

CHINO ESCAPE FRAME-UP



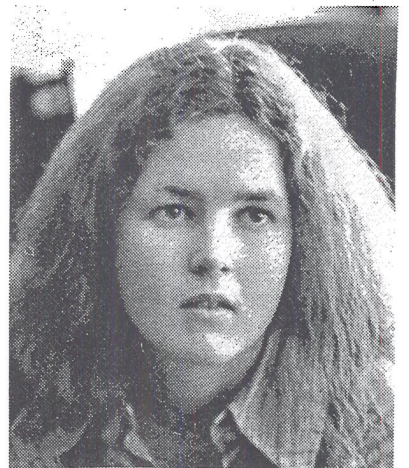
CHINO ESCAPE FRAME-UP

On Friday, October 6, 1972, Ronald Wayne Beaty, an inmate at Chino Prison, escaped from a police car transporting him to a cancelled Court appearance. During the escape one guard was wounded and a second guard was killed. Using the escape as an excuse, the San Bernardino police and the FBI have focused an attack upon the growing prison movement in the U.S. and on people and organizations publicly opposed to the repressive policies of the government. Since the incident, 15 people have been arrested on false charges and many more have been detained, questioned and harrassed. Still others have had their homes ransacked and illegally searched. All of these people are either directly involved in the prison movement or in other politically active organizations, or are acquainted with people who are.

The Defendants



Benton Douglas Burt



Andrea Holman Burt



Bob Seabock

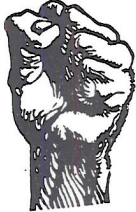
Four of the 15 people arrested are in jail in San Bernardino on false charges of murder and "lynching" (removal of a prisoner from a police officer). A quick glance at their political connections, especially their connection to the prison movement, provides some clues as to why these four people are singled out.



Jean Hobson

Jean Hobson

Jean (45 years old), was active in the Ban the Bomb Movement of the early 1960's and the Poor People's March on Washington. She was a leader in the struggle against war developers in Palo Alto and helped organize a mass movement around low income housing. Jean met Doug through her work in the Prison Law Project and also worked on Beaty's case.



Bob Seabock

Bob (22 years old) grew up on the San Francisco Peninsula. Bob was active in the anti-war movement, the Palo Alto Tenants Union and in other community housing struggles. Bob is a member of the I.L.W.U. local 6.



Andrea Holman Burt

Andrea (18 years old), a member of Venceremos Organization, helped develop a strong anti-war movement in the Palo Alto School District. She also worked on issues of students' rights and a project dealing with treatment of juvenile prisoners. Andrea visited Cuba in 1971 as a member of the Venceremos Brigade, where she studied Cuban law and penal practices as well as working in the sugar cane harvest. At the time of her arrest, she was working with the Prison Law Project doing investigation of facts and helping to prepare legal documents for prisoners who are denied these facilities by the California Department of Corrections. It was while working with the project that Andrea met Doug and began working on Beaty's case. Andrea and Doug were recently married.



Benton Douglas Burt

Doug (30 years old) was released from California Institute for Men, Chino, in June 1972. He had served the full 10 years of an indeterminate, 6 months to 10 years sentence. Doug was forced to serve the full 10 years because of his prison organizing activities while inside. He had not only worked on his own case, but he also helped fellow prisoners prepare their legal cases and thus gained the respect of prisoners throughout California as a righteous jailhouse lawyer. The growing movement to aid in the legal defense of prisoners has brought a great deal of attention and embarrassment to the inner workings of the prison system, which continually denies prisoners their legal rights. Doug Burt and others like him are seen as a threat to the dictatorial authority of the prison system.

It was during Doug's incarceration at Chino that he met Beaty. The two became friends and Doug agreed to continue working on Beaty's case after his own release. After his release in June 1972, Doug began working on the Prison Law Project where he met Andrea, while working on Beaty's case among others.

The Facts Show Andrea & Doug are INNOCENT

Andrea's and Doug's trial began April 23rd in San Bernardino. The facts around their case indicate that they were victims of a frame-up in which Ron Beaty played a major part.

