

A black and white portrait of an older man with short, dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a light-colored shirt and a dark tie. The portrait is the main visual element of the page.

**An Evening
Honoring
Joe Forer**

June 9, 1979

**Washington, D.C. Chapter
National Lawyers Guild**

National Lawyers Guild

Washington, D.C. Chapter

Welcomes you to an Evening Honoring

Joe Forer

Welcome: Bill Schaap
President, D.C. Chapter

Introduction: Judy Mead
Co-Chairperson, Testimonial Committee

Master of Ceremonies: David Rein

Tributes: John Abt
Brint Dillingham
Thomas I. Emerson
Jane Gentleman
Ira Gollobin
Lew Maddocks
Hilda Mason
Gary Simpson
Annie Stein
I.F. Stone

Songs: Luci Murphy

Address: Joe Forer

Testimonial Committee:

Judy Mead and Bill Montross, Co-Chairpersons; Abe Bloom, Brint Dillingham, Alan Drunitzke, Marie Ferington, Janis Kapler, Aviva Kempner, Marc Poirier, David Rein, Selma Rein, Selma Samols, Gary Simpson, Ethel Weisser, & Anne Williams

June 9, 1979

Washington Hotel

From the Presidents

The Guild's strength has always been based on the merger of our political and legal skills. In Joe Forer we have a man who represents the finest in skilled advocacy. Throughout a rich history, he has put his impressive talents to work in behalf of the people's struggles. His legal work gives meaning to the frustration of law school. His work justifies those long hours in law libraries throughout the country.

Joe Forer contributed more than his incisive cross-examinations and his profound constitutional analysis. He stood up against the vicious red-baiting attacks of the Fifties. We in the National Lawyers Guild are proud of the courage he showed in our representation. And we take this opportunity to salute him.

*Paul Harris, President
National Lawyers Guild*

Few organizations enter their fifth decade with many of their founders still active. But the Lawyers Guild began with quite a few young upstarts, and we are fortunate to continue to receive the guidance and advice, the comradely support and criticism, of so many, shall we say, mature upstarts. Joe Forer has never wavered in his active support for this organization, whether the Chapter was down to a handful of members as it was during the height of McCarthyism, or in the hundreds, as it is now. Elsewhere in this Journal his many accomplishments are described. Suffice it here to say that I have found his sense of humor and proportion to be almost as valuable to us as his deep commitment to social justice. We don't take his "retirement" too seriously. One doesn't retire from this struggle; Joe certainly has not.

*Bill Schaap, Chairperson
D.C. Chapter*

Joseph Forer in Perspective

Tom Emerson



Joseph Forer is one of the lawyers who has done most to lead and shape the progressive forces of this country. For over 40 years he has devoted his enormous talents and boundless courage to that task.

Joe graduated from Rutgers and the University of Pennsylvania Law School in the early 1930s. He immediately joined the New Deal, where the action then was. At that time service in the government looked promising. Hundreds of young people flocked to Washington, seeking to reform the world. They were confident, forward-looking, and hopeful. There was even a slight chance they might succeed.

Joe's principal work with the government was in the National Labor Relations Board and, during World War II, in the Office of Price Administration. The NLRB was a key New Deal agency. It was designed to protect by law the right of workers to organize, and thereby to assist labor to become a powerful, progressive force in the life of the nation. The work, however, was demanding. Vigorous and often unprincipled opponents were ready to take advantage of every lapse. Only the highest standard of workmanship allowed the Board to survive, and only the firmest adherence to principle enabled the Board to be, more or less, successful. As a colleague of Joe's at the NLRB, I can testify that Joe brought an abundance of both qualities to the Board's work.

