



GREAT ISSUES OF 1976 - PART TWO

opinion

Ebeye: apartheid U.S. style

Ebeye, Marshall Islands, U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific: where the U.S. military keeps the Marshallese who work at the Kwajalein Missile Range. Some 7,000 people live on an island barely 70 acres in size. Houses are packed in everywhere: trash, bottles, cans, used diapers, food, litter, the high water mark on the beach only five feet behind rows of houses lining both sides of the narrow island. Blazing sunlight and an ever present smell of garbage and out-houses, and sometimes smoke blown back from the burning dump at the tip of the island.

Kwajalein, eight miles around the lagoon from Ebeye: the lush green golf course is just one of the amenities provided for the U.S. military and their families, along with spacious parks and baseball fields, free movies, handball courts, swimming pools, numerous tennis and basketball courts, community center and scout hut for young people; air conditioned houses with neat lawns and shady fenced yards, beautiful beaches, coconut and other trees for relief from the tropical sun, schools and a hospital for good medical care...all are part of the life 3,000 Americans live on Kwajalein.

Ebeye, 25 minutes away by ferry, has the highest population density in the Pacific. But in contrast to the abundant sports and recreational facilities on Kwajalein, Ebeye has almost none. For the thousands of young people on the island there are one and one-half basketball courts and one empty lot for baseball sandwiched between buildings — nothing else.

The pre-school is in a small old wooden building. The elementary school is more wooden building and a cement block of eight classrooms. Together they provide barely enough space for half the children, and hundreds of children wander the island in aimless groups during the day. There is no intermediate or high school; students must go to Majuro, the district center, for further schooling. Many cannot, of course, and older people comment that 12 to 16 year olds are beginning to hang around and drink beer — there's nothing else to do.

No Marshallese live on Kwajalein, but over 500 work there, at service and maintenance jobs for the military and their families. Workers who make the ferry trip each morning must be off Kwajalein by 9 p.m. at the latest. The last ferry leaves at 8:30.

Maintaining the buildings and grounds and facilities, repairing and painting and the labor neces-

sary to keep a military base clean and trim and functioning, pays the Marshallese who work there at least the U.S. minimum wage of \$2.40 per hour — the average wage is \$3.15. From this the breadwinner must feed 10 to 20 people at Ebeye prices, which are high for the scanty supplies of canned fish and vegetables, soda pop and candy in small shops. Shopping at low military PX prices on Kwajalein is closed to Marshallese, reserved for holders of military ID cards.

But even to go to the places that Marshallese are allowed on Kwajalein, such as the airport or post-office, they must first fill out an application and receive a permit from the office of the District Administrator on Ebeye. And the free ferry runs only at the hours that the workers commute in the morning and evening — otherwise the water taxi costs \$1 each way.

Most of the trees on Ebeye have been cut down and houses are crowded in. The government supplies 308 one-room units, each housing a family, in one-story dingy unpainted cement blocks of six a few feet apart. The other half of the housing is shabby wooden houses and shacks. From ten to twenty people live in each of the one and two room houses. Perhaps as many as two-thirds of them have electricity and running water — which doesn't mean they have hot water or showers or toilets — "running water" may simply mean a faucet outside the house.

Down one of the two dusty roads which run most of the one-mile length of the island, out-houses built of scrap lumber and

corrugated metal lean singly against the houses or cluster together in the narrow streets.

There are no outhouses on Kwajalein; the government supplies indoor bathrooms with hot water, and air conditioning as well. And from the nameplate next to each door, it appears only one family lives in each house.

U.N. and other studies reveal the critical health and sanitation conditions on Ebeye. A recent report called Ebeye "a biological time bomb waiting to go off." Yet there is only one doctor for the 7,000 people on Ebeye.

While Henry Kissinger is in Africa to 'solve' the problems of apartheid there, the U.S. is promoting and maintaining the same system for the Marshallese as part of the military establishment off the American empire.

Thirty years of destructive American action in the Marshall Islands, from the Bikini bomb tests to apartheid on Ebeye, has succeeded in creating complete dependence upon the U.S. Donald McHenry's thesis (in *Micronesia: Trust Betrayed*) that Micronesians are not being given the free choice of self-determination called for by the Trust Agreement, but only a choice within the limited framework of political alternatives set by the U.S., in which independence is not a possibility, is demonstrated clearly at Kwajalein-Ebeye. It is this dependence on the U.S. which will ultimately force Micronesia, whether united or divided, into a permanent political association with the Americans.

