

Huber Blight

continued from page 1

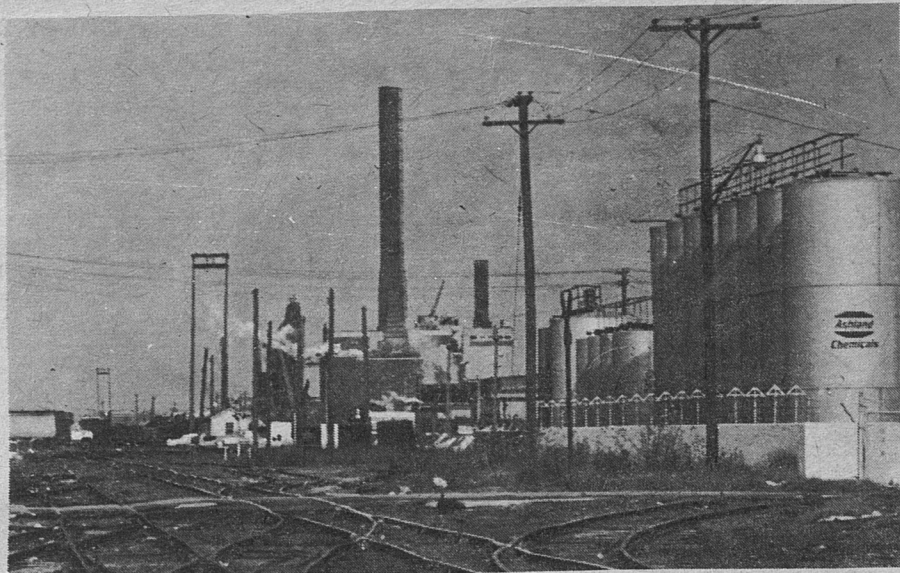
Cudlip. This legal organization sends their well-paid lawyers to various courts, hearings, and meetings with the sole purpose of maintaining the economic control that Chrysler Corporation, as a charter member of the ruling class, has over the city and its officials who continue to enforce the law selectively, depending on who you are and how much money you have.

How does the Huber Foundry function to produce such misery upon the community in addition to profits? The foundry designed to replace the obsolete Dodge Main Hamtramck Foundry to enable Chrysler to increase the volume of production in a shorter time span. Built in the 1964-66 period, it is one of the most modern, fully automated foundries in the world, producing camshafts, cast camshafts, and six and eight cylinder blocks for all of Chrysler automotive production.

In the October 1966 issue of "Foundry", an article titled "The New Chrysler Foundry", points out that the development of Huber is based "... around fundamental concepts of down time elimination, total environmental control, and complete mastery of quality process." The "total environmental control" system includes noise reducing material, an in-plant dust control system, and an air emission control system on cupolas.

The gases continue through a process of cooling and lessening of speed and are sent into the atmosphere after passing through noise reducing filters in the exhaust stack. Theoretically it is a

photos by Chabot-King



fail-safe system.

Continued technical malfunctions have rendered this fail-safe system totally inadequate. Problems have developed with the mechanism which removes solid waste particles - the Venturi scrubber - and with fans drawing the gases through the system.

In the real world, theory and practice are unfortunately two separate and distinct phenomena. Chrysler Corporation has, in fact, been plagued by technical malfunctions of this fail-safe system at Huber. The Venturi scrubber can become inoperable due to the build-up of particulate matter in the scrubber itself.

When any of the parts break down, it causes a malfunction which in turn causes the particulate matter that *should be wet*, filtered, and clean, to be sent into the atmosphere before fully completing the filtering cycles of the control systems. In order to prevent high temperature build

up and possible explosions, it is often necessary to get these gases out as quickly as possible or to shut off the foundry until the danger recedes. The latter is the least desirable in the view of Chrysler because production begins to lag and may cause the shut down of the other dependant plants. This cuts into the profit margin. Further, to keep the profit margin high, there is insufficient maintenance of the emission control equipment. Even when this equipment is inoperative, the foundry continues to produce.

There is a direct conflict of interest involved between the corporation, and the citizens and workers. The corporation will continue production at the expense of the safety of its workers and its neighbors. It is questionable as to how long the majority of people will be permissive with the arbitrary and self-seeking activity of the owners of corporations like Chrysler at the expense of human lives and our environment.

Citizens Misled On Chrysler Hearing

continued from page 5

emissions polluting matter into the air since 1968. Ms. Helen Penxa testified about the tremendous cleaning problem presented by the pollution. She testified how, before the foundry was constructed in 1967, she had done two major house cleanings a year. Since that time she has had to do a major cleaning each month. Ms. Penxa said, "Chrysler doesn't pay us for cleaning up our houses - but they pay men for cleaning up the foundry."

