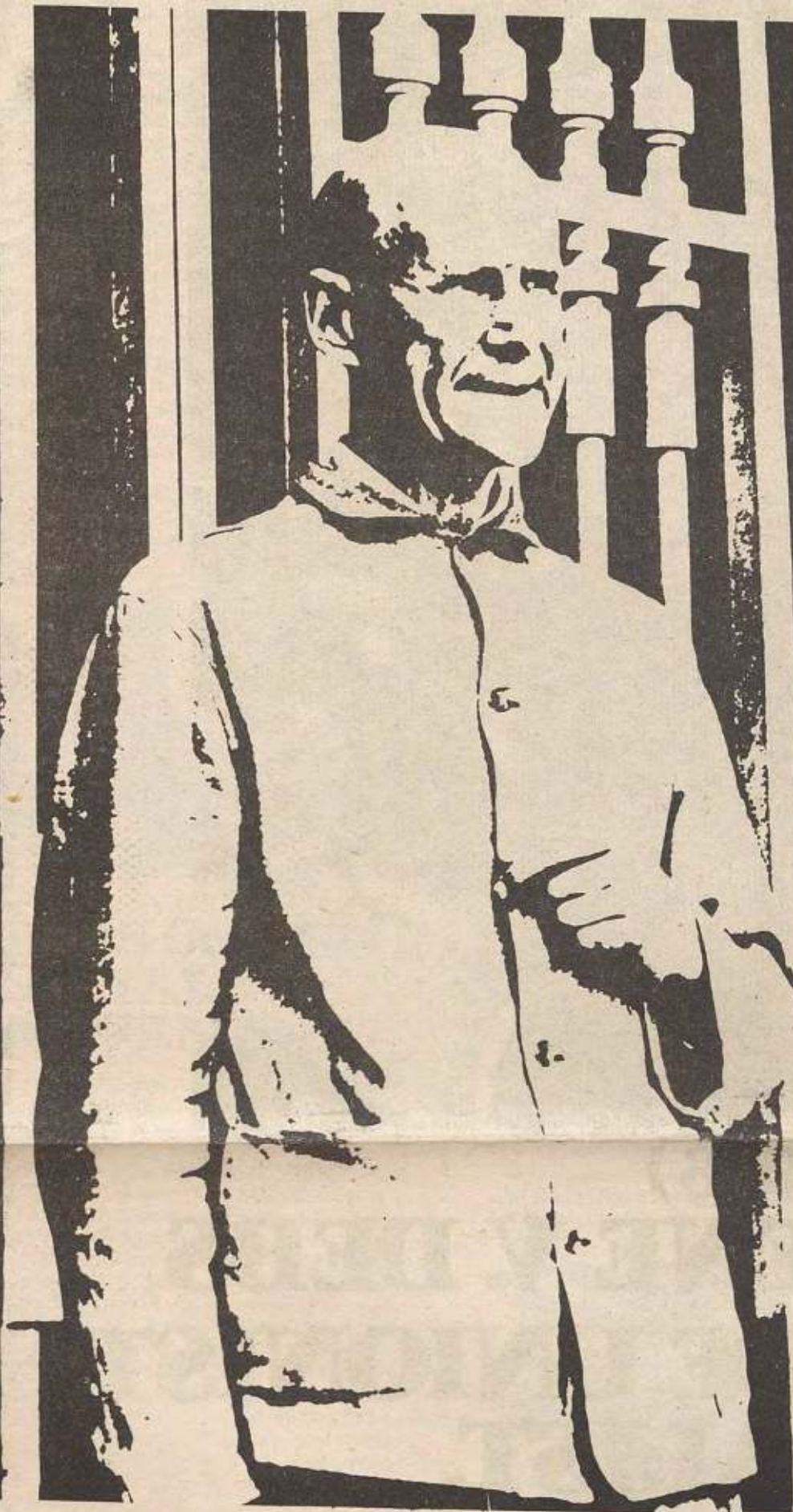


# SOCIALIST PARTY FOR PRESIDENT



# EUGENE V. DEBS

*The American People's Historical Society proudly presents "Debs," a 30 minute color video-tape on the life and ideas of Eugene Victor Debs - the outstanding leader in the history of the American working class.*

