

## Money:

## Lindsay Says the Wolf Is At the Door

It is no Aesopian fable, according to Mayor John V. Lindsay and others knowledgeable about budgetary affairs in the nation's largest city, that the fiscal wolf actually is at the municipal door once more.

The wolf-cry of no money is a familiar one, to be sure, and therefore suspect. It reverberates almost annually through the concrete canyons near City Hall as the State Legislature prepares to convene, or as collective-bargaining sessions with city employees are about to get under way.

It comes now as Republicans have reasserted their dominance in Albany—they are not noted for their generosity to urban areas—and as the sanitation workers, firemen and policemen demand significant new pay rises. In the case of policemen, it would be from \$10,000 annually to \$16,000.

## Mayoral Threats

"Ridiculous! Incredible!" has been the response of city officials. Mayor Lindsay has imposed a municipal job freeze and threatened both payless pay days and layoffs to help make ends meet during the current budgetary year. "The situation is more serious than ever," insists the city's assistant Budget Director, David Grossman, a veteran of past fiscal difficulties.

There is objective evidence to support his view. Not only is the city projecting the usual budgetary gap for next fiscal year—anticipated expenses have been outrunning anticipated revenues for years—but the city also is projecting a massive deficit for the current fiscal year.

A small deficit was closed last year by dipping into the so-called rainy day reserve fund. This fund is now practically exhausted. The projected deficit this year could run as high as \$300-million, city officials warn, noting that the budget is close to \$8-billion.

The causes of the deficit are several. There has been a decline in revenues, among them stock transfer taxes, income and other levies and the new off-track betting tax and the low-priced lottery will produce much less income this year than expected.

At the same time, expenses are up, with more than three times the number of persons being added to the welfare rolls each month than anticipated, and additional short-term borrowing forcing up the cost of debt service.

(City Controller Abraham Beame received an unexpectedly low interest rate when he borrowed more than \$500-million in short-term notes last week, but the fact that he had to borrow so much to meet current expenses may only underscore the city's budget plight. Mr. Beame, however, contended that the large sum was the result of borrowing less frequently.)

Salaries at the executive level continue to go up, and recently negotiated pension benefits—they eventually will be shared by all municipal employees—provide for retirement at half-pay after 20 years' service and at full pay after 40 years. The additional cost to the city is figured at \$30-million the first year.

## 'Absolutely Serious'

Union leaders charge that the wolf-cry this year is not for real, and that city officials are only trying to hold down contract settlements. "I wish that it were so," sighs Mr. Grossman.

City Councilman Mario Merola, chairman of the Finance Committee and a frequent critic of city policies, supports this view. He sees the situation as "absolutely serious," and says that the city must receive "huge, new amounts of money" to meet the costs ahead.

Another city official was asked what he would do if his personal budget were in the same shape as the city's budget. "I'd be ready to talk to the Mafia," he replied.

Cities generally across the country confront similar budgetary difficulties. As

their tax base remains stable or even erodes as some property values decline, their costs rise. Donald G. Alexander, legislative counsel for the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors, reports that expenditures in the nation's 43 cities of more than 300,000 population jumped an average of 16 per cent between 1967 and 1968, the most recent years for which such figures are available.

Cities and localities rely almost exclusively on property taxes to raise their revenues; in the New York suburban area, these taxes have risen as much as 25 per cent in two years and have forced some elderly people on fixed incomes from their homes.

The limited steps that Mayor Lindsay has taken to avoid a large deficit this year will not be enough in themselves, according to city officials. They hope for additional aid from the state—although it, too, faces a budgetary squeeze and the need to raise taxes—and from the Federal Government, where both a revenue-sharing scheme and welfare reforms are receiving active consideration.

Mayor Lindsay seemed to be speaking to Albany and Washington from abroad last week. Visiting London to address business and civic leaders on the problems of the cities, he took his budgetary difficulties with him.

"The central urban issue," he said, "is whether we can summon the will to allocate the resources to better our cities."

—JOHN A. HAMILTON

## Weathermen:

## They Boast Of Bombs And the Boast May Be True

Early last month, the revolutionary Weathermen communicated this swaggering thought to the New York news media: "We are outlaws, free and high—a youth guerrilla Underground in the heart of Babylon."

