



Goetz releases seen as racist outrage

Reagan-Koch 'solution' to poverty, unemployment is vigilante terrorism

Victim of bigotry



Darrell Cabey lies paralyzed and near death from New York City subway gunman's shooting spree.

By Sam Marcy

JANUARY 29.—The exoneration by a New York grand jury of Bernhard Goetz in the attempted murder of four Black youths is one of the most odious spectacles of unrestrained racism in the long history of the cruel oppression of Black people in the U.S.

It is a menacing and unmistakable throwback to the days of lynch law and should be unmasked as such. No one should be taken in by the so-called "spontaneous," "grassroots" upheaval of public opinion. It is a wholly manufactured, synthetic product created by the capitalist media.

Above all, one should beware of the liberal apologists for the crime committed by Goetz in the name of "self-defense." This, too, is a gigantic hoax.

What if he'd been Black?

Goetz shot four youths, two in the back, and one remains in a coma, paralyzed from the waist down. We should first direct our attention to the question asked by millions upon millions of people: Had this gunman been Black, and the victims white, would he have been turned into a "national hero," as the national media are attempting to do with Goetz? Would the grand jury have cleared him of the attempted murder, the way they cleared Bernhard Goetz? Would the District Attorney of New York have presented the case in such a way as to let him off the hook with a mere weapons charge, which we suspect may eventually be dropped? Merely to ask these questions is to answer them.

One of the truly significant aspects of the political situation surrounding the case is that virtually the entire capitalist establishment of New York, supposedly the most liberal state in the union, has gone along with the grand jury decision.

From the unbridled racist Mayor Ed Koch, to the wishy-washy President of the City Council Carol Bellamy, all the way up to the "most liberal governor" *Continued on page 6*

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Jailed union leader urges, 'Workers must fight!'

By Gary Wilson

JANUARY 27—Another five workers fighting for the unemployed in the Pittsburgh area have been given jail terms for their activities against the rich and powerful corporations that have devastated the Monongahela and Ohio Valleys.

Among those sentenced to six months in jail were Ron Weisen, president of Steelworkers Local 1397 in Homestead, Pa., and John Reese, O.J. Simpson (not the ex-football star), and Darrel Wharton, all members of Local 1397 who have been active in the un-

ion's food bank for the jobless.

For several years these workers and hundreds of others active in the Net-work to Save the Mon-Ohio Valleys have tried virtually every tactic in the book from picketlines to sit-ins to disrupting the daily routine of the powerful Mellon Bank, which has carried out a policy of taking the riches of the area while the steel industry let the mills run into the ground. Several hundred thousand steelworkers have lost their jobs in the last decade.

But the fight of the unemployed in the Pittsburgh area did not receive na-

tional attention in the big business media until a Lutheran bishop, closely tied to the Mellon Bank and U.S. Steel Corp., ordered a pastor sympathetic to the unemployed removed from his pulpit.

Now that pastor, Rev. Douglas Roth, and several worker-activists are in jail for refusing to let the courts, the Mellon Bank, U.S. Steel or the bishop tell them what to do or how to act. And they are determined to continue their fight for justice.

One of the jailed workers, Darrell Becker, president of Shipbuilding

Workers Local 61 in Pittsburgh, recently wrote a letter from his prison cell. The letter reads, in part:

"After being held political prisoner in the Allegheny County Jail since Jan. 4 . . . I am writing to clear up the uncertainty of why and how we are in jail"

"We have been on strike against the Dravo Corporation since Sept. 15, 1983, fighting a 40% cut in wages and benefits. On Dec. 3, 1984, Dravo announced a permanent shutdown of its shipyard and received a \$10 million tax write-off from the government for trying to break the union and "teaching" other unions the consequences of fighting a multinational conglomerate. It all comes down to corporate control"

"One must understand that the Mellon control of Pittsburgh is not unlike the total control exhibited by General Motors in Flint, Mich., in the 1930s. Judge Emil Nariick [who put the workers in jail—G.W.] never passed his bar exam but was appointed a judge through a petition sponsored by Reid, Smith, Shaw and McClay, the law firm representing Mellon Bank. Mellon has that kind of power.

"Incidentally, this is also the same law firm representing the bishop against Rev. Roth"

"The real issue is the fact that 65,000 people are on the unemployment rolls. This does not count those who have exhausted their benefits and are no longer counted statistically. This does not reflect the 120 suicides in Allegheny County related to unemployment. Translated, over a quarter million people are suffering, and this is a conservative estimate"

"We felt that it is time to quit complaining and start fighting. When the laws go against working people, working people must go against the law. We need your help. Our legal expenses are great. All contributions and letters should be sent to: Local 61 Defense Fund, 5087 Elmwood Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15227. The struggle goes on!"

Colgate plant closing part of Jersey City gentrification

By Veronica Golos

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Jan. 28—"In our highly competitive market, low-cost production is a must." With these now well-worn words, Reuben Mark, president and chief executive officer of the Colgate-Palmolive Company, announced to the press the closing of the plant here.

This bitter news was announced to the 1,200 stunned workers over the plant PA system. Colgate-Palmolive has been in operation for 140 years in the area and is the largest industrial operation in Jersey City, occupying 33 acres of prime waterfront, immediately across the Hudson River from Wall Street.

While Colgate-Palmolive is concerned with "low-cost production," their reported net income in 1983 was \$197 million. They also have two plants in South Africa—Colgate-Palmolive Ltd., and Riviana-Simoon—countless other plants in Europe, Central America, South America and Africa.

The working class of Jersey City, one-third Black, one-fifth Latin, one-

fifth Arab and Asian, has been the victim of a series of plant closings. Dixon Pencil Factory, American Can Co., and Westinghouse have all closed their doors.

Closing to make way for banks, gentrification

The big banks have grand plans to turn Jersey City into "Wall Street West." Shearson-American Express, a multi-billion-dollar financial conglomerate, is building a major new office complex in the area. First Jersey, one of the largest banks in New Jersey, is planning another big office building on Colgate's parking lot. Citicorp is building a major computer center near the area.

The banks, multi-national corporations and the large real estate developers have burned, frozen, and forced out countless workers from their homes during the past few years. It is the gentrification of Jersey City which is the basis of the devastating move by Colgate-Palmolive.

Gerald McCann, the racist mayor of Jersey City, was quoted in the press as stating he was "glad" the plant was

closing. "Economically it doesn't hurt the city . . . it's going to have a positive impact," he said. Whose city is he talking about? Certainly not the city of 1,200 Colgate workers who will be unemployed, nor the homeless, or the poor.

The union representing the workers at Colgate-Palmolive, the Employees Association, condemned McCann's "predatory ambitions for the development potential of the Colgate waterfront," and called it a "heartless rendition of political opportunism."

McCann has done the groundwork for the greedy real estate corporations and banks. He has attacked rent control and weakened it. He has attacked public housing. He has begun the dismantling of the Jersey City Medical Center, the only public hospital in Hudson County.

The same week Colgate announced it was closing, the Jersey City police announced they had rounded up 50 "beggars" (their name for the homeless), while a McCann aide claimed there were only 10 homeless people in the city!

In This Issue . . .

NICARAGUA

Citing Nicaragua's relations with other countries which have broken out of the imperialist orbit, Reagan is demanding more aid for the fascist contras. (Page 9)

JAMAICA REVOLT

The recent highly visible uprising of the Jamaican masses is the latest of a series of bitter struggles to shake the island since the pro-U.S. regime took over there in 1980. (Page 11)

KICKAPOO NATION

The U.S. government is attempting to remove the Kickapoo people from their land and resettle them against their will, after more than a century of injustice against this Native community. (Page 11)

SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

"The war in El Salvador is a man-made disaster paid for by the U.S.," an activist told Workers World following his acquittal on charges of violating U.S. immigration law by aiding refugees. (Page 12)



Guatemala Coca Cola workers on strike, see page 9.

GOETZ

Sam Marcy writes that the attempted murder of four Black youths by Bernhard Goetz must be seen in relation to the brazen killings of Black people by police and the international vigilantism practiced by the Reagan administration, the incarnation of imperialist lawlessness. (Page 1.)

UNION CARBIDE

The Union Carbide Corporation had a full report last September that its procedures for handling methylisocyanate (MIC) posed the threat of a major disaster. This information was never relayed to the firm's plant in Bhopal, India, where MIC gas would snuff out more than 2,500 lives. (Page 5.)

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Yale worker: 'We got what we were fighting for!'

By Shelley Ettinger

JANUARY 29—In a jubilant ratification meeting/victory celebration, the members of Hotel and Restaurant Local 34 at Yale University approved their new contract by a whopping 890-to-2 vote on Jan. 22. One union activist exulted, "It's fantastic! We got everything we were fighting for!"

She wasn't exaggerating. Battered by the ten-week strike mounted last fall and fearful of its renewal, Yale University agreed to a contract settlement that addresses every issue raised in the strike. The contract, with the proven strength of the union behind it, will go a long way toward improving conditions for Yale's 2,500 clerical and technical workers. The strike and the victory it brought also constitute a big step forward for the labor movement as a whole.

The struggle and triumph of Local 34, a union of mostly women clerical workers, shows above all that it can be done. Women workers can organize, and fight, and win. The demand for pay equity, or equal pay for comparable work, can become a focus of the struggle against racism and sexism that workers will rally around.

And, as proven by the exemplary role played by Local 35, the mostly male maintenance workers at Yale, solidarity can still win strikes. The struggle at Yale is representative of the developing consciousness of women workers and the potential for unity among all workers.

At Yale, a university that is an integral part of the corporate world, the workers have opened the door for future struggles on pay equity. And that means they've cleared the way for wider labor struggles.

Up to 80% raises

The most important feature of the new contract is wages. Local 34 had contended all along that Yale could move toward pay equity by raising the abysmally low wage scales and, especially, by alleviating the situation of the many older women workers stuck at the lowest-paying jobs.

They got it. The three-and-a-half year contract establishes an average 35% wage increase. For some of the lowest-paid workers, the increases are up to 80%, crediting them for their years on the job. The lowest pay scale before the contract no longer exists.

The workers also won dental coverage for the first time, along with improvements in the pension plan and



Cops and strikers face off at Yale.

medical coverage for retirees—all key issues in the strike.

Other items include an agreement by Yale to begin discussions on university-paid daycare for employees, establishment of up to 18-month sabbaticals and longeviti step protection for workers on parental or other leave,

and two 15-minute breaks a day.

And Local 34, in its first contract ever, achieved what hardly any union has in recent years—they signed an agreement that does not contain a no-strike clause. The contract will expire at the same time as Local 35's.

Local 35, representing about 1,000

Continued on page 5

Columbia U. workers gain support in drive for union contract

By Bob McCubbin

NEW YORK, Jan. 28—As the date set for a strike approaches, solidarity with the embattled clerical workers at Columbia University is growing day by day.

For almost two years now the Columbia administration has stonewalled the decision of 1,100 clerical workers to be represented by District 65 of the United Auto Workers (UAW). With no end in sight to the administration's obstructive tactics, the union has set Feb. 4 as a strike date unless the university agrees to negotiate with them.

Support for the workers is widespread and growing. Some 3,500 students have signed a petition demanding that the university sit down with the union and negotiate.

Hundreds of students, workers, faculty members and even neighborhood residents wear their "Justice Now!" buttons distributed by the Strike Support Committee. The Columbia student newspaper and several student legislative bodies have charged the administration with treating the workers unfairly and have demanded that negotiations be started before the strike date.

Last Wednesday evening, as a nationally televised awards ceremony for

journalists was convening inside the university administration building, hundreds of workers and supporters picketed outside demanding that Columbia agree to negotiate.

Other campus unions are also gearing up for the struggle. The delegates of the Columbia University chapter of Local 1199 have issued a leaflet alerting the 400 chapter members to the need for solidarity with their co-workers and a chapter meeting has been called to discuss ways of aiding the District 65 members.

Looming large over the whole campus are the recent events at Yale University. As at Yale, the clerical workers at Columbia are predominantly women and they are quite aware of the magnificent struggle that their sister unionists put up against the sexist Yale administration last fall. As at Yale, pay equity is very much on the minds of the Columbia workers. The bottom line, of course, is that they need union representation to effectively fight for it.

But the Columbia administration has fought the District 65 organizing efforts with every dirty trick in the book. It has coached supervisory personnel in anti-union propaganda tactics, harassed union organizers, and flooded the campus with lying memos

designed to confuse and frighten the workers and the whole university community. A year ago it arbitrarily increased the amount the workers must pay for health benefits and slashed maternity leave in half.

