

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Sam Marcy analyzes Portugal's developing revolutionary situation and the prospects for a full-fledged socialist revolution in the light of the PCP's policy of "gradualism." See page 9.

Vol. 17, No. 6

Feb. 7, 1975

25 cents

As layoffs mount...

Bosses report record profits



Trial of Houston 12 begins—felony charge dropped on 3

WW photo: Tim

—centerfold

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, Feb. 3—How many times last year did we hear from the giant U.S. monopolies that they needed substantial price increases to meet "rising labor costs" or the "rising cost" of materials and machinery?

Now that 1974 is over and some of the annual corporate figures have been disclosed, we can more than confirm the obvious—that these billionaire companies have been taking the American public for a ride and stealing us blind. The facts and figures (from the companies themselves) show beyond a shadow of a doubt that the tremendous price increases put into effect during 1973 and 1974 went almost entirely to jack up profits to all-time record levels!

HIGH PRICES DOUBLE PROFITS

This fact was admitted by no less than U.S. Steel, the largest private steel company in the world. U.S. Steel reported profits of \$635 million for 1974, 95 percent higher than 1973 profits! And, according to the New York Times of January 29:

"U.S. Steel said its soaring profits resulted largely from higher prices."

The record profits of U.S. Steel are even more incredible when one considers that orders for steel

shipments actually declined in 1974. This means that the price increases—at least 23 percent in the spring and another 10 percent in December 1974—several times offset the decline in sales.

The other steel monopolies also raked in record profits. Bethlehem Steel's 1974 profits were up 66 percent; Republic Steel, up 97 percent; Armco Steel, up 90 percent; and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, up 681 percent!

OIL PROFITS STAGGERING

As shown in last week's issue of *Workers World* (Jan. 31, 1975), the profits taken in by the oil monopolies have also been staggering. The increases in 1974 profits ranged from 30 to 90 percent for the top 13 U.S. oil corporations. Exxon's profits of \$3.14 billion was a record figure for a single corporation in one year, while another 5 of the U.S. oil giants amassed profits of \$1 billion or more each (Texaco, Standard Oil of California, Gulf, Mobil, and Standard Oil of Indiana).

And despite the attempt by the oil companies to blame high oil prices on the Arab and other oil-producing countries, mounting evidence is showing that the U.S. oil monopolies have been guilty of the most incredible price gouging. Even the U.S. government's General Accounting Office has had to admit that "the nation's oil companies may have overcharged their customers by \$1 billion to \$2 billion by skirting federal regulations."

But even federal regulations are so lopsided in favor of the big oil companies (oil depletion allowances, special tax credits, decontrol of "new" oil prices, etc.) that the profit robbery is probably closer to \$3 or \$4 billion!

INFLATION AIDS GIANTS

The highly revealing profit figures show that the giant industrial and banking corporations are raking in record profits not in spite of, but because of inflation. The large corporations that deal in producing industrial and consumer necessities have been mostly responsible for the runaway inflation plaguing the U.S. economy. The fact that many marginal industrial companies have been suffering severe losses and in some cases going towards bankruptcy is only accelerating (Continued on page 3)



Menominees get Alexian monastery for \$1, but suffer 30 arrests—page 6



Murder and repression on both sides of Alabama prison walls—page 2

Murder and repression in Alabama

By TOM GARDNER and STEVE WHITMAN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 29—Alabama authorities are acting like they have something to hide in the case of nine Black prisoners being brought to trial February 10 in Brewton, Ala. The nine face serious charges arising from two separate incidents in which two guards died, two prisoners were killed, and many wounded. The trials are part of an attempt by the State of Alabama to suppress and eliminate a broad-based and militant prisoners' organization with members throughout the state's penal system: the Inmates for Action (IFA).

WHAT IS WALLACE TRYING TO HIDE?

Haywood Paterson, one of the nine "Scottsboro Boys" framed on a rape charge, spent 6 years at Atmore prison plantation in South Alabama. Labeling Atmore "the southernmost part of hell," Paterson wrote, "The prison farms of Alabama, that is the part of the old slavery that still stands down there." Atmore has changed little in the 40 years since then.

In response to "slave-labor" conditions, Alabama prisoners in September 1972 formed the Inmates for Action which presented grievances, conducted basic and political education classes for fellow prisoners, tried to negotiate with the prison administration, and organized harvest-time work stoppages to back up their demands. The prison administration's response has been to attempt to violently destroy the Inmates for Action and its leadership.

If this resembles the brutal violence against the civil rights movement in the 1960s, it's no accident. The wardens at Atmore and Holman prisons used the same methods then when they were police chiefs in Scottsboro and Troy, Alabama. They were appointed as wardens by Governor George Wallace, whose very name is synonymous with racist brutality and suppression of poor and working people's organizations.

The daily beatings and mutilations of IFA leaders and supporters finally became too much. On Jan. 18, 1974, prisoners took two guards hostage and asked to talk to the press and supporters on the outside. The warden and guards came in shooting in an Attica-style attack; one guard-hostage died. Chairman of the IFA George "Chagina" Dobbins was wounded by birdshot. But according to the autopsy report, he was killed by nine severe stab

wounds in the face and head, which could only have been delivered in the ambulance en route to the hospital. Neither the ambulance driver nor Scotty Burns, Sheriff of Escambia County who rode in the ambulance, admit to knowing a thing.

OFFICIAL 'DEATH LIST' DISCOVERED

However, a few months later, a "death list" of IFA leaders and members was found in the warden's desk and passed to the

was on the death list. It was also learned that George "Chagina" Dobbins had been at the top of the list.

When the "death list" was smuggled out of the prison, IFA leader Tommy "Yukeema" Dotson told a visitor he was next to be killed. A week later, on March 13, Dotson was beaten to death by the guards, his head literally caved in by their clubs and baseball bats. An older guard died during this assassination. Now two IFA members, both on the "death list,"

that drench the furrows of Alabama's slave-labor prison farms.

Sheriff Burns of Escambia County, where Atmore and Holman prisons are located and where the trials will take place, would clearly be implicated in the murder of George Dobbins. And George Wallace wants nothing to undermine the molding of his new image as a "people's" presidential candidate, with which he hopes to obscure his past of Selma murders and beatings, standing in school-house doors, and calling for "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

EX-INMATE DEFENSE LEADER HARASSED

One of the leaders of the public defense effort for the Atmore-Holman Brothers and the Inmates for Action is Mafundi, a Birmingham man who spent 13 years in Alabama prisons and helped found the Inmates for Action.

Since his release and active support for the IFA on the outside, Mafundi has been constantly harassed by Birmingham police. He has been followed and stopped many times; beaten and arrested on phony charges; his community center has been broken into and address book stolen; neighborhood kids and children who related to him have been threatened by shotgun wielding cops; and his life has been threatened by several individual policemen.

Last December 29 two Birmingham cops stopped Mafundi's car and searched its contents. They were particularly interested in the literature, organizational checkbook, and mailing list of the Committee for Prisoner Support in Birmingham. They commented on the inclusion of Richard Arrington, a Black Birmingham City Council member who has waged a fight against racism and brutality in the city police department. Finally, the cops decided to charge Mafundi with "reckless driving" and "driving under the influence of alcohol" (he does not drink).

City Councilman Arrington filed a formal complaint to Mayor George Seibels. Chief of Police James Parsons responded to an inquiry from the Mayor: "His (Mafundi's) activity as a member and apparent leader of the Afrikan People's Survival Committee and his attacks on the established criminal justice system merit suspicion."

While Mafundi was held in jail, his car was in police custody. After being bailed out, he was driving

(Continued on page 8)



Tommy "Yukeema" Dotson, a leader of Inmates for Action, knew he was next on the prison guards' "death list." Above, the last picture of Dotson alive. Below, Dotson lies dead, his head caved in by the blows of clubs and baseball bats.



outside. The official grapevine had made it known that the names on the list were considered "fair game" for assassination by guards or prisoners looking for favors from the warden.

As if by editorial irony, the Mobile Press Register carried, next to a story about officials denying the existence of such a list, another article on the stabbing death of a prisoner. The prisoner

are charged with slipping Dotson an alleged knife, even though these prisoners were locked in their maximum security cells all day.

Alabama officials are doing everything they can to keep the facts about all this from reaching public light. And it is little wonder. Millions of dollars change hands every year in corruption, payoffs, patronage, and direct profits derived from the sweat and blood

got pink slips yesterday.

"He had been despondent for weeks over the prospect of being unable to take care of his elderly mother with whom he lived."

FORD'S GIFT OF GOODIES TO THE ELDERLY

The Miami Herald, Jan. 20:

"One feature of the Ford program having direct impact on older people is the limit put on cost-of-living increases to Social Security beneficiaries to 5 per cent.

"The reasonable provision, on which former President Nixon and Congress agreed, would have had its first effect this year in June Social Security payments. It was expected to provide a 10 per cent cost-of-living increase, based on the price index.

"Since the average Social Security payment for a retired worker in 1974 was \$187.71, this meant there would be an additional \$18.77 in that June check. But now

it will be around \$9.39. The difference means plenty to people on low, fixed incomes. Try it sometime."

But inflation has zoomed up 25 percent since the elderly last got a modest increase. Even a 10 percent hike wouldn't be half good enough.

ON WINGS OF BUREAUCRACY

Weekly Publication of the Social Security Administration, Nov. 4:

"All government employees have been asked to conserve paper clips. Therefore, anyone with a large stash of paper clips who wants to help alleviate the shortage is asked to follow the Fiscal Control and Audit Staff's example and return them to stock. This is done by filling out a HEW-form 22 (one copy, please, due to the paper shortage) and forwarding it to OA's Property Management Branch. Property Management will send someone to pick up the paper clips."

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DECLINE AND FALL

WHY CITY BUS & TRAIN FARES KEEP RISING

Chicago Sun Times, Jan. 22:

"Milton J. Pikarsky, chairman elect of the Regional Transportation Authority, will get the highest paid salary of a public official in Illinois. The RTA Board voted Tuesday to pay him \$82,500 a year. (Mayor Daley gets only \$35,000, though it will jump to \$60,000 in April.)

"Pikarsky will also receive fringe benefits.

"He was not available for comment Tuesday, but said, however, after his election Jan. 3 that he thought \$80,000 to \$100,000 annual salary would be appropriate.

"In other action Tuesday, the RTA board

voted emergency grants totaling \$2.75 million to three railroads and the Joliet Mass Transit District to pay off accumulated debts for the last six months of 1974."

WHILE A CITY WORKER SETS HIMSELF ABLAZE

New York Post, Jan. 18:

"Robert Marigliano, 33, was in critical condition today in Queens General Hospital with burns over 55 percent of his body.

"Police said Marigliano, still in his work overalls, sat down at Farmers and Rockaway Blvds last night, drenched himself with gasoline and lit a match.

"A maintenance man at the Brooklyn Supreme Court building, Marigliano was one of 598 provisional city employees who

UE local demonstrates for jobs

By AE LONG
RICHMOND, Jan. 30—Unemployed workers from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia today held a demonstration at the State Capitol demanding higher and quicker unemployment benefits and a state program to provide jobs.

The demonstrating workers, members of Local 123 of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE), were from the Westinghouse air-conditioner plant near Staunton, Va. More than half of the 700 workers at the plant have been laid off over the past 4 months, and the layoffs are continuing.

UNEMPLOYMENT 10 PERCENT

The UE members pointed out that unemployment in the Shenandoah Valley is officially listed at about 10 percent, compared to 4.4 percent for the state. Other plants in the area, such as DuPont and General Electric, have also suffered massive layoffs. Some of the workers reported delays of as much as 10 weeks in receiving unemployment benefits.

In a leaflet issued at the demonstration by Local 123, the union asked the Virginia General Assembly to pass legislation raising the maximum weekly unemployment benefits above the current level of \$87. The leaflet declared, "The General Assembly is not moving quickly enough to deal with the problem of severe unemployment . . . The General Assembly took fast action to put people back on death row. Let's have fast action to put people back to work!"