The Office of Price Administration was a somewhat different kind of operation. Its job was to control all prices, including rents, and to ration consumer goods. Joe was one of the top officials in the Enforcement Division, which was charged with securing compliance with the price, rent and rationing regulations. The OPA represented an experiment in social planning and the use of collective controls to make the economic structure of the country serve the people's needs. At least for a period of time, it worked. During the war years, from 1941 to 1945, prices rose only a few percentage points. Again, I was a fellow worker with Joe at the OPA and again I witnessed the high technical standards, the creative judgment, and the verve that Joe brought to the task. Moreover, as anyone who knows Joe will appreciate, one can imagine what havoc he wrought with the budding bureaucratic tendencies of the rather large organization (1200 lawyers) of which he was a part.

At the end of the war it soon appeared that participation in government held no future for Joe. Almost immediately the cold war started. On the domestic front the efforts at social planning collapsed in the face of a return to normalcy, and the political hopes of progressive forces were finally buried with Henry Wallace in the election of 1948. Joe turned to the independent practice of his profession. In 1946 he and David Rein formed a partnership for the practice of law in the District of Columbia. Since that time Forer and Rein has been the main bastion of progressive law practice in our nation's capital.

One of the first things I remember Joe doing was to draft the report of the National Lawyers Guild Special Committee to Study Certain Alleged Practices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. At the Judith Coplon espionage trial, by an unusual piece of luck, the trial judge had forced the FBI to put into the record 28 of its investigative files, amounting to approximately 800 pages. This material was the first ever made available from the inner recesses of the FBI showing how that organization actually operated. Joe carefully analyzed the 28 files and, in his customary meticulous and hard-hitting way, prepared the Committee's report. It showed that the FBI was maintaining dossiers on the political views and associations of citizens who were never charged with or suspected of any criminal offense, and were doing it through the use of wiretapping, opening of mail, entering and searching homes without a warrant, planting informers, and similar methods destructive of constitutional liberty. The



Vito Marcantonio, Joe Forer and John Abt at the opening of the McCarran Act hearing.

**Greetings to Joe Forer
from a Grateful Client**

Communist Party U.S.A.

**In Honor of Our
Compañero Joe Forer**

Cuba Subcommittee
D.C. Chapter
National Lawyers Guild

*We Salute Joe and Florrie With Admiration,
Gratitude, and Great Affection.*

Harold Cammer

Ralph Shapiro

Robert Cammer

Seattle Salutes Joe Forer

Gibbs, Douglas & Theiler
Mrak & Blumberg
Bendich, Stobaugh & Strong
Baker & Palmer
John Caughlan
Smith, Kaplan, Withey, Sowa, & Salmi

*To Joe Forer,
Who Is Always Compelled
To Raise*

The Brandenburg Variation
Poker Society

*With Best Wishes and
Profound Gratitude
to*

Joe Forer

*Founding Member, Board Member,
Volunteer Attorney*

**The American Civil Liberties
Union of Maryland**
340 Equitable Building,
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

HEALTHY AMERICA

1015 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 467-5497

Deborah Drudge, Esq., President

**We Salute Joe Forer
A True Friend of Us All**

report, approved by the National Board of the Guild in October 1949, exposed a major scandal. Such was the temper of the times, however, that it received only five inches of space on an inner page of the *New York Times*. Joe's work, as sometimes happened, was unappreciated by those who should have known better.

By this time the McCarthy era was in full flower. The Truman loyalty program for government employees was promulgated in 1947, the Smith Act prosecutions began in 1948, the House Committee on Un-American Activities and other Congressional committees were operating full blast, the McCarran Internal Security Act was passed in 1950, and so on. Much of the legal resistance to these measures centered in Washington. And much of the Washington resistance centered in Forer and Rein. Joe and Dave represented loyalty victims no one else in town would touch. They fought the Congressional committees tooth and nail, often with surprising success. Joe became the world's leading expert on the Subversive Activities Control Board. Along with John Abt he carried on more than 20 years of litigation, which ended with the extinction of the SACB in 1973. The battle included arguing or briefing, or both, such cases as *Communist Party v. Subversive Activities Control Board*, 367 U.S. 1 (1961); *Communist Party v. United States*, 331 F.2d 807 (D.C. Cir. 1963), cert. den. 377 U.S. 968 (1964); and *Albertson v. Subversive Activities Control Board*, 382 U.S. 70 (1965).

