

Perhaps that is why the Justices of the State Supreme Court were anxious to find reasons why Rizzo and the capitalist system he so ably represents should be spared such an ordeal. The Judges, by a 4 to 2 vote, threw out the Recall provisions of the City Charter as unconstitutional. Rizzo could now drink champagne instead of hemlock.

As of this writing, the Judges have not yet issued their full legal opinion but the gist of it seems to be that the State Constitution makes no provision for recall and the 1947 enabling act that allowed the city to have its own Home rule charter calls for observance of the election rules in the state constitution. Greg Harvey, attorney for the Recall Committee, argued these state election provisions apply only to state officials and not local ones.

These technical arguments may be of interest to lawyers. What stands out in the Judges decision, for the rest of us, is that these Justices do not want the people to have the right to recall public officials.

Judges and politicians generally like the idea that once elected, they are safe from the voters for several years at least. Billy Meehan, leader of the local Republican Party, spoke for them all when he said: "If everytime a public official did something unpopular and could be recalled from office, no political leader would be safe. It would be chaos."

INACTION, DEMORALIZATION AHEAD?

In the wake of the defeat of the Recall movement there will be a danger of demoralization among the anti-Rizzo forces. The liberal leadership of the Recall Committee has no plans for building the movement against Rizzo and in fact plan to dismantle it. Now that the legal op-

tions have been exhausted, the liberals are ready to go back to the Democratic party and wait until the next primary.

Greg Harvey, Recall leader, has said that there are no plans to try to utilize the 200,000 recall signatories as a base for a new political party. Without any political leadership, the many who were mobilized in the Recall Movement will fall into demoralization and inaction.

Instead of putting the anti-Rizzo movement on the shelf until the next elections, we must work to build it now. The policies that led to the recall effort in the first place will continue. We don't have to and we can't afford to wait until 1979 to protest these policies.

Mass mobilizations calling for keeping PGH open, for desegregated, quality education, and for transferring the tax burden from the city's working people to the banks, corporations and the wealthy, should be first on our agenda. We should call for Rizzo's resignation as he clearly does not represent the majority of the people. What was lost in the courts can be won in the streets.

To defeat not only Rizzo but Rizzoism, a new party in 1979 will be necessary. Neither the regular Democrats nor the liberal Democrats are an alternative. Both these elements showed that they are unreliable friends of the anti-Rizzo movement. The regular Democrats care most about their patronage and continuing their political careers. George Schwartz, for example, thought Rizzo was no better than Hitler after the Mayor had kept a squad of cops busy full-time looking into Schwartz's private life and business affairs. But Schwartz apparently finds that his political principles allow him to work with the likes of Hitler. Once Rizzo was reelected, Schwartz was quick to make his peace.

Bill Green, the darling of the liberal democrats, is another one who clearly puts his political hide before any liberal anti-Rizzo convictions. And even the Recall leaders themselves, by their efforts to keep the anti-Rizzo movement politically tame and free of any substantive political program, and by their desire to limit the movement to electoral and legal maneuvers, have shown they are inadequate for the task of getting Rizzoism out of city government.

ALTERNATIVE TO LIBERALISM AND RIZZOISM

The kind of political party we need must offer a real programmatic alternative to both Rizzoism and liberalism. It must be a party that is willing to take on and fight the Big Business interests that run Philadelphia and are responsible for its decline. It must necessarily be a party that relies on the working people -- that works to forge a coalition of labor, Black people, women and all other progressive forces.

One possibility is the Philadelphia Party, which will be on the ballot in 1979 by virtue of its showing in the last election. The Philadelphia Party presently lacks either the political leadership or the program to be the kind of real alternative that is needed. Its principal benefactor, Charles Bowser, is undoubtedly interested in it only so far as it can be used to advance his own political career.

However, the Philadelphia Party has a rank and file that supplied much of the drive for the Recall movement and who are undoubtedly more committed than before to building the party as an independent and permanent political vehicle. The Philadelphia Party needs to be challenged to adopt a program that really speaks for the city's working people, and on that basis, broaden its support.

WHAT'S RIZZO GOT UP HIS SLEEVE?

April 1978

by JIM GRIFFIN

On March 15th, in front of an audience of Whitman Park loyalists, Frank Rizzo announced that he would not seek a third term as mayor. But he did not bow out quietly. In calling it quits as mayor, Rizzo made it clear that he has not abandoned his quest for political power. In his speech, and at a press conference the following day, Rizzo announced his intention to become a national crusader for "equality for white people", attacking

housing desegregation and affirmative action policies.

Racist demagoguery has been Rizzo's stock in trade throughout his political career, but in the last few years he has kept his more extreme views under wraps. Now, having decided he can't be reelected, he has chosen to let it all hang out.

The Mayor more or less openly called for

whites to band together against Blacks. "Whites have to join hands to get equal treatment", Rizzo proclaimed. "...The Poles, the Germans, the Jews, the various ethnic groups that made this country great. . .suppose they say. . .we're not going to support any black man who runs for office."

CALL FOR IMPEACHMENT

Reaction to Rizzo's new tack came quick-

ly. The Family of Leaders, a Black civic organization, denounced Rizzo's remarks and called for his impeachment. Samuel Evans, spokesman for the group, compared Rizzo's statements to those of Adolf Hitler. Evans asked Attorney General Bell and Governor Milton Shapp to provide federal and National Guard troops to protect Blacks in the city, and called on Black executive officials in the Rizzo administration to resign, and on white civic organizations to take strong stands against Rizzo's statements.

The Baptist Minister's Conference, representing 300 Black churches in the city, also came out for Rizzo's impeachment. Conference President, the Rev. Lorenzo Shepard Jr., spoke for many when he "If the mayor thinks Blacks receive special treatment, he should be informed that the Black unemployment rate is twice that of whites."

