Chapter 9 - "New Passions and New Forces"

New ferces and new passions spring up in the beam of scotety...
—Marx, <u>Capital</u>, Vel. I, p. 787.

The regativity which has just been considered is the terming-point of the movement of the Retion. It is the simple point of negative self-relation, the innermost secret of all notivity, of living and spiritual self-anyment, the dialectic seal which all treth has in it and through which it alone is truth; for the transcendence of the opposition between the Metion and Reality, and that unity which is the truth, rost upon this subjectivity sleep.

—Hegel, Soleme of Lorio, Wale, II, p. 477.

Let us try to create the whole
man, when Burope has been incapable of bringing to triumphant
hirth. Two centuries ago, a fermer Buropean celeny decided to
catch up with Europe. It succeeded
so well that the United States of
fuscion became a measter.....
Counder, let us flee from this
metianless movement where gradually dialectic is changing into
the legic of equilibrium. Let
us reconsider the question of
maxical.

-- Frants Fansu, The Hestohed of the Farth. p. 253-4.

Black was the color which made the 1960's an exciting decade. At the very time when the African Revalution was a second with the second washaped the ceurse of history of nearly the whole centinent and helped set in metion a totally new Third world, the Blacks in the United States opened a new era of youth revelts, Elsek and white. The Black student youth in Greenshero, North Carelins in 1960 who, by their sit-in at and refusal to move from a segregated lunch counter, were the first detanators of the new historic stage were striking out against both white supressoy and their quiescent Black alders. The truth, hewever, is that they were standing on the shoulders of what Plack revolutionary adults had achieved, not only in past history, but in the history of the day before, specifically the Mentgomery Bus Beycett in 1955-56, initiated by the action of a Black working weman, Resa Parke, who would not give up her seat to a thite man. It is true that the Mentgomery Bus Beycett had not caught the matienallimagination and snewbelled. North and South, as had the youthe sit-in, but it was there nevertheless where we saw the first unity of worker and student, and also a new unity of spentaneity and organization. It was the first to proSK Bide Survey of the

ject a new manner of freedom—self-activity, self-development, self-organization, where an masses in nearly daily meetings, the Elacks decided all questions, from transport to relations between masses and leaders. The new leader propelled forward by the boycott, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was not soon to forget that it was the mass movement that orested him, not he the mass movement.

The greatest schievement of all in the Hontgomery Bus Boycott movement was its own working existence. This became the ground for all of the developments in the South throughout the decade of the 1960°s. This is what was new in this decade of Hack revolt. And it is this which had characterized the new stage of freedom struggles in East Europe, occurring during the same period and climaxed by the full-scale revolution in Hungary. Hardly anyone noticed the parallel between these two distant novements. Tet, once the youth in North Carolina in 1960 unfurled the new banner of freedom, and white students began coming South for Freedom Rides, Freedom Marchen.

Freedom Schools, it was these new methods of struggle which winesepplied to korthern battles as well. By the time the U. S., in February 1965, unlocated an imperialist war on Vietnam by bombing Hanoi, a whole new generation of revolutionaries was born.

The fact in, however, that at this high point of development, there was a schism in the New Left between Black and white. The mass migration of the white students from the civil rights movement to the newer anti-Victoria who movement, without so much as a "by your leave" to the civil rights assessed, did indeed expose a racist tinge among the white revolutionaries. The fact that they were unconscious of their racism neither made the truth any less

¹ See Stide Toward Freedom, by Mertin Luther King, Jr., See also the pamphlet, American Civilization on Trial, News & Letters, Detroit, 1963.

real nor hid the great insensitivity both to the demands, and to the vanguard nature of the demands of the Black masses. This could not have arises had the New Left been inbush: with the historic continuity (which is the life blood not marrely of the dislectic but of the very lives of Blacks in racist America) of the Blacks! struggles, from before the Civil har and after, from before the CIO and after, from before the Civil Rights movement of the early 1960's and after.

The fact that Blacks have always been the touchstone of American civilization, its Achille's heel, does not only mean the exposure of the hollowness of American democracy, but also the inherence of racism even among white revolutions. That the latter did not know that the bell tolled for them further laid have the total blindness on the part of whites to the overpowering truth that there never was a period, not even at the senith of such great anyonasts as Abolitionism, when a Great Divide had not suddenly opened up to reveal that racism held all in its throse. The philosophical-political impaturity, the failure to be aware, down to the marrow of one's bones, that the Black revolution was objectively the point of negation of racism, disclosed the shisterical, apolitical, anti-dialectical attitude to revolution itself, and, therefore, to the Black masses as vanguard. The whites who thought it was "micplaced concreteness" to fight "only" the Bull Conner as against the Pentagon bombers, disclosed still another form of the Pragmatism which holds the American, be he sycophant or dissident, in its vise.

If we take a necond look at the high point in the development of the Freedom Now movement in the South, when school children from seven years on up had to face the Bull Connors with their cattle preds, victous dogs, high pressure hoses, and guns, we shall see that it was also the point then Dr. King felt he could no longer face these brave masses with non-violence as the only theory. His famous letter from his Birmingham jail cell, addressed to white clergyman, was in fact an unfolding for the movement of a Humanist philosophy. It is true that, instead of relating Humanism to Murdism, he surrounded it with Suberian formula of "thou-dt." But, by designating segregation as a human relationship, or rather an inhuman one, and not as an "it" question, Dr. King raised also the question of the relationship of underlying philosophy to concrete action, mass action. As it happened, this high point marked the beginning of the end of Rev. King's predominance in leadership of the Elack movement.

the preliferation of organizations, from SCIC to SECC, from Womanpower Unlimited 2 to Presdom Schools, showed the Black youth, ranks and leaders,
moving in more revolutionary directions, not only when it came to Eactions;
but also as related to education, which also had to be totally uprooted.

Listen to Robert Moscs from the Mississippi Freedom Schools addressing

SMCC's Western conference in the fall of 1964:

... We got freedom schools. You form your own schools. Because then you come right down to it, why integrate their schools? What is it that you will learn in their schools? Many Negroes can learn it, but what can they do with it? What they really need to learn is how to be organised to work on the society to change it. They can't learn that in schools ...

Now nobody sat down and theorised all this. It's just that you went down there and started to try to do something ... Callegs kids come down, some of the Negroes who have come down, and are now trying to get back in school, can't relate to it. Must raises for them the whole question of sducation. What is the degree? What do I need it for? What can I do with it after I get it?...