But this anti-union, anti-worker, anti-woman offensive is not the brain-child of some deranged ex-professor turned administrator. Oh no. The Columbia Board of Trustees, the unelected body that has the final say on all university policy decisions, is composed of bankers, oil executives, and other big businessmen.

These individuals, overwhelmingly rich white men, may or may not know the difference between Plato and Pluto. Their expertise is in the area of big money and what they have a common commitment to is using the university to promote the capitalist values that have brought them so much wealth and power.

The workers, on the other hand, are demanding respect for working-class rights and sensitivity to working-class needs. The increasingly oppressive conditions of clerical work at Columbia and in offices around the country are creating a pro-union consciousness and a willingness to struggle that just won't go away.

On The Picketline

Health care victories.

The organizing drive at the Beverly nursing home chain, begun two years ago by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), is moving forward successfully, with a 70% victory rate in unionization elections. Beverly is the country's biggest nursing home chain, with over 50,000 workers. The most recent union wins were at the Sherman Oaks home in Muskegon, Mich., and Hamlet Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio, where SEIU Locals 79 and 47 were voted in. And another SEIU local was established at Swedish Hospital, the biggest hospital in the Northwest, after a difficult 15-month drive. Low wages, arbitrary work rules and working conditions, and racist treatment of the many Filipino workers—including a hospital edict against speaking their language—brought in the union.

Inaugural performance.

After advertising for non-union "clean-cut, All-American types" to work for free performing at Reagan's inaugural festivities, the Presidential Inaugural Committee was forced by the labor movement to pay the performers a union wage after all. After the racist, anti-union ads appeared in early January, several actors' unions protested, and the Committee agreed to negotiate with the union of Variety Artists (AGVA). AGVA won pay of at least \$375 for each performer—three times the union minimum—along with expenses, and the Inaugural Committee had to make payments into AGVA's pension and welfare fund. If the show must go on, the unions showed old troupers Reagan, the chorus must get paid.

Stanford union wins.

Workers at California's Stanford University, yet another prestigious academic would-be union-buster, recently beat back an administration attempt to decertify their union. The members of the United Stanford Workers, SEIU Local 680, voted by a 2-to-1 margin to stick to the union, a margin "even greater than in the original representation election in 1973," according to Service Employee, the SEIU publication. SEIU reports that the Stanford workers conducted a vigorous pro-union campaign and won significant support from progressive students on campus. The students linked the administration's attack on the union with its support of "defense" research on campus and its construction of a Reagan Library.

Secrets of mine murders.

It's no mystery why 27 miners were killed in Utah last December—they were trying to make a production record using extremely hazardous long-wall equipment in a mine with only two exits and a record of safety violations. But even though everybody knows that, the owners and their government servants are still trying to keep the whole story secret. Federal hearings to investigate the cause of the Wilberg Mine fire began on Jan. 21, and the hearings were closed to the public and the media. A Labor Department attorney told the judge, according to the New York Times, that "Witnesses would be more candid to the Federal investigators if they knew their comments were not being reported." Doubtless true. But, responding to reporters' objections, the closed hearings were temporarily halted by a federal judge.

—Shelley Ettinger



Anti-apartheid protest. One thousand people marched and rallied at the hated South African consulate in Seattle on Sunday, Jan. 20. Fifty-eight were arrested for trespassing as they defied threats by the Seattle prosecutor to get tough on so-called trespassers. Those arrested were Black, Latin, Asian and Native, immigrant rights activists, women activists and trade unionists. The demonstration was organized by the Seattle Coalition

Against Apartheid.

This event marked the 21st week that the Seattle consulate has been picketed by the Seattle Coalition in Solidarity with Black South African Resistance.

Demonstrators cheered the news that the Portland, Ore., South African consul resigned due to continued anti-apartheid picketing.

—Jim McMahan

AFRICA BRIEFS

Mozambique attacked. Saboteurs backed by the racist apartheid government in South Africa have blown up Mozambique's major rail link between its capital, Maputo, and South Africa.

Thousands of tons of goods for Maputo that were to be brought from South African ports by rail are now being held up.

The attack by the so-called "Mozambique National Resistance" (MNR) was reported by the South African radio. Earlier a power line running from South Africa to Maputo was damaged, and an ambush killed two people on a highway in the same area.

The racist government in Pretoria has not stopped its manipulation of the MNR, as it promised when it signed a "nonaggression treaty" with Mozambique last March. On the contrary,

South Africa has stepped up its attacks on independent Mozambique.

This flows directly from the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement," which pretends that the U.S. is trying to "persuade" the South African government to change its policies, while in fact Washington is Pretoria's major ally.

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South African nukes. South Africa's state-owned power company has admitted that it recruited U.S. personnel, including atomic reactor operators, to help run a nuclear power station near Cape Town.

A spokesman for South Africa's Electricity Supply Commission, Andre Van Heerden, said the Americans fell into two categories, those working directly for the Commission and those

working for U.S. contractors hired by the commission. He estimated that 20 were employed directly, but didn't say how many were employed by contractors. "The majority of Americans are here as consultants," Van Heerden said, but added that some are operators in charge of reactor systems and "people who helped us with emergency planning." He estimated the Americans were being paid close to \$100,000 a year to work at the nuclear power company.

Opponents of the apartheid regime have charged for several years that the U.S. has helped South Africa develop a nuclear capability, including an arsenal of atomic bombs.

• • •

Tanzania expels agents. Tanzania has expelled four Portuguese who were arrested last August for spying for the South African-financed "Mozambique National Resistance." The four were arrested in connection with acts of aggression aimed at endangering the country's security, and trying to establish centers to carry out acts of sabotage against the Mozambican government across the borders of the two countries.

Tanzania urged the Portuguese government to take steps to restrain its nationals from intruding to threaten the independence, rights and security of southern African countries.

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Somalia pact with S. Africa.

The racist South African regime and Somalia have reached an agreement providing the South African airlines landing and overflight rights on Somali territory. The Barre regime is also providing apartheid South Africa with a military naval base at the town of Kisimayu. This unprecedented move constitutes a threat to the people of Africa, in particular the Horn of Africa, East Africa and Indian Ocean islands.

The Somali agreement with South Africa is a grave violation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

Charter and resolutions of the UN and the non-aligned movement which prohibit member states from maintaining any political, economic, cultural or military alliances or collaboration with the racist South African regime.

The Somali government was virtually taken over by U.S. imperialism in 1977 when it mounted an invasion of revolutionary Ethiopia in the Ogaden region in return for hundreds of millions of dollars in military and economic aid funneled mainly through Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the NATO countries.

This shocking development gives South Africa another foothold for its attacks on other African countries and extends its role as a garrison state for the U.S.

The agreement, which has been signed by racist South Africa and the Barre regime, should be opposed and condemned by all progressive people worldwide.

—Carmen Roundtree

Strong protest greets anti-Arab demagogue

By Phebe Eckfeldt
BOSTON, Jan. 24—The arrival in Boston tonight of Meir Kahane, the founder of the racist, fascist Jewish Defense League (JDL), was met with a militant show of anger. More than 300 people rallied outside a high school in the Jewish community of Brookline to oppose Kahane. There were more demonstrators outside than people inside who had come to hear him.

Kahane advocates genocide against the Arab people. He came to Boston to set up a local chapter of the Kach Party, a virulently anti-Arab party. A member of the Israeli Knesset, Kahane was elected on a platform calling for the forcible eviction of two million Arabs from their homes in Palestine, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Some 200 furious Arab demonstrators and their North American supporters, including a sizeable contingent from the All-Peoples Congress, demonstrated in front of the school. Across the street, some 50-60 members of the New Jewish Agenda held a candlelight vigil to protest Kahane and at

another entry to the school, the June 6th Coalition held a smaller picket. The anti-Kahane protests drew little hostility from the Jewish community with several people expressing their sympathy.

Wrapped in kaffiyas and waving Palestinian flags and placards reading "Self-determination for the Palestinian and Lebanese people," "Kahanism is Zionism," and "Long Live the PLO," the demonstrators picketed for two hours. As the picket swelled, chants of "Kahane/Hitler, all the same, the only difference is the name," "Palestine is Arab land," and "Zionism is Racism," grew louder and louder.

The unflinching militancy of the demonstrators easily warded off a weak attempt at an attack by a handful of JDLers.

When the car carrying Kahane arrived at a back entrance, the angry picketers quickly converged on the spot, chanting and banging their fists on a nearby police car as armed guards nervously swept the racist scum inside.



It is the toil of the Black South African which has enriched both the racist settler state and big U.S. firms like Phelps Dodge. Now resistance in on the rise.

Union Carbide a public menace

Report proves Bhopal never have happened

By Lillian Stein

JANUARY 28—Two major revelations concerning the criminal negligence of Union Carbide, the third largest U.S. chemical corporation, which was responsible for the catastrophe at Bhopal, India, show why profit-mad corporations have turned chemical production into a public menace.

Safety inspectors at Union Carbide's sister plant in Institute, W.Va., issued a warning of a possible methyl isocyanate (MIC) disaster last September. But this report, which could have saved the lives of the people who lived in the shadow of Union Carbide's chemical plant in Bhopal, India, was never sent to Bhopal.

The report stated that methyl isocyanate, a lethal substance used in the cheap production of pesticides, was so dangerous that "a run-away reaction" in a storage tank could lead to "catastrophic failure." The report included a set of preventative measures that could have easily been adapted to the needs of the plant in India.

28 unreported leaks

News about the safety report appeared in the press on Jan. 25, only two days after it was revealed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that there had been 28 unreported accidental leaks of MIC at the Institute plant within the past five years. These leaks were discovered only after a government inspection of the plant and of plant records last month.

The EPA said that it was also investigating spills at the Institute plant of toluene, which is a solvent that causes neurological disorders, into the Kana-wha River last month and this month.

According to the EPA the MIC leaks occurred in both the form of liquid and gas, the largest amounting to some 840 pounds. Jackson B. Browning, Union Carbide vice president for health, safety and environmental affairs, claimed that the 840 pound leak wasn't as serious as reported because the MIC was in a liquid state combined with chlorine. The safety inspector's report had warned that chloroform caused birth defects and that chemical workers ex-

posed to chloroform could develop cancer.

The EPA says that Union Carbide is not subject to criminal prosecution unless they can prove that these leaks escaped into the environment.

Scientists from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health have been investigating the cancer level in the Kanawha Valley for several years. The rate is double what should be expected. There are a number of large chemical corporations in the Kanawha Valley, making it one of the largest chemical producing areas in the U.S.

In India, the government seized Union Carbide's Bhopal property and is holding it until the final decisions are reached in the compensation for the survivors of the catastrophe there.

The Union Carbide headquarters in Danbury, Conn., has cut off all communication with the media, with the exception of a non-informative press statement. When this reporter called to ask why the MIC warning was never sent to India, the company refused to answer.

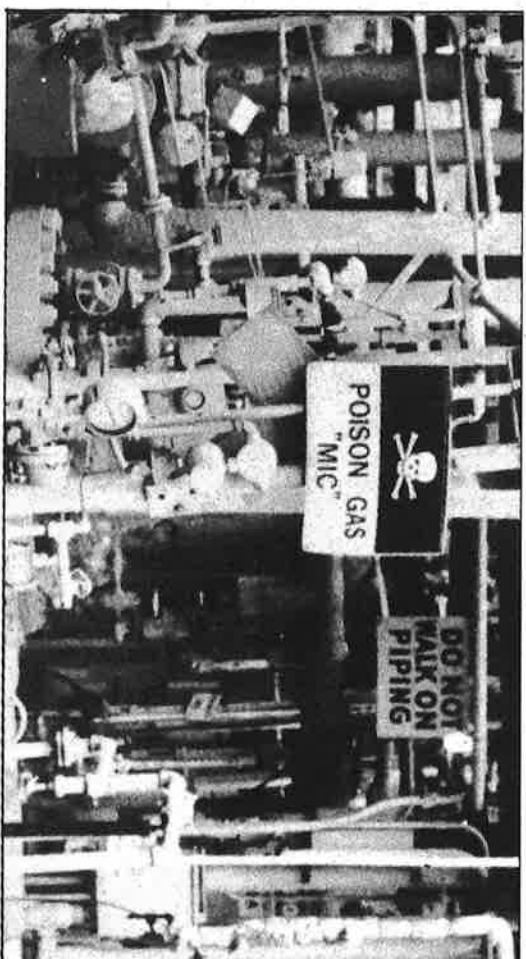
The facility at Bhopal is the only other Union Carbide factory where they produce and store MIC. As they know in the Danbury headquarters a warning to the workers in India would have been even more urgent than in Institute.

