SQUATTERS RIGHT

In the face of Reagan's budget cuts many people cower and cry for the return of liberal programs. Each year is worse than the last, but, lo and behold, a "new" politician pops up at every election swearing he'll save America. Once again people are bitching and begging, and, while the suffering is real, there are alternatives to docility.

For instance, many young workers and students in major European cities are making their demands once, then taking their lives into their own hands, regardless of the state and without any state aid.

Leaderless, with their slogan "No power to no one" (sweetly reminiscent of "Nobody for President"), Germans, Swiss, and Dutch peoples are taking to the streets. But the German marchers are not asking the legislature for aid; instead they head for empty buildings and make them their own. The same is true in the Netherlands. Likewise, Zurich youths streak through the streets with red "A"s painted on their asses in demands for a FREE! life style and "autonomous zones".

But perhaps what is more important than the protesting is the great number of successes. The youth of Zurich are holding their little piece of Anarchia, and the formerly homeless people of Germany display banners reading "HERE WE LIVE AND HERE WE STAY - WE SHALL OVERCOME" in front of new homes.

The reaction from the states involved has been what one would expect. First they make speeches about private property, then try to create images of "terrorists". Followed by the "Law and Order" of throwing out workers and students into the streets via the sanctioned violence of tear gas, water cannons, and clubs. But the more fanatically they try to quell this revolt, the further it spreads and the harder the people fight back against the system. When the police attack peaceful demonstrators, there are no winners of the resulting street brawls between Police and Squatters that leave equal numbers hurt on both sides and new buildings occupied.

But what the Social Democrats and newly coronated Queens do not realize is that they are no longer dealing with an economic issue. For now that these oppressed people have experienced running their own lives, in the anarchist tradition without leaders, they thirst for more than a roof. And the search for an alternative life-style, described as solidarity without bureaucracy, continues. The only question now remaining is, When will this movement reach Washington's 10,000 homeless?

Scott M. Rodell

EL SALVADOR UNDER SIEGE

In this small, most densely populated of the Central American countries (a neighbor only 1000 miles from Miami) the political lines are now clearly drawn.

On one side there are the 2% of the people who own 60% of the land. Before he was gunned down at the altar by their henchmen, Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero said, "The cause of our misery is the oligarchy--this small group of families who are not concerned about the hunger of the people, but who need this hunger in order to provide themselves with cheap and abundant labor to raise and harvest their crops." This oligarchy has political and economic power . . . for the time being.

Opposition to this dictatorship is united in the Democratic Revolutionary Front and the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation. According to former U.S. Ambassador Murat Williams, this opposition represents over 80% of the Salvadoran people (an opinion shared by virtually every objective observer of the scene). The popular front includes organizations of workers, peasants, students, clergy, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and small businesses.

The Nixon/Ford/Carter/Reagan administration, thru the corporate controlled media, is trying to build up a picture of a struggle between "leftist and rightest extremists" with the "moderate" U.S.-backed junta caught in the center. This is simply not the case. The "center" is a solid part of the opposition to a military-dominated junta--a junta that is being armed by the U.S. to practice systematic murder and torture of those who seek freedom and justice.

The peasants (who make up over two-thirds of the population) are starving. Their average diet is 26% deficient in calories and 47% deficient in proteins. One out of every four children die before the age of five. Unemployment is over 50%. Daily wages can be kept at $3 to $4 a day.

Which explains why our Presidents and Congress that have been bought, sealed, and delivered by Corporate America want to keep things the way they are. Why pay $20 a day to a worker here if they can get the job done there for $3?

100 years ago the peasants survived by farming their own small plots. But these plots were taken by capitalists who would plant (and still plant) crops for export (mainly cotton and coffee), and the peasants were forced to compete with each other for the underpaid jobs, seasonal and insufficient in number. No land was left for the people to use for themselves.

As opposition to this nightmare has finally unified and gained courage and strength, the policy of those in control has turned increasingly brutal. Over 15,000 (in a country of only 5 million) have been dragged from their homes or hunted down and slaughtered in the past two years. Even former Ambassador White admits that U.S. military aid is going to "one of the most out-of-control, violent, bloodthirsty groups of men in the world."

Russia has undoubtedly succeeded in getting a few arms thru to these suffering people (and in gaining some influence), but the Salvadorans seem rather sophisticated politically and not inclined to trade one totalitarianism for another. And clearly it is the U.S. that is guilty of large-scale intervention. "The junta is being sustained exclusively by the U.S.", said Dr. Alvarez Cordova who, after resigning as Minister of Agriculture, served as President of the Democratic Revolutionary Front. "Peace can only exist in Central America if El Salvador is allowed to determine its own destiny." Dr. Cordova was among the six Salvadoran leaders who were murdered by the junta on November 27, 1980.

Apparently Reagan's mail is running overwhelmingly against this policy. Most of the people of our part of the Americas are catching on a lot more quickly than we did about Vietnam. Let's keep the pressure on Reagan. If he realizes that enough of us care, he will dump Haig and, in the interests of political expediency, change his policy toward El Salvador.

Then, knowing that "U.S." is merely a sick state of mind reflecting selfishness and desperate exploitation of us all, we can move toward our next goal:

U.S. OUT OF NORTH AMERICA!

Edward Law

Berrigans and Haig...

Hidden from the cameras of the press, police are often not as gentle with those who resist (even non-violently) the injustice and authority of the state. On Thursday April 16th three members of the Atlantic Life Community made it thru State Department security to throw blood around the office of Alexander Haig, richly symbolizing the blood that is on Haig's hands. A policeman who was caught away from his post rushed back in and, according to Phil Berrigan, clubbed the three as they knelt in prayer.

On Wednesday at the White House and on Friday at the Pentagon there was also resistance, blood-pouring, and an attempt to reach those who would bring the world to nuclear disaster, after having brought the poor to their knees.