Submitted by Awasio Eram
Micronesia Support Committee

JIMMY ITS ALL RIGHT TO BELIEVE IN GOD. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FLEXIBLE. THEY WILL LEARN TO ACCEPT IT.



BUT TO FLAUNT YOUR READING IN PUBLIC IS A MORAL OFFENSE TO THAT 40% OF THE ELECTORATE WHO ARE FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE.



BUT ITS ANOTHER THING TO BELIEVE IN BOOKS!

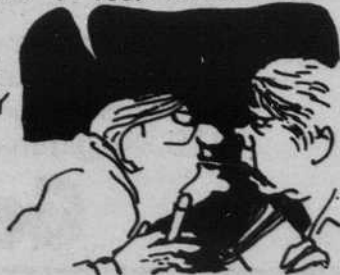


TO READ REPORTS, STATISTICS, NEWS IS PART OF THE JOB. VOTERS FORGIVE IT.



BUT TO ADMIT YOU READ PHILOSOPHY!

NOW NO ONE'S GONNA COMPLAIN IF YOU WANT TO PEER AT AN OCCASIONAL BOOK IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR OWN HOME.



JIMMY DO YOU WANT TO BLOW THIS CAMPAIGN?



YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU'RE SERIOUS?

the Presidency

A valid alternative

This country is in a sad state when most Americans go to the polls trying to determine the least harmful of two uninspiring presidential candidates. The nation is in desperate need of a leader capable of delivering it from a seemingly hopeless political scene. Neither Ford nor Carter fit this description. Even among supporters of both candidates, one can find few people who are enthusiastic or satisfied with their choice. Fortunately, such a leader does exist, and offers an independent alternative. His name is Eugene McCarthy. His stand on the issues and his goals in running for the Presidency are allowing Americans to vote with respect, both toward themselves and their candidate.

McCarthy has an extensive background of political integrity and foresight. His challenge to the administration on the Vietnam war provided direction for the feelings of many Americans. Other credentials include his long-standing support of civil rights and civil liberties, active concern with the plight of migrant workers, and support of the Equal Rights Amendment. His voting record in the Senate and House shows a disregard for corporate interests, in favor of attention to the needs and desires of the American public. Neither Ford nor Carter has such a background, or commands such respect from leaders, here and abroad, as does Gene McCarthy.

Few doubt the capability of the man, but some question the validity of his 1976 campaign. A vote for Eugene McCarthy is not a wasted vote, nor is it a vote for Gerald Ford. It is a vote for representative government rather than party politics, if not in this election, at least in the near future.

In discussing his reasons for running as an Independent candidate for President, McCarthy says,

"The record of the Republicans and of the Democrats in their joint control of the politics and government of the United States over the last twenty years is a record of failure.

"Together and separately they have demonstrated lack of leadership and lack of ability to learn from historical experience.

"Presidents of both parties have set aside the Constitution and the laws of the land. They have exercised arbitrary power both in conduct of foreign policy and in direction of domestic affairs..."

An Independent President would not be bound to the directives of his party, but could make decisions on policies and appointments for their own merits.

Although it is improbable that McCarthy can win this election, he is capable of receiving a large enough percentage of the vote to give credence to the Independent movement. Many workers within McCarthy's campaign think that achievement of this goal is winning. Federal funding to only Democrats and Republicans, and media time and attention focused on only the two major parties' candidates has undermined the democratic right of the American people to elect any man they choose to represent them. An impressive vote for Eugene McCarthy will force corrections of these inequities and pave the way for Independent candidates in the future. With so many people disillusioned with the Democrats and Republicans, this is an important goal.

With nearly 50 per cent of the registered voters expected to stay away from the polls, McCarthy can hardly be accused of spoiling Carter's chances for victory. If Carter, or Ford for that matter, cannot inspire enough of these disheartened voters to insure his victory, then he can blame no one but himself for his defeat. Many McCarthy supporters will come from this group who would otherwise not vote.

Eugene McCarthy is the candidate for those who don't want to feel their vote makes no difference, and that they have no voice in their government. He says that the presidency "belongs to the country and to the people more than does any other political office," and that, "the potential for leadership in a free country exists in every citizen."

Eugene McCarthy is the candidate for those who cannot, with a good conscience, vote Democratic or Republican, but must vote for the man. McCarthy is the candidate for those who think Independents would have the same rights as Democrats and Republicans.

McCarthy is a valid third choice; an Independent alternative for the present and the future. As students, preparing for the rest of our lives, we should seriously consider the way in which our vote in this election will affect our political future.

Oregon Students for McCarthy