Bhopal facility worse than Institute

Union Carbide Bhopal was never set up with the same degree of safety measures and the tanks there held far greater quantities of MIC. There were 13,000 gallons of MIC stored in the tank that leaked that fatal night. This is a far greater quantity than has ever been considered safe by chemical engineers.

The worst factor was the cost-cutting measures that had been instituted at Bhopal in order to improve the profit margin. Trained staff had been laid off. The maintenance staff had been cut in half and the storage facilities as well as safety equipment were in a state of decay.

As a result of Union Carbide's criminal negligence in not sending a warning to their Bhopal factory, which they



Union Carbide technicians warned that tanks such as these were chemical timebombs.

knew was unsafe and understaffed, the corporation turned large sections of that Indian city into a "Nazi-like gas chamber" during the night of Dec. 3.

More than 2,500 Indian people, including a high proportion of children and elderly, suffocated when a cloud of burning MIC gas escaped from the Union Carbide factory that night. Hundreds of thousands of others were injured and blinded. There is no known antidote to MIC. This week the Indian government in the state of Madhya Pradesh claimed that they have found the task of rehabilitating the survivors "stupendous."

At the time of the catastrophe the fields and roads were strewn with dead

Study shows workers bear biggest tax burden

By Bill Del Vecchio

JANUARY 28—It's getting toward that time of year again. Tax forms and W-2's are arriving in the mail, and working people are again wondering why they wind up paying so much to a system that's supposed to tax the rich more than the poor.

A new study from the Brookings Institute by economist Joseph Pechman proves just what most poor and working people have suspected for years, that the system is stacked against them and that the rich really aren't paying a higher percentage of their income to taxes than the poor.

After studying tax return and census data from 100,000 households, Pechman found that when all taxes are taken into account—federal, state and local—the poorest people are taxed at almost the same rate as the richest.

"The news is that the tax burden on people between the bottom 20% and the top 10% of the population is roughly the same," Pechman stated.

Federal income tax brackets are sup-

posed to reach 50% of earnings for the wealthiest people, but the study found that the real rate for people earning \$175,000 a year or more was only 12.8%!

Poor and working people are getting zapped by higher payroll taxes, like Social Security, and lose a greater proportion of their income to regressive taxes like sales taxes. Meanwhile the corporate income tax has almost disappeared under Reagan, and tax shelters of all types have helped rich individuals keep their loot. The net effect of these changes has been to dramatically shift the tax burden onto the backs of poor and working people.

Reagan's claim that his Treasury Department "tax reform" will make the system fairer is also a lot of baloney, according to Pechman's study. And no one should need a study to know that trusting Ronald Reagan to take unfair advantages away from big business is like trusting Union Carbide to enforce environmental safety.

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Progressives mobilize for spring actions against Reagan policies

By Monica Moorehead

JANUARY 28—Approximately 60 anti-war and nuclear freeze organizations have called for four days of protest in the spring against U.S. foreign policies around the world.

A call from the Peace and Justice Mobilization has been issued with four major demands:

- 1) Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America. Support human freedom and dignity by also ending intervention in the Caribbean, the Middle East, the Pacific and Europe.
- 2) Create jobs, cut the military budget. Provide for human needs and challenge racism and discrimination based on sex and sexual orientation.
- 3) Freeze and reverse the arms race beginning with a halt on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons.
- 4) Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home.

Included during these four days of protest will be a march and rally in Washington on April 20 and other demonstrations around the country to coincide with the D.C. activity, such as in San Francisco.

Members of the national steering committee include the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Indian Movement, Congress of National Black Churches, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Gray Panthers, Mobilization for Survival, National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights, National Gay Task Force, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, People's Anti-War Mobilization, Rainbow Coalition, U.S. Peace Council, TransAfrica, the U.S. Student Association, the War Resisters' League, the Washington Office on Africa and many others.

The coalition's call reads in part, "Like others before us, we can exercise power and change history. We will make it known that there is no national mandate for war and injustice, for poverty and militarism, for racism and violence. We are clear in our call for an end to policies that include daily threats and attacks against the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, policies that will inevitably lead us into a regional war in Central America, and the danger of greater military conflict in the Middle East and Southern Africa."

—Yale strike victory

Continued from page 3

agreement at a meeting in New Haven, Conn., last night.

Had Local 35 not reached agreement with Yale, the membership of Local 34 was on alert to walk back out, reciprocating the support that helped sustain them in their ten-week strike.

The Yale administration tried to downplay the union victory last week, claiming it had barely improved its original offer. But Local 34 leaders pointed out that Yale spent most of the strike refusing to bargain at all, and that only the strength of the struggle had forced the administration to even address the workers' demands.

Yale, along with a very worried Columbia University and other schools and businesses, is eager to minimize the union win. The media are full of

hopeful references to "a new era of labor peace" at Yale. And the New York Times (Jan. 24) assures us that the Yale developments "will hardly be followed by a rash of contracts for clerical workers at other universities or in the private work force."

But the unavoidable truth is that clericals are preparing to strike at Columbia, they're organizing at Harvard, and the current contract expires later this year at New York University. The success at Yale is a concrete boost to each of these unions, as well as to the millions of workers still not organized.

The loudest cheer of the night at the Local 34 contract ratification vote came when, after a progress report on the union struggle at Columbia, a workers yelled out, "When do the buses leave for Columbia—let's go!"

—Goetz release seen as racism

Continued from page 1

Mario Cuomo, all have found one way or another to approve of the decision of the grand jury. None has unequivocally denounced the grand jury's granting of a license to kill Black people.

Role of grand jury

It will serve no progressive purpose to merely condemn the grand jury's exoneration of Goetz without condemning the role of the prosecutor in the case, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

It is ironic indeed that the origin of the grand jury goes back to its insertion into the U.S. Constitution. Why was it done?

The grand jury was meant to defend the people against repression by the government. The grand jury's original purpose was to stop the prosecution of the innocent and defend the masses against the arbitrary rule of the governmental machinery in criminal cases.

But the capitalist state is an organ of repression, and it follows that grand juries have turned into the opposite of what they were intended. They are now instruments of repression and, more specifically, they are the obedient tools of the prosecutors and rarely fail to do anything but their bidding.

In the light of the history of capitalist repression, the grand jury's indictment in this case should be no surprise. It has done the bidding of the racist city government, that is of Koch, Morganthau, Bellamy, et al.

Poverty and jumping turnstiles

Beyond this there are the deep and profound social and economic issues in the city, the metropolis of world finance capital.

Once upon a time, jumping turnstiles in the subway without paying the fare was regarded as a prank, a minor offense that happened rarely. That was a long time ago.

What has been the situation in the last few years? Take the fiscal year 1983-84. More than a quarter million summonses or arrest warrants were issued in connection with entering the subways without fare payment.

This has entailed as many as 10,500 arrests, not counting 6,600 juvenile apprehensions. (Statistics are from the Transit Authority Police.)

Black leaders charge racism in response to Goetz grand jury

By Andy Stapp

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—The refusal of a grand jury to indict a white man on charges of attempted murder, assault, or even reckless endangerment after he fired dum-dum bullets into the bodies of four Black teenagers, two of whom were struck in the back while running for their lives, has brought calls from Black leaders in this city for a federal civil rights investigation.

They are demanding a probe of municipal authorities on charges of extreme racial bias, along the same lines as the 1965 investigation into the Neshoba County sheriff's department in Mississippi.

This crisis, which has been building up over the years and years that both Black defendants and complainants alike have been denied justice in the courts, took a qualitative leap on the night of Dec. 22 when Bernhard Hugo Goetz gunned down Barry Allen, Darrell Cabey, Troy Canty and James Ramseur on an IRT subway, claiming

What accounts for the evolution of what was once treated as a prank or minor offense into wholesale arrests and convictions, including imprisonment on such a huge scale?

For one, the fare, which used to be five cents and then a dime, is now 90 cents at a time when Black unemployment and youth unemployment in particular is at its highest level ever. The subways themselves are in a dilapidated condition.

The people of New York have paid for the subways over and over again, only to find that they have inherited a rundown subway system and a crushing burden of debts incurred for its maintenance.

And do the people of New York City have any say in electing the officials who run the subway? These officials (the Metropolitan Transit Authority) are as removed from the people as heaven from earth. It is virtually impossible to have a referendum on either the fare question or the election of the officials who run the subway. In fact, the present head of the MTA, Richard Kiley, is a former CIA official who started his career as a stoolpigeon for the police in the student movement!

This city, which is the financial metropolis of the imperialist world, can raise billions of dollars in practically no time when it is in the interests of the

real estate sharks and industrialists. But even in a year when the city government has a \$75 million surplus in its budget, it can't seem to afford a clean, modern subway which would enable youths to at least be able to travel freely, even if just to look for a job.

Not to be forgotten in all this is that there are 10% fewer jobs available in New York now than in 1965. How then is it possible to avoid the increase in poverty and consequent crime?

An increase in the repressive forces of the government will not diminish crime, nor will making heroes out of vigilante terrorists do it.

Proponents of the death penalty, which has now been reinstated in almost all the states, argue that it will deter crime. But this argument, raised by the "law and order" rightists of every ruling class, has always been a far cry.

In England back in the time of the transition from feudalism to capitalism, when the peasants were being driven off the land by the gentry (much like the "gentrifying" landlords of today), and homeless thousands wandered the cities trying to stay alive, public hangings for the smallest offenses were common. But that was no "deterrent" to the need of the hungry to eat. Even as crowds gathered to

How is it possible for a vigilante gunman like Bernhard Goetz to be raised to the stature of a national hero? In addition to the reasons we have given, we must inevitably conclude that the wanton act of lawlessness of the New York subway vigilante is entirely in line and in accord with the fact that we have a vigilante government in the Reagan administration. When it openly and before the whole world engages in international banditry, violating international treaties and flouting international law, it sets an example for the Goetzes and others to follow.

they were threatening to rob him. Goetz later told New Hampshire cops that his life was never threatened and indicated that his actions were premeditated. Darrell Cabey, the son of a widowed hospital worker, still lies in a coma from the bullet Goetz fired severing his spine.

The outcry to overturn the grand jury findings came as Black people quickly assembled in both Brooklyn and Manhattan after hearing the news that the crime was to go unpunished, and that the criminal Goetz was to be remanded for trial merely on some minor weapons charges. Called on very short notice, the five-hour Harlem meeting at the Harriet Tubman School soon became so packed that the doors had to be closed to latecomers.

While major capitalist dailies, along with the TV and radio, profess to see no racism in this verdict, Black journalists, congressmen and church figures have decried this as a lie and even suggested that if the Reagan adminis-

watch the executions, pickpockets moved among them in the shadow of the gallows.

The crime of gentrification
But what is the real truth about crime in New York?

The biggest crime, which is not called a crime but which on the contrary is lauded and praised to the skies, is the process of gentrification. This is the process of building or converting existing structures into luxury housing and deliberately displacing and driving out the poor people from the city.

Can anyone deny that this is what has been happening? Is not gentrification an attempt to drive out the poor, depriving them of housing, making rents unreachable by the mass of the people?

The word gentrification means to establish the gentry, as the ancient landlords were called, like the ones who drove the peasants off the land in old England.

There are some bourgeois sociologists who say that the poor people should leave the city of their own accord because they are an eyesore for the rich.

If one is to deal with the Goetz issue properly, it should not be narrowed to a judicial case only, but seen in a broader point of view. One has to examine real crime, the crime responsible for the poverty which breeds crime among the poor.

Take the issue of criminal arson. Whole communities of the oppressed have been firebombed and razed to the ground. It is common knowledge that landlords, real estate developers and insurance companies have collaborated in the arson to drive out the poor.

How else can one explain such vast communities as the South Bronx being abandoned and in some areas leveled to the ground? How many landlords have been indicted for arson? Yet arson is a high crime, not of the same character as jumping a turnstile.

Isn't there a relationship between the arson of the landlords, real estate, and insurance companies and the crimes of the dispossessed, demoralized, unemployed youths? Is not one the cause of the other?

A lawless vigilante in the White House

Still, one may wonder how it is possible for a vigilante gunman like Bernhard Goetz to be raised to the stature of a national hero. In addition to the reasons we have given, we must inevitably conclude that the wanton act of lawlessness of the New York subway vigilante is entirely in line and in accord with the fact that we have a vigilante government in the Reagan administration.

When it openly and before the whole world engages in international banditry, violating international treaties and flouting international law, it sets an example for the Goetzes and others to follow. In its illegal mining of Nicaragua's harbors, its conduct of a counter-revolutionary intervention in Nicaragua through the so-called contras, its brutal support for the murderous war against the Salvadoran people, its support and financing of the apartheid regime in South Africa, the Reaganite government is the incarnation of imperialist lawlessness and vigilantism.

