvey member uncle and together they sought ways to go to Ethiopia to join against Mussolini. Not succeeding, they did raise funds for medical supplies. Jim's whole life was a curtain raiser for Spain, the inevitable conclusion of all the experiences that before.

We are presently actively seeking a professional writer for the re-write. Can you help?

A GUY CALLED BUTCH

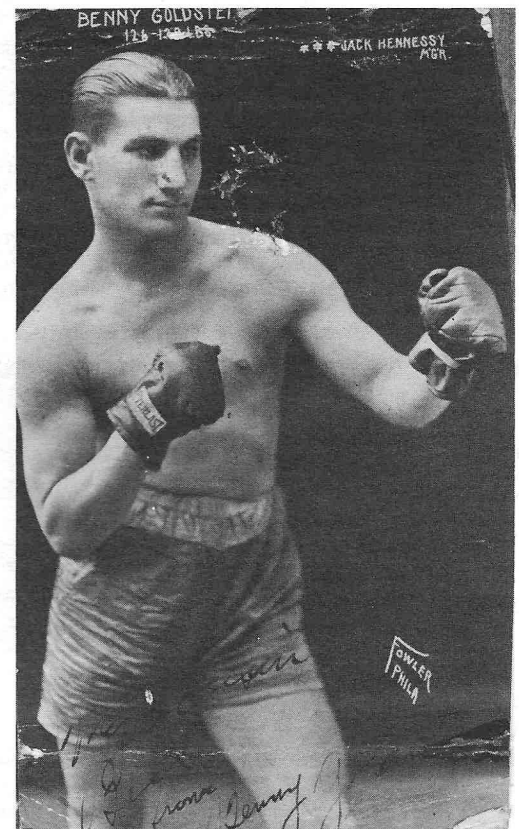
Interviewing "Butch" Goldstein is a delight because of his verve in expounding his beliefs. Butch, now 72 years old, is still in fighting shape. A believer in the holistic approach to health, he walks for an hour every morning and swims for an hour in the afternoon. He still looks like the tough fighter he was and is. Butch fought 8 times in the ring, stopping only when his father died and he had to help support the family.

A dropout victim of the great depression, he went to work in the Philadelphia packing houses as a butcher. "It was a horrible job, we worked 60 hours for \$18." Butch became a volunteer organizer first for the Trade Union Unity League a "left" union in 1935. The strike was lost "I stayed on strike even tho all the workers went back." For two months he picketed alone, so strong were his union feelings. He went back to organize again, this time to win a union shop, with the Packinghouse Workers Union, C.I.O. These experiences began his involvement with the fight against injustice. The next step was seeing the rise of fascism as a danger to the people no matter where it appeared. This understanding led him to Spain, where from June 1937 til the end of the war he participated in every battle, working his way up to head one of the machine gun sections of the Mac Paps battalion.

Butch became the #1 leader of the rank & file soldier. Always talking up against poor organization, poor food and poor leadership that, at times, plagued the Brigade. He says "Don't get me wrong, I wasn't against leadership, only poor leadership . . . and bullshit. Leaders are necessary but they have the responsibility to be good ones." He tells of one of those "good" leaders, one who influenced him. At Fuentes Del Ebro during the need to attack under murderous fire, the Battalion commander Izzy Schrenzel personally led the attack that moved the battalion to the fascist trenches which were taken. "He was a real leader, and I tried to model myself after him."

Wounded twice, Butch always came back with renewed vigor. In the last days of the Ebro battle the fascists over ran our lines and Butch was presumed lost. It took him 3 days to find his way back to our lines. The following account is from The Lincoln Brigade by Artur H. Landis, page 589. ". . . For the Mac Paps, the third night brought a measure of additional cheer. As they sat eating a dinner of garbanzo beans and mule meat, their personal valley rang out with a long drawn out shout, "COMIDA . . . C O M I D A" (Food. . Food). The shouter was Ben (Butch) Goldstein whom everyone had thought lost. . ."

This is just a slice of Butch. The first in a series of small portraits of the ordinary vets we hope to highlight every issue.