Now what the SHOC people have found in a slow process is that they don't have to accept (society's) definition of work. That they can define their own. And that they understand a little better what it means to work. That is to really put energy into something and to make something that's meaningful to yourself.

² See Freedom Riders Speak for Themselves, News & Letters, Detroit, 1961, p. 23, for a description of komanpower Unlimited, an organization of women in Jackson, Hiss., formed in 1961 to make life more bearable for the Freedom Riders imprisioned in the county jails.

what happens to the people we are working with. It's that they, in many communities, have found a new kind of strength. In their individual acts just going to the courthouse (to register) is a revolutionary act. Siven their lives. A community has devoloped in places because of these acts. Local people have really begun to find a way they can use a meeting as a tool for running their oun lives. For having something to may about it. That's very allow, but it's happening.

In a sense, these people have found freedom. They don't have any participation in society but they're free now. They can do things that they've wanted to do for a long time.

They've been able to confront people who are on their backs. They take whatever is dished out-boubings, shootings, beatings, whatever it is. After people live through that they have a scope that they didn't have before. There's a whole new dimension in their lives that wan't there before.

That new dimension was what the white student youth in the multiversity whenelikewise trying to reach in the creation of the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley. The movement there had gone so far in philosophical awareness
as to "accompt" the Marxist theory of alienation. At the same time, pragmetism
is so total in its hold on American youth, that the FSM was more proud of the
fact that it was "non-idealgical" than it was of its unique achievement in
placing the theory of alienation on a relevant American level. Here is how
its best known leader, Mario Savio, expressed it:

I think it would distort the facts not to make it quite clear that the tone from the very beginning and the possibility of success was founded in a new non-ideological radicalism which is expressed most clearly in SHCC. Those people who have been most effective have been those who have made their decisions from a very pragmatic point of view. An activistic pragmatic radical view to be sure, but not an ideological point of view.

And again:

Large numbers of students from Borkeley have gone South, so there's constant intellectual ferment. On the other hand, the political issue is a pretext for this rebellion. The real cause

is the elienation that students feel from what is a knowledge factory. Keer is quite right. You're processed. You become a number on a set of file cards that go through an IBM machine. The terrible dehumenization. The things which are worst about America are most crually complified here. (3)

And once again, this time in an interview with Life megazine:

America may be the most poverty-stricken country in \$45 world. Not materially. But intellectually it is benkrupt. And morally it's poverty-stricken. But in such a way that it's not clear to you that you're poor. It's very hard to know you're poor if you're sating wall....

Students are excited about political ideas. They're not yet inwed to the apolitical excitety they're going to enter. But being interested in ideas means you have no use in merican excitety...unless they are ideas which are useful to the military-industrial complex....

Pactories are run in authoritarian fashion-mon-union factories any may-and that to the nearest parallel to the university....

In contrast to this, the point Savio kept driving home about the feelings of his fellow students was that "they are people who have not learned to compromise."

It was not the refusal to compromise that the Elacks objected to.

e. year later.

What they objected to was the wanner in which the white students/forgot all

about the South and concentrated on the single issue of the Vietnem war.

Incofar as the Elack revolutionaries were concerned, the whites still looked

outward, saw the enemy in "foreign policy," whereas they, the Elacks, felt the

enemy right at home, directly on their backs. The unemployment lines were

overwhelming them, even as the Army was pursuing them. For was this a phenomenon

that first appeared in 1965; it has always been present. The fact that

Stokely Carmichael could, at one and the same time, raise the excellent slogan,

"Hell no, we won't go!" and turn against "Whitey," including the white revolu-

⁽³⁾ Along with excerpts from his interviews, an article by Mario Savio summarizing his views on the FSM can be found in the pauphlet The Free Speech Movement and the Negro Royalution, by Mario Savio, Eugene Halker, and Raya Dunayevskaya, News & Lotters, Detroit, 1965.

tionaries, showed that being Black, he did understand the depth of the Blacks' disdain for the whites who had "gone South" but were now back in the setropoles talking, talking, talking before marches, during, after, talking to themselves, forgetting the dialogue and work with Blacks.

The youth were with Stokely when he raised the question of Elacks leading themselves and not letting leadership of their movement stey in white hands. But the masses were not waiting for him "to lead" them either. All over the U.S., they were rising up in new spontaneous outbursts. Anyone who failed to see the new end of patience in Harles in 1964 could not fail to see it during the next two long years, starting with watts in 1965, spreading throughout the whole United States, and coming to a climax in Detroit in 1967. Yet the Alack leaders were totally deaf to the new distinctive feature in Detroit's uprising, the class aspect of race consciousness.

Datroit opened a new stage of Black revolt. In common with the outbursts occurring everywhere—from Boston to Spanish Harlen, from Tucson to Newark, from Clevelard to Sacramento, and some eighty other cities—the voice of anger, frustration with, and rejection of, their conditions of life was loud and clear. Unlike the other rebellions, Setroit revolted, not against "whitey" as such, but against racist class society—white foremen, white landlords, white merchants, and of course, white police. When the wrath of the Blacks exploded in Detroit, it was vented not only against the police in their own neighborhoods, or even the police in general, who were the prime targets of the snipers. In Detroit, Blacks made direct attacks on police stations.

Hany other things were new in the Detroit revolt. Unlike other cities, here the repossession, as well as the sniping later, were integrated. Unlike Watts, where whites had been pulled from cars and beaten, in Detroit Blacks stopped in the midst of their activities to warn whites away from certain areas where they might run into trouble.

while mone could say there was an antual commanderie in the factories, white add Black workers got along on the production line better than they had in years. Here is that a Black auto worker reported about his shop:

A skeleton wrow of workers appeared at the Chrysler Hack plant gate for the scraing shift the second day of the revolt in Datroit. No production was running and we could look out of the windows and see billious of black smoke shooting skywards, and then swidewly the red flames following the macks. Every four or five minutes this would be repeated in different areas of the city.

We didn't know where the foresen were until an hour later, when a Black foresan case up and said they were in conference with the plant superintendent, and that some of the white foresen were frightened stiff. The two he mentioned were the worst in the plant, and hated by most of the workers. He said these two had been in there begging to go home.

