

IN MASSACHUSETTS

413-586-4407
PO BOX 4690
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO 7 ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

212-969-0448
PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA
NEW YORK, NY 10025

FEBRUARY 1989 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 15
25 Main St. #218
Northampton

**SEDITION COMMITTEE INVITES ALL SUPPORTERS TO AN
OPEN HOUSE OFFICE PARTY.** Literature & Trial Updates
Available - Refreshments will be served.

FRI. FEB. 24th
Springfield
Courthouse

DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE OHIO 7
9:30-1:00 - Everyone comes to court
1:00 - Vigil outside courthouse in
support of political prisoners

COURT DAYS THIS MONTH

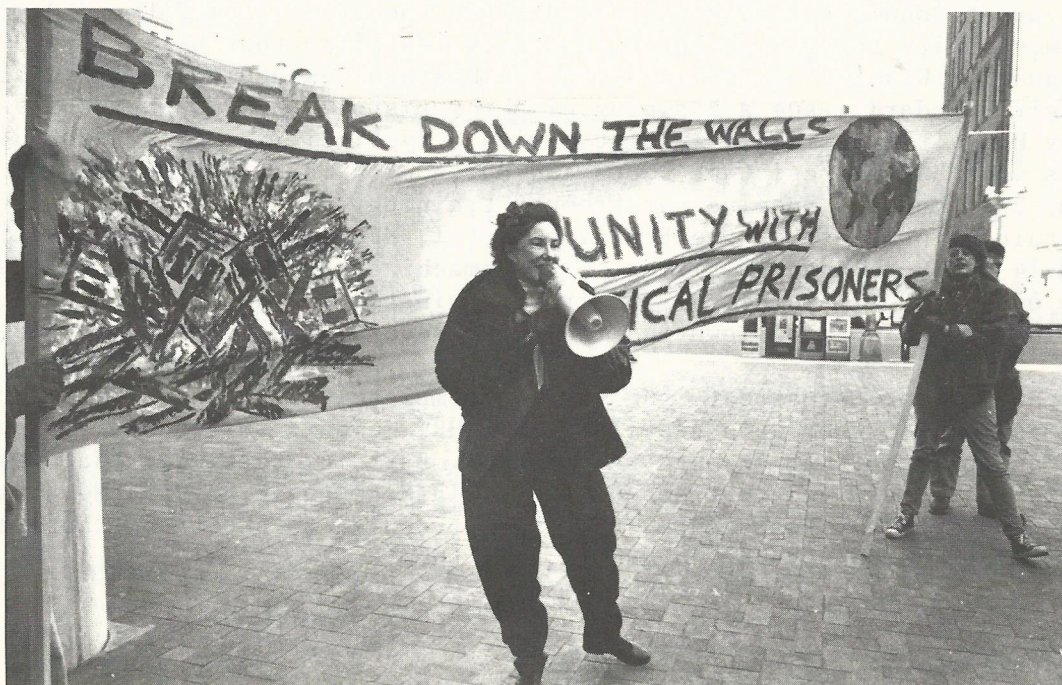
FEBRUARY

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

WHERE: Federal Courthouse, Springfield, Mass.

WHEN: 9:30-1:00, 2:00-4:00

The Ohio 7 need your presence in the courtroom!
The Marshalls outnumber the lawyers & defendants
combined. Come and support our movement & our
comrades. **DON'T LET THEM STAND ALONE.** Call
586-4407 to arrange a ride or someone to go with.
SEDITION COMMITTEE: Wed. 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Supporters for Ohio 7 outside courthouse at the Jan. 10th demonstration. Photo by Paul Shoul.

SHOW TRIAL UPDATE

Immediately following defense openings the government began to present the first of its approximately 500 witnesses. The early prosecution is focusing on 2 Maine bank robberies and the seditious and RICO conspiracy alleged to have been formed on or about 1975.

None of the bank tellers, police officers or other witnesses have been able to identify any of the defendants as having participated in any bank robbery or bombing.