Meanwhile Joe was doing other things in his spare time. He was a member of the National Lawyers Guild from the beginning and active in its affairs. In the 1950s he handled the Washington end of the litigation to keep the Attorney General from carrying out his threat to place the Guild on the notorious Attorney General's List of Subversive Organizations. In the end the Attorney General had to back down.

Joe's work for the basic rights of citizens, and for the poor and the less privileged, has continued over the decades. I have access to a small computer, and I asked it to tell me how many cases in the Federal courts Joseph Forer has appeared in between 1946 and now. After buzzing for a long time over the enormity of the task the computer came forth with a list of 143 cases. Some are landmark cases, such as *Aptheker v. Secretary of State*, 378 U.S. 500 (1964), and *United States v. Robel*, 389 U.S. 258 (1967). A few are trivial cases, the product of petty hysteria, such as *Watts v. United States*, 394 U.S. 705 (1969), the prosecution of a potential draftee who observed, "If they ever make me carry a rifle the first man I want to get in my sights is L.B.J." Some involve life and death, such as his successful efforts to save the lives of the Giles brothers, accused of rape in Montgomery County, Maryland. All put together they represent one of the most notable achievements in the history of American rights.

Throughout his career Joseph Forer has exhibited extraordinary skill and craftsmanship. He has been a tough fighter, unafraid to take on the most formidable opponents. He has been sensitive to the needs of the world and to the hopes of his fellow human beings. He has done all that he has done with wit, warmth, and charm. All in all it has been a superb performance by a superb person.

**The San Francisco
Bay Area Chapter**

joins in saluting Joe Forer for his many contributions to the Guild, the progressive movement and the civil liberties of all.

We honor

Joe Forer

*for his invaluable contributions
to the causes of progressivism
and civil liberties.*

With love and affection,

*Joseph Leib
Harry Levitan
Harry Lore
Max Millman
(Philadelphia)*

**Greetings to Joseph Forer from
The Los Angeles Committee for the Defense
of the Bill of Rights**

There are a lot of people living in this country today who would have been deported in the 1950s were it not for the expertise of Joe Forer.

When the Walter-McCarran Act was still a viable piece of legislation, the Los Angeles Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born was hard pressed to defend the 160 cases that had come under its jurisdiction. While the Act was primarily one of political repression, our toughest cases were those with racist overtones as well. Thus, the Japanese-Americans, Korean-Americans, Mexican-Americans, long victims of racist West Coast bias, were given the shortest shrift by the local Immigration Service.

In order to get these cases out of the

hands of the West Coast racists, the Committee asked Joseph Forer to handle all appeals through his Washington office.

He didn't lose a single case!

Not only that, but in decisions like the Joseph Gastelum case, new law was made that broke the back of the Walter-McCarran Act and insured many subsequent victories.

Joseph Forer was our appeals counsel in all these cases. It has been 25 years, but we who struggled to protect the foreign born and, in the 60s, stayed in the struggle to defend the Bill of Rights, remember Joe Forer as an unflappable, consistent champion of the people.

Well done, Brother Joe, well done!

Ending Jim Crow in the Nation's Capital— The Thompson's Restaurant Case

Annie Stein

It is hard for Washingtonians today to imagine or for older residents to remember what the Nation's Capital was like in 1947. Except for seating in the bus, D.C. was a Jim Crow town. Black residents could not eat in any private downtown restaurant. In the dime stores and in People's Drug Stores, Blacks had to eat standing up at a designated end of the counter. No hotel outside of the Black ghetto would provide lodging or meeting space. Most department stores would not sell to Blacks, and none permitted trying-on of clothes. Downtown movies, the National Theatre, public swimming pools, hospitals, schools were rigidly segregated. Jobs for Blacks were sharply limited to menial service and common labor, even in the Federal Government. Even when there was a shortage of bus drivers during the War, Blacks were not permitted to drive. Housing for Blacks was available only in the ghetto.