1. Declaring their innocence, Andrea and Doug turned themselves into the police when they learned of their arrest warrants. They have been held in jail in San Bernardino since October 23, without bail.
2. The San Bernardino police have produced no evidence against Andrea or Doug. The one prison guard wounded during the escape could not even identify Andrea or Doug as having taken part in the escape. Doug had known this guard when he was at Chino. Other witnesses to this escape could not identify Andrea or Doug either.
3. The murder warrant against Andrea and Doug was originally issued because the police claimed that a white Falcon station wagon used in the escape was seen parked outside Andrea and Doug's Hayward apartment prior to the escape. The police now admit the car was parked at the Los Angeles International Airport during this entire time.
4. This evidence against Andrea and Doug was so weak that the police had to release and rearrest them before resorting to a Grand Jury indictment. The law specifies that a public preliminary hearing must be held 10 days after arrest. Based on evidence disclosed by the prosecution during the preliminary hearing the judge will decide whether the case should be dismissed or go to trial. Knowing that he had no real evidence against Andrea and Doug the District Attorney eventually by-passed the constitutionally guaranteed preliminary hearing and called for a Grand Jury hearing. Grand Jury hearings are held in secret and neither the defendants nor their lawyers are allowed to be present. Based on the District Attorney's presentation the Grand Jury handed down the indictment which put Andrea and Doug in jail.

How Beaty Fits In

5. After Beaty's capture on December 11, 1972, the old indictment against Andrea and Doug was

dropped and a new one was obtained based on Beaty's testimony before yet another secret Grand Jury. Not until Beaty's recapture were the San Bernardino police able to produce their present story. Even this was not possible until after extensive sessions between Beaty and the FBI.

6. Beaty had escaped from prison before. At the time of the escape he was serving a 20 year sentence in Chino for Federal Kidnapping with the possibility of parole in 6 to 7 years. Beaty was sentenced to Chino because of a previous escape in which he tried to frame two innocent people. He claimed the 2 people were his accomplices when in fact he had kidnapped them to aid in his escape. The jury saw through his lies and convicted him of Federal Kidnapping. Beaty has a history of lying to save his own life.
7. Beaty testified before the Grand Jury that he planned this last escape in January 1972. A State official overheard Beaty planning the escape on the phone and notified correctional authorities. Incredible as it seems, the police did nothing.
8. As part of his plan, Beaty made contact with others in and out of prison who were active in the prison movement and in Venceremos Organization. It would appear he did this to protect himself and to place himself in a bargaining position in the event of recapture.
9. Beaty became a close friend of Doug's while the 2 were at Chino. He asked Doug to work on his case after Doug's release. To win support for his case, Beaty also asked for assistance from the Prison Law Project and various Venceremos members, working on it. He had even gone so far as to join Venceremos. After establishing these personal and organizational contacts, Beaty got numerous people to write to him.
10. It was easy for Beaty to make these contacts because he and Doug were well respected within prison as righteous jailhouse lawyers. He consistently put forth progressive and revolutionary rhetoric and even claimed to have a letter from George Jackson saying that he could be trusted. As it turns out the letter was phoney and Beaty never knew Jackson.

11. Apparently Beaty used these contacts and letters to protect himself. He even took his file of letters from Andrea and Jean with him in the police car on October 6, 1972. Most prisoners destroy letters received from people with any political content. Ordinarily no prisoner is allowed to take property with him while in transport.

12. Beaty's October 6th court hearing had been cancelled. Beaty had been notified of the cancellation the day before yet he was still transported for the court appearance.

13. On October 6th, Beaty was escorted by 2 unarmed guards in a car without radio communication despite the knowledge that:

Beaty's hearing had been cancelled beforehand.

Beaty had escaped before.

Beaty had been planning the new escape since January 1972.

14. There are other inconsistencies in Beaty's case. For example, why was Beaty, who had already escaped before assigned to Chino where it is not even necessary to plan an escape? Chino is a minimum security prison known throughout the prison system as the "country club". One former prison guard has said, "If he (Beaty) had wanted to escape, the only thing separating him from freedom were a few steel bars." Several ex-prisoners who have served time in Chino, have remarked that all he really had to do was go over a wall as he did in 1970.

THESE INCONSISTENCIES POINT TO ONE CONCLUSION. BEATY HAD SKILLFULLY PLANNED HIS ESCAPE TO PROTECT HIMSELF IN THE EVENT OF RECAPTURE. WITH ALL THE FALSE INFORMATION HE COULD THEN SUPPLY TO THE POLICE, HE WAS SURE TO GET OFF EASY IF RECAPTURED.