One of the bank robberies involved a shooting incident with a pursuing police officer (no injuries). Testimony by the police officer and other sworn statements indicated that as many as 15 shots were fired from 6 different weapons. However, another officer testifying for the government said only 3 shell casings were located at the scene. The gov't. is trying to ballistically match those shell casings to a handgun recovered from Ray 9 years later.

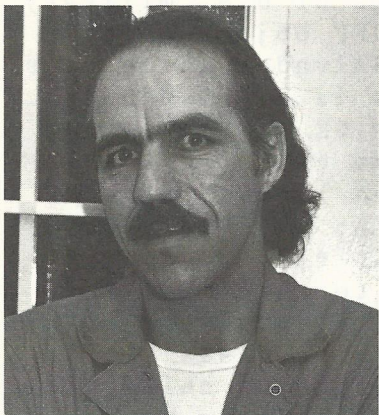
William Albrecht (self-styled fbi ballistics "expert") was rigorously cross-examined by Atty. Ken King. Under cross-examination it was revealed that Albrecht had used the least dependable ballistics test available to the fbi (breech marking on the primer of the fired casing). Albrecht could offer no explanation as to why a more dependable test was not used. The primer test is suspect of several reasons. One of the most important is that the primer is the only part of the casing that is removable (it can be easily knocked out with a punch, as is commonly done in reloading casings). Albrecht stated that it took several tests firings to make a match. He also sought to rely on a photograph comparing the test casing to a casing recovered at the scene. When asked why so many markings on the photograph did not match, he stated that he had a problem with the lighting on his microscope which resulted in shadows and lines not matching.

The casings in question were submitted to the fbi lab in October, 1975, the same month Albrecht began his lab work and training under the supervision of an agent named Evan Hodge. Hodge and Albrecht have been implicated in the falsification of ballistics evidence against Native American activist Leonard Peltier. The defense maintains that it is no mere coincidence that a fake ballistics report used to convict Leonard involved these same 2 agents, during the same period of time (October, 1975) that the casings from this trial were being handled in the fbi lab. Handwriting in lab reports crucial to the conviction of Leonard were written by Albrecht, though Hodge initially testified falsely that they were written by another lab assistant.

FBI agent Donald Bartnick testified about the arrests of Pat and Ray while they were in a window van with their 3 children. Bartnick testified that he is part of an elite fbi SWAT team based in Washington, D.C. called the Hostage Rescue Team (HRT). All HRT members have as their standard issue a Browning Hi-power pistol and MP-5 submachine gun, 9mm (manufactured by H&K, it fires fully automatic with a cyclical rate of 800 rounds per minute). All unit members wear bullet resistant vests and Bartnick himself is trained in the use of explosives. Some unit members receive paratrooper training. Bartnick's specialization is weapons and he is trained in the use of the Browning pistol, MP-5 submachine gun, Remington 700 sniper rifle, M-14 and M-16 assault rifles, Uzi submachine gun and others. On the day of the arrests, he was one of 20 HRT members flown from Washington to Ohio to participate in the arrest of Ray. The unit also had flown out from D.C. several specially constructed assault vehicles.

At the time of the arrest, the van was completely surrounded by a force of approx. 50 police officers, all of whom were heavily armed. HRT members surrounded the van with MP-5 submachine guns and pointed them through the windows. Bartnick testified that they were aware the children were in the van and that he could clearly "see their heads". He also stated that had they encountered any resistance, they were prepared to shoot and that you do not point a weapon at someone unless you intend to kill them.





RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR, PRO SE

You heard about overt acts from the judge during the instruction...My first overt act in this alleged conspiracy is I was born into a particular class of workers that was severely exploited and subjected to certain kinds of conditions. And that left an imprint on my mind that I was going to have to do something about it, when a factory owner puts more value on his profits than your health and life. I think that those are priorities that need to be changed.

I enlisted in the Army in 1967. I went to Vietnam and I served a full tour of duty, 12 months...I saw another side of U.S.

foreign policy. Bombings, killings, search and destroy, devastation, poverty, hunger. I was part of a foreign occupation Army. I saw human rights violations when I was there, and I saw violations of international law...I was trained to kill. And I was fully armed and sent to Vietnam...I didn't suffer any mental illness or syndrome when I came back. I came back enraged by what I saw.