A Presidential Commission in 1947 was at work on the report "To Secure These Rights"—Harry Truman's effort to respond to post-war world-wide criticism of the U.S. record of oppression and subjugation of the Black population, particularly in the national capital where foreign service officers from the newly-independent countries of Africa were daily insulted. Charles E. Wilson, who headed the Commission, reported that in their researches they had found that in 1872 and 1873, the D.C. Legislative Assembly had passed laws forbidding discrimination against any "respectable person" in hotels, restaurants, barber shops and the like. The short-lived Reconstruction legislative assembly was abolished in 1874 and many of its progressive laws were either repealed or simply dropped from the books in the recoding of the D.C. laws in 1909. Wilson wondered what the status of those old anti-discrimination laws could be.

The D.C. Progressive Party's anti-discrimination committee asked the Lawyers Guild to study the question and Joe Forer was put on the job.

Seventy-five years after their passage, Joe holed up in a law library for a week and came up with the answer. He wrote the Guild Opinion that was to make history.

He found:

1. that the laws had been enforced at least once, against the prestigious Harvey's Restaurant in 1874. Harvey's had to close its doors for several years because it refused to serve a respectable Black patron.
2. that the laws of 1872 and 1873 had never been repealed, but had simply been ignored in the 1909 codification.

*From Friends at the
Center for Constitutional Rights*

Rhonda Copelon
Arthur Kinoy
Bill Kunstler
Doris Peterson
Michael Ratner
Elizabeth Schneider
Nancy Stearns
Peter Weiss

**Congratulations
To Joe Forer**

Gaffney, Anspach, Schember,
Klimaski & Marks, P.C.
Washington, D.C.

D.C.'s freedom
political party salutes

Joe Forer,
an outstanding political lawyer.

D.C. Statehood Party

To Joe Forer:

From the 1930's, when you were a member of the Legal Committee of the United Federal Workers of America resisting the very beginnings of the loyalty program, through the 40's and 50's and the days of repression and McCarthyism when you fought at the cutting edge of freedom against the attempt to suppress the Communist Party, through the 60's when you fought to give vitality to anti-discrimination laws and to prevent the corrupt use of the criminal process to railroad young Blacks to jail, and during the struggles of the Peace Movement when you fought for the rights of servicemen and to protect young men caught in the workings of the Selective Service System, you have been a staunch and brilliant lawyer for the people. You have produced landmark decisions in the legal battles to protect Constitutional rights.

I salute you as a colleague and friend.

Morton Stavis

**Greetings of
Professional Admiration and
Warm Affection**

*from one who has been
a client and a colleague
and is glad to be a friend.*

Doris Brin Walker

BEST WISHES!

from the
**D.C. Feminist
Law
Collective**

3. that a precedent existed to show that the laws were still valid and in effect in 1947. That was the curious tale of a man who beat his horse mercilessly on a city street in the early 1900s. An outraged bystander filed a complaint. The court in that case ruled that the horse-beater was guilty of violating a law of the Legislative Assembly that did not appear in the 1909 codification but that was clearly part of the police power of the District and still a valid law.

How could laws that prohibit insult and injury to humans be of lesser moment than injury to a horse, Joe argued.

A committee was promptly organized, headed by the distinguished Black educator and civic leader, Mary Church Terrell. Mrs. Terrell was then 86 years old. The man who introduced the old laws 75 years earlier, Lewis Douglass, was the son of her old friend, Frederick Douglass.

A test case was begun in 1948. The restaurant chosen was Thompson's Restaurant for the good and sufficient reason that it was in the same building on 14th Street where Joe Forer and David Rein had their office. Mrs. Terrell and the Reverend Dr. W.H. Jernagin, also an octogenarian, moved their trays down the cafeteria line and were told by the manager in the presence of witnesses (David and Joe, of course) that they could not be served because they were "colored." There was no doubt that they were eminently "respectable."

