

PART IV

THE NEW WEST "BREAK-IN"

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## INTRODUCTION

The New West magazine has alleged that members of Peoples Temple broke into their office Thursday night, June 16, 1977. They notified both the San Francisco Police Department and all the local media of the alleged event. The so-called break-in of their office was played up extensively in the print and electronic media. Peoples Temple found out about the allegations when a San Francisco Examiner reporter called the church asking for "our side of the story." We knew nothing of it, though for several days the media continued to cover the "break-in," insinuating that Peoples Temple members would be the only ones interested in acquiring documents the magazine was said to have filed on our church.

We called for an investigation by the police. Their report follows. It is clear from the report that the "break-in" in fact did not occur, and that if any tampering was done, it was done by one of the magazine's own employees. We seriously question who engineered this stunt and the entire media barrage that followed. This whole episode, we believe, was an attempt to impugn Peoples Temple, and it was done in a highly sophisticated, highly questionable manner.

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SAN FRANCISCO

INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CLEMENT DE AMICIS  
Deputy Chief of Investigations

DIST. BUR. DET.	DAY & DATE
Property Crimes Division	Wed 06/29/77
SUBJECT:	

Attempted Burglary at New West  
Magazine Office, 325 Pacific

Sir:

The following is the body of the supplementary report as it will appear when entered into the system. I have reviewed the investigation and conclusions arrived at by the members investigating and concur with them.

On Friday, 06/17/77, Mr. Tracy of the New West Magazine was notified by his secretary, Kathy Whelan, of the damaged window lock. Ms. Whelan said the window was down and the lock was in place although the slide bolt was broken when she first noticed it. When Officer Duffy of Central Station arrived, the window and lock were still in the same condition. Officer Duffy was told by Mr. Tracy that nothing was missing from the office. Mr. Tracy further stated that one or two of the folders in a file cabinet containing information on the Reverend Jim Jones appeared to be an inch or so higher than the rest of the folders. After inspecting the premises and interviewing Mr. Tracy, Officer Duffy concluded entry had not been made.

On Monday, 06/20/77, Inspector Evans of the Burglary Detail, responded to 325 Pacific and conducted the follow-up investigation. After inspecting the premises and interviewing the concerned persons, Inspector Evans also concluded that entry had not been made.

On Monday, 06/20/77, Inspector Michael Byrnes of the Crime Lab responded to 325 Pacific. The window lock had been removed and replaced with a new lock by that time. Because of the time lapse, physical condition of the building and the number of persons that had visited the scene, Inspector Byrnes was unable to determine if the pry marks on the window frame and sill were of recent origin. After being given a description of the position and condition of the window lock, Inspector Byrnes concluded that if entry had been made the lock would have had to be pieced together after the window was closed and the exit made through the front door. It would seem logical that if someone made entry and pieced

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STAR	STAR

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Deputy Chief De Amicis

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06/29/77

the lock together, they would also have made sure that any folders they touched would have been returned to the file cabinet exactly as found and not an "inch or so higher than the rest of the folders." No other files were disturbed.

The only useable physical evidence were palm prints and fingerprints located on the outside of the lower windowpane. A search of our files was started immediately. Meanwhile, fingerprints were requested of all the New West employees to determine if they had touched the window. On Friday, 06/24/77, Mr. Jon Carroll of the New West Magazine, responded to the Hall of Justice to be printed. His prints matched those found on the window. Mr. Carroll was interviewed by Inspector Evans and stated he had been working late on Monday, June 13, 1977, finishing an article for the magazine. He went to the men's room and locked himself out of the New West office. He then proceeded to the third floor and located Mr. Tom Cook, Sedway and Cook, who suggested he use the fire escape to get back into the office. According to both Mr. Cook and Mr. Carroll, Carroll went down the fire escape, found the window unlocked and let himself into the New West office. This accounts for Carroll's prints being on the window.

From the indentations on the window frame and sill, it is apparent that someone used a pry tool on the window but it cannot be determined how recently.

It is the conclusion of the investigating officer that because of the lack of physical evidence entry was not made to the New West office between 06/16/77, 1830 hours, and 6/17/77, 0900 hours.

The investigating officer recommends that the classification of this remain as an attempted burglary.

Respectfully submitted,

*John A. Mahoney*  
Captain John A. Mahoney  
Commanding Officer  
Property Crimes Division

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## Calls harass editor

# New West is burglarized

New West magazine was burglarized last night and files on a story about the Rev. Jim Jones and his Peoples Temple were disturbed, editors of the magazine reported to police today.

Police were investigating the reported break-in.

It was also learned New West's Northern California editor, Rosalie Muller Wright, has moved her two children from their home to an undisclosed location after receiving intimidating phone calls about the story.

Wright and other New West editors were emphatic that the magazine will print the story, although publication has been delayed — for editorial reasons only — from next Monday until at least July 4.

"There is no way in the world we're not printing that story," Wright said. "If they think they can intimidate me, they're crazy."

She said that even if she could be scared off, other editors in the Rupert Murdoch publishing empire, which owns the Los Angeles-based magazine, would not be.

"Rupert Murdoch has millions and he's committed to a fair story," Wright said. "We're putting them on notice: It doesn't work."

Reached in New York City, Rev. Jones angrily denied that anyone connected with Peoples Temple was involved either in the reported burglary or the phone calls to Wright.

"Is someone trying to set up Peoples Temple?" he demanded. "What possible reason would a church have which has a reputation of doing nothing but good for people?"

He said when he heard of calls being made to the offices of New West he told his people to "quit calling, quit writing — it's only aggravating the situation."

"No one (from my organization) is calling Mrs. Wright's home, and I'm terribly sorry and chagrined if someone else is doing it," he continued.

"I've had threats on my life, too. This is a two-way street."

Jones suggested that there was a conspiracy aimed at his church that could account for the reported actions.

"Either a criminal element is upset with us because we're getting something done, or militants are trying to push people off the

—See Back Page, Col. 5

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## Magazine burglarized; calls harass editor

—From Page 1

brink  
in Peoples Temple that I have gotten out of a militant orientation and to work within the framework of society," he said.

Contributing editor Phil Tracy said a window in New West's second-floor office at 325 Pacific Ave. was forced open sometime after staff members left the office last night.

"Nothing was taken but files relating to the story on Peoples Temple were disturbed," Tracy said. "The file was in a certain order and the order was not the same when I came in this morning."

He said none of the other staffers had entered the unlocked file and no other files were disturbed.

Wright said she had received numerous phone calls in the past several days from persons refusing to identify themselves.

"Their whole game is more intimidation than threats," Wright said. "The first couple of calls were fishing expeditions. They were looking for me. Then when they figured out they had found me, I'd get the calls and they wouldn't say anything."

"Then the last two, they said, 'Don't do it.' I assume they meant not to publish the story. Now that's not a threat... It's more intimidation. That's their modus operandi."

The still-unpublished article by San Francisco Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff has been the focus of an intense and apparently well-orchestrated effort to convince

New West editors not to print it.

At first, the editors reported, the calls were low key and even informational. Coming from such persons as Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, Delancey Street founder John Maher and business magnate Cyril Magnin, the calls stressed the Rev. Jones' good works in the community.

Later, the calls and letters included demands that the article be canceled and made vague allusions to serious consequences if it wasn't.

Some of the calls also attacked writer Kilduff's personal integrity and professional credibility.

Among the letters was one from Jones' attorney, Fred Furth, setting down a list of conditions for an interview by Tracy with the charismatic church leader.

The conditions included that Jones be shown a final draft of the interview before publication — normally an unacceptable practice in the industry. New West editors refused and the interview was canceled.

Jones and his devoted following, reported at 9,000 in San Francisco and 20,000 statewide, have emerged a powerful political force in San Francisco.

Though church spokesmen deny that portrayal, Temple members have been extremely active in a variety of recent campaigns and Jones was named by Mayor Moscone as president of the Housing Authority after he threw his considerable weight behind Moscone in his bid for mayor.

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## Gain orders probe of New West burglary

Police Chief Charles Gain, acting on a request by Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, has ordered a full investigation of a reported burglary at offices of New West magazine.

The Rev. Jones called Gain from New York late yesterday after New West reporter-writer Phil Tracy reported a break-in, in which Tracy presumed the target was a manuscript of a story about Jones and his Peoples Temple.

Jones angrily denied that anyone connected with his church had anything to do with the break-in or "intimidating" telephone calls received at home by Rosalie Wright, New West's Northern California editor.

Patrolman Michael Duffy, who made a preliminary investigation, said a New West office window apparently was jimmied open and a bolt broken.

The window was alongside a fire escape on the second story of a building at 325 Pacific Ave.

"As far as I could determine," Duffy said, "no entrance to the office was made. However, I can't say any entrance wasn't made."

Duffy said Tracy told him the office window

was partially open when he entered the room yesterday morning.

The officer went on to quote Tracy as saying he did not know if anything had been taken, but said a cabinet filing case seemed to have been "disturbed."

That filing case, according to Tracy, contained the unpublished manuscript of a story about Jones and the activities of Peoples Temple, written by Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff.

Why the intruder or intruders did not take the manuscript was a puzzling element in the case. Tracy, according to Duffy, said he thinks the intruders might have photographed it.

Editor Wright left home with her two children Thursday night after receiving another of a series of phone calls from someone who said: "Don't do it."

She said she presumed the caller meant New West should not publish the Jones-Peoples Temple article.

"We won't be intimidated," Wright said.

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## Break-In at Magazine

By George Draper

The office of New West magazine, 325 Pacific avenue, was burglarized during the night Thursday and, although nothing was taken, editors reported that a file involving People's Temple and the Rev. Jim Jones had been "disturbed."

Contributing editor Phil Tracy told officers it appeared to him that one of the files had been "jammed back in" the filing cabinet.

Tracy speculated that a story  
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# Chronicle

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SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1977

## BURGLARY

From Page 1.

The magazine is preparing to publish by Chronicle reporter Marshall B. Gault about People's Temple at 1559 Geary boulevard could have been taken out of the file and photographed.

Mike Prokes, associate minister of People's Temple, said the Temple had called the office of Police Chief Charles Gain and asked for a thorough investigation of the incident.

"We'd like to know what's behind this because it's not us," Prokes said.

Reached last night, the Rev. Mr. Jones said People's Temple did not participate "in any such activity. Certainly People's Temple would have had not one thing to gain by this."

"Let us all take polygraph tests, voice prints," he added. "Myself, every minister, the membership would be most happy to take a test."

The Rev. Mr. Jones said that "if it (the burglary) was done, unquestionably there are some provocateurs who want to, I guess, stop genuine social reformers, to discredit our programs."

"How is it," Jones asked rhetorically, "that someone knows exactly where to go in the New West office to find papers that pertain to a particular church unless they have someone inside which we do not."

People's Temple, which claims a congregation of 20,000 statewide, has become known in recent years for its charitable donations to neighborhood, senior citizen and church groups.

Tracy said the New West office was closed at 7 p.m. Thursday and that when a secretary came to work at 9 a.m. yesterday she noticed that one of the second story windows had been opened.

Tracy arrived a few minutes later and called police. He said he immediately checked the files on the People's Temple article "because this was the only sensitive story we're working on."

Tracy emphasized that he had no idea who could have disturbed the file, and he was not accusing anyone.

He said, however, there have been "controversy, contention and lots of phone calls" since it became known that the magazine, owned by Australian millionaire Rupert Murdoch, was planning to publish the story.

Tracy said the magazine had been receiving phone calls and letters since late May concerning the yet to be printed article about People's Temple.

At least 12 of the magazine's advertisers had called New West to say they had received phone calls complaining that "we were about to print a biased article about People's Temple and the Rev. Jones," Tracy said.

Police officer Michael Duffy, who made out the original police report under the heading of "attempted burglary and a suspicious occurrence," did not mention that the document allegedly disturbed in the New West files concerned the People's Temple or the Rev. Mr. Jones.

Subsequently, Chief Gain's office called Tracy and asked whether the disturbed files did in fact involve the Rev. Mr. Jones and the Temple. Tracy said they did.

Chief Gain later requested a copy of the police report and ordered a full investigation by the burglary detail.

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## Cops Dubious of Magazine Break-in

After inspecting the alleged crime scene and interviewing employees, San Francisco police investigators said yesterday they don't believe the office of New West magazine on Pacific Avenue was burglarized on the night of June 16.

The magazine's editors claimed their office had been broken into that night, and although nothing was taken, they said one of the files had been "jammed back" into the filing cabinet.

Contributing editor Phil Tracy said a secretary had found a file on People's Temple, 1839 Geary boulevard, sticking out about one inch. He speculated the file might have been removed, photographed, and stuck back in a hurry.

The file concerned a story that the magazine is preparing to publish by Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff about the Fillmore district church and its influential leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

Police Captain John A. Mahoney, commander of the burglary detail's property crimes division, reported yesterday that his officers, including fingerprint experts and criminologists, could find no specific evidence of a break-in at the office on the second floor.

The report — which Mahoney said was based on a "thorough investigation of the crime scene" — concurred with an original police report of the incident by officer Michael Duffy, filed on the day after the break-in claims were made.

Duffy had reported that he found no evidence of entry into the office.

The investigation of the supposed break-in centered on a window that editor Tracy said had been forced open by the alleged intruder.

In investigating the window theory, police found that one of the magazine's writers, Jon Carroll, had locked himself out of the office a few days before when he left to go to the bathroom.

That was on June 13, Carroll's

fingerprints were the only ones police found on the window, according to Mahoney's report.

When Carroll was interviewed by police, he said he had climbed down the fire escape from the third floor and gotten back inside the office by opening an unlocked window and climbing through it.

The editors still claimed yesterday the identical method of entry was used by the alleged burglar. They said the sill and an old bolt-type lock showed evidence of pry marks, and that secretary Cathy Wayland found the window open when she came to work Friday morning.

Police interpreted the pry marks as the result, possibly, of someone having "tampered" with the window. The police noted certain marks of damage on the old lock on the window.

Following the purported burglary, a new lock was installed.

New West's Northern California editor, Rosalie Muller, Wright, took exception yesterday to the police department's findings, saying:

"It was sloppy police work."

"I am not surprised the police did not find any evidence for a burglary that took place on Thursday night, because they didn't even take fingerprints until the following Monday. It's real sloppy police work. In fact, it's ludicrous," she said.

Mahoney said his investigators didn't send crime lab personnel to the scene until Monday because officer Duffy, in his original report, said he found not real evidence of a break-in.

A spokesperson for People's Temple, Harriet Tropp, said that since police concluded there was no break-in, "it is obvious that the fears of our members and many community leaders that People's Temple would be misrepresented in the forthcoming article are more than justified."

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## MAGAZINE

From Page 1

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MEN and WOMEN by Calman



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## Case still open

# Police say no break-in at New West

A reported break-in at the Pacific Avenue offices of New West magazine here remained classified by police today as "an attempted burglary."

The burglary attempt occurred on the night of June 16 and Inspector Gerard Evans, after conducting a follow-up investigation, reported:

"It is the conclusion of the investigating officer that, because of the lack of physical evidence, entry was not made to the New West office between 6:30 p.m. June 16 and 9 a.m. June 17."

Evans recommended "that the classification of this remain as an attempted burglary."

His report was submitted to Police Chief Charles Gahn by Capt. John Mahoney, commanding officer of the property crimes division of the inspectors' bureau.

Gahn, who had ordered the investigation at the request of Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones, made public a report on the investigation yesterday.

New West staffer Phil Tracy told Patrolman Michael Duffy of Central Station, who made the preliminary investigation, that folders containing material on Jones appeared to be an inch or so higher in the file cabinet than the other folders.

Presumably, according to Tracy, the Jones material was the objective of the reported break-in attempt.

Rosalie Wright, the magazine's Northern California editor, said an article on Jones will be published "in the near future."

On and since the night of the break-in attempt, she said, she has received several harassing phone calls, the last being late last Thursday night.

On that occasion, she said, her phone rang five times at three-minute intervals, with the caller each time hanging up without speaking.

Wright raised the question of why the premises weren't dusted for fingerprints until the Monday after the burglary report, but said she would have no further comment until the Jones article is published.

Temple staff member Harriet Tropp said that in view of the police finding that there was no evidence of an actual break-in "fears that the temple would be misrepresented in a forthcoming article are more than justified."

She added that "serious questions arise as to the motives of those who sought publicity for an incident which proved to be entirely without substantiation."

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PART ~~SIX~~

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JONES AND THE TEMPLE MINISTRY

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## INTRODUCTION

For months a frenzied, bizarre campaign has been carried on in the local press portraying Peoples Temple as a "cruel, exploitative organization." The accusations against the Temple and Jim Jones have been rehashed a hundred times. Those who have closely followed the attacks have recognized, in the words of one noted columnist, that there is "a lot of smoke, but no smoking gun." What has become evident, beyond the smokescreen of flimsy, unsubstantiated accusations that pose as "news", is a well-orchestrated and well-financed effort to destroy Peoples Temple.

This conspiracy has employed, in our experience, a tactic that was used extensively in the McCarthy period and that was borrowed from a man who brought it to a state of great refinement several decades ago: Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. According to Goebbels, the first step in destroying an individual or organization is to use the press to lay down a relentless, brutal barrage of bad publicity. The tactic is to create, through almost daily repetition of the "despicable

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acts" or "crimes" of the person or group (usually in the form of unsubstantiated charges) a prejudicial climate of public disfavor, tearing down trust, reputation, sowing confusion. The flimsier the charges, the more they are rehashed: this is the special quality of McCarthyism. (Senator Eagleton, in speaking of the Lance Affair, called it "guilt by accumulation.")

Throughout, people are given to believe that they have been "used" or "tricked" or "really didn't know" what was "going on inside the Temple...behind those locked doors." The press becomes a kind of preliminary tribunal in which the target is accused, given the aura of guilt, tried and convicted in the court of "public opinion," as manipulated by the collaborators in the media who are pursuing the "investigation." Through the form of innuendo, faceless accusers, coerced testimony, distortions, and lies, a form of "judgement" is pronounced. The public has been treated to this travesty hundreds of times over the years.

Peoples Temple, perhaps the most progressive and active church congregation in the nation, is being attacked by reactionary forces using this tried-and-true methodology. The campaign is, as previous chapters have shown, sparked by agents and operatives in the government, along with the collaboration of several persons in the media. (An article in the October 20, 1977, Rolling Stone sheds more light on the

use of reporters as agents.)

This section will attempt to document, by use of a few of the articles that appeared in local and national press from late July up to the present, how extensively the print media has been used to unjustly accuse, try, and condemn Jim Jones and Peoples Temple. We are still looking into the connections with government agencies and funding from reactionary sources that these few reporters and their collaborators have.

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#### Section One

This section includes the original New West article on Peoples Temple by Marshall Kilduff, Phil Tracy and George Klineman. The New West article was followed within two weeks by a major five-page "smear" in both the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner. By August 9, an article appeared in the Religion Section of Newsweek. The final article in this section is an editorial by Carlton Goodlet, medical doctor, newspaper publisher (San Francisco Sun Reporter), and President of the National Newspaper Publishers' Association. He critically analyzes the totally unsubstantiated allegations made by a sensationalistic and irresponsible press.

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# Inside Peoples Temple

By Marshall Kilduff and Phil Tracy

"... Jim Jones is one the state's most politically potent leaders. But who is he? And what's going on behind his church's locked doors? ..."

For Rosalynn Carter, it was the last stop in an early September campaign tour that had taken her over half of California, a state where her husband Jimmy was weak. So Rosalynn gamely encouraged the crowd of 750 that had gathered for the grand opening of the San Francisco Democratic party headquarters in a seedy downtown storefront. She smiled bravely despite the heat.

Mrs. Carter finished her little pep talk to mild applause. Several other Democratic bigwigs got polite receptions, too. Only one speaker aroused the crowd: he was the Reverend Jim Jones, the founding pastor of Peoples Temple, a small community church located in the city's Fillmore section. Jones spoke briefly and avoided endorsing Carter directly. But his words were met with what seemed like a wall-pounding outpour. A minute and a half later the cheers died down.

"It was embarrassing," said a rally organizer. "The wife of a guy who was going to the White House was shown up by somebody named Jones."

If Rosalynn Carter was surprised, she shouldn't have been. The crowd belonged to Jones. Some 600 of the 750 listeners were delivered in temple buses an hour and a half before the rally. The organizer, who had called Jones for help, remembered how gratified she'd felt when she first saw the Jones followers spilling off the buses. "You should have seen it—old ladies on crutches, whole families, little kids, blacks, whites. Made to order," said the organizer, who had correctly feared that without Jones Mrs. Carter might have faced a half-empty room.

"Then we noticed things like the bodyguards," she continued. "Jones had

his own security force [with him], and the Secret Service guys were having fits," she said. "They wanted to know who all these black guys were, standing outside with their arms folded."

The next morning more than 100 letters arrived. "They were really all the same," she said. "Thanks for the rally, and say that Jim Jones was so inspirational." Look, we never get mail, so we notice one letter, but 100? She added, "They had to be mailed before the rally to arrive the next day."

But what surprised that organizer was really not that special. She just got a look at some of the methods Jim Jones has used to make himself one of the most politically potent religious leaders in the history of the state.

Jim Jones counts among his friends several of California's well-known public officials. San Francisco mayor George Moscone has made several visits to Jones's San Francisco temple, on Geary Street, as have the city's district attorney Joe Freitas and sheriff Richard Hongisto. And Governor Jerry Brown has visited at least once. Also, Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley has been a guest at Jones's Los Angeles temple. Lieutenant Governor Mervyn Dymally went so far as to visit Jones's 27,000-acre agricultural station in Guyana, South America, and he pronounced himself impressed. What's more, when Walter Mondale came campaigning for the vice-presidency in San Francisco last fall, Jim Jones was one of the few people invited aboard his chartered jet for a private visit. Last December Jones was appointed to head the city's Housing Authority Commission.

The source of Jones's political clout is not very difficult to divine. As one politically astute executive puts it: "He controls votes. And voters. During San Francisco's run-off election for mayor in December of 1975, some 150 temple

members walked precincts to get out the vote for George Moscone, who won by a slim 4,000 votes. "They're well-dressed, polite and they're all registered to vote," said one Moscone campaign official.

Can you win office in San Francisco without Jones? "In a tight race like the ones that George or Freitas or Hongisto had, forget it without Jones," said State Assemblyman Willie Brown, who describes himself as an admirer of Jones's.

Jones, who has several adopted children of differing racial backgrounds, is more than a political force. He and his church are noted for social and medical programs, which are centered in his three-story structure on Geary Street. Temple members support and staff a free diagnostic and outpatient clinic, a physical therapy facility, a drug program that claims to have rehabilitated some 300 addicts and a legal aid program for about 200 people a month. In addition, the temple's free dining hall is said to feed more indigents than the city's venerable St. Anthony's dining room. And temple spokesmen say that these services to the needy are financed internally, without a cent of government or foundation money.

Jones and his temple are also applauded for their ardent support of a free press. Last September, Jones and his followers participated in a widely publicized demonstration in support of the four Fresno newsmen who went to jail rather than reveal their confidential news sources. The temple also contributed \$4,400 to twelve California newspapers—including the San Francisco Chronicle—for use "in the defense of a free press," and once gave \$4,000 to the defense of Los Angeles Times reporter Bill Farr, who also went to jail for refusing to name a news source.

In addition, at Jones's direction the temple makes regular contributions to

San Francisco Chronicle Reporter Marshall Kilduff and New West contributing editor Phil Tracy were assisted by freelance newsmen George Klineham.



The holy host: At a 1976 temple lunch, Reverend Jones sat between two friends, S.F. mayor Moscone (left) and Lieutenant Governor Dymally.

several community groups, including the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center and Health Clinic, the NAACP, the ACLU and the farmworkers' union. When a local pet clinic was in trouble, Peoples Temple provided the money needed to keep it open. The temple has also set up a fund for the widows of slain policemen, and the congregation runs an escort service for senior citizens.

To many, the Reverend Jim Jones is the epitome of a selfless Christian.

The reverend was born James Thurman Jones, and grew up in the Indiana town of Lynn. While attending Butler University in Indianapolis, where he received his degree in education, Jones opened his first temple (in downtown Indianapolis). Although he had no formal training as a minister and was not affiliated with any church, his temple grew. It featured an active social program, including a "free" restaurant for the down-and-out. And the congregation was integrated, a courageous commitment in the years before Martin Luther King became a national figure—particularly in Indianapolis, once the site of the Ku Klux Klan's national office.

Then at around Christmas of 1961,

according to a former associate named Ross Case, Jones had a vision. He saw Indianapolis being consumed in a holocaust, presumably a nuclear explosion. Fortunately for him, *Esquire* had just run an article on the nine safest spots in the event of nuclear war. Eureka, California, was called the safest location; another safe area was Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Jones headed for Belo Horizonte, and Case went to Northern California.

Jones eventually returned and visited Case in Ukiah. Jones liked California, and twelve years ago this month, he and his wife Marceline incorporated Peoples Temple in California: Jones and some 100 faithful settled in Redwood Valley, a hamlet outside Ukiah.

Jones's congregation grew, and he soon became a political force in Mendocino County. In off-year elections, where the total vote was around 2,500, Jones could control 300 to 400 ballots, or nearly 16 percent of the vote. "I could show anybody the tallies by precinct and pick out the Jones vote," says Al Barbero, county supervisor from Redwood Valley.

Then, in 1970, Jones started holding services in San Francisco; one year later he bought the Geary Street temple. And later that same year, he expanded to Los

Angeles by taking over a synagogue on South Alvarado Street.

One success followed another, and his flock grew to an estimated 20,000. Jones's California mission seemed blessed.

Although Jones's name is well-known, especially among the politicians and the powerful, he remains surrounded by mystery. For example, his Peoples Temple has two sets of locked doors, guards patrolling the aisles during services and a policy of barring passersby from dropping by unannounced on Sunday mornings. His bimonthly newspaper, *Peoples Forum*, regularly exalts socialism, praises Huey Newton and Angela Davis and forecasts a government takeover by American Nazis. And though Jones is a white fundamentalist minister, his congregation is roughly 80 percent to 90 percent black.

How does Jones manage to appeal to so many kinds of people? Where does he get the money to operate his church's programs, or maintain his fleet of buses, or support his agricultural outpost in Guyana? Why does he surround himself with bodyguards—as many as fifteen at a time? And above all, what is going on behind the locked and guarded doors of Peoples Temple?