After Vietnam I asked the most seditious question of all: WHY? Why is this government committing crimes in our name? Why were so many of us from poor and working class backgrounds; why so many Black and Latino GI's over there told to do the killing and fighting...?I wasn't coming back to a university. I was going to come back and face the prospect of going back and making some more heels for those shoes.

The blood of innocent people stirred my conscience and I'm going to ask it to move your conscience during this trial.

This is how the struggle for social justice has become my life. I've gone into those factories, those mills, those fields; I've sweat for the boss and know what it's like. I was in the Army. I was in Vietnam. I had to serve this government when they required it. I've been in their jails and prisons. This is how I came to understand what I refer to as the class struggle and class conflict and this is how I became a revolutionary.

I would like to digress for a minute and tell you why I'm choosing to defend myself...What I'm simply trying to do is to add my voice to that of millions of others who cry freedom from South Africa to Central America to the south Bronx in New York. They don't have much choice about it, and I don't have much choice...I want to defend myself and I want to defend the issues that I think are important. And the important issue here, is the issue of human rights. I see that as a central part of this trial.

...Sedition laws in general have always been designed to break what has been a tradition of resistance and political activity in this country, whether it was Native American people resisting the theft of their land or slaves trying to be free, or union leaders or anti-war activists...The government wants you to believe that three people are going to conspire to overthrow the most powerful government on the face of the earth. Or eight people as the original indictment says. Or 80 or 800 for that matter. That goes against my political thinking. Because I don't think there's going to be significant social change in this country unless a lot of people participate and make it happen. That's what self-determination is all about.

...I can't tell you how insulted I am these prosecutors charge me with being a racketeer. Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations I do not believe has the word revolutionary in it, or political dissident...You cannot be a revolutionary and be a racketeer. It's a contradiction. It's either one or the other. You cannot support freedom struggles in South Africa or Central America or the Black nation within this country from the foundation of a criminal enterprise. It can't be done. History shows that.

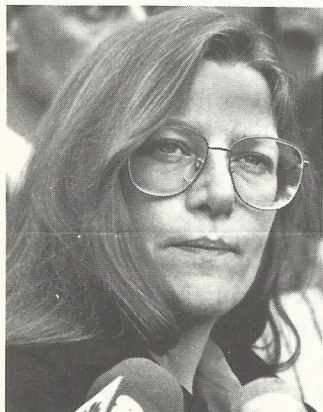
I believe that the evidence will show that there is a war in Central America and that it's a U.S. sponsored war. This trial's going to have a lot to do with bombings. The United Freedom Front took responsibility for bombings of U.S. military contractors and facilities. The evidence is going to show the UFF objected to the U.S. shipping bombs and armaments to the government of El Salvador which uses them to slaughter its own people. One of these particular bombs is a 750 pound fragmentation bomb...It's dropped by an A-37 Dragon Jet made by GE... I still remember the children of Vietnam, the suffering of those children that I saw there. But I also remember the beauty of their smiles. And I never have lost sight of what human potential there is in people. This is at the heart of what motivates me- my intent, my purpose, my goals, my values...It's my commitment. This is what the government fears. That I didn't go back to that mill to make those shoe heels, that I took another course with my life. I have a commitment to a future that holds the human potential of poor and working class people as a great asset to be developed. A commitment to a future in which no child will ever have to suffer from racism, poverty, or war. A future where justice brings peace for our children and generations to come.

Robert Boyle, Atty. at Law on behalf of RICHARD WILLIAMS

This is not a bank robbery trial. This is not a trial where the charge is bombings...The defendants here are charged with racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, and seditious conspiracy. We will show that this entire prosecution is part of a government program to criminalize political dissent by labeling militant opposition to U.S. policies at home and around the world a racketeering enterprise.

Mr. Williams came to understand and believe in American history which was not taught in school. He learned about the genocide of Native American people, about slavery, about U.S. domination of third world countries. He also came to believe that communism and socialism were not ideas to be afraid of.

