Dear Ed, Dorfman's CJR 2/74 piece on the NCLC cranies and "Marcus" is excellent. I have had my own experiences with that kind of "reasoning" and the dedicated wrong who have destroyed the credibility of all writing about assassinations other than the official mythology. However, I have had an experience with The Real Paper that does make me wonder about a faction in it. So, if you know Dorfman, if you can ask him if he knows anything other than his "depressing" conclusion (which it is), I would like to know it. My experience can accredit the suspicion that there may be a sort of NCLC faction there. It is consistent with this kind of suspicion. This is not an urgent matter for me, though, so don't put yourself or Dorfman to any real trouble. In my area, by the way, the Phoenix is also nuts at best and generally paranoid. Ogelsby as Marcus. Best,

HW 3/7/74

Until recently, editor of CJR — now media columnist for the new Chicago mag (monthly, a la New Yorker).

Psycho commie goons stop the presses

By RON DORFMAN

The *Real Paper* is a successful Boston-area alternative weekly, owned and controlled by its staff. It has a reputation for honest, incisive reporting on political and cultural subjects, and last month, when the Boston Left community — and journalists in Boston and elsewhere around the country — were besieged by members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees with fantastic tales of international intrigue, the paper put two good reporters on the story.

They got their story, but the *Real Paper* staff voted not to run it. Instead, the doors were locked, and an off-duty policeman was hired to stand guard in the editorial offices.

"It was such an incongruous scene," said Chuck Fager, one of the *Real Paper* reporters whose story was killed. "You gotta understand: We're your basic freak newspaper, and here was this beefy Irish cop, in uniform, sitting in a purple director's chair. He was having a good time, I guess, talking with the people here, joking." Nothing happened.

But the story didn't run.

It didn't run, as the locked doors and the cop attest, because the staff was afraid that their office would be trashed by goons from the Labor Committees.

I first heard of the National Caucus of Labor Committees several months ago, when a group of them came to the CJR office to tell me that they were beginning to organize in Chicago, and to get some names of local reporters who might cover their activities. They were working on several fronts, they said — organizing ghetto youth into the Revolutionary Youth Movement (no relation to previous groups of that name); organizing workers and unemployed into the North American Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization (no relation to the National Welfare Rights Organization); running political candidates under the banner of the U.S. Labor Party (no relation to the venerable Socialist Labor Party); and recruiting cadre to their central organization. A large program, I thought, for an organization they told me numbered only about 700 active members.

NCLC members, they told me, had been responsible for the disruption ("intervention" is their euphemism) during the Watergate Committee hearings last summer, and for the disruption, also shown on TV, of the flat-grant hearings of the state welfare department last fall.

Readers may remember that the demonstration in the Senate Caucus Room was to expose "the entire Watergate hearings [as] a massive cover-up for the CIA." A spokesman said outside the hearings that "Ervin, Baker, and the whole committee are protecting the CIA because it is the only remaining national power the capitalists can rely on to govern the country."

Similarly, the demonstration at the flat-grant hearings was for the purpose of exposing the National Welfare Rights Organization as a group infested with government agents and participating in a vicious scheme to recycle workers through the welfare system by forcing welfare recipients to take their jobs, thus lowering wages all around.

The NCLC came back to my office several more times, in varying combinations of two or three people, and I found myself eventually actually despising them. Now, there are not very many people I despise, and that, according to them is my problem. They despise lots of people. They despise Communists. They despise Trotskyites, Leonard Woodcock, Cesar Chavez, Imamu Baraka, Jesse Jackson, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War ("fools and clowns . . . dope-smoking anarchists"), the *New York Times* and *Ramparts* Magazine, the Black Panther Party, the postal workers' union, behaviorist psychologists, the Ford Foundation, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Nelson and David Rockefeller, and . . . *women*. (For this last, see the November, 1973 number of the *Campaigner*, the NCLC's theoretical journal.) When I say they despise these people and organizations, I mean they *hate*. Passionately.