UAW unemployed rally

NEW YORK, Feb. 2—A rally of unemployed auto workers is scheduled for February 5 inside the Washington, D.C., National Guard armory, which has a seating capacity of 5,000.

The United Auto Workers union executive board, headed by Leonard Woodcock, has invited representatives of the Ford administration and Congressional leaders to attend the gathering to hear UAW proposals "to get the country back on the road to economic stability."

Mobilization and travel arrangements have been left to UAW local offices, with expenses for buses and box lunches paid by the different locals.

There are currently over 300,000 auto workers laid off and an estimated 1 million out of work,

The UE local has also demonstrated at the Staunton office of the Virginia Unemployment Commission in order to stop a Westinghouse attempt to delay the workers' eligibility date for unemployment benefits.

Today's demonstration was also attended by employed and unemployed members of the Center for United Labor Action (CULA) from Norfolk and Richmond, including Teamster members and unemployed members of the IUE Organizing Committee at the Portsmouth General Electric plant. The CULA expressed support for the UE's demands and carried posters declaring "Full employment is our right."

The UE demonstration was the first public action by a Virginia union fighting back against the rising wave of unemployment. Through their protests, the Westinghouse workers have set an example that other unions will have to follow if they are to deal effectively with the catastrophic layoffs.

In their leaflet, the UE members declared, "In this period of high joblessness and continuing inflation, many employers will be using the threat of layoffs and replacements to hold down wages and working conditions of workers still on the job."

"We call upon all working people in the state of Virginia to forge a strong unity between the employed and the unemployed, between Black and white, men and women, young and old, on a program to protect and improve wages and working conditions and put the unemployed back to work. In union there is strength!"

counting layoffs in industries that supply auto production. What program the UAW officials will unveil to revive the economy is as much a mystery to the ranks as anyone.

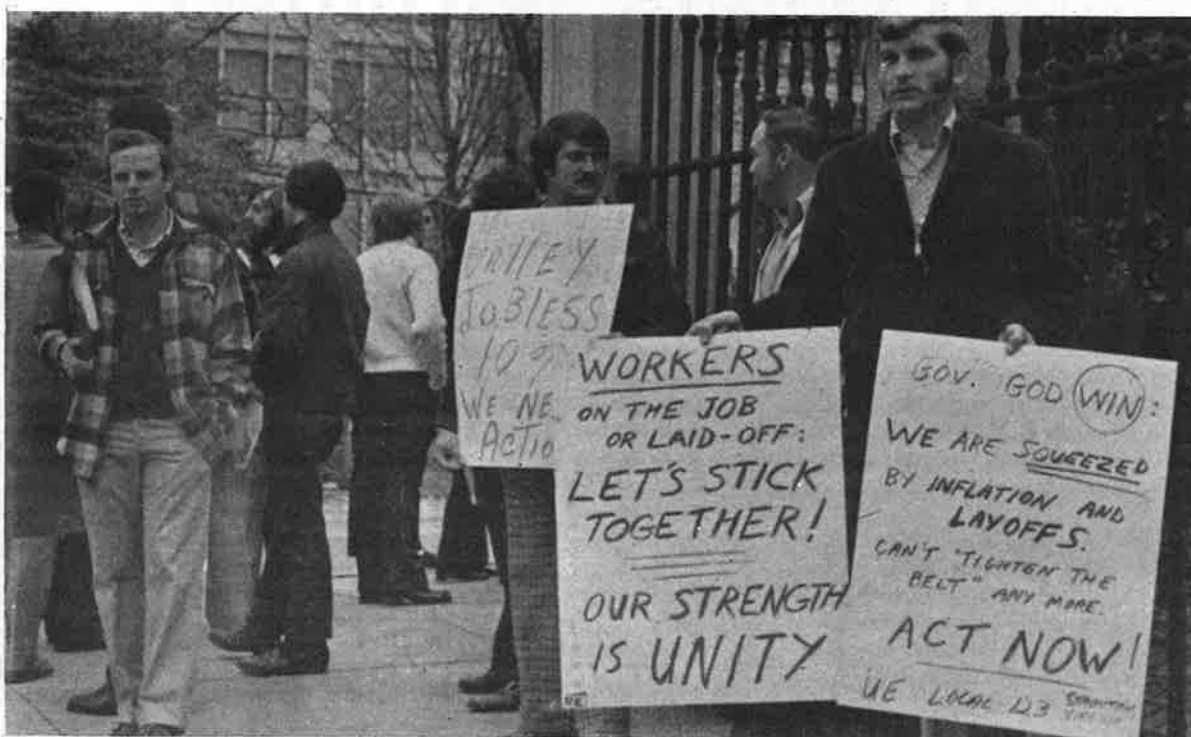
It is difficult to say whether the 5,000 in attendance at the rally will play more of a part than merely being spectators. But certainly this mobilization is an important beginning.

All the unemployed, not just auto workers, are looking for leadership to find a way out of the current crisis. The February 5 rally may be designed to limit their participation, but the voices of the unemployed will be heard more and more in massive demonstrations with new found militant leadership that puts forward a program for jobs for all.

Pittston Coal, up 602 percent!

These record profits in a year of tremendous inflation and unemployment show that U.S. imperialism's grave economic crisis—that is, its search for and failure to conquer larger and larger colonial markets, and therefore greater profits abroad—is turning the U.S. capitalist rulers more and more towards greater exploitation at home. These rulers of greed are making the workers and oppressed in the U.S. pay for the present economic disaster, brought on by the profit-mad system of capitalist anarchy.

A new social and economic system, based on production for need and not for profit, is long overdue to replace the moribund capitalist system. And that system is socialism.



Calling for unity between employed and unemployed workers in the fight against layoffs, members of UE Local 123 demonstrate in front of the Virginia State Capitol. WW photo

UAW president defends profits of billion dollar auto industry

By BOB DOBROW
NEW YORK, Feb. 3—"The nation's car makers cannot lower their prices because it would mean losing money."

Sound like the routine pronouncement of a government official or an executive of GM? It sure does, but the speaker was neither. He was Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Automobile Workers, who is supposed to represent working people.

Woodcock asserted in a January 26 appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the auto companies' profits have been "paper thin," and defended the UAW's official position of not attacking the exorbitant prices of automobiles.

Woodcock and the other super-privileged labor misleaders show their complete callousness to the plight of the ordinary worker in their union. There are now 300,000 auto workers laid off. But GM, Ford, and Chrysler have all shown high profits in recent years. Coupled with this is the fact (which Woodcock conveniently forgot to mention) that car prices were increased in 1974 by an average of

\$1,000 (New York Times, Dec. 8, 1974)!

GM PROFITS MAKE LIAR OF WOODCOCK

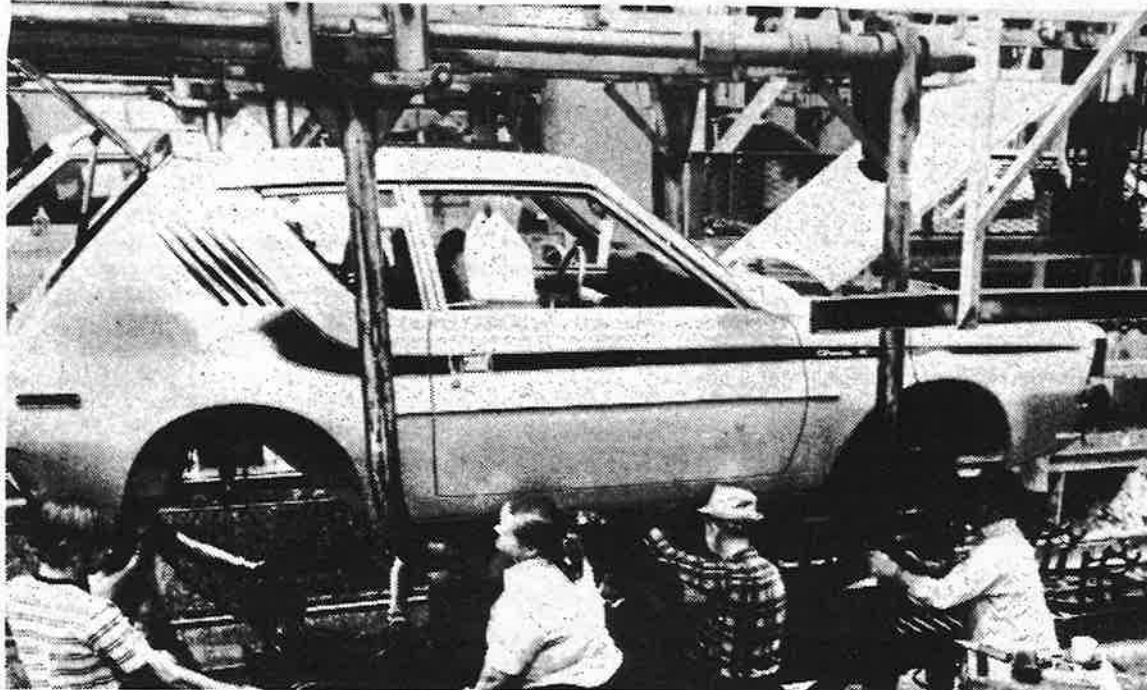
No wonder that the auto companies are now having to offer rebates to new-car customers in order to try to revive a fainting market! These rebates in most cases are only one-third of the above-mentioned price increase, however. Through price-fixing and other illegal, monopolistic practices, the auto companies conspire against the consumers to keep the price still abnormally high.

Their complaints of pitifully low profits, dutifully echoed by Mr. Woodcock, only show what tremendous profits these giant capitalist establishments expect as their due. The fourth-quarter profit figures for GM have just been announced, and their "paper thin" earnings for just 3 months amounted to \$508 million! How workers who are losing their very livelihood can be expected to feel sorry for the owners of General Motors is a mystery only Mr. Woodcock comprehends.

The "Big Three" in auto are all among the top ten largest industrial corporations in the world, with combined sales last year of close to \$70 billion.

Woodcock's statements on behalf of the auto bosses show a completely gutless and weak-kneed capitulation to these financial magnates. Whether through lack of willingness or ability, he refuses to take on the major corporations in any kind of struggle for the workers' interests. Woodcock is telling the workers they should passively accept layoffs and the rotten economic conditions they face because the company is "hurting."

But despite Woodcock's reluctance, a struggle is brewing. The economic conditions hitting the workers make it absolutely necessary to launch a terrific struggle, just for the necessities of living. In the course of that struggle, Woodcock and the other labor fakers along with him are going to be swept out of the unions and real workers' leaders will emerge to replace them.



UAW President Woodcock calls auto companies' profits "paper thin" [!] but GM just reported \$508 million profit for the last 3 months of 1974.

-Profits

(Continued from page 1)

the trend towards larger and larger conglomerates—with the billions of dollars of profits concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. (For example, Mobil just recently bought up the faltering giant retail department store chain of Montgomery Ward for \$800 million.)

Other large U.S. corporations (including many "defense" industrial corporations) producing key industrial goods are also showing the same profit picture as the oil and steel giants. Alcoa's 1974 profits were up 66 percent; Kaiser Aluminum, up 134 percent; United Aircraft, up 80 percent; Tenneco, up 40 percent; and

Withholding tax revenues fatten banks' earnings

By BILL DELVECCHIO

Every week the boss deducts withholding tax and social security from your paycheck, right? And every week your boss turns that money directly over to the federal government to buy bombs, airplanes, subsidies for corporate farmers not to grow anything, etc., right?

Well, not exactly.

The federal government does get your hard-earned money to start wars and raise food prices, but not every week. In fact, they only pick it up four times a year!

BANKS GET WINDFALL

As a public service, the commercial banks are kind enough to take this money from your boss and hold it for 3 months for the federal government. As a reward, the government lets the banks

invest the money, as long as they keep 8 percent of it in reserve and have all the money ready for pickup each quarter.

So, your hard-earned tax money is not only squandered by the government, but also loaned out for free to the biggest banks to get bigger.