Mr. Williams became a political activist while in prison. He helped start a chapter of the New England Prisoners' Assoc. which was an organization of prisoners and people outside geared toward prison reform...He became a leader and, in fact, was chosen by the prisoners in N.H. State Prison to meet once a month with legislators to discuss the conditions inside New Hampshire State Prison.



William Newman, Atty. at Law on behalf of PAT LEVASSEUR

...Her father was an Army recruiter. And for a while the war in Vietnam was pretty abstract. And then some of the boys who had been recruited started coming back to Delmar and they had horrible stories to tell...Some of the boys started to come back in body bags. And it was her father's job to have to go to the families of those boys and tell them that their son was dead. There was for Pat Levasseur a coalescing of political and social and personal ideals...She came to understand and to feel deeply the importance of those political movements about which I have just spoken...She worked against the war. She worked with community groups. She worked against racism. And for decent child care and to help disenfranchised persons. She was a politically aware and committed person who thought she could help make the world a better place. In 1972 she moved to Maine. She did the same type of political work...And she met Ray Levasseur both through her work at SCAR and through her work at the bookstore. And she fell in love with Ray. And on Jan. 13, 1976, they had their first of three daughters...But the reasons that she joined Ray "underground" were different from the reasons that Ray went underground. His reasons were political. Her reasons were personal.

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HUNGERSTRIKES IN SOUTH AFRICA & WEST GERMANY CONTINUE: A CALL FOR INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY

*** On Jan.23,1989, over 300 South African political prisoners, members of various anti-apartheid organizations, initiated an unlimited hungerstrike against the law of preventive detention.

***On Feb.1,1989,58 West German political prisoners of the anti-imperialist guerrilla organizations-Red Army Faction and the June 2nd Movement, the anti-imperialist resistance, the Kurdish nationalist movement and militant social prisoners began an unlimited hunger-strike for the freedom of association and against isolation and torture/sensory deprivation.

SOUTH AFRICA



from South Africa: The Cordoned Heart. Photo by Omar Badsha.

BACKGROUND:

Since the South African government declared its State of Emergency in June '86, it has detained over 30,000 people in an effort to stave off the revolutionary mass upheaval. Over 1000 political detainees, many of them children, are still in preventive detention after nearly 3 yrs. They have never been tried; they face no charges. Often their families have no idea of what happened to them or where they are. Anti-apartheid organizations have been robbed of their leading cadre while prisoners, families and communities suffer severely. The effects are comparable to those of the "disappearances" of activists in Latin America.

PRESENT SITUATION:

After the S. African gov't reneged on its promise to release political detainees (only 600 have been released) dozens of detainees have resumed their hungerstrike. The apartheid regime is meanwhile separating them by sending them to small local jails, thereby depriving them of mass solidarity and information about the nationwide strike.

The Hunger Strike Support Comm. maintains that the gov't is continuing to make arrests of activists and detain them without charges or trial. Within a 3 week period there has been 50 new detentions.

THE HUNGERSTRIKERS ARE NOW CALLING FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES!!

WEST GERMANY

BACKGROUND:

The prisoners of the RAF have been fighting isolation and sensory deprivation torture for 18 yrs. They have undertaken 9 hungerstrikes which have resulted in 12 deaths and physical impairment for many. The use of sensory deprivation torture is exemplified by the "Toten Trakte" (Dead Wings) unit of Stammheim/ Stuttgart where one prisoner is confined alone in an entire wing that has been otherwise vacated. The cells are sound-proofed, lights are under the guards control, exercise is taken alone in outdoor cages, mail is rigorously censored and limited, visits are noncontact and are monitored by state security police. RAF prisoner, Bernard Rossner, has endured 11 yrs. of this form of total isolation.