## Ten Who Quit the Temple Speak Out

Beginning two months ago, when it became known that *New West* was researching an article on Peoples Temple, the magazine, its editors and advertisers were subjected to a bizarre letter-and-phone campaign. At its height, our editorial offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles were each receiving as many as 50 phone calls and 70 letters a day. The great majority of the letters and calls came from temple members and

supporters, as well as such prominent Californians as Lieutenant Governor Mervyn Dymally, Delancey Street founder John Maher, San Francisco businessman Cyril Magnin, and savings and loan executive Anthony Frank. The messages were much the same: We hear *New West* is going to attack Jim Jones in print; don't do that. He's a good man who does good works.

The flood of calls and letters attracted

wide attention, which, in turn, prompted newsman Bill Barnes to report the campaign in the *San Francisco Examiner*. The *Examiner* also reported an unconfirmed break-in one week later at our San Francisco office.

After the Barnes article, we began getting phone calls from former temple members. At first, while insisting on anonymity, the callers volunteered "background" about Jim Jones's "cruel-

## "... Peoples Temple members beat his sixteen-year-old daughter so badly, says Elmer Mertle, that 'her butt looked like hamburger'..."

ty" to congregation members, in addition to making several other specific charges.

We told the callers that we were not interested in such anonymous whispers. But then a number of them, like Deanna and Elmer Mertle, called back and agreed to meet in person, to be photographed, and to tell their attributed stories for publication.

Based on what these people told us, life inside Peoples Temple was a mixture of Spartan regimentation, fear and self-imposed humiliation. As they told it, the Sunday services to which dignitaries were invited were orchestrated events. Actually, members were expected to attend services two, three, even four nights a week—with some sessions lasting until daybreak. Those members of the temple's governing council, called the Planning Commission, were often compelled to stay up all night and submit regularly to "catharsis"—an encounter process in which friends, even mates, would criticize the person who was "on the floor." In the last two years, we were told, these often humiliating sessions had begun to include physical beatings with a large wooden paddle, and boxing matches in which the person on the floor was occasionally knocked out by opponents selected by Jones himself. Also, during regularly scheduled "family meetings," attended by up to 1,000 of the most devoted followers, as many as 100 people were lined up to be paddled for such seemingly minor infractions as not being attentive enough during Jones's sermons. Church leaders also instructed certain members to write letters incriminating themselves in illegal and immoral acts that never happened. In addition, temple members were encouraged to turn over their money and property to the church and live communally in temple buildings; those who didn't ran the risk of being chastised severely during the catharsis sessions.

In all, we interviewed more than a dozen former temple members. Obviously they all had biases. (Grace Stoen, for example, has sued her husband, a temple member, for custody of their five-year-old son John. The child is reportedly in Guyana.) So we checked the verifiable facts of their accounts—the property transfers, the nursing and foster home records, political campaign contributions and other matters of public record. The details of their stories checked out.

One question, in particular, troubled us: Why did some of them remain mem-

bers long after they became disenchanted with Jones's methods and even fearful of him and his bodyguards? Their answers were the same—they feared reprisal and that their stories would not be believed.

The people we interviewed are real; their names are real. They all agreed to be tape-recorded and photographed while telling their side of the Jim Jones story.

### Elmer and Deanna Mertle of Berkeley

After Elmer and Deanna Mertle joined the temple in Ukiah in Novem-



They beat his daughter badly, Elmer Mertle.

ber, 1969, he quit his job as a chemical technician for Standard Oil Company, sold the family's house in Hayward and moved up to Redwood Valley. Eventually five of the Mertle's children by previous marriages joined them there.

"When we first went up [to Redwood Valley], Jim Jones was a very compassionate person," says Deanna. "He taught us to be compassionate to old people, to be tender to the children."

But slowly the loving atmosphere gave way to cruelty and physical punishments. Elmer said, "The first forms of punishment were mental, where they would get up and totally disgrace and humiliate the person in front of the whole congregation. . . . Jim would then come over and put his arms around the person and say, 'I realize that you went through a lot, but it was for the cause. Father loves you and you're a stronger person now. I can trust you

more now that you've gone through this and accepted this discipline.'"

The physical punishment increased, too. Both the Mertles claim they received public spankings as early as 1972—but they were hit with a belt only "about three times." Eventually, they said, the belt was replaced by a paddle and then by a large board dubbed "the board of education," and the number of times adults and finally children were struck increased to 12, 25, 50 and even 100 times in a row. Temple nurses treated the injured.

At first, the Mertles rationalized the beatings. "The [punished] child or adult would always say, 'Thank you, Father,' and then Jim would point out the next week how much better they were. In our minds we rationalized. . . . that Jim must be doing the right thing because these people were testifying that the beatings had caused their life to make a reversal in the right direction."

Then one night the Mertles' daughter Linda was called up for discipline because she had hugged and kissed a woman friend she hadn't seen in a long time. The woman was reputed to be a lesbian. The Mertles stood among the congregation of 600 or 700 while their daughter, who was then sixteen, was hit on her buttocks 75 times. "She was beaten so severely," said Elmer, "that the kids said her butt looked like hamburger."

Linda, who is now eighteen, confirms that she was beaten: "I couldn't sit down for at least a week and a half."

The Mertles stayed in the church for more than a year after that public beating. "We had nothing on the outside to get started in," says Elmer. "We had given [the church] all our money. We had given all of our property. We had given up our jobs."

Today the Mertles live in Berkeley. According to an affidavit they signed last October in the presence of attorney Harriet Thayer, they changed their names legally to Al and Jeanne Mills because, at the church's instruction, "we had signed blank sheets of paper, which could be used for any imaginable purpose, signed power of attorney papers, and written many unusual and incriminating statements [about themselves], all of which were untrue."

### Birdie Marable of Ukiah

"I never really thought he was God like he preached, but I thought he was a prophet," said Birdie Marable, a beautiful woman who was first attracted to Jones in

1968 because her husband had a liver ailment. She had hoped Jones might be the healer to save him.

On one of the trips to services in Redwood Valley, Marable noticed Jones's aides taking some children aside and asking, "What color house did my friend have, things like that," she says. "Then during the services, Jim called [one woman] out and told her the answers that the children had given as though no one had told him."

She became skeptical of Jones after that, and remained skeptical when her husband's health did not improve; the cancer "cures" Jones was performing seemed phony to her. Yet eventually she moved to Ukiah and ran a rest home for temple members at Jim's suggestion.

One summer she was talked into taking a three-week temple "vacation" through the South and East. "Everybody paid \$200 to go on the trip, but I told them I wasn't able to do so," she added.

The temple buses were loaded up in San Francisco, and more members were packed aboard in Los Angeles. "It was terrible. It was overcrowded. There were people sitting on the floor, in the luggage rack, and sometimes people [were] underneath in the compartment where they put the bags," she said. "I saw some things that really put me wise to everything," she added. "I saw how they treated the old people." The bathrooms were frequently stopped up. For food, sometimes a cold can of beans was opened and passed around.

"I decided to leave the church when I got back. I said when I get through telling people about this trip, ain't nobody going to want to go no more. [But] as soon as we arrived back, Jim said, '... don't say nothing.' She left the church in silence."

#### Wayne Pietila of Petaluma And Jim and Terri Cobb of San Francisco

Wayne Pietila and Jim Cobb guarded the cancers. "If anyone tried to touch them, we were supposed to eat the cancers or demolish the guy," said Cobb, who is six-feet, two-inches tall. Pietila was licensed by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department to carry a concealed weapon; reportedly he was one of several Jones aides with such a permit.

It was during the Redwood Valley healing sessions in 1970, when nervous hope for relief from the pains of age spread among the congregation, that Cobb and Pietila would guard the cancers. Finally Jones would ask for someone who believed herself to be suffering from cancer. That was the signal for Cobb's sister, Terri, to slip into a side restroom and shoot out whoever might be

there. Then Jones's wife Marceline and a trembling excited old woman would disappear into the stall for a moment. Marceline would emerge holding a foul-smelling scrap of something cupped in a napkin—a cancer "passed." Marceline and the old woman would return to the main room to screams, applause, a thunder of music. Jim Jones had healed again.

But one time, Terri got a chance to look into the "cancer bag." "It was full of napkins and small bits of meat, individually wrapped. They looked like chicken gizzards. I was shocked."

Wayne Pietila recalled another healing incident. On the eve of a trip to Seattle in 1970 or 1971, as Jones was leaving his house, a shot cracked out and he fell. "There was blood all around and people [were] screaming and crying, just hysterical," Jones was lifted to his feet and helped to his house. A few minutes



They took her best watch: Laura Cornelious.

later, Jones walked out of the house with a clean shirt on. "He said he'd healed himself," Pietila said. "He used [the incident] for his preaching during the whole Seattle trip."

#### Micki Touchette of San Francisco

The Touchette family followed Jones to California in 1970. They lived in Stockton for a while, then moved up to Redwood Valley, where they bought a house and converted it into a home for emotionally disturbed boys.

During 1972 and 1973 Micki and other temple members were expected to travel to Los Angeles services every other weekend. One of her jobs was to count the money after offerings. Micki, a junior-college graduate, had the combination to the temple's Los Angeles safe. She says, "It was very simple to take in \$15,000 in a

weekend, and this was [four] years ago. [To encourage larger offerings, Jones] would say, 'We folks, we've only collected \$500 or \$700,' and we would have [in reality] several thousand."

In addition to attending Wednesday night family meetings and weekend services, Micki also was part of letter-writing efforts directed by church officials. "We'd write various politicians throughout the state, throughout the country, in praise of something that they had done. I wrote Nixon, wrote Tunney. I remember writing the chief of the San Francisco Police Department," she said. Micki, who lived in temple houses apart from her parents, would often be handed a sheet listing the points she would have to include in the letter. "It would tell you how and what to say and you'd word it yourself." She says she also would regularly use aliases she made up.

When Micki left the church in 1973 along with seven other young people, including Terri and Jim Cobb and Wayne Pietila, none warned their parents or other relatives. "We felt that our parents, our families . . . would just fight us and try to make us stay." Furthermore, they were all frightened. "At one point we had been told that any college student who was going to leave the church would be killed . . . not by Jones, but by some of his followers." Both Terri and Cobb recall the statement being made—by Jones.

#### Walter Jones of San Francisco

When Walt Jones, who never believed in the church, followed his wife Carol to Redwood Valley in 1974, Jim Jones asked them to take over a home for emotionally disturbed boys. The home belonged to Charles and Joyce Touchette. Micki Touchette's parents, Walt says he was told that the Touchettes were in Guyana, and that the people who had replaced them, Rick and Carol Stahl, had done such a poor job that "the care home, at that time, was under surveillance of the authorities because of the poor conditions. Some of the boys had scabies due to the filth."

In 1974 and early 1975, before Walt and his wife were granted a license to run the home, county checks (of approximately \$325 to \$350 per month for each child) for the upkeep of the boys were made out to the Touchettes and cashed by a church member who had their power of attorney. "The checks," said Walt, "were turned over to someone in charge of all the funds [for the church's care homes] at the time. [The temple] allotted us what they felt were sufficient funds for the home and supplied us with foodstuffs and various articles of clothing." Jones says the food was mostly canned staples, and the clothes

"... Jones held a snake close to the terrified old woman. 'Viola screamed,' said a member. 'And he still held that snake there'..."

were donations from other temple members. Walt is uncertain how much of the approximate total of \$2,000 a month of county funds earmarked for the upkeep of his boys actually ended up in his hands; his wife kept the books. But, he claimed, "it was very inadequate."

After the Joneses were granted their own license in 1975, the checks from the Alameda County Probation Department (which placed the boys in the home) were made out to him and his wife. "But still the church requested that we turn over what remained of the funds," says Walt Jones. "Approximately \$900 to \$1,000 [per month] were turned over to the church." And he added, "I do remember that there were times when all of the checks were signed over to the church."

#### Laura Cornelious of Oakland

Laura Cornelious was one of the privates in the Peoples Temple's army. She was in the temple about five years before leaving in 1975—just one of dozens of elderly black grandmothers who attend each meeting of the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission that Jim Jones chairs.

The first thing that bothered her was the constant requests for money. "After I was in some time," she says, "it was made known to us that we were supposed to pay 25 percent of our earnings [the usual sum, according to practically all the former members that we interviewed]." It was called "the commitment." For those who could not meet the commitment, she says, there were alternatives, like baking cakes to sell at Sunday services—or donating their jewelry. "He said that we didn't need the watches—my best watch," she recalls sadly. "He said we didn't need homes—give the homes, furs, all of the best things you own."

Some blacks gave out of fear—fear that they could end up in concentration camps. The money was needed, she was told, "to build up this other place [Guyana—the 'promised land'], so we would have someplace to go whenever they [the fascists in this country] were going to destroy us like they did the Jews. [Jones said] that they would put [black people] in concentration camps, and that they would do us like the Jews ... in the gas ovens."

Laura Cornelious was also bothered by the frisking of temple members (but never dignitaries) before each service. "You even were asked to raise up on your

toes [to check] your shoes."

The final straw, she says, came the night Jones brought a snake into the services. "Viola ... she was up in age, in her eighties, and she was so afraid of snakes and he held the snake close to her [chest] and she just sat there and screamed. And he still held it there."

#### Grace Stoen of San Francisco

Grace Stoen was a leader among the temple hierarchy, though she was never a true believer. Her husband Tim was the temple's top attorney, and one of its first prominent converts. Later, while still a church insider, he became an



They have her five-year-old boy, Grace Stoen.

assistant D.A. of Mendocino County, and then an assistant D.A. under San Francisco D.A. Joe Freitas. Tim resigned to go to Jones's Guyana retreat in April of this year.

Grace agreed to join the temple when she married Tim in 1970, and gradually she acquired enormous authority. She was head counselor, and at the Wednesday night family meetings, she would pass to Jones the names of the members to be disciplined.

She was also the record keeper for seven temple businesses. She paid out from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per month for the auto and bus garage bills and also doled out the slim temple wages. And she was one of several church notaries. She kept a notary book, a kind of log of documents that she officially witnessed—pages of entries including power-of-attorney statements, deeds of trust, guardianship papers, and so on,

signed by temple members and officials.

She recalled why Jones decided to aim for Los Angeles and San Francisco. "Jim would say, 'If we stay here in the valley, we're wasted. We could make it to the big time in San Francisco.'"

And expanding to Los Angeles, Jones told his aides, "was worth \$15,000 to \$25,000 a weekend."

During the expansion in 1972, members would pile into the buses at 5 p.m. on a Friday night in Redwood Valley, stop at the San Francisco temple for a meeting that might last until midnight and then drive through the night to arrive in Los Angeles Saturday in time for six-hour services. On Sunday, church would start at 11 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Then, the Redwood Valley members would pile back on the buses for the long trip home; they would arrive by daybreak Monday.

Some of the inner circle, like Grace Stoen, rode on Jim's own bus, number seven. "The last two seats and the whole back seat were taken out and a door put across it," she said. "Inside there was a refrigerator, a sink, a bed and a plate of steel in the back so nobody could ever shoot Jim. The money was kept back there in a compartment." According to attendance slips she collected, the other 43-seat buses sometimes held 70 to 80 riders.

Jones's goal in San Francisco, Grace said, was to become a political force. His first move was to ingratiate himself with fellow liberal and leftist figures—D.A. Freitas, Sheriff Hongisto, Police Chief Charles Gain, Dennis Banks, Angela Davis.

Sometimes Jones nearly tripped up. Once, said Grace, when Freitas and his wife dropped in unexpectedly, temple aides quickly pulled them into a side room and sent word to Jones in the upstairs meeting hall. Just in time. The pastor was wrapped up in one of his "silly little things," said Grace. "He was having everybody shout 'Shit! Shit! Shit!' to teach them not to be so hypocritical." When Freitas was shown in, everyone just laughed at the puzzled district attorney. (D.A. Freitas confirms making an unexpected visit to the temple, but does not recall anyone using the word *shit*.)

Jones became impatient at the pace of his success. Eventually Mayor Moscone placed Jones on the Housing Authority Commission, and then intervened to assure him the chairmanship.

Strangely, as Jones's successes mounted, so did the pressures inside his

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"... 'Jones would say that we could make it in the big time,' says Grace Stoen. 'Expanding to L.A. alone was worth \$15,000 a weekend'..."

temple. "We were going to more and more meetings," said Stoen. "[And] if anyone was getting too much sleep—say, six hours a night—they were in trouble." On one occasion, she said, a man was vomited and urinated on.

In July of 1976, after a three-week

temple bus trip, her morale was ebbing lower, her friends were muttering about her, and there were rumors that Jones was unhappy with a number of members. "I packed my things and left [without telling Tim]. I couldn't trust him. He'd tell Jim."

She drove to Lake Tahoe and spent the July Fourth weekend lying on a warm beach. She dug her toes in the sand, stretched her arms and tried to relax. "But every time I turned over, I looked around to see if any of the church members had tracked me down."

## Why Jim Jones Should Be Investigated

It is literally impossible to guess how much money and property people gave Jim Jones in the twelve years since he moved his Peoples Temple to California. Some, like Laura Cornelius, gave small things like watches or rings. Others, like Walt Jones, sold their homes and gave the proceeds to the temple.

According to nearly all the former temple members that we have spoken with, extensive, continuous pressure was put on members to deed their homes to the temple. Many complied. A brief reading of the records on file at the Mendocino County recorder's office shows that some 30 pieces of property were transferred from individuals to the temple during the years 1968 to 1976. Nearly all these parcels were recorded as gifts.

Interestingly, several of the "gifts" were signed or recorded improperly. The deed to a piece of property signed by Grace and Timothy Stoen was notarized on June 20, 1976. Grace Stoen told *New West* that on that date, when she was supposed to be in Mendocino signing the deed before a temple notary, she and several hundred temple members were in New York City. Grace Stoen said she signed the deed under pressure from her husband, Tim, months before it was notarized. And similar irregularities appear on a deed the Mertles turned over to the temple. A thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding the transfers of the properties is clearly required.

In the last few issues of *Peoples Forum*, the temple newspaper, there are several references to the claim that 130 disturbed or incorrigible youths were being sent to the temple's Guyana mission. A church spokesman confirmed that these youngsters were released to the temple by "federal courts, state courts, probation departments" and other agencies. An article in the July issue of the temple newspaper on the Guyana mission's youth program reports that, "In certain cases when a young person is testing the environment... physical discipline has

produced the necessary change." The article goes on to describe a "wrestling match" that sounds all too similar to the "boxing matches" some former temple members described. If there is even the slightest chance of mistreatment of the 130 youths the temple claims to have under its guidance in Guyana, a complete investigation by both state and federal authorities would be required.

An investigation of the "care homes" run by the temple or temple members in Redwood Valley may also be in order. Both Walt Jones and Micki Touchette have stated that anywhere from \$800 to \$1,000 of the monthly funds provided by the state for the care of the six boys in the Touchette home were actually funneled to the temple. If those figures are accurate, as much as \$38,000 to \$48,000 may have been channeled into the church's coffers during the four years the Touchette home was open. It is known that at least two other "care homes" for boys were run by the church or its members. In addition, at least six residential homes licensed by Mendocino County were owned or operated by the temple. They housed from six to fourteen senior citizens each, and the county provided upwards of \$325 per month per individual. An investigation should be launched immediately to determine if any of the money paid for the care of the elderly actually went to the temple.

Files at the Mendocino County recorder's office show that the temple has sold off a number of its properties. The Redwood Valley temple itself is currently for sale for an estimated \$225,000. The Los Angeles temple is also for sale. The three Mendocino "care homes" that are still operating are up for sale. Several former temple members believe Jones and a few hundred of his closest followers may be planning to leave for Guyana no later than September of this year. The ex-members we interviewed had the ability to walk away from the temple once they found the courage to do it. Whether the church will permit

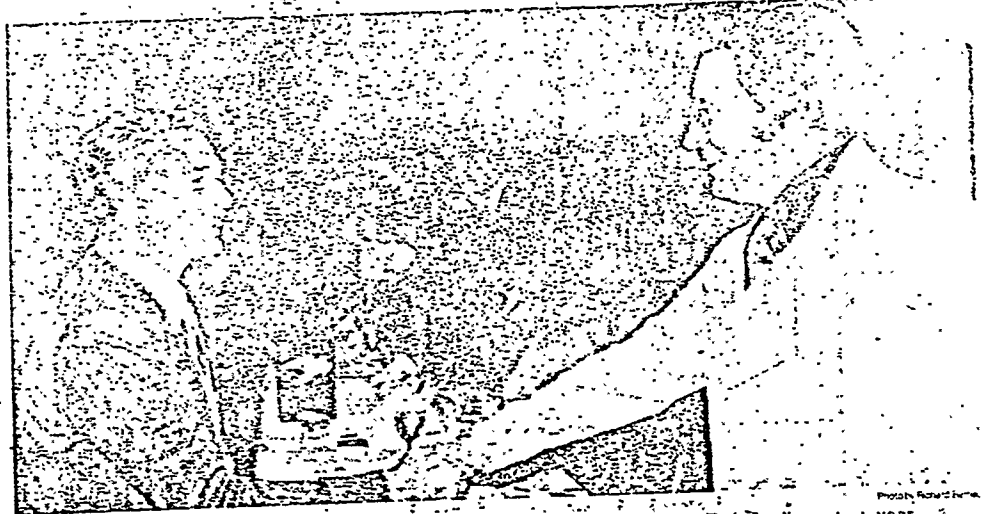
those who move to Guyana the option of ever leaving is questionable.

Jones has been in Guyana for the last three weeks and was unavailable to us as this magazine article went to press. In a phone interview, two spokesmen for the temple, Mike Prokes and Gene Chaikin, denied all of the allegations made by the former temple members we interviewed. Specifically, they denied any harassment, coercion or physical abuse of temple members. They denied that the church attempted to force members to donate their property or homes. They also denied that Jones faked healings. They confirmed that the temple's churches and property in Redwood Valley and Los Angeles are for sale, but went on to deny that Jones's closest followers are planning to relocate in Guyana any time soon.

Finally, something must be said about the numerous public officials and political figures who openly courted and befriended Jim Jones. While it appears that none of the public officials from Governor Brown on down knew about the inner world of Peoples Temple, they have left the impression that they used Jones to deliver votes at election time and never asked any questions. They never asked about the bodyguards. Never asked about the church's locked doors. Never asked why Jones's followers were so obsessively protective of him. And apparently, some never asked because they didn't want to know.

The story of Jim Jones and his Peoples Temple is not over. In fact, it has only begun to be told. If there is any solace to be gained from the tale of exploitation and human foible told by the former temple members in these pages, it is that even such a power as Jim Jones cannot always contain his followers. Those who left had nowhere to go and every reason to fear pursuit. Yet they persevered. If Jones is ever to be stripped of his power, it will not be because of vendetta or persecution, but rather because of the courage of these people who stepped forward and spoke out.

## Rev. Jones: The power broker



The Rev. Jim Jones, right, gets a handshake from Mayor Moscone at a Peoples Temple dinner last year

### The political maneuverings of a preacher man

By Nancy Dooley and Tim Reiterman

The phone rings at a Peoples Temple commune the night before an election. It's one of the Rev. Jim Jones' secretaries.

"Father loves you very much and there's a danger out tonight. Get a pencil and paper and take down these names."

The caller then tells the church member which candidates and initiatives to mark on his ballot.

This, according to former Peoples Temple members interviewed by the

Examiner, is one of the ways the controversial Jones made sure his followers voted as a bloc, which afforded him maximum political clout.

But the election eve telephone call was just the final step in a process apparently designed to control the votes of every temple member, both those living inside and outside temple communes.

Members also were required to participate in the political process through letter-writing campaigns, registering to vote and ringing doorbells for chosen candidates.

Jones, the charismatic faith healer who has won a political appointment in every city in which his church has been headquartered, is being investigated by several government agencies and has come under attack recently by former church members.

Amid sharp scrutiny of the temple and Jones' sometimes bizarre practices, the minister resigned last week as chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority.

Interviews with about two dozen

—Turn to Page 6, Col. 2

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## Rev. Jones:

### The faith healer with political clout

—From Page 1

former temple members yielded a portrait of methodical attempts at political manipulation by a man whose church enjoys tax-exempt status.

His efforts won the attention and occasional church visits of such luminaries as Gov. Brown, Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, Mayor Moscone, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Dist. Atty. Joseph Freitas and Sheriff Richard Hongisto.

Political maneuvering appeared to be a constant process both in election and nonelection years — and letter writing was the mainstay of the operation in a church that claims 20,000 members, though a former member puts the figure at 3,500.

Former members said there was a permanent letter writing staff of 10 to 20 persons, headed by Richard Tropp, now a professor at Santa Rosa Community College.

But they said virtually every church member was required to write numerous letters, sometimes more than 100 a week.

"We'd have letter writing every Wednesday night," said Ruth Kerns, a member of the church for four years. "If it was an important issue, we'd have a special letter writing night too. We'd spend about six hours.

"We'd each write hundreds of letters on one issue."

Jim Cobb, a 27-year-old who was in the church from 1967 to 1973, recalled. "When Nixon was going to name (G. Harrold) Carswell to the U.S. Supreme Court, I wrote a bunch of letters and so did the rest of the people in our dorm.

"They told us to use different pens, types of paper, different envelopes, to write small here and large there," added Cobb, who sometimes served as one of Jones' bodyguards. "We would look at telephone books and get a first name here and a last name there, to make up the false names."

Letter writers all got instructions on what tack to take in their letters. A Xeroxed list of sample comments would be provided as a guide.

For example, a list of 12 "sample letters against Senate Bill 1," a Nixon administration-supported revision of the U.S. criminal code, was distributed to temple members through Tropp in 1976, according to former member Gary Lambrev.

The list included one sample that said, "Please stop this insidious threat to our nation. How can we even debate about our precious constitutionally guaranteed rights?"

Another said in part, "If Senate Bill 1 was in effect three years ago, we'd still have the quasi-police state under Nixon. Are you really considering passing a bill that would be a perfect policy instrument for a demagogue or dictator?"

Instructions accompanying the sample letters told the authors to write to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and divided the senators into liberals, conservatives and moderates.

"You write your letter, have it cleared, and then write one to each of the 15 Senators above," the instructions said.

Kerns and Cobb said the letters were screened and if they didn't meet the approval of the letter-writing committee, were returned to the author for revisions. They were mailed in different post offices, sometimes in different cities, to apparently disguise their origin, former members said.

In addition to issue-oriented letters, the authors would also write to politicians, public officials, widows of slain law enforcement officers and new parents describing the good works of the temple and singing Jones' praises as a humanitarian.

"Everybody was involved, even those who were barely literate," said Lambrev. "If there was any opposition, such as an unfavorable article, everybody would be mobilized. In general, though, we were writing to anybody who might be of help in the future for a character witness — anybody from a judge in Missoula, Mont., to an ecologist."

"The goal was to get a congratulatory letter or telegram and to file it for future use."