Other citizens testified to health problems, deaths in families resulting from lung related diseases, and the destruction of trees and flowers from pollution. A number of persons brought photographs showing dirt and iron particles collected from windowsills and furniture in their homes.

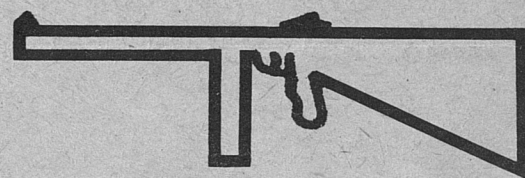
Almost all the testimony and exhibits by residents was ruled inadmissible by Chairman Purnell. Purnell had misled citizens involved in the suit by telling them that the hearing was "informal." At no time did the government indicate that the hearing would follow the Circuit Court Rules of evidence and procedure.

As a consequence, complaining citizens had no attorney present to represent them. They had not been informed what kind of evidence would "count" with the State Tax Commission. Chrysler, on the other hand, was represented by three corporate attorneys who were able to use all the rules in their own favor.

Once again, corporations and government as much as joined hands to the loss of rectifying real citizen needs. The Chairman of the Tax Commission closed the hearing by saying that he would make a ruling "sometime."



Johnny Got His Gun



If the dead mean nothing to us (except on Memorial Day week-end when the national freeway is clogged with surfers, swimmers, skiers, picnics, campers, hunters, fishers, footballers, beer-busters), what of our 300,000 wounded? Does anyone know where they are? How they feel? How many arms, legs, ears, noses, mouths, faces, penises they've lost? How many are deaf or dumb or blind or all three? How many are single or double or triple or quadruple amputees? How many will remain immobile for the rest of their days? How many hang on as decerebrated vegetables quietly breathing their lives away in small dark, secret rooms?

-Dalton Trumbo
author of Johnny Got His Gun

"Johnny Got His Gun" is a reasonably effective statement about the horror of war and its effect upon a young life. However, the impact of the film comes with its statement of the effect of mindless acceptance of ideals taught in the United States by elders and leaders. Such ideals trapped Johnny into the oblivion of a mutilated piece of pulp.

The greatest horror of the movie is how Johnny, like many of us, accepts and lives according to values imposed upon him which dictate his conduct. Conduct which is, in reality, contrary to his own best interests.

The setting is World War I, but could have been any war between powerful nation states. The film begins with young Johnny being brought to a hospital from the battlefield where his body was shattered by a mortar shell.

The army doctors keep Johnny "alive" as a medical experiment. They claim that "he will be as unthinking and unfeeling as the dead." Johnny exists limbless. He has no face below the forehead.

The film portrays Johnny's life prior to the mutilation by means of his thoughts as he lays in the hospital. The flashback sequences show every human response in his life to be programmed. Johnny recalls a church baptism, his mother, his father's death, Christmas cooking, his first love, and a boy's responsibility to go to war.

In one sequence Johnny's father tells the young boy that although he is not sure what democracy is, it involves young men going out and killing each other while the old men must keep the home fires burning.

Johnny was actually decerebrated long before he was physically mutilated and like his father was programmed to never give up hope and faith.

Even after his body has been hacked away he is still hoping. He reasons that if he could only figure out a way to communicate with his keepers that they could and surely would help him. He has no way of knowing that he was preserved only for study so that during the next war, training could be made more efficient so a lost soldier would not cost nearly as much.

Throughout the film Johnny is serviced with regularity much like a new Ford. Finally a nurse takes time to care for this patient who is kept in a locked, shuttered utility room. Ultimately this leads her to discover that "he" is trying to communicate with his

keepers by nodding his head in Morse Code. His message: take me where people can see what I am - or kill me. His answer: the door to his room is once again closed and he is injected with drugs that shoot him back into mindless sleep. Only at the end of the film was Johnny able to see himself set apart from the rest of "humanity." He was an individual being and saw his society as his destroyer.

Johnny's father saw himself only as a man who possessed a fishing rod better than anyone else's. Johnny's mother tells him "man is not material, he is spiritual."

Humanity is not achieved by being spiritual and quietly suffering oppression. Silent suffering and acquiescence is the stuff of lost hands and moldering bodies.

War is horrible, but the cause of war is the adoption of ideals put into our heads by people who profit by it. Johnny did not profit by his adoption of those ideals.

Humanity cannot exist where an individual is made to feel that his value can only be measured by a better fishing rod, job, or car, or that he must become cannon fodder or lose his hand in an unsafe press because someone with a lot of money so dictates.