The superintendent told them to go out and see what the Blacks and young workers felt toward them. Hy forman walked up and said, "You and I have always gotten along O.K. I know we have had minor arguments, but when it was over I always forgot it, and I feel sure you did too. How I know this riot is not because all colored people are bad; the young whites are just as bad, just as guilty of crimes."

He wanted to know exactly what everyone that worked for him felt about him, especially the young Blacks. While he was saying this to me, practically every foremen had one or two Blacks cornered off asking them the same thing.

The following day those two foremen did not come in. In fact, they stayed away the entire week.

It has been a week since the revolt's been over. Not one foreman in our plant has raised his voice at a worker, and they seem to be leaning backwards to some of the Black workers.

One guy said, "Man, the destruction was unbolievable; but considereing what it did for us about changing the forements attitude, it should happen every month."

Where what exerges from the actual struggles of the Blacks is a search for a total philosophy to change society from the bottom, the leaders, self-styled and otherwise, who presumed to speak "for the Blacks, "short-changed that into a slogan. And a tactic imposed from above, When a Black said,

enoules at home--poor jobs, ppor homes, "the whole system," not the Vietnamers people. What he was not saying was: as against my home here, I choose to live in China or Cuba, or Russia, or even Vietnam.

Black consciousness, Afro-American roots, aumreness of themselves as a people, a nation, a race. Black is besutiful, and it is also revolutionary. Hany a youth was memorizing Malocu X°s records; they identified with him, especially after he broke with Elijah Hohamad°s Hlack Muslims, when he was moving toward a new revolutionary universalism. In that orunial year, 1966, when Stokely (on that famous march through the South, alongside Dr. Eing and James Heredith) first raided the slogan, "Elack Power," he signalled more than the end of Dr. King's predominance in the leadership of the movement. It was also the beginning of the division between rank and all leaders, nimself included. It is true he electrified the crowd, when he first expounded the slogan:

The only way we gonna stop them white men from huppint us is to take over. We been saying freedom for six years and we ain't got nothint. What we gonna start saying now is Black Power... Ain't nothint wrong with anyting all black toause I'm all black and I'm all good. Now don't you be afraid. And from now on when they ask you what you want, you know what to tell them.

All answered: "Black Power! Black Power! BLACK POWER!" But as the slogun caught on, Stokely himself was off elsewhere. Neither he nor any other Black militant leader was listening to the voices that came from below, lesst of all from Black workers.

There was very nearly the same separation of Black leaders from Black masses as there was between elitist white revolutionaries and the Black community. There certainly was the same theoretic void on the part of the leaders. In moving away from Dr. Kingis non-violence, the new militant Black

leaders did not move away from Amrican pregnation, did not even attempt to work out a philosophy of total freedom. Nothing shows this more clearly than the manner in which they reduced the revolutionary humanian and profound philosophic concept of the needed "new Man?" that Frants Fanon was preclaiming to the world, to a news question of violence versus non-violence. This was habilly the question which separated them from elitist white revolutionaries. Indeed, it would soon lead them back to umprincipled collaboration under the Maciet elogan, "Power comes out of the barrel of a gum." Because the lack of philosophic grasp has halped bring about an impasse not only in the Hack movement, but among all the "new passions and new forces" for the reconstruction of coldety on totally new beginnings, whether our point of concern is the latest phenomenon—Manner's Liberation, or the youth, or Chicanos, or Indians, or, for that matter, the whole Third World, it becomes nowessary minimals. When our young Black leaders meet often quote and most often misrepresent.

Because Fanon has a great deal to say on violence, and that is the only thing many Black leaders took from him, one would think he has nothing also to say. First of all, what he says is absolutely correct, both historically and theoretically. Though the Black Panthurs act as if Fanon's thesis is the same as the Macist oversimplification, "Power comes out of the barrel of a gun," his beautiful first chapter, "Concerning Violence," has nothing whatsoever to do with Mac. On the contrary, it has everything to do with the concrete decolonization of Africa as "a historical process; that is to say that it cannot be understood, it cannot become intelligible nor clear to itself except in the exact measure that we can discourn the movements which give it historical form and content." (4)

⁽⁴⁾ Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth, Grove Press, N. Y., 1966, p. 29-30.

While his American followers chose to disregard Fanon's dislectios, they managed to present even those points of Fanon that they quote correctly one-midedly. Thus, it is true that Fanon has a great deal more faith in the peasants as revolutionaries than in the proletariat. But, again, it is concrete the peasantry in the underdeveloped countries is the revolutionary force. The colonizers have tried, and sometimes succeeded, in corrupting city inhabitants: proletariat and intellectuals and ladders of the national movements. Fanon devotes a whole chapter to the "Pitfalls of Mational Consciousness," and "the laminess of the intellectuals:"

Ristory teaches us clearly that the battle against despision does not run straight away along the lines of nationalism...

It so happens that the unpreparedness of the sincated classes, the lack of practical links between them and the mass of the people, their laxiness, and let it be said, their cowardise at the decisive moment of the struggle will give rise to tragic mishaps. (p. 121)

Not only does he draw: a sharp line between masses and leaders before conquest of power, but he does so after also.

Finally, it is true that Fanon exposes the horrors of Western divilisation, rejects it as any model to follow. He tells his African comrades: "Lot us waste no time in sterile litanies and nauseating mimicry. Leave this Europe where they are never done talking of Man, yet nurder sen everywhere they find them..." (p. 252) But it is not true that he has only the Black in mind. He is most specific on the fact that with the disappearance of colonialism and "colonised man," This new humanity cannot do otherwise than define a new humanism both for itself and for others." (p. 197) Clearly, the dialectics of liberation is not anything pragmatic, nor something only Black. "such less narrowly nationalistic. It is global as well as revolutionary; it is total

⁽⁵⁾ Indeed, he cirklits Surapest as well as Sues with beging more decisive moments of confrontation than the Korean War. See especially p. 62.

as well as historically continuous. It is, as he put it, a "new humanism," no stranger to Marxism; and, above all, impossible of achievement if the leaders isolate themselves from the masses.

One Black worker from California, disgusted with what became of the Black Power slogan, wrote:

Black power has become a gigantic reinder-hat rack with many apposing hats hanging there, including the hat of Black espitalism. The possible unity of Black and white workers to destroy the system of capitalism is a punch at the gut nerve of all middle class intellectuals and elitist groups. Black or white.