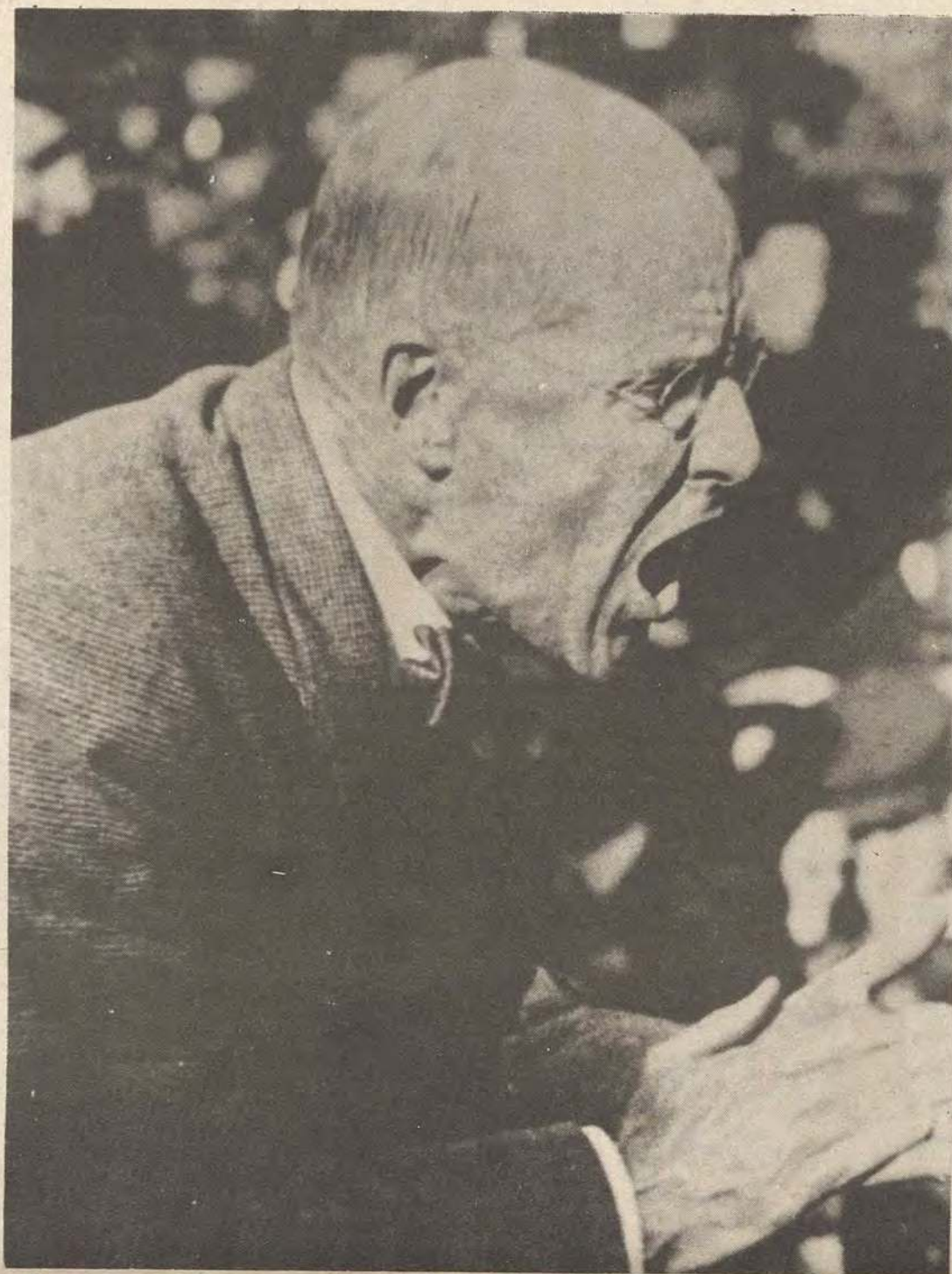
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295½ Maple Street  
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# (1855-1926) EUGENE V. DEBS TRADE UNIONIST, SOCIALIST, REVOLUTIONARY

*Founder of the American industrial union movement, founder of the Socialist Party, five times candidate for President of the United States, vigorous opponent of imperialism and America's participation in World War One - and the outstanding leader in the history of the American working class.*

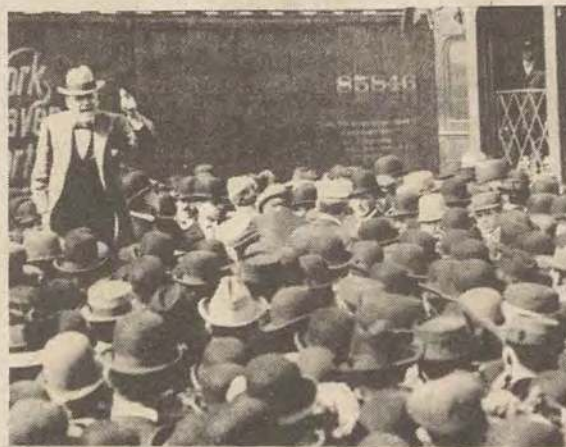
"Debs" - a 30 minute documentary video-tape produced by the American People's Historical Society is available for purchase or rental. See back page for order information.