Other members said those letters were filed in binders and were used to impress politicians and others who were not well acquainted with the temple and its programs.

When the Examiner sought official comment on the allegations and tried to reach Tropp, the temple said all calls on such matters were being referred to attorney Charles Garry, who also declined comment.

As another technique, the temple invited political notables to the temple.

They were taken on tours of the church clinic, legal aid project or dining facilities for the hungry, or they were invited to attend services and sometimes to address the congregation. Sometimes invitations involved a benefit dinner or breakfast for a worthy cause.

Elmer Nerlie, the former official church photographer, said politicians often were photographed standing before the congregation or with Jones.

"If it was someone Jones wanted to compromise, he would have someone standing behind the podium and on cue they would raise clenched fists and I would take a picture," Nerlie explained. "They would look like revolutionaries. He just wanted these pictures on

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# Staged tours for politicians with church members as actors

—From Page 6

file if some politician ever turned against him."

There was no indication, however, that Jones ever used such photos against politicians.

Former members said the tours taken by politicians were largely staged with church members playing the part of actors. They said members were outfitted in specified clothes and told where to stand and what to say and do as the guests were shown supposedly-recycled heroin addicts, medical patients and children gorging at table.

Even services and meetings were staged for the benefit of visitors, and after the honored guest had departed, Jones frequently would deride him with wit and the congregation would roar with laughter, former members said.

In election years, political efforts were intensified.

A church's political activities are strictly limited by its tax-exempt status. According to Internal Revenue Service code 501C3, "no substantial part of the activities" of churches and other tax-free institutions can involve "carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation."

The code also says these entities cannot "participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distributing of statements) in a political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office."

The IRS said no specific criteria outlined in the code define the extent of political activity that would cause revocation of tax-exempt status.

Despite such regulations, the temple in some cases has provided campaign workers who rang doorbells, distributed literature and stuffed envelopes.

Their efforts served President Carter, Mayor Moscone, Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, Los Angeles Mayor Bradley, state Senate candidate Fred Furth, state Sen. Milton Marks, and the No on Propositions A and B campaigns, according to information from Marks and Assemblyman Willie Brown.

Former member Linda Mertle, 18, recalls working on the Furth campaign. "They told us before we went to school that we'd have to go to headquarters after school to make phone calls," she said. "We usually went about 12 at a time and went maybe six or seven times."

A Furth worker said the temple provided about 100 workers for get-out-the-vote efforts and between 200 and 300 people for benefits and other events.

Don Bradley, Moscone's campaign manager during his mayoral race, said the temple provided about 150 election-day workers to Moscone but said he wasn't aware of other campaign help.

Marks said that workers in his campaign against Robert Mendelsohn last year called on the temple for help the Sunday before the election. "We called up everybody we could think of," he said. "I think about eight people from Peoples Temple distributed some literature for me."

He said they also handed out leaflets two hours before the polls closed on election day.

Monetary contributions were rare. A check of financial records for more than a dozen campaigns last November did not turn up any contributions from temple members or the church.

A No or B statement showed that Richard Tracy, a temple member, contributed \$500 on June 26, 1977. The Moscone Dinner Committee, set up to pay for inaugural and transitional government expenses and his state Senate campaign deficit, reported that Peoples Temple donated \$250 on June 16, 1976.

Don Bradley said a correction was filed June 10, 1977, after the temple complained that it hadn't made the contribution. He said the temple claimed an individual, Janet Schular, a member in June 1976 who has since dropped out of the church, had made the donation.

Bradley said the \$250 cashiers check, dated June 4, 1976, was for a \$100-a-plate Moscone dinner at the Hyatt Regency, but he said he was at a loss to explain the difference in amounts.

He said he didn't know how the name Peoples Temple got on the finances list but he speculated that someone from the temple might have brought it in for seating at a table with several temple members.

Former temple members said they were always told how to vote, sometimes by Jones himself. His technique was novel.

"Jones would say, 'We would probably vote for so-and-so' while he was shaking his head no," said one ex-member who asked for anonymity.

Danny Pietila, a 22-year-old who was a member for seven years, confirmed that scenario and added, "Other times he'd put his thumbs up or down when he mentioned the name of a candidate."

Pietila, who was exercising his franchise for the first time in 1972, said temple members in Mendocino County were told to vote for Sen. George McGovern for president. "Jim said if Nixon got into office, he'd call a nuclear war," he said. "But the next thing you know, Nixon's president and there was no nuclear war."

Former members said the temple also provided mimeographed sheets directing the congregation to vote for the slate of candidates and issues Jones supported.

The final reminder came on election eve when temple secretaries contacted church members by phone and relayed the pastor's choices.

Church members were publicly chastised if they failed to register, and were required to turn in their ballot stubs as proof they cast their votes.

Whether the church's box of votes affected the

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# What does Jones get out of providing political help? 'Power'

—From Page 7

elections is uncertain.

Interviews with a half-dozen state and local politicians produced no consensus on Jones and his temple's political clout.

Dymally, who visited Jones' agricultural mission in the South American country of Guyana, refused to answer questions about Jones or about who paid for his trip.

"His relationship is private and religious and he won't discuss it," his press secretary said.

Mayor Moscone, who named Jones to the Housing Authority, was unavailable. "There's nothing to talk about," said press secretary, Corey Busch.

The question of how much of a check was made on Jones' background before his appointment is unanswered. However, Moscone told the Examiner last month, "I asked Jones to be on the Housing Authority because I thought it needed a person both sensitive and realistic. From everything I've seen, he's been a good chairman. He's kept peace and quiet over there and been responsible on important issues."

Willie Brown said he first met Jones in religious circles and learned of his work through Charles Turner, a former field deputy in his office. "He told me about a new movement that in his opinion took care of people. He told me I should get to know them, how they fed people and would hustle food."

Brown has visited the temple perhaps a dozen times, he said, sometimes by invitation and sometimes on his own. He said he never checked into any of Jones' claims about his projects, nor did he question the obvious presence of bodyguards during services. "I would just accept his word," Brown said. "I have no reason to doubt him."

Following published reports about Jones' activities, Brown said he called Michael Prokes, a temple higher-up, two or three times last week. "I thought friends ought to do," he attended last Sunday's service and spoke on Jones' behalf.

Brown, Freitas, Hongisto and Assemblyman Art Agnos all said



THE REV. JIM JONES  
'A scapegoat'

Peoples Temple hasn't done any campaign work for them.

Freitas said he has visited the temple twice and met Jones after the 1975 election. "I didn't even know there was a Peoples Temple until after I was in this office," he said.

Hongisto said he did not know Jones until after he was reelected sheriff in 1975. He's been to the temple twice by invitation and has provided Jones with requested advice for combating crime and vandalism near the temple.

"He made an effort to be friendly but I did not see it as anything to go beyond that," Hongisto said. "When you hold office and meet people, you usually end up smiling, shaking hands, chatting pleasantly for a while and listening to what they have to say. That has been roughly the extent of our relationship."

Agnos said he's never met Jones and the temple provided no campaign workers or donations to him. "Last year," he said, "Jim Jones endorsed me indirectly through the Rev. Cecil Williams, but since that's a nonprofit church organization it couldn't be done publicly."

Agnos said the church has no more political clout than any other organized group and Hongisto suggested the notion that Jones has enormous political influence "verges on the preposterous."

Noting that he has observed only about 500 people at church services, Hongisto said, "I can't imagine anybody would be very deeply swayed by 500 votes in a race where the vote total is about

200,000 votes. It's just not the kind of thing that is politically potent."

Brown, however, believes Jones has plenty of clout.

"Numbers of people give him clout," he said. "He is virtually able to produce physically more people than anybody I know."

Indeed, Jones' followers have doubled, tripled and sometimes quadrupled attendance at Housing Authority meetings. They have shown up at a school board meeting and at such events as hearings on the expansion of Hastings law school.

At a massive demonstration to support tenants of the International Hotel last January, the temple provided 2,000 of the 5,000 persons present.

The church has called the descriptions of its political activities "a gross misrepresentation of the facts."

In a recent issue of its newspaper, Peoples Forum, it stated: "We are striving for social justice, and a more equitable standard of living, the relief of want and misery. But we do not know of even one of our members who is seeking or plans to seek any political office."

The politicians interviewed by the Examiner said Jones had never asked them for favors. So what did he gain in return for providing bodies and political help?

"Power," explains a former member. "And he wanted to back the winner so he could get jobs."

But Jones has been a prime beneficiary of his political contacts.

In 1951, he was appointed the first director of the Indianapolis Human Rights Commission by Mayor Charles Boswell at an annual salary of \$7,000.

He served as foreman of the Mendocino County Grand Jury, was offered and rejected a post on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and was finally named to the Housing Authority by Moscone last October. With the mayor's backing, he became chairman.

At least three other temple members work at the agency. They are: Jean Brown, hired Aug. 10, 1976, and paid \$15,496 a year to head training programs, Vera Young, hired as a secretary Aug. 4, 1976, at \$9,256 a year, and Caroline Layton, hired as Brown's assistant on Sept. 7, 1976, at \$14,420 a year.

At least four other temple

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members also worked for Mendocino County. One was a sheriff's department dispatcher, two worked as juvenile hall counselors and one was a deputy probation officer.

Jones has been in Guyana for the past month, but the temple has officially denied all the allegations of former members. Attempts by

the Examiner to get responses to the charges were unsuccessful.

Despite the pastor's absence, nine well-known San Franciscans, including Brown and Agnos, this week lent their names to his defense in a statement issued by the temple.

The statement also described a

telephone message relayed from Jones to his congregation. "I know some of you are wanting to fight," he said, "but that's exactly what the system wants — they want to use us as sacrificial lambs, as a scapegoat. "Don't fall into this trap by yielding to violence, no matter what kind of lies are told on us or how many."

x-4-19-c

August 9, 1977

# RELIGION

## Temple Trouble

In the poor-black Fillmore district of San Francisco, the Rev. Jim Jones is revered as a good Samaritan with patrons in very high places. As pastor of the People's Temple, one of the largest interfaith churches in California, Jones not only claims God's power to heal the sick but also wields palpable clout among city and state political leaders. The governor, lieutenant governor, mayor, sheriff and district attorney have all visited the temple and, during the 1976 Presidential campaign, Jones himself shared a platform with Rosalynn Carter. Last December, the charismatic preacher who can muster black voters was named chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission by Mayor George Moscone. But now Jones stands accused by 30 former temple members of building his power through fear, fraud, physical beatings, the appropriation of parishioners' property and possible misuse of government funds.

The accusations were published in two August issues of New West magazine, which called for an investigation of the temple's financial and disciplinary practices. Church representatives promptly denied the charges. But in a pair of surprise moves last week, Jones resigned from the Housing Authority and District Attorney Joseph Freitas announced that he would look into the accusations.

Colony: No one has yet filed a formal complaint against Jones, who temple officials said was unreachable at the church's 27,000-acre South American farm colony in Guyana. The city's most powerful politicians still seem solidly behind the controversial minister. Mayor Moscone has said he saw no evidence that Jones had broken any laws and, in a recent Sunday-morning sermon at the temple, black state Assemblyman Willie Brown labeled the attacks "a measure of [the church's] effectiveness."

Jones preaches a religious socialism that he himself, it appears, is the first to practice. His church, which claims 20,000 members statewide, sponsors a drug-rehabilitation program, a free restaurant and medical clinic and a legal-aid service. More radically, Jones encourages his flock to give up their private property and live in low-rent apartments leased by the church from the city. Jones and his wife live modestly above the temple, where they are raising a multiracial family of seven adopted children plus their own son. But his social activism also is expressed as politics, and on Election Day, the poor deliver for their leader. In two recent close races for

mayor and district attorney, Jones's regimented followers were considered important to the winners.

According to some former church members, however, Jones's power is based as much on fear and fraud as on faith. His services are often held behind locked doors, and even then Jones is protected by bodyguards. The breakaway parishioners described ritual beatings and humiliating group encounters held at all-night sessions. A former secretary to Jones reported that the preacher faked healings by displaying chicken guts as tissue he had miraculously removed from cancer patients. Others said they had been persuaded into leaving their homes to the church

chete, 26, told how she and eleven other students slept in a crowded garage and were given a weekly dole of \$2 each as members of a temple commune. Touchette, who is white, said that Jones, who is part American Indian, told them "how ugly and horrible it was to be white," and "not to have sex because we were all latent homosexuals."

KKK: Laura Cornelius, 52, a black woman, said that Jones promised his followers a haven in Guyana when, as he predicted, Fascists took over the U.S. "He said they had a plan to exterminate blacks like they did the Jews," Cornelius recalled. She also described a ritual by temple members that dramatized a Ku Klux Klan lynching. "That's why people turned over all they had," she said. "He told us, the whites would take it."

Others reported threats against their lives if they dared talk to police and said



Jones (inset), Klan drama: 'That's why people turned over all they had'

and had been talked into giving the temple government funds they received for running foster-care homes.

When New West first considered investigating the People's Temple, the editors were barraged with pleas from politicians and businessmen to kill the story. When the editors persisted, some were harassed at home by anonymous callers. Meanwhile, other local newsmen reported similar coercion and only when word of the pressure campaign appeared in a local newspaper column did ex-members of the temple volunteer to tell of their experiences.

In separate interviews with NEWSWEEK, former followers of Jones corroborated the New West report. Micki Tou-

that they had been made to sign false confessions to crimes such as conspiracy against the government. "Jim always said he had an in with the police," said Deanna Myrtle, 36, "so we thought going to the police would be suicide."

Church officials have issued statements countercharging that some of the dissenters were terrorists and child molesters. Throughout the controversy, Jones has remained at the Guyana farm, which the church says it funds with \$150,000 annually. And some suspect that the Rev. Mr. Jones may be the first to take up permanent asylum in the Guyana haven.

—KENNETH L. WOODWARD with MARK W. TAPPEL and STEPHEN GAYLE of San Francisco

Newsweek, August 13, 1977

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## EDITORIALS

### Inside The People's Temple 'Expose'

New West magazine, which is the most recent acquisition of the Australian newspaper tycoon, Rupert Murdoch, who has added the New York Post and the New York Village Voice to his first U.S. publication, the National Star, publishes in its issue of Aug. 1 "Inside Peoples Temple," by Marshall Kilduff and Phil Tracy. This is the long-awaited expose of Rev. Jim Jones, "one of the state's most politically potent leaders...." Marshall Kilduff is a San Francisco Chronicle reporter, and Phil Tracy a New West contributing editor.

A review of this article reveals that Kilduff and Tracy have built their great expose on the basis of interviews with several former members of Peoples Temple who, over the past several years, have coalesced into the small yet articulate Former Members of the Peoples Temple congregation. This small band of former members seems to have been either disenchanted when their personal ambitions conflicted with the stated church programs, or individuals whose aggressive, illegal programs were rejected by the church membership and the church's leaders. Many of these disgruntled excommunicates have previously whispered their venom against Peoples Temple to all individual ears in the Western Addition that would pause long enough to listen. Several have even approached this newspaper with their stories and wild-eyed statements of misdeeds attributed to Jim Jones and his congregation. We have counseled these malcontents to seek redress of their alleged grievances against Peoples Temple and its leaders in a court of law. Moreover, whenever our investigators presented these statements to Jones and other leaders of the congregation, they have always made available for inventory church records dealing with these alleged misdeeds. Under probing, these allegations have been unsubstantiated by fact.

In the article by Kilduff and Tracy these malcontents, psychoneurotics, and, in some instances, provocateurs--probably establishment agents--have found willing ears and consummate skill to organize fragmented gossip into a cloak-and-dagger mosaic that portrays Jim Jones and Peoples Temple as a malevolent instrument destroying human personalities, robbing the poor, and engaged in a conspiracy against the established social and political order.

Word comes to us that the writers of this New West article did a two-hour taped interview with the Rev. Jim Jones, and nowhere in this lengthy tome did they use a word of it. Can it be that this article was written, "not to praise Caesar, but to bury Caesar"?

It is significant that Kilduff was unable to peddle his venom in the pages of his employer, the San Francisco Chronicle. If the rumors, half-truths, and mental variations of these former Peoples Temple members represent the best investigative reporting job that Kilduff and Tracy can do, then heaven help the fine art of investigative reporting! Moreover, if this "yellow" journalism is to be the forte of Rupert Murdoch in building his newly acquired U.S. journalism empire, this type of journalism-for-hire should clearly reveal to the U.S. public here in the West the plague that has descended upon us with Murdoch's recent ascent into the journalistic firmament.

Jim Jones and the Peoples Temples represent some of the most invigorating and challenging religious organizations to appear in California in recent years. Jones apparently is committed to the basic philosophy proclaimed to Christendom in Jesus of Nazareth's Sermon on the Mount. In attempting to use the moral force of Christianity in dealing with man-made problems that bedevil, haunt, and dehumanize the social order, Jones has created a cyclone where formerly the political leaders, economic scoundrels, and even impotent religious leaders have failed the very foundations of their ethics, and their leadership mantles have been rent, torn asunder, leaving these pompous pseudo-leaders naked and unclothed to be viewed as the hypocrites that they have been for decades.

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We have no intention of attempting to defend Rev. Jim Jones, the officers, and the members of the Peoples Temples. They are admirably equipped with keen legal minds, incisive economic advisors, dedicated and committed followers, to defend themselves.

However, we have been amazed at the tendency of political, social, and religious hangers-on to flee the Peoples Temple and Jones's establishment, once the venom of the New West article became the subject of treatment by all mass communications media—radio, television, and printed. In the 55-odd years of publication of the news embodied in the Reporter Publications, and the more than 30 years of active participation in the printing of a Black community newspaper by the present publisher, there has been no religious institution, to our knowledge, more dedicated to the use of the high moral, courageous commitments embodied in Christianity, which is a revolutionary religion, to carry out what has become the motto of the Reporter Publications: "Dedicated to the cause of the people—that no good cause shall lack a champion, and that evil shall not thrive unopposed."

We have from time to time investigated the complaints that persons have lodged against Peoples Temples. On the basis of repeated in-depth investigations, we say, as one with strong commitments to the role of religion in the lives of men: We have found no fault with Jim Jones's religious philosophy or the activities of the Peoples Temples. We believe in the rule of law! We support the nation's judicial cornerstone, that ours is a nation of laws and not of men! We believe that thieves, rogues, and liars who destroy and assail worthy individuals' or institutions' reputations should be brought before the bar of justice! If there are those who feel aggrieved, as indicated by their alleged statements of the interviewees in the New West article, we urge those persons to charge the institution and the man with crimes, and let them face the accused in a court of law!

We also remind the honored Fourth Estate, which probably includes radio and television as well as the press, that accused in the U.S.A. are assumed innocent until their guilt is proved in a court of law. We hasten to remind the mass communications media that a free press is one of the cornerstones of a democratic society, yet freedom of the press demands of all who operate under this mantle that a prerequisite safeguarding freedom is the corollary demand—that the press must be responsible.

The reputation of a man and of an institution is a most valued possession in a society of free people. It has been said by many, especially Adlai Stevenson, "The people are wise—wiser than the politicians think." This might be amended: "The people are wise—wiser than the press thinks."

An institution that feeds the poor, houses the homeless, rescues young and old from the wretchedness and despair of drug addiction, marshals the political potential of a people, and husbands the economic pittance of the poor masses into a powerful instrument for justice, freedom, and equality, while building a just and humane society, by its very nature will have many enemies hidden, lurking in the shadows of greed, ignorance, neurosis, and hallucinations. If such an institution becomes powerful, then it must expect its enemies to become powerful. While the New West article was intended to defame and to dismember and deter an increasing band of dedicated followers of Christian ethics, the great possibilities are there that the story will boomerang, and that which they seek to destroy out of this momentary irritation will become a potent antidote to the hopelessness and the despair that permeate the masses. Such an airing of relative choices posing the question of right and wrong, hope and despair, exploitation of the many by the few, and the very questioning nature of the political process itself, may become a rallying banner for those who heretofore have seen no institution or no man worthy of their support and admiration; these newly enlightened individuals might recognize: All of the problems disturbing a distraught humanity basically are man-made problems. Surely many good men and women of courage, steadfastness, and fundamental belief in the power of the organized masses will see in Jim Jones and Peoples Temple not a comet that momentarily lights up the darkness, but another reminder of the meanings of Edmund Burke's prophetic words, uttered before the birth of the nation 200 years ago: "All that is necessary for evil in the world to triumph is for enough good men to do nothing."

Carlton B. Goodlett, Ph.D., M.D.  
Publisher

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## Section Two

The New West article was held for publication until just two weeks before the August 2 District Elections of Supervisors, a new referendum in the City of San Francisco. A fierce political battle was waged between Supervisor John Barbagellata and other incumbent supervisors and Mayor George Moscone. The New West article portrayed Peoples Temple and Rev. Jones as "politically potent" and as "power brokers" in the City, and pictured Rev. Jones with Mayor Moscone and other dignitaries from both city and state levels. The release of the article was deliberately timed to discredit Mayor George Moscone; the Mayor had appointed Rev. Jones to a seat on the San Francisco Housing Commission. The politically conservative or reactionary ties of the authors of the New West article further reinforce the evidence that the press attacks have been well-planned and coordinated, well-financed, and highly questionable in their origins.

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Friday, July 22-28, 1977

# Politics Behind New West Attack On Peoples Temple!

by Art Silverman

New West magazine's accusation of fraud, beatings and brainwashing at Peoples Temple is turning into a major political issue -- less than two weeks before the August 2 referendum when San Francisco voters will decide the fate of district elections and several elected officials.

By accident or design, the magazine has created a virtual piece of propaganda for Propositions A and B in the final days of a close and hotly-contested campaign.

Copies of the new issue hit the newsstands this Monday under a banner reading "Inside Politically Potent Peoples Temple." The story, written by New West Contributing Editor Phil Tracy and an *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Marshall Kilduff, begins by describing the 20,000 member Temple's founder, Reverend Jim Jones, as "one of the state's most politically potent leaders," with close ties to Mayor Moscone, Sheriff Richard Hongisto and District Attorney Joseph Freitas. All three men will lose their offices if Proposition E is passed.

The writers also make passing mention of the Temple's active work for a variety of "left-liberal" causes, which include support for activists like American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks and Angela Davis, the International Hotel, and the passage of district elections last year. District election of supervisors will be repeated by the passage of either Proposition A or E.

In case you haven't gotten the point, they even include a picture of Rev. Jones with Moscone and Lieutenant Governor Miervyn Dymally at a Temple luncheon last year.

Having thus laid the groundwork, the reporters present interviews with 10 former members of Peoples Temple, who tell a story of corruption, fraud, humiliation, phony cancer cures, shady financial dealings and worse. Even allowing for rhetorical overkill and a few obvious axes to grind (one of the 10 is suing her husband, still a Temple member, for custody of their child), they raise a number of serious charges, including:

- \*Misuse of state money intended for the care of senior citizens in Temple-run homes;

- \*Death threats by Rev. Jones against



Peoples Temple Rev. and Jim Jones, a charismatic figure well known in the world of San Francisco politics, is under heavy fire following publication of a scathing article in New West magazine.

anyone who left the Temple.

- \*Members being forced to sign statements admitting to homosexuality or criminal activity, to be used against them if they later tried to criticize the Temple.

- \*Pressure on Temple members to turn over titles to their homes, plus furniture, savings and a fourth of their income.

- \*Severe paddlings of Temple members -- up to 100 strokes -- for infractions ranging from carrying an Afro comb to one woman embracing and kissing another.

- \*Phony "healing" and cancer cures intended to entice old people into giving more money in offerings.

- "Everyone lives in fear," said ex-member Birdie Marable at a press conference Wednesday trying to explain why no one has ever made such charges before during the Temple's 12-year existence. "They think that Rev. Jones is God, that he has the power to make them drop dead."

(Co-author Tracy, who convened the press conference at the Serrano-Palace

Hotel, said he had taken such an unusual step "to allow the media a chance to talk with these people.")

But he also used the opportunity to voice his opinion that Peoples Temple ought to be investigated, and that Mayor Moscone "ought to issue a statement on the matter immediately," since he had appointed Rev. Jones to a seat on the city's Housing Commission Politics again.

Tracy, author of a recent New West hatchet job on the Mayor called "The Broken Promises of George Moscone," said in a Barb interview Tuesday that he realized the Peoples Temple story could provide ammunition for both Propositions A and B. "I'd be foolish not to mention it that some people will use the story to attack the mayor, the sheriff and the district attorney," he said. "But frankly, the information we have indicates that none of them had any knowledge of what was going on inside the temple."

So, why not hold the story for the vote

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issue, until after the election, since it has been held up several times already? "The timing," says Tracy, "was determined by how fast we could proceed and still be cautious. We ran it as soon as we could. It had nothing to do with the timing of the election."

Peoples Temple has announced they will hold a news conference early next week to refute the New West charges, as they did in a press release Monday calling the article "politically motivated... a mass of distortion, exaggeration, lopsided characterizations, and outrageous lies which, together, amount to a travesty of the truth."

But Temple spokesperson Michael Prokes told the Barb Wednesday afternoon that he will not offer any point-by-point refutation of specific charges. "Why should we stoop to their level?" Prokes asked. "The truth will come out soon enough, and it will be seen that this is all a politically motivated thing."

The Temple has hired two prominent attorneys, Charles Garry and Fred Furth, to study the possibility of a libel suit.

The big question, of course, is whether the allegations against Peoples Temple are true. Don't ask me. Wednesday's press conference was impressive, despite New West's obvious attempt to put their magazine, and despite Phil Tracy's vendetta against the mavor. The 10 former members -- young, old, black, white -- seemed sincere and honest as they recounted their horror stories. And it must be admitted that Jim Jones is a strange breed, half socialist and half holy-roller fundamentalist. Clearly, there's more going on than meets the eye.

But it's too soon to reach any conclusions. As Michael Prokes told me "there's bound to be a few disgruntled people in any organization of this size, who have a distorted view of things because of some individual circumstances." And there is also a sufficient history of scurrilous attacks on movement groups that we ought to be suspicious when such things happen.

Peoples Temple has achieved a position of real power and influence in the community through years of hard work on behalf of poor, minority and other oppressed people. An attack like this should not be unexpected: what remains to be seen is whether it can stand closer scrutiny.

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO

CONTACT: Corey Busch  
415-558-3755

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Upon Receipt

July 26, 1977

-San Francisco Mayor George R. Moscone today issued the following statement concerning recent allegations against the Rev. Jim Jones:

"I have read the recent well-publicized article concerning the Rev. Jim Jones and the People's Temple and find it to be a series of allegations with absolutely no hard evidence that the Rev. Jones has violated any laws, either local, state, or federal.