All of these people and groups (except women, who collectively constitute a special problem) either consciously or unconsciously support the master-plan of the Rockefeller-CIA axis, to turn us all into zombies in a worldwide fascist system which will be instituted within the next four or five years unless we can be made to see that the National Caucus of Labor Committees is the only group with the correct analysis of the situation and the means to combat the foe. If you are not for them, that means you are against them, and it is therefore their duty, as self-conscious revolutionaries, to kick the shit out of you so you can't delay or sidetrack the revolution they must make so quickly.

Starting last spring, when other Marxist organizations were offered, and declined, the opportunity to genuflect to the NCLC as the hegemonic organization on the Left, NCLC attack squads have raided Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party meetings and political rallies, wielding clubs, *nunchaku* sticks (which are some sort of karate weapon) and other devices; dozens of Communists and SWP members were hospitalized, some NCLC people were beaten in retaliation and a number were arrested. NCLC representatives boast of these attacks and claim to have "mopped up" the Communist Party as a serious organization. The same fate, they will confidently tell anyone who cares to listen, awaits any group that stands in their way.

Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers, is at this writing Public Enemy Number One, and the NCLC has launched a campaign ("Mop-up Woodcock") which, according to NCLC spokesmen at a University of Chicago meeting January 26, will result in the impeachment of Woodcock in a matter of weeks. It seems that Woodcock, along with his social democratic colleagues in the European labor movement and the European Communist parties which are now in a popular front period with the Socialists, is in favor of "co-participation schemes" (known in this country as "humanizing the workplace"), and that such schemes, involving as they do joint worker-management decision-making on working conditions, are really a Rockefeller-behaviorist-CIA plot to get workers to police their own speed-ups, layoffs and wage-reductions during the ongoing crisis of world capitalism.

The advanced capitalists, like Rockefeller, are caught in a bind, according to the NCLC analysis. They perceive clearly a "conjunctural" crisis — the present economic difficulties of world capitalism and the discrediting of the reac-

Fight Against Brainwash Plot Escalates

tionary governments (Nixon, Heath, Pompidou) that might otherwise carry them through the crisis. So they chose the social democrats and their Communist allies (*vide*, the Brandt-Brezhnev talks, the French popular front, McGovern and the American CP that supports the left Democrats) as their second line of defense. But the popular fronts failed, and Rockefeller and his friends were left with the alternative of instigating a CIA takeover of the major Western countries, which is now in progress — witness the "military occupation" of Heathrow Airport during the recent phoney terrorist scare touched off by CIA reports, and the British press accounts of the CIA moving large numbers of agents to England because of the "subversives" in the miners' union. And since, according to one of the speakers at the NCLC meeting, "no mass fascist movement exists at the present time, fascist economics has to be imposed from above — through brainwashing techniques" like the aforementioned "co-participation" schemes and behaviorist-influenced teachers turning first-graders into zombies by giving them gold stars for keeping quiet. The NCLC, he said, would go into such classrooms and bust them up.

A schoolteacher in the small audience (there were no more than 33 people in the room at any one time, including at least six NCLC organizers) protested. "Teachers have always given gold stars for good behavior," she said. "There's nothing new about that. It may not be good to make children docile, but that's the only way most teachers know how to teach. And you're going to bust up first grade classes?! That's monstrous. You're scary."

The speaker retorted that he didn't mean to say they were going to bust up first grade classes. Rather, they were going to bust up university classes where "scum" professors are teaching teachers to brainwash children by giving them gold stars. The schoolteacher allowed as how that didn't make much difference to her. "You people are dangerous," she said. Whereupon another NCLC member sitting in the back of the room, a handsome young man dressed in a flannel shirt, blue jeans and work shoes, leaped from his seat in fury:

"You say we're scary. The scary thing is that you can sit there and see thousands of children programmed with drugs, electroshock, physical mutilation — and you think the scary thing is that we're trying to stop it!"

"That's not what I said," replied the teacher.

"That's what you meant," the young man said.

Note the beauty of this exchange. The yin and the yang of it. How indescribably stunning is this attainment of perfect knowledge! I can sit here and see, in my mind's eye, thousands of children being mutilated. Therefore, you too can sit here and see it. It is only your middle-class, bourgeois fear of making a decision to do something about it that prevents you from accepting this vision as a picture of reality. "There aren't any excuses for anyone here holding back," the man had said. "You have the knowledge [he had laid it all out for them in a two-hour monologue] and you are responsible for acting on that knowledge." It is only when you already *believe* that you are "important in world history" — i.e., when you have signed up with NCLC — that you are capable of understanding things; that is the essence of education.