NO CASE

15. After Beaty's recapture it was easy for the San Bernardino police and the FBI to get him to talk. He supplied the information to implicate politically active people such as Andrea, Doug, Jean and Bob on murder and to have others arrested on various charges such as harboring a fugitive.

16. Beaty fingered key people in his testimony.

Those implicated were previously under surveillance either for their political activities in the prison movement or their direct connections with Venceremos Organization or with people in it. Doug was especially vulnerable since he had a history of prison organizing and had been told by a guard upon his release that he would be back within 6 months or dead.

17. Although Beaty pleaded guilty to murder, his valuable secret testimony before the FBI and San Bernardino police has made him eligible for parole in 7 years. Beaty is now well protected and his whereabouts are unknown.

18. Based on Beaty's lies, Andrea, Doug, Jean and Bob have been kept in jail without bail on false murder charges. Even though the death penalty has been removed and these 4 people are entitled to be released on bail, the judge has refused bail.

SUMMARY

As a result of the escape, the San Bernardino police focused their attack upon the prison movement and its supporters. Andrea and Doug were falsely charged and Cheryl Hockin, only because she lived with them in Hayward, was arrested and kidnapped to San Bernardino, then released for lack of evidence.

Based on Beaty's secret testimony before the Grand Jury, the San Bernardino police and the FBI got the go-ahead they needed to widen the scope of the case and focus an attack on Venceremos Organization. The FBI began a campaign of kicking down doors, illegal searches and seizures, false charges and arrests. Going beyond the work of the San Bernardino police, the FBI coached Beaty, feeding him names and information which he has used to implicate innocent people to save his own skin.

The Jury Make-Up

The all-White jury for this case consists of 7 women and 5 men with an average age of 63. Only two jurors are under 55 years of age. (Andrea is 18 years old and Doug is 30.) The District Attorney has systematically excluded all people of color and other working and young people. These are the people who will decide on Andrea's and Doug's innocence.



Jean & Bob are INNOCENT

Jean Hobson and Bob Seabock are also charged with the murder of the escort guard. They are presently in jail in San Bernardino awaiting trial without bail. The facts around Jean and Bob's case also indicate that they were framed because of Beaty's testimony. The facts are:

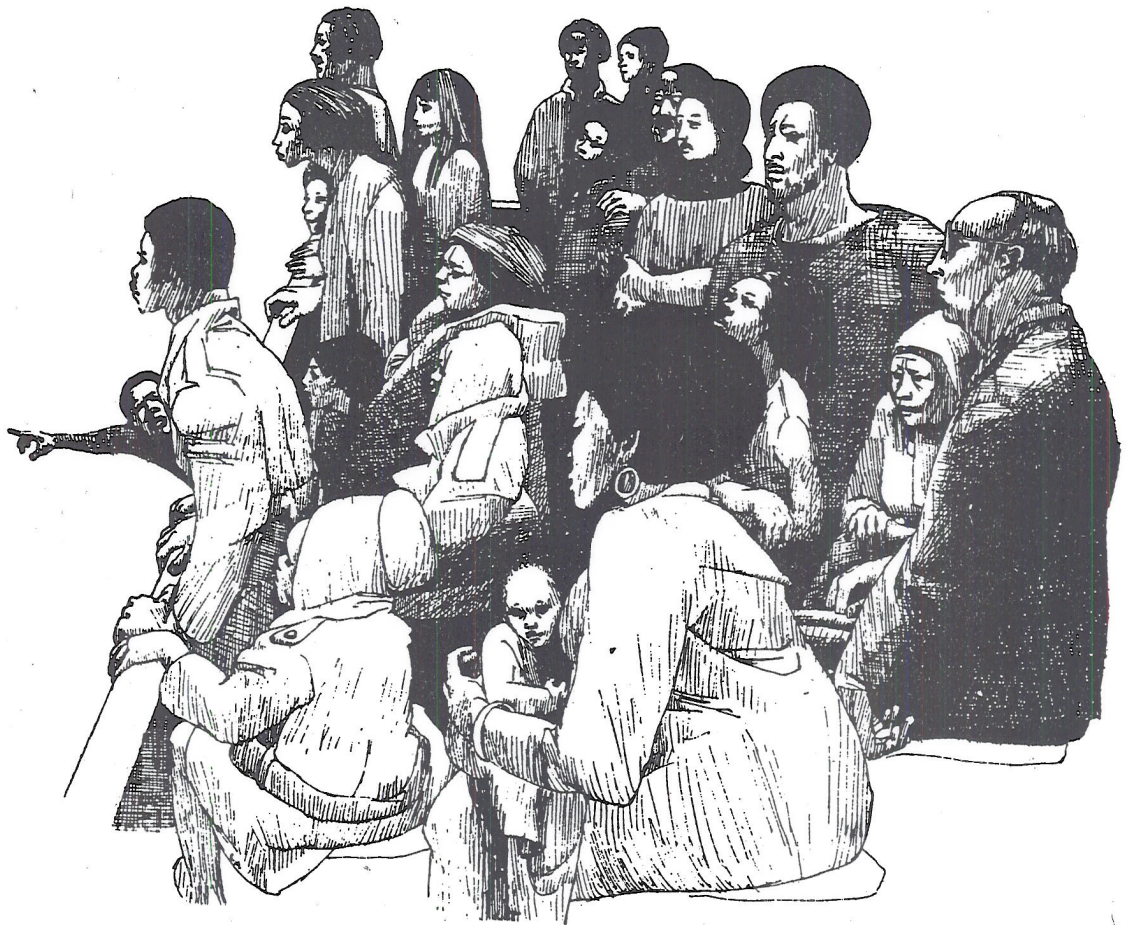
1. On December 11, 1972, Jean Hobson was with Ron Beaty when he was recaptured crossing the San Francisco Bay Bridge. It is this fact that the prosecution intends to use to link Jean to the murder of the guard.