According to the House Banking and Currency Committee, the interest that could have been earned on this money that the banks kept for themselves was \$428 million last year alone.

More than one-third of this money was earned by the nation's 50 largest banks, with the infamous Chase Manhattan at the top of the list, earning \$20 million last year off government accounts. The First National City Bank is believed to have earned \$15 million on the \$139 million in tax money it

holds. Both the Chase and First National City are controlled by the Rockefeller family.

BANKERS HAVE A GOOD FRIEND IN WASHINGTON

The Treasury Department knows that letting the banks hold the tax money gives them tremendous profits, and is all for it because it "helps stimulate the cash flow" and provides the banks with "working money." This isn't a secret conspiracy between the banks and the Treasury Department; it's the law. It just goes to show once again how the government serves the banks and big capitalists.

So, in case you were wondering what your tax money did besides keep Boeing in business, pay Richard Nixon's medical bills, and keep puppet dictators in power around the world, now you know.

Wage demands won in New School settlement

By PETE PERKINS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30—Striking clerical workers of Teamsters Local 1518 voted 83 to 19 this evening to accept a settlement and end their week-long strike, the first in the 57-year history of the New School for Social Research. The new contract will grant the workers a raise of \$25 each over a 2-year period, and grants full medical coverage to all full- and part-time clerical, secretarial, and library workers.

With respect to attrition and cost of living allowances, the New School's offer was less than generous. Votes cast against accepting the contract were mainly on the basis of possible

layoffs and loopholes in the cost of living clause. The contract limits the administration to a maximum of 10 percent layoff at the end of the current school year, but that could mean from 10 to 15 jobs lost.

Although the school administration got its way on some points, it found solid opposition to the revolting contract proposals originally put forth. The week-long strike held up registration and forced the cancellation of many important truck deliveries to the New School.

Most of all, it showed the pompous administration that even at an institution that had gone 57 years without a strike, there's always a first time for everything.

OCAW launches investigation of worker's suspicious death

By GRACE STILES

NEW YORK, Jan. 31—In the early years of the labor movement it was not uncommon for union activists to "disappear" or to die under very questionable circumstances. In the more recent past, however, with organizing a legally recognized right, business has generally relied on more sophisticated ways of eliminating "troublemakers." Harassment, blacklisting, and frameup firings have taken precedence over the cruder methods of yesteryear. But the old methods have not been completely abandoned.

The suspicious death of 28-year-old Karen Silkwood, a lab technician at a nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma, suggests that such methods are again playing a role in "industrial labor relations."

Karen Silkwood died on the evening of Nov. 13, 1974, when her car ran off a straight stretch of highway and hit a cement abutment. She had been driving to Oklahoma City to meet with David Burnham of the New York Times and Steven Wodka of her union, the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW). A friend says she was carrying an envelope full of evidence to that meeting—potential publicity on unsafe conditions at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant where she worked. The same conditions had prompted her and two other workers to meet with the Atomic Energy Commission in September. Curiously enough, the whereabouts of that envelope are still undisclosed.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol ruled her death an accident and said Ms. Silkwood had "fallen asleep at the wheel." The union, however, was very suspicious and hired its own private investigators to probe further into her death. An expert in automobile accidents working for the OCAW decided that "it was highly probable that the car was acted upon by an external force, that the crash was the result of Miss Silkwood's car being struck by another vehicle."

Karen Silkwood was known as an active unionist, and after she complained to the AEC it's safe to assume that she was considered an all-round undesirable by the company. She charged that Kerr-McGee had provided insufficient training for its workers, that faulty protective equipment was common in the plant, and that many workers had been exposed to dangerous amounts of plutonium, a highly radioactive element. In fact, at the time of the September meeting, the AEC already knew of "17 separate incidents which resulted in overexposure of plutonium for 73 individuals." She also raised questions about the general safety of the product as it affected the community.

THE FAST BUCK VS. NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Kerr-McGee plant makes plutonium fuel rods for an experimental breeder reactor being built in Richland, Wash. Although supposedly supervised by the AEC, Karen Silkwood and other workers have charged that

the company has falsified records and tests, and in some cases even neglected to run tests that might reveal faulty fuel rods. Asked about the potential danger associated with faulty fuel rods of the type produced by Kerr-McGee, Dr. Henry Kendall of MIT said they could "start off an accident which would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity."

OTHER BIZARRE INCIDENTS

Adding fuel to the fire of doubt about the fatal accident is the fact that just a week before her death, Karen Silkwood was the victim of a similarly unexplained contamination when she somehow swallowed plutonium. Anthony Mazzocchi of the OCAW reports that she feared "someone had tried to poison her," and that the OCAW "believes there is enough evidence to cause an investigation to be commenced into the possibility that Miss Silkwood was intentionally contaminated by sources unknown to her."

In an attempt to discredit her charges, the company has suggested she might have been smuggling plutonium out of the plant and might even have deliberately contaminated herself. The bourgeois press noted that plutonium could be used to make atomic bombs and that Kerr-McGee could not account for more than 60 lbs. of it—enough to destroy the population of the U.S.

Kerr-McGee shut down in late December after several more people had been contaminated by a spill in the plant. They said they had "evidence that some of the incidents have been contrived"—as if workers would knowingly jeopardize their own lives just to make Kerr-McGee look bad—and subjected workers to lie detector tests about union activities, contact with news reporters, and attempted smuggling.

However, in early January, the AEC announced that "more than half of the allegations made by Miss Silkwood . . . about the health and safety of Kerr-McGee workers had been substantiated or partly substantiated." The union is not satisfied with the findings and they continue to dispute the verdict of the Highway Patrol on the nature of her "accident." That accident is now under investigation by the federal government.



Karen Silkwood: was she murdered because of the evidence she had gathered against the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant?

Strikes, economic ills in Spain

By SHARON SHELTON

JANUARY 27—A wave of illegal strikes raging across Spain at a time of huge government deficits, bankruptcies, high inflation, and massive unemployment reveals a deep political and economic crisis confronting the Franco regime.

Because these strikes are illegal, they have been turning into political demonstrations against the government, characterized by fierce battles between the workers and Franco's police. Some of the major struggles have been:

—At Barcelona's SEAT plant, the Spanish subsidiary of FIAT, 4,000 workers fought with riot police at demonstrations earlier this month. According to English newspaper accounts, at least 23 workers were arrested and the crowd was fired upon by the cops. The demonstrations were called to protest temporary layoffs affecting 21,000 workers, and the permanent firing of 400 who were organizers of the illegal Workers' Commission.

—Striking auto workers at the Renault plant in Valladolid have been joined by students in militant anti-government demonstrations.

—In Navarre province, 1,000 potash miners fought with the police when they learned they would be locked out of the mines for two weeks. Some 20,000 miners

are now on strike, and several hundred sat down in the mines.

BASQUE STRUGGLE FIERCEST

—In late December workers in the Basque provinces, where the demand for a separate nation has put them in the forefront of the struggle against the Franco regime, declared a general strike participated in by 20,000 workers. Among them were over 3,000 steelworkers in the Basque capital of Bilbao, who were suspended indefinitely after going out over wages. Currently the provinces are under police alert due to the fierceness of the fighting.

From Barcelona to Madrid, these strikes show the desperation of the Spanish workers, who are braving arrest and dismissal from work to go out on strike with no strike pay. Spanish workers, suffering from some of the lowest wages in Europe, have been literally forced into confronting the government. The minimum wage in Spain is 90 cents a day, hardly enough to support a family with the 17 percent rate of inflation and wage freeze. For the peasants of Spain, who are the poorest segment of the population, starvation is becoming a real threat.

The workers' dissent over the economic difficulties they face is

compounded by a growing hostility to U.S. air and naval bases on Spanish soil which guarantee U.S. aid to the fascist Franco regime. According to the U.S. Committee for a Democratic Spain, an opinion poll last June found only 13 percent of the Spanish people approved of the U.S. presence there, and this number has decreased in the past few months.

Meanwhile, the Spanish ruling class has been selling properties and sending its wealth to foreign banks, according to reports inside the country. This has resulted in a constant exodus of capital, which has contributed to the economic crisis and gives an indication of how long they expect their rule to continue. The Franco family has also been discreetly moving furniture, paintings, and other valuables out of Madrid for safe keeping, according to the New York Times.

The recent events in Portugal, coupled with the worldwide capitalist crisis which has dealt Spain some of its hardest blows, have sent the Spanish ruling class into panic. But these developments are spurring on the Spanish workers and giving them added determination in their struggle, which is calling the continued existence of the Franco regime into question.

'Tender, loving greed' and the aged

By ELIZABETH ROSS

It has long been a truism that any society can be judged by its treatment of its most helpless members—young children, the mentally disturbed, the physically handicapped, the elderly.

Primitive nomadic peoples like the Eskimos had no way to help the helpless. Old men and women who could not keep up with their younger companions in the long trek in search for new hunting grounds took it for granted that they must wait in a snow house to freeze to death—that being the most merciful, least painful way to depart from life.

In the middle ages mentally disturbed people were regarded as criminals or as beings possessed by Satan, and were confined behind bars. Often chained to the wall, they slept on straw and lived on bread and water.

Modern "progressive" nations have repudiated such attitudes as inhumane and barbarous. They have passed laws to alleviate the sufferings of those who cannot take care of themselves.

Looked at in the light of these humanitarian pretensions, the facts surrounding many of America's repulsive nursing homes—facts which have only recently received publicity—help to prove the decline of capitalist "civilization."

It is reported that the nationwide investigations into nursing home conditions were sparked by a Middle Western social worker, Mary Mendelson, who had been given a routine assignment to look into the conditions of nursing homes in her state, and who then wrote the book, *Tender, Loving Greed*.

HEARTLESS PROFIT MAKING

But however the investigations were begun, they have unearthed such evidence of heartless profit-making at the expense of the health and lives of the poor, sick, and aged, that readers all over the world have been shocked and sickened at this new form of corruption.

National attention has been focused on Bernard Bergman, though he is only one of many. He is the man who said only a few weeks ago, "I am not a poor man, but I'm not a millionaire either." However, it was soon disclosed that, though he began his career as director and chaplain of a "nonprofit" nursing home on the Lower East Side of Manhattan before World War II, by 1969 he himself listed his net worth at \$6 million, and by 1973 his accountant put the figure just under \$24 million.

Bergman and his wife own, or have direct family interests in, at least 20 private homes and some connection as promoters in most of the 88 that serve welfare patients in New York City.

Their holdings are not only in New York, but extend to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Florida.

MILK MEDICAID

The Rochester Times-Union reported on January 22 that nine nursing homes in Monroe County charged nearly \$300,000 in non-Medicaid expenses to Medicaid. "Included were the costs of college courses for a son-in-law of a nursing home owner, tickets to hockey games, contributions to a political party, advertising, home

telephones, legal fees to fight summonses, and support to bowling teams."

There have been so many allegations of abuses in Connecticut that the Connecticut General Assembly has been forced to investigate the 209 nursing homes in that state.

Because of the advent of Medicaid in 1966, this opportunity for a few to reap phenomenal profits has spread into every state of the United States. But these greedy bloodsuckers have not been content to take advantage of the public funds donated by Medicaid. They have cheated their patients in every conceivable way—serving substandard meals (in Kentucky police found that two patients had

starved to death in a nursing home), providing scant medical attention, and in some cases not even furnishing sheets for the beds.

In sharp contrast to this sorry state of affairs in the richest country in the world is the real tenderness and love given to mentally disturbed and senile patients in the poor country of Cuba. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has documented what many American visitors have told about visiting a nursing home in Cuba. There the patients are helped to feel a pride in accomplishing such tasks as they are able to handle. They tend a rose garden, raise chickens, grow vegetables, and put on entertainments for each other and their guests. They feel loved and useful.

Racist cop rewarded for murder of youth

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Feb. 3—The New York Police Department not only refuses to punish racist murders by members of its force, but has actually begun rewarding the perpetrators of such crimes.

