

## The People's Almanac: an interview

Continued from 16

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

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

**WALLECHINSKY:** 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.

**WALLECHINSKY:** No way!

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

**WALLECHINSKY:** The People's Almanac has a political section, the World Nations. A couple things we did with world nations: such as including in the alphabetical order of nations 10 multi-national corporations as though they were nations. You read about Indonesia, and then turn the page and there's IBM! We thought these major corporations were at least as powerful as most nations of the world. And then after that, ITT, etc. And then we have a section on Who Rules, about the kind of government each nation has, but then we added, Who Really Rules! It was about time to do the honest thing about governments. Paraguay, this wonderful little "democracy", has been ruled by one family for over 140 years.

We tell the unvarnished political truth and pull no punches!

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

**WALLECHINSKY:** After the book was out I took another look at the political sections and I was shocked at what we said. And then I began to laugh, nervously of course. Maybe it would put a crimp in my travel plans. When I applied to go to Communist 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 corral and subdue the people.

## Runaway shops in Mexico

(Continued from Page 4)

tion of Mexican Workers (CTM). At Mattel's Mexicali subsidiary Mextel, for instance, workers managed to kick out the CTM-imposed union bureaucrats, establish an independent local and organize two successful strikes resulting in big wage increases.

In 1974, however, Mextel announced it was going to lay off 562 workers because of economic problems. The local union 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 3,000 workers stood guard round-the-clock at the plant to prevent Mextel from removing its equipment at night — as other companies had done. "We're not here to be made fools of," 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 the 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 older 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! Why aren't you working?' What will I do? I might as well roll up my sack and cross as an illegal."

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

## Wallace in California

(Continued from Page 14)

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

"I've known Georgie for 38 years," said Ellzey. "Anybody who really knows him calls him Georgie." He told how Wallace had saved a "nigrah" from being beat up by a group of whites back in the time Wallace was a Golden Gloves competitor. Ellzey said Wallace had left the locker room with his trainer when he saw the scuffle. Wallace defended the "nigrah" and for his efforts broke his knuckles, an injury that cost him

the championship. "You read that story in the news concluded."

Ellzey ended a string of dotes with "Why, when people me if I know Georgie, you know why I say sure I do." Ellzey's his head. "I love this fellow said, tapping his finger against poster of Wallace.

Finally, after a long session, he excused himself wanted to phone his wife to he had been filmed that night that he was going to be on the news of television channels 11.

I moved next to the black and started some small talk had an accent. Mississippi. He eating popcorn out of a W. tophat. Said he was 28.

Why did he support Wallace? "He tells the truth." But about his racism? "I can't say was a white man, I wouldn't be

same way. He's just trying protect what he's got. I was rights in '63, '64, '65 in Alabama and he sicced the dogs on me. I don't blame him. I like his home. He has a pretty wife too. I could his view on civil rights. I also could. He's shifted, but not seem to tear down the bridge."

The black pulled handful popcorn out of the carbin tophat.

I left. Went out into the main walked past the bumper stickers "Regulate Politicians. Not the guns." — and got in my car. I goosed the gas pedal. I thought the slogan "Smile, This is Wallace Country." They had placed this of stars and bars here in the rooms. There was the Dixie music, and the drawing was and even the black was a "going dardie." "Smile, This Wallace Country." Smile!



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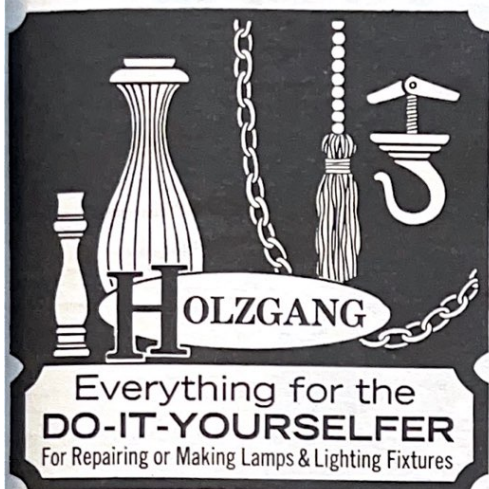
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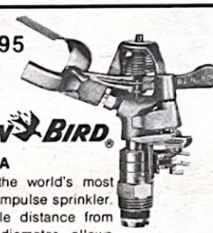
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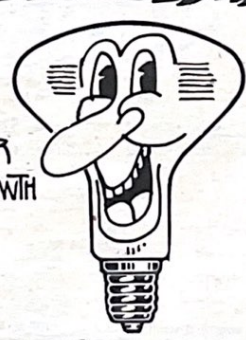
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