The complaint was then formally filed with the Corporation Counsel whose duty it was to argue on behalf of the two complainants and the Thompson Restaurant Case was launched, based on the precedent and argument in the Guild Opinion.

The Committee, which called itself the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of the Anti-Discrimination Laws of 1872 and 1873, spent the next five years on picket lines, testing restaurants, and arguing with restaurant owners while the case went from appeal to appeal. Thousands of Washingtonians walked those lines under Mrs. Terrell's indomitable leadership, breaking down segregation at Kresge's (9 months), Murphy's (6 months) and most valiantly at the Hecht Company lunch counter after nine more months of picketing. Both Dave and Joe were active throughout the five years, working on the court case, in the meetings and on the picket line.

In 1953, the U.S. Supreme Court acted on the Thompson Restaurant Case, declaring that the old anti-discrimination laws of 1872 and 1873 were still in force and that all segregation in restaurants and hotels must cease forthwith.

That case cracked the dam of Jim Crow in the District. Movies and stores followed within a month and all places of public accommodation. In 1954, of course, the D.C. schools desegregated, restrictive housing covenants were shortly ended, jobs in stores, buses and the government service soon followed.

It was a glorious victory and foreshadowed the great struggles of the early '60s that ended Jim Crow in public accommodations throughout the South.

But let's always remember that it was Joe who found the man that beat the horse.

Joseph Forer, Defender of the Foreign Born

The American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born expresses its profound appreciation to Joseph Forer, a people's lawyer in the best sense, for his outstanding contributions to defending the rights of the foreign born.

During the witch-hunt decade, 1948-1958, he stood rock-firm in opposing the mammoth campaign by the federal government to pit the native born against the foreign born. As in every anti-alien drive, citizens alienated from the government were told that the foreign born were responsible for the ills plaguing society. The American Committee, together with more than 15 affiliates in major cities, had been a key organization resisting—on both the political and legal fronts—this anti-democratic attack.

Forer served as a lawyer's lawyer, handling difficult cases involving the foreign born for lawyers all over the country. He was instrumental in saving from exile many who, like Charles Rowoldt, had spent a lifetime here in service to the American people. The roster of cases he successfully handled in the Supreme Court and in other courts is long; the lives he saved are many; and the benefit to the native born is incalculable.

Together with Vito Marcantonio he played a major and successful role in defending the very existence of the American Committee when it was under legal attack. The Committee's "sin" was that it never swerved from defense of the foreign born regardless of race, color, creed, national origin or political opinion. Forer took special pleasure in exposing the Justice Department's professional witnesses, "earning their hire by giving testimony which they agilely adjust for each case in which they appear."

Joe Forer has ably and courageously upheld the Torch of Liberty. His contributions continue to provide inspiration in the ongoing struggles for democracy.

Louise Pettibone Smith
Honorary Chairperson

Ira Gollobin
General Counsel

Dr. Paul Lehmann
Chairman

Rev. Lee H. Ball
Treasurer

Asylum for Haitian Refugees!

Amnesty for Overstayed and Undocumented Persons!

American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, 799 Broadway, N.Y.C. 10003

In Honor

We join in honoring Joe Forer, a founding member of the National Lawyers Guild, on the occasion of his retirement. Since entering private practice in Washington, D.C. in 1946, he has been in the center of the legal struggle against the cold war and its onslaught against civil liberties. We all have been deeply grateful for the support and advice he continues to share with us.