Johnny was an unthinking, unfeeling piece of meat long before the utility room. "Johnny Got His Gun" shows us why.

R.K.

Who Said This?

Answer:

HELEN KELLER

Weather
Warmer
Details on Page 6A

The Detroit News

AMERICA'S LARGEST EVENING CIRCULATION

Markets
Pages 5C to 7C

Races
Page 6D

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1971

98th YEAR No. 286 10 CENTS

FHA refuses mortgage because of plant fumes

By DON BALL
News Staff Writer

The FHA has refused to insure a mortgage on a home at 7261 Grinnell on Detroit's east side because of air pollution from a Chrysler Corp. foundry a block away.

The house, owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Kaleto, was turned down by an FHA appraiser because "inspection reveals the location is unacceptable" and "is subject to noxious odors, smoke, noise, etc." from Chrysler's Huber Avenue Foundry.

It could be the first step by the FHA toward refusing mortgage insurance on all homes sold in the area bounded roughly by Grinnell, Van Dyke, Huber and Mt. Elliott if county officials and Chrysler Corp. cannot agree on a method to halt the pollution.

The decision on whether the step will be taken is up to William C. Whitbeck, director of the Detroit-area office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

There are more than 300 homes in the area, sturdy houses with well kept yards along streets noted for their cleanliness until the foundry started operations in 1966.

Today, drifts of industrial sand are common sights in the gutters of the streets, along the sidewalks and on the windowsills of the houses.

Mrs. Kaleto says black metallic dust from the foundry seeps through the window sashes of her home and other houses in the area.

Failure to curb the pollution combined with refusal of FHA mortgage insurance for homes in the area would further slash depressed property values and pave the way for the area to quickly become a slum.

The entire area cannot automatically be ruled ineligible for FHA mortgage insurance, although that was planned earlier this year under provisions of a controversial HUD directive.

The plan authorized Whitbeck to declare homes ineligible for FHA mortgage insurance if they were located in an area "that has deterioration or blight."

Whitbeck was readying final action to rule Huber Foundry area ineligible for FHA insurance and preparing to discuss it with city officials when the directive was rewritten.

Under the new directive, Whitbeck may rule

out FHA mortgage insurance for "groups of houses" in such areas but he must first seek correction of the blighting conditions by "local authorities."

The directive adds:

"If the local authorities indicate any feasible program for correction of the problem in the immediate future, the individual application reject will stand until such time as correction is undertaken.

"Approval will be withheld pending a reasonable time interval so that local authorities can take action.

"If no action takes place after a reasonable time, the documented reject file will be approved."

The directive also requires that "the chief appraiser will inspect the property and adjoining properties and prepare documentation including a description of the extent of the adverse factors which cause the property or properties to be unacceptable."

That action already has been taken.

(Concluded on Page 10A)



—News Photo by Philip K. Webb

The polluter down the street is a mortgage-stopper

FHA bars loan because of fumes

Continued from Page One

John Kane, deputy director of the Detroit HUD office, said an FHA team has studied the entire foundry neighborhood.

Werner Schroeder, assistant director of the single-family homes operations branch, told

The Detroit News yesterday that he had participated in the study.

Next will come the recommendation by the team to Whitbeck.

The team is expected to recommend that groups of homes in the area be ruled ineligible for FHA mortgage insurance.

Based on HUD actions earlier this year, Whitbeck is expected to approve the recommendation and call on local officials to notify them of the action.

If this is the case, he will present county and Chrysler officials with the choice of solving the pollution problem or contributing to the creation of a slum.

It also will win Whitbeck the support of one of his sharpest critics.

Councilman Carl Levin, in discussing the conditions in the Huber Foundry area and the possibility of FHA's refusal of mortgage insurance to homes sold in the area, said:

"I couldn't disagree with HUD if Whitbeck took such an action.

"Unfortunately, the city has no authority in air pollution matters. That's a responsibility of the county.

"The matter is complicated further because efforts by the county for force Chrysler to comply with air pollution laws is tied up in a court suit."