PRESENT SITUATION:

Of the 58 prisoners initiating the strike Christa Eckes and Karl-Heinz Dellwo endure the longest. All others temporarily suspended it, going over a chain system (as used by the IRA in '81) whereby every 2 weeks 2 more prisoners join the fast until demands are met or until death. **Christa and Karl-Heinz, after 60+ days are heroic examples of revolutionary spirit. The German gov't is in a quandary as how to respond. Dialogue has been stressed by the gov't, meaning the request for capitulation of the prisoners' politics, a condition that none of the RAF prisoners will accept. The gov't states that it fears reprisals by any of the 1000s of people who support and sympathize with the prisoners.



Stammheim:

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NEW YORK, NY 10025

THESE HUNGERSTRIKES ARE SIGNIFICANT TO U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS,
THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS !!!

- 1) Preventive detention has taken many forms here: exorbitant bails, the grand jury subpoena, and the 1984 No-Bail law.
- 2) Solitary confinement and isolation has been used extensively against political prisoners for the past 2 decades: most recently recognized at the Lexington and Marion Control Units.

RAF prisoner Helmut Pohl says on behalf of the hungerstrikers (Feb.1, '89):

"Everyone who wants to, knows what isolation is; it is understood and defined internationally as torture. Isolation has become the rule for imprisoned revolutionaries here, whether from the guerilla, the resistance, or foreign comrades; it is being increasingly adopted internationally as the clean perfidious method of the fine West German-Europeans.

So isolation must be broken here"

In a letter, dated 3/29/89, Christa Eckes writes: "It's one fight against torture, isolation and criminalization, as it is one fight worldwide to break through against the imperialist power and achieve revolutionary change."
***About her reported "failing health situation" she writes, "no medical problems, it's a fight for coming together"

2 NEW FORMS OF REPRESSION HAVE RECENTLY BEEN LEGALIZED IN WEST GERMANY.

COMA LAW: Originating out of the '84-'85 hungerstrike in Germany, this law allows the gov't to step in as legal guardian as soon as the prisoner enters a coma to administer nutritional treatment, until they regain consciousness and refuse it again or give in. What can occur is a hideous form of torture, forcing the prisoner to hover on the brink of life and death. This technique is considered "cleaner" than the obvious torture of force-feeding!!!

PARAGRAPH 129a: Called an "anti-terrorist" law, it makes a crime of "membership or support of a criminal or terrorist organization". This law is being used widely to try to imprison public activists, prisoners' relatives, and attorneys based upon mere evidence of political support/association. In a new escalation of the use of this law, the FRG may bring P.129a against the hungerstrikers, asserting that the prisoners are members of "terrorist organization" in prison. The hungerstrike now becomes an act of terrorism!!!!

THE STRUGGLE IS ONE AND WILL BE WON!!

The struggle waged by the RAF prisoners and their attorneys' international work with Amnesty International and the European Commission for Human Rights laid a foundation for the successful campaign to close the Lexington Control Unit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!!!

**The Resistance Conspiracy Defendants have renewed their call for a solidarity fast on the 1st and 15th of every month until the strikes end. All supporters should write to Amnesty International and urge them to investigate the hungerstrike and take appropriate measures.

***Amnesty International, 322 Eighth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10001

***telegrams can be sent to: Ambassador

South African Embassy
3051 Mass. Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Ambassador
FRG Embassy
4645 Reservoir Rd., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

***Solidarity statements : Hungerstrike Information Office c/o GAL

Bartelsstrasse 30
2 Hamburg 36
Federal Republic of Germany

***** African National Congress
801 2nd Ave., Suite 405
N.Y., N.Y. 10017

****RICHARD WILLIAMS HAS DECIDED TO FAST EVERY WED. IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE HUNGERSTRIKERS---
WE COMMEND HIM FOR HIS POSITION!!!

****Tim Blunk provided indispensable information and prose for this insert.

LINDA COLEMAN, unindicted co-conspirator turned government witness

Coleman testified as one of the government main snitch witnesses. She previously testified before the BosLuc grand jury. She gave her testimony under a grant of immunity which means it can not be used against her but it can be used against others. She was pregnant both times that she testified and would have been jailed had she not cooperated. Because of the advanced stage of her pregnancy, cross-examination of her will not resume until March.