"I will not comment upon the alleged practices of the Temple, as it is not my habit to be a religious commentator. If anyone in San Francisco or anywhere, and that includes the authors of the article and political leaders who express concern about the matter, have any evidence that the Rev. Jones has broken the law, then it is his or her absolute obligation and duty to bring that to the attention of the appropriate law enforcement officials.

"The Mayor's Office does not and will not conduct any investigation into the Rev. Jones nor the People's Temple. We are not equipped nor inclined to conduct such investigations, and those who call for us to do so know that.

"Insofar as the Rev. Jones' appointment to the Housing Authority is concerned, let me say that I asked him to serve on that board because I believed he would work hard on behalf of the City and that he would be fair in dealing with the important matters which come before that body. He has done just that in his tenure on the Commission.

"Furthermore, he was confirmed for that post by the Board of Supervisors who had the absolute responsibility under the advise and

/more/more/

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and consent doctrine to satisfy themselves as to the Rev. Jones' ability to serve this City prior to their voting unanimous confirmation.

"I see no reason to take any action in the light of allegations which carry with them no proof that any laws have been broken."

# # # # #

7-26-77

## Mayor rejects demand to probe Rev. Jones

Board of Supervisors President Quentin Kopp has asked for an investigation into the Peoples Temple and its leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, but Mayor Moscone today declined to conduct one.

"We are not equipped nor inclined to conduct such investigations and those who call for us to do so know that," Moscone said.

At yesterday's supervisors meeting Kopp said, "I feel very uneasy. I wish the supervisors' Rules Committee could have available to it the information in the New West Article."

In the current issue of that magazine, an article on the temple contains allegations from former church members that they were physically punished by other members for disciplinary reasons, that phony incidents of "cures" were staged, and that the church received money to care for elder

persons and put most of the money into the church treasury.

Moscone said he had read the article and finds it "to be a series of allegations with absolutely no hard evidence that the Rev. Jones has violated any laws, either local, state or federal."

"I will not comment upon the alleged practices of the temple, as it is not my habit to be a religious commentator."

He said anyone with information that any laws have been broken by Jones has an obligation to report it to law enforcement officials.

Kopp asked yesterday that a letter be directed to Moscone because "it is incumbent on the mayor who has the legal responsibility for appointing and removing commissioners to make the necessary investigation."

EXAMINER 7-26-77

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July 26, 1977

San Francisco, CA  
Examiner  
(Cir. 6xW. 150,698)

JUL 26 1977

## Kopp wants a check on Rev. Jones

Board of Supervisors President  
Quentin Kopp has asked for an  
investigation into the Peoples Tem-  
ple and its leader, the Rev. Jim  
Jones.

"I feel very uneasy," Kopp said  
at yesterday's meeting of the super-  
visors. "I wish the supervisors'  
Rules Committee could have availa-  
ble to it the information in the New  
West article," he said, referring to  
an article in the current issue of  
that magazine.

The article contains allegations  
from former members of the Peo-  
ples Temple that they were physi-  
cally punished by other church  
members for disciplinary reasons,  
that phony incidents of "cures"  
were staged, and that the church  
received money to care for senior  
citizens and put most of the money  
into the church treasury.

"I feel very uncomfortable  
with having participated in the  
confirmation of the Rev. Jones as a  
member of the Housing Authority  
without knowledge of the matters  
in this article," said Kopp. "There  
are some very serious allegations  
contained therein."

Kopp asked that a letter be  
directed to Mayor Moscone because  
"it is incumbent on the mayor who  
has the legal responsibility for  
appointing and removing commis-  
sioners to make the necessary  
investigation."

He also asked city controller  
John Farrell for a report on any  
funds that may have been  
sent to the Peoples Temple opera-

x-t-e-28

## AN EDITORIAL

# Propositions A and B

If there is one thing certain about next Tuesday's special election in San Francisco, it is that last year's Proposition T — the so-called district election of supervisors — must not be allowed to stand.

Instead of district election of supervisors, a more apt title might be "special interest control of City government."

When the voters passed Proposition T last November, they did so for one important reason. Many voters had become frustrated with the near impossibility of defeating an incumbent supervisor at the polls.

It had little to do with Neighborhoods vs. Downtown, although some voters swallowed that line. Any objective analysis would show that the neighborhoods have fared well with the Board of Supervisors. There has been as much anti-business legislation as there have pro-business decisions.

The problem has not been a lack of representation for certain areas. If anything, the supervisors have been too responsive in trying to satisfy every little pressure group without first settling priorities on City needs in relation to resources. And no Board of Supervisors — whether elected by district or at large — will succeed unless it tackles the problem of priorities.

Thus if it were not for their frustration at being unable to defeat a particular incumbent, it is inconceivable the voters would give up their right to vote on all members of the board and choose to vote for only one supervisor every four years.

Meanwhile, the opportunities for mischief, corruption and pork barrel tradeoffs in Proposition T have become so obvious, we hardly need the examples of larger cities where ward politics have done their damage.

We already have the spectacle of certain power groups searching for candidates, not on the basis of qualifications, but on the basis of their ability to appeal to certain voting blocs within a district.

Last week's revelations by former members of Peoples Temple described the temple's ability to influence local elections by mustering hundreds of workers behind special causes and to control the votes of several thousand members.

There were the registration standards of two years ago involving several members of Delancey Street, combined with the avowed goal of Delancey Street's founder, John Maher, "to take over San Francisco in ten years, working within the system," as quoted by his biographer, Grover Sales.

Both Peoples Temple and Delancey Street were vigorous backers of Proposition T last year.

Then there is the ability of any mayor, under Proposition T, to insure himself against any override by the Board of Supervisors if he can succeed in getting elected as few as four supervisors he can control. The federal funds parceled out by the mayor's office offer tremendous opportunity to control certain districts.

Another problem of Proposition T is that the district boundaries were gerrymandered solely for the political benefit of its sponsors.

Instead of considering common interests of contiguous areas, we got a monstrosity such as District 7 which includes predominately black Hunter's Point, middle class Potrero Hill, senior citizens South of Market and the high-rise apartments Downtown.

The five districts covering the western half of the City all contain from 35,000 to 42,000 voters totaling 192,000. The six districts in the eastern half of the City range from less than 21,000 to 30,000 voters, totaling 156,000. One man, one vote?

The Progress abhors any measure that makes it so easy for special interests to gain control of City government — whether the special interests are radical or conservative, labor or business, or the mayor's office.

The Progress also abhors a system that allows a candidate to avoid presenting his credentials to the entire electorate and further does not even require a majority vote in his own district.

Proposition T then must be overturned. There are two alternatives on the ballot — Propositions A and B.

Proposition A simply would repeal Proposition T, however, it does nothing to relieve last year's vote frustration.

When it became apparent Proposition T would qualify for the ballot, the supervisors had the opportunity to present some real choices to the voters. They did nothing.

There is nothing in Proposition A, unfortunately, that will require the board to present any alternatives this November.

Proposition B, on the other hand, contains a number of benefits that have been obscured in the campaign haggling over personalities.

Proposition B requires supervisors to live in and be elected from individual districts, thereby giving all districts direct representation. It also answers last year's frustrations since each supervisor can be challenged directly at election if the voters are dissatisfied.

x-4-e-29

It overcomes, however, the evils of Proposition T by requiring all supervisors to run citywide, thus restoring to the voters their voice on all supervisors and forcing those elected to consider the best interests of the entire City.

Proposition B also blunts the thrust of special interest groups by requiring all city officials, including the supervisors, to get a majority vote — no more 30 per cent plurality winners.

This measure also provides some bonus benefits. The chief administrative officer is limited to a six-year term instead of lifetime tenure.

Accountability of the elected mayor is increased by making the terms of the major autonomous commissions who spend a major portion of the City budget coincide with the term of the mayor who appointed them.

The only real objection to Proposition B — outside of some special interest groups — is over the fact that it requires Mayor George Moscone, District Attorney Joseph Freitas and Sheriff Richard Hongisto to run for re-election this November.

Despite the fact that Proposition T cut short the terms of six current supervisors, the argument goes that these three officials, who were elected at the same time, shouldn't face the same fate. With all the confusion, turmoil and criticism of City government, a vote of confidence in November would clear the air and still much of the turmoil.

The Progress frankly thinks Moscone and Freitas would have no trouble with such a vote. As things stand now, The Progress probably would be inclined to endorse them. If successful, they would then have two years free in the knowledge they were serving the voters as they wish. Hongisto probably has reason to worry.

Proposition B is not a recall as some argue. It simply calls for a vote of confidence which the City sorely needs right now.

Each voter must give sincere thought to both these issues and decide — without emotion — what is best for themselves and for the future of this great City.

x-4-e-30

### Section Three

The New West "break-in" story has not been the only attempt to impugn Peoples Temple through media attacks. Included in this section are two press stories which insinuated wrongdoing and which both pushed for and eventually led to investigations. The first issue, picked up by Phil Tracy in New West and carried on by Marshall Kilduff in the San Francisco Chronicle, concerned a young man who was never a member of Peoples Temple and who was never more than remotely involved with church services or programs. He knew of the Temple because his family lived in the Ukiah area. Members knew him as a sensitive though troubled youth. He had received \$10,000 from an insurance policy after a serious motorcycle accident which he donated to the Temple ministry. In October, 1975, the young man committed suicide. Two years later, under the pressure from press agents who attempting to find something to "pin" on Peoples Temple, a second inquest was held in Los Angeles. Witnesses to the tragic event and medical examiners were summoned to court purely because of press agents' insistence. October 20, the coroner's jury upheld the death was by suicide. The "Strange Suicide" story was covered for the Chronicle by "Our Correspondent" from Los Angeles. The correspondent was Marshall Kilduff.

Another story given heightened media coverage in local papers was that Temple high school students "dominated" the school most of them attended. The articles were ludicrous,

x-4-e-31



but nonetheless maligned the Temple in the public eye.

As with the other such trumped-up allegations, the rebuttal statements were given low-key, low priority coverage.

x-4-e-32

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Toronto Star - Saturday  
September 4/77

# A prophet heads south with profit

By CHARLES L. OLIV  
Special to The Star

SAN FRANCISCO — Moving at night in small groups, nearly 1,000 people of all ages have left the west coast on a 6,000-mile trek by bus, car and plane for a jungle sanctuary in Guyana.

They acted under secret orders from Jim Jones, 45, a new white "prophet of God" who predicts a Fascist takeover of the United States followed by a nuclear holocaust.

Last week, when Jones was found to have joined the migration himself, thousands of the faithful from Los Angeles to Vancouver mourned the loss of their leader, not to mention millions of dollars in church funds.

Shock waves are also running through the California establishment. Politicians, bankers and businessmen who courted Jones' favor, praised his good works and benefitted from his formidable political clout, have gone to ground.

The handsome Jim Jones, who arrived from an obscure midwest mission 12 years ago, is no backwoods preacher, but a prominent local figure — foreman of a San Francisco grand jury, chairman of the housing commission, with aides who have also been heard into well paid public posts.

On San Francisco's Geary Street, the Jones headquarters is locked and barred. His "People's Temple" in Los Angeles and Redwood City are up for sale, together with juvenile care centres and blocks of apartments.

A handful of deserters back from Guyana suggest that the man who ruled their lives had little in common with the genial Jones who sat with the elite at city banquets.

Behind his temple doors, before a mainly black congregation, Jones claimed to be an amalgam of Christ resurrected and a "reborn Lenin." He claimed to cure cancer and palsy. He resurrected the dead — even himself. During one dramatic ceremony he appeared he had been shot by a hidden assassin. He was carried away, covered in blood, only to walk back a minute later all smiles, wearing a fresh, spotless shirt. The crowd went wild.

The members, mainly poor, often elderly, gave between a quarter and half of their income to the treasury. Many traded over jewelry, furs, silver, even their homes and life insurance.

## Seedy communes

Rebels of the worldly pools, they gathered in seedy communes, cashing their welfare cheques or 60 cents a week pocket money. Some rattled beguiling tales or sold pictures of Jones on street corners. Others worked a 16-hour day making quilts and bedspreads to be sold for the cause.

The congregations were used to build up Jones' power base. They voted as a block, rang doorbells and delivered leaflets. In some close election battles they backed candidates who knew better than to refuse the help of the man called "Emperor Jones."

Three years ago, Jones flew to Guyana on a prospecting trip. Don Phillips, one of a dozen trustees on the plane, said each of them carried \$17,000 to cash, and Jones deposited a \$200,000 cheque in Barclays Bank, Georgetown.

"The Rev. chose Guyana," said Phillips. "because the blacks there are English-speaking Christians and could be proselytised. He acquired several thousand acres of jungle to build Jonestown and buried money there."

None of this hoard has reached the men, women and children now working from dawn to dusk to clear land for crops. The few who have returned say "cathartic sessions" have been intensified. Slackers have their heads shaved or are denied food.

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X-4-C-33

## Inquest in Death of Peoples Temple Man

Los Angeles

The circumstances surrounding the death of a 22-year-old man associated with the Peoples Temple will be investigated by the Los Angeles county coroner's office, it was learned yesterday.

An inquest will be held on October 20 at the request of the local district attorney's office to clear several questions raised by an initial coroner's report of the death of John William Head, who reportedly leaped to his death on Oct. 19, 1975.

The case of Head had been highlighted in a New West story dealing with the controversial church and its strong-willed leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

In the magazine story printed in August, Head was portrayed as an emotionally unstable person who had turned over \$10,000 in silver bullion to the church while he was living in Ukiah.

Head later moved to Los Angeles where he lived at a temple home, according to the magazine, and the night before his death he reportedly phoned a family neighbor in Ukiah to say he was upset with the church and was penniless.

After Head's body was found, a coroner's report indicated he had died from a leap from a three-story warehouse, but in a later notation in the same document, said he was a "jumper from a bridge."

In addition the report said there were no scars on Head's body though his family claims there was ample evidence of scars on the man's right leg left by some 300 stitches resulting from a motorcycle accident.

Head also left a blood-soaked note, but coroner's officials did not attempt to have a laboratory process the message in order to learn its wording.

"It may turn out to be a suicide after all, but we want to learn why all these things weren't done," said Richard Hecht, a deputy district attorney who heads the bureau of special operations.

Our Correspondent

x-4-e-34

# Mysterious suicides may be linked to Peoples Temple

By STEVE HART

P.H. Bureau

UKIAH — A pair of mysterious suicides may be linked to Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple.

The Press Democrat has also learned about irregularities in records of property gifts to the church.

The Peoples Temple is being investigated by state and local authorities, following accusations of former church members.

Ex-followers told of beatings, phony "miracle" cures, sexual misconduct and financial swindles.

Rev. Jones, an influential political fi-

gure, moved the church to San Francisco from its headquarters in Redwood Valley about a year ago.

The pastor, at the church's farm in South America, has not responded to charges by former members.

The latest accusations involve the 1970 suicide of Maxine Harpe, a Ukiah resident and the mother of three young children. Mrs. Harpe was found hanged in the garage of her home on Talmage Road in early April of that year.

Mrs. Harpe's cousin, Glennelle Marsh of Ukiah, said the Harpe home was later "ransacked" by members of the Peoples Temple.

"They'd gone through it," she told The Press Democrat.

Mrs. Marsh said the three Harpe children were placed in Temple foster homes following the suicide. Relatives objected, "but they had a hard time getting them out," Mrs. Marsh said.

The children are now living with their father.

At the time, the Peoples Temple denied that Mrs. Harpe was ever a member of the church, according to her cousin. But Mrs. Marsh said the woman had been deeply involved in the Temple. About three weeks before her death, Mrs. Marsh called her cousin "but she didn't want to see me because she was too busy in the church."

Mrs. Marsh said the woman seemed depressed.

Ex-Temple member Danny Pietila said Mrs. Harpe was indeed a follower of Rev. Jones. Pietila and several other former members recalled hearing Jones predict the Harpe suicide, two weeks before it happened.

"He said that she would probably commit suicide," Pietila remarked.

According to a 1972 newspaper report, Mrs. Harpe left a suicide note, which read, "Call Jim. It's very important. Not at home. Get here right away."

Former Jones followers said the house was ransacked to remove any belongings which would identify her with the Temple. Members were told not to attend Mrs. Harpe's funeral service, according to Temple dropouts.

Mrs. Harpe reportedly gave \$1,000 to the church two weeks before her death.

Glennelle Marsh said her cousin was not the kind of person who would commit suicide. "I don't know how she could do it. She loved those children so much. I wonder if she was driven into a depression."

Mendocino County District Attorney Duncan James has referred the case to the state Attorney General's office, following inquiries by reporters.

New West magazine has also raised questions about the death of John Head, a 22-year-old Ukiah who took his own life in 1975.

The magazine quotes Head's mother as saying that her son became friends with Tim Solen, former Mendocino County Deputy District Attorney and a top official of the People's Temple. According to New West, Head gave the Temple some \$10,000 he received as the result of an accident.

The young man, who suffered mental

(Continued on Back Page)

Santa Rosa, CA  
Press Democrat  
(Cir. O. 55,071)  
(Cir. Sun. 59,366)

AUG 3

X-4-e-35

## Suicides

(Continued from Page 1A)

problems, told his mother he planned to join the Temple in Los Angeles. About a month later, Head took his own life according to police reports.

New West called for an official probe of the Head suicide. The magazine said Head apparently called a neighbor the night before he died and said he was at the Temple "and nobody would bring him back and he had no money."

The Press Democrat has discovered irregularities in the records of property gifts to the church. Ex-followers claimed they were pressured to sign their homes over to the Peoples Temple. They said the property was often quickly resold to raise funds for Rev. Jones' projects.

Former member Elmer Mertle, who gave his home to the church, said he thought the property was being signed over to the Peoples Temple. But documents in the Mendocino County Recorder's office show that Mertle's house was transferred to a business partnership operated by top Temple officials.

The partnership, called Valley Enterprises, included Jones' wife Marceline, Stoen, and other church leaders. The property was later sold.

Records show months between the time church members signed the property transfers and the date of filing by the Peoples Temple.

Many of the documents were notarized by Stoen. But Mertle said he never appeared before Stoen, as sworn in the courthouse documents.

More than 30 homes and parcels were reported to have been signed over to the church. Viola Richardson, Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder, said she has no reason to probe the property transfers "as long as the documents are in order and the fees are paid."

The Temple is under investigation by the Mendocino County Social Services Department, however, following charges that public money to support youths and elderly people in Temple care homes is channeled into the church. Ex-members said care is substandard in the Temple homes, which are still operating in the Redwood Valley area.

Jones has also been accused of staging fake "healing" ceremonies and claiming to be God. Former members said they were beaten for such infractions as smoking, talking to outsiders or sleeping during Jones' all-day sermons.

Jones' attorney Charles Garry disputed the charges, and said the preacher will answer questions when he returns from Guyana. Garry said the Temple is considering a libel suit against New West.

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San Francisco Chronicle 3  
Fri., Oct. 21, 1977

## Death by Suicide Finding Is Upheld

Los Angeles

The official description of death by suicide of a 22-year-old man associated with the Peoples Temple and its controversial leader Rev. Jim Jones was upheld by a coroner's jury in Los Angeles yesterday.

The jury had been called to consider several apparent discrepancies in the original report — by the coroner and police — on the death of John William Head, who leaped to his death on Oct. 19, 1975.

At the inquest, police and coroner's officials testified that a bloody scrap of paper was found in Head's pocket with the words "Peoples Temple," "Jones," and "John." But the officials said they could not decipher the rest of the message and declined to describe it as a suicide note.

In addition coroner's officials clarified the address where the body was found because the first report had listed two locations.

A coroner's spokeswoman also said that a long scar on Head's right leg was not mentioned in the first report because other means of identification were used.

The case of Head had been highlighted in a New West magazine article dealing with the church and its enigmatic leader.

Our Correspondent

x-4-e-37

The San Francisco



# Progress

City  
North

Vol. 58 No. 91

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Wednesday Aug 3, 1977

## Temple dominated city school

By E. Cahill Maloney

The San Francisco Unified School District provided the Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple with that amounted to its own temple high school.

Opportunity II High was used as an educational base for Temple affiliated young people during the 1976-77 school year.

Although the alternative high school has a long waiting list, more than 130 Temple teenagers were enrolled at the school at one time last September, counselor teacher Ron Cabral said.

"Some sort of deal was arranged between school coordinator Yvonne Golden and the Rev. Jones," he said. Ena Spackman, another opportunity teacher, confirmed that Opportunity II was the Temple school. "Eighty per cent of the kids who go to Opportunity are Temple kids," she said.

Enrollment figures could not be confirmed early this week since central office personnel didn't seem

aware of the arrangement.

Ms. Golden, who said she had read recent press reports about the temple, would not discuss the student make-up of her school with The Progress.

"We do have temple students at Opportunity," Ms. Golden said. "But, I think all information about the students should come directly from the district."

The school's area superintendent Lane DeLara did not know about the temple connection as of Monday. The principal of record — Ben Fensworth — was on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

Teachers at Opportunity didn't seem to feel it was unusual to deal with student problems through temple counselors in lieu of parents.

"Most of the teachers were delighted with this new type of student," Cabral said. "People actually showed up for classes."

Since Opportunity II was estab-

lished in 1971 attendance usually ran less than one-half of enrollment, Cabral explained.

If all 300 students carried on the rolls at the old building at 160 South Van Ness ever showed up, there would not have been any place to put them, he continued. It was assumed that the actual teaching load on any given day would be about half the enrollment.

Last year, temple kids dominated the school, enabling it to field a baseball team, improving achievement scores and swelling the ranks of "parent participation."

Teachers said temple youths stuck together, were sometimes pulled out of school for long trips and were "secretive" about the temple.

Cabral said a lot of them had been living in Redwood Valley, Ukiah and Los Angeles before enrolling at Opportunity.

He identified temple member Tim Carter as the contact for any prob-

lems that arose in connection with students. "They seemed to be under control of church counselors," Cabral said.

He did not know the exact nature of the counseling arrangement, saying Ms. Golden "sort of wanted to take care of everything to do with the temple."

Ms. Spackman confirmed that any school problems were handled through counselors. She had not found that unusual, since HAP, New Horizons and other youth groups often assign counselors to act as liaisons between the school and the home.

Temple youngsters were generally well behaved, Ms. Spackman said. By way of example she described a rare occasion when a purse was missing. Other temple students brought the issue to the school coordinator and insisted the culprit be reprimanded.

"Nothing was stolen from the purse and I wanted to discuss it as a private

(Continued on Page 11)

X-4-e-38

# Temple dominated city school

(Continued from Page 1)

matter, but it was taken out of my hands," Mrs. Spackman said.

The children were very aware of the Rev. Jones and when he appeared at parent meetings and such they would applaud enthusiastically, the teachers said.

Two of the Rev. Jones' own boys were pulled out of the school in April to travel abroad by Mrs. Marcelyn Jones.

"Losing Tim Jones was a real blow to our baseball team. He was a natural pitcher and an all-around American boy type. I had hated to see him go."

Buses picked the young people up after school and sometimes took them on trips, Cabral said, but no one ever wanted to talk about their travels in class.

"After a trip the kids didn't seem like they had a good time. It was kind of mysterious where they went or what they did," he noted.

Efforts to get youngsters to speak about their temple experience in class usually met with the response that one would have to come to service to find out about the temple.

Asked what it was about Jones that made them so devoted, one young woman said, "Jim saved me from prostitution and the evils of the world," according to Cabral. The other youngsters responded, right on.

Linda Mertle, an 18-year-old who had been a temple member until eight months ago, is one of Cabral's former students.

It was her reference to "the temple school" that prompted Progress in-

quiries into Opportunity. The temple itself is not registered as a high school.

This April Peoples Temple did file a private elementary school application with the school district under the title Christian Life School. The school address is 1059 Geary, the same as the temple's.

According to affidavit the school health and fire license are pending. School officers are listed as Lee Ingram of 217 Webster St., Sharon Annas of 1664 Page St., and Pat Grunnet of 1662 Page St.

The Page Street addresses are two of those identified by Linda Mertle as communal residences for small children.

Mertle and other former temple members said minors lived in the temple itself as well as in communal flats and apartments in the Fillmore area.

The State Department of Health Licensing division said it has been assured no children live on the temple premises. The Department of Social Services reports it has not licensed any Temple group homes.

Cabral, who visited the temple once in connection with an Opportunity II school newspaper project, said some students appeared to be living in military type dorms upstairs in the temple while others lived in houses nearby.

Cabral was searched before he entered the temple and was kept under close watch the whole time he was there, he said.

"A lot of their (students') folks seemed to be in Redwood Valley or

Los Angeles," Cabral said. "But the kids didn't seem like they were in any kind of bondage."

The temple youths all knew about Guyana and talked about it Cabral said. He knows of no youngsters, other than Jones' own two boys, who was pulled out of school before the end of term to go to the temple's South American mission retreat.

Elmer Mertle, one-time temple photographer, said the Guyana mis-

sion is not the lush jungle paradise Jones describes to temple members.

"Nothing grows down there unless you plant it," Mertle said. The temple settlement consists of one building, sort of a large mountain cabin. What cleared land there is consists of thin soil, he said.

Pretty pictures showed the temple members were taken on a Guyana government agricultural research project, Mertle said.

X-4-C-39

THE  
PROGRESS  
August 3, 1977



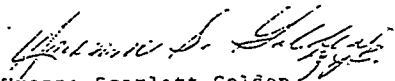
P R E S S   S T A T E M E N T

The vendetta against Reverend Jim Jones is not a new story. History is replete with examples of the persecution of those who challenge the status quo. At one level, Reverend Jim Jones should feel a sense of pride in being immersed into the ocean of a most distinguished community of humanity --- where justice, and not expediency, is the good to be pursued; where the legitimate interest of the many, and not the whim of the few, is the mandate of the day; where truth, and not consistency, is the goal to be achieved, and where courage is one of the exacting prices for peace of mind.

No less a stalwart than Martin Luther King found his entry into the so-called political arena, by speaking out against the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, invoked the absolute wrath of the well organized army of apologists for the status quo. Only the blind, the deaf, the dumb, and the apologists fail to see the compulsive relationship between the latest avalanche of inconsistencies, half truths, and outright lies against the Reverend Jim Jones and the upcoming elections in San Francisco.

We who support Reverend Jim Jones will continue to stand by him. We find solace in the eloquence of Thomas Paine:

"Tyranny like hell is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

  
Myronne Scarlett Golden  
Coordinator  
Opportunity III Senior High School  
San Francisco Unified School District  
San Francisco, California

x-4-e-40

## Temple Students Favoritism Denied

Students belonging to the controversial Peoples Temple were not given special admission treatment to Opportunity II High School although they did make up nearly a third of the enrollment, an official school department investigation concluded yesterday.