The boast inspired little public noise here. It had been months since the Weathermen made their local presence known in their more customary manner—with a bomb.

Two weeks ago, the atmosphere changed. Armories in Queens and a police station in the Bronx were bombed.

Then, last week, a number of frightened New Yorkers found themselves asking once again just how many such "outlaws" were flying "free and high" in this particular Babylon of New York City. For on Monday, Burton B. Roberts, the Bronx County District Attorney, arrested six persons and charged them with conspiracy to commit murder and arson and to make bombs. Four of them, he said, were "connected" with the Weathermen.

Mr. Roberts used court-sanctioned wiretaps to "connect" to the Weathermen four of the persons he arrested. They were seized in raids on three different apartments, where, the police said, they had bomb-making material, equipment for forging draft cards and floor plans of major buildings in New York and Chicago.

The District Attorney was careful to point out that the four suspects were not, as far as he knew, actual Weathermen. "We don't really know how many Weathermen there are," he said, "and I don't think it's relevant whether or not someone is a Weatherman. We're not concerned with anyone's political beliefs; we're only concerned with violations of the law. All we can do is remain vigilant and not make heroes of bombers, from the left or the right. They're potential murderers."

## Some Contact

Of course, no one knows how many Weathermen are living and plotting in New York City, or how many plotters and potential bombers in the city are "connected" with the revolutionary group. In police parlance, "connected" means only that somewhere along the line the lonely revolutionary has had some contact with some clearly identified Weatherman.

The Weathermen are a dedicated revolutionary faction of the radical Students for a Democratic Society. The name Weathermen comes from a Bob Dylan song, "Subterranean Homesick Blues," which contains the phrase, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows."

What is known is that the mixed bag of self-proclaimed revolutionaries and would-be bombers in the city includes Weathermen and persons "connected" with the Weathermen, and that these people cut across all ethnic and economic backgrounds. For example, a New York County grand jury currently investigating bombings has taken testimony from young, radical physicians who have admitted being "connected" with the Weathermen.

The Weathermen do, however, present unusual problems for the police. For one thing, unlike the Black Panthers, they operate entirely underground.

This was not always so. In the organization's founding days, its members lived in what they called "affinity groups"—10 or 12 or so residing in urban communes. These would have been relatively easy for the police to infiltrate, if the police had been taking the Weathermen that seriously at the time.

Now its members live in "cells" of three, and most often the only other Weathermen they know are their cellmates. If one becomes an informer, he can inform only on two other persons. Orders come to the cell via telephone calls, the mails and the "drop" system perfected by revolutionaries centuries ago.