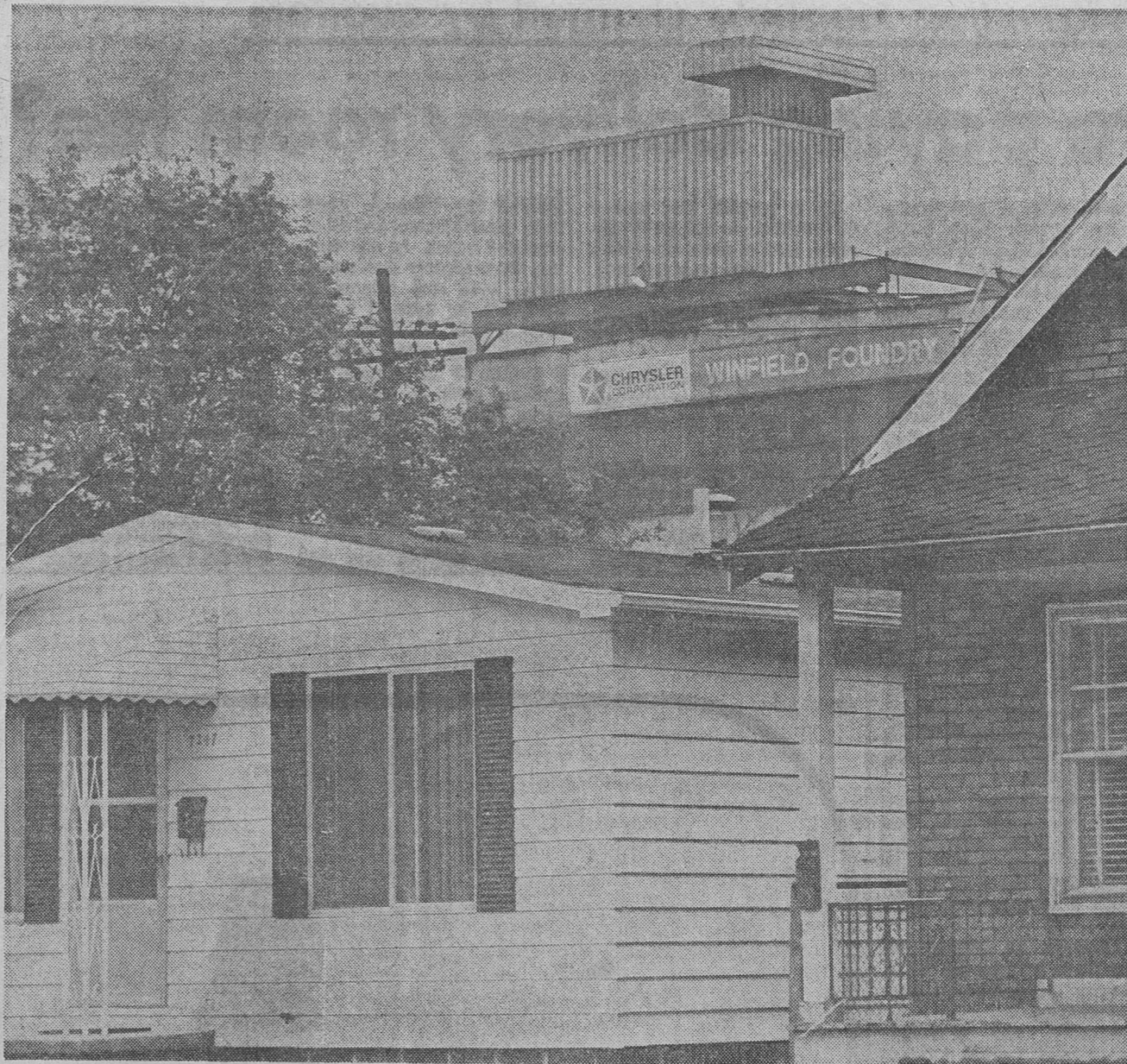
The residents in the Huber Foundry area, represented by L. Edwin Wenger, have joined with the county in the court action.

In addition, the residents have a suit in court seeking civil damages from Chrysler.



—News Photo by Philip K. Webb

Mortgage refused on this home



—News Photo by Philip K. Webb

Plant looms behind homes where mortgage was refused

Court urged not to free Miss Davis

L.A. Times-Washington Post Service

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. — The prosecution yesterday vigorously opposed a move by attorneys for Angela Davis to gain her release on bail.

Assistant California Atty. Gen. Albert W. Harris Jr., who is prosecuting the case, told the court:

"If you grant Miss Davis bail, when she checks out of the Marin County jail you might as well give her an air travel credit card . . . because we'll never see her again."

Harris argued against a habeas corpus petition, filed yesterday, seeking the release of Miss Davis. With San Quentin Prison inmate Ruchell Magee she is charged with murder, kidnaping and conspiracy in the shooting incident here last August in which four persons, including a judge, were killed.

At the conclusion of arguments on the motion, Superior Judge Richard E. Arnason said he would ask the Marion County probation department for a report on the question of release for Miss Davis and indicated he would rule on the issue next Wednesday.

Bill bans selling of rare skins

LANSING — (UPI) — Alli-

Detroit summer lunch plan