The special inquiry was touched off when reports in the press two weeks ago indicated a large number of high school students who were followers of the Rev. Jim Jones had enrolled at the experimental school last September.

Several teachers and counselors at Opportunity II estimated that 100 to 150 church students were admitted through a special arrangement with Yvonne S. Golden, the school's coordinator and registrar, who is an admirer of the Rev. Mr. Jones.

But John Cleveland, the district associate superintendent for instruction, said the three teachers who made the charges to newspapers later disavowed their statements.

"When we talked to them with an attorney in the room here, they told us they had been misquoted," Cleveland said.

Cleveland said there was no way to tell from enrollment documents whether a student was a member of the church.

But he said Golden told him the temple students numbered "about 80" out of the school's total enrollment of 300.

Cleveland said there was no waiting list when the students applied last September, and no other students were displaced by the large-scale arrival of the temple contingent.

"As far as I can tell, the main reason for the temple students attending Opportunity was the fact that Rev. Jones admired the way Yvonne Golden ran the school," Cleveland said.

#### Section Four

Other articles we have received point directly to a conspiracy behind the attacks on the Temple. The Toronto Star and the London Observer both carried a highly libelous article (included here) about Peoples Temple, Rev. Jones, and the mission in Guyana. The intensity of the articles is alarming enough, but the fact that they were printed in the two cities where the largest populations of Guyanese are located outside the country leads to one conclusion: a well-coordinated effort is being made to discredit and run interference with the Temple's Guyana project.

In the article carried in the Sebastapol Times, the identity of George Klineman, former Star editor and recent co-author with Kilduff and Tracy in the New West and subsequent articles, is revealed. We have learned that Mr. Klineman's connections are highly questionable. His involvement with the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazis was made imminently clear several years ago when he was one of the persons involved with the Nazi assault on Ms. Yvonne Golden, member of the San Francisco School Board and Black Teachers' Caucus. Mr. Klineman's further connections to the anti-Temple campaign are revealed in the Art Silverman article to the Berkeley Barb.

x-4-e-42

In his own investigation of our claims that a conspiracy lies behind the media attacks on the Temple, Art Silverman came up with some alarming evidence. In his article "A Conspiracy Behind Peoples Temple Expose?" Silverman revealed that Joseph Mazor (see Part V) was first employed to investigate the Temple in November, 1976, eight months before the publication of the first New West article. Mazor refused to say who had retained him. Mazor did say he is currently employed by "several" former Temple members, including Elmer and Deanna Mertle, the original sources for the New West article (see Part I).

Silverman also learned that Mazor hired one of the largest public relations firms in San Francisco and asked them to coordinate a publicity campaign against the Temple and Jim Jones. Bob Kenney, an account executive at Lowry, Russon and Leeper, confirmed that he has been working for Mazor "on this Peoples Temple project, showing him how to handle the media." Kenney's work for Mazor reportedly included sending out letters to selected journalists, offering them -- through Mazor -- exclusive material of an incriminating nature against Peoples Temple. Silverman also learned that David Conn and George Klineman (both of whom were involved with the writing of the New West article and the subsequent press conference), also approached various police and governmental agencies last fall, offering

x-4-e-43

- them witnesses and documents with which to attack Peoples Temple.

A question of overriding importance must be raised: A high-powered public relations firm, attorneys, reporters, and a highly questionable private investigator have all been working on this "project" as early as November of last year. The only source named for the retention of their services has been Deanna and Elmer Mertle, who in turn accused the Temple of "taking all they had." WHO HAS CO-ORDINATED AND WHO HAS FINANCED THIS ELABORATELY ORCHESTRATED SMEAR CAMPAIGN?

x-4-e-44

S. L. 1001, Co.  
Taxes  
(Cir. W. 3, 259)

Allen's, P. C. B. Ed. 1955

## OPINION Ernest V. Joiner

• IF THE CMIA feels its lifestyle is threatened by timber harvesting, it should consider that its members moved into this particular area knowing full well that timber existed, and that it was marked for harvesting. If the thought of it was repugnant to them, they could have settled elsewhere. Their anguished activity is not unlike that of people who buy homes at the end of an active airport runway, then spend the next 10 years filing lawsuits to stop planes from landing. Those trees and those Chenoweths were on the scene years before most of the loud complainers ever thought of settling there.

• CMIA APPARENTLY doesn't care that its legal antics keep timber from the market, or that the Chenoweths' costs of defending one silly lawsuit after another is passed on to consumers in higher prices they pay for redwood. They probably haven't thought that property rights are essential, even to the "total environmentalists." For without property rights there are no individual or human rights. One goes with the other. They are inseparable. Show me a country where property rights are not respected and I'll show you a country where the people's freedoms are not respected.

• GEORGE KLINEMAN, San Francisco Chronicle reporter Marshall Kilduff and New West Magazine editor Phil Tracy have written a story that might shake the nation as much as did Watergate. In the Aug. 1 issue of New West Magazine the 3 newsmen have collaborated on an expose of "The Rev." Jim Jones, head of Peoples Temple, a religious outfit that operates in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Mendocino County and Guyana, South America. Politically involved with Jones are such luminaries as San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, Sheriff Richard Hongisto of San Francisco County, Gov. Jerry Brown, Vice-President Walter Mondale and even Rosalynn Carter, whose husband occupies the White House. If half this magazine story is true, the Rev. deserves a long term in the penitentiary for fraud; and his operation of Peoples Temple revealed as a front for brutality, sadism, slavery and political intrigue—all carried out in the holy name of religion—to establish Jones as a wealthy and political heavyweight in state and national affairs. I know that the writers of the article have received threats of violence from members of Peoples Temple. Their homes have been threatened with arson. I hope the media, most of which doubt

to print the article, will follow through until every phase of this "religious" operation is public knowledge. If the facts as published are true, neither Jones nor his host of high-placed political figures should escape punishment. Read the article. It will curdle your blood and turn your stomach.

• IT TOOK a lot of guts to research and write the New West article. Newsmen and reporters sometimes get killed for the type of reporting that exposes con men, thieves and frauds for what they are. George Klineman has come a long way since he was news editor of The TIMES. From a bashful start as an inoffensive reporter who was forever distressed when people became angry at his work, he is emerging as a tiger who does his homework and doesn't give a damn where the chips fall, or how hard, or upon whom. Around this office we're pretty proud of George.

• TAXPAYERS ARE becoming disenchanted with the public school system. Their children's ability to read and write diminishes in proportion to the increased money they are asked to pony up to solve the problem. Schools are, therefore, in trouble. People resist school taxes and school bond issues. They are turning to private schools where they figure their children have a better chance for education. With the public's disappointment and loss of faith in public education, it would appear that better public relations by schools might prolong education's grasp on the public purse. For example, Analy High School has a community service override tax of 5¢. Without disrupting essential services, it could be dropped to 4¢. This would mean a 1¢ reduction on the tax rate. Half the board wants to give the taxpayer a break by lowering the tax. The other half wants to stockpile the money for emergency use and for unforeseen expense. Dropping the 1¢ would certainly demonstrate that the board considers the taxpayers' plight. It would create the illusion that the school only spends what it needs—as opposed to the theory that it will spend every dime it can get. The latter theory is reinforced by Analy's decision to spend \$200 of the community service tax for shrubbery, hardly essential to either education or community service. I suggest the board should lower the tax. If it is needed next year, it could be reimposed more easily because the people could remember how the rate was lowered.

x-4-e-45

—Charles Garry

## The Streetfighter Of The Courtroom Tells His Story



X-4-e-46

SPRINTING

by Art Silverman

Everyone who knows Charles Garry has a few good stories to tell. Like the time he had a police officer on the stand, and cross-examined him so fiercely that the cop lost his composure and drew a gun. Or the time that Garry went into Berkeley Municipal Court to defend student activist Frank Bardacke on a minor misdemeanor charge. When the judge found out that Bardacke's lawyer was Charles Garry, he summoned the prosecutor to the bench for a hasty conference. The charges were dropped.

Afterwards, Garry learned what had happened. "I'm not feeling too well," the judge had told the prosecutor, "and I just can't take Garry this morning. Would you mind dismissing the case?"

These anecdotes from the long, colorful career of San Francisco attorney Charles Garry are drawn from his newly-published autobiography, *Streetfighter in the Courtroom* (written with Art Goldberg, published by E.P. Dutton). But as the author is quick to point out, for every easy acquittal there have been a dozen long, grueling trials, some ending in victory, others in defeat.

Garry is one of those attorneys whose work is almost a contradiction in terms -- a radical lawyer, whose goal is to use the law against itself, to help bring about fundamental social change by keeping activists out of prison.

As Garry himself puts it: "My role as a lawyer is to give legal first aid. Nothing more than that. No lawyer can change the basics; the people have to do that. The best I can say is that my clients, who are part of movements for social change, get the opportunity to continue their work with some sort of freedom. It would be callous to think that we (lawyers) do anything more than that."

The "clients" to which Garry refers amount to a near-history of the political upheavals of the last 25 years: the McCarthy hearings; the conspiracy case against demonstrators at the 1960 San Francisco appearance of the House Un-American Activities Committee; the trials of Black Panthers Huey Newton and Bobby Seale; the Chicago Eight Conspiracy trial; the Oakland Seven draft resistance case; the murder trial of Ibez Garcia, who killed a man who helped rape her; and the longest trial in California history, the case of the San Quentin Six.

Garry's career in the law goes much further than even the McCarthy hearings. He has been fighting pro-

gressive causes ever since his admission to the bar in 1938: first as a labor lawyer for the fledgling Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO); then in private practice, fighting the disenfranchisement of Japanese-Americans during World War II and, beginning a lifelong battle against capital punishment.

For the last 20 years, the firm of Garry, Dreyfus, McTernan, Brotsky, Herndon and Pesonen has operated out of the same offices near Eighth and Market Streets in downtown San Francisco. Garry continues to hold down a heavy caseload, "though these days," he admits, "I only take cases of people I like personally or who are involved in political or social causes I believe in."

One of his current clients fits both those categories. Last month Garry was retained by the Reverend Jim Jones of Peoples Temple, the politically-active congregation that has come under extreme attack in recent weeks by the media and others (see Barb, July 22). Garry believes that the Temple is the victim of a premeditated campaign to destroy its political work, similar to the government's COINTELPRO attacks on other of his clients, like the Black Panthers. But more on that later.

The reason for all this reminiscing is the publication of *Streetfighter in the Courtroom*. To commemorate the occasion, the Barb recently paid an office visit to Garabed Hagop Robutlay Garabedian, alias Charles Garry.

The offices are large and unpretentious, like the man himself. Garry is powerfully-built, but despite his knock-down-and-drag-out courtroom reputation, in person he is gentle and unassuming, and looks far younger than his 68 years. This Garry attributes to a daily regimen of yoga exercises and standing on his head -- the posture in which he has awaited verdicts on several of his most important cases.

The walls are decorated with large photographs of Garry's most famous clients, and paintings of revolutionary heroes including Che and Mao.

The question of heroes is a relevant one, since two of Garry's more illustrious clients -- former Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver and anti-war leader Rennie Davis -- have recently done an about-face. Davis has gone from Guru Maharaji to selling insurance in Colorado, while Cleaver embraces Christianity and right-wing capitalism.

"Hero worshipping is a very dangerous thing," Garry responds to a question about Eldridge. "We make a mistake in tying ourselves to individuals, because it's the principles on which individuals

get together that's important.

"The pressures of being in the struggle in America -- anywhere really -- are so strong that many of us can't take it for too long a period. The contradictions in our society are too strong. If a leader is active for five years, or three years -- whatever their tenure is -- you've got to take what they did and contributed at the time and move on."

Garry sighs. "You can't hang your hat on people who have expired, and terminated their contribution. This system is completely capable of destroying an individual."

Garry's insistence on focusing on the political struggles and not individual personalities is reflected in his book as well. "I never set out to write an autobiography about myself as a person," he says in response to the most common criticism of *Streetfighter* -- that the book focuses too much on Garry the lawyer and too little on Garry the man. "There is enough of my life included to explain how I've come to play the role that I have. Anything more is irrelevant."

Despite Garry's sincere modesty, he has been a long, interesting life. Garabed Garabedian was born on St. Patrick's Day 1909 in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. His parents came to the United States to escape the Turkish massacres that claimed several million Armenians around the turn of the century.

Charles' father Hagop, and his mother Varthouie Bananian, both worked in the factories and dreamed of owning a small farm. In 1914 they bought a 10-acre peach orchard and moved the family to Selma, California, but soon they went bankrupt and were forced to go back East. Charles returned to Selma alone in 1927, at age 18, and went to work in the canneries and as a semi-pro boxer. Later that year he brought the family back to California.

A succession of jobs led him into the cleaning and tailoring business in San Francisco, then to organizing cleaning workers for the CIO. In 1934, fulfilling a desire that began with the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti in 1927, he entered law school night classes.

By that time he was already Charles Garry, having taken "an ethnically-neutral identity" to find work at the canneries, which wouldn't hire people with foreign-sounding names. In 1938 Garry graduated and became a member of the California bar.

In the 40 years since, he has steadfastly fought for the underdog through a World War, a Cold War, a Korean War and a Vietnam war. Somehow, in all that time, Charles Garry has never lost his



faith or the energy to continue. "I'm neither an optimist nor a pessimist," he explains, "because either extreme is unreal. A pessimist I could never be, or else I would have given up in the Fifties."

"You know, improvements have come, but they are slow and small. If it hadn't been for the Watergate exposures, I believe we'd be in a quasi-police state today."

"It's important to remember that dangers constantly surround and encompass us -- the most important thing we can do now is constantly struggle to prevent the erosion of our rights. Revolutionary change is not on the horizon; not in the United States at least, which is just too powerful. That's why I support survival programs. It's going to be a long fight here, for many years to come."

The importance of "survival programs" is one reason that Garry is so vocal in the defense of his new client, Peoples Temple: "They're trying to bring him (Rev. Jones) up for ridicule, bringing out little crappy, shitty things they say he did, completely ignoring the 50 or 100 essential (Temple) programs that are survival kits for the community."

As for the more serious charges of financial misdealings and coercion of Temple members, Garry insists that the Temple's silence on the matter should not be misconstrued.

"I've told them to keep their traps shut," says Garry. "I don't undersell the enemy. Before we do anything, we've got to know exactly who is behind this, what their motives are, how they are going to proceed."

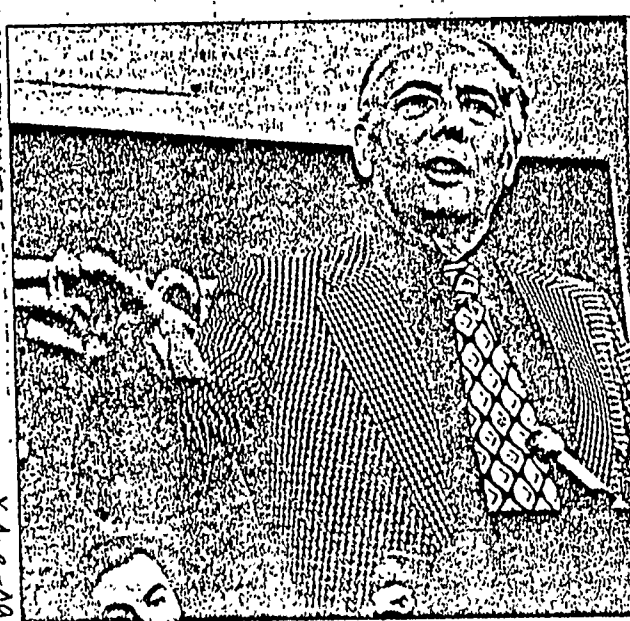
"It all smacks of the same tactics used by the FBI and CIA and other intelligence agencies, creating incidents, creating suspicions, feeding the media to discredit people involved in the struggle. They're just not going to let Jim Jones -- who espouses socialism strenuously, vocally and successfully, without any ifs, ands or buts -- they're not going to let him continue."

"I know our silence so far makes it difficult for the Temple's friends. But if they are real friends, who understand the frameups and attacks that have always taken place, then they ought to have enough confidence to wait and see."

"I'm not saying that they're a paragon of virtue -- I'm too practical to make a statement like that. But no person should be held to answer for every little thing in their past. What's important is who they are now, and what they do."

On that note we left Charles Garry to return to his stack of phone messages and research files.

# A Conspiracy Behind Peoples Temple Expose?



Attorney Charles Garry



Indian leader Dennis Banks says he was asked to denounce Rev. Jim Jones.

X-4-e-A9a

by Art Silverman

Is the current two-month barrage of sensational charges leveled against San Francisco's Peoples Temple "an organized, orchestrated, premeditated campaign to destroy a politically-progressive organization," as Temple attorney Charles Garry accuses?

Or is it "a spontaneous, courageous action by a group of former Temple members, who never came forward before because they were scared to death (of reprisals)," the explanation offered by Rosalie Muller Wright, senior editor of New West magazine, which first published and has since supported the accusations?

There still aren't any definitive answers to those questions -- or to the specific allegations of fraud, deceit, real estate swindles and physical brutality raised in numerous media accounts since publication of the first of two New West articles in mid-July (see Barb, July 22).

But a number of unusual circumstances and coincidences can't help but raise the suspicion that there's more going on than first meets the eye. For example:

"A Barb investigation has revealed that one individual working behind the scenes to discredit Peoples Temple is a San Francisco private investigator, who somehow managed to obtain a state investigator's license after being released from prison in 1976.

Joseph A. Mazor, the detective, has a criminal record including at least 10 arrests in three states for various bogus check and fraud charges, six convictions, several jail and prison terms, and has been returned to confinement three times for violating probation and parole by committing new crimes.

A confidential, 16-page California Adult Authority report on Mazor, written in 1970, was recently obtained by the Barb. "(He) is a smooth 'con-man' with an insatiable desire to get ahead," concludes the report. "He is bright, well-educated, and so well-versed in the law that he had five attorneys in the Pomona area convinced that he had a law degree.

"It is felt that the subject is a menace to the community."

Mazor has admitted to the Barb that he was first employed to investigate the Peoples Temple in November 1976, eight months before publication of the first New West article. But he refuses to say who retained him.

"I'm not going to tell you that," said Mazor, though he did reveal that his employer was an outsider, and not a past or present member of Peoples Temple. Mazor said he is currently employed by "several" former Temple members, including Elmer and Deanna Mertle, the original sources for the New West ar-

ticles.

"Mazor apparently is not only investigating Peoples Temple, but also actively seeking publicity to discredit the organization.

To that end, the Barb has learned, Mazor hired one of the largest public relations firms in San Francisco and then asked them to coordinate a publicity campaign against the Temple and its minister, Reverend Jim Jones.

Bob Kenney, an account executive at Lowry, Russom and Leeper, confirmed for the Barb that he has been working for Mazor "on this (Peoples Temple) project, showing him how to handle the media." He referred further inquiries to Mazor himself, whose only comment on Kenney's role was, "I don't think that's any of your business."

Mazor did note that he originally hired the public relations firm to help him attract business from insurance companies, "and then the Peoples Temple matter just came up, and so naturally I turned to them for help."

But a source close to Lowry, Russom and Leeper told the Barb that Mazor came to the company "saying that he wanted to become San Francisco's next Hal Lipset (a famous investigator)," and that the Peoples Temple controversy "presented an excellent opportunity" to garner publicity.

According to this source, Kenney's work for Mazor included sending out letters to selected journalists, offering them

through Mazor -- exclusive material of an incriminating nature against Peoples Temple.

Kenney's campaign resulted in at least one article in the San Francisco Chronicle last month, concerning an alleged tape recording of a telephone conversation, in which Temple members supposedly discussed irregularities on the notary seal of a document transferring title of a member's home to the Temple. The allegations raised in that story are now also in dispute.

"In another strange twist to the Peoples Temple story, American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks charged recently that he was approached on March 23 by a man who identified himself 'as working with the Treasury Department, with an Internal Revenue Service agent, and with two men from the San Francisco Police Department.'"

The man, who Banks and his associate Lehman Brightman identified as David Conn, then allegedly offered Banks help with his extradition problems in exchange for "a public denunciation" of Jim Jones. Banks is facing possible extradition from California to South Dakota.

Banks has long been a Peoples Temple supporter, and has attended Temple services three or four times. The Temple also made a loan of \$19,000 to bail Bank's wife out of prison last year. Her charges were subsequently dropped and the money was returned.

"Conn was obviously making a deal with me," Banks charged in a sworn affidavit presented at a press conference earlier this month. "I was being blackmailed."

"These agents all knew that I had a lot hanging over me. Besides the extradition, I also had a case in federal court in which the Treasury Department was involved. I have often made it clear that if I am extradited to South Dakota, that is like a sentence of death, because I am certain I will be killed there."

Banks also quoted Conn as saying that he has been investigating Peoples Temple for seven years, and was working with several ex-members, including Grace Stoen, who turned out to be another source for the New West articles.

When reached by the Barb this week, Conn admitted that he has been investigating Peoples Temple for seven years, but said that he had undertaken the project on his own, as a private matter, "because I became aware that this is one of the worst religious frauds being perpetrated. This man is ripping off the black people."

Conn also admitted that he sought out Dennis Banks and arranged a meeting, but his version of what transpired on March 23 was notably different.

"I wanted to talk to Banks because I



Temple leader Rev. Jim Jones

x-A-e-49b

respect the guy, and I was afraid that he was going to discredit himself through his association with Peoples Temple, without really knowing what they were about."

Conn, a surveyor employed by the Standard Oil Corporation, denies that he ever mentioned Banks' extradition or offered him any deals. He claims that he only mentioned the Treasury Department and other government agencies in passing, pointing out to Banks that they were conducting their own investigations of Reverend Jones and the Temple.

In fact, Conn said, it was he and Santa Rosa freelance journalist George Klineman who approached various police and governmental agencies last fall, offering them witnesses and documents with which to attack the Temple. No investigations were underway before that time.

Both George Klineman and David Conn also have connections to the New West articles -- Klineman was credited with helping write the stories, while Conn was a secondary source and appeared at a New West-sponsored press conference held at the Sheraton Palace Hotel July 20 to help promote the articles.

In addition, Conn is a close personal friend of the Mertles: the main sources for much anti-Temple publicity. By his own admission, Conn was investigating the Temple during all the years that his friends the Mertles were members.

It is also the Mertles who hired private eye Mazor and retained San Francisco attorney Daniel Deneberg to file a lawsuit against the Temple.

But nobody has been served with legal papers yet, and so for the moment there is still no way to get witnesses on the stand, under oath, to try to get at the truth about Peoples Temple once and for all.

Jim Jones is still in Guyana, where he has remained since before publication of the first anti-Temple articles on attorney Garry's orders. According to reports from Guyana, relayed by Garry, there have been two attempts on Jones' life in the last month, one staged by "three white people with guns" who came onto the Temple's 5000-acre mission.

The Dennis Banks press conference, held in Garry's downtown San Francisco office, marks the first time that Temple officials have made any comment about the various charges raised by New West and other media.

But they are still refusing to respond concretely to any particular accusations, on the grounds that they still don't know who is responsible for these attacks.

"We're going to keep our mouths shut," said attorney Garry, "until the dust settles and we get to the bottom of this. It looks like a conspiracy to me."

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## Government target of charge

# Conspiracy to destroy Peoples Temple?

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Attorney Charles Garry, charging there is a government conspiracy to "destroy" the controversial Peoples Temple Church of San Francisco, said Thursday the Temple's pastor has been shot at twice in the past four days at the church's South American agricultural mission.

Garry revealed the attempted shootings at a news conference at which Indian leader Dennis Banks said a man claiming to be a government agent tried to "blackmail" him into denouncing the pastor, the Rev. Jim Jones, in exchange for immunity against extradition to South Dakota.

Garry said two shots were fired at Jones earlier this week as three white men not associated with the Temple were leaving the agricultural mission located in Guyana and more shots were reportedly fired Thursday.

He said Jones, who resigned as head of the San Francisco Housing Authority Aug. 3, was not injured in either incident and the assailants escaped.

On Aug. 2, a \$1.1 million lawsuit was filed in San Francisco against Jones and the Peoples Temple by two former members of the church who claimed their property was taken. Some other former members have accused the church of physical and financial abuse.

Banks, a leader of the American Indian Movement who fled from South



REV. JIM JONES  
Target of conspiracy?

Dakota after being convicted of assault during a 1973 courthouse demonstration in Custer, said he was approached in February or March by a man named David Conn, who wanted to discuss his extradition.

Banks, who acknowledged friendship with Jones and said the church once helped bail his wife out of a Kansas prison, said he met with Conn at the home of another Indian and admirer of Jones, Lehman "Lee" Brightman, in El Cerrito, near San Francisco.

In a sworn statement given to reporters, Banks said: "Conn said he was working with the U.S. Treasury Department, with an IRS agent and with two men from the San Francisco Police Department."

Banks, who said the church also provided food for the Indian community, charged that Conn "read material disparaging to Jim Jones ...

"He said that my association with Peoples Temple could reflect very badly on my extradition. He then asked me to make a public denunciation of Jim Jones. He assured me that if I made such a denunciation, the rulings on my extradition would go in my favor."

Banks said he felt "I was being blackmailed." He also said he was "pressured" to meet with a Treasury Department agent but did not.

"The deal was to meet with the agent and to prepare a public statement against Jim Jones in return for some kind of immunity against my being extradited," Banks said.

Garry said he had advised Jones to stay in Guyana "until I tell him to" come back and had told Temple members not to talk to reporters.

"I don't know what's lying in the weeds," Garry said. "Until I know of any criminal or civil charges that might be pending, I don't intend to have my clients popping off."

## Attack on People's Temple hit

SAN FRANCISCO—Noted criminal attorney Charles Garry charged last week a conspiracy by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Treasury Dept. is being conducted to destroy the People's Temple as a viable community organization. Part of the evidence Garry cited was provided to him by American Indian leader Dennis Banks.

The People's Temple and its pastor, the Rev. Jim Jones, have been the objects in recent weeks of intense attacks by conservative forces with *The San Francisco Chronicle*, the morning daily paper, leading the assault.

Up to now, Garry, who is the People's Temple attorney, prevented any of the church's members from responding and has insisted that Rev. Jones remain at the Temple's mission in Guyana, South America.

### BLACKMAIL

At the Sept. 8 press conference in his law offices Garry said, "We've come to the conclusion there is a conspiracy by the IRS and other governmental agencies to destroy the People's Temple as a viable community organization."

He said a Treasury Dept. informer and an IRS agent had been attempting to buy and bribe witnesses to denounce Rev. Jones and the People's Temple.

"I maintain everyone of those persons who made statements

(against the Temple) were coerced," said Garry.