City Councilman Lucien D. Blackwell joined the chorus calling for Rizzo's impeachment and said he would introduce a resolution for discussion in the Democratic caucus of council.

Rev John Kakalec, the Catholic priest who heads up the multi-racial Phila. Council of Neighborhood Organizations, also endorsed the position of the Family of Leaders and the Baptist Conference.

Another side of the reaction to Rizzo's white power call came from the federal government. Guidelines for federal funding call for promoting equal employment and integration in federally funded housing. The Rizzo administration has already been accused of foot-dragging and obstruction of these guidelines. Rizzo's March 16th speech promised outright opposition from the mayor's office.

Federal funds account for one-third of the city's \$1.2 billion annual operating budget, and millions more for long term programs. The city now stands a good chance of losing much of this funding. As one government insider put it: "What the mayor did was flush his federal grants." The federal government would not balk if Rizzo discreetly avoided these guidelines as mayors do in so many cities. But Rizzo's blatant opposition and racist rhetoric are a serious embarrassment to the Carter administration and jeopardize it's "human rights" image.

In reaction to the outcry against his speech, Rizzo backed away from his most extreme statements and accused the media of "distorting" his position. Rizzo called for a boycott of the *Daily News* because of editorials accusing the mayor of bigotry.

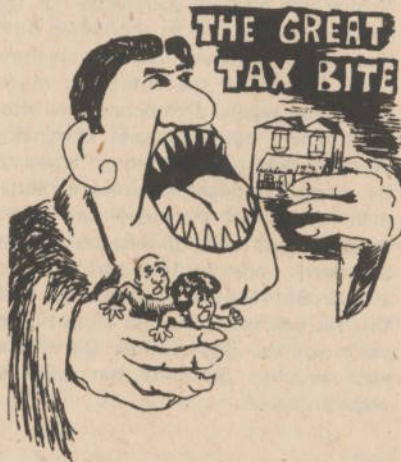
Denying that he had called for a national movement of whites against alleged preferential treatment for minorities, the mayor said he wanted "people of all races and creeds" to join him in opposing "special privileges". Rizzo also acknowledged that Blacks had made some

contribution to "making this country great". "I'm sure that everybody worked hard", the mayor added.

WALLACE OF THE 1980'S?

What is Rizzo up to? With little chance of re-election, Rizzo appears to be planning to use his remaining time in office to bolster his national image as a spokesman for racist reaction, hoping to parlay this into national political prominence. Just as George Wallace used the governor's office in Alabama to advance his career as a diehard segregationist, so Rizzo wants to use the mayor's office to win recognition as Mr. White Power. Wallace became famous by standing in the doorway of the University of Alabama to block Black students from attending that institution. Rizzo may hope to stand in the doorway of Whitman Park to block Black people from living there.

It is also quite possible that Rizzo has not given up his hope for re-election. He may expect that his announcement not to run, coupled with his pledge to oppose desegregation of Whitman and other neighborhoods will prompt a "Draft Rizzo" movement capable of altering the city charter. While this is clearly a long shot, Rizzo has everything to gain and nothing to lose by such an effort.



Either way it spells trouble for the people of Philadelphia. As long as Rizzo believed he had to maintain and broaden his popular base of support and seek to neutralize the opposition, he was subject to certain restraints. These restraints no longer exist.

Rizzo will now openly and directly oppose the Black and Puerto Rican communities. We can expect further cutbacks in city services in minority neighborhoods, stronger opposition to the desegregation of housing and schools, and to affirmative action in city-funded jobs. Police abuse will be further encouraged, if only indirectly, by Rizzo's more openly racist stance.

Plus, Rizzo will seek to rally whites to actively oppose minority demands. His speech to the Whitman Park meeting was an invitation for whites to organize themselves politically on the basis of a racist platform. While Rizzo stopped short of calling for vigilante action, his stand can only bolster the position of the Klan, the Nazis, and other rightwing, fascist-minded forces.

RIGHT WING OFFENSIVE

Rizzo's new attack has to be seen in its proper context. The democratic rights of national minorities and women are under sharp attack from the courts, the government and the corporations. The living standards of all working people, white as well as Black, are under attack by the monopolists and their political servants. The monopolists are unable to solve the economic and social crisis and are in no mood to make major concessions. Their watchword is austerity, their program is cutbacks, and their slogan is bite the bullet.

But the ruling class is divided on exactly how to carry out this policy. "Moderates", such as Jimmy Carter, favor mixing petty concessions with calls for patience and perseverance. In this way they hope to mislead the masses of people enough to avoid a political crisis. Others oppose even token reforms and are prepared to use force and repression against popular demands.

This faction of the ruling class seeks to prevent the emergence of a broad movement of opposition by splitting the potential base of that movement, and capturing a part of it for themselves. Their weapons are racism, sexism, and anti-communism. They seek to direct the anger of white working people toward a series of scapegoats — Black militants, feminists, gays, radicals and communists. If, in this way, they can pit the people against each other, then they can make a powerful united movement impossible. Then they would be able to isolate and repress the most militant and advanced sections of the people's movement. This is Frank Rizzo's goal in Philadelphia.

To defeat Rizzo, and to lay the groundwork for a united people's movement capable of insuring real equality and improvement in the living and working conditions of all working people in the city, we must organize a vocal and militant protest to this latest racist attack. We must specifically combat Rizzo's demagoguery aimed at white working people, and draw out the real meaning of Rizzo's racism.

We must show the actual stake of all working people in affirmative action and desegregation. We must insure that Rizzo's pledge to retire from the mayor's office is carried out, ahead of schedule if possible. And we must see that he does not use this office as a stepping stone to bigger and better things. Let's make sure that this is Rizzo's 'Last Hurrah'.