The People's Almanac: an interview

Continued from Page 16

articles. PA will be a whole new book, still under one cover, so you can put it on the shelf next to PA 1, and soon. Our marks for number will be "a million new words."

JERGER: I'm specifically interested in your political approach. How would you treat, say, France?

WALLENKINSKY: My political feelings are anti-authoritarian. I really don't like the way political things are run in this country. I think it's even worse in the Communist countries.

JERGER: You wouldn't last in a Communist country.

WALLENKINSKY: No way!

JERGER: But I think you might go faster in a fascist country.

Runaway shops in Mexico

(Continued from Page 4)

runaway of Mexican workers (CTM). At Mextel's subsidiary in Mexico City, for instance, workers managed to kick out the CTM-unionized employees, build an independent local, and organize two successful strikes resulting in big wage increases.

In 1974, however, Mextel announced it was going to lay off 10,000 workers because of economic problems. The local demanded that the company provide fired employees full severance pay, but Mextel refused. When no agreement was reached after a few days, the workers found themselves locked out of the plant.

In response, Mextel's 2,000 workers stood guard round-the-clock in front of the plant to prevent Mextel from removing its equipment at night — as other companies had done. "We're not here to make fools of ourselves," exclaimed the young worker heading the militant local. "We've worked for them a long time. We've made them rich. They can't just tell us to get lost now."

But in fact, the company did just that. In early February 1975, Mextel decided to shut down permanently rather than pay the fired workers.

Such labor problems have angered many U.S. managers along the border. "We just don't have control over the people that we would like to have," said Union Carbide's manager. Thus many companies are leaving the border area in search of even cheaper labor in the interior of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

Their sudden flight has left many workers, angered, others simply desperate. Alma, an elderly woman who worked at Mextel, shook her head as she drew water from her outdoor faucet. "At my age, who's going to hire me? And if I beg, they'll just say, 'And so young! You ain't working?' What will I do? I might as well roll up my sack and cross as an illegal.

Ed McCannagh and Peter Baer, staff members of the North American Congress on Latin America, recently spent several weeks along the Mexican border researching this report.

We tell the unvarnished political truth and pull no punches.

JERGER: You may not be very popular with our State Department.

WALLENKINSKY: After the book was published, I took another look at the political sections and I was not disappointed. And then I began to laugh, nervously of course. Maybe it would put a crimp in my TV plans. When I applied to go to Commissariat China, I was hoping they hadn't seen the article on them. The Chinese people might like it, but the government probably wouldn't. The People's Almanac really exposes all forms of authoritarianism which cull and subdue the people.

Wallace in California

(Continued from Page 14)

Johnny Ellery, a middle-aged man from Indiana, started to talk with me. He had a Southern accent. His hair was in a white flat top.

"I've known George for 20 years," said Ellery. "Anybody who really knows him calls him George." He told how Wallace had saved a "nigra" from being beaten up by a group of whites back in the time Wallace was a Golden Gloves champion. Ellery said Wallace had left the locker room with his trainer when he saw the scuffle develop. Because Wallace defended the "nigra" and for his efforts broke his knuckles, an injury that cost him the championship.

Ellery ended a string of dates with "Why, when you know me, you know why I say sure I do. I love him. I love him. I love him. I love him." tapping his nose on the poster of Wallace.

Finally, after a long silence, he excused himself to phone his wife to tell her he could not attend the funeral. Ellery was, he said, the first he had seen of news of television channels.

I moved next to the blue and started some small talk, which had an accent. Meaning eating poppers out of a tophat. Said he was 28.

Why did he stop the car? "He tells me the truth. But about him it's a lie. I can't see a white man, I can't even see a white man. I can't even see a white man. I can't even see a white man. I can't even see a white man. I can't see a white man. I can't see a white man. I can't see a white man. I can't see a white man. I can't see a white man. I can't see a white man.


The black pulpit tents poppers out of the rear tophat.

I left. Went out into the sun without the thermometer. To "Negro Politicians. Sell a car..." and got in my car and guessed the pedal. I let out the slogan: "Smile, This Is the Country. They're balding a lot of stars and bars here in these rooms. There was the voice of music, and the drums and me and even the black was a great darkness. "Smile, Wallace Country. Smile."

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