Banks, who attended the press conference, said government officials had tried to coerce him into testifying against the People's Temple but he had refused to do so.

In a sworn affidavit distributed to the press Banks claimed he had been approached last spring by a man named David Conn, who represented himself as an informer for the Treasury Dept and that he was working with an IRS agent. He said that he could favorably influence Banks' extradition hearing if Banks would publicly denounce Jim Jones and the People's Temple.

### CRITICISM

Banks is currently facing extradition hearings which would send him back to South Dakota on an assault charge. He says he faces certain death in South Dakota prisons if California Governor Edmund G. Brown, jr.

honors the request.

Banks said, "Conn was obviously making a deal with me, and I was being blackmailed. Conn let me know that besides working with Treasury agents and other government agents, that he was already working with ex-members of People's Temple, such as Grace Stoen, and that he had people who would talk against Jim Jones."

Stoen and several other ex-People's Temple members have severely criticized the mostly Black church and one couple has filed a suit to have some property returned to them.

Garry said repeatedly he did not know where the scheme against the People's Temple was leading and added he would not permit Jim Jones to return to the U.S. until he knew exactly what was going on.

Banks added that he would never denounce the People's Temple.

—J.D.

x-4-e-51

San Francisco Chronicle

Thurs., Sept. 1, 1977



## Pocketful of Notes

**PRESSTUFF:** Journalist Phil Tracy, who, along with the Chron's Marshall Kilduff, broke the Rev. Jim Jones-Peoples Temple story in New West magazine, was asked by a fellow newsman at the Press Club, "Hot story, but where's the smoking gun?" (hard evidence of wrongdoing). "The smoking gun," replied Tracy, "was Jones' resignation as chairman of the S.F. Housing Authority. That alone justified the entire article." Well, yes and no. Jones first tried to resign from the Authority in June, but Mayor Moscone, facing Prop. B and hoping to present a united front, talked him into staying. Jones wrote another letter of resignation on July 13, disclosing that Gov. Brown had offered him a spot on the State Bd. of Corrections (hey, that's news), "an area in which I have great interest." The Tracy-Kilduff piece, which apparently blasted the Rev. Jones all the way to South America, broke in the Aug. 1 issue of New West. So far, lots of smoke, but no gun.

★ ★ ★

x-4c-52



ARVYN M. DYKALLY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of California  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
107 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 4007  
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(213) (20-2560)

October 27, 1977

Honorable Forbes Burnham  
Prime Minister  
Georgetown, Guyana  
South America

Dear Mr. Burnham:

I want to share with you a matter of great concern to me.

The concept of a politically motivated conspiracy directed against an individual or organization in an attempt to discredit and destroy one's effectiveness in the political and social arena should be utterly foreign to a democratic society. Unfortunately, however, such is not the case.

Having myself been the subject of an ungrounded attack by the media and other agencies, I have first hand experience as to how such campaigns against outspoken persons are launched and carried forward.

Recently, the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado, Lieutenant Governor George Brown, and I joined the National Association of Human Rights Workers to announce the publication of an exhaustive study of organized efforts in the United States to discredit black elected officials. In looking at the extensive body of data compiled after two years of careful research, the picture is unmistakably clear that conspiracies against black and third world people are very real and serve to blunt the effectiveness of any person trying to represent the interest of third world people.

One such person to whom the media and several agencies of government have deliberately and concertedly focussed their resources is one of the most committed activists and finest human beings I know-- Reverend Jim Jones. Reverend Jones is the leader of a multi-ethnic, multi-facted, many thousand member organization known as People's Temple. It is one of the most significant forces today in the area of human rights, social change and concrete service work.

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Page two  
October 27, 1977

It is my belief that by the year 1980 the minority population in California alone will reach the 60% mark. People's Temple is a working solution to the problem that California can anticipate in the not so far distant future. People's Temple has managed to effectively organize minority and caucasians as well, into a viable, progressive force.

A noteworthy feature of the Temple's program is its compassionate emphasis on the needs of the ever growing senior population. This emphasis accurately reflects the shifting age curve of the future and meets that need with kindness not condescension.

Beyond that, Reverend Jones and People's Temple have helped every person who in recent years has been oppressed or jailed fundamentally because of his or her political beliefs. Jim has never been reticent to speak his beliefs in non-violent causes.

It is my confirmed opinion that this outspoken stance coupled with the undeniable size and effectiveness of his organization, has made him a target of the most gruelling and vicious conspiracy yet witnessed.

That which I know to be obvious, lies and frame-up, are presented to the public as thoroughly proven facts. Interestingly enough, the scurrilous nature of these lies were meted out to papers in those cities throughout the world which has the highest concentration of Caribbean and, in particular, Guyanese residents. By doing so, the organizers of this conspiracy hoped to have such information filter into Guyana where Reverend Jones has established a remarkable and highly successful model community which I personally have visited. I found that visit to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

One of the key figures in this cruel scenario is a man with a well documented criminal background who has been described by several correctional specialists as a "con man" with an insatiable desire for money and notoriety. Also involved is a high priced public relations firm whose job is to map out campaigns to discredit Reverend Jones and feed information prepackaged to a supposedly free and "objective" press.

It is clear to me that a phenomenal amount of money is being spent by this conspiracy in an attempt to destabilize the agricultural project in Guyana and to apparently, bring about the elimination of Reverend Jones.

Evidence currently being gathered points clearly to right wing forces of the first magnitude. One such force is known to have political affiliation with those remnants of the Nazis who continue

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Page three  
October 27, 1977

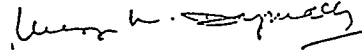
to permeate the fabric of American society to a degree that would shock people unfamiliar with the growing move to the radical right in the United States.

In fact, the last time I visited the San Francisco Headquarters of the People's Temple several weeks ago, a large Nazi rally was taking place in the nearby city of San Jose. It was covered extensively by all media. Klu Klux Klan chapters continue to grow and flourish in all parts of the United States. It is likely that the Panama Treaty will be defeated as a result of the well financed campaign against its passage. These are but a few examples to give you some idea of the current trend.

As a native of Trinidad, my bonds with the Caribbean are close and everlasting. I feel a certain responsibility to apprise you of my thoughts on Jim Jones and my interpretation of what I have seen of the attack on him and his organization in the past months. Jim is a deeply loyal and sensitive person and he is a man who stands by his word and by those who look to him for guidance and leadership. It is this kind of loyalty that makes him a man to be trusted. I know for a fact that he will stand by his commitment to Guyana just as firmly as he now stands by his commitment to any one of his children.

I look forward to future visits to Guyana and extend to you my warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



MERVYN M. DYMALLY

MMD:yms

x-4-e-55


P R E S S   S T A T E M E N T

The vendetta against Reverend Jim Jones is not a new story. History is replete with examples of the persecution of those who challenge the status quo. At one level, Reverend Jim Jones should feel a sense of pride in being immersed into the ocean of a most distinguished community of humanity --- where justice, and not expediency, is the good to be pursued; where the legitimate interest of the many, and not the whim of the few, is the mandate of the day; where truth, and not consistency, is the goal to be achieved, and where courage is one of the exacting prices for peace of mind.

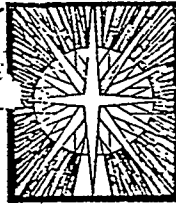
No less a stalwart than Martin Luther King found his entry into the so-called political arena, by speaking out against the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, invoked the absolute wrath of the well organized army of apologists for the status quo. Only the blind, the deaf, the dumb, and the apologists fail to see the compulsive relationship between the latest avalanche of inconsistencies, half truths, and outright lies against the Reverend Jim Jones and the upcoming elections in San Francisco.

We who support Reverend Jim Jones will continue to stand by him. We find solace in the eloquence of Thomas Paine:

"Tyranny like hell is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

  
Yvonne Scarlett Golden  
Coordinator  
Opportunity II Senior High School  
San Francisco Unified School District  
San Francisco, California

x-4c-56



## PEOPLES TEMPLE

OF THE  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Jim Jones,  
Pastor

*"For I was an hungered  
and ye gave me meat:  
I was thirsty  
and ye gave me drink;  
I was a stranger  
and ye took me in;  
Naked, and ye clothed me;  
I was sick, and ye visited me;  
I was in prison,  
and ye came unto me.*

*"Then shall the righteous  
Answer him, saying,*

*When saw we thee an hungered  
And fed thee?  
Or thirsty,*

*And gave thee drink?  
When saw we thee a stranger  
And took thee in?*

*Or naked, and clothed thee?  
Or when saw we thee sick?  
Or in prison,*

*And came unto thee?  
Verily I say unto you,*

*Inasmuch as ye have done it  
Unto one of the least of these...*

*...Ye have done it unto me."*

Matthew 25:35-40

November 16, 1977

Reg Murphy, Editor  
The San Francisco Examiner  
110 Fifth Street  
San Francisco, CA. 94103

### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Since July, 1977, with the onset of a rash of media attacks from a New West magazine article, the Peoples Temple has been subjected to a harassment campaign by some of the media which is almost unprecedented in its intensity and viciousness. The malicious, unsubstantiated charges have been proven to be the work of an orchestrated, well-organized and premeditated campaign to destroy a politically progressive church. We know McCarthyism when we see it, and we have no cause for shame. We are being attacked because of our egalitarian beliefs, because of our socialist lifestyle, and most of all because of the immense effectiveness Jim Jones and the Temple have had in championing human rights and social justice. We have helped practically every political prisoner in the United States, reached out to everyone who is oppressed, organized the poor and given them a voice. For the first time we have given some corporate power to the little man and that's an unforgiveable sin to the corporate elite. Thus, we have become the object of relentless pressure from some of the media and targeted by a government/media conspiracy for destruction.

As a congregation we are no strangers to persecution. Our church has been burned to the ground twice, our animals viciously maimed and killed, our senior members suffered

X-4-c-57

prank calls night after night, and our very lives threatened with bombs under a bus, firebombs and attempted assassinations on our leader himself. Despite all this, and despite the outrageous charges of the press, we have remained thoroughly intact and more determined than ever to show both here and in Guyana that racial, social, and economic equality can and does work.

The attacks by some of the media have been low and sickening from the start. We who have championed a free press and supported the media in their hour of need, are tired and utterly sickened at what we feel to be an outrageous abuse of media responsibility. We have refused to believe that we could not get fair play from the press. But this latest article has all but convinced us that in your paper, at least, we will only be misrepresented and maligned. Peoples Temple, too, mourned the death of a good person in Bob Houston. He was a devoted member of our church who contributed his earnings because he believed in the work the Temple does. He was not a "yes man" but an articulate leader, a member of the Board of Directors, and respected. It is this very article that smears the memory of a good person and what he stood for.

Your "news" story bears only the slightest resemblance to truth. In your zeal to portray Peoples Temple in a bad light, you printed an outrageously biased article which offends those of us who knew Bob Houston well over the past seven years. For one thing, he worked two jobs from the time he was in college, several years before he had any association with the Temple. In fact, when he continued to do this years later, it was Rev. Jones who encouraged him to give up one of his jobs to reduce the strain upon him. It was Bob's desire to persist. The Houston grandchildren are another case in point. They have been writing their grandparents faithfully. The grandparents can visit the children, who are happily residing in Guyana with their mother's full approval, any time they please. That is a matter of record, a record of which the reporter was aware but chose not to print. Charles Garry, the Temple's attorney, talked with the reporter for a full hour, and Phyllis Houston, the children's mother, talked to him for for a half-hour about the fullness and security of life the children are leading in Guyana. A few short statements, lost amidst surrilous allegations, are all that found their way into print.

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When a ruthless conspiracy was exposed at the source of the media attacks against the Temple, the Examiner itself reported some of the details. Light was shed on some of the devious and unscrupulous individuals who engineered this travesty of truth that some of the media was attempting to pass off as fact. Friday, September 9th, the Examiner wrote: "Indian leader Dennis Banks produced an affidavit in which he claimed he was approached by a man named David Conn, who said he was working with government agencies, and who advised him to denounce Jim Jones in exchange for favorable consideration in his extradition troubles." Conn identified himself as working with the Treasury Department and the IRS. The Progress and the Berkeley Barb reported that Conn was identified as a close friend of Elmer and Deanna Mertle, the latter (aka Jeanie Mills) whom the Examiner felt free to quote as a source in the Houston article this weekend. The plot has evidently sucked in many. It is by no means a new tactic. Sacco and Vanzetti, the Scottsboro Boys, the Rosenbergs, Martin Luther King and numerous Black elected officials --the list goes on and on-- all have known what it is to be tried, convicted and hung in the "court of public opinion".

In Guyana, we have the new society which progressive leaders in this country have gone down for. We have equality, dignity, and renewed purpose. We have the best of food, housing, and education, and the most sophisticated medical clinic and doctor's care, and a challenging and productive job for everyone. No one handed it to us on a silver platter. We worked for it and our leader, especially, Jim Jones, has worked so hard day and night throughout the years that a small fraction of it could not be told. We have "the better life", a viable solution to economically and racially torn America, on our own land, for our own people. What Charles Garry and hundreds of officials from America and many nations who have visited the agricultural project have said is unequivocally true: It is paradise. It is a model to be emulated around the world.

- 4 -

If this good news were given as much attention and publicity in the press as the negation of our work has received, we wonder then who would win in the court of public opinion.

We deny all the distorted allegations, half-truths, innuendoes, and outright lies made against us. We, the undersigned, represent the members of Peoples Temple who demand that an apology is in order. If reason does not succeed, then we will begin litigation.

Signed,

S. L. Bradshaw  
S.L. Bradshaw, member

Jim MacElvane  
Jim MacElvane, member

Timothy Clancey  
Timothy Clancey, member

Yvonne Golden  
Yvonne Golden, supporter

Christina Vasquez  
Christina Vasquez, Supporter

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#### Section Five

This section includes more articles demonstrating the persistence with which media pushed state and local officials and agencies into investigating Peoples Temple. Mayor Moscone was pressured by Supervisor Quentin Kopp to conduct an investigation, and the press threw suspicion on Rev. Jones' record as Housing Authority Chairman. State Department of Health was prompted to look into the allegations; Elmer and Deanna Mertle (see Part I) filed suit in Superior Court accusing the Temple (which had fed, housed and supported their family for over six years) of "ending up with everything I had." Allegations of care home mismanagement and property "swindles" pushed San Francisco and Mendocino County District Attorney Offices to investigate. State level investigations were also activated.

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# Jones quits housing board

## Churchman sends message from Guyana

By Don Canter  
and Tim Reiterman

The Rev. Jim Jones, politically potent faith healer whose Peoples Temple is under intensifying investigation, has resigned as head of the San Francisco Housing Authority, the mayor's office, and church officials said today.

Jones, named to the authority last fall, dictated his resignation letter from the temple's agricultural mission in the South American country of Guyana, where he has been for several weeks. It was signed by an aide and sent to Mayor Moscone's office late yesterday.

In the letter, Jones said he was stepping down because his responsibilities to the mission left him with a "lack of time" for other work. Moscone's press secretary said the resignation was accepted.

The resignation comes at a time when several governmental agencies, including the San Francisco district attorney's office, are looking into the temple's financial affairs and allegations that congregation members were physically abused.

Jones was appointed to the Housing Authority last October and became chairman in February with the approval of Moscone. He was paid \$25 per meeting as a member of the agency, which has jurisdiction over all the City's low-income public housing projects.

At least three other temple members work at the agency. They are Jean Brown, hired Aug. 16, 1976 and paid \$15,496 a year to head training programs; Vera Young, hired as a secretary on Aug. 4, 1976 at \$9,256 a year, and Caroline Brown, hired as Brown's assistant Sept. 7, 1976 at \$14,420 a year.

Housing staffers said Brown, assistant secretary of the temple, got her pay at the request of Bernard Tenenbaum, the mayor's top aide.

Housing Authority executive director Walter Scott said Brown's performance was "outstanding" and that she worked "twice as hard" as most employees.

Housing Authority meetings changed dramatically when Jones came on the scene. The previously sparsely attended meetings had overflowed crowds, thanks to the busloads of temple members.

Jones usually was accompanied by temple lawyer Eugene Chaiken and several husky temple members who stationed themselves at strategic locations, apparently acting as body guards. Temple members frequently applauded Jones' remarks and during long meetings lunches were provided by the church.

Moscone refused last week to conduct an investigation of Jones requested by Supervisor Quentin Kopp, who said he felt "uneasy" about allegations contained in recent published articles. Moscone dismissed a New West magazine article as "a series of allegations with absolutely no hard evidence that the Rev. Jones has violated any laws."

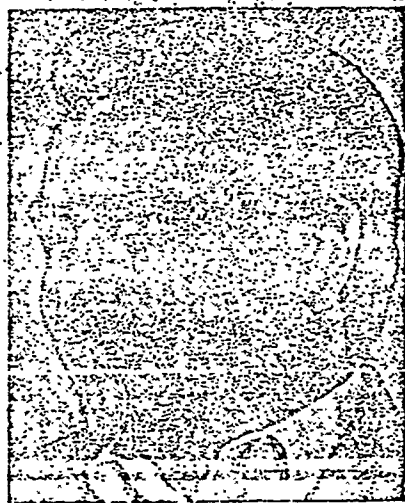
However, the district attorney's office later announced it was investigating the temple and was interviewing former temple members.

The state Department of Health also is looking into allegations of irregularities in the operation of care homes by temple members, and the Mendocino County Social Services Department, where the church once was headquartered, said it is investigating charges of misuse of tax money intended for the care of youths and the elderly.

"Our agency has the responsibility to monitor the temple, which we license and we continually do that," Dennis Denney, head of Mendocino social services, said today.

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He cites  
'a lack  
of time'



The Rev.  
Jim Jones

"The department is reacting to press statements and has intensified our investigation into those alleged acts. We are working with the district attorney and all law enforcement agencies."

San Francisco Dist. Atty. Joseph Freitas said he ordered the review after reading the article on the Temple in New West magazine.

"I saw the story and while my analysis of the story was that allegations of possible criminal activity occurred all in Mendocino County, I felt since there is a large People's Temple congregation in San Francisco (chief of special prosecution) Bob Graham should determine if there's any need for a criminal investigation."

Freitas added there has been no evidence to date of criminal activities in San Francisco.

Graham told the Examiner that upwards of 30 former temple members and a couple of current members have been interviewed.

He confirmed that the district attorney's office was looking into allegations of beatings, improper transfers, and reports that children were illegally sent to South America.

He said most of the reported beatings involved adults who consented, but added his office was interested in children who may have been spanked or beaten.

In a related development, Schools Supt. Robert Alioto said he has assigned a staff member to investigate the possibility that temple members were improperly admitted to Opportunity II High School last fall.

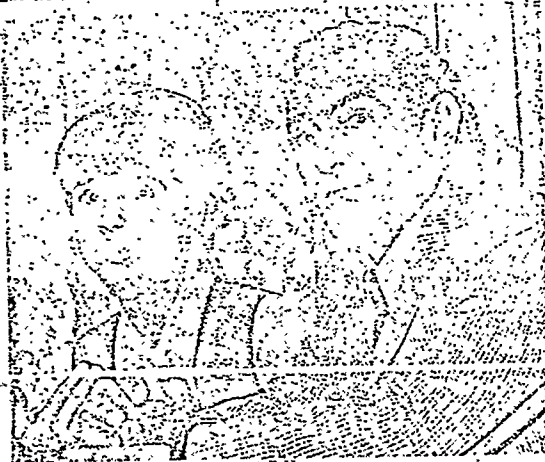
Ron Cabral, a teacher at the school, said between 80 and 100 of the school's 3rd pupils were temple members last year. Among the students were three of Jones' children, Jim Jr., and two boys named Tim Jones.

Opportunity II High School accepts pupils who often cannot adjust in The City's other high schools. If students were admitted without going through the normal procedures or if they were given precedence over students on a waiting list, the admissions may have been improper.

Cabral conceded it was unusual to have such a large number of pupils from one organization in the school.

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Examiner 7-20-77



Examiner Photo by Judith Carlson

Deanna and Eimer Mertle, who charged intimidation

## S.F. Temple accused of home care offenses

The State Department of Health is looking into allegations of irregularities in the operation of care homes by members of San Francisco's Peoples Temple.

The allegations published in New West magazine have been denounced by the church as "massive distortion, exaggeration, logical characterization and outright lies."

Quoting former members of the Temple, the magazine said that the home operators turned over checks for the care of juveniles and older people to the Temple.

At a press conference today, two former members quoted in the New West article elaborated on their charges of intimidation by the church.

Eimer and Deanna Mertle of Berkeley said that they had signed

false admissions of misconduct, as well as hundreds of blank pieces of paper.

In another development, the Rev. Jim Jones, leader of Peoples Temple, was ordered yesterday to appear in court to answer questions about a 13-year-old girl whose mother wants her home.

Juvenile Court Judge Joseph Kennedy issued a writ of habeas corpus at the request of Lillian Rich Martin of Oakland, mother of Ernestine Ruth Glazer.

The mother said her daughter left home in December 1975 after joining the temple which, she alleged, has taken "possession and physical custody" of her.

She said she sought court aid because she fears her daughter will be taken to Guyana where Peoples Temple operates an agricultural mission.

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Wed., Aug. 31, 1977

San Francisco Chronicle

## \$1.1 Million Suit Against Rev. Jones

By Marshall Kilduff

A \$1.1 million lawsuit against the Peoples Temple and its beleaguered leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, was filed here yesterday by two former members who claimed their daughter was beaten and their property sold off.

The suit was filed in Superior Court by Jeannette and Al Mills, who were members of the controversial church from 1970 to 1975.

The Millses and other former followers of Jones have charged that he ordered church members beaten, and bilked some out of their property and possessions.

Since the charges were made over a month ago, Jones has remained at his church's South American mission in Guyana, where several hundred church members are reportedly migrating.

In the lawsuit the Millses claim they were pressured into signing over property in Willits and Redwood Valley in Mendocino county and that these deed forms were improperly notarized. Another piece of the couple's property in Richmond ended up in the ownership of another church member, Andrew Silver, the suit alleged.

The couple has asked that the

Richmond property be returned and that the proceeds from the sale of their other two parcels — valued at about \$160,000 — be refunded.

They also requested equal sums of \$300,000 for punitive damages and mental anguish suffered by them and their daughter Linda Merile, who allegedly was beaten by a church disciplinarian.

Named along with Jones were his wife, Marceline Silver; church attorneys Eugene Chalkin and Timothy O. Stoen; Dale E. Parks and Ruby Carroll.

The suit was filed by attorney Daniel K. Denenberg.

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## DA Probing Rev. Jim Jones, Peoples Temple

The district attorney's office has begun an investigation into allegations made against the Rev. Jim Jones and his Peoples Temple.

Robert Graham, chief of the special prosecutions unit, said yesterday that "we're checking to see if there is any evidence that crimes have been committed in the city and county of San Francisco."

The length of the inquiry, he said, "depends on what we turn up."

Two weeks ago, New West magazine charged that members of the Temple lost people, that the Temple's cancer cures were faked, and that members were talked into turning over large sums of money to the Temple.

Board of Supervisors President Quentin Kopp subsequently asked Mayor George Moscone to initiate an inquiry, but the mayor refused, saying:

"I have read the recent well-published article concerning the Rev. Jim Jones and find it to be a series of allegations with absolutely no hard evidence that the Rev. Jones has violated any laws, either local, state or federal."

The mayor added that his office was "not equipped, nor inclined" to conduct such investigations and "those who call for us to do so know that."

Graham said there was no contradiction between the mayor's remarks and the district attorney's office decision to investigate.

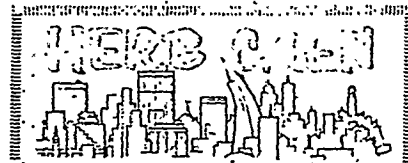
The new issue of the magazine, on sale today, recaps the previous article and raises the possibility of some tie between the Temple and the mysterious deaths of two persons connected with the Temple.

In Ukiah, meanwhile, where the Temple has another branch, Mendocino county social service department officials are investigating New West allegations that \$25,000 money intended for the care of the elderly or for maintenance of juvenile wards was misused. District Attorney Duncan James said that the social workers "are looking into the problem to determine if there was proper use of public money."

No other investigation is planned in Mendocino county, the district attorney said.

San Francisco, Calif.  
Chronicle  
(Ch. D. 427,316)  
Ch. Tel. 225,875

x-4-c-66



### Bay Area Rapid Turkey

SCOOPS DU JOUR: Dist. Atty. Joe Freitas will announce shortly that his investigation into the sometimes bizarre affairs of Rev. Jim Jones and Peoples Temple has uncovered "no evidence of criminal activity" and that the matter is now "inactive." Other probers, some on the State level, are still sniffling about, however. . . . As for rumors that Freitas' Consumer Fraud specialist, Ray Bonner, is being forced out by pressure from the business community, the D.A. says indignantly, "Absolutely not! Ray is going on leave to study Spanish in Mexico and then he'll be back on my staff. One of my most valuable people." Nevertheless, certain big firms, such as American Savings, hope Bonner drinks LOTS of Mexican water. . . . Have a weird day: S.F. Actor Mark McIntire, the Kennedy lookalike who does a one-man show titled "JFK Lives," has a new backer — Jack Ruby! That would be retired Army Col. Jack Ruby of Palo Alto, a pilot who will fly McIntire to his various dates on college campuses, where the show is a big draw. . . . Burnee-burnee: As for Supe (and ex-Police Chief) Al Nelder's coy hints that he may try for Mayor, Andrew Betancourt suggests he run in Novato, "home of the San Francisco Police Department." Drive carefully, Betancourt.

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Section Six

Articles have persisted in accusing the Temple of abducting children and taking them away from their parents or guardians to Guyana. As Bob Graham of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office stated, however, "Every case referred to us for investigation had someone giving consent, parents or guardians."

Of those children mentioned in the attached articles, Ernestine Glazier was living in San Francisco in her grandmother's custody. The court had determined the mother unfit. The press, however, chose to champion Lanie Martin as a mother deprived of her daughter's custody by the Temple.

Larry Tupper Jr. is with his mother in Guyana. Mark Sly is with his father. Vincent Lopez, also cited by the press as a questionable custody case, was abandoned by his guardian and left on the Temple premises for months with no word or financial assist from the "anonymous" warden. Paul and Patricia Petit are with their mother in San Francisco.

x-4-e-68

## Judge's Order to Peoples Temple Chief

By Michael Taylor

Superior Court Judge Joseph Kennedy yesterday ordered Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones to appear in court and explain the status of a 16-year-old temple member whose mother wants her back.

Kennedy issued a writ of habeas corpus at the request of Lanie Bell Martin, an Oakland woman who claims Peoples Temple has "possession and physical custody" of Ernestine Ruth Grazier.