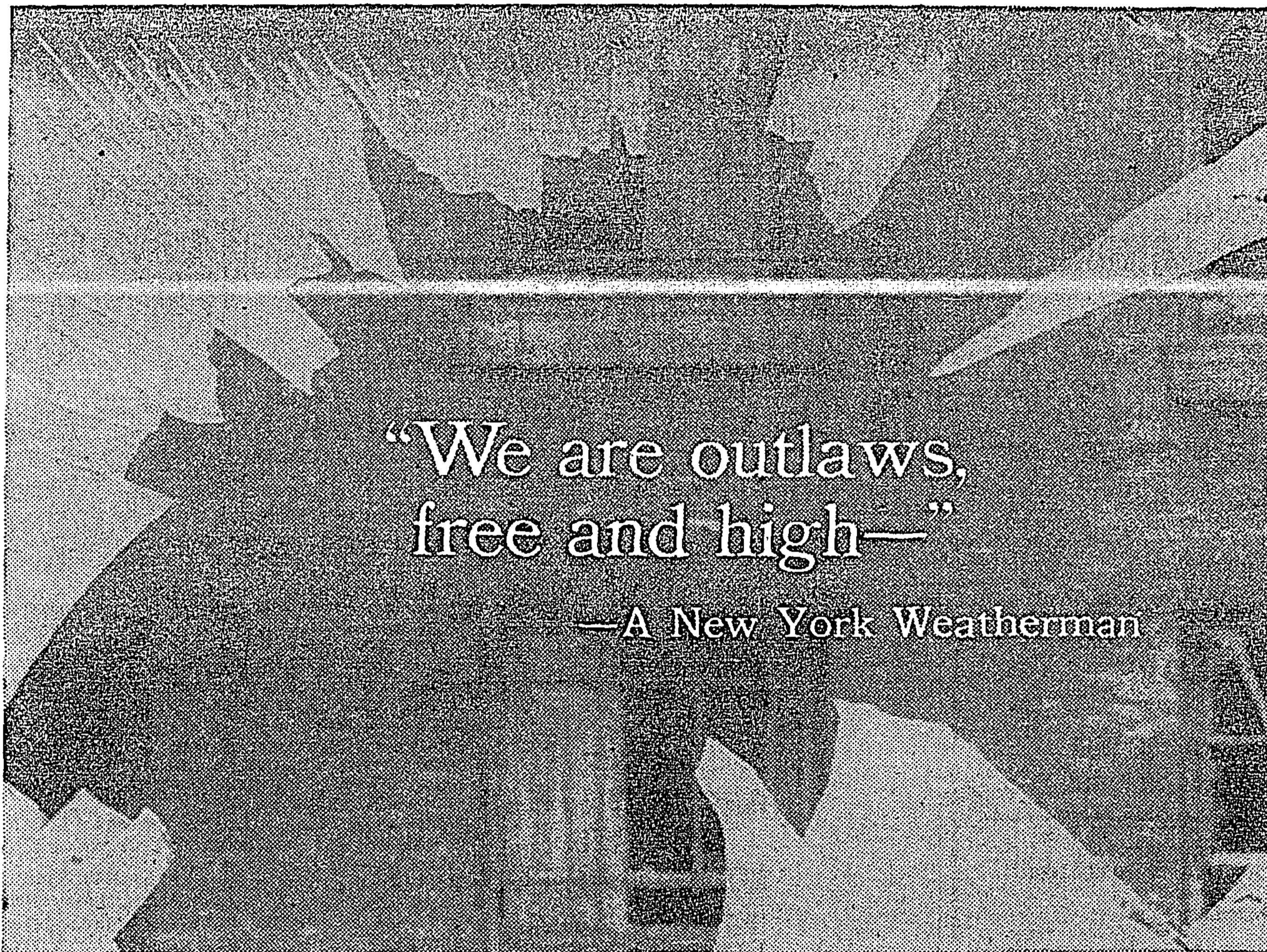
It is virtually impossible for a police undercover agent to infiltrate a three-member "cell" and, as one assistant District Attorney put it last week, "It would be unconscionable to ask a

policeman to try to infiltrate such a group. He would have to start popping pills, smoking grass and live in a commune."

Furthermore, even if the officer were willing to try, he would first have to spend a long time on some college campus, acting the part of student revolutionary to build up his credentials as a potential Weatherman. Thus, the only way the police can get to such a group is through luck or through some dissi-

dent member turning informer.

Has such a setup been beneficial to the Weathermen and similar revolutionary groups? The answer is yes. So far, the police of more than one city, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have been unable to get their hands on Mark Rudd or Bernadine Dohrn, fugitive Weathermen leaders. By comparison, it was always easy for the authorities to pick up Huey P.



Newton, Supreme Commander and Minister of Defense of the Black Panthers. And it was just as easy for the authorities to infiltrate the Panthers.

While Panthers and Panther followers are going on trial or are in jail in virtually every major city in the country, the Weathermen and similar groups are successfully thumbing their noses at society, taunting the police and planting their bombs. And nearly all police authorities agree that this is likely to continue for some time.

## Creating Adherents

And each success creates within more of the nation's youth a willingness to try the life of a violent revolutionary. Thus, two weeks ago, a white revolutionary group calling itself The Smiling Fox Tribe—it claims to support Puerto Ricans against American "imperialism"—took credit for the bombing of the two armories in Queens and the Bronx police station.

This group, in a one-page handwritten statement given to the Liberated Guardian Collective, a radical newspaper published in New York, and to The Associated Press, said that the Tribe "follows the example" of the Young Lords, a Puerto Rican radical militant organization. The only trouble was that nobody, not even the Young Lords, had ever heard of the Smiling Fox Tribe. So the question remains: Were those bombings the work of the Weathermen also?

For that, too, is a Weathermen tactic—the creation, on paper, of fictitious organizations.

—MARTIN ARNOLD