John and Jessica Abt
American Civil Liberties Union
of the National Capital Area
Antioch Chapter,
National Lawyers Guild
Leslie Auerbach, Esq.
Leita and Samuel Beck
Eleanor and Joe Belser
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bencich
Herbert Benjamin
Lanng G. Beran
Chip Berlet
Al and Sylvia Bernstein
Barbara Bick
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Mildred Bozzi
Maurice Braverman
Harold Buchman
A.D. Caesar
Maggie Cammer
Terence E. Carroll
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Julius Cohen
Community Law Office
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Tim Coulter, Esq.
CovertAction Information Bulletin
Hon. George W. Crockett, Jr.
D.C. N.L.G. Men Against Sexism
Hugh M. Davis, Jr., Glotta, Adelman,
Dinges, Davis & Riley

Leopold Diamond, M.D.
Dr. Louise Rita Dixon
Frank J. Donner
Steve Early
Esther Ruth Ferington
Bob Fodor
Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr.
Jack and Francine Fox
Mrs. W. Wallace Francis
Esther and Leopold Frankel
David M. Freedman
Bruce Comly French
Harold Gainer
Henry Giler
Benjamin Goldring
Also Honoring DAVID REIN
Ira Gollobin
Helen L. Gray
Gloria Schek Green
Jacob, Dot and Kathy Green
Louise and Philip Greenwood
Aubrey Grossman
Samuel Gruber
Helen and Casey Gurewitz
Charlotte A. Hankin
Debby Hanrahan
John Hanrahan
Dr. Catherine R. Harris
Mark Harris
Paul Harris
Dolores Helman
Dorothy P. Hochman

Phineas Indritz
 David B. Isbell
 Abdeen M. Jabara
 Maurice Jackson, Chairman,
 DC-Virginia District, CPUSA
 Jewish Mutual Aid Society,
 Jack Rosenbaum, President
 Craig B. Kaplan
 Kent Karlsson
 Dora Kelenson
 Lorin E. Kerr, M.D.
 Ruth Kistin
 Frances Klafter
 Amy Loeserman Klein
 Milton Klein
 Erhan and Moshe Koenick
 Phyllis T. Langston
 Larson & Weinberg
 Allen M. Lenchek
 Frances Lepowsky
 Isadore and Miriam Levin
 Rabbi Eugene Lipman
 Lew and Irene Maddocks
 Michael Maggio
 Martha and Leon Malkin
 Hilda and Charles Mason
 Harold and Gwen Mayers
 Alexandra McCoy
 Garnett McCoy
 Judy Mead
 Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute
 Nancy K. Mello, M.D.
 Jack H. Mendelson, M.D.
 Howard N. Meyer
 Meyers, Rothstein and Leon
 Bill Montross
 Marilyn Moors
 Warren W. Morse
 George B. Murphy, Jr.
 Florence S. Orbach
 Leo B. Orbach

Esther and Isadore Paskoff
 John Perazich
 George and Lee Pikser
 Pressmen's Union, Local No. 6
 Cheryl and Roger Priest
 Paulette Pumphrey
 Priorities Committee, D.C. Chapter
 John Quigley
 Gilberto Ramirez and
 Louise Franklin-Ramirez
 Harry I. Rand
 Ellen Ray
 Jill Raymond
 Dr. Melvin D. Rein
 Ursula R. Rein
 Joe Richardson
 Irving and Jean Richter
 Severina Rivera,
 Friends of the Filipino People
 Dennis Roberts, Esq.
 Dr. James E. Roberts
 Earl Robinson
 Sam Rosenwein
 Samantha Sanchez, Esq.
 James Sayler
 Bill Schaap
 Florence and Bill Schifter
 Arthur and Sidney Schiller
 Rudy Schwarc
 Michael N. Searles
 Edith Segal and Samuel Kamen
 Jeffrey Segal
 Herbert Semmel
 Michael H. Shacter
 Helen and Bill Shonick
 Marie Siegrist
 Robert J. Silberstein
 William H. Simons
 Smith, Yavenditti and Armstrong
 Ned L. Smokler
 Lee Solomon, People's College of Law

Giles-Johnson Defense Committee

To Joe Forer

Our Friend • Counsellor • Teacher

In grateful appreciation for your time, your talents, your counsel, and your friendship. We thank you for the lessons you taught us about the law and the judicial system, for your optimism in times of discouragement, your humor in the face of hostility, your understanding in the light of our legal naiveté, your wisdom in the times of our impatience.