At least, so it seems in the case of Frank Bosco, the white cop who shot young Claude Reese Jr. in the head last September 15.

The cold-blooded killing unleashed a storm of protest from Black residents in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn where the 14 year old lived. Witnesses were found who said that Bosco had held Reese with one hand and shot him with another. Yet, the police responded by rewarding Bosco with tax-free disability pay for the rest of his life—to the tune of what could amount to over half a million dollars.

BOSCO SUFFERED 'TRAUMA'

Bosco's lucrative reward came after a team of psychiatrists recommended his classification as "disabled" because of the "trauma" he supposedly suffered after murdering the child. The recommendation was followed by quick authorization by the Police Pension Fund for Bosco's retirement for a "disabling injury suffered in the line of duty."

Payments of nearly \$1,000 a month from the pension fund begin now for the retired cop, who is only 23. Not counting interest and money saved from taxes, this sum could total over \$500,000 by the

time he is 65.

From the time of the shooting until his retirement was announced, Bosco was on leave from the Police Department. Last September, outraged members of the Black community began organizing demonstrations, demanding immediate suspension of the cop, that he be put on trial for murder, and that the community be given control over the police.

COMMUNITY ANGER DISREGARDED

But Bosco's case never went past the grand jury. The cops usually don't have much to fear from the courts, since they are just two arms of the same state that serves the interests of the rich. What's more, unpunished cop murders of Black people—even of children—are unfortunately all too common. Just last year, for example, 10-year-old Clifford Glover was shot in the back by one of Bosco's fellow racist cops, who himself went free despite angry protests from the Black community in Queens where Glover had lived.

There are far too many other examples of Black people being gunned down by white cops—cops who have been emboldened by the chronic failure to punish racist murderers who wear a badge. But what is different about Bosco's case is not that he is free, but that he has actually profited from his crime, something that can provide a dangerous incentive for others like him.

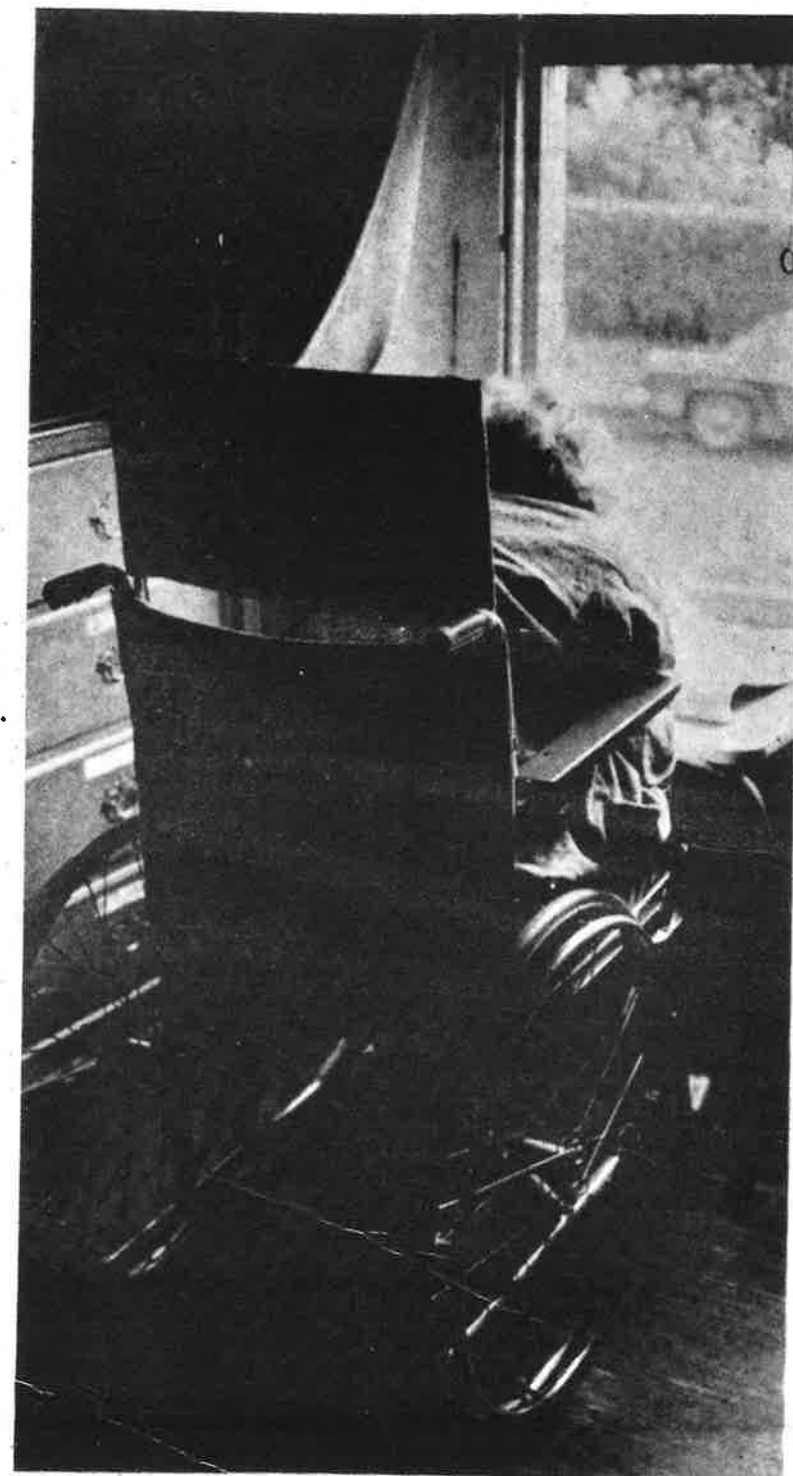
Food stamp applicants grow as crisis deepens

Food stamps don't save you a whole lot, and if Ford's plan to raise their cost to 30 percent of your income goes through, they won't save most people anything. But so many people are living on the edge these days that the number of people using food stamps is now officially over 17 million!

That's 1 in every 12 people

paying for their groceries with food stamps. And most of them are now the working poor and the unemployed, as contrasted to a year ago when the majority buying food stamps survived on some kind of welfare.

These figures, recently squeezed out of the Department of Agriculture, show how hard up



"Any society can be judged by its treatment of its most helpless members" Photo: LNS

L. A. cops get training in handling food riots

A training program has begun in Los Angeles to teach the police how to suppress food riots that are expected because of growing poverty.

Already 500 cops have gone through the program, and all 7,200 L.A. police will be graduated in techniques of how to violently break up demonstrating crowds of people. The head of the program, Commander Frank Brittell, sounded like the private police and scabs hired by such companies as Ford and Republic Steel earlier this century when he told the press that "A major unemployment problem could lead to major labor troubles, civil disturbances by

people who are out of work."

These days big business doesn't have to hire private gunthugs—the official men in blue are more than eager to do the job for them!

Brittell, by the way, used to be in charge of the notorious Special Weapons and Tactics force (SWAT) that led the assault on the SLA, burning them alive, and has had shootouts with the Black Panther Party.

The capitalist system is in deep trouble, and has no answers except repression. But when people are hungry while food rots in the warehouses, when they are cold and homeless and their furniture is being repossessed, they rebel—pigs or no pigs.

millions have already become since the wave of layoffs hit. It's not easy to get food stamps. Involved questionnaires on income must be answered, you have to prove extreme poverty to be eligible, and then people must line up each month to requalify.

The lines for people applying in Phoenix, Ariz., last month started up the night before. If you weren't in line before dawn, you didn't get called that day.

There's plenty of food for all in this country—more arable land per capita than anywhere else in the world. And there are almost

limitless raw materials and a highly developed productive machine to make them into what people need.

What's wrong?

The capitalist system—where ownership of everything is in the hands of a profit-hungry few. The workers, who built all these things, can organize to take them over and run them for the benefit of all. Of course that's a tremendous task, but the working people have literally moved mountains. They can and will move the rich parasites running this country off their backs.



Supporters of the Menominee Warriors set up a vigil near the occupied Alexian monastery. Two days later, the Alexian Brothers decided to sell the unused building to the Menominees for \$1. Photo: LNS.

30 arrested after Menominee victory in monastery takeover

By JIM MILLER

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 4—At noon on Sunday, February 2, the Alexian Brothers agreed to turn over the deed of their unused novitiate at Gresham, Wis., to the Menominee people. The price was \$1.

This resolution of the conflict over the monastery was, in the words of AIM leader Dennis Banks, a great victory for the Menominee people. The slogan "Deed or Die" should be adopted by all Indian people, Banks told the Menominee Warriors occupying the novitiate.

30 INDIANS ARRESTED

The struggle is not over, however. About 30 Menominee people were arraigned on criminal trespass charges this morning. They had ended their occupation of the novitiate at 9:30 last night after a month-long standoff with the National Guard, local police, and vigilantes. All those arrested are presently out on bail, but they expect more charges may be brought against them.

The deed to the monastery is to be turned over on February 22, the day the Menominees return to reservation status. The Indians intend to convert the unused monastery building into a much-needed hospital for the Menominee people, who have no adequate medical facilities.

An end to the occupation was delayed by about 24 hours as tense negotiation went on between the Menominee Warriors and the Shawano County sheriff. A Workers World correspondent in Gresham reported Monday evening that the warriors were demanding to know what charges would be brought against them. The sheriff refused to talk to them but made statements to the press about full prosecution.

VIGILANTES FIRED INTO MONASTERY

The Warriors were also asking for protection from local vigilantes who slipped through National Guard lines Sunday night on

snowmobiles and fired several shots into the monastery. They feared for the security of the building once they agreed to leave.

The settlement followed what appeared to be a buildup by government authorities for an armed invasion of the occupied monastery. On Saturday, 350 more National Guard troops with armored personnel carriers (APCs) had been sent to Gresham. Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey issued orders that morning reinstating the complete blockade of the Menominees that had existed when the local racist Sheriff's Department surrounded the novitiate at the start of January. Lucey ordered a "lightening of the ring" around the novitiate of 750 troops with APCs

and moved one step closer to an armed invasion.

SUPPORTERS MARCHED THROUGH GUARD LINES

Earlier in the week the National Guard had set a deadline of noon on Friday, January 31, for a negotiated settlement. That deadline passed as the Menominee Warriors met to discuss the latest proposals. As the deadline approached a march of 150 Menominees and supporters, including a delegation from Youth Against War & Fascism, went through the guard lines and set up a vigil to see that the guard took no offensive action. Other supporters in Gresham were actor Marlon Brando and Father James Groppi, who was prominent in the civil

rights struggles in the 1960s.

On January 28 the Warriors Society had suspended negotiations after a Warrior had been ambushed and wounded, either by Guardsmen or vigilantes. This came in the midst of threats by local white citizens to take the law into their own hands and march on the monastery if the occupation wasn't ended.

In another development, a number of Milwaukee area Catholic organizations appealed to the Alexian Brothers, who own the title to the land, to recognize that life is a much higher prerogative than property. The Alexians, who had originally demanded \$750,000 for the property, themselves received it as a gift from the woman who had built the luxury mansion.

Support grows for Senecas in struggle for control of land

BUFFALO, Feb. 3—Support continues to grow here for Marlene Kennedy, a Seneca traditionalist facing charges of attempted murder of a policeman and reckless endangerment. A rally here last week drew nearly 40 people—Native American, white, and Black.

The rally was addressed by Marlene, who discussed the incident from which her charges stemmed. On January 9, officials of the Niagara-Mohawk Power Co. invaded the Cattaraugus Reservation in western New York State with a State Police escort to shut off power to the homes of many of the Indian families, including the Kennedys. The Seneca traditionalists, who have declared their sovereignty as a nation, have been withholding payment on their utility bills to test their demand for the right to renegotiate contracts with big corporations that have been using their land without giving them fair

payment.

COPS HID IN WOODS

Although they had already shut the power off, the State Police, dressed like hunters, hid in the woods around the Kennedys' trailer early that morning. Marlene described how she was aroused by dogs barking and saw empty cars parked outside her home. She called repeatedly for a response to who was there, and when she got none, fired warning shots over the cars.