## DEBS ON POLITICS

"Why should working people support the Socialist Party? Because it is the only party unequivocally committed to their economic interests, to the abolition of the wage system, and the freedom of the worker from exploitation and every other species of servitude."

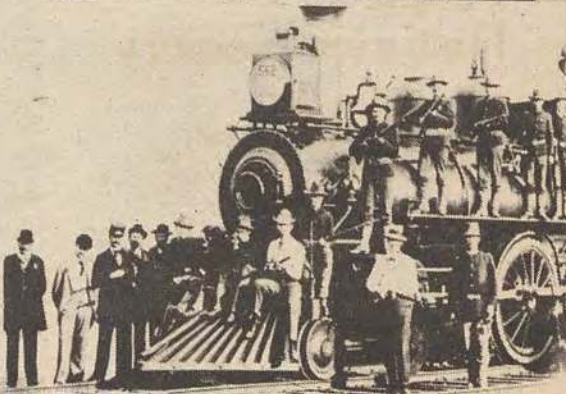
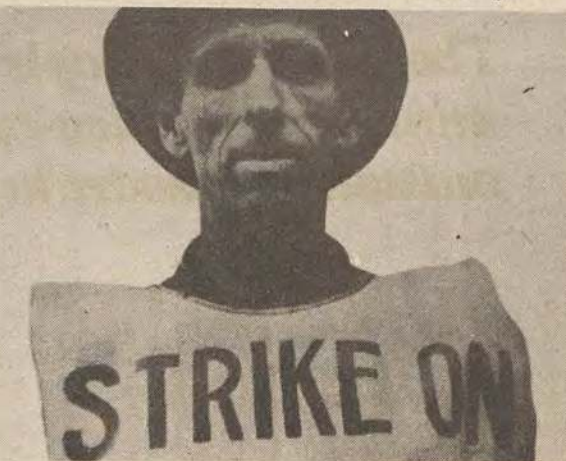
"The workers know that under Republican rule and Democratic rule conditions for them have remained unchanged. They know that under the administration of both depressions come, that unemployment is certain, and that many of their number are doomed to drift into poverty and crime and finally end their lives as beggars, suicides, in prison cells or on the scaffold."

"They know, too, that under both Democrat and Republican rule the President is on the side of the capitalist, that the governors are all on the side of the capitalists, that Congress and all the state legislators respond to the demands of the capitalists, that the courts are uniformly with the capitalists, while soldiers and injunctions and jails are for the exclusive benefit of the workers."



## INDUSTRIAL UNIONIST

In 1893, with workers on the railroad lines earning starvation wages, Eugene Victor Debs helped organize the American Railway Union - an industrial union open to every railroad worker in America - regardless of the job performed. In one year's time Debs, and the other leaders, brought 150,000 members into the union, and created one of the most powerful working class organizations in the country. Fearful of the power of the A.R.U., and the growth of industrial unionism, the A.R.U. was annihilated one year later during the great Pullman strike - one of the most bitter strikes in American history - by a combination of forces including the railroad corporations, the United States militia, the federal courts and the capitalist press. Arrested for his activities during the strike, Debs became a socialist while in jail. In November, 1895, when he was released from jail (the first time), over a hundred thousand workers surrounded his train and welcomed him back to liberty.



## FOUNDER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

In 1897, Gene Debs helped organize the Social Democratic Party which, in 1904, became the Socialist Party. By 1912 the Socialist Party was a major force in American politics. It had a membership of over one hundred thousand, newspapers which were read by millions of readers, and a political organization which controlled the administrations of 33 American cities, including Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bridgeport, Connecticut and Berkeley, California. In 1912, with Debs as its presidential candidate, the party received 6% of the national vote.



IN SEPTEMBER OF 1918, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO BE SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO WORLD WAR I, DEBS LOOKED THE PRESIDING JUDGE IN THE EYE AND SPOKE HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. HIS WORDS HAVE LONG BEEN REMEMBERED: "YOUR HONOR, YEARS AGO I RECOGNIZED MY KINSHIP WITH ALL LIVING THINGS, AND I MADE UP MY MIND THAT I WAS NOT ONE BIT BETTER THAN THE MEANEST ON EARTH. I SAID THEN, AND I SAY NOW, THAT WHILE THERE IS A LOWER CLASS I AM IN IT, WHILE THERE IS A CRIMINAL ELEMENT, I AM OF IT, AND WHILE THERE IS A SOUL IN PRISON, I AM NOT FREE."