The most anti-clitist new force that came on the historic stage in the turbulent '60's was Momen's Liberation. It surprised everyons, the New Left most of all, since though born out of the New Left, it was the New Left it opposed. The same women who had participated in every phase of the freedom movements refused to continue being the typists, the mineographers, the Wladies' auxiliaries" to the Left. They demanded an end to the separation of mental and manual labor, not only within the whole society, but within the Left itself, and applied to women. They were not afraid to attack the male-chauvinism in the Hack movement; Black and white women joined together to do battle with the arrogance of a Stokely Carmichael, who had said that "the position for women in the movement is prone." So uncompromising as well as ademant was their attack on elitism and authoritarianism that the very structure of the new Momen's Liberation groups, the small groups that spreng up grantiers, remove effort to find a form that would allow for the self-development of the individual woman.

Horever, the women surprised everyone with their militancy because them already was a new women's organization, N.O.W.; but for from attracting them, they considered it too concerned with middle-class and professional

women's issues. Suddenly, "male-chaurinism"became as popular a slogan as "end the war," sexion became as victous an enemy as ranism, and for the women, freedom now meant totay, today not tomorrow, today not the day of revolution, much less the day after, today meant Today, this very moment, in this very relationship with "my man."

The women refused to consider the relationship of women to man to be a "private affair." That was only one more may to make women feel isolated and helpless. The idea of freedom "in the air" quickly spread to thousands of women who had never before been "pelitical," who suddenly saw their cum lives in a different light. And once there was a governent—and there was one before the "world" acknowledged it after the mass demonstrations in August.

1970,—the whole atmosphere of the country changes. Collectivity and individuality became inseparable, as the heightened consciousness allowed the women to understand that they were "individualized through the process of history."

Here is him one young woman summarized what she thought were the new doors opened by the Momen's Liberation movement:

The sovement has raised many new questions about women which are both a shock to those who are not attuned to listening for new forces of revolution, and at the same time show the universality of the sovement's ideas. These ideas have not always been heard clearly, partly because the best organized and publicized parts of the movement the are/most middle-class ordented groups, more because the movement has not yet "proved" itself, or fully defined itself through action.

Whether this is because it is so young, or because of the theoretical impasse it has reached, or both, the point is that it has already represents achieved much, precisely because it is an idea whose time has come.

Thus, on the question of equal pay with men-today nearly everyone, even men who are terrible male-chauvinists in their personal lives, will agree with you on this. Yet three or four years ago, at the start of the soverent, the idea was considered shocking. The change is not because any statistics that show that most women who work do so because they must to support themselves or their families, rather than for "pin soney, have changed, but because the beliefs that women should not-end "good" women did not-get jobs, and that women are "worth less" than men, were so ingrained. It has taken such talking and cotion just to convince men that women are not inherently inferior, and the reality of equal pay is still a long way off.

Thus, in spite of adverse publicity about ugly "girls" burning brace and whatever other monsense the male-chauvinists play up in order to make the movement look silly, more and more women keep "joining" it.

All different kinds of women who had never joined anything before have become "activists" —and thinkers. In addition to those who call compress the same themselves members of the movement, thousands more ninguistic ideas, from the welfare nothers organizations to the new drives to unionize sanctioned by women's industries and fight discrimination/am existing unions.

And the many boices corressing the ideas of Women's Liberation were not the result of women reading Sexual Politics, much less the hundreds of less serious works on the subject, but of the hunger for new roles in the society and new relationships with others.

Thus, the movement brought Black and white revolutionries together. The Black dimension had been the catalyst for the first women's movement during the Aboliticalit movement, when Black women such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman were speakers, leaders, "generals," and inspired the white women who were still subordinates to the male Abolitionist leaders. The suffrage movement arose out of the Abolitionist one, but later when the white middle-class women lost their links with

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the Black and proletarian woman, the struggle was narrowed to just getting the vote. The new feminists are learning their history, and concluding that the movement must include Black and proletarian weren, and also that women must fight for their own freedom in order to be able to fight for that of others.

Like the scal miners and auto workers who asked, while they fought killing automation, "what kind of work should man do?", (6) the women are asking. "what kind of work should maken do?" Must there be a lower standard that says women should only do housework-dull, hard, mindless houseerk-or its equivalent in the market place? Women are demanding to use their heads, to be human beings instead of just sex objects and household robots. And even more fundamentally, they are asking, "what kind of work should we value?" In addition to the question of equal pay, there is that of being paid strall: the bousewife (the movement, which is very sensitive to language that reinforces concepts of male domination, has also pointed out how alienating the word "housewife" is-the wife is not even an appendage to a man, but to a house), the housewife who has no independence because she has no money of her own and must obey her man or she may find herself on the street; the working woman who has to put in a second full, unpaid workday when she comes home, so that she doosn't have a moment to think let alone participate in a movement. This is not even a question of valuing manual work properly, but of valuing "women's work" at all. So long as woman's role is thought to be "inhorently" to serve men, we cannot even get to the question of who does mental labor.

⁽⁶⁾ See Workers Battle Automation, News & Letters, Detroit, 1960.

The question of what kind of work we value can be seen most dramatically in our attitude toward raising children. It is society's children that women are raising; even the biggest capitalist would have to admit there wouldn't be such sense to his life if everyone stopped having children. Tot the people who are given most of the job of child care are treated as if this were some sort of automatic, sechanical process—"woman's function"—which deserves no help or compensation. This view is seen most clearly inthe treatment of ADC mothers. (7) They are called "lany," and condensed for "refusing to work," and paid at a starvation level, as if raising a bunch of kids were no work at all, let alone very important work. Perhaps this is part of our commodity fetishions producing people (I seen raising them; having babies is the least of it) is unimportant when only things are important.

All of these questions boil down to, "What kinds of <u>choices</u> of work should human beings have?", which is the central question for building a new society. For women, this prevades every issue, from that of abortion (the choice <u>not</u> to raise a child), to sharing the housework and child-raising with the man and having day-care centers, to gotting better jobs, to forming entirely new human relationships.

⁽⁷⁾ The writer considers the Mational Welfare Rights Organization the first and greatest Women's Liberation organization. One member has written: [NOVL, N4 L 1970]

has written: [[0]] , N4 L [6] 0

A woman file three rolliest falling toold monture distribution 1970)

no such thing as a woman today. I don't feel like a woman any

more...Raising children in a society like this is tursoil....

