

# Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

## Chicago 70 explains the revolution

To explain why we are going to have a revolution in North America, and to tie the Chicago Conspiracy 8 trial and Canada into that explanation is a near-impossible task. It is even more difficult to explain it all in three hours, so that a liberal audience can understand.

I thought it was impossible until I saw Chicago 70 at Toronto Workshop Productions Tuesday night. Now I know it is possible, and that somehow the Toronto Workshop group makes Chicago 70 a tremendously entertaining play at the same time.

Chicago 70 consists almost wholly of transcripts from the Chicago trial which ended three weeks ago when Judge Julius Hoffman sentenced five of the eight defendants to five years imprisonment with fines of \$5,000 for seeking to incite a riot through individual acts, and sentenced all eight and their two lawyers to jail terms ranging from 2-1/2 months to 4 years, 22 days for contempt.

Black Panther chairman Bobby Seale, who was refused an attorney by the judge and bound and gagged in the courtroom, still has not been tried on a charge of conspiracy to incite a riot.

To set the trial off and to show the almost unbelievable repression of the defendants during the trial, at points through the play the script changes from the Chicago trial transcripts to what we once thought was fantasy in the trial scene in the last chapters of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland.

The imagery connecting the two trials is amazing. Hoffman easily plays the role of the King of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland, while the revolution that the Conspiracy 8



THE CONSPIRACY

Left to right: Attorney Leonard Weinglass, Rennie Davis, Abbie Hoffman, Lee Weiner, Dave Dellinger, John Froines, Jerry Rubin, Tom Hayden and lawyer Bill Kunstler.

LNS

defendants represent is reflected perfectly in Alice, the girl who grows to her full size at the end of the trial and tells the fantasy court which has been threatening to lop off her head: "You're just a pack of cards!"

"Radio station CKKK" fills in with newscasts to explain the small amount of background detail needed and to help relate the trial and the new revolution to the Canadian audience. For example, when a witness in the Chicago court points out that there must be something wrong with a nation which sends trainloads of nerve gas back and forth across the land, CKKK fills in to explain that there is enough poison gas in North America today to kill all life in the world 36 times over. Then it adds that Canada's CBW testing centre in Suffield, Alberta is one of the most advanced poison gas research centres in the world.

The actors recreated the comical aspects of the courtroom situation perfectly. The only part they found it hard to recreate was the gravity of the trial and the extent to which the defendants and their supporters were putting themselves on the line, only to see their constitutional rights ignored time and again as the trial wore on. Needless to say, the audience showed its appreciation at the end with a

standing ovation, cheers, clapping and cries of "Right on!"

Chicago 70, at Toronto Workshop Productions, 12 Alexander Street, two blocks North of College, just off Yonge Street. Tickets are \$2.50 for students, \$2 for others on weeknights (except Monday), \$3.50 and \$4 on the weekend. One show each night at 8:30. Go see it.

— John King.

*Some pig judge  
in Chicago  
has discovered that  
we hold his fascist  
court in  
contempt...no shit*

Keep on Truckin'...



TRUCKIN' ON DOWN  
THE LINE...



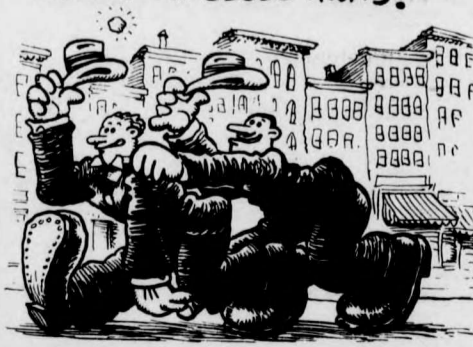
HEY HEY HEY...



I SAID KEEP ON TRUCKIN'...



TRUCKIN' MY BLUES AWAY!



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