What it practices abroad is merely an extension of what it does at home. The attempted murder of four Black youths by Goetz is merely one domestic version of the international vigilantism practiced by the Reagan administration.

Reagan in effect condoned terrorism at home when he addressed the misnamed "right-to-life" rally the day af-

ist outrage

ter his inauguration. He lauded them to the skies and pointedly failed to clearly and unequivocally condemn the terrorism directed at the mass movement of pro-choice women who have been the target of 32 bombings.

The Goetz case should not be seen as an isolated phenomenon divorced from the brazen murders of Black people committed by the police. In New York City, the most prominent cases, those of Eleanor Bumpurs and Michael Stewart, are only the most recent in a long series of murders committed by the police and winked at by the government.

The recent report of collusion between the New York City Medical Ex-

aminer and the police in covering up the police role in these deaths points clearly to the collaboration of the Koch administration as a whole.

Nor should we forget that the climate of racism the Reagan administration has been pursuing for four years is related to the Goetz case.

Only the unity of the workers and oppressed people, only a consistent struggle of the masses which links up the terrorism at home and abroad with the policies of the Reagan administration and the ruling class which it serves, can halt the rampant racism, sexism, and anti-working class politics of the Reagan-Koch administrations.

Charge coverup by NY medical examiner Bumpurs, Stewart autopsies altered to protect cops

By Sharon Shelton

NEW YORK, Jan. 29—Recent revelations here confirm what anti-racist activists have long known: the city's Chief Medical Examiner has worked hand-in-glove with the police to systematically cover up murders of oppressed people by the cops.

Pathologists and others working in the Medical Examiners Office have pointed the finger of blame at Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Elliot M. Gross for falsifying autopsy reports, tampering with evidence and altering other doctors' findings of deaths of people in police custody.

Although the New York Times "broke the news" in a four-part series which began on Jan. 27, in reality it was the families of victims and the Black and Latin communities who first brought the activities of the Medical Examiners Office to public attention.

The revelations that racist murders by the cops were blatantly covered up expose not only the corrupt workings of the Medical Examiners Office, but of the Police Department, the district attorney, the mayor and ultimately the capitalist state itself.

Koch's 'probe' blasted

Mayor Ed Koch, who personally selected Gross on the recommendation of Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, announced on Jan. 28 he has authorized what he calls an "independent probe" to be conducted by an unnamed attorney appointed by Koch.

Yet, how can Koch, who publicly pooch-pooched the mass outrage over several of Gross's controversial autopsies whitewashing the cops, be trusted to investigate the criminal misdeeds of his own medical examiner?

Koch's plans to carry out such a charade have drawn the scorn of lawyers challenging the coverup of the cause of death of one of the victims, Michael Stewart, a young artist whose death as a result of injuries sustained while in police custody created a storm of protest among progressive people, especially in the Black community.

Lawyers involved in the Stewart case, which is presently before a grand jury, say they intend to contact Rep. John Conyers, the Black Congressman who recently conducted federal hearings into the rampant brutality of New York City cops.

Gross's outrageous record

According to the Times, when Gross took over as Chief Medical Examiner in 1979, he changed a long-standing policy, declaring that all autopsies on people who die in police custody would be performed only at his Manhattan office.



In most cases, the autopsies were personally conducted by Gross, and even where they weren't, documents show that Gross intervened to alter other pathologists' reports. And, needless to say, autopsy "findings" cleared the cops—even when clear evidence pointed in the opposite direction.

Some of the best known cases include:

• The Michael Stewart case.

Only hours after 25-year-old Stewart was brutally beaten while in custody of transit police on charges of writing graffiti on subway walls and despite evidence of bruises covering his body, Gross ruled in September, 1983, that there was no evidence that he had died as a result of physical injury.

A doctor hired by the Stewart family, Dr. Robert L. Wolf, a clinical professor of medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, saw Stewart before he died.

"I removed the sheets," Dr. Wolf said, "and it was obvious that he had incurred trauma to all major portions of his body, without exception. I determined that the most likely source of the wounds was a beating."

Wolf branded Gross's autopsy report first suggesting that Stewart had died as a result of cardiac arrest and then later amended to a spinal chord injury sustained as a result of cardiac arrest, as a patent lie.

Gross covers up evidence

According to Dr. John Grauerholz, a forensic pathologist hired by the family to be present at the autopsy, two transit police detectives were also present during the entire procedure and conferred with Gross before the Medical Examiner issued his "findings."

Grauerholz further reported that petechial hemorrhages, indicating death by strangulation, had been noted in Stewart's eyes, but Gross had returned to the autopsy room a day



after the autopsy and removed Stewart's eyes, placing them in a solution that preserves tissue but tends to wash out any trace of blood.

DA's office blocks murder indictment

Showing that Gross was not alone in the coverup, the District Attorney's office was accused by a member of the first Grand Jury that took up the Stewart case of trying to block a murder indictment against the transit cops involved in the incident. When the Grand Jury member spoke up, an indictment for manslaughter against the transit cops was dismissed.

District Attorney Robert J. Morgenthau has made much of the fact that he submitted the autopsy findings in the Stewart case to an outside consultant—but this "outside" consultant turns out to be a friend of Gross!

The Stewart case is currently before a grand jury.

• **The Eleanor Bumpurs case.** When Bumpurs, a 66-year-old Bronx grandmother, was killed by police during an eviction on Oct. 29, Gross ordered the pathologist conducting the autopsy to change his report to back up the cops' contention that they had fired only one shot.

The pathologist, Dr. Jon S. Pearl, was quoted in the Times as saying his report stated clearly that Bumpurs had been shot in the hand and in the chest by a 12-gauge shotgun. He added that Gross repeatedly pressured him to change his findings.

The Bumpurs' killing stirred angry protests by anti-racists who noted that the cops—who broke into Bumpurs' apartment armed with shotguns, plastic shields, a restraining bar and chemical mace—could not have been acting in self defense as they claimed.

This case is also before a grand jury.

• The Alfredo De Jesus case.

When De Jesus, a 20-year-old unem-



Nicaraguans mourn another victim of Ronald Reagan's hired terrorists.

Michael Stewart and Eleanor Bumpurs, two victims of police murders that Dr. Elliot Gross helped coverup.

ployed bakery worker, was shot in the back by an off-duty cop in October, 1982, Gross covered up the fact that he had been shot at close range, even though the original autopsy report showed beyond a doubt that the man had been shot from a distance of no more than 18 inches. The original finding contradicted the claim of the cop involved.

De Jesus' family has accused Gross of covering up the facts to protect the cop, who was never indicted.

Other dubious findings

Other cases include the Nov. 5, 1980, death of Detective Raymond Diaz, who had testified against his fellow cops for accepting bribes to overlook narcotics and liquor violations in social clubs, and that of Brooklyn resident Ralph Tarantino who died after what eyewitnesses said was a police beating in August 1980.

After meeting with police detectives and discussing the circumstances of Diaz' death, which occurred at a party to raise money for the cops' defense, Gross ruled that the cause of death was "Undetermined: Pending Police Investigation."

This ruling was blasted by Gross' own personal stenographer at the time, Siegfried Oppenheim, who said he has observed more than 10,000 autopsies and that the extreme fractures on all sides of Diaz' head left no doubt that "this was a homicide."

In the Ralph Tarantino case, Gross at the request of the police overruled findings two years earlier by two doctors overseeing the autopsy in Brooklyn that Tarantino had been killed by head injuries and changed the cause of death to "cardiac arrest" due to a hospital procedure. Though this ruling was attacked by pathologists familiar with the case as a blatant coverup, the cops involved are free today.

EDITORIAL

Two Americas

SPEAKING IN A radio interview last Saturday, President Reagan berated Black leaders for trying to create "two Americas, a Black America and a white America."

Now it's hard to top that for sheer mendacity and out-and-out racist nonsense.

It is not the Black leaders who have tried to give tax breaks to private segregated schools. It is Reagan.

It is not Black leaders who filled the Civil Rights Commission with bigots. It is Reagan.

It is not Black leaders who campaigned in Georgia last October, praising the head of the Confederate slave state, Jefferson Davis, and vowing, "the South shall rise again!" It is Reagan.

It is not Black leaders who slandered Martin Luther King, claimed that poor people sleep in the streets "by choice," and derided unemployed workers as too lazy to read job want ads in the newspapers. It is Reagan.

But there are two Americas. One is Reagan's America, the country of the rich, the land of the big Pentagon contracts and bigger profits. Reagan knows its terrain well—the friendly oil baron who makes fat political contributions, the dirty little Birch Society meetings where he got his start, the gatherings of bankers and businessmen who "advise" him on how to rule.

The other country Reagan does not know first hand at all—the land of the laid-off auto worker, the young person who never had a shot at a job to begin with, the many millions living below the poverty level and the millions more struggling to stay just above it.

The chasm between these two societies, between the millionaires and the millions, is widening, and by accusing the exploited and oppressed for creating their own plight, Reagan is throwing gasoline on a fire he and his class will later regret having ignited.

Space sabotage

JUST DAYS before the U.S. and Soviet delegations are to meet in Geneva to discuss limitations on strategic, intermediate-range and space weapons, the Reagan administration and the Pentagon have launched a major provocation against the USSR in the form of a spy mission by the space shuttle Discovery.

Although details have been censored out of the media, it is known that a very advanced Sigint espionage satellite was placed in orbit sometime between Jan. 24 and Jan. 27 targeting the Eastern naval and air network of the Soviet Union with the overall purpose of weakening that country's defenses.

So sensitive is the military nature of this vast espionage scheme, which will include many more shuttle flights over the coming decade, that Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has denounced journal-

ists who reported some points about it, saying they had given "aid and comfort to the enemy."

With this as a backdrop, can anyone seriously believe that the Reagan administration is apoloaching the Geneva talks in good faith?

And what are the Soviet representatives to make of this situation, when after the U.S. side agreed to discuss "preventing an arms race in space," the Pentagon sends aloft the space shuttle on an aggressive foray targeting their most sensitive defenses?

The anti-war movement must prepare itself for an eventual barrage of imperialist disinformation and propaganda about how "the Russians aren't serious about real peace talks," and be fully armed with the facts concerning exactly from what quarter the threat of nuclear war originates.

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REAGAN INTRODUCES HIS 1985 TEAM FOR GENEVA PEACE TALKS

LETTERS

Direct Action

ONE OF your subscribers in Sydney, Australia has brought in copies of Workers World. Your paper covers a lot of U.S. labor news and struggles we have been unable to obtain.

We were wondering if you would like to exchange copies of Workers World with our weekly newspaper, Direct Action. It would have to be by sea-mail, unfortunately, as our finances are rather restricted. I hope this can lead to further collaboration in the future.

Robyn Marshall
Broadway, Australia

ist journal. At the same time, I would also like to become a member of the Workers World Supporter Program. Thus, I will pledge \$5 per month for 1985.

Thomas Hostie
Harrisburg, Pa.

Put on Mailing List

I HAVE HAD the opportunity to read some copies of your newspaper sent to a colleague here, and should be grateful if you could put me on your mailing list. . . . Wishing you all the best in your work.

Abdul Raufu Mustapha
Ahmadu Bello University
Zaria, Nigeria

New Supporter

I WOULD LIKE to renew my subscription to your excellent non-capital-

Progressives killed in plane crash in Cuba

By Deirdre Griswold

JANUARY 26—A leading member of the U.S. Peace Council and 39 other passengers and crew members, mostly Cubans and Nicaraguans, were killed in a plane crash Jan. 19 shortly after takeoff from Havana's Jose Marti airport. They were on a flight to Managua, Nicaragua.

Many of the passengers were well known in the progressive movement here and in Latin America. In addition to Sandy Pollack, 36, director of international solidarity of the U.S. Peace Council and a member of the National Council of the Communist Party USA, the casualties included Noel Gonzalez, vice president of the Nicaraguan Central Bank; Francisco Gonzalez, director of international relations for the Sandinista Workers' Confederation; and the wife and daughter of the Nicaraguan ambassador to Cuba.

The Cuban government has not yet released a statement on the reasons for the crash. However, there has been a long history of imperialist sabotage against Cuba and other revolutionary countries. When Premier Fidel Castro visited Nicaragua earlier this month for the inauguration of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, he pointedly kept secret the times of his arrival and departure because of the many attempts on his life by imperialist agents over the years.

The death of Ms. Pollack came as a shock to the anti-war movement here and has elicited many statements of

condolence. Among those expressing their sympathy was the People's Anti-War Mobilization, which sent a message of solidarity to the U.S. Peace Council.