Although the men did not identify themselves as state troopers until later, Marlene was charged with attempted murder of a policeman and held on \$25,000 bail for nearly a week until the bail was reduced.

DEFENSE COMMITTEE STARTED

Marlene's supporters, including traditionalist Senecas and members of Buffalo Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF), have

organized a defense committee to build mass support for the case and to defend the rights of the Indian people.

Meredith Quinn, legal adviser to the traditionalist Senecas and an organizer of the defense committee, spoke at the rally about the Seneca struggle for sovereignty around which Marlene's case centers. The traditionalist Senecas proclaimed their sovereignty in 1973 in a move to secure their lands and rights as a nation against the U.S. government's plans to terminate the reservation. "Elected" Indian officials supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs have gone along with this policy. If termination is carried through, the land of the Senecas, strategically located in western New York and rich in resources such as natural gas would be up for sale. The Senecas themselves would be excluded from buying it for 5 years.

Washington established an

Pollution's murder of

By BOB McCUBBIN

NEW YORK, Jan 31—There was a time, not so long ago, when the streams, lakes, and rivers of North America provided millions of poor people with a tasty and nutritious addition to their meager weekly menus. But fresh-water fish are no longer available in most areas. Industrial wastes have killed them or rendered them unfit for human consumption.

For those communities of Native American people whose protein intake consists mainly of fish, the growing industrial pollution of their waters has become an acute danger.

The plight of the Anishnawbegs is the subject of a detailed article in the January 1975 issue of Akwesasne Notes. These Native Americans are an Ojibway people who live along the lakes and streams of northwestern Ontario near Kenora. From at least 1961 to 1970, the Dryden Pulp and Paper Mill dumped from 10 to 20 pounds of deadly poisonous mercury into the waters above the Kenora area every day. In 1970 the provincial and national governments finally "became aware" of this situation. Their response was to ask the company to "cut down" its pollution and to put up "Fish for Fun" (not for eating) signs. As inadequate as these signs were, they were promptly removed by businessmen who feared the signs would hurt their lucrative tourist trade.

MERCURY POLLUTION CONTINUES

At one point the Canadian government sent letters to the Ojibway people in the area supposedly warning them of the danger of contaminated fish. The official report on the situation was suppressed by the government. The report stated that the Dryden Mill is continuing to discharge mercury into the water and that at the present level of contamination it will take 70 years for the river system to cleanse itself.

The monstrous proportions of the

elective form of government on the reservation that has served the interests of corporations such as Niagara-Mohawk and the National Fuel Gas Co. The latter amasses profits from 25 natural gas wells it has metered on the reservation, for which it pays the Senecas only a small amount annually.

INDIAN MILITANTS

BANNED FROM RESERVATION

Robert C. Hoag, the current elected president of the reservation, has threatened a move to expel the traditionalists from their land since the shooting incident. He has already banned Dennis Banks and Russell Means from the American Indian Movement and Meredith Quinn from entering Seneca land. This exclusion order is being challenged by the traditionalists, who have filed a restraining order to challenge the legal right of Hoag to exclude anyone from the reservation.

Fred Kennedy, a headman for the Beaver Clan of which Marlene is a member, challenged Hoag's "leadership" of the Senecas: "The Seneca nation is merely a corporation under state law and Hoag speaks for the corporation, not for the Seneca people."

In defending their right to sovereignty, the Senecas also face an important struggle against the

wake- Ojibways

crime can only be appreciated, however; in light of the mass mercury poisoning in Minamata, Japan, the effects of which have been carefully documented. It was not until 12 or 13 years after the contamination of fish began at Minamata that symptoms of mercury poisoning became obvious. Over 700 victims have by now been officially designated, while 2,000 more await verification. Over 100 have died.

Mercury poisoning, or Minamata disease as it has come to be called, destroys the nervous system. Ability to walk, talk, see, and hear are all affected. Pain is continuous and intense. Convulsions are common. Continued ingestion of mercury results in death.

REPETITION OF JAPANESE DISASTER?

The Native people of the Kenora region have been eating fish contaminated by mercury for just about as long as the people of Minamata did before the disaster there became apparent. In the past several years, while government officials have continued to poo-poo the fears of independent investigators, the death rate in the area has soared.

The provincial coroner's office admits that no autopsies have been performed since 1972 when a man named Thomas Strong, known to be a big fish eater, died. The high level of mercury in this man's blood was put down to accidental contamination of the blood sample after it was taken.

At what point does this kind of conscious negligence in the interests of the profit-mad industrialists become recognized as mass murder? When will the genocidal assaults on Native Americans be ended? The governments of the billionaires in Washington and Ottawa will never admit these crimes, much less repent. Justice will come only when the people united against them.

New York State courts' claim to jurisdiction in the case, in clear violation of Seneca treaty rights.

YAWF SUPPORTS SENECA STRUGGLE

Dan Bentivogli of YAWF addressed the rally and explained YAWF's involvement in building support for Marlene as the State escalates its assault against the Senecas.

"Marlene's case, the Attica trials, the escalation of the war in Vietnam, increasing unemployment, higher utility bills—all show that the government's offensive is heightening. Marlene's case is important because it is a symbol for working people who keep shelling out more while corporations like the utilities get the use of Indian land for practically nothing.

"It is important for all to support the Seneca's right to self-defense against these invasions of their land. It is only a difference in the degree of exploitation.

"They shot at Marlene. They haven't shot at us—yet. Her struggle is our struggle."

A fund-raising benefit is being planned for Marlene Kennedy for Saturday, February 15. Funds and letters of support should be sent to the Marlene Indian Defense Committee, 45 Allen St., Apt. 17, Buffalo 14202.

Felony charge dropped against 3 of Houston 12 as trial begins

HOUSTON, Feb. 4—In a surprise move yesterday, Assistant District Attorney Stu Stewart asked for dismissal of all felony charges of "assault with intent to murder a police officer" against Alex Rodriguez Jr., and Jose Barriga, two of the Houston 12 defendants. (It was learned as we go to press that the felony charges against Miguel Trujillo have also been dismissed.)

Alex Rodriguez commented following the dismissal, "The DA admitted in effect that his charges were groundless. This is a real victory for us after 16 months of suffering, hard work, and struggle. The 'attempted murder' charges against Barte Haile, Miguel Trujillo, and William Christiansen are just as phony as the ones against Jose and myself. All 12 of us are innocent of the charges against us. The support given us by thousands of people here in Houston and around the country will finally stop the frame-up against all of us."

Meanwhile, inside the 208th District Court, jury selection for the remaining three defendants continues in what promises to be a

historic trial.

The Houston 12 were arrested on Oct. 9, 1973, at a demonstration organized by Youth Against War & Fascism protesting U.S.-Israeli aggression in the Middle East. An army of police attacked the anti-war picketers, wielding black-jacks, guns, and clubs. In the aftermath, twelve demonstrators were charged with "assault on a police officer" and five were additionally charged with "assault with intent to murder a police officer."

The State's effort to railroad the 12 is being opposed by a great number of people. On Friday, January 31, Daniel Berrigan traveled to Houston at his own expense to speak on behalf of the Houston 12 defendants. He drew a receptive crowd at two meetings, one at lunch hour at the University of Houston campus, and the second in the evening at a Unitarian church.

He attacked the frame-up of the 12 young men, saying, "In the six intense hours I've been in Houston, most of which were spent with the defendants and their families, I have come to know these men as men of conscience. I should be on

trial with them, for I am as guilty of the crimes they are charged with as they are."

LARGE PICKET LINE MARKS OPENING OF TRIAL

On the morning of February 3, the sidewalk outside the court was filled with supporters demanding an end to the frame-up. Small children, whose fathers are on trial, were carried around the picket line by elderly Chicano people who mustered their strength to support the young defendants.

After 7 hours of exhaustive questioning, a panel of 12 jurors was selected. The DA used most of his challenges to remove the young workers and most of the Black and Chicano people from the jury. The 12 who will return a verdict are primarily older white people, although there are one Black and two Chicano jurors, and one juror under 30.

On the same day, defense attorneys presented two major motions for dismissal of all charges. The first alleges government misconduct involving suppression of evidence which could prove the innocence of the defendants. Photographs taken at the demonstration site and seized by the police have not appeared among the evidence shown to the defendants and their attorneys. Defense attorneys have charged that the photographs have been destroyed.

William Christiansen, one of the three defendants, explained, "We are certain that the police have violated the law many times in trying to railroad us. The police photographer present at the demonstration claims that the 72 pictures he shot did not come out because he forgot to take off the lens cover, and that the movie camera he had did not have film.

"Specifically, our motion refers to the fact that one civilian photographer submitted to the Homicide Squad 36 prints and negatives. Now the police claim they can find only one of those pictures. We feel that the state is deliberately destroying evidence

that will show they were the real criminals that night."

The second motion for dismissal of charges is that the Houston Police Department have used illegal electronic surveillance against the defendants and their attorneys. The police files studied by Judge Jefferson contain mysteriously coded references to information sources. Police Chief Carroll Lynn was ordered to appear in court and answer questions under oath on a memorandum about the alleged wiretapping. Defense attorneys plan to gain access to criminal intelligence files which demonstrate that illegal wiretapping was done.

With jury selection completed, a packed courtroom watched as the first day of testimony began on Tuesday, February 4. In his opening statement to the jury, Assistant DA Stewart outlined the State's case against the three defendants. "The purpose of this picket line was not educational," DA Stewart said, implying that the YAWF line, heavily "armed" with placards and banners, had planned to storm Police Headquarters and the Zionist War Bond rally at the same time.

After concluding his remarks, the DA paraded onto the witness stand the state's chief witnesses, all cops. Their testimony was obviously well coached, as each one dutifully repeated the vile slander that anti-Semitic obscenities were yelled by the demonstrators. The spectacle of members of the Houston Police Department, one of the most racist and anti-Semitic in the land, playing the role of enlightened guardians of the Jewish people, was more than most of the courtroom could stomach.

More prosecution witnesses are scheduled for the next day or so, and then defense testimony will begin. The morale of the defendants and all concerned with the defense of the brothers is unshakeable, as is their determination to struggle until victory.

Free the Houston 12!



Four of the Houston 12 defendants, with their attorneys and Dan Berrigan, who spoke in their behalf. WW photo: Tim

U. S. military exercises in Puerto Rico hit

By AL LONG

NORFOLK, Jan. 27—Several East Coast organizations of active-duty GIs, veterans, and civilian supporters have launched a campaign against a massive U.S. military training exercise taking place in and around the waters of Puerto Rico.

Each year, units from all branches of the U.S. military are joined by troops from various NATO countries in the "readiness training exercise" in the Caribbean. Operation Springboard is carried out as a direct threat against the peoples of the Caribbean region, demonstrating the imperialists' readiness and willingness to intervene militarily in the event of revolutionary upsurges in Puerto Rico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and other Latin American countries. It is an especially intimidating maneuver aimed at socialist Cuba, still the target of the imperialist economic

and military blockade.

The exercise is also an important element in the training of military units from a number of Southeastern U.S. bases—the units that make up the military's primary strike force for imperialist intervention anywhere in the Mideast, the Mediterranean, Africa, or the Caribbean.

This year's Operation Springboard will include 20 Navy ships from Norfolk, Charleston, S.C., and Mayport, Fla., ten British ships; three U.S. submarines; 50 to 75 planes from the U.S. and Dutch air forces; and Marine units from Camp LeJeune, N.C. The exercise will last from late January to the end of March and will include practice in a variety of naval and amphibious maneuvers, all carried out in or around Puerto Rican territory, directly against the will of the Puerto Rican people.

MARINES TO SAN JUAN?

The training exercise has special significance for Puerto Rico, the

most thoroughly dominated U.S. colony in Latin America and the site of several vast military installations. With a rising tide of rebellion against U.S. imperialist domination both on the island and in the Puerto Rican communities on the continent, Operation Springboard more than ever bears the message of potential military action against the Puerto Rican people, which would be carried out to a large extent by the same units participating in the exercise.