They want to take my children because I refused to send them to school without sufficient chething. We went downtown to see the welfare officials (about increasing the clothing allowance) and they said we could stay as long as we weren't a nuisance. But if we weren't a nuisance to them, they's just walk by us all day long. I've blocked doors. That's the worst thing in the world according to them. The worst thing in the world to me is children who don't have enough clothes and enough to est...

We are a group of women who have joined together—a group of women who know what it is to fight, what it is to be walked on, what it is to be hit on the head....Freedom is something that all of us need. Women really need it.

Mankind has evidently readned the end of something when the richest and most powerful military might on earth shouts to the heavens, not about the monsers of its production, affluence, or nuclear gigantism, but about the "strange spirit of melsise throughout the land." This isn't all due to "spirit." It has very deep economic roots. All one has to do to see this is look at the latest figures on the state of the economy. By the government's own standard, twenty-five and a half million people lived in poverty in 1970. Hore than 13.5 million Americansareceive welfare assistance-one out of seven people in Hew York and San Francisco, one out of four in Hewark. Unemployment has risen to 6.2 per cent, and that figure is meaningless when it comes to the Black community, where unampleyment runs to no less than 25 per cent in the "inner city." The rate of poverty for Blacks was 32.1 per cent, about three times the rate for whites, in 1970. This is during a period of so-great growth that Nixon hurried to announce we had reached the trillion dollar level! The trouble with his "unparalleled prosperity" is that, first and foremost, both the constantly rising number of poor and the army of unemployed have become as permanent features of the economy as militarization and ongoing wars.

Thus, though the United States heads the list of the major world powers in its expenditure for the military, it is also at the head in its number of unemployed. According to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the percentage of the gross national product for military purposes is 8.5 per cent, as against 5.8 percent spent by Great Britian, 4.1 per cent by West Germany, in and only 1 percent by Japan. At the same time, the United States as unemployment in 3.6 percent, Britian 2.5 percent, West Germany 1.6 percent, Japan 1.2 percent. These are 1969 figures and are given here only for purposes of relating the military expenditures to the unemployment figures. For as we saw above, the their playment has interplayment has interplayment has

So decadent has capitalism become that even the ruling class itself—and idea with state intervention at all levels, from war to "welfare" for the benefit of the capitalist class—considers the \$30 billion annually poured into the Vietnam war as being insufficiently profitable! Even for them, it is "the wrong war." Horsever, the inflation which makes the dollar stand up in the international market only with the crutches of full state backing plus outright "industrial heletry" (to use ex-Prime Minister Wilson's phrase). While the back in Rixon's bag, from the state planning learned during world War II to the nuclear overkill, can because get the country out of its maliase. It is sick, sick, sick, sick,

Rampant raciss, which makes all these economic burdens fall heaviest on the Blacks, has yet to be fully grasped by the white revolutionaries. This is why the Blacks keep insisting that not only is the oppressor class racist, but that racism remains the issue also make the instantant in the country as a whole, including the white revolutionaries.

Thus, as late as 1970, at the very moment when the Black students were coming out in solidarity with the murdered white students at Kent State. University, the experience with whites, not bigots but revolutionary whites, was shattering. In contrast to the mass outpouring of protest all over the country to the Kent killings and the Cambodian invasion, there was very nearly total silence on the part of whites to the happenings in the South, the murders of Blacks by police and the planned and massive gunfire poured out at the Black women's dormitory at Jackson State. All the Blacks, no matter what strate, avowed that racism was in fact so deep and ingrained and irreversible as to hold all whites in its thross.

Thus, the Black G.I.; s, the very ones who are still in Vietnam,

emperiorse the same discrimination as in the South, and as a two-year survey (8) procedul, they hall the Hlack Pantehrs as what they call "an equiliser. The mast (the white man) got his Ku Eluz Kian. The Black Panthers give the beast securities to fear, like we feared the KKK all of our lives."

Thus, a Black worker in an auto shop said: "There is no middle rood any more. The days we accepted." we have to take the lesser of two evils. are gone. Ion have to go to the extreme now. Racism is the issue here, and for that we need a revolution." The conclusion on the part of everyone interviewed in another survey—and none of these surveys were taken by revolutionaries—in another survey—and none of these surveys were taken by revolutionaries—was: "Racism is the issue. Himm's Southern strategy is not what the white was: "Racism is the issue. Himm's Southern strategy is not what the white liberals may it is, not caring about Blacks because of the wide-spread years—ing for law and order. Everything Mixon does says: I don't need you. Blacks are dispensable."

⁽⁸⁾ The survey was made by a Reack journalist for the New York Times,

^{, 1970.}

In 1968 all was had twent to France for it was there that the highest क्षप्रदेखी point of development for all new passions and new forces had managed. The vastness ance and and emmuniveness of the spontaneous mass outburst, the/sultiplicity of the actions from barricades in the Latin Quarter to occupation of factories to mass of in the turbulent 1960's sarohes marked a turning point in historic dimension. For the first time/a nearrevolution upsurged in a technologically advanced country. For the first time since the birth of the new generation of revolutioneries did the student youth and the workers units in mass activities. For the first time did the Worker-Student Alliance show itself to be not only a new form of struggle but an overpowering ten million workers on general strike, became force as thousands of students in revolt became/a million marching feet of workers and students and housewives and clusters as well as youth became a near-revolution undermining de caulle. Yet the fact, that it was only a near, not an actual, revolution; the fact that the Presch CP, through the OFT, could keep the Workers confined to referrist demands which made it unnecessary for de faulle, enco he organized the counter-revolution, to need a bloodbath to keep the mass revolt from becoming social revolution, naturally put a question mark/over a revolution anguardists" like the that but the authorous minimum character Trotokylets who, though they fought the CP counter-revolutionary activities, held on to the same concept of a "wanguard Party to lead the revolution. The Daniel John-Sendit was absolutely right when he said that the movement was beyond the small parties which wanted to lead. But he was wrong to hold on to so abstract a view of a philosophy of liberation as to think that theory can be picked up "an route." Althout theory the road to revolution led "en route" to nowhere; the revolution-to-be was a still-birth. Which only American increased the endless output of books on it. As one young/revolutionary who was a axticurries participant in the events put it: "At no time, 1848 to 1968, have there been more analyses, more solutions, more ensuers thrust ween the revolutionary actions of the Polish, the German, the Cashhoslovak, and most specifically the French masses that what we are witnessing today.