2. By sensationalizing Jean's capture with Beaty, the media is guilty of helping the prosecution in its attempt to link her to the

death of the escort guard.

3. Jean's house in Palo Alto was searched by Palo Alto police and San Bernardino police the day after her arrest with Beaty. One week later, her neighbor Bob Seabock was arrested on investigation of murder. Bob's house was also searched and legally registered and owned weapons and equipment were seized without a warrant

The media is again guilty of supporting the prosecution with its sensationalizing of these raids, presenting outright lies and false stories of arms caches rather than the truth of the illegal seizure of legally owned and registered equipment and arms.



The Case Expands



In addition to the four people falsely charged with murder, an attempt is being made to frame 4 others on harboring a fugitive, a charge brought against them solely on the basis of Beaty's testimony. The 4 are Bruce Hobson, Mort Newman, Bruce Franklin and Chuck Noble. All are members of Venceremos Organization and have had past political association with Jean Hobson and Andrea. Familiar with their names through his contact with Andrea and Jean, Beaty was able to falsely implicate the four when coached by the FBI. Because of

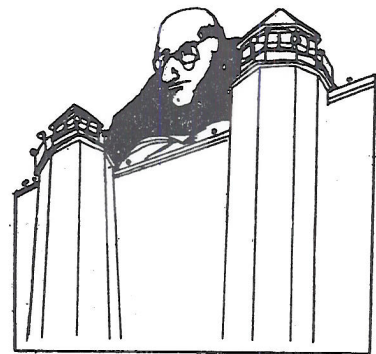
the flimsiness of his testimony and the absence of any other evidence, the charges were dismissed. The prosecution now seeks an indictment against the four through a secret Federal Grand Jury investigation.

The Federal Grand Jury began its secret investigation by seeking to implicate Bruce Hobson. Two of the witnesses summoned to testify, Laura and Milt Taulbee, exercised their constitutional right to remain silent and to refrain from testifying against each other as husband and wife, and were jailed for contempt of court. They must either talk or remain in prison for the duration of the Grand Jury.

Based on these facts, it appears that the government originally intended to use the escape to jail to silence a number of politically active people. It's not clear at this time if they'll continue with this fishing expedition, but the possibility cannot be discounted.

Grand Jury Injustice

The Grand Jury was originally developed to protect people from the government and to make sure that all criminal indictments and prosecutions were actually justified. It is now a tool of the government to investigate and attack people and organizations working for progressive change. Wherever people have resisted oppression, these Grand Juries have convened. Around inmates at Attica, Weathermen in Phoenix, Vietnam Veterans



Against the War (V.V.A.W.) in Gainesville, American Indians (A.I.M.) at Wounded Knee, Irish Americans in San Francisco and the Revolutionary Union in San Francisco, the federal government through the Grand Juries, is doing away with basic democratic rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Once inside the Grand Jury room, one loses the right to be represented by an attorney, to cross-examine the prosecution and to exercise the right guaranteed by the 5th Amendment of not incriminating oneself. There are no limits to what the prosecutors can ask and Grand Jury indictments cannot be challenged in the courts on the grounds of illegally obtained or out-lawed evidence (such as wiretapping).