Benjamin Adams, Sr.
Alice Alt*
Franz L. Alt
James E. Alt
Theresa F. Alt
Jacqueline Giles Bishop
Roger B. Farquhar
Nancy Feldman
Marie Ferington
James V. Giles
John G. Giles*
Joseph E. Johnson
Barbara and Harold Knapp
Rose C. Kramer
Sam Legg

Lewis Maddocks
Charles and Hilda Mason
Marion and Sam Merrill
Frances Ross Miller*
Mary Moore Miller
S. Harvey and Marion Mudd
Tigger Pruitt
Mildred A. Pumphrey
Sylvesta R. Roberts
Caroline B. Schauffler
Fritz Strauss
Jane Thayer
Edith M. Throckmorton
Hal Witt
* In memory of

From a Client— The Giles-Johnson Defense

James V. Giles

After we were convicted and sentenced to death in 1961, a group of citizens came together to plan a campaign to save our lives. Joseph Forer was among that group. As a lawyer and resident of Montgomery County, with a close association with the county's chapter of the NAACP, he functioned as adviser to those who formed the Giles-Johnson Defense Committee. In the early stages, it was he who kept emphasizing the importance of publicizing the case to draw attention to a system of justice that was perverted and distorted by racism and bigotry. After Governor Tawes commuted our death sentences to life, Joseph Forer took a more active role as head of the team of lawyers who would handle the post-conviction appeals in the fight for our freedom.

It was his tireless efforts and brilliant presentations during the post-conviction hearings that resulted in Circuit Court Judge Walter Moorman granting us a new trial in 1964. When that decision was appealed by the State, and the Maryland Court of Appeals refused the new trial, it was Joe's morale-building visits to the prison that saved us from much of the psychological agony that came from that defeat. He gave us confidence in the face of tremendous odds that we would not spend the rest of our lives behind bars as the result of unjust convictions.

continued on page 31



Cartoon from the *Montgomery County Sentinel* (reprinted with permission).



Interview after Supreme Court argument in Giles case.

The Giles/Johnson Defense continued from page 21

Our case was appealed to the Supreme Court. Again it was Joe's tireless and selfless efforts that persuaded the Court to hear arguments on granting a new trial. In 1967 the Supreme Court agreed and ordered Maryland to reconsider our case.

During pre-trial motions, the State confessed error; when the new trial began in October 1967, the State was able to produce neither witnesses nor evidence. All charges against my brother, John, and me were dropped. As a result of that victory, Governor Spiro T. Agnew granted Joseph Johnson a full pardon.

Joseph Forer represented me for a span of years and from that association I



Giles brothers after release from prison.

gained a friend, a tough and compassionate human being who has never compromised his sense of justice in an arena where inequality and double standards are commonplace. Nor has he ever compromised across the board respect for others.

The *Saturday Review* recently dedicated a special issue to the heroes of our time, commenting on how few they have become. Joe Forer will forever resist the heroic image, but he belongs at the top of the list.

In Honor continued from page 19

Rose Sorkin
Annie Stein
Irving G. Steinberg
Frances Strauss
Myer C. Symonds
Florence Tabor
A.L. Tanz
Dan Taylor, Attorney at Law
Ralph and Sally Temple
G.R. Toney
Milton Turkel
Fred F. Tweedie
Craig Vincent
Leonard H. Wacker
Mardie Walker
Jeanne Walton

Ray Watts
Bruce I. Waxman
Burton D. Wechsler
Ethel and Julius Weisser
David L. Weissman, Esq.
Elliott Wilk
Luke W. Wilson
Ruth Wilson
Carl Winter, Editor, *Daily World*
Nathan Witt
Bee and George Wolfe
Women for Racial &
Economic Equality (WREE)
Patricia Wynn
Martin Young
A Friend
A Friend—Toronto, Canada