"For Sartre, the barricages of France and france and france and france and france and france." the general strike had a cortain rescoblence to the Castra type of insurrection. For MaRcuse, the May revolt was Maoist like, i.e., there were aspects of Chinical Cultural Revolution. For the Trotskyists, it was a revolution minus one ingredient a "real" vanguard party. For some existentialist-anarchists it was a collective madness which proudly had no goal, no definite sime, no alternative....For Cuhn-Bendit and others their role is that of *planting seeds. *.. (But)going free the

possible to the actual is not only a task of the workers. It is a task for

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theoreticians, #(12)

Different as France, May, 1968 was from Cuba, January, 1959, the underlying philosophy of the New Left remained one or another from of "guerrilla warfare" that All case under its spell, became most famous under the title, Revolution Within Revolution. Seen those who did not accept the view that only the countryside, only in technologically underdeveloped countries see the with revolution. To self-proclaimed "urban guerrillas", the point wore so in the US than in France, of attraction was one namess, unbufflened by the past.

Debray's Revolution in the Revolution? burns with missionary zeal "te free the present from the past." A greater deception than either that contained in the title of this pretentious little booklet, or in the alleged narrowing of the "terrain" of guerrilia war to Latin America, underlies the contention that, as against the abstractions of theory, this easily is based solely on "experience," facts, "the concrete." From the guise of this untheory, the most pretentious theoretic declarations are asserted which indeed change the course, not of details, but of theory and fact, history and "a new dislectic of tasks." Domination this "new dislectic" is the need to set up "military focos, not political focos." Poor dislectics, what crimes have not been committed in thy name!

Debray pulls out from his fertile syle a new expression--"the equivalent substitution" (military command). This is the end result of the Army replacing the Party, replacing the Proletariat, replacing the Peasantry, only to be replaced by the know-it-all, see-it-all, "Equivalent-Substitution," the military command, which consists mailing of intellectuals of beurgeois extraction:

One finds that a working class of restricted size or under the influence of a reformiat trade union eriotoceacy, and an isolated and humiliated peasantry, are willing to accept this group, of bourgeois origin, as their political leadership.

No factionalism of any sort is permitted. This old chestmut of Stalinist totalitary is passed off as "The theoretical and historic novelty of this situation."

(9) It would be impossible to list all the books, pamphiets, articles on Spring, 1966. In any case, they are easily available not only in France but a great many in English translation. I am limiting myself to the very few directly related to the aspect of

under discussion here. The graffiti played a specially prominent part, and therefore it is important to list its theoretician, Guy Debord's Festival. The New Left Review likewise called its special issue (\$52,Nov.-Dec.1968) devoted to France, 1968. "Festival of the Oppressed". While it printed the whole of Andre Cluckemann's Structer and Revolution" which it labelled lithe fundamental theoretical document of the younger generation of students and intellectuals who faunched the movement of it included also the Trotskyist, Ernest Market, and, of course, pointed to its specific views, Tom Nairn's The Recinning of the End. (Panther Books). Also by English socialists the Struggle Goes On by Tony Cliff and Ian Birchall (IS) and Farley Nav 1963 the Market Templist.

- (2C) Obsolete Communism by Deniel Cohn-Bendit
- (11) France Spring, 1968 by Rugene Walker
- (12) Regis Debray, Revolution in the Revolution? (Grove Press, Nr)

The "proof" of "perfect understanding" lies in the acceptance of (1) insurractional activity as "the number one political activity," and (2) the conclusion that "there" is no longer a place for variable indulogical relation to the revolution, nor for a certain type of polemic."

Gataide of the penchant for monolithian which characterises the booklat, its 115 pages are one mevar-ending pages of praise to the guerrilla. So supreme is the military as means and end, as strategy and tectic, as leadership and menhood itself, that it also swallows up theory and the political party. According to Debray, "the staggering novelty introduced by the Cuban Revolution" is this: "The guerrilla force is the party in embryo." The fact that he could not merely assert, but had to attempt to prove Cuban originality on the question of guerrilla war, made difficulties from the start.

The first Markist theorist of guerrilla worfare was Mao Tse-tung, not Fidel Castro. Furthermore, the thesis of "freeing the present from the post" had come face to face with the simple reality that it was Vietnam, not Cuba, which was presently engaged in guerrilla warfare on a massive scale against the biggest of all the world's imperialisms, that of the United States.

Under the circumstandes, Debrey could not attack General Giap frontally.

Our philosopher thereupen hit upon the idea of beginning with an attack on the

Trotskyists (always a safe but for Communists); only after that could Debray attempt
to move cautiously to a criticism of other concepts of "self-Defense":

In Vietnam above all, and also in Chins, srmed self-defense of the presents, organized in milities, has played an important role...but...in no way did it bring autonomous zones into being. These territories of self-defense were viable only because total war was being carried out on other fronts....

Castro's total war includes a war on Marxist theory: first, Marx's own theory of revolution as the <u>objectively</u> produced elemental outburst of the masses; and second, Lenin's dictum that there can be no revolution without a revolutionary theory. Che Guevare, when he spoke, not "through" Debray but in his own words, was

open enough about it:

This is a unique Revolution which some people maintain contradicts one of the most orthodox premises of the revolutionary movement, expressed by Leniat "Without a revolutionary theory there is no revolutionary movement." It would be suitable to say that revolutionary theory as the expression of a social truth, surpasses any declaration of it; that is to say, even if the theory is not known, the revolution can succeed if historical recity is interpreted correctly and if the forces involved an it are utilized correctly. ()

Debray will have nothing to do with this open declaration of a deviation, much less an actual theoretical argument; instead, there is his devious distribus, first against "Tretskyism," then Msoism, and only them "theoretically" against Giap. The way he explains Castro's "heresy" leaves out the question of theory sitegether.

"Fidel Castro," he writes, "says simply that there is no revolution without a wanguard."

That this is not the point in dispute among Communists, all of whom are pessionate "vanguardists," does not seem to disturb our master of substitution, as he reduces theory to a literature of the abourd, by finding "a close tie between biology (yes, biology!) and ideology."