Prisons: Unity Inside & Out

Conditions within local, State and Federal prisons have always been atrocious. Prisoners have virtually no rights, and what few rights they do have are not explained. Legal assistance is difficult if not impossible to obtain. Most prisoners do not understand legal jargon, do not have the money to hire a skilled and sympathetic lawyer and are often convinced by overworked public defenders or unconcerned lawyers to make "deals" which save time and money for the court and often railroad the prisoner into a long jail term.

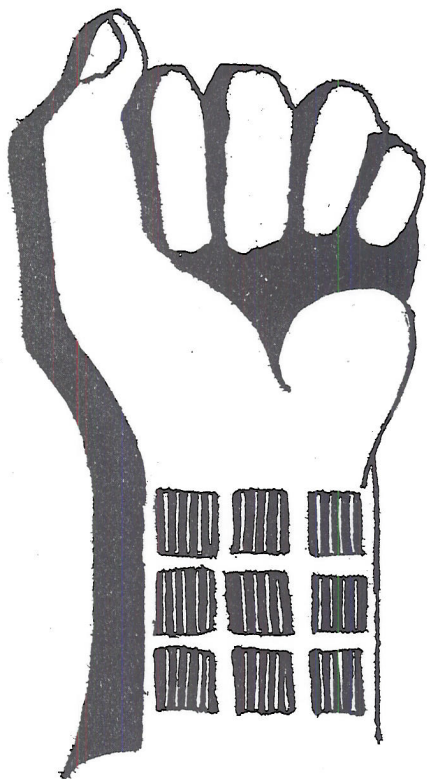
Mail, visitations and other communication, are monitored and often cut off at the whim of the prison officials. Meals are minimal, poorly planned and prepared and often withheld as punishment. Prisoners are subject to punishment at any time since there are no clearly defined guidelines for infractions. Medical assistance is either inadequate or unavailable. Release and parole board appearances are set at the whim of officials. These are just some of the deplorable conditions prisoners face daily. Only the wealthy, the politically influential or the snitches (e.g. Ron Beaty) escape them.



The Movement Grows

These are the conditions that have sparked rebellions and internal conflicts among inmates at Attica, San Quentin, Soledad, and other prisons across the U.S. These are the conditions that have made newspaper headlines and that have led to legal suits against jails such as Vacaville (medical facility), Santa Rita, and the San Francisco City Jail system. But these conditions continue to exist and worsen.

These are the conditions which Doug Burt and Prison organizations such as the Prison Law Project (which Andrea and Jean worked on) have been struggling against. The U.S. government would like to place the blame for growing prison unrest on outside agitators and subversives as they've tried to do over and over again at Wounded Knee, Southern University, Watts and in the anti-war movement. In fact, the House Internal Security Committee voted in February 1973 to investigate the role of subversives in encouraging prison unrest. This is why Doug and the prison movement are being framed in this case. They are being used as scapegoats for government and prison oppression and the growing resistance it produces.



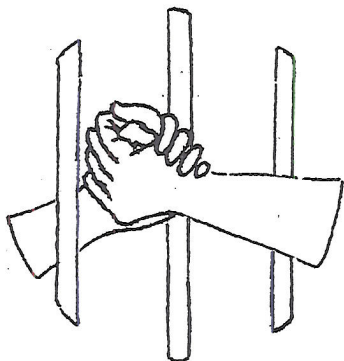
Going Beyond the Case

While the main thrust in the attack in the Chino case has been against people in the prison movement, an attempt was made to expand this to an attack against Venceremos Organization and thereby implicate all progressive and revolutionary groups.

Police have arrested, detained and questioned members of Venceremos and their friends and tried to make this aspect of the case primary. The reason for this attack is because of the political principles and practice of the organization, es-

pecially with respect to prison organizing and its position that most poor and working people--Black, Brown, Native American, Asian and White people--are captives of an oppressive and exploitative government.

Wherever progressive people and organizations have opposed government policy, the government police forces, the FBI, CIA, State and local police and the court system have been utilized to smash them. The Chino case is just one example among many such instances.