The writ also ordered the girl's grandmother to appear in court.

The mother said her daughter left home in December, 1975, after joining the controversial religious group.

The mother said in her petition that she asked for court help because she fears Peoples Temple is trying to "take the child to South America where Jones has an agricultural mission."

Gene Chakun, a spokesman for the temple, said the child "was located this afternoon and is on the way to the Youth Guidance Center."

Officials at the center refused last night to confirm or deny that the girl was there.

The complex legal squabble began July 11, Martin said, when she found out that her daughter was staying with her maternal grandmother, Esther Dillard in San Francisco. (Chakun confirmed that the child lives in that household.)

Before that discovery, Martin said, "Last night I found out where she was staying, my mother moved her."

Martin said her mother asked her on July 11 to sign "some papers" which, she said, would have given the temple permission to take the child to South America. Martin subsequently filed her request with the court.

Reached at the temple, Dillard said, "Well, here I have no comments to make."

Judge Kennedy said yesterday that if neither Jones nor Dillard show up at his 375 Woodside avenue court at 9 a.m. tomorrow, he would be compelled to issue warrants for their arrest.

As long as one of the two shows up to explain the situation, it is doubtful he would order the arrest of the other, the judge said.

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Monterey, Ca.  
Peninsula Herald  
(Cir. 5xW. 30,048)  
(Cir. S. 30,124)

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1828

## Members Leave S.F. Commune

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Members of controversial People's Temple are leaving communes here in the wake of bad publicity, possibly bound for the church's South American agricultural mission, officials said Wednesday.

The San Francisco district attorney's office said large numbers of the congregation — possibly as many as 500 — have left the San Francisco Bay area after increased accounts in the media of alleged bizarre behavior behind the temple's closed doors.

Bob Graham, in charge of the investigation of the Rev. Jim Jones' temple, said the 500 figure is based on interviews with about 50 former members in the past few weeks and on checks of known temple communes.

"We believe an excess of 100 persons and maybe 400 to 500 persons have left," he said. "It is our understanding that a large number of people are gone."

Graham said that temple members apparently are being bused to various spots in the country, mainly in the East, before being flown to Guyana, where the temple says it operates an agricultural mission.

### Children

"There is no indication at this time that any of the children are being taken there without consent," said Graham. "Every case referred to us for investigation had someone giving consent, parents or guardians."

According to published reports, the move to Guyana has been in Jones' plan for several years. Members have said in published accounts that Jones has called the church's 27,000-acre development "the Promised Land."

Former members say the plan accelerated after a recent article in New West magazine alleged the church controlled its members through beatings, phony faith healings and property transfers. That account quoted about a dozen self-proclaimed former church members.

### 25 Communes

Former members have said the church at its peak had as many as 25 communes in San Francisco. The district attorney's office said it was not certain of the number of communes but disclosed investigators found several communes empty and only one inhabited.

Graham said the investigation was continuing, but said no criminal actions have resulted so far from the allegation.

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Section Seven

Included here are some articles which came out in defense of the Temple. There was actually a very large number of leaders from religious, political and community organizations who spoke out on behalf of Rev. Jones and Temple human service works in the community and abroad. However, very few of these statements, even when issued to all print and electronic media, were carried before the public. When Temple press releases or letters were published, they were largely abridged. Our only recourse for making our own side of the story known was through our own newspaper, the Peoples Forum.

x-4-e-71

Burstow, California  
Desert Dispatch  
(Cir. 5XW. 6,204)

AUG 10 1977

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1938

## Guyana Commune A Startling Success

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (UPI) — About 100 followers of a self-styled San Francisco bishop started a multiracial agricultural commune three years ago in the jungles of this South American nation and according to all reports, they are surviving and prospering.

At Port Kaituma in

Guyana's North West District at the western end of the country about 100 persons — all U.S. citizens — have carved an agricultural project from hundreds of acres of land formerly occupied by forest.

The architect of the project is Bishop Jim Jones of the People's Temple of San Francisco who visited

the project recently to observe its progress and expressed satisfaction. The People's Temple was given land on lease by the Guyana Government, which has given every cooperation.

The project was started about three years ago and now the settlers of all races are living in 41 completed homes constructed mostly

by themselves. There is a plan to build another 100 houses during the next year.

Jones said his objective in Guyana is to join the government in helping to develop the country. He said he has invested over \$1 million in the project. Vegetable and fruit production has been abundant with trees and plants flourishing

in what was once virgin land. The farm supplies food for the workers, who are now self-sufficient, the community of Port Kaituma and Matthew's Ridge while the surplus is sent to the capital, Georgetown.

The problem of insect and pest control is also being tackled successfully.

22-2-4-X

# Pastor a Charlatan to Some, a Philosopher to Wife

By WALLACE TURNER  
Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 1—No matter what others say, to his wife, Jim Jones is a Marxist social philosopher and pastor to whom "service to my fellow man is the highest service to God."

But in a flood of recent publicity, Mr. Jones has been pictured as a charlatan who victimizes those whose religious faith he captures, taking their property, physically abusing them and using them as pawns in his political power games.

Mr. Jones, 46 years old, resigned his appointive position as chairman of the San Francisco Housing Authority after the criticism began. District attorneys in San Francisco and Mendocino Counties are checking allegations of irregularities in property transfers. The California Secretary of State's office is checking allegations that notaries public improperly endorsed some transfer documents.

These are the most serious charges made to date, although there have also been allegations of physical mistreatment, such as disciplinary paddlings, and the use of shoddy tricks to impress members of his congregation.

## Former Members Quoted

The trouble for Mr. Jones and his 9,000-member church was made public two months ago in an article in New West magazine. The article quoted former members who told about their dissatisfaction. Then both San Francisco dailies, The Chronicle and The Examiner, printed articles on the matter.

Throughout all this, Mr. Jones, a Butler University graduate and United Church of Christ minister for 25 years, has been unavailable. Marceline Jones, his wife of 28 years, said in an interview this week that he was at the church's agricultural mission, a 27,000-acre jungle tract on the northeast coast of South America at Guyana.

Beyond issuing blanket denials of wrongdoing, Mr. Jones has not discussed the charges, nor have members of his congregation.

A registered nurse, Mrs. Jones worked for 10 years for the California State Board of Health until resigning Aug. 1 for reasons, she said, of health and because of pressing duties at the temple. In the interview, she described her husband as a Marxist who holds religion's trappings to be useful chiefly for social and economic uplift.

"Jim has used religion to try to get some people out of the opiate of religion," she said. She quoted him as saying to her, "Marcie, I've got to destroy this paper idol," as he slammed down the Bible he held in his hand.

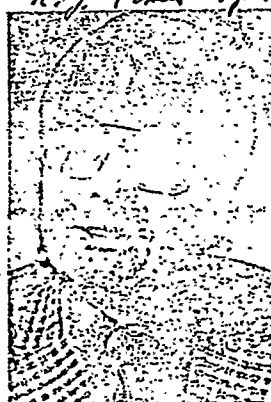
They were married in 1949, when he was 19 and she was 22. They have one natural son, Stephen Gandhi Jones, and seven adopted children who are black, Korean, Indian and Caucasian.

"I wanted to come to California because the multiracial nature of our family was a problem in Indiana," she said. "But we've had problems here, too."

With 120 followers, they moved in 1965 from Indianapolis to Ukiah, Calif. Five years ago they opened the church here in an old building in a black slum. The agricultural project opened four years ago.

In an interview a year ago, Mr. Jones said that his congregation was 40 percent Caucasian, 40 percent black and 20 percent a mixture of Oriental, Indian and Chicano. He is of Welsh and Indian extraction, and Mrs. Jones is Caucasian.

The congregation is activist. A year ago 1,200 members picketed the Fresno



Jim Jones

County Courthouse while four employees of The Fresno Bee were held in jail for refusing to identify their news sources.

Mr. Jones said then that the temple supported many causes to protect newspaper sources. He said of the Fresno pickets, "I can't stand to see our press crippled. Who else would take a stand? Our duty is to be here."

Mr. Jones's alleged political strength has been emphasized in the newspaper accounts of temple affairs. The published names have been mostly those of liberal Democrats such as Mayor George Moscone, who appointed Mr. Jones as chairman of the housing authority; Assemblyman Willie Brown, and Sheriff Richard Hongisto. All have been supported by the

temple at election time and have appeared at temple meetings.

However, the record also shows that the pastor has sought to establish friendships and dialogue with other leaders, including officials of the John Birch Society who have also spoken at temple meetings.

One of Mr. Jones's techniques for gaining attention has been to make substantial contributions by checks to newspaper publishers, saying that the money was to support press freedom. In this way, he became known to the late Charles Thieriot, publisher of The Chronicle, who sent the money to Sigma Delta Chi, a national journalism organization.

The pastor's aim, according to his wife, is to provide a communal life for all his members. "We live by the rule of from each according to his ability and to each according to his need," she said. Funds are pooled, she said, with medical care, dental care, housing and food, educational expenses and church expenses paid from the common purse.

The temple has educated a medical doctor who now is interning in Guyana, she said. A dentist educated by the temple is among the former members whose criticisms are the basis for some of the temple's unfavorable publicity, she said.

Mr. Jones's Marxist twist to religion came to him when he was about 21 years old, his wife said. She said that he told her then that "in order to bring people out of their superstition you have to give them a substitute." She recalled that he pointed out that Jesus told the rich man, "Sell what you have and give it to the poor."

Mrs. Jones was asked if she contributed her salary to the temple when she worked for the state. She did not.

"Jim and I have long felt that if they didn't assassinate him, they'd try to get him by law," she said. "I put my checks in a special fund so Jim could have the best legal counsel."

## Strong Support Shown For Peoples Temple

For the first time since Peoples Temple was attacked by New West magazine two issues ago, Rev. Jim Jones spoke to members of his congregation and supporters here by a telephone relay from Guyana, South America, during last Sunday's temple services.

"I know some of you are wanting to fight, but that's exactly what the system wants. It wants to use us as sacrificial lambs, as a scapegoat. Don't fall into this trap by yielding to violence, no matter what kind of lies are told on us or how many," Jones urged the several thousands listening.

"Peoples Temple has helped practically every political prisoner in the United States. We've reached out to everyone who is oppressed, and that's what is bothering them. We've organized poor people and given ourselves a voice. The system doesn't mind corporate power for the ruling elite, but for the first time we've given some corporate power to the little man, and that's an unfor-

givable sin. And that's the whole problem in a nutshell," Jones said.

Strong and impressive support was extended by a wide range of community groups and leaders to Rev. Jones and Peoples Temple in the wake of publicity prompted by the New West attack. Virtually all of the speakers at the church's Sunday service emphasized the theme of a political attack on Jim Jones and his ministry.

Assemblyman Willie Brown said the temple was being persecuted for being a symbol of equal rights and equal justice.

"When somebody like Jim Jones comes on the scene and talks about Angela Davis, for example, and the Black Panther Party having a right to function and survive, and when he constantly stresses the need for freedom of speech and equal justice under the law for all peoples, that absolutely scares the hell out of almost everybody occupying positions of power in the system.... I will be here when you are under

attack," Brown told the congregation, "because what you are about is what the whole system ought to be about!"

Another assemblyman, Art Agnos, spoke up for the temple and its work. "I am proud to

stand with you," he said. "I have seen you wherever people have needed help. It is clear you are effective; people who are not effective don't get at-

tacked."

Gay leaders Harvey Milk and Howard Wallace both voiced support. Wallace, the head of Gay Action, told the congregation, "Peoples Temple has sent shock waves through the gay community. Rev. Jones has set an example for everybody who believes in human rights. Great numbers of gay people are well aware of your stand, and we won't forget it."

Civil rights activist Yvonne Golden, who heads Opportunity II High School, said she considered the attack on Peoples Temple an attack on herself because she and the temple stand for the same humanistic goals. "I have seen the kind of sharing and respect and dignity displayed every day in the many children you send to Opportunity II High School," Ms. Golden

said.

"Peoples Temple has been helping me for ten years," Human Rights Commissioner Enola Maxwell told the audience. She related how the temple helped many people who came to the Polera Hill neighborhood, by feeding them, getting them out of jail, and helping foreign students and others who came and got stranded.

Among others who attended the service were Rev. Cecil Williams, Human Rights Commissioner Sylvester Herring (of Delancey Street), NAACP President Joe Hall, and San Francisco School Board mem-

ber Peter Mezey. Such community groups as Prisoners Union, People Against Nuclear Power, and the International Hotel were also well represented.

Community Leaders Rally  
Behind Peoples Temple

See Page 3

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## REV. JIM JONES

(Speaking publicly to members of his congregation and supporters via telephone relay from Guyana, South America).

"Peoples Temple has helped practically every political prisoner in the United States. We have reached out to everyone who is oppressed, and that's what is bothering them. We've organized poor people and given them a voice. The system doesn't mind corporate power for the ruling elite, but for the first time we've given some corporate power to the little man and that's an unforgivable sin. And that's the whole problem in a nutshell."



The following are a selection of excerpts from statements made in recent days by a wide variety of civic, community, and religious leaders in response to a sensationalistic smear campaign directed at Peoples Temple and its minister, Rev. Jim Jones.

*"And all that believed were together, and had all things common and sold their possessions and goods; and parted them to all men, as every man had need."*  
Acts 2:44,45

Peoples Temple has built an economic and social structure patterned after the Christian ethical teachings of sharing; an apostolic, socialistic life that guarantees all members of the church family, the "household of the faith," an equal standard. Because we have taken literally the Acts of the Apostles where the disciples of Christ pooled their resources and had ALL THING COMMON, the members of Peoples Temple enjoy an abundance of health and well-being. There is no exploitation; there is no poverty or want. On the contrary, we have found in sharing and living equally, a profound humanization reflected in the care and concern shown to every individual. The equalitarian lifestyle in Peoples Temple has developed in the membership compassion, courage, and liberation, as opposed to the visions of brutality, fear and oppression that lurk in the minds of those few former members who would only live for self.

The Temple is targeted for destruction because it represents a determined effort to deal with the most fundamental problem of our society: oppression of the poor. The charges made against us are an inevitable result of the success of the work the Temple is engaged in. We represent the power of ordinary people to come together and "do-for-self." We represent the antithesis of the profit-greed system of ruthless exploitation of the poor. We represent an answer that the real power-brokers do not want, because if it succeeds, they fear the power will be taken out of their hands and returned to the people.

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Advertisement

# **MERVYN M. DYMALLY** Lieutenant Governor

"Not surprisingly, the metropolitan media have singled out Peoples Temple for scrutiny and criticism. This unusual attack, or the Church is the cause of great concern and anguish among the friends of Peoples Temple. However, I am pleased to report that those of us who have looked at the great work of Rev. Jim Jones will continue to have strength in our commitment to him."



# **MICHAEL SNEDEKER**

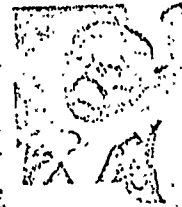
Attorney, Prisoners Union:

"I believe (Peoples Temple) is one of the most important organizations in California. It seems to me that their efforts to combine the material and the spiritual into real existence, to effectively recognize the humanity of all races and ages, to realize the capabilities of everybody, to take care of each other and to take responsibility for the world in which they live, follows the grain of what must be done to build a fully human world."

# **WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.**

Calif. State Assembly:

"When somebody like Jim Jones comes on the scene and talks about Angela Davis, for example, and the Black Panther Party having a right to survive and function, and constantly stresses the need for freedom of speech and equal justice under the law for all people, that absolutely scares the hell out of most everybody occupying positions of power in the system.... I will be here when you are under attack, because what you are about is what the whole system ought to be about!"



# **CONNIE WILLIAMS**

President, West Coast Caribbean Association:

"This church, for many years, has been a refuge for literally thousands of poor people, mainly black but consisting of all racial backgrounds in the country. Because Jim Jones has boldly defended the rights of the poor and oppressed in this racist society, he has suffered continuous harassment and persecution. It is not only difficult but dangerous, as you might well imagine, to stand for egalitarian principles in our society. This automatically results in attacks by reactionary forces. But Jim Jones has always remained undaunted...."

# **ART AGNOS**

California State Assembly:

"I am proud to stand with you. I have seen you wherever people have needed help. It is clear you are effective; people who are not effective are not attacked."



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8-11-77

# STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR

## JOSEPH E. HALL

President, San Francisco Branch, NAACP

"Rev. Jim Jones has been a friend to hundreds of youth in the city, and his church has rehabilitated many from drug use, helped young people out of legal difficulty and anti-social patterns, and brought out the finest potential in people who were held back due to the hardships and oppression of their lives. He has established tutorial and educational programs, opportunities for youth to receive free job training, and legal and medical services for the indigent. His church has taken in senior citizens cast aside by their relatives, and children abandoned by parents and unwanted by agencies. He has provided a wholesome environment where people are accepted and made to feel needed and productive regardless of race, sex, age or educational or religious background."



## ENOLA MAXWELL

Commissioner of Human Rights

"The Peoples Temple has been helping me for 10 years. I was being investigated as a minister of the Olive Presbyterian Church, and it was the help, the letters of encouragement, and the donations from Peoples Temple that gave me the strength and the courage years ago to keep going. You've helped many people, who came to Portrero Hill, by feeding them, getting them out of jail, and even helping foreign students and others who came to us and got stranded. Thank you for all you've done."

## DONNETER LANE

Executive Director, San Francisco Council of Churches

"It is a privilege that I/we have the opportunity to express a word of concern for the Christian ministry of the Rev. Jim Jones."

"Throughout Christendom there have always been those who rejected those who would be followers of Christ. The Scriptures say: 'Feed the hungry - clothe the naked - heal the sick.' He has the spiritual gift of healing and provisions, provided for those seeking help."

"Rev. Jones has contributed spiritually to the San Francisco Council of Churches Board of Directors since becoming a member. His members have shown concern in the issues related to Council work. There is a true spiritual commitment and voluntarily rendered. Rev. Jim Jones' philosophy is a challenge to the citizens of San Francisco and especially to Christians who are not committed to the Christian doctrines."

## JOAN A. BRANN

"I am a member of San Francisco's black community. Rev. Jones is being maligned by the press. This man is sincerely committed to the poor, the elderly, and to those whose spirits have been worn down by the vicissitudes of racism."



## CHARLES BRIODY

Bay Area Ecumenical Committee of Concern for Chile

"I hope that you understand that the media attack on Rev. Jones is part of what appears to be a coordinated right wing propaganda offensive aimed at dividing working people that currently is sweeping our country and is characterized by a resurgence of the Nazi Party, Ku Klux Klan, anti-Semitic 'New Right' and racist organizing in a period of extreme economic crisis when such periods classically appear in many capitalist societies."

"Knowing of the internationally coordinated fascist plot which overthrew the government of Salvador Allende in Chile, I cannot but be sensitive to the totally contrived and subversive nature of the media smear against this exemplary man, Jim Jones."

## YVONNE S. GOLDEN



Pres. Black Teacher's Caucus, said she considered the attack on Peoples Temple an attack on herself because she and the Temple stand for the same ideals. "I have seen the kind of sharing and respect and dignity displayed every day in the children that you send to Opportunity II High School..."

"We who support Reverend Jim Jones will continue to stand by him."

## REV. LYNN HODGES

former Executive Minister of No. Calif. Ecumenical Council and the S. F. Council of Churches

"I have had many opportunities to work with and observe Jim Jones and his people. In every instance they displayed an enormous amount of integrity and commitment to the poor and the oppressed. I can only wish that all churches did as much to help those who need help. At this point it would appear that a conspiracy has formed for the purpose of hurting the ministry of Peoples Temple."

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# JIM JONES AND PEOPLES TEMPLE

## JOE JOHNSON

"Concerning them I say without qualification that this church has been second to none in preventing crime in the city. They have donated thousands of dollars to city-sponsored fund drives for the purpose of creating summer jobs for youth and programs for cultural enrichment. Too often clever and cynical newswriters, skilled in the art of withering sarcasm and satire can capture the imagination of people, take statements violently out of context and create an atmosphere where violence and harassment result. On two occasions that I know of, this church has been burned, its members physically attacked, its youngsters attending school humiliated and terrorized. In spite of these discouraging incidents Peoples Temple has remained a vital force for decency and dignity for us all. The article printed by New West and others are typical of the forces of evil who would destroy a good thing."



## HOWARD WALLACE Gay Action Labor Committee:

"They (Peoples Temple) are now an object of right-wing attacks because they practice what they preach—solidarity with the oppressed and exploited of the earth. The Temple's consistent struggle on behalf of democratic rights and against social and economic inequality is without parallel, even in San Francisco, historically a center of progressive movements. I am one of many thousands in this city who take pride in counting Rev. Jim Jones and Peoples Temple among my friends."

## CHRISTINA VASQUEZ

National Rep., Equal Rights Congress:

"I for one have seen the fruits of your work and have seen that you practice what you teach. There is no doubt in my mind that when an issue of justice or human rights has come to your attention, you have always responded in every way possible to help. I would like to express that although it outrages me to see what the news media is doing, it does not surprise me. In my life I have seen that we are always played against each other—church against church, blacks against latinos, latinos against blacks, every minority and working people blaming each other for their problems and failures because that way they can keep us apart, not seeing that the real problem is between those who have, and those who don't."

## MARGIE BAKER, Supervisor, S.F. Public Schools:

"Rev. Jones and his congregation have done so much for young people who otherwise would be wasting their lives away."



## CARLTON B. GOODLETT, Ph.D., M.D.

President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association:

"An institution that feeds the poor, houses the homeless, rescues young and old from the wretchedness of despair and drug addiction, marshals the political potential of a people, and husbands the economic pitance of the poor masses into a powerful instrument for justice, freedom, and equality, while building a just and humane society, by its very nature will have many enemies hidden, lurking in the shadows of greed, ignorance, neurosis and hallucinations. If such an institution becomes powerful, then it must expect its enemies to become powerful."

"Surely many good men and women of courage, steadfastness, and fundamental belief in the power of the organized masses will see in Jim Jones and Peoples Temple not a comet that momentarily lights up the darkness, but another reminder of the meanings of Edmund Burke's prophetic words, uttered before the birth of the nation 200 years ago: 'All that is necessary for evil in the world to triumph is for good men to do nothing.'"

## DENNIS BANKS American Indian Movement:



"When you begin to struggle and when you begin to win battles, when you begin to be heard... they turn around and they come after you. The American Indian Movement will move to the front to defend Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple, no matter what type of attack is made against this temple, no matter how many vicious lies and distortions are made against Rev. Jim Jones."

## JOHN MAHER

Delancey Street:

"The Rev. Jim Jones and his congregation have done as much good in the Western Addition privately as all the government agencies put together have done publicly—at great cost to the taxpayer."

## Peoples Temple - Families Complain

By Marshall Kilduff

At least six families have complained to the San Francisco District Attorney's office about the treatment and whereabouts of some dozen relatives who are members of the controversial Peoples Temple.

Deputy District Attorney Daniel Weinstein said his office has found no grounds for a criminal complaint yet, but he said the families may have grounds to file suit against the church to seek a return of their children or an explanation of their location.

An additional half dozen individuals have visited the District Attorney's office in the past two weeks to be interviewed about their experiences as members of the church whose pastor is the Rev. Jim Jones.

Peoples Temple came under official scrutiny following a New West magazine article last month that accused Jones of beating his followers to maintain discipline, faking healings to win new believers, and convincing church members to turn over large sums of money and property.

The magazine story also claimed that the children of temple members, as well as other youngsters whose guardians belonged to the church, were sent overseas to the agricultural mission run by Jones in Guyana in South America.

In at least three of the cases before officials in the district attorney's office, families complained their children had traveled to Guyana without permission.

Larry Tupper said he was awarded legal custody of his son Larry Jr., but he charged that the boy is now in Guyana with his mother, who is a member of the church.

A second incident involved Nera Sly, who left the church within the past week and who now charges that her son, Mark, 16, may have been sent to Guyana against his will.

She said that she and her husband Donald were required to live apart in communes run by the church, and were asked to sign over guardianship of their son to another temple family.

The district attorney's office is also weighing the case of Vincent Lopez, a Hayward youth in his mid-teens who was a ward of a former church member who has requested anonymity.

At the time the youth left the country about a year ago, his guardian approved. But, because of the reports about beatings and mind control tactics resembling brainwashing, Lopez's guardian has now asked authorities to assist him in securing the boy's return.

A fourth incident involves two small children, Patricia and Paul Pettit, aged 5 and 7 years, whose guardians are Jeannie and Al Mills, two former leaders in the church who left it in 1975.

The Mills said yesterday they had obtained custody of the two youngsters when the natural mother was in legal trouble over a child abuse charge. Now, the Mills charge that temple spokesmen have refused to divulge the location of the two children or acknowledge the Mills' guardianship rights.

Charles Garry, who is the attorney for the Temple, said that church leaders have told him the Pettit children are living with their natural mother in the Mission district in San Francisco.

Two other families have also talked with authorities, in both cases grown children asked officials to declare their mothers incompetent so as to obtain guardianship of brothers and sisters who are temple members and below legal age.

x-4-e-79

San Francisco

City North

# Progress

Friday, August 12, 1977

15 Cents

Published Wednesday, Friday and Sunday

Vol. 50, No. 95

## Temple children back with guardians

Patricia and Paul Petitt, two children involved in Peoples Temple members' custody disputes, were reunited with their legal guardians Thursday afternoon.

Private investigator Joseph Mazor said he was put in contact with the children and their mother late Wednesday afternoon after a story on their case appeared in The Progress.

Mazor had charged the temple with concealing the whereabouts of the youngsters from their lawful guardians, charges that Temple attorney Charles Garry called "an outright lie."

"The mother has those children," Garry told The Progress Wednesday. "We told Mazor the mother had those children. They are with her right now out in the Mission District."

Garry said he did not have the mother's address.

Peoples Temple also denies responsibility for children who have reportedly been sent to the church mission in Guyana, South America, without the consent of legal guardians.

"We (Rev. Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple) don't have anything to do with these children," Garry said. "How do we get involved? We are not the guardians of these children."

Literature put out under the Temple name refers repeatedly to temple foster homes and the temple rehabilitation center in Guyana.

Available evidence indicates that many if not all of the so-called temple homes were, in fact, licensed by individual temple members who often received state funds for their support.

Assistant District Attorney Dan Weinstein said parents or legal guardians who permitted their children to stay in the custody of either the temple or its members can petition to have such children returned from Guyana.

If the youngsters are (Continued on Page 2)

X-4-c-80

## Temple children back with guardians

(Continued from Page 1)  
not sent home within a reasonable time, the parent / guardian could then ask the courts to order the children returned, Weinstein said.