EDITORIAL

VOL. 3 No. 5, 1981

There comes a time when one must say "I've had it". That is where I am now. Regretfully I must give up being Editor of the VOLUNTEER. To stay as fit as I am I must curtail activities I can't keep up with.

I feel bad about it, because the VOLUNTEER has been a great source of satisfaction for me. To come in direct contact with our Vets is a fantastic experience. You, my comrades, are unbelievable. Not a day goes by that I am not "floored" by your experiences, knowhow, verve for life, plus pugnacious expounding of your points of view.

I have been careful walking the tightrope of the diverse opinions you hold. I like to think I succeeded. I feel that putting our opinions in print strengthens us. Our differing opinions have not prevented us from agreeing on the path that for 42 years has not diverged. **SUPPORT FOR REBUILDING A DEMOCRATIC SPAIN.**

It was good to bring the VOLUNTEER to the west coast and now it goes back to N.Y. with an enlarged perspective. **The VOLUNTEER should be paid attention to**, moneywise and with more Vets, and friends, writing for it. The VOLUNTEER can be enlarged to accomodate the increased material coming in. After all if Al Emery at 75 is writing a new novel, you too can write for the VOLUNTEER your 500 or 1000 words.

Ben Iceland who is N.Y. representative will become Editor. He says "The VOLUNTEER shall remain the Vets voice." I will continue to play a part in publishing the VOLUNTEER and will give Ben my full support.

I am sure all of you will continue your support by sending in your checks. (still a few books left, at \$12 for both)

Salud,

Manny (Sam Nahman) Harriman

THE NOBLEST CONT

population and all you saw was a silent handful.

I found my way to the barrio "Colonia Buenavista." La Calle Guerrero Mendoza appeared as a dark corridor, but I knew where the Bos' house was and I was a s happy as though I were coming home. I took the two strings of garlic I bought in Cinchon out of my mussette bag and placed them around my neck like Hawaiian "leis" and continued walking toward the house. "How glad they will be to see me," I thought. "What a surprise it will be." I had the picture in my mind. I'll ring the bell, Mrs. Ros will open the door, she'll see me and slowly recognize me, then she'll shriek with joy, "Jimmy." And that's just the way it happened. Well, not exactly. She opened the door all right. But then she shrieked, "Ajoes!"

There are drawbacks serving with the Dimitrov Flak Battery in Spain; one didn't learn Spanish, but you did learn German. A case in point is the time the sergeant (unteroffizier) of our director group was badly wounded during some counterbattery fire and was sent to the hospital. I was appointed acting sergeant or "unteroffizierstellvertreter." Every sixth day it was the "director's" tour of guard mount. As sergeant of the guard, every sixth day my title was "Wachthabendenunteroffizierstellvertreter." Of course I learned some Spanish, but I didn't know the word for garlic until the end of my stay in Spain, "Ajoes."

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SEND MATERIAL FOR NEXT ISSUE TO BEN ICELAND 46 HILLCREST BLVD. WARREN N.J. 07060

A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

In a moving ceremony which brought tears to the eyes of the Congressman and many of the 700 guests, the *Book of Friendship* was presented to Ron Dellums at a testimonial luncheon May 9 in Oakland. In making the presentation, Frieda Wolff, initiator and producer of the project, pointed out that hundreds among the thousands of names in the Book were those of Lincoln Vets and their friends from Miami to Seattle, from New York to San Diego and points in between — even from Mexico.

Congressman Dellums said, as he accepted the leather-bound book, that "... there's a hard, tiring fight in the years ahead to save this country from the cold warriors and those who would turn back the clock on social programs to the Hoover age; and the support of all of you, as expressed in this Book, gives needed heart to what must be done. . ."

"I want to thank all those . . . and Lincoln Vets whose participation," Frieda said, "gave practical meaning to the sentiments expressed in the dedication in the Book by contributing the money that helped re-elect Ron and will help prepare for the much more difficult campaign of 1982. We must keep Ron in the Congress!" she concluded to a standing ovation. (The dedication as it appears in the Book and as Frieda read it appears below.)

Armand Kerin
Bay Area Post

The Volunteer

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