CHINO DEFENSE COMMITTEES

In answer to this attack, individuals and organizations have come together to form committees in defense of the victims of Ron Beaty's lies. Organizations supporting the defense are:

October League
Revolutionary Union
Spartacist League
Venceremos
Venceremos Study Groups
Vietnam Veterans Against the War
United Prisoners Union

All of these organizations plus many individuals coming from various political backgrounds recognize the need to unite to FREE ANDREA, DOUG, JEAN and BOB, and to stop the attack against the prison movement and progressive organizations opposed to repressive government policies. There are a number of ways people can provide support for the defense:

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Petitions demanding that reasonable bail be set for the four defendants framed on murder are available for circulation.
2. Other kinds of literature explaining the case is available for distribution.

3. "Support the Chino Defendants" buttons are available for sale.
4. Contacts with media can be utilized to insist on fair and truthful coverage of the case. Advance preparation of press releases is often helpful in getting media coverage.
5. People in jail around this case need to hear from supporters, and can be reached at the addresses listed below.
6. Editors of newspapers, magazines and other periodicals can and should be pressured by letters from readers to cover the case.
7. People interested in joining or setting up defense committees can contact any of the existing defense committees listed at the bottom of this page. People with writing and printing skills are especially needed to help get out information around the case.
8. Speaking engagements can be arranged for any group of people interested in hearing about the case. Contact any of the defense committees below for information.
9. Another of the major responsibilities of the defense committees is fund raising. The trials are costly and donations can be sent to 3077 24th Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94110. People interested in helping to raise funds through benefits in their own area can contact the defense committees for information.
10. Keep up to date on the facts by contacting the main office of the Chino Defense Committee by telephone at (415) 285-3100 or 285-3101 or by mail at 3077 24th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110.



Defense Committees

PALO ALTO
933 Scott Street
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301
(415) 327-4396 or
(415) 328-2491

SAN MATEO COUNTY
Stanbaugh House
142 Stanbaugh St.
Redwood City, Ca.
(415) 365-2491

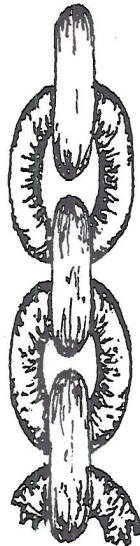
STANFORD
747 Delores
Stanford, Ca. 94305
(415) 321-6791

EAST BAY
22758 4th Street
Hayward, Ca. 94542
(415) 886-8514 or
(415) 534-4223

SAN FRANCISCO
United Prisoners Union Office
3077 24th Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94119
(415) 285-3100 or
(415) 285-3101

SAN BERNARDINO
2595 West 6th Street
San Bernardino, Ca.
(714) 888-0477

ALL OTHER AREAS
United Prisoners Union Office
3077 24th Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94119
(415) 285-3100 or
(415) 285-3101



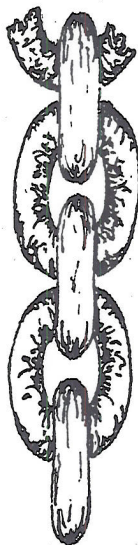
Defendants

Jean Hobson 44469
W1W-13
630 E. Cardiff
San Bernardino, Ca. 92408

Robert Seabock 44825
K-S-12
630 E. Cardiff
San Bernardino, Ca. 92408

Andrea Holman 42028
W1E-13
630 E. Cardiff
San Bernardino, Ca. 92408

Benton Douglas Burt 42027A
K-N-11
630 E. Cardiff
San Bernardino, Ca. 92408



Friends

Laura Taulbee
701 Abel
Milpitas, Ca. 95035

Milt Taulbee
850 Bryant Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94103

Rec'd 25 Jun 73



This pamphlet was written by the Chino Defense Committees to clarify the Chino escape incident of October 6, 1972 and to help win support for those falsely arrested and jailed.

When the so-called mass media, working hand in hand with the FBI and the local police, consistently tries to convict political people of frame-ups fabricated by State authorities, we must respond by telling as many people as we can what the real facts are in these frame-ups. We've learned from many past examples that the only way to free these four innocent people is by taking the truth to the people.

If you would like to help us to FREE the CHINO DEFENDANTS there is a list of ways you can help on page 9 of this pamphlet.

94941

MRS & MRS J D WHITE
35 CASTLE ROCK DR
MILL VALLEY CA

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage Paid
Palo Alto, CA
Permit No. 129