Chuck Fager and his *Real Paper* colleague, Joe Klein, were researching their story on the NCLC and its leader, Lyn Marcus, whose real name is Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr., and they located his parents, leaders of a fundamentalist Quaker sect, in Lynn, Mass. Klein said the interview with the LaRouches was "quite pleasant," and "after the interview they told Chuck, 'Give our love to Lindy when you see him.' "

But when Fager and Klein got to New York January 9 for a scheduled interview with Marcus, they found themselves *persona non grata*. Marcus was the featured speaker that night at a meeting of some 600 persons, gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Statler-Hilton to hear details of the newly-uncovered, most monstrous conspiracy of them all, and the *Real Paper*, it turned out, was part of it.

The conspiracy involves members of NCLC and its European affiliates (members who, by coincidence, happened to have doctrinal differences with Marcus, or, in one celebrated case, to have married Marcus' former lover and colleague) who were brainwashed, through the vilest, filthiest techniques, all spelled out in nauseating detail in the *New Solidarity*, the NCLC newspaper; they were programmed to respond, like the Manchurian Candidate, to some code word and assassinate Marcus. Who did this brainwashing? Why, the CIA of course, but also the KGB (the Soviet state security agency) and MI5, James Bond's bosses in London.

But these outfits, crafty as they are, are no match for the redoubtable Lyn Marcus, who in addition to being the world's greatest Marxist theoretician (he has, according to independent experts, made some significant contributions to Marxist theory in the past), is also the world's greatest psychologist. He was able to "deprogram" a couple of the zombies and thus expose the CIA plot to take over the world. Paul Montgomery, a *New York Times* reporter who was allowed to listen to the tape recordings of the "deprogramming" of Christopher White (a British NCLC member who married Carol Schnitzer, Marcus' former lover and once a major intellectual force in NCLC), noted in the January 20 *Times:*

". . . to a layman it appears obvious that the elements of the conspiracy he claims to extract from Mr. White's mind are either harmless bits of personal history or ideas suggested by Mr. Marcus himself. When Mr. White resists the questioning at one point, Mr. Marcus shouts at the obviously disturbed youth: 'You don't have to communicate a goddam thing. I know what your mind is.' " ("That's not what I said," "That's what you meant.")

One brainwash victim, Alice Weitzman, didn't want to be deprogrammed. As a half dozen NCLC members held her captive in her own New York apartment for two days, she dropped a note out the window asking whoever picked it up to get the police. The six were arrested and charged with kidnapping. The *Times* reported that Weitzman has become a reluctant witness: "What they need, you can't provide in a court," she is reported to have said.

At any rate, NCLC members all over the country were rushing about at the beginning of January trying to tell all these tales of brainwashing to whatever reporters would listen. Most reporters will listen to almost anything, nod their heads and say they will see what they can do, even if they have concluded after five minutes (most conversations with NCLC people go on for hours) that the story is loony and impossible to check anyway. Thus, after NCLC people had spent all these hours giving reporters the "evidence" of the CIA plot to take over the world, and got not a line of ink or a minute of air for their trouble, the obvious conclusion was that the press was under CIA instruction as well.

Even when they did get some press, it

N.Y. Times Stands Exposed As CIA's Mouthpiece

was scant comfort. David Anderson's straight, but tongue-in-cheek article in the January 11 *Detroit Free Press* ("The committee's leaders said that anyone discrediting the plot or the brainwashing 'is willfully doing the work of the CIA.' The CIA had no comment.") earned him a special press release of his own headed, "FREE PRESS REPORTER RUNS ERRAND FOR CIA."

"There is no 'free' press willing to cover and investigate these events," says a January 6 NCLC press release. "The magnitude of the national news blackout on these world-shattering events could only have been organized by the CIA. We have, in fact, been informed by members of the press in Boston that known CIA operative Andrew Kopkind himself has been 'ordering' certain local press to kill publicity on this story."

