

## Who Pays For Slander ?

August 2 (IPS) — Maurice Geary, a member of the Commission of Inquiry into brainwashing and behavior modification initiated by the Labor Committees last winter, wrote a letter recently to the Rockefeller Foundation, in furtherance of his investigation, to ask the Foundation to respond to the NCLC's charges against the Rockefellers. Geary is also a former member of the Michigan State Civil Rights Commission.

The Rockefeller Foundation sent him back a single item with a note attached stating "We thought you might be interested in this." Enclosed was a copy of the January 20 *New York Times* article by Paul Montgomery, entitled "How a Radical-Left Group [NCLC] Moved Toward Savagery."

Commented Geary, "Someone's paying this guy Montgomery, but I don't know who."

## Labor Committee Sues New York Times

NEW YORK, August 1, (IPS) — The National Caucus of Labor Committees has filed a \$10,000,000 damage suit against the New York Times and Timesreporter Paul Montgomery for their libelous coverage of the Gail Roeshman kidnapping case (see IPS, this issue).

The suit will serve as a warning to the numerous newspapers and broadcasting outlets which take their cues on coverage of the NCLC from the Times — as the Philadelphia Bulletin did this week when it quoted portions of the Times' account of the Roeshman kidnapping verbatim without attribution — that distortions, lies, slander and libel of the working-class leadership of the fight against Rockefeller will no longer be tolerated.

Miss Roeshman, a member of the NCLC, was abducted July 18 by her parents and convicted criminal Ted Patrick, the notorious "Jesus-freak deprogrammer." July 27, under the byline of Paul Montgomery, the Times published an article, "19 Year Old Member of Marxist Unit 'Deprogrammed' and in Parents Care," which attempted to whitewash the kidnapping by portraying it as a rescue operation conducted against a band of paranoid, religious zealots.

A secondary purpose of the article was to damage the U.S. Labor Party's efforts to collect the petition signatures required to place its electoral candidates on the ballot in New York State; the article was published only one week before the petition drive began.

The NCLC's complaint, filed in New York State Supreme Court and delivered to the Times and Montgomery yesterday, charges that "Defendants acted with malice. They in effect engaged in a 'dirty trick' against the NCLC's political activities at the same time that defendant Times is among the leaders of the campaign to impeach President Richard Nixon for engaging in similar 'dirty tricks.'"

The Times's reaction to the suit has so far been ex-

tremely guarded. The Times's Company Treasurer merely blinked and thanked the process-server when a handed a copy of the complaint. Montgomery, who absented himself from work for an extra day this week, was served at his home. When the process-server arrived and announced his purpose, Montgomery, peering down from a third story window, informed him that he was going to call his lawyer. Approximately 15 minutes later, Montgomery appeared at the door and accepted the summons, gruffly refusing further comment.

The complaint alleges that the Times "falsely accuse(s) the NCLC of engaging in the illegal activities of brainwashing, coercion, destroying the free will of people and turning them into zombies."

The article further libels the NCLC by asserting that the NCLC relies on such techniques as well as hypnosis to organize and by comparing the activities of the NCLC to those of Adolf Hitler....

"The NCLC in no way engages in such activities, but has sought to expose the extensive brainwashing being carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency and its domestic front, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Such brainwashing is used by them for the purpose of creating zombie terrorist groups such as the Symbionese Liberation Army....Defendants, through their libel of the NCLC, clearly seek to undermine the impact of its exposures by falsely accusing it of carrying on those activities..."

"The (article) distorts the NCLC's political program by falsely implying that it considers the USSR to be a political enemy. At this time, the NCLC's fraternal organization in Europe, the European Labour Committees, is actively seeking a united front with European communist parties and other workers' organizations to fight for an Italian debt moratorium to prevent the impending takeover of the Italian economy by the

Rockefeller's interests. Defendant's article seeks to prevent the building of such a united front....

"Defendants further demonstrate their malice by the fact that the article complained of here is the second article written by defendant Montgomery and published in the Times which distorts the NCLC's political activities. The first was an article which appeared on the front page of the New York Times of January 20, 1974 entitled "How a Radical Left Group Moved Toward Savagery." That article contained numerous misstatements about the NCLC similar to those in the article presently complained of....the falseness of these statements and suggestions was immediately brought to defendant's attention....Yet some six months later defendants maliciously repeat the same false and defamatory statements.

"Defendant Montgomery's action was motivated by malice toward the NCLC. He has acknowledged his role

as the person at the New York Times whose job it is to discredit the NCLC, as have others at the Times....He has indicated his ill will toward the NCLC by hanging up the telephone and failing to appear on numerous occasions when NCLC organizers attempted to brief him on the NCLC's work and program.

"The article appeared one week before the commencement of the petition period for the New York State elections. The NCLC, through its electoral arm, the U.S. Labor Party, is running candidates throughout the state and must collect numerous signatures to ensure that its candidates will be on the ballot. Its efforts to do so will be seriously injured by the publication of defendant's libelous article."

This article, 4,000 words long, appeared on the front page of the Sunday Times January 20, two weeks after the Labor Committees uncovered and began exposure of the Rockefeller conspiracy for military dictatships worldwide.