

FROM: Ministry of Information, Venceremos
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Oct. 13, 1971

The Prosecution in the Bruce Franklin hearing has become so desperate and so unable to discredit our witnesses, that they have resorted to a Red hunting and fishing expedition.

First Fisher went fishing during his cross examination of Janet Weiss. He wanted the names of anybody Janet could identify in the Lodge audience.

Then he tediously tried to insinuate that Janet was lying in her testimony, that she was trying to cover for Bruce's actions.

To suggest that acknowledged leaders of Venceremos would do something in the plain view of the public, like heckling Lodge, and then deny it, is nothing less than ridiculous.

We don't lie to the people. That would hardly lead to the development of a revolutionary movement. The lying is done by the Government. Just check out the Pentagon Papers.

Janet Weiss made it crystal clear under what circumstances she would lie. She said: "If the fascists were rounding people up to put in concentration camps or 'preventative detention', came to my house where Bruce Franklin was hiding, and asked if he was there, I would certainly say 'NO'."

Then again they've never been known to knock.

We walked out of the hearings yesterday, because we saw fascism in action. The witch hunt was starting.

When the Prosecution asked Frank Sylvestri, a working class youth from Redwood City, whether he was a member of Venceremos, the tactics they were planning to use, in their desperation, sharpened into focus.

If Venceremos is on trial, they should come right out and say it. That would be cool. We're not the CP of the 1950s. We do not deny that we're Communists. But we will not, under any circumstances, cooperate with fascism. These hearings will not be used to gather information.

It's no secret that the Venceremos Organization is under investigation by local, state and federal agencies. A Grand Jury sits in San Francisco wildly searching for ways to smash the revolutionary movement. The Menlo Park police chief wants to show that Venceremos is a paramilitary organization, so they can jail every single member.

And yet, the Advisory Board, in overruling our objections, has shown what Good Germans they are. They should remember that the Communists in Germany were the first to go. As Bruce Franklin said, "Our flag is red because of the millions of Communists who have died."

When Kennedy said that our objections were overruled because we had asked certain prosecution witnesses if they were in FCM, he illustrated the kind of metaphysical reasoning which characterizes most of his judicial decisions. FCM is not under attack by the State; they are part of the machinery of a repressive State. And it is also true that the Prosecution did not object to our questions. If they did, we would have withdrawn them.

The administration works with the F.B.I. As far back as 1965, they gave the name of Keith Lowe, a leader of the anti war movement, to HUAC. Lowe, a Jamaican citizen, was then denied a visa renewal and was forced to leave the country.

Last night, the Prosecution agreed not to ask their witch hunt questions any more. And, for the time being, the Advisory Board is off the hook. Good Germans that they are.