## FIGHTER FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

During and after the first World War, civil liberties in the United States were virtually abolished. In 1917, federal legislation was passed making opposition to the war illegal, newspapers opposing the war were barred from the mails, censored and closed down, Socialist Party and trade union offices were wrecked, and large numbers of people were indiscriminately arrested. In New York in 1920, five members of the Socialist Party who were democratically elected to the State Legislature were refused admission to that body, and throughout the country workers who voiced opposition to the war were fired from their jobs. Time and time again Eugene Debs put his life and liberty on the line by opposing America's participation in that war - and by defending the right of dissent. At the age of 63 he was given a ten year jail sentence for his efforts.

## DEBS ON WAR

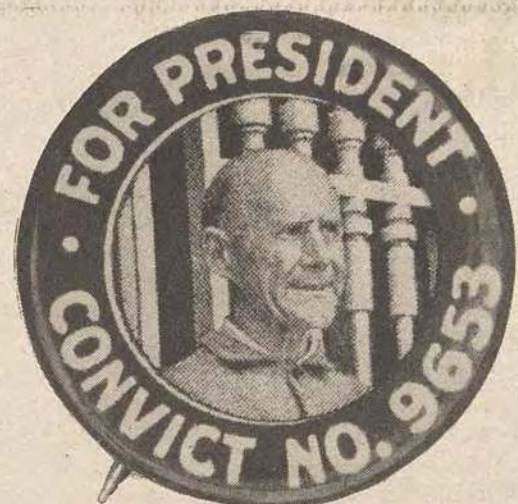
"The master class has always declared the wars; the subject class has always fought the battles. The master class has had all to gain and nothing to lose, while the subject class has had nothing to gain and all to lose - especially their lives."

"The ruling class has always taught and trained you to believe it to be your patriotic duty to go to war and to have yourselves slaughtered at their command. But in all the history of the world, you, the people, have never had a voice in declaring war, and strange as it certainly appears, no war by any nation in any age has ever been declared by the people. And here let me emphasize the fact - and it cannot be repeated too often - that the working class who fight all the battles, the working class who make the supreme sacrifices, the working class who freely shed their blood and furnish the corpses, have never yet had a voice in either declaring war or making peace. It is the ruling class that invariably does both. They alone declare war and they alone make peace."



## DEBS ON THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

"The little that I am, the little that I am hoping to be, I owe to the Socialist movement. It has given me my ideas and ideals; my principals and convictions, and I would not exchange one of them for all of Rockefeller's bloodstained dollars. It has taught me how to serve - a lesson to me of priceless value. It has taught me the ecstasy in the handclasp of a comrade. It has enabled me to hold high communion with you, and made it possible for me to take my place side by side with you in the great struggle for the better day; to multiply myself over and over again, to thrill with a fresh-born manhood; to feel life truly worthwhile; to open new avenues of wisdom; to spread out glorious vistas; to know that I am kin to all that throbs; to be class conscious, and to realize that, regardless of nationality, race, creed, color or sex every man, every woman who toils, who renders useful service, every member of the working class without exception, is my comrade, my brother and sister - and that to serve them and their cause is the highest duty of my life."



In 1920, when he ran for President the 5th time as the candidate of the Socialist Party, Eugene Victor Debs was 65 years old. He was also an inmate in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. Imprisoned for a ten year sentence by President Woodrow Wilson's administration for opposing America's participation in World War One, a war which he considered to be an imperialist venture fought between national ruling classes and using the working class of both sides as cannon fodder, outspent by the Republicans and Democrats by more than a hundred to one, almost a million Americans voted for convict Eugene V. Debs to be their president.

## DEBS ON CLASS CONFLICT

"Let no one charge that socialists have arrayed class against class in this struggle. That has been done long since in the evolution of capitalist society. One class now owns the tools while another class uses them. One class is small and rich and the other large and poor. One wants more profit and the other more wages. One consists of capitalists and the other of workers. There can be no peace and good will between these essentially antagonistic economic classes. Nor can the class conflict be covered up or smoothed over."

In capitalist society the working man is not, in fact, considered a man at all, but as a wage worker is bought and sold on the open market the same as hair, hides, salt or any other merchandise."



"You as workers do not need the capitalist. He could not exist an instant without you. You would just begin to live without him. You do everything and he has everything; and some of you imagine that if it were not for him you would have no work. As a matter of fact, he does not employ you at all. You employ him to take from you what you produce, and he faithfully sticks to his task. If you can stand it, he can; and if you don't change this relation, I am sure he won't."