It is with an emphasis on support for the Puerto Rican liberation struggle that an educational and organizing campaign against Operation Springboard has been started by the Defense Committees of Norfolk, Jacksonville, and Charleston, the Fort Bragg GI union, and the Black Military Resistance League. These groups are circulating a petition to the U.S. Congress which declares in part:

"We the undersigned active-duty

men and women, military families and private citizens are opposed to the military training exercise called 'Operation Springboard.' 'Operation Springboard' is part of our training in providing fire support for suppressing rebellions in countries like Puerto Rico. . . . We support the struggle of the people of Puerto Rico for their independence, and call on you to take whatever actions are necessary to stop Operation Springboard."

The groups have also published a pamphlet about Operation Springboard and U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico, which they intend to circulate widely among active-duty GIs, especially those involved in the training exercise.

For copies of the pamphlet or petition, please contact The Defense Committee, Box 9870, Norfolk, Va. 23505, or the Black Military Resistance League, Box 6289, Norfolk, Va. 23508.


EDITORIAL

Playing with crisis figures

Last week saw a stunning reappraisal by the U.S. Treasury Department of the presumed financial crisis created by increased oil prices. After months of telling the American people that the drain on the currencies of the industrialized capitalist nations would be so catastrophic that it amounted to "strangling" the West, and implying that there might be no other answer for Washington than military intervention, the administration has done a sudden about-face.

On January 29, Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon told a Senate Finance subcommittee that new estimates by economic forecasters "support the view that the international financial aspects of the oil situation are manageable." "There is no reason," the Treasury Department's analysis concluded, "that the accumulation of substantial debt by oil-importing nations to oil exporters need undermine either the solvency or the liquidity of oil importers as a group."

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE \$1 TRILLION?

This is a far, far cry from earlier hysterical predictions that by 1980 the OPEC countries would have accumulated \$1 trillion or more, and that in a few years all the major industries of the U.S. would be in hock to the Arab states! Government economists are now talking about the deficit peaking in 5 years at around \$200 billion, and that after that the OPEC countries will be running a balance of payments deficit. And even these figures are justifiably suspect now.

Whether this drastic revision is the result of a new accommodation of some sort in the Middle East is not immediately apparent. What it does reveal is how the public is completely at the mercy of the top bankers and their government agents for information on the workings of the international capitalist economy. Up until a month ago, the public was being whipped up to believe that disaster was imminent; a war fever was apparent in the White House; now everything is suddenly "manageable."

'BREAKDOWN OF WORLD ORDER'

Kissinger addressed the UN on September 23, threatening the oil-exporting countries that "the world cannot sustain the present level of prices, much less continuing increases." Speaking on the same day in Detroit, President Ford issued the ultimatum: "exorbitant prices can only distort the world economy, run the risk of worldwide depression, and threaten the breakdown of world order and safety."

Then came the rash of statements by Kissinger, Ford, and Secretary of War Schlesinger that an invasion of the Arab countries was a contingency in U.S. military planning. All this was presumably justified by the fact that disaster threatened the U.S. economy.

Workers World newspaper has pointed out for many months that the only thing that has accumulated in the hands of the OPEC countries are IOUs; there has been hardly any transfer of real wealth, despite the oil price increases. Inflation in the imperialist countries began well before the OPEC decision, and oil has only been brought up to a more reasonable price in relation to other commodities.

Moreover, the oil-producing countries are all bourgeois regimes, and they have so far been induced by the imperialists to invest most of their revenue in the West, while spending some buying up surplus arms the imperialists are anxious to sell. Very little of the wealth has actually gone into material goods to improve the living conditions of the Arab masses.

THEY CAN TURN AROUND AGAIN

Can this picture be turned around again by economic "experts" pretending to be handing out the last word? Of course it can. The old saying, "Figures don't lie but liars can figure" still applies. Should the U.S. ruling class decide that war against the Arab countries is the only way to achieve its imperialist objectives, then we will undoubtedly again be assailed with spurious facts and figures that prove anything they want to prove.

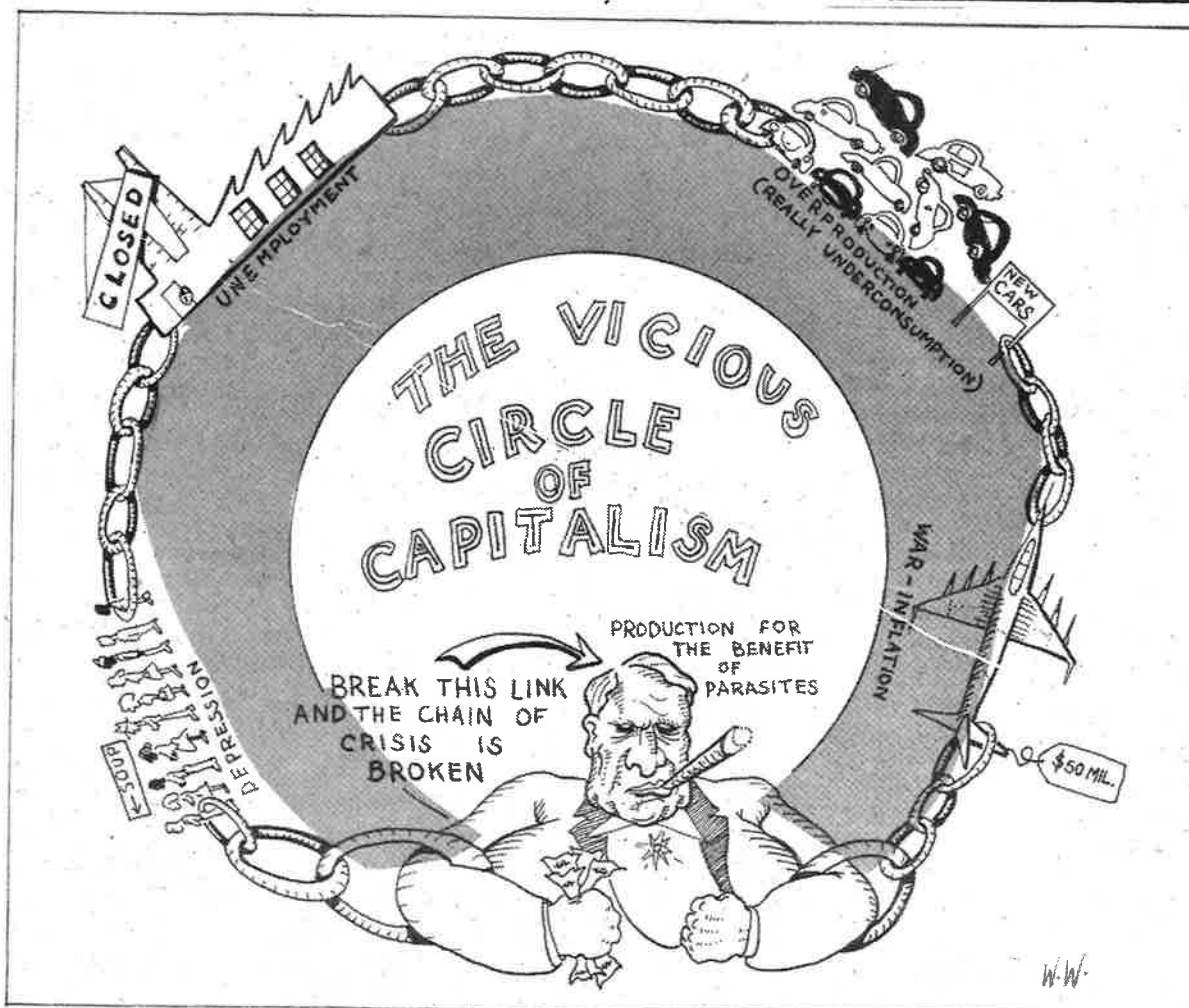
**Jobs at home—
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Thurs. Feb. 13 7:30p.m.

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**YOUTH AGAINST WAR & FASCISM (YAWF)
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46 W. 21 Street New York, N. Y. 10010 tel. AL-5-0352



-Alabama

(Continued from page 2)
down the freeway when it suddenly burst into flames, nearly causing him serious injury. The car was totally destroyed.

LEGAL DEFENSE MEETS STATE INTERFERENCE

The defense effort for the Atmore-Holman Brothers has had obstacles thrown in the path of the lawyers and their clients by prison authorities, the State's Attorney General, and the courts.

William Baxley, State Attorney General and rumored to be next in line to succeed the Wallace seat in the Governor's office, has chosen to personally prosecute the Atmore-Holman Brothers. Defense lawyers trying to see their clients have been refused on direct orders from Baxley. When the lawyers protested and insisted on their rights, they were physically

removed from the prison.

The lawyers got a court order to allow visitation with clients and witnesses, but Baxley made sure he would get 48 hours notice before any witnesses were interviewed. This procedure makes it difficult for the lawyers who have to travel a long distance to the prison, and also allows time for potential intimidation of the witnesses by authorities. To add an extra obstacle, several of the Brothers and key witnesses are constantly transferred back and forth between prisons across the state.

When Atlanta attorney Reber Boulton was travelling between prisons, his brakes failed and he narrowly avoided a serious accident. A mechanic said it looked like sabotage, and several prisoners reported seeing guards near his vehicle while he was in Mt. Meigs prison.

DEFENSE CAMPAIGN BUILDS, SUPPORT GROWS

In spite of the harassment and obstacles, the defense campaign for the Atmore-Holman Brothers has been steadily growing. There

have been several demonstrations of support and last summer the courtroom was packed, prompting a delay in the trials. The Brothers have drawn public support from many of their relatives and relatives of other prisoners organized as Families for Action in Birmingham and Mobile-Prichard. Defense committees have been organized which include ex-prisoners and IFA members, community leaders, tenants' rights and welfare rights activists, and prisoner support groups.

A march and rally to free the Atmore-Holman Brothers and stop police repression will take place in Birmingham on February 8. And supporters from all over Alabama and the South are being mobilized to attend the trials in Brewton, Ala., beginning February 10.

Those who cannot attend the trials are being asked to send letters or telegrams of protest to Governor George C. Wallace, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala., and to William Baxley, Attorney General, c-o Escambia County Courthouse, Brewton, Ala. 36426.

LETTERS

Time has come to change system

Hot Springs, Ark.:

Along with my renewal for a year, I include \$1 for our Political Prisoners for a free distribution to them. Some of my fellow workers have promised to me they will try and help somehow.

Our great industries are operated to suit the needs of the corporate ownership. When the profits are not coming in they lay off the workers and tell them "We will call you back when we need you."

Meantime the government tells us "It will get better in a little while," trying their best to keep us in a cheery mood and in past times we believed them. They tell us not to ask for more on our wages and keep tightening our belt and be patient. The industrialists raise the prices on the goods we have produced and the officials don't say much to them. The politicians have been paid in advance to do big favors for them and very little or nothing for us, or just promises for

us.

We just keep paying the rent on our homes throughout our lives and when we are out of work and on welfare not being able to keep up our payments we lose our homes.

This has happened in all our past history. Friends and my fellow men and women—this system has to be changed to collective ownership. We have the right to do it and the duty to do it. Some foolish people say "No! Socialism will not work in America." But I hope that most of you workers and fellow Americans will give great consideration to changing the social system. I am not a newswriter and just a plain hardworking man all my 85 years, but I want to put this idea in writing so people can see the time is here when we must make changes.

Miller Russity

People got to eat

A.W., New York:
Listen to the beat
of marching feet,
Out in the street
people got to eat.

Hey Rocky, is the
profit that good?
People are not made
of wood.

Hey Kissinger, Rocky's
little boy,
My world is not
your toy.

Hey Ford, servant of
the people,
Holy as a steeple,
You show a double face,
Speeding up the arms race.