Their statement says, in part, "We have learned with deep shock and sorrow of the death of Sandy Pollack, and wish to convey our sincere condolences to her family, friends and co-workers in the U.S. Peace Council.

"Her tireless activity in the peace movement and in solidarity work, especially with Cuba, made her widely known here and internationally, and a familiar figure in many progressive coalitions.

"We mourn as well the loss of the many Cubans, Nicaraguans, and other Latin American passengers on the plane who died along with Sandy. Many of them had contributed greatly to the social transformation of the region.

"While the lives of these fine people cannot be replaced, we who share their concerns can rededicate ourselves to the struggle in which they were immersed at the time of their death. For us in the U.S., this means to continue the fight against the monstrous militarism of the Reagan administration and its aggressive policies around the world. . . ."

A memorial meeting for Ms. Pollack will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m. at the Riverside Church in New York City.

Real danger in Nicaragua is Reagan's illegal war

By Monica Moorehead
JANUARY 28—Once again, the Reagan administration, in its usual bellicose style, is attempting to justify its illegal, treacherous war against the people of Nicaragua and their official representatives, the Sandinista government.

The latest episode occurred last Thursday during an address Reagan made before 60 legislators representing a majority of the Latin American countries. In his remarks, Reagan talked of "a new danger" in Central America in response to Nicaragua's friendly relations with Iran, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

This preposterous charge is typical of Reagan. Scores of countries have trade and/or diplomatic relations with Iran, Libya and the PLO. But Reagan singled out Nicaragua for verbal attack to justify his totally illegal military assault on that poor country.

The prime minister of Iran, Mir Hussein Mousavi, paid a visit to Nicaragua last Wednesday to discuss the developments in Central America and

beef and sugar purchases between the two countries. Answering the charges from the Reaganites that his country was in the process of providing oil and military supplies to Nicaragua, Mousavi replied at a Managua press conference, "There is nothing like that here. Nicaragua does not need our arms. It is armed with its own determination and faith."

The Nicaraguan ambassador, Carlos Tunnerman Bernheim, stated that his country had expanded its trade with Iran because the U.S. had severed its sugar purchases from Nicaragua.

Reagan claims that Nicaragua's relations with governments like Iran, Libya, Cuba, etc., constitutes "subversion" and "violates international law." However, on Jan. 18, the U.S. shamefully walked out of the World Court in response to a justifiable suit initiated by Nicaragua charging the Reaganites with outright military and economic sabotage in an attempt to overthrow the Sandinistas.

Nicaragua has enough damaging proof to nail U.S. imperialism to the wall. U.S. support for the mercena-

ries—called *contras*—has caused untold deaths, especially among civilians. The U.S. has also mined Nicaragua's harbors and attempted assassinations of its leaders, thanks to the infamous CIA manual.

Nicaragua is utilizing the International Court of Justice as a forum to expose to the global community the real exporter of terror and subversion in Central America. And the World Court will continue to hear Nicaragua's complaints in light of the withdrawal of the U.S.

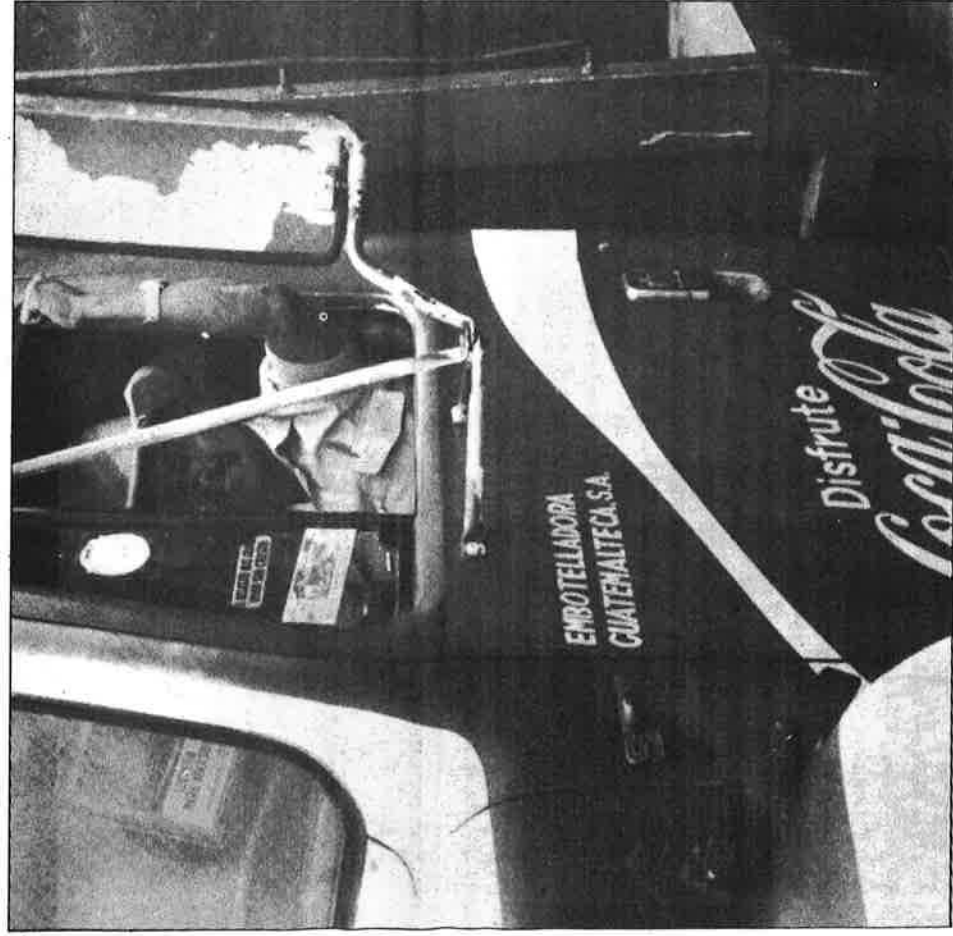
Reagan's recent verbal onslaught has to be viewed as part and parcel of an overall imperialist strategy to justify more military aid to the *contras*. The U.S. sees Nicaragua as a major obstacle that could dim their hopes of subjecting the entire region to the profit hungry whims of U.S. big business and the banks.

Fearing that millions of working and poor people in the U.S. will not tolerate another Viet Nam-type war in Central America, the proponents of U.S. finance capital see the *contras* at

this juncture as their only hope of turning back the tide of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Reagan is requesting \$14 million in "covert aid" to the *contras* which could be approved by both Houses of Congress by late February.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), has been holding discussions with key members of Congress and Secretary of State George Shultz to determine other alternatives of funneling aid to the mercenaries including the characterization of that aid as "overt." Most of the aid in the past year has been donated by private interests and, more prominently, the World Anti-Communist League headed by the notorious ex-high commander of U.S. forces in south Korea, General John Singlaub.

Despite all of Reagan's belligerent rhetoric, he cannot disguise the fact that this "new Latin danger" does not stem from the besieged country of Nicaragua but rather from the halls of Congress, the Oval Office and the boardrooms of the war profiteers and the Pentagon generals.



Risking arrest, torture and even death, Guatemalan Coca Cola workers have gone on strike.

U.S. protest shows solidarity with Guatemala Coke workers

By Kris Hamel

DETROIT, Jan. 25—Despite the snow and bitter temperatures, a demonstration was held outside the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on West Warren Avenue today in support of Guatemalan Coke workers in their struggle with this multinational corporation.

The picket line was called by the Detroit Guatemala Committee to publicize the situation of more than 300 Coke workers who have occupied their shut-down plant since February, 1984. At that time the Coca-Cola franchise in Guatemala City closed down under the phony claim of bankruptcy. Its owners fled the country and the workers at the bottling plant occupied it to safeguard their right to their jobs.

After an international support campaign, which involved consumer boycotts and strikes at Coca-Cola plants in many other countries, on May 27, 1984, the Atlanta-based parent corporation made an agreement with the union STEGAC. The company said it would find a new franchise owner, that the union contract would be respected, and that 350 workers would be rehired.

Now Coca-Cola and the new franchise owner are refusing to live up to the terms of the May 27 agreement. The plant is still closed and the Coke workers have begun the 12th month of their occupation. The owners is refusing to rehire all the workers and is demanding concessions from the union contract.

Repression of the Guatemalan union movement, like violence against the workers and poor generally, is severe under the U.S.-supported military dictatorship of General Mejia Victores. Eight members of the Coca-Cola union have already been killed by death squads connected to the government.

Supporters of the Guatemalan workers' struggle are asked not to drink Coke or any other Coca-Cola product. Messages to the Guatemalan Coke workers, particularly in Spanish, can be sent to: STEGAC, 24 Calle 6-01, Zona 11, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala. To put pressure on Coca-Cola and hold them responsible for any violence against the workers, write Robert Goizueta, Chairman of the Board, Coca-Cola Company, Drawer 1734, Atlanta, Ga., 30301, (404) 676-2528.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

BARBADOS. Under Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs Ian Ghorne Motley, in a speech reminiscent of Cold War diatribes, warned Eastern Caribbean nations earlier this month about the "Cuban threat in the region." Although Motley's Caribbean tour ostensibly is to bring the good tidings of Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, he left little besides speeches. He was received by the governments of Dominica, Antigua and Grenada who have apparently been left high and dry waiting for the bonanza that this Cold War ambassador would bring to their shores.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. In preparation for the already expected government announcement of gasoline price increases, Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco militarized this Caribbean nation early last week in an attempt to prevent any op-

position to his actions. Yet, despite the full militarization and the intimidation campaign carried out by the Army, the price increases announced by the president last Wednesday have been met with militant opposition.

Already, two working class neighborhoods in the capital city, Gualeya and Los Minas, have gone on strike as of Monday, Jan. 28. In these two neighborhoods the strikes have been met with a massive display of force by the government. Joint Army-Navy-Police patrols have carried out numerous arrests, threatened newspaper reporters and photographers, and, in Picochet style, helicopters have been added to the government display of force.

The neighborhood strikes are organized by the "Comites de Luchas Populares," neighborhood committees made up of housewives, small merchants, students and other residents in opposition to the IMF-imposed austerity measures. These committees have emerged throughout the country

has created a situation where widespread gross violations of human rights have become a daily occurrence. It has been reported that among the peasants dozens of disappearances and deaths have been carried out under an army counter-insurgency offensive bent on stamping out the Shining Path guerrillas with unadulterated terror.

• • •

ECUADOR. According to a press dispatch in *El Diario-La Prensa*, a New York Spanish daily, gays in Quito, the capital city, are forbidden to walk the city's streets next week during the Pope's stay. The police ordinance, said Police Chief Patricio Nevrez, makes certain unspecified areas of the capital off limits to gays and prostitutes. Chief Nevrez went on to say that the police have already been instructed to clear up and arrest any "undesirables" found in the restricted areas.

—Estela Vilchez

Why the increased racist violence in Chicago?

By Jeff Sorel

CHICAGO, Jan. 25—The number of incidents of racist violence in the Chicago area increased dramatically in 1984, according to a recent study by the Chicago Reporter, a newsletter on racial issues.

The Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, an open housing advocate, received three times as many complaints of racist attacks as the average of previous years, and the Chicago Police Department recorded and verified 127 such incidents, a 23% increase from 1983.

This increase in racist violence paralleled a rising level of racist rhetoric and activity by local politicians opposed to Chicago's first Black mayor, Harold Washington. These politicians, led by Aldermen Edward Vrdolyak and Edward Burke, control a majority in the City Council, and have used every opportunity to prevent Washington from governing and thereby deny representation to this city's large Black community.

The Vrdolyak-Burke bloc has sabotaged city services by refusing to confirm over 80 mayoral appointments and has created a climate which has polarized the city. The results have often been violent.

In April 1984 the Dudley Emmons family moved into an all-white block in Vrdolyak's ward. Bricks and eggs were thrown through their windows, their garage was burned down, and they were forced to flee.

When a resolution was introduced in the City Council condemning the attack and calling for a Council investigation, Vrdolyak attached a rider linking the attack on the Emmons family with remarks attributed to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and calling for an investigation of both. As even the Chicago Sun-Times had to note, "Equating the two is simply a tactic to sink the measure."

In November, a Black family on the West Side was subjected to a six-hour attack by a white mob and forced to flee their new home. An attempt was

made to firebomb the home of a Chilean family in the same neighborhood a week later. A Black family's home was firebombed on the Southwest Side that same week. A white youth gang wearing "white power" T-shirts has been harassing Black people in the Uptown neighborhood on the North Side. Certainly these elements feel emboldened by the actions of the City Council majority leaders.