She testified on direct that she was asked to drive some people out of town after 2 bank robberies. Beyond this, she said she took part in no discussions concerning bank robberies and did not take part in the robberies themselves.

Linda Coleman's testimony and cooperation are critical to the government's case because of the necessity to corroborate the testimony of the government informer Joseph Aceto. Aceto is expected to take the stand later. He is a convicted murderer, drug user, formerly committed three times to a mental hospital, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic and has been maintained on the psychotropic drug Mellaril to "enhance the veracity of his testimony". He has tried to commit suicide several times and has a police record as long as this trial update! Without some corroboration his testimony is useless.

When it comes to the activities outlined in the indictment, Coleman reads from a script. Prior to her Sept. 1985 grand jury testimony, a 96 page, 1976 interrogation statement of Aceto's was made available to her. In this statement he implicates a vast number of people in clandestine activities. Many were people he had met through SCAR (Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform) and included Coleman. Fearful of being indicted, she elected to testify before the grand jury. It is during this testimony that she says she can not be sure if crucial information she is recalling is from her own memory or from Aceto's statement.

Coleman's testimony is also critical in supporting the government's view of the alleged development of a conspiracy. The importance is highlighted when she said "the group" was using the name Sam Melville-Jonathan Jackson Unit in the summer of 1975. She stated to the grand jury that the name came from a group reading of the letters written by Sam Melville (killed during the Attica Uprising). However, on cross-examination Coleman admitted that she couldn't produce the letters because there weren't any. She admitted later that the letters in question were, in fact, written by Stanley Bond (revolutionary killed in Walpole Prison).

She admitted that in the summer of 1975 she had no contact with anyone other than Ray. She stated that after she and Ray attended a conference of the New England Prisoners' Assoc. in April of 1975, they left for Denver in May. She remained there until the fall of '75, while Ray returned to Maine in July.

Under cross-examination Coleman provided numerous information about the lives, conditions and community activism of Ray and Pat Levasseur and Tom and Carol Manning. She testified that she was active in both SCAR and the Red Star North Bookstore with the Mannings and Levasseurs. She said the organization was harassed by police, under constant surveillance, etc. At one point a bookstore worker was beaten and raped by 2 men thought to be police or acting in complicity with them. She said it became necessary for Ray to carry a gun and that he placed a gun in the store and showed the workers how to use it. She testified that she was "proud" of the work SCAR and the bookstore did in the community. She was able to list a number of activities and programs set in motion by SCAR.

How someone like Linda Coleman can go from being a concerned and committed community activist to a government informer defies a simple explanation. One thing is certain: her collaboration began with her testimony before a grand jury. The fact that another government informer had implicated her (along with dozens of others) exasperated her fears that she also would be indicted. One is reminded of a scene from Orwell's 1984 when police interrogators threaten to subject a suspected dissident to a torture utilizing methods based on the victims worst fears. It wasn't the information they sought that was so valuable to them as the denunciation of a close comrade and the destruction of their trust and relationship. fyi- During one 3-hour period of cross-examination by Ray, the prosecutor objected 270 times.



WRITE TO THE COMRADES:

*Barbara Curzi- Laaman# 18213-053

*Ray Luc Levasseur# 10376-016

*Richard Williams# 10377-016

FDC Hartford

Box 178

Hartford, Ct. 06141-0178

*Tom Manning# 202873

Trenton State Prison

CN 861

Trenton, N.J. 08625

*Jaan Laaman# 10372-016

Box 1000

Leavenworth, Kansas, 66048-

1000

*Pat Gros Levasseur

c/o Sedition Committee

Box 4690

Springfield, Ma. 01101

*Please add my name to your mailing
list for information on the OHIO 7
trial & support activities.*

*To cover printing & mailing costs
(our newsletter is free to prisoners)
here is my donation of*

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15

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- "Seditious conspiracy is a thought crime,
think about it..." T. shirts. Red

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LARGE _____

_____ at \$10.00 _____

- *The Women of the Ohio 7*
- *Build a revolutionary movement*
- *Communiques from 1982-85*
- *Opening Statement from Springfield Trial*

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