Known CIA operative Kopkind is, of course a Left journalist whose work over the past fifteen years or so, appearing in the *New Republic, Hard Times, Ramparts*, the *New York Review of Books* and elsewhere, including and especially the *Real Paper*, has been so devilishly clever that no one could have expected he would turn out to be a CIA agent. "You can't prove that somebody's not a CIA agent," observes Vin McLellan, a political writer for the *Boston Phoenix*, the city's other alternative weekly. "I once did a piece on some Satanists out in Southern California, and I exposed one of their members as an archangel. You can't prove somebody's not an archangel either." Kopkind had no comment.

At any rate, as I was saying, by January 9 Klein and Fager, the *Real Paper* reporters, were in New York for their interview with Marcus. "He didn't show," Klein recounted," and they [NCLC press people] said I could talk to him after the meeting. But the meeting was running long and during the question and answer period they told me to ask my questions now. So Marcus announced that after the collection there would be questions from the *Real Paper*. Then I was told there was time for only one question, and of course they must have known since he had denounced the paper in his speech that I had to ask, 'What do you have on the *Real Paper?*

"He said, 'Who's running the paper?' and I said, 'The staff runs the paper,' and he said, 'Who runs the staff?' He talked about coverage I'd done of De Mau Mau, said they were police agents. Also, I had done several pieces about the new police commissioner here. They were favorable pieces. They think he's a CIA agent because he believes in community control [a favorite NCLC bugaboo; Marcus and his group were expelled from SDS when they supported Albert Shanker and the New York teachers union against the Ocean Hill-Brownsville community school board in 1968]. I thought he was just a progressive cop.

"Then he said, 'I want you to keep your CIA goon squads away from my parents!'

"He backed off and then the audience took over. It was obvious that hardly any of them had ever heard of the *Real Paper*. One of them said, 'The only way you can prove you're not CIA is to print what we have to say.' A couple of them came over and said, 'We want you to understand that we don't take the harassment of Lyn Marcus's parents lightly. Do you understand what that means?'

"I said, 'Yeah, I think I understand that.'

"As soon as he stopped we made our way toward the door. The press people said Marcus would be available for the interview after all. While I was talking to them one of the goons grabbed Fager and started shaking and threatening him, pulling his beard. I told the press people that in view of what had happened at the meeting the ground rules had to be changed, that we wanted to meet Marcus on our own ground.

"A clinical psychologist who was at the meeting — he had come in response to their call for psychologists to examine their evidence of brainwashing — said, 'These people are really sick. I think that what's just happened is that he's given orders to assassinate you.

"Bo [Burlingham, a *Ramparts* editor who was about to join the *Real Paper* staff and, of course, is a CIA agent] and Andy are extremely frightened by this. We have a meeting Monday to decide what to do about it. All the editorial people want to publish. But the business people are against it."

As mentioned, the vote went against publication. Fager said the rationale was that "publicity is what these people want, so the best way to foil them is not to print anything about them." That was precisely the reasoning editors of the *Chicago Sun-Times* used to avoid reporting Weatherman theory and actions before the Days of Rage in 1969. As a result, the Weatherman violence was incomprehensible and completely surprising to all but a few reporters and activists, not to mention the general public.

A newspaper's function is to print stories, not to suppress them. "We were in a position to do a story comparable in scope and impact to Dave Felton's story about Mel Lyman in *Rolling Stone*," Fager said. "In the course of that we could also mobilize all sorts of liberals and radicals to come to our defense if necessary."

As it happens, the free enterprise system saved the day. Vin McLellan, in two articles in the *Phoenix* — the *Real Paper's* competition, mind you, and a paper that the *Real Paper* people split off from after a strike and a sale to a rotten "hip capitalist" — told something of the history and intellectual degeneration of Marcus and the NCLC. The articles will help the East Coast's largest and most varied intellectual activist/student/counterculture community prepare for any further encounters with the NCLC. McLellan also told his readers that the *Real Paper* had chickened out on the story.

As Nat Hentoff mused in his *Village Voice* column: How would the *Real Paper* staff react if it were being harassed by the FBI?

I find it depressing that I have argued for staff control of news organizations as a means of eliminating the influence of cowardly or venal managements, only to find that one of the few functioning (and profitable) newspapers operating under staff control has succumbed not to Nixon or Exxon but to a bunch of left-wing crazies.

Far out.