To save us from the vice of excessive deliberation, " and the fractionclism which is "a dead-end street," Debray points "a warning finger...to indicate a short-cut." It is a short-cut to nowhere. It is a long road to tragedy.

For from being a short-cut, much less the "guaranteed" way to achieve state power, guerrilla warfare is a long, protracted road which has more often failed than succeeded. Our post-war world is filled with guerrilla wars, from the Philippines to Burms, from Malaya to Indenesia, not to mention India and Japan, that have failed. That there is no "magic" to it has been bitterly driven home by Che's tragic death. Our post-war world, as against the post-war world following the first World War, lacks "magid," the tree magic, of the Russian Revolution which set the

^() Che Guevara, Notes for the Study of the Ideology of Cuban Revolution,

world efiams. Even today -- a half century afterwards, when it has been transformed into its opposite -- the original perspective remains the greatest force of world revolutionary development.

This, then, is the Markist heritage, the past from which Castro's theoreticism wishes "to free the present." Es will not succeed. If it were merely the writing of a young French philosopher, it could be easily dismissed. Unfortunately, he speaks for a state power, one which pictures itself as revolutionary, Because short-cuts to revolution look attractive, it was necessary to counter-pass reality to Debray's nimble-penned panaces.

The only "magic" is that of <u>Social</u> Revolution -- a great mass in motion, in spontaneous, forward movement, propelled by a philosophy of liberation, a Marxist theory of proletarian world revolution in which the masses are not only mass and muscle, but also passion and Reason.

The New Left, not having built on this, just this, the many aborted and soured revolutions continue without any new vantage point from which to seee the new roads ahead. This dossn't mean that the "correct" theory, if not objectively and fully aware of the might of the counter-revolution grounded, would have brought the millenium. No new stage of cognition can be "made" where the conditions for a new plunge to freedom have not arisen. What the fragmentation of the New Left, the proliferation of all types of shortcute to revolution disclosed was that no new attempt had been made to relate these new, new "theories" either to the rigors of Historical Materialism that is at the same time a theory of social revolution or to any new objective conditions, must less to the movement from below, the praxis of the masses. Empiricism in thought has wreaked its vengenalse also within the Black dimension insofar as the self-proclaimed vanguard leadership is concerned. K

More shocking that the miniless activity of the Weatherman faction of the SDS, its "Days of Wrath" and "bomb factories" that succeeded only in blowing up their own activists, was the split within the most radical and most popular alack Panther Party. The mindless accounts for the split between Huey Hewton and 133077

Eldridge Cleaver from both sources (14) be accounted more rationally by the facts that both were isolated from the masses, both eceletic in their hybrid, shifting "theorism" of Black Mationalism, Maolem, and a rather original form of lumpso urban guerrila-ism. But this cannot lessen the shock of the Black youth who may not have been genters of the Black Panthers but nevertheless were glad the Panthers ware there-and these youth/numbered by the thousands as against the membership that can only be numbered by the hundreds, and that only for a brief period. A representative report from one of the major campuses-Michigan State Chiversityresdes

"The issue of the split between the Black Panther leadership has laft meny black people disillusioned with that group. The battle between the New York groupand the Cakland Central Committee has long been evident. The feud between Howton and the nine Blacks he expelled from the party added word fuel to the fire. Most shooking of all, however, is the domestic quarrel between Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver in Algiers. Illustrated in the Panther paper & few works ago.

"The support, is any, that the Fanthers still got emanates, not from the Mack masses esponsal of their ideology, but from the communal solidarity of Black and oppressed people everyshero. This wase is true for Angels Davis. Everybody may not care for foc munismi, but they care for Angela because she is a Black woman. One sister, pointing to a much-Orientalised picture of Angels that appeared in the Chinese press and was reproduced in Muhasmad Speake, told me that this shown how even the Rucsians and Chinese are racist.

"The internationalism of Blacks is/alive as ever. Last Friday they had a China Day up here. Robert Williams come in from Ann Arbor to speak, along with William Hinton, Author of Fanshen. There were two films on China shows that night to an overflow audience that was at least one-third Black. Of course, the Brotekyle Maoists plus SDS had a field day trying to sell literature. But the crowd wantt about to buy those Mac buttons though they did buy books on China. People I've telked to are protty such fed up with the pragmatic, elitist philosophy most vanguards copress. We're looking for a total philosophy. Pan-Africanica, American attle, is oliched. style, is clicke. It is being used as an ascape batch and commercial fads by whites. True Pan-Africanism like true brotherhood, is a boautiful ideals that is worth fighting for. But now that the cat has been let out of the bag, we see, or are beginning to see, that Black, too, can be corrupt.

"Hack youth are looking for something, something total, something that would, once and for all, and the division between the real and the ideal."

Shether or not what that Riack student says is a manifestation of the Regelian concept that the transcendence of the opposition between Nation and reality rests in subjectivity alone, it is clear that, for the black masses, black consciousness, areness of themselves as Afro-American with a dual heritage

(IA) Black Panthor.

1970; for Cleaver's statement see

and special pride, a continuity of revolt, in a drive toward wholeness, so interest that it characteristic is an evercome the separation between objective and subjective. Elack forcover, this is characteristic not only of/college youth but of Black workers who had not finished even elementary school when they were compelled to seek factory jobs. Whether the shop papers issued by a Black caucus in an auto shops in Detroit called openly for "revolution" (16), or limited itself to the concrete demands for upgrading of Blacks, and of littly white departments, more representation in the highest coholons of the union, they all participate in wildcats which show they are as ready to tear the labor bureaucracy up by its roots as to rid itself of managements. Even one of the modrate workers recently expressed hisself as follows: "Jie most popular word in the shop these days is revolutionary. In the past, even when we didn't parrot the inter union leadership and call workers (Communists), we would shy away from any worker who declared hisself to be a "revolutionary." How we say to him: "Why be for foreign revolutions? We need one here, right here." (16)

⁽¹⁵⁾ DRUM. EIRIM. For a critique of these papers and an analysis of shop papers like Stinger and shop cancuses in general, see Black Caucuses by Charles Penby, Hen Politics, Vol.VII.43, Surser, 1969/

⁽¹⁶⁾ he whole struggle against Automation, from when it first started in the mines in 1959 resched auto shops and steel factories in the mid-1950's, new listen to the workers speaking for themselves in Horkers Battle Automation, which the Black production worker. Charles Denby concludes with: "When there is a crisis in production—and with Automation, there is a crisis in production—there is a crisis in the whole of society. Yes, it is true that not only the workers, but all are affected. However, for more mutilated than the privileged are the unprivileged. The plight of none is worse than the millions of unemployed. They are the true forgotten man and children of these phony "scaring "60s."...