The racist offensive of the Vrdolyak-Burke bloc has aggravated longstanding problems. Chicago is the most segregated big city in the U.S. A 1983 study by the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights showed that 92% of Chicago's 1.2 million Blacks would have to be relocated to achieve proportionate racial integration, more than any other big city. This segregation is promoted by the banks and real estate companies which profit enormously by manipulating racial tension.

Housing segregation leads to school segregation. According to a paper presented by political scientist Gary Orfield to the Chicago Urban League in

June 1984, in 1980 Chicago had over 10% of all the nation's "intensely segregated schools" (defined as less than 1% white). In the 1982-83 school year, 80% of Chicago's Black children attended such schools.

The level of racism can be seen further in statistics presented by Judge Eugene Pincham: While Blacks make up just over 33% of the population of Cook County, over 86% of Cook County Jail inmates are Black. And of the 520 assistant state-attorneys who put them there, only 24 are Black.

Racism pervades the health care system too. According to new figures released by the Chicago Health Department, Blacks in Chicago die from cancer at a rate one-third higher than whites.

Chicago is one of the great wealth-producing areas of the world. There are more than enough resources here to provide a superior quality of life for everyone. To achieve that goal a united people's movement is needed to take the power and wealth away from the handful of capitalists who now monopolize it. The racist offensive here is being promoted by these monopolists to prevent such a movement from developing. A counter-offensive is badly needed and is certain to develop in the months ahead.

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By Paddy Colligan

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For the first time since the nineteenth century this pamphlet is a reprint of a primary source describing John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859. Written by Osborne Anderson, the only Black survivor of the great attempt at a mass slave rebellion, with an introduction by Vince Copeland □

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The author, who spent three weeks in Ethiopia in 1978 introduces members of the peasants and urban dwellers' associations who are bringing the Revolution into every corner of Ethiopia. Also described by refugees and military commanders in the Ogaden is the significance of the Somali invasion. Remarks by Chairman Men-gistu describe the achievements and tasks of the Revolution. □

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The Klan and the Government: Foes or Allies?

By Sam Marcy

This book combines an historical treatment of the unrealized struggle for democratic rights for Black people with an up-to-date analysis of the resurgence of the Klan in recent years and how to fight it. The author explains the relationship of this secret terrorist organization with the capitalist state and how legal and extra-legal violence against workers and oppressed people is tied in with the economic crisis, the decline of bourgeois liberalism and the rise of Big Oil and the military. □

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Jamaica rebellion spurred by harsh Reagan policies

By Neville Edwards
JANUARY 28—The recent uprising in Jamaica comes as a surprise to no one except the Reagan administration, which underestimated the anger of the Jamaican masses.

Jamaica has been a focal point ever since Reagan took office in 1980, which marked the intensification of the reactionary collaboration between the U.S. and the ruling Jamaican party, the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) headed by Edward Seaga.

Reagan's first year in office saw the expansion of the Kingston office of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) which created a closer link with Jamaica's business community. The U.S. Commerce Department set up a Caribbean Basin information center and David Rockefeller started the U.S. Business Committee on Jamaica.

This committee included some of the largest corporations in the U.S., such as Gulf & Western, General Foods, Hilton International, Eastern Airlines, Alcoa and Atlantic Richfield.

Finally, the U.S. saw to it that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank increased their role in the reorganization of the Jamaican economy, never seen on such a huge scale before. All this was done to create more foreign investment in a country that has been constantly raped of its labor and natural resources.

Seaga took power in 1980 after a bitter struggle between the JLP and the People's National Party led by Michael Manley, a progressive nationalist who established close relations with Cuba, Nicaragua and other progressive governments. Seaga's rise to power was facilitated by sabotage of the economy by the CIA, World Bank, the IMF and all the multinational corporations that do business in Jamaica.

Toward the end of Manley's tenure



Vice President George Bush and Jamaica's Edward Seaga on the eve of Grenada invasion. For Seaga, the troubles are now closer to home.

in office he could not work out any agreement with the IMF and the World Bank in terms of loans that he vitally needed to run the country. The World Bank and the IMF stated that the only way Manley could get the loans was if he made sweeping changes in the economy, such as cutbacks in social services, reductions in the government workforce, cutbacks in aid to farming, etc. Manley refused to agree to the demands and was denied the loans.

The CIA supplied Seaga with guns, which were used to wreak havoc on people who were not in favor of Seaga's policies. People were literally driven out of their homes by JLP thugs. Toward the end of Manley's last term in office the economic situation became very grave. Most of the foreign business began to pull out of Jamaica and imported food and industrial items got very scarce. It wasn't until after Seaga took office that the violence ended and

gained his second term in office.

Since then, the government has been devaluing the currency as a condition for receiving more loans from the IMF. Most prices have increased, rent has been on the rise steadily and wages for workers have been going down. The average wage of an unskilled worker is approximately 40 Jamaican dollars or 8 U.S. dollars per week. That is hardly enough to buy the most basic necessities considering that the price of gas is 18 Jamaican dollars per gallon.

What the U.S. media have not been reporting is the fact that there have been rebellions all over Jamaica since the Seaga regime came to power. The economic situation is such that the masses have no other alternative but to rebel against his right-wing cut-back policy.

During the latter part of 1984 there was a revolt on the east coast of the country by hospital workers who were protesting layoffs. The Mini-Bus operators, who provide the only source of transportation on the island, have been blocking major roads to protest the increase in gasoline prices.

Due to the rising number of rebellions the government has turned the entire country into a virtual police state. A special police force was created. Armed with submachine guns and U.S.-supplied M-16 rifles these police can be seen everywhere within the poor communities. But this has not put an end to the demands of the masses.

As one woman who recently returned from Jamaica told this reporter, "No amount of police brutality will stop the rebellions, no amount of army troops will dampen the spirit of the people. A mother with five kids cannot live on \$40 per week when her rent is \$400 per month. It's only when the economic condition improves will you see an end to the revolts."

Kickapoo Nation threatened by 'resettlement' scheme

By Hachett

JANUARY 28—After more than a century of U.S. genocidal policies the Kickapoo people are now threatened with the 1982 U.S. Congressional "resettlement plan," intended to remove them from their legal lands.

In the early 1800s, the Kickapoo nation was disrupted when the U.S. implemented its "removal" policy, displacing most Native peoples east of the Mississippi River to federal lands which became known as Indian Territory. Rather than submit to U.S. subjugation, one band of the Kickapoo moved south to the mountainous region in northern Mexico along the Rio Grande.

Today, the Reagan administration enforces U.S. imperialism's anti-Indian policy to push, remove, displace and terminate indigenous communities for the private interest of the ruling class.

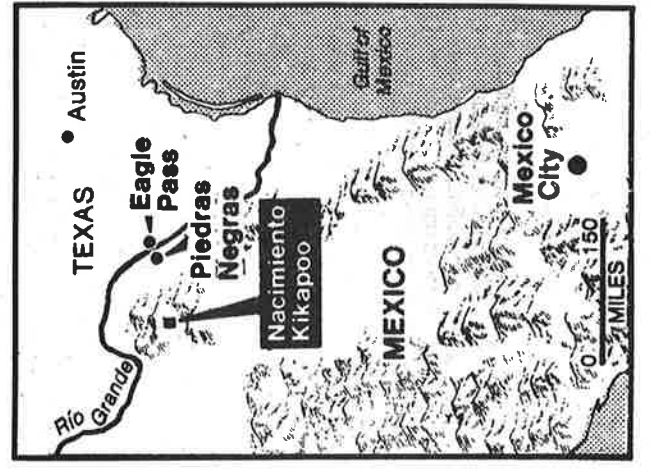
This piece of legislation will force them from their community in Eagle Pass, Texas, which is viewed by city officials as an "eyesore and a health threat." To insure their removal, the U.S. claims they will "permit" the Kickapoo living in Mexico to apply for citizenship and federal services. But for these people whose permanent home has been in Nacimiento, Mexico, U.S. citizenship will deny them their right to continue living in their mountainous village.

Nacimiento, built up by the Kickapoo, has been a stable home for more than 600 tribal members. After months of separation from their families, due to traveling north to find work, they enjoy returning to tribal life in their

mountainous home. At the same time, the Kickapoo, dependent on the jobs and services in Eagle Pass, maintain a community under the bridge by the Rio Grande that connects Mexico and Texas. Despite the poor conditions, this shanty town is home for many.

Instead of improving the impoverished Kickapoo community, the Eagle Pass city housing coordinator raised \$350,000 for an isolated, dry and undesirable parcel of land. The Kickapoo, of course, do not welcome this new land and are concerned with the inconvenience of the eight-mile distance from shopping, health centers and other vital services. Many fear this new land,

conquered and the unconquerable."



forced on them by city officials as their permanent home or "homestead," will only disrupt and destabilize them.

Most Kickapoo, like other people from the area, are migrant workers earning their living according to harvest time. Many are forced to travel as far as Utah and Wyoming in one season just to earn a meager living. Both homes are practical for the Kickapoo lifestyle and the effects of the U.S. relocation program would be disastrous.

A century ago, the militancy of the Kickapoo (which translates to "he moves about, standing here, now there") won them the reputation as the "man, woman and child—the unconquerable."

Victims of shock therapy demonstrate against abuses

By Betsy Davis

NEW YORK, Jan. 16—A lively and determined demonstration was held today outside the Barbizon Plaza Hotel against the International Conference on Electroshock being held by the New York Academy of Science and the National Institute of Mental Health. Demonstrators carried signs that read, "Shock kills brain cells," and handed out a leaflet headed, "Shock treatment? You mean they're still doing it?"

Many of the protesters were themselves victims of shock therapy, and tirelessly pointed out that the treatment is based on the destruction of

brain cells, with resultant fear, pain, permanent memory loss and humiliation. There have been many deaths associated with the use of electroshock, as well as injuries brought on by convulsions. More than 70% of the victims are women, many of them elderly.

Many institutions and doctors have dropped the use of shock therapy because of the lack of beneficial results. Nevertheless, over 100,000 people are shocked in the U.S. every year, and so a movement of its victims has been growing up. Homeless people are now targets for such brutal treatment if a bill gets passed in Congress mandating that the homeless will be rounded up and placed in mental institutions!

Members of the Philadelphia Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless joined with New York City Project Release, the Coalition for Human Rights and Against Psychiatric Oppression, the National Committee for Preventing Psychotherapy Abuse, and the Disabled Focus of the All-Peoples Congress to fight for the day when shock therapy will take its place next to the thumbscrew and the rack in a museum of horrors and crimes against humanity.

Acquit leader of sanctuary movement for Central American refugees

Workers World interviews Texas activist

By Gloria Rubac
HOUSTON, Jan. 28—The momentum of support for the movement for sanctuary for Central American refugees gained strength last week after the acquittal of one of its leaders.

Jack Elder had faced up to 15 years in prison for transporting three Salvadorans from a rescue shelter to a bus station five miles away in the Rio Grande Valley in March, 1984. Elder is director of Casa Oscar Romero, a refugee halfway house for Central Americans in San Benito, Texas, a few miles from the U.S.-Mexican border.

On Jan. 24, a federal jury in Corpus Christi acquitted Elder on all three felony counts of violating U.S. immigration law after deliberating little more than one hour in a trial presided over by a Reagan-appointed judge.

After his acquittal, Elder told *Workers World*, "I can only say that it caused an awful lot of intense joy around the country. Many people were elated by the results because we had a very tough judge to go against in a fairly conservative area."

"The other significance of the trial is that although the prosecutor used every one of his strikes to exclude Hispanics from the jury, a jury of my peers—12 kind of common folk from around Nueces County—saw that the government essentially had no case, that it was a very transparent case they were trying to build up and it was essentially a case of abuse of authority."

"I'm saying that if the U.S. government obeyed its own laws there would be no need for the sanctuary movement."