Until and unless such a definite court order is violated, the temple practice of sending children to Guyana does not violate any criminal law, Weinstein said.

The authorities have no right to investigate conditions in Guyana unless children have been sent there by direct order of an official government agency, Weinstein said. He said the district attorney's office has no evidence that the courts have ever sent any children to the remote South American mission.

A Peoples Forum newspaper dated Aug. 1 states that some young people at the Peoples Temple agricultural

mission in Guyana were sent there by the authorities.

We quote: "Kenny R. got into trouble with burglary. Juvenile hall dropped charges against him on the condition that he be sent overseas to the Temple mission." A picture of a teenager identified as Kenny Reid accompanies the story.

"Charles W. was probationed for three years on condition that he go to the Temple agriculture mission," the temple paper states.

The newspaper also makes reference to legal efforts on behalf of two adults identified as "Jerry L." and "Ruthie" who the temple says were "put on probation to the People's Temple agricultural mission in South America."

The Progress inquiry into Guyana was

prompted, in part, by a May 12 letter sent to Supervisor John Barbagelata by temple member Timothy L. Clancey. It states:

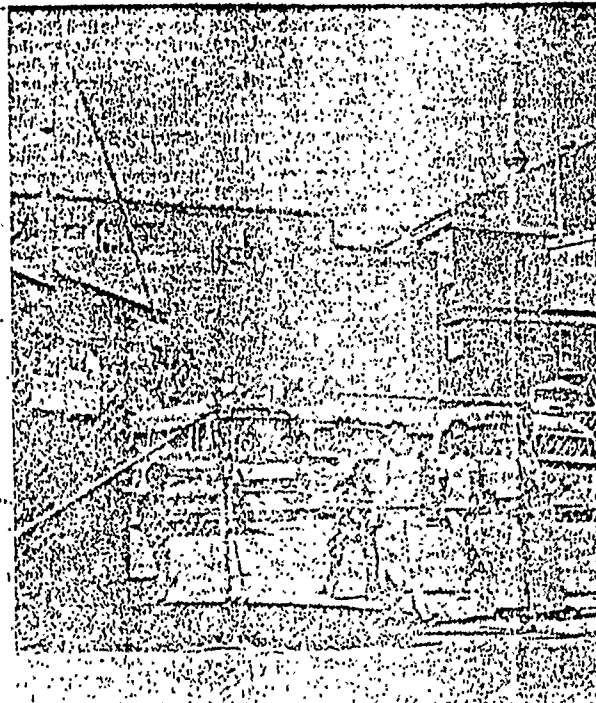
"Many judges have even turned youthful offenders over to our program as an alternative to their going to prison. Our agricultural project in South America is currently providing a new life for over 100 people who were involved in a life of crime and drugs."

Some of the "little band of misfits," as described in Temple literature, have been tentatively identified by former temple members from photos or from printed descriptions accompanied by first names and initials which match those of people known to be in Guyana. If these identities are correct, quite a few of the "misfits"

have been temple members since early childhood and their alleged criminal lifestyles would have had to be developed while they were under temple influence.

—By E. Cahill Maloney

# An exodus of children?



## Tight security

Locked gate and guard house keep unauthorized visitors away from the back entrance to Peoples Temple. Trailers and buses are part of the Temple's rolling stock. The huge rooftop antenna, according to a former member, provides radio contact with Rev. Jim Jones, who is reportedly in the Temple's Guyana outpost.

The San Francisco

Sunday, July 31, 1977

# Progress

## Peoples Temple communes look empty

By E. Cahill Maloney

San Francisco residences identified as Peoples Temple communes by a former member appear to be emptying out fast.

Concerned about recent allegations that youngsters might be shipped to Guyana in South America without full and informed parental consent, the Progress attempted to track down the whereabouts of minors believed to be in Temple custody.

According to former followers of Rev. Jim Jones, youths attached to his Peoples Temple are under constant surveillance by counselors and are subjected to beatings, abusive "catharsis" sessions, and other bizarre psychological pressure which induces fear and emotional insecurity.

Reports about Jones' control of the minds and property of Temple members which appear in the current issue of New West Magazine have been denied by Temple spokesmen. Jones himself is in Guyana, where he is reportedly suffering from an ear infection.

Documentation of Temple moves to get custody of its members' children date back to 1971. What happened to such children?

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7-31-77

## An exodus?

Linda Mertle, a young woman who left the Temple eight months ago, pointed out flats and apartment houses where she said groups of teenagers lived with non-temple counselors.

Nobody was home.

"I haven't seen anybody around here for two or three days," a neighborhood child replied in answer to inquiries about a vacant flat at 261 Divisadero St.

A storefront and flats at 1810-12 Divisadero have substituted a closed sign for what Mertle said had been bustling youth operations "just a little while ago."

No activity was apparent at Fillmore, Fell, Sutter, and Steiner Street addresses that Mertle said young Temple members used to occupy in large numbers.

### 'ON THE FLOOR'

Linda, who is 18 now, was a minor when she lived in a Temple commune. "Nine of us stayed in a one-bedroom apartment," she said. "I slept on the floor for one-half year and did not question it."

Linda refused to leave the temple in October 1975 when her parents, Deanna and Elmer Mertle, became disillusioned with what Linda calls "sadistic and sick practices."

Some of the under-age youths living in the communes had been brought up from Los Angeles by their grandmothers, she said. Others had apparently been left in Temple custody when their parents fled the church.

"Jim (Jones) told us to break family ties," Linda said. "Lots of the little children lived in the Temple, but mostly we lived in crowded communes. You're never allowed to be alone."

Although it is against the law for unlicensed individuals to have unrelated minors in their consistent care, none of San Francisco's youth service agencies have checked up on youths under Temple control.

The Department of Social Services and Youth Guidance Center has not referred any court wards or dependent children to the Temple for placement, department spokespersons say.

### STATE CHECKS UP

Reports that as many as 75 children were living in the Peoples Temple at 1859 Geary St. led the State Department of Health to visit the premises late this month.

Licensing bureau director Marion Vought said a Temple attorney, Gene Chaikin, denied that any children slept at the Temple.

"We determined the Temple was being used as a day care center," Vought said. The basis for this determination was Chaikin's say-so.

The Health Department has no authority to inspect the Temple unless an application for licensing is made, she explained.

The Temple has been notified it is required to apply for a day care license. If it does not do so, the health department will petition the district attorney for cease and desist orders, Vought said.

Robert Graham, chief of the district attorney's special prosecutions division, said he had no authority to check up on how Temple members are

"I don't have one single name of one single child. The allegations being made against the Temple are not specific in nature," Graham said.

"I don't have any information that people who are not in lawful custody have control of children," he said.

Superior Court Judge Joseph Kennedy recently ordered Temple member Esther Dillard to return her 16-year-old granddaughter, Ernestine Glazier, to Lanie Martin, Ernestine's mother.

Martin took the matter of her run-away daughter to court when she heard the child was going to be sent to Guyana. She said her 13-year-old half sister and 18-year-old brother are in Guyana. "My mother has to work like an indentured servant to pay for each child," Martin said.

She characterized her mother as someone who has always "believed in voodoo and witchcraft."

The Mertles are concerned about the whereabouts of a little girl who was in their care when they were Temple members. That child's mother, another ex-Temple member, is in Los Angeles, but the youngster is reportedly somewhere in San Francisco.

According to several former Temple members, people who quit the church are pressured to leave children behind.

"In my own case I heard they had voted to cut off my ear," Mrs. Mertle said. "It took more than a year for me to lose my fear of what might happen to us for leaving the Temple."

Grace Stoen, estranged wife of former assistant district attorney Timothy Stoen, and Rich Schroeder are fighting to get custody of their children away from spouses who still belong to the Temple.

Materials gathered in connection with a 1972 story on Peoples Temple activities by Progress columnist Lester Kinsolving include copies of custody petitions sent to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Johnson of Indianapolis, Ind.

The covering letter from Timothy Stoen states: "Enclosed is a form to be signed by each of you consenting to the appointment of Rheaviana Beam as the guardian of your daughter, Gwendolyn. Please take this document to a notary public."

Joanne Key, sister of Maxine Harpe, a Temple member who hanged herself in March 1976, has attested to the difficulties she and her brother-in-law Daniel Harpe faced trying to get the three Harpe children away from Temple members.

The Johnston and Harpe youngsters were returned to their parents.

Mrs. Mertle claims not all parents are so persistent.

Signed custody forms do not constitute legal guardianship if there has been no formal court action, according to protective services workers. However, not all parents know this. Questions are not likely to be asked by outsiders unless there is a specific complaint.

An adult who registers "group home" or "foster home" youngsters in school is not normally asked to prove he or she has authority over them.

Bill Carpenter, Portrero Hill Junior High dean, boys, said about a dozen Temple youngsters were registered last term by two adults, one of them a parent of two of the children.

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On one occasion a note home to a "parent" resulted in a visit from two Temple counselors who represented themselves as social workers, Carpenter said.

"We did not provide any information because they were not authorized individuals," he added.

The address given for a couple of the youngsters turned out to be a vacant lot, Carpenter said. "We usually ran into a great deal of difficulty locating a parent," he added.

Earlier, Temple spokesman Mike Prokes told the Progress he would hold a press conference and show that allegations being made against Jones are politically motivated.

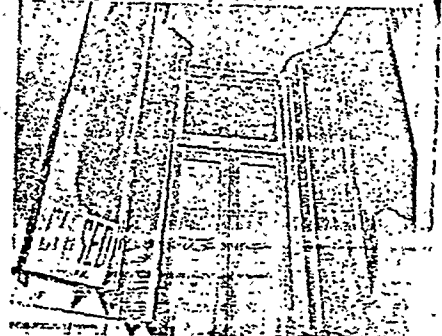
This past week calls to the Temple elicited the response that all questions concerning the charges are being referred to attorney Charles Garry.

Garry, who is best known as a criminal attorney, said he was studying what had been published about Jones to see whether a libel suit was in order. He said he was not partial to such suits. No legal action is pending against Jones or Peoples Temple, he confirmed.

According to Garry, his employment by the Temple is not related to any specific matter. "I represent the Temple," he said. "If anyone starts pushing the Temple around, I will represent them."

Garry said he instructed Temple members not to make any comments to the press. He said Jones is still unable to travel, but that Jones' wife remains in San Francisco and that Temple activity is continuing as normal. "The membership is very supportive (to Jones)," Garry added.

6 The Progress • Sun., July 31, 1977



THIS STOREFRONT at 1612 Divisadero once housed Peoples Temple youth communes, according to ex-member Linda Mertle.

x-4-c-84

## Ex-Peoples Temple Member

# Grim Report From Jungle

By Marshall Kilduff

The Peoples Temple jungle outpost in South America was portrayed yesterday as a remote realm where the church leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, orders public beatings, maintains a squad of 50 armed guards and has involved his 1100 followers in a threat of mass suicide.

This description was provided by Deborah Layton, 25, who was a top aide of Jones until she asked American consular officials 1 month to safeguard her departure from Guyana, where the temple has its agricultural mission.

Peoples Temple officers in San Francisco last night relayed — via shortwave radio from Guyana — a refutation of the charges from two of the South American mission's residents, identified as Lisa and Larry Layton, the mother and brother of Deborah Layton.

"These are too ridiculous to refute," Lisa Layton said. "... We are treated beautifully here ..."

Larry Layton said, "We are treated beautifully."

San Francisco temple officer Tim Clancy added, "We absolutely refute all the charges. This just makes us believe more than ever that there is a conspiracy against the church."

Jones became the center of a storm of controversy last summer when he shipped out of San Francisco with his followers for Guyana. public charges were made by former followers that Jones had performed false medical cures to win converts, that he oversaw beatings of church members in closed meetings and that he amassed more than \$5 million in donations.

According to Layton, Jones has become a "Tyrannid" obsessed with "traitors" in his own ranks who "never work, do not work hard enough in the farm fields and with an outside world that has publicized his critics."

The fever-pitch emotions of temple members that allowed Jones to dispatch them to civil rights causes and liberal political rallies in



DEBORAH LAYTON, A FORMER AIDE TO JIM JONES  
She told of armed guards and savage discipline

California has now turned to a military-style vigilance against an imminent attack by unspecified "mercenaries," Layton said.

The temple fields are patrolled by two rings of khaki-uniformed armed guards, men and women members of "security alert teams" who have access to 200 to 300 rifles, 25 pistols and a homemade bazooka, Layton said.

Discipline, she said, is handed out at public gatherings of the entire church community. On one occa-

sion an elderly woman was humiliated by being forced to strip. Younger members are "knuckled" by having fists ground into their foreheads, and others are ordered to an underground "box" where they must sit for days at a time, Layton said.

Jones has ringed the work fields with food-pickers and talks for stretches of up to six hours, she added. Farmhands are expected to work from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an hour for lunch and another hour

for dinner before morning lasting until midnight, Layton said.

The diet consists of purchased in the Guyana: Georgetown because it not expected to be so for another three years.

She said that on the visits from outsiders wished to impress, others are treated to vegetables. Other trust she claimed were dri optimistic opinions about mission, called Jonestown.

Jones, who often rate lengths to protect image in San Francisco, remained at the mission even to venture into she reported.

Among his concerns pending child custody Guyana capital.

She said the 110 were told to drink a liquid potion, after supposedly would fall, then be shot by Jones' rehearsal went as far as community drink a before Jones called it added.

Layton said she leave Guyana by way Georgetown. After secretly arranged with consular officials to emergency passport New York on May 12 living in San Francisco.

"Everyone there leave. I'm sure of it," you never get a chance. Everyone is told to people."

Layton, who was church finances here ing the Guyana color ber, said Jones counts in Europe. Guyana containing million."

X-4-c-85



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May 27, 1978

Editor  
San Francisco Examiner  
110 Fifth Street  
San Francisco, California

Re: Libel and Misrepresentation of the Peoples Temple

Dear Editor:

This is a demand for a retraction of your headline at page 5 Friday, May 26, 1978, your three-star edition, which states: "REPORT OF PEOPLES TEMPLE TERROR." This entire headline, which in itself is libelous and scandalous, has been reported in a very careless and reckless manner. It is malicious per se. You completely ignored what the actual and true facts were.

On Friday afternoon a representative from the Temple called your paper and asked for Mr. Reiterman, and when she was told that he was not in, the representative from the Temple said "give me a reporter." A reporter responded and would not give his name, and he said "I'm a reporter." We attempted to give him the following quote by Minister Vibert Mingo, Minister of Home Affairs of Guyana:

"We investigated and found her statements to be totally untrue and that she lied to gain entry into the country, which is a violation of our law."

The representative from the Temple told the reporter, who did not seem to be interested, that the above information was received by telephone from Georgetown, Guyana.

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# Report of Peoples Temple terror

A freelance reporter who went to Guyana to visit the Peoples Temple mission there was interrogated twice by temple members, then was placed under armed guard by local officials out of concern for her safety, her husband said today.

Ukiah Daily Journal Executive Editor George Hunter said in a telephone interview from Ukiah that his wife, Kathy, has spent seven of her nine days in the South American country confined to her hotel room in Georgetown.

"It's a weird cloak and dagger story," he said.

Hunter said his wife, a former Daily Journal reporter-photographer who now freelances, flew to the Guyanese capital on May 17 after receiving a telephone invitation from what she believed to be

the government there. He said there was no reason to doubt the authenticity of the invitation because Kathy had met Guyana's prime minister, Forbes Burnham, and wrote a story about him several years ago during a visit to Mendocino County.

However, Hunter said, his wife told him during a guarded telephone conversation from Guyana: "The invitation may have been a hoax."

He said she had been invited to visit the temple's agricultural mission and was assured that a government plane would fly her to the jungle outpost where about 1,000 followers of The Rev. Jim Jones are reported to be living and working.

Jones, former head of the San Francisco Housing Authority, went there about a year ago. Since then,

former members have alleged that they were physically and mentally abused and forced to give their property to the church headquartered here.

Hunter said church members learned somehow that his wife had landed in Georgetown because a group of them showed up at her hotel room there the same day.

"She was subjected to harassment by a squad of interrogators from the church at her hotel," he said. "They wanted to know her reasons for being there."

The next day, Hunter said, "There was an odd coincidence. There were five false fire alarms at the hotel that involved clearing everyone out."

"Then she began to share the view of officials there that she

should have concern for her safety."

Hunter said he spoke three times by phone with his wife. "She's all right," he said. "Her nerves are a little shattered, of course."

He said she was approached a second time by temple members who offered to allow her to visit the mission, but she has remained in protective custody.

Hunter said he spoke twice by phone with Richard McCoy, an official of the U.S. consulate in Guyana. "McCoy said she will get armed guards to the airport," he said. "I don't know why they feel she is in danger. Everyone is so guarded."

"I can only conjecture that the government there and the State Department are concerned about avoiding an incident."

Hunter speculated that his wife received such a welcome from the temple because they may be displeased with a story she wrote recently about a paternity dispute between Jones and Tim Stoen, a former temple member who was an assistant district attorney in Mendocino and San Francisco counties.

Both Jones and Stoen claim to be the father of a young boy, John Victor Stoen. Stoen and the boy's mother, Grace Stoen, have been awarded legal custody by the California courts, but there also are legal proceedings pending in Guyana. The boy reportedly is with Jones in Guyana.

Hunter said his wife is expected back in California tomorrow or Sunday.

## Bridge tolls: District seeks to block ruling

The Golden Gate Bridge District has asked a state appellate court to block contempt proceedings arising out of the dispute over its increased tolls.

After the district decided to raise bridge tolls from 75 cents to \$1 Nov. 1, Marin and Sonoma counties and an individual commuter filed a lawsuit challenging that action. Last month San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Melvin Cohn ordered the increase rescinded, but the day before the rollback was to take effect the district appealed his ruling.

## Cops spot poppy crop

Martinez police aren't saying the Contra Costa County Hospital was trying to economize on its opiate supply — but they are wondering about a small field of opium poppies they found growing between F and E wards.

Working on a tip from a nursing supervisor, the officers began searching the grounds around midnight last night and discovered between 15 and 20 opium poppies flourishing on the hospital grounds.

Detective Richard Dowling said the 3½-foot tall plants seemed to be

growing naturally and did not appear to be cultivated. He said a lukewarm investigation is under way, but finding the poppies is not an uncommon occurrence this time of year.

"We might look into it," he said. "The problem is it's a public place and there's no one you can really charge. It's like marijuana. Someone could just dump an ash-tray with some seeds in it and the stuff starts growing."

Possession of the poppies or their seeds is a felony.

# The Death of Peoples Temple

By Marshall Kilduff

6 San Francisco Chronicle Fri., Aug. 19, 1977

Though the Peoples Temple was founded in California less than 12 years ago and the majority of its members are poor blacks, the church has amassed a fortune of property, other assets and cash estimated to be at least \$5 million, according to former members.

In interviews with 35 former followers, many of them longtime top aides, Peoples Temple was portrayed as a church where money was an obsession and also a tool for blinding members closer to their leader, the Rev. Jim Jones.

So much money was collected from church members that temple leaders opened more than 15 bank accounts and also began taking large sums of cash, ranging up to \$50,000, via trusted church couriers to Guyana where the temple has an agricultural mission, according to Chronicle sources.

Nearly every aspect of church life was designed to return a profit to the temple, the former members said.

Property was signed over to the church as gifts from members, large sums of cash were collected during services, and church members were assigned special duties such as street corner soliciting, mail appeals and bike sales.

Followers were expected to contribute a quarter of their salary — a figure that later rose to 50 per cent for some — as well as donate their time and talent for special chores such as maintenance of the bus fleet or repair of church buildings.

Church leaders encouraged members injured in traffic accidents to allow temple attorneys to try their court cases, while other church aides peddled photos and drawings of Jones designed to ward off highway mishaps.

Once a member had turned over most of his possessions and money, it was very difficult for him to leave.

"The temple ended up with everything I had," said Deanna Merdie, a member along with her husband and family from 1970 to 1975.

"That's what made it so hard for us to leave. We had nowhere to go and nothing to fall back on," Merdie said.

The church has reported publicly that its yearly budget is \$300,000. The temple is not required to report its finances to either the Internal Revenue Service or state officials.

But such expenditures did not match the enormous sums that accumulated, according to former members.

"It (the money) became almost a joke with Jim," said one woman who was a top adviser and notary who witnessed scores of church legal documents.

"We used to wonder what to do with it all. But we never spent it on much," she said.

Questions about the temple's finances were raised in earlier press investigations of Jones, a Disciples of Christ minister who moved to Redwood Valley from Indianapolis with a group of about 100 followers in 1965.

Jones reportedly built a large following, especially among inner-city blacks in San Francisco and Los Angeles, with his abilities as a faith-healer who proclaimed a vision of an integrated and socialist society.

Former members said Jones ordered beatings of his followers to maintain discipline, fakes the healings and devoted most of his time to collecting money and cultivating politicians.

Church spokesmen claim Jones built up a 23,000-member congregation in the state, but former members said the true figure was closer to 350.

This lower number of serious followers along with the fact that many of them are elderly and on small incomes have suggested to observers that the church could not have accumulated very much money.

But those members interviewed said the temple used a variety of techniques to gather money from its followers and to raise substantial sums beyond its membership.

Members were asked to contribute a quarter of their income within several months of joining the church. This portion was raised to a third and finally 50 per cent for some, former members have said.

Other members lived in communes set up in the Ukiah, Redwood Valley and San Francisco areas.

Jacile Swinney, a former member who handled commune finances, said the living arrangements were designed so that members turned over paychecks and received living expenses in return.

"We were clearing \$800 to \$10,000 per month when we were just in Redwood City," she said.

The church is believed to have at least 12 such communes, many with upwards of a dozen

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... through ...  
... ..

Salmey, who supervised the money-counters who toted up the receipts during marathon weekend services that Jones held in Redwood Valley, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"On a good day in Los Angeles during 1973 and 1974, we'd handle \$20,000 to \$25,000," she said.

"San Francisco was sometimes as good. It was all small bills and change. Now and then we'd have some jewelry too," Salmey added.

"We had a series of banks we used from Ukiah to Lakeport," said one woman who frequently handled the bank deposits.

Sandy Parks, a former member who worked in the church's legal and financial office, said that temple leaders were careful to spread their money among the accounts so as to avoid a huge sum in one or two that bank or government officials would judge as suspicious.

Parks also said she typed up "maybe 50" applications from church members seeking to cash in their life insurance policies.

Deanna Mertle and her husband Elmer ran the church's publications. It was their job, they said, to study religious mailings from other faith healers and recommend a new monthly mailing to solicit contributions.

"We averaged about \$100 a day, and that is a very conservative figure," she said.

Other publication sidelines included photographs of Jones, intended for such things as warding off burglars, illness and traffic accidents.

Birdie Marable sold nine different kinds of Jones pictures from a tray that she carried during weekend services. "I made \$80 to \$100 a meeting," she said.

Aside from such routine methods, there were larger sums that accrued to the church through property transfers.

Between 1967 and the present the church or its officials were involved in 32 recorded, real estate transactions. Ten of these amounted to gifts of property to the church.

The church has reportedly been pulling out of the Mendocino area and has placed some six pieces of property on sale for \$1.25 million.

In San Francisco, the church has sold two pieces of property this year—a three-unit apartment at 1662-64 Page street for \$127,000 on June 21 and a pair of flats at 238 Howth for \$22,500 on May 12.

In addition there are sales in which temple officials sold property owned by church members.

For example, a rest home owned by James and Irene Edwards at 2704-8 21st street was sold on July 1 for \$20,000.

The Edwards couple left San Francisco last spring on short notice, their family told The Chronicle, and the two are believed to be in Guyana, with the church.

Thus, their property was sold in their absence. Temple secretary Jean F. Brown had power of attorney and signed sale documents prepared by temple lawyer Gene Chaikin.

But the average temple member is not in any position to offer the church such wealth, former members claim. One example is Jesse Boyd, an elderly black woman who lives in a studio apartment run by the San Francisco Housing Authority at 666 Ellis street.

She pays a quarter of her income of \$413 per month as rent and paid another quarter to the church until she left in February of this year.

In her 64 years as a follower of Jones, she signed checks payable to the church totaling \$38,371.90. These checks were deposited into four different church bank accounts: Bank of Upper Lake, Bank of America and Wells Fargo, all in Ukiah, and the Bank of Montreal in San Francisco.

She also baked seven or eight cakes every week. "I bought all the fixings myself, and the church would take it over to the Safeway or Albertson's and sell each one for \$5.

"I can't tell you how much I may have given in little bits of cash," she said.

Temple spokesmen contend that such contributions go toward a wide array of free church services such as legal counseling, medical care and meals.

Jones himself has stated the Guyana mission has cost his church upwards of \$1 million since he first established the settlement in 1973.

The Guyana outpost, to which Jones has retreated since the controversy began about a month ago, apparently has been the destination of much of the church's money.

Five members confirmed that temple leaders were regularly dispatched with cash to deposit in Guyana banks, pay temple bills and often to bury the money for safekeeping.

On several occasions these couriers carried as much as \$50,000, according to former members.

Dan Phillips, who went with Jones and about a dozen top church leaders to Guyana on the temple's first visit in December of 1973, said a large sum was transferred at that time.

"Each of us had \$5000 on us in cash. There was also a bank draft for \$50,000 from Barclay's of Canada to deposit in the bank's branch in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana."

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Journal  
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MAR 28 1970

## TV station probes 7-year-old suicide

District Attorney Duncan James has been queried by a San Francisco television station as to whether there were any doubtful circumstances surrounding the death of Maxine Harpe, 30, on March 23, 1970.

Mrs. Harpe, a member of the Peoples Temple, was found hanging from a rafter of her garage on Foster Court in Talmage. According to the coroner's report, she had knotted a heavy duty cord around her throat then stood on a trunk. Death occurred at 1:30 a.m. that day and the body was discovered about seven hours later.

James has referred inquiries on the official suicide to a deputy attorney

general in San Francisco since the attorney general's office has twice investigated the People's Temple and the official report in each case has indicated insufficient evidence that any criminal wrongdoing had taken place.

The inquiries from the television station and from the co-writer of a People's Temple "expose" in the Aug. 1 issue of New West magazine, a recently launched publication, are apparently the result of the magazine article which liberally quoted dissident former members of the People's Temple who were critical of the pastor, Jim Jones.

Jones, who is visiting a People's Temple youth facility in Guyana, South America, is suffering from a severe ear infection, according to Michael Prokes, assistant pastor. With Rev. Jones is Tim Stoen, former Mendocino County assistant district attorney, who is a strong supporter of and legal counsel for the church.

Prokes did not indicate as to when Rev. Jones, who has been described as a potent religious and political figure in San Francisco and Los Angeles, would return to California to answer his accusers.

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