[&]quot;The workers organizing their own thinking in a good way to begin the solution of the crisis...Only those who are totally blind to this great movement from below, to the actual practice of workers' battle against Automation—Automation, not as it 'ought' to be, but as it is in fact—only those totally blind, I repeat, can believe there is an unbridgeable gulf between thinking and doing. Thinking and doing are are not really as far apart as appears to those who are out 'to load." (p.62)

No one is saying that we are on the throshold of revolution. The fact that the idea of revolution, however, is in the air even where we are not in a pre-revolutionary situation, that this idea is by no means limited to the young in the anti-Vietnas war movement, but is present also on the shop floor among the "quiescent" labor, speaks volumes about the philosophical-political maturity of our age. We may have no Hegel or Harx or Lonin. What we do have, however, is what no other age had-the movement from practice that does not stop at praxis, that is itself a form of theory. Three kinds of revolutions have marked our ago-the East European against Communist totalitarianisms the Afro-Asian against western imperialism; the technological that, far from ambitioner turning us all into one-dimensional men, caused workers to pose question about the kind of labor men should dos the why of the division between mental and manual labor, the need for revolutionary change business men at the point of production. The fact that the color, Black, orested that new revolutionary dimension and that that will also intensify the contradictions within labor. and not only with capital and the labor bureaucracy, cannot undermine that is: the manual revolutionary idea that is in the air and mill objectively compain white labor "to take sides"; as a whole, white labor has not failed terresidence be with Blacks in the labor struggles. In any case, it is alive; it is in serious class battles and this is the period of economic crisis and deep unemployment that refuses to budge in the age of Automation.

The ones who are write the idea are not the masses, but the elitist leadership which has arrogated to itself the "making of revolutions", or, more correctly put, the ordering of "making revolutions". It is no accident that these turn out to be the absolute opposite; counter-revolutions. This is true not only of the CPs armed with state power who crush revolutions, nor of CPs maximum still out of power who use their control of the trade unions who use that power and reformist ideology to stifly the revolutionary urge, as the class-collaborationist French CP did in May, 1968. The uniqueness of the dialectic which in uprooting the counter-revolution within the revolution is what made

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molusion of "the negation of the negation" from the "laws" of the dialectic as if by flat, that-capitalist tyrrany could intend change the course of history. The relationship of theory to history as a bistorical relationship compels a critical lask also at academic Marxiate who, even though independent of any state power, are permented to the marrow of their hones with the capitalistic concept of the backwardness of the prolaterist. Inch of confidence in those masses is the common root of all objections to "idealistic, mystical Hegelianism."

the most to break with bourgoois idealism, including that of Hagel. For, without Harn's unique discovery of the materialist foundations of history, Hegelian disloctics remained imprisoned in an idealism that was abstract enough to the allow for usage as apology for the Prussian state. Had Mark not broken with bourgesis idealise in its philosophic form as well as its class nature he would not have been able either to disclose the algebraic formula of revolution inherent in the Hegelian dialectic, or to recreate the dialectic that emerged out of the actual class struggles and proletarian revolutions, and sketched out that self-movement into "permanent revolution." For our age, however, what is immediately more relevant than the Prussian state's prison house for the Hegelian dialectics, is, first, Social Democracy's, and, today, Communica's perversions of the Hegelian-Marxian dislectic. That academic Marxiam is also engaged in togging away at "Hegelianism" is only proof that there is no "third way" in the mode of remarkthmany thought than there is in the class struggle. Pettybourgeois subjectivies has always ended by holding on to them state power, and dose intellectuals er never more so than in our state-capitalist ago/so ridien through with ano administrative mentality of Flanners.

(17) I'm naturally not referring either to Trotsky's theory that bypassed the revolutionary peasantry, nor to Hao's theory which has by now degraded to the superstructure of culture, but to Hark's original promulgation of permanence in his Address to the Communist League, 1850.

but creates it."

intellectuais, Furthest from the minds of elitist/leaders in particular, is the colfdevelopment of the masses who themselves would master the principles of the disloctic. Tet all the new beginnings for theory, for philosophy as well as for revolutionary reconstruction of society on totally new human foundations. has come in our age from the spontaneous outbursts, the world over, "Self-datermission in which alone the Idea is is to hear itself speaks was heard by those fighting for self-determination, be that national, or "individual." Here, too, however, there are two kimis of subjectivity. On the part of The Leader it is voluntarism that rests on ordering the sesses to work hard and harder, long and longer hours, make "I day = 20 years", at the opposite polo, on the part of the masses meand that does include revolutionary intellectuals, youth especially along with workers and persents. Hack and white-it is the type of Subjectivity which, aware of the totality of the world and national crises, that works to overcome the opposition between objective and subjective, theory and practice, Notion and Reality. It is this which has made Hegel so contemporary. It is this which has freed Marx from the confines of Communism by makinguiling his original: theory of revolution, philosophy of liberation, "thoroughgoing Maturalian or Humanism" into the "energising principle" of today's revolutionaries. And it is this which has brought unto the historic stage Lenings/broak with his cun philosophic past that led him to declare "Cognition not only reflects thoward,

It is true, of course—and indeed there would be something funds—
mentally amiss if it were otherwise—that Marx and Lenin solved the problems of
their age, not ours. Strong foundations have been laid for us once we recognize
through "second negativity", or
that the lesp from necessity to freedom cannot be done otherwise than; as Marx

put it, on "positive Humanism starting from itself." Any other basis, any other
leaders as "mental repositories", or
basis, whether that be the state as "collective property", or/Party as "representativ
of the proleteriat, instead of the population "to a man" being that "individualists,
interferes
freed from all that interest with its universalism, i.e., freedom" would only lead

13312 to still one other tyranny. The inherent logic of present-day revolutions, their

Subjectivity as against the putty-homogenis subjectivity of the Party, or the Leader, or the mindless "subsumption" of philosophy, is the only foundative that con"scaline" philosophy, i.e., achieve total freedom, create whole was and women. It immins the task of the age.

May. 1971

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