There ain't no jobs
Because inflation robs.
Prices going up
to the sky
Make the aged die
And the children cry.

People tire
of the billions
Thrown in the
Vietnam fire.

Happy is the day
When the three are sent
Along the way
The dinosaur went.

The political crisis in Portugal

By SAM MARCY

FEBRUARY 4—As the political crisis in Portugal deepens, a classic showdown of unprecedented dimensions seems absolutely inevitable. Certainly all the signs point in that direction. The Oporto events of January 25 in which left-wing militants broke up the convention of the so-called Social Democratic Center Party (a neo-fascist organization) and in which the delegates had to be rescued the next day by government paratroops, is only one symptom of the temper of the mass movement of the working class.

DEMONSTRATION IN OPORTO

The Oporto demonstration was not composed merely of MRPP (so-called "Maoists") militants but encompassed a considerable spectrum of others, even including youths from the Socialist Party, which felt obligated to publicly disavow them. But most important, all accounts in the Western capitalist press, including *Le Monde*, the *London Economist*, and the international weekly edition of the *Manchester Guardian*, show that the soldiers were friendly to the demonstrators and well-nigh fraternized with them.

The *London Economist* goes so far as to state that "there are unconfirmed reports that the police were fired on by conscripts (soldiers) sympathetic to the rioters, which may be partly borne out by the fact that five policemen were admitted to hospital with bullet-wounds that night. At any rate, it appears that the soldiers, who moved about haphazardly without any apparent direction, made no attempt to disperse the crowd." (*London Economist*, February 1)

The *Manchester Guardian* weekly of February 1 confirms that "the conference had to be abandoned after left-wing demonstrators besieged the hall while police and troops stood by."

Thus, while the government sent troops to defend the neo-fascist conference, the soldiers, at least to a limited degree, fraternized with the demonstrators. Alvaro Cunhal, the CP leader, of course denied that the CP had anything to do with the demonstration and condemned it as a "provocation by reactionaries and networks of agents of foreign services." He characterized it as a "valuable contribution to reaction."

Of course, it is entirely possible that there were agent provocateurs



"In a revolutionary situation, the masses [often] move sharply to the left while the leaders, frightened by the hostile pressure of the possessing classes, move to the right."

the political significance of the demonstration which overpowered the neo-fascist conference so that it had to be rescued by government paratroops.

OWNERS ABANDON LANDS, FACTORIES

In the background of the political crisis are matters of broader social significance which are responsible for the growing acuteness of class antagonisms. In the first place, the number of estates abandoned by landlords has vastly increased and all the indications are that the abandonments are by no means voluntary acts of the landlords. They have fled, in many cases, for fear of their lives. Many are in Brazil, Paris, and London, and a good many are lobbying in Washington—as if the Pentagon and the State Department would need any nudging to intervene.

But the same story is also true of the abandonment of industrial enterprises. Many capitalists have fled the country. It is well known that agricultural workers have taken over the tilling of the land on many estates and that workers are doing the same thing in some establishments which have been vacated by their employers. It is needless to state that the banks are sabotaging the economy and while

regain their standing. They feel themselves endangered, notwithstanding the assurances of the government.

BEHIND THE GROWING SPLIT

The fear of the ruling class has manifested itself in a virtual split in the coalition forged by the CP with the SP (Socialist Party) and the PPD (Popular Democratic Party). It explains why the latter two organizations have moved swiftly towards the right at a time when popular sentiment among the masses has shifted to the left. This is a characteristic frequently seen in a revolutionary situation. The masses move sharply to the left while the leaders, frightened by the hostile pressure of the possessing classes, move to the right.

The CP position from the very beginning has been a gradualistic approach towards the economic problems of the working class and the reshaping of capitalist society in general. Its conception of the developing struggle was limited to the framework of bourgeois democracy. It therefore most enthusiastically pushed the broadest possible united front which included the SP and the PPD.

But the course of the struggle has shown that the possessing as well as the non-possessing classes in Portuguese society (as in any society divided into classes) have entirely different, opposing, and antagonistic conceptions of democracy. Each must try to defend its own class interests. In the present critical situation in Portugal, the kind of popular democracy envisioned in the CP program is utopian. The possessing classes are out to fight tooth and nail to regain and enlarge their property, which to them is the essence of "democracy."

Salazar and Caetano defended that kind of "democracy" and a return to those "happy days" is certainly what they have in mind. This is what's at the bottom of the continuing series of political shifts at the top echelons of the Armed

Forces Movement and the government.

THE TRADE UNION LAW

The most recent crisis over the trade union law gave the SP the opportunity to try to bolt from the coalition because the law would give a tremendous advantage to the new trade union confederation, which has an overwhelming predominance of CP influence.

Wilfred Burchett (*Guardian*,

"In the present critical situation in Portugal, the kind of popular democracy envisioned in the CP program is utopian."

February 3) states that the anti-monopoly bill, the terms of which apparently limit the capitalist monopolies, is the real heart of the dispute. But it does not really matter. Nor does it matter that Cunhal has in his latest pronouncement spelled out, more specifically than at any other time, economic measures for a restructuring of Portuguese society which are far more attractive than originally stated in more vague and general terms.

For instance, he is quoted as saying in a January 27 press conference, "It is necessary to limit, then to neutralize and finally suppress the control of the national economy by the big industrialists and estate owners," militant words, indeed, coming from him. Although this gradualist approach is said to be already drafted into the new economic law, it is nevertheless significant that Cunhal should now bring it up, bearing in mind that he himself has said that the country is now going through a "decisive stage" of the Portuguese revolution.

WHO WILL DO IT?

But the larger question, the one that towers over everything else, especially over programmatic announcements of what will be

done, is who is going to do it? This is the key to Portuguese politics at the present time. The CP's strategy of coalition with the SP and the PPD is one thing—and for the moment that coalition is all but broken up. The basic coalition, the key to CP politics, is its alliance with the Armed Forces Movement.

Unquestionably the CP has friends, sympathizers, and members in the armed forces, but its alliance with the AFM is an alliance with a section of the officer corps.

An army is a faithful replica of class stratification in capitalist society. It would be a renunciation of Marxism to deny this elementary truth. The peasants and the workers are among the conscripted soldiers; the officers generally come from the middle class and the bourgeoisie. In a broad way they represent and respond to the class interests from whence they came. Of course, here and there officers, even in the American army and especially during the Vietnam war, have turned against the military brass, against the government, etc. Individual members of the officer corps, especially in a country which has such a vast number of Communists, inevitably are drawn to the side of the oppressed. But class groupings as a whole in a showdown crisis respond to their class.

For this reason, to rely solely and so heavily on the AFM in a time of crisis is to surrender the initiative of the masses and depend on maneuvers in the military, banking on individual military leaders—and in the end to succumb to paralysis in the event of a right-wing coup. But Cunhal, like the rest of the CP leaders, sees "cooperation between the popular movement and the AFM as the dynamic element"—as the only

guarantee against a fascist coup. "Isolated from each other," says Cunhal, "these two movements would be powerless to carry out the fundamental transformation of Portuguese society which is on the order of the day."

WHAT IF AFM BREAKS?

There is no doubt that Cunhal relies completely on the unity of the two movements. But suppose there is a break in the AFM, as the capitalist press is daily rumor-mongering. Then what? There is no evidence, at least none available in this country, which would indicate that the party is making any independent preparation or arming the workers for that eventuality.

One can only hope that, given the gravity of the situation and the long suffering of the masses under the Salazar and Caetano dictatorships and the sense of self-confidence obtained since the April 25 coup, any attempt to reestablish a fascist regime will arouse the instinctive and spontaneous drive of the workers and the popular masses generally, and force the working class organizations into a combative, militant, united front for a victorious socialist revolution.

"The larger question, the one that towers over everything else, especially over programmatic announcements of what will be done, is who is going to do it?"

in the midst of the demonstration and, in the light of the general political situation, the CIA might very well have been interested in converting it into some sort of a frameup to utilize it for purposes that would undermine the revolutionary struggle. This could happen at any demonstration, but it certainly would not, and does not in this case, detract one iota from

the government tries to give the appearance of normalcy, the fact of the matter is that the possessing classes and their representatives—as well as sympathizers in the courts, the police, and the military—are not viewing the matter with equanimity at all.

On the contrary, the most frantic efforts are being made by the battered possessing classes to

POLITICAL PRISONERS



GUARDS ATTACK J. WASHINGTON

By ANNE PRUDEN
NORFOLK, Jan. 30—James Edward Washington, a Black man on death row in Richmond, Va., was attacked by ten prison guards on January 13. James was shot twice with stun-guns after he protested the denial of his visitation rights the previous weekend.

Weekend visitation has long been the right of Virginia prisoners, and James had defeated an attempt to deny him visitation several months earlier. But on Saturday, January 11, when over 100 of his supporters marched outside of the penitentiary, James was denied visitors. The statewide demonstration, organized by the United Congress Against the Death Penalty, In Defense of Malcolm Jefferson and James Washington, demanded an end to the death penalty and freedom for Malcolm and James.

The two Black prisoners are on death row on frame-up charges of killing a prison guard (details in WW, Jan. 17, 1975). The latest attack on James came just a week before the State Legislature passed a mandatory death penalty bill that would greatly expand the use of capital punishment.

The United Congress, a coalition of progressive organizations and individuals in the Norfolk area, plans to continue the struggle against the death sentence and for freedom for the Brothers on death row. For more information on the fight against the racist death penalty in Virginia, contact the United Congress, P.O. Box 6282, Norfolk, Va. 23508.

ATTICA WITNESS MAKES DRAMATIC TURNABOUT

BUFFALO, Jan. 30—On January 22, another link was broken in the chain of lies

concocted by the State of New York to frame up the Attica Brothers. Charles H. Crowley, called to the stand as a prosecution witness, testified that he had lied to a grand jury investigating the killing of two Attica prison inmates because he had been brutally tortured by prison guards and feared for his life.

Mr. Crowley, now out on parole and living in Brooklyn, said he lied when he identified four of the five men now charged with the killing of prisoners Barry Schwartz and Kenneth Hess. Charged with this crime are Herbert X. Blyden, Roger Champen, Shango Bahti Kakowana, Jomo Joka, and Big Black.

Crowley was a participant in the Attica rebellion who became ill and was hospitalized on September 11, 2 days after the rebellion began. At the hospital he was visited by seven prison guards.

"They beat me for at least a half hour," said Mr. Crowley. "I was made to crawl around on the floor and shout 'white power!' and kiss their feet." He said this happened repeatedly for 2 days.

On the night of September 13, the day the Attica prisoners were massacred by Rockefeller's troops, Mr. Crowley was sodomized by guards using their nightsticks. It was under these conditions that he gave the interview that he has now rescinded. "I gave an interview," he said, "under an atmosphere of the most intense terror I have ever known. I gave an interview to save my life."

Mr. Crowley had been called to testify on January 22 in pretrial hearings, which ironically are to determine whether the state used proper procedures in selecting and preparing its eyewitnesses. Referring to the fact that he could now be charged with perjury for having changed his testimony, Mr. Crowley said, "If they want me to go to jail for lying, why I say: Bring it on!"

RACISM BEHIND TIBBS CONVICTION

Another innocent Black man has been found

guilty. On December 14, the state of Florida found Delbert Lee Tibbs guilty of first-degree murder and rape. The predominantly white jury recommended the death penalty. The frame-up of Tibbs must be stopped.

On Feb. 1, 1974, Tibbs stayed at the Salvation Army Transient Lodge in Daytona Beach. By February 3, the day the crimes were committed, the state claims he had somehow mysteriously acquired an old green pickup truck and a gun and traveled to Fort Myers. They allege he picked up a young man and woman, took them to a deserted field, murdered the man and raped the woman. By the next night, February 4, not only had Tibbs just as mysteriously gotten rid of the truck and the gun, but that evening he stayed at the Salvation Army Transient Lodge in Orlando, Fla. Orlando and Daytona Beach are about 54 miles apart and are 157 and 211 miles, respectively, from Fort Myers, on opposite coasts. The police have never been able to locate the "mysterious" truck and gun.