"We need, in this country and throughout the world, an economic system in which the working people own the means of production - and in which we produce goods and services for the use of all - and not for the profits of the few. Under socialism, men and women will work not as slaves, as they do today, but as free human beings determining what is produced and how it is produced - and will take satisfaction and pride in their work knowing that they, and their children, will be the beneficiaries of their labor and not some capitalist parasite who has a piece of paper declaring himself to be the owner - although he may have never done a productive day's work in his life."

"The workers are the saviors of society, the redeemers of the human race; and when they have fulfilled their great historic mission and have overthrown the capitalist system, men and women can walk the highlands and enjoy the vision of a land without masters and without slaves - a land regenerated and resplendent in the triumph of freedom and civilization."



# Dear Educator,

The American People's Historical Society of Burlington, Vermont is a newly formed non-profit organization producing audio-visual from an alternative point of view.

During the period of Stalin's rule in the Soviet Union it became a commonplace practice to "rewrite history." Men and women who had played outstanding roles in Russian history, and in the development of the Russian revolution, were completely ignored or, worse yet, their work totally distorted because they were out of favor with Stalin and the Soviet leadership.

In a far more subtle and sophisticated manner we fear that a very similar process of "rewriting history" is taking place in the contemporary United States - a nation increasingly controlled by a small number of giant banks and corporations. In high schools and colleges throughout the country great amounts of time and energy are given to the study of individuals and events

which are relatively insignificant, while people and ideas of monumental importance are ignored because they are too "controversial" - and because Boards of Trustees, school boards, politicians and financial contributors might be offended. Our libraries and media centers are full of information about a thousand non-entities, but how many students have ever been exposed to the ideas of Emma Goldman - a woman forcibly deported from the United States whose ideas continue to have a profound influence upon the present day women's movement. Our television screens are filled with the likes of Starsky and Hutch, Wonder Woman and the Incredible Hulk, but how many t.v. viewers have been allowed to hear about Wilhelm Reich - a man who died in an American penitentiary but whose work has had an enormous impact upon medicine, psychiatry, politics and education.

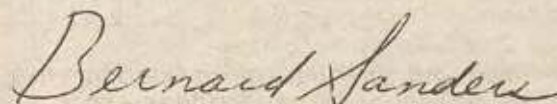
The American People's Historical Society is happy to announce the development of a new series of audio-visual material entitled, "The Other Side of American History." This series will deal with people and ideas that the major profit oriented manufacturers of audio-visual material will not cover because of economic and political reasons.

The first production in this series is "Debs," a 30 minute color documentary videotape on the life and ideas of Eugene Victor Debs - the great American trade unionist, socialist and revolutionary. This videotape utilizes over 220 photographs of Debs and the period in which he lived, and discusses his ideas on class struggle, trade unionism, socialism and war. It is our opinion that this videotape will be a valuable acquisition for any teacher interested in a serious discussion of American history, economics, sociology or political science.

The cost of the videotape is \$200. It can also be rented for a \$35 fee. To receive "Debs" please fill out the order form below.

We look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to respond to any questions and suggestions that you might have with regard to our work.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard Sanders  
Director



## Order Information

"Debs" may be purchased or rented by contacting:

The American People's Historical Society  
295 1/2 Maple Street  
Burlington, Vermont 05401 or telephoning  
(802) 864-7061

### Format

"Debs" is available for sale or rental in 3/4" U-matic videocassette format. The program may also be made available in most other cassette, cartridge and open-reel formats on special order.

### Price

The purchase price for "Debs" is \$200.

### Preview for Purchase Consideration

"Debs" is available for preview at no charge by qualified individuals within educational institutions who are responsible for media selection. The evaluation period is one week.

There is no charge to authorized purchasers for preview privileges except for return postage and insurance. We regret that preview privileges are not available to customers who intend only to rent.

### Rental

1- "Debs" is available for rental at \$35 for a three day period. The following rates are applicable if the videotape is kept for a longer period of time; 4-7 days: \$70; 8-30 days: \$105.

2- Payment for rental must be made in advance unless an authorized purchase order has been received. Please schedule rentals at least 3 weeks before show dates, and list alternative dates.

3- Videocassettes must be returned special delivery, insured on the first business day after viewing date to avoid late charges. Customers are responsible for all shipping charges.

4- If an individual decides to purchase "Debs" within 60 days after rental, the rental fee may be deducted from the purchase price.

5- Customers are responsible for any damage to the videotape.

Non-profit, non-educational organizations such as trade unions, and community organizing groups - who are functioning to improve the condition of working people should contact the APHS for special consideration.

### Copyright

"Debs" is copyrighted and is licensed for exhibition only at time and place specified.

## Order Form

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