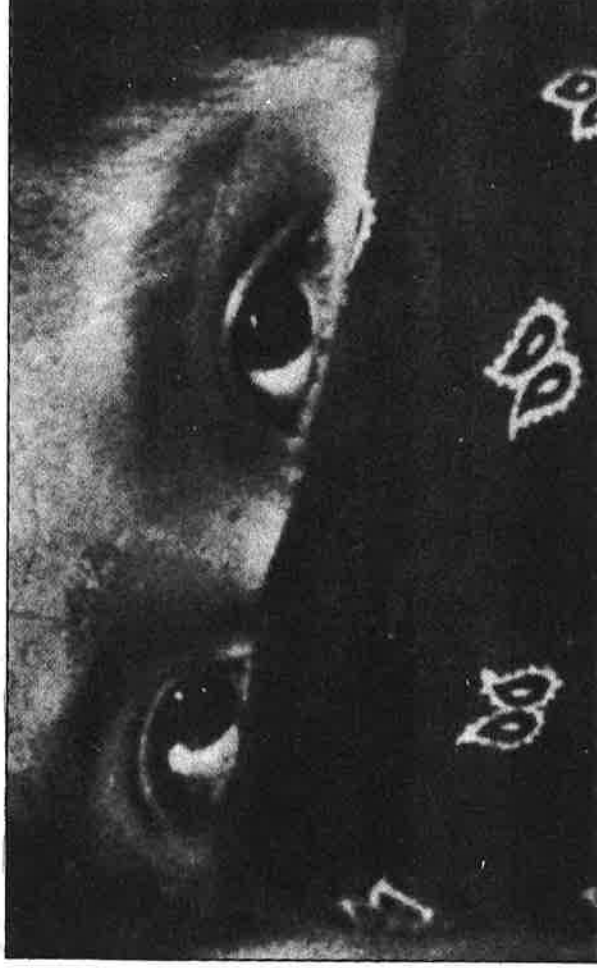
One of the women on the jury, which included two Hispanics and one Black, said after the trial, "We need more people like Mr. Elder."

Elder goes to trial again on Feb. 5 in Brownsville, Texas, along with co-worker Stacey Lynn Merkt on other charges of transporting "illegal aliens." Merkt is on two years probation for her conviction last May on similar charges. They face 40 years in prison if convicted.

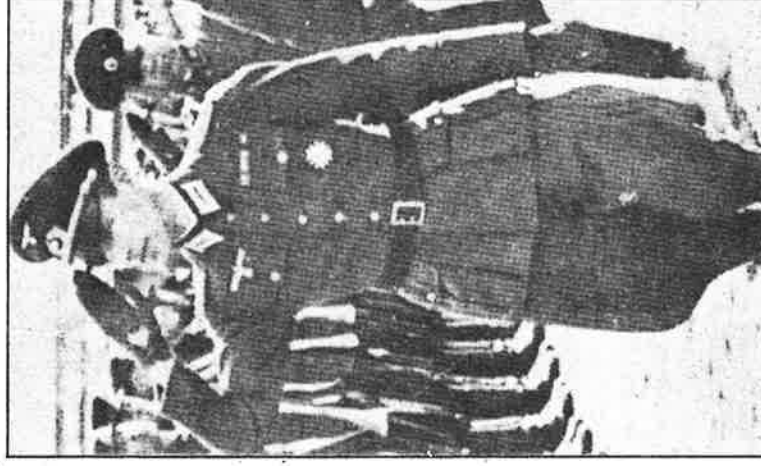
Coincided with Reagan's inauguration

Elder explained that it was no coincidence that the week before his trial a federal grand jury in Phoenix, Ariz., indicted 16 members of the sanctuary movement and arrested more than 65 Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees around the country.

"The crackdown in Arizona was designed to coincide with Reagan's inauguration and with my trial in Texas," he said.



U.S. deports refugees from fascism like the Guatemalan shown above, but has welcomed thousands of Nazi war criminals, among them Hitler's General Reinhard Gehlen (below).



The larger issues of immigration law and U.S. foreign policy in Central America were denied admittance in court but Elder explained that "The refugees would not be here among us in the numbers that they are if it were not for U.S. military involvement in Central America."

"There is a direct connection to decisions that are made in Washington and how they are implemented in El Salvador and the effects of these decisions on the civilian population and then the flow of refugees to the United States."

"The sanctuary movement has grown out of the presence of Central Americans among us and the testimony they are bringing with them of the situations they are fleeing from."

"Today the church is realizing that it's not just enough to provide charity and shelter to refugees, but we have to go beyond and examine the situation that's causing the mass exodus from El Salvador. We have to denounce U.S. government policy in the area."

Jack Elder first came to Texas in 1965 when he was training for service in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. Following this he moved to New York where he was drafted to serve for the U.S. military in Viet Nam. In 1971, he came to Texas and taught school in San Antonio for seven years where he was also co-coordinator of Latin American Assistance.

Two years ago, Elder's strong beliefs in supporting refugees from war-torn Central America took him and his family including four children to Casa Oscar Romero in San Benito. It is here that he has stood strong and been a leader of the sanctuary movement. And it is because of Elder's leadership

"I use the term refugee," he said, "without any adjective because according to the Geneva Convention, a refugee is one who has fled his country due to man-made or natural disaster. The war in El Salvador is a man-made disaster paid for by the U.S. I would say that anyone fleeing El Salvador is fleeing a civil war. It doesn't mean that they aren't looking for work here, but basically people are fleeing from a situation where they can no longer survive due to the civil war and the havoc it has caused."

"Reagan is talking of over \$600 million for Central America in this coming fiscal year—\$200 million for military aid and \$400 million for economic aid. This is as opposed to only \$5 million in 1979. We're talking about an astronomical increase in a country which, according to George Bush, is 'perfecting its democracy.'"

"If the American people are informed on the issues they should be able to see through that. No one maintains that Duarte could stay in office for more than a few months were the U.S. to pull out economic and military aid."

Commenting on the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) laws, Elder said, "The policy of INS is certainly inconsistent and suggests that there is a political motivation for denying asylum to all but 2-3% of Salvadorans, whereas they have granted ten times that to Nicaraguans."

Salvadorans elated over acquittal

The Salvadoran community in Houston was elated over Elder's acquittal. A spokesperson for Casa El Salvador told *Workers World* that "We were heartened to hear the news that Jack Elder is free after his first trial. We believe the sanctuary movement represents an important avenue for Salvadoran refugees in the U.S."

"We come here fleeing the repression and a civil war. We come fleeing the death squads supported by Duarte and by the Reagan administration. Yet the North American government doesn't recognize us as political refugees that we truly are. We ask for the solidarity of the North American people to support the Central American refugees and the sanctuary movement, especially now that we are facing these attacks by immigration authorities."

Plans are underway for a vigil in Houston on Feb. 4, the day before Elder's next trial. As Jack Elder puts it, "We are prepared to go to court next week, we are ready to try this case."

in the sanctuary movement that he is being selectively prosecuted by the government.

Hypocritical immigration policies

Although the bourgeois media in the U.S. refers to Central American refugees as "illegal aliens," and the U.S. government says that they are only here to find jobs and therefore are "economic" and not "political" refugees and not eligible for political asylum, Elder strongly contradicts these views.

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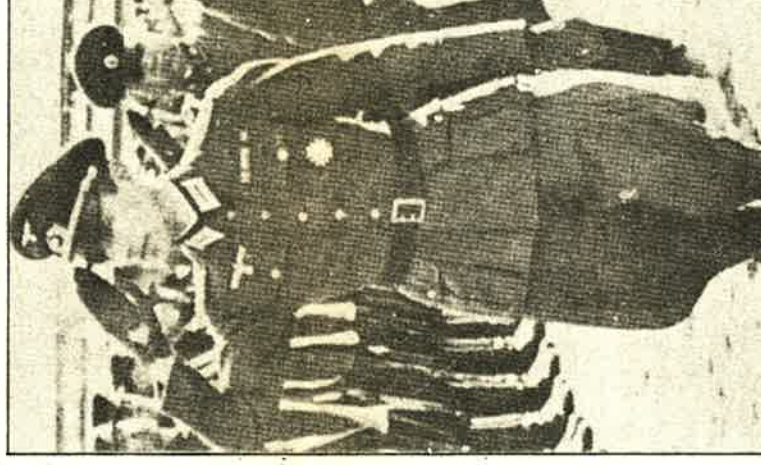
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Commenting on the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) laws, Elder said, "The policy of INS is certainly inconsistent and suggests that there is a political motivation for denying asylum to all but 2-3% of Salvadorans, whereas they have granted ten times that to Nicaraguans."

Salvadorans elated over acquittal

The Salvadoran community in Houston was elated over Elder's acquittal. A spokesperson for Casa El Salvador told *Workers World* that "We were heartened to hear the news that Jack Elder is free after his first trial. We believe the sanctuary movement represents an important avenue for Salvadoran refugees in the U.S.

"We come here fleeing the repression and a civil war. We come fleeing the death squads supported by Duarte and by the Reagan administration. Yet the North American government doesn't recognize us as political refugees that we truly are. We ask for the solidarity of the North American people to support the Central American refugees and the sanctuary movement, especially now that we are facing these attacks by immigration authorities."

Plans are underway for a vigil in Houston on Feb. 4, the day before Elder's next trial. As Jack Elder puts it, "We are prepared to go to court next week, we are ready to try this case."

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Goetz release seen as racist outrage

Reagan-Koch 'solution' to poverty, unemployment is vigilante terrorism

Victim of bigotry



Darrell Cabey lies paralyzed and near death from New York City subway gunman's shooting spree.

By Sam Marcy

JANUARY 29—The exoneration by a New York grand jury of Bernhard Goetz in the attempted murder of four Black youths is one of the most odious spectacles of unrestrained racism in the long history of the cruel oppression of Black people in the U.S.

It is a menacing and unmistakable throwback to the days of lynch law and should be unmasked as such. No one should be taken in by the so-called "spontaneous," "grassroots" upheaval of public opinion. It is a wholly manufactured, synthetic product created by the capitalist media.

Above all, one should beware of the liberal apologists for the crime committed by Goetz in the name of "self-defense." This, too, is a gigantic hoax.

What if he'd been Black?

Goetz shot four youths, two in the back, and one remains in a coma, paralyzed from the waist down. We should first direct our attention to the question asked by millions upon millions of people: Had this gunman been Black, and the victims white, would he have been turned into a "national hero," as the national media are attempting to do with Goetz? Would the grand jury have cleared him of the attempted murder, the way they cleared Bernhard Goetz? Would the District Attorney of New York have presented the case in such a way as to let him off the hook with a mere weapons charge, which we suspect may eventually be dropped?

Merely to ask these questions is to answer them.

One of the truly significant aspects of the political situation surrounding the case is that virtually the entire capitalist establishment of New York, supposedly the most liberal state in the union, has gone along with the grand jury decision.

From the unbridled racist Mayor Ed Koch, to the wishy-washy President of the City Council Carol Bellamy, all the way up to the "most liberal governor"

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'We got what we
were fighting for!'**

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—Goetz release seen as racist

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Mario Cuomo, all have found one way or another to approve of the decision of the grand jury. None has unequivocally denounced the grand jury's granting of a license to kill Black people.

Role of grand jury

It will serve no progressive purpose to merely condemn the grand jury's exoneration of Goetz without condemning the role of the prosecutor in the case, District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

It is ironic indeed that the origin of the grand jury goes back to its insertion into the U.S. Constitution. Why was it done?

The grand jury was meant to defend the people against repression by the government. The grand jury's original purpose was to stop the persecution of the innocent and defend the masses against the arbitrary rule of the governmental machinery in criminal cases.

But the capitalist state is an organ of repression, and it follows that grand juries have turned into the opposite of what they were intended. They are now instruments of repression and, more specifically, they are the obedient tools of the prosecutors and rarely fail to do anything but their bidding.

In the light of the history of capitalist repression, the grand jury's indictment in this case should be no surprise. It has done the bidding of the racist city government, that is of Koch, Morganthau, Bellamy, et al.

Poverty and jumping turnstiles

Beyond this there are the deep and profound social and economic issues in the city, the metropolis of world finance capital.

Once upon a time, jumping turnstiles in the subway without paying the fare was regarded as a prank, a minor offense that happened rarely. That was a long time ago.

What has been the situation in the last few years? Take the fiscal year 1983-84. More than a quarter million summonses or arrest warrants were issued in connection with entering the subways without fare payment.

This has entailed as many as 10,500 arrests, not counting 6,600 juvenile apprehensions. (Statistics are from the Transit Authority Police.)

Black leaders charge racism in response to Goetz grand jury

By Andy Stapp

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—The refusal of a grand jury to indict a white man on charges of attempted murder, assault, or even reckless endangerment after he fired dum dum bullets into the bodies of four Black teenagers, two of whom were struck in the back while running for their lives, has brought calls from Black leaders in this city for a federal civil rights investigation.

They are demanding a probe of municipal authorities on charges of extreme racial bias, along the same lines as the 1965 investigation into the Neshoba County sheriff's department in Mississippi.

This crisis, which has been building up over the years and years that both Black defendants and complainants alike have been denied justice in the courts, took a qualitative leap on the night of Dec. 22 when Bernhard Hugo Goetz gunned down Barry Allen, Darrell Cabey, Troy Canty and James Ramseur on an IRT subway, claiming

What accounts for the evolution of what was once treated as a prank or minor offense into wholesale arrests and convictions, including imprisonment on such a huge scale?

For one, the fare, which used to be five cents and then a dime, is now 90 cents at a time when Black unemployment and youth unemployment in particular is at its highest level ever. The subways themselves are in a dilapidated condition.

The people of New York have paid for the subways over and over again, only to find that they have inherited a rundown subway system and a crushing burden of debts incurred for its maintenance.

And do the people of New York City have any say in electing the officials who run the subway? These officials (the Metropolitan Transit Authority) are as removed from the people as heaven from earth. It is virtually impossible to have a referendum on either the fare question or the election of the officials who run the subway. In fact, the present head of the MTA, Richard Kiley, is a former CIA official who started his career as a stoolpigeon for the police in the student movement!

This city, which is the financial metropolis of the imperialist world, can raise billions of dollars in practically no time when it is in the interests of the

real estate sharks and industrialists. But even in a year when the city government has a \$75 million surplus in its budget, it can't seem to afford a clean, modern subway which would enable youths to at least be able to travel freely, even if just to look for a job.

Not to be forgotten in all this is that there are 10% fewer jobs available in New York now than in 1965. How then is it possible to avoid the increase in poverty and consequent crime?

An increase in the repressive forces of the government will not diminish crime, nor will making heroes out of vigilante terrorists do it.

Proponents of the death penalty, which has now been reinstated in almost all the states, argue that it will deter crime. But this argument, raised by the "law and order" rightists of every ruling class, has always been a canard.

In England back in the time of the transition from feudalism to capitalism, when the peasants were being driven off the land by the gentry (much like the "gentrifying" landlords of today), and homeless thousands wandered the cities trying to stay alive, public hangings for the smallest offenses were common. But that was no "deterrent" to the need of the hungry to eat. Even as crowds gathered to

How is it possible for a vigilante gunman like Bernhard Goetz to be raised to the stature of a national hero? In addition to the reasons we have given, we must inevitably conclude that the wanton act of lawlessness of the New York subway vigilante is entirely in line and in accord with the fact that we have a vigilante government in the Reagan administration. When it openly and before the whole world engages in international banditry, violating international treaties and flouting international law, it sets an example for the Goetzes and others to follow.

they were threatening to rob him. Goetz later told New Hampshire cops that his life was never threatened and indicated that his actions were premeditated. Darrell Cabey, the son of a widowed hospital worker, still lies in a coma from the bullet Goetz fired severing his spine.

The outcry to overturn the grand jury findings came as Black people quickly assembled in both Brooklyn and Manhattan after hearing the news that the crime was to go unpunished, and that the criminal Goetz was to be remanded for trial merely on some minor weapons charges. Called on very short notice, the five-hour Harlem meeting at the Harriet Tubman School soon became so packed that the doors had to be closed to latecomers.

While major capitalist dailies, along with the TV and radio, profess to see no racism in this verdict, Black journalists, congressmen and church figures have decried this as a lie and even suggested that if the Reagan adminis-

watch the executions, pickpockets moved among them in the shadow of the gallows.

The crime of gentrification

But what is the real truth about crime in New York?

The biggest crime, which is not called a crime but which on the contrary is lauded and praised to the skies, is the process of gentrification. This is the process of building or converting existing structures into luxury housing and deliberately displacing and driving out the poor people from the city.

Can anyone deny that this is what has been happening? Is not gentrification an attempt to drive out the poor, depriving them of housing, making rents unreachable by the mass of the people?

The word gentrification means to establish the gentry, as the ancient landlords were called, like the ones who drove the peasants off the land in old England.

There are some bourgeois sociologists who say that the poor people should leave the city of their own accord because they are an eyesore for the rich.

If one is to deal with the Goetz issue properly, it should not be narrowed to a judicial case only, but seen in a broader point of view. One has to examine real crime, the crime responsible for the poverty which breeds crime among the poor.

Take the issue of criminal arson. Whole communities of the oppressed have been firebombed and razed to the ground. It is common knowledge that landlords, real estate developers and insurance companies have collaborated in the arson to drive out the poor.

How else can one explain such vast communities as the South Bronx being abandoned and in some areas leveled to the ground? How many landlords have been indicted for arson? Yet arson is a high crime, not of the same character as jumping a turnstile.

Isn't there a relationship between the arson of the landlords, real estate, and insurance companies and the crimes of the dispossessed, demoralized, unemployed youths? Is not one the cause of the other?

A lawless vigilante in the White House

Still, one may wonder how it is possible for a vigilante gunman like Bernhard Goetz to be raised to the stature of a national hero. In addition to the reasons we have given, we must inevitably conclude that the wanton act of lawlessness of the New York subway vigilante is entirely in line and in accord with the fact that we have a vigilante government in the Reagan administration.

When it openly and before the whole world engages in international banditry, violating international treaties and flouting international law, it sets an example for the Goetzes and others to follow. In its illegal mining of Nicaragua's harbors, its conduct of a counter-revolutionary intervention in Nicaragua through the so-called contras, its brutal support for the murderous war against the Salvadoran people, its support and financing of the apartheid regime in South Africa, the Reaganite government is the incarnation of imperialist lawlessness and vigilantism.

What it practices abroad is merely an extension of what it does at home. The attempted murder of four Black youths by Goetz is merely one domestic version of the international vigilantism practiced by the Reagan administration.

Reagan in effect condoned terrorism at home when he addressed the misnamed "right-to-life" rally the day af-

ist outrage

ter his inauguration. He lauded them to the skies and pointedly failed to clearly and unequivocally condemn the terrorism directed at the mass movement of pro-choice women who have been the target of 32 bombings.

The Goetz case should not be seen as an isolated phenomenon divorced from the brazen murders of Black people committed by the police. In New York City, the most prominent cases, those of Eleanor Bumpurs and Michael Stewart, are only the most recent in a long series of murders committed by the police and winked at by the government.

The recent report of collusion between the New York City Medical Ex-

aminer and the police in covering up the police role in these deaths points clearly to the collaboration of the Koch administration as a whole.

Nor should we forget that the climate of racism the Reagan administration has been pursuing for four years is related to the Goetz case.

Only the unity of the workers and oppressed people, only a consistent struggle of the masses which links up the terrorism at home and abroad with the policies of the Reagan administration and the ruling class which it serves, can halt the rampant racism, sexism, and anti-working class policies of the Reagan-Koch administrations.

Charge coverup by NY medical examiner Bumpurs, Stewart autopsies altered to protect cops

By Sharon Shelton

NEW YORK, Jan. 29—Recent revelations here confirm what anti-racist activists have long known: the city's Chief Medical Examiner has worked hand-in-glove with the police to systematically cover up murders of oppressed people by the cops.

Pathologists and others working in the Medical Examiners Office have pointed the finger of blame at Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Elliot M. Gross for falsifying autopsy reports, tampering with evidence and altering other doctors' findings of deaths of people in police custody.

Although the New York Times "broke the news" in a four-part series which began on Jan. 27, in reality it was the families of victims and the Black and Latin communities who first brought the activities of the Medical Examiners Office to public attention.

The revelations that racist murders by the cops were blatantly covered up expose not only the corrupt workings of the Medical Examiners Office, but of the Police Department, the district attorney, the mayor and ultimately the capitalist state itself.

Koch's 'probe' blasted

Mayor Ed Koch, who personally selected Gross on the recommendation of Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, announced on Jan. 28 he has authorized what he calls an "independent probe" to be conducted by an unnamed attorney appointed by Koch.

Yet, how can Koch, who publicly pooch-pooched the mass outrage over several of Gross's controversial autopsies whitewashing the cops, be trusted to investigate the criminal misdeeds of his own medical examiner?

Koch's plans to carry out such a charade have drawn the scorn of lawyers challenging the coverup of the cause of death of one of the victims, Michael Stewart, a young artist whose death as a result of injuries sustained while in police custody created a storm of protest among progressive people, especially in the Black community.

Lawyers involved in the Stewart case, which is presently before a grand jury, say they intend to contact Rep. John Conyers, the Black Congressman who recently conducted federal hearings into the rampant brutality of New York City cops.

Gross's outrageous record

According to the Times, when Gross took over as Chief Medical Examiner in 1979, he changed a long-standing policy, declaring that all autopsies on people who die in police custody would be performed only at his Manhattan office.



In most cases, the autopsies were personally conducted by Gross, and even where they weren't, documents show that Gross intervened to alter other pathologists' reports. And, needless to say, autopsy "findings" cleared the cops—even when clear evidence pointed in the opposite direction.

Some of the best known cases include:

• The Michael Stewart case.

Only hours after 25-year-old Stewart was brutally beaten while in custody of transit police on charges of writing graffiti on subway walls and despite evidence of bruises covering his body, Gross ruled in September, 1983, that there was no evidence that he had died as a result of physical injury.

A doctor hired by the Stewart family, Dr. Robert L. Wolf, a clinical professor of medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, saw Stewart before he died.

"I removed the sheets," Dr. Wolf said, "and it was obvious that he had incurred trauma to all major portions of his body, without exception. I determined that the most likely source of the wounds was a beating."

Wolf branded Gross's autopsy report first suggesting that Stewart had died as a result of cardiac arrest and then later amended to a spinal chord injury sustained as a result of cardiac arrest, as a patent lie.

Gross covers up evidence

According to Dr. John Grauerholz, a forensic pathologist hired by the family to be present at the autopsy, two transit police detectives were also present during the entire procedure and conferred with Gross before the Medical Examiner issued his "findings."

Grauerholz further reported that petechial hemorrhages, indicating death by strangulation, had been noted in Stewart's eyes, but Gross had returned to the autopsy room a day



after the autopsy and removed Stewart's eyes, placing them in a solution that preserves tissue but tends to wash out any trace of blood.

DA's office blocks murder indictment

Showing that Gross was not alone in the coverup, the District Attorney's office was accused by a member of the first Grand Jury that took up the Stewart case of trying to block a murder indictment against the transit cops involved in the incident. When the Grand Jury member spoke up, an indictment for manslaughter against the transit cops was dismissed.

District Attorney Robert J. Morgenthau has made much of the fact that he submitted the autopsy findings in the Stewart case to an outside consultant—but this "outside" consultant turns out to be a friend of Gross!

The Stewart case is currently before a grand jury.

• The Eleanor Bumpurs case.

When Bumpurs, a 66-year-old Bronx grandmother, was killed by police during an eviction on Oct. 29, Gross ordered the pathologist conducting the autopsy to change his report to back up the cops' contention that they had fired only one shot.

The pathologist, Dr. Jon S. Pearl, was quoted in the Times as saying his report stated clearly that Bumpurs had been shot in the hand and in the chest by a 12-gauge shotgun. He added that Gross repeatedly pressured him to change his findings.

The Bumpurs' killing stirred angry protests by anti-racists who noted that the cops—who broke into Bumpurs' apartment armed with shotguns, plastic shields, a restraining bar and chemical mace—could not have been acting in self defense as they claimed.

This case is also before a grand jury.

• The Alfredo De Jesus case.

When De Jesus, a 20-year-old unem-



Nicaraguans mourn another victim of Ronald Reagan's hired terrorists.

Michael Stewart and Eleanor Bumpurs, two victims of police murders that Dr. Elliot Gross helped coverup.

ployed bakery worker, was shot in the back by an off-duty cop in October, 1982, Gross covered up the fact that he had been shot at close range, even though the original autopsy report showed beyond a doubt that the man had been shot from a distance of no more than 18 inches. The original finding contradicted the claim of the cop involved.

De Jesus' family has accused Gross of covering up the facts to protect the cop, who was never indicted.

Other dubious findings

Other cases include the Nov. 5, 1980, death of Detective Raymond Diaz, who had testified against his fellow cops for accepting bribes to overlook narcotics and liquor violations in social clubs, and that of Brooklyn resident Ralph Tarantino who died after what eyewitnesses said was a police beating in August 1980.

After meeting with police detectives and discussing the circumstances of Diaz' death, which occurred at a party to raise money for the cops' defense, Gross ruled that the cause of death was "Undetermined: Pending Police Investigation."

This ruling was blasted by Gross own personal stenographer at the time, Siegfried Oppenheim, who said he has observed more than 10,000 autopsies and that the extreme fractures on all sides of Diaz' head left no doubt that "this was a homicide."

In the Ralph Tarantino case, Gross at the request of the police overruled findings two years earlier by two doctors overseeing the autopsy in Brooklyn that Tarantino had been killed by head injuries and changed the cause of death to "cardiac arrest" due to a hospital procedure. Though this ruling was attacked by pathologists familiar with the case as a blatant coverup, the cops involved are free today.