Not just the police, but the whole judicial system is opposed to justice for Tibbs. When presiding judge Shands received a letter regarding discrepancies in this case, his reply was, "I got a letter on Delbert Tibbs. I saw who it was about, and I threw it in the wastebasket and didn't read it."

A pre-sentence investigation of this case is now underway. Those who would like to protest the racist frame-up of Delbert Tibbs are asked to address their letters to: Florida Probation and Parole Department, 1509 Jackson Street, Fort Myers, Fla. 33901.

PEOPLE RALLY IN MENDOZA DEFENSE

By SUE BREITENBACH
MILWAUKEE, Jan. 29—About 150 people gathered at the United Community Center here on January 25 for a benefit called by the Ray Mendoza Defense Committee. The evening included speakers, music, beer, and Mexican food.

Ray Mendoza is presently serving two consecutive sentences on charges of first degree murder. His "crime" was to defend himself from a pistol whipping by two drunken white cops.

Mrs. Julia Mendoza, Ray's mother, spoke to the audience at the benefit and expressed gratitude for their continued support.

Sacramento Delgadillo talked about the case of the Houston 12, eight Latinos and four Angles who will be going on trial in Houston on February 3 on charges stemming from an October 1973 demonstration against U.S.-Israeli aggression in the Middle East. Maria Marta, representing the Latino community organization Centro Nuestro, also spoke.

Mrs. Shirley Norton told the crowd about her group, the Community Problem Committee, Inc., which was formed to provide legal assistance and support for families of the victims of police killings. The committee is involved in an investigation of the death of a 16-year-old Black man, Jerry Brookshire, who was shot in the back by a cop on Christmas Eve. Police claim that Jerry was a suspect in a purse snatching and that the officer's gun went off accidentally in a struggle. Yet an eye witness, who since has received numerous threats and has been burned out of her home, says there was no struggle and that Jerry was approximately 10 feet from the cop when the cop pulled his gun and shot.

Entertainment at the benefit included two local progressive groups. Redwing sang songs concerning the struggles of the people and recited poems of revolution. Creme City News performed music with a special song showing the racist frame-up of Ray. Tony Baez, a leader in the Puerto Rican community, did several Latin protest songs.

Expenses of the trial and appeals are immense. The proceeds from the benefit went to relieve a portion of the burden which has rested mainly on Ray's family.

Free Ray Mendoza! Free the Houston 12!

Inmates expose 'model' prison as fraud

By MOLLY CHARBONEAU
NEW YORK, Feb. 1—Greenhaven "Correctional Facility," located just south of Poughkeepsie in upstate New York, has been set up by the New York Department of Corrections as a "model" prison of sorts. However, a Workers World interview with two brothers incarcerated there revealed the complete bankruptcy of these so-called "liberal" programs.

Willie D. Leon, members of the Inmates Defense League (IDL) at Greenhaven, about conditions there and some of the legal battles being waged by the League. As veterans of many struggles inside New York concentration camps (both brothers were inside Attica during the 1971 rebellion), Frank, Willie, Rodney Haymes (whom the administration quickly transferred before WW could interview him), and several other Brothers have utilized the legal skills they've acquired as a weapon on behalf of

the prisoners. After the Brothers won many cases, the Greenhaven administration was forced to recognize the Inmates Defense League as a bona fide group.

Frank and Willie related to WW how the league came to be disbanded. Challenging a directive by the Greenhaven administration that all prisoners must carry I.D. cards and pay for their loss, the IDL filed a 1983 class action suit. In response, the administration closed the IDL office, suspended their activities, and locked up or transferred members of the league. While demanding that their office and rights be restored, both Brothers assured WW that they would continue to fight legal battles and teach law to the Brothers inside irrespective of the administration's attempts to intimidate them.

WW learned from Willie and Frank about the 20 or more "reform" programs at Greenhaven. Supposedly aimed at "rehabilitation," these programs, such as work-release, furloughs, leaves-of-absence, outside school programs, and others, really serve as a form of behavior modification in the hands of the prison administration. Prisoners cannot reap the benefits of these programs unless they toe to the line and keep quiet about the beatings, rotten food, and horrendous conditions which are a daily part of prison life. Brothers who are politically conscious and activists who try to organize against this oppression are systematically denied access to these programs, in addition to the general brutality they are subjected to.

OMBUDSMAN SYSTEM

Frank and Willie told WW that they favor some type of ombudsman system which would call for a civilian review of the goings on in Greenhaven. The ombudsmen would be a multiracial group from the community which would hear prisoners' complaints and look into all the practices which are now being illegally perpetrated against Brothers inside such as beatings, gassings, solitary confinements, and punitive transfers, to name a few.

The interview with these militant Brothers revealed not only the ongoing corruption and brutality which even the so-called "liberal" prisons are not free from, but more importantly showed that the will of the Brothers on the inside to struggle against these injustices is strong.

FOR THE BIRDS...



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Korean women gain in DPRK; southern sisters rise in struggle



South Korean women defy armed police of the puppet regime in their struggle to improve conditions for themselves and their families. Photo: Korea Today

By MOLLY CHARBONEAU
NEW YORK, Jan. 30—In the nearly 30 years of the U.S.-sponsored fascist rule in south Korea, the living conditions of the masses have consistently deteriorated, with hunger, disease, police terror, and repression being commonplace.

By sharp contrast, those who live in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which has been liberated from the ravages of imperialist exploitation, enjoy the ever-increasing benefits of a planned, socialist economy. The contrast between the conflicting capitalist and socialist systems in Korea is nowhere more dramatically reflected than in the conditions faced by Korean women.

SOUTH KOREAN WORKING WOMEN

Foreign investment finances south Korea's clothing industry, which exports to the U.S. and Japan. But all the goods produced for imperialist profit come from the sweat and labor of hundreds of thousands of Korean women, many still in their teens. Although labor law supposedly limits time worked to 8 hours a day, 6 days a week, many shops employ women for 11 and 12 hours a day, 6 and 7 days a week. The average pay for women clothing workers is from \$25 to \$50

a month, which amounts to between 8 and 18 cents per hour. With the inflation rate approaching 30 percent in south Korea, the hardships these women face in feeding their families grow more extreme every day.

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROSTITUTION

For those women unable to find work, life is even more unbearable. Many women are among the 1 million people in East Seoul who live from hand to mouth in the huge slums stretching as far as the eye can see. Housing there consists of plywood slabs, tar paper, and tin roofing sheets. Suicide for themselves and their children is a desperate escape for many women.

Others are forced into the degrading role of prostitute. The Pak Jung Hi puppet regime actually runs houses of prostitution as a state enterprise catering to visiting businessmen and military brass of the U.S. and Japan. Both women and gays are exploited by the state in this way.

To maintain this rotten social system the U.S. government spends billions of dollars in our taxes for 35,000 U.S. troops in addition to the 600,000 south Korean puppet troops.

In sharp distinction from the life in the south, women and children in

the DPRK are given priority treatment by a social system geared to human need. One of the goals of a recent technical revolution in the DPRK was to produce enough of all types of household appliances and readily accessible foods to free women from household work. These are for the use of all women, not just those who can "afford" them. This campaign freed many women to participate in production and other social and political activities.

SOCIALIST DPRK LIBERATES WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In addition the Communist Party and the state of the DPRK have built enough kindergartens and nurseries to bring up as many as 3.5 million children at state and public expense. Many of them were orphaned by the Korean War. As production has increased in the DPRK, the state has cut prices to below cost on items for children and young students, greatly easing the burden their mothers bear.

Inspired by the tremendous progress of the DPRK, south Korean women are among the vanguard fighters against imperialist exploitation, striving to unite all Korea under the rule of the working masses so women can finally achieve their full human potential.

Korean Women's Union statement

This fall the Women's Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) sent a message of solidarity to the Korean Women's Democratic Union in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The message hailed the struggle of the women in south Korea who have been subjected to the most terrible tortures and repression by the Pak regime, with U.S. backing.

YAWF Women saluted the women of the DPRK for their "determined role in building socialism" in the north, and called for the reunification of Korea and the worldwide struggle for socialism.

Following is the reply received by YAWF Women from the Central

Committee of the Democratic Women's Union of Korea, sent from Pyongyang.

Dear friends,

We express profound thanks to you for your telegram of solidarity in denunciation of the unprecedented fascist repression and tyrannical atrocities committed by the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique of south Korea, the traitors to our nation.

Your solidarity expressed in your telegram is a great encouragement to the youth and students and the people of all walks of life in south Korea in the struggle against fascism and for peace and to our

people and women in the just struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from south Korea and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

We are firmly convinced that you will, in the future, too, render active support and encouragement to our people in the struggle for accomplishing their supreme national task—the independent and peaceful reunification of their fatherland.

Expressing our firm solidarity with your just struggle against war and fascism, we hope that the ties of solidarity of supporting and encouraging each other will be further strengthened in the future.

We wish you new successes in your struggle ahead.

Get in the struggle with Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party!

For information, contact: **WORKERS WORLD**
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The monumental gains of women in the DPRK under socialism sharply contrast with the struggles of south Korean women under the Pak regime. See page 11.

Kissinger, Ford push to renew Nixon's Vietnam war policy

By NAOMI COHEN
NEW YORK, Feb. 3—"U.S. unwillingness to provide assistance to allies fighting for their lives would seriously affect our credibility throughout the world. And this credibility is essential to our national security."

With these tired words, heard by the American people over and over again in the last 10 years, President Ford last week stepped up a well-orchestrated administration campaign for further escalating U.S. participation in the Vietnam war. As part of the scenario, Secretary of State Kissinger said last week that the U.S. must aid an ally that had viable political support (?) and was trying to fend for itself.

The next day, Vice President Rockefeller threatened Congress with responsibility for a "bloodbath" if it didn't grant the additional \$300 million in aid for the Thieu puppet regime that Ford is so strenuously demanding.

To add a little more hysteria to the whole drama, the Pentagon leaked "information" which claimed to show the North Vietnamese are planning a major offensive in the South. (Meanwhile, U.S. reconnaissance planes have been flying over North Vietnam in clear violation of the Paris accords.) As New York Times reporter Leslie Gelb admitted in that newspaper on February 2, however, "Legislators have come to notice that predictions of possible North Vietnamese offensives seem to correlate better with the American budgetary cycle than with the weather in Vietnam."

FORD CONTINUES NIXON WAR POLICY

Since the signing of the Paris peace agreements just 2 years ago, U.S. imperialism through its massive military aid (both in equipment and so-called advisers), has been responsible for 621,000 Vietnamese killed, wounded, or missing, and 10 million people have been made refugees in South Vietnam. In those 2 years also, the U.S. has sent 1.5 million tons of bombs to its Saigon puppet army.

In further, blatant violation of the Paris pact, the Thieu regime has continued military operations against the liberated territories in an attempt to win back the large areas that were liberated before the 1973 agreements. Thieu has also refused to release the 250,000 political prisoners held in Saigon's dungeons.

In an interview in Paris with a reporter for Liberation News Service, the acting head of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) delegation, Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi, said, "The Ford Administration continues the war policy of his predecessor, backing the regime of

Thieu with money and arms, waging war by proxy against the people of South Vietnam in flagrant violation of the essential clauses of the Paris Agreement." Thi went on to explain that the recent fighting was a PRG response to attacks by the Saigon forces on liberated areas.

Referring to growing opposition

to the Thieu regime in Saigon itself. Thi said, "The people are drawing the conclusion that so long as Thieu is in power, there will be no peace; but only war, repression, suffering, poverty, galloping inflation, and corruption." He further charged that 100 CIA agents direct Saigon's Special Police Investigating Service, 4,000

political police responsible for terror and repression.

While President Ford talks of \$300 million as a bare minimum to keep the Saigon regime alive, and projects at least 2 or 3 more years of billions of dollars worth of aid, the liberation movement in South Vietnam is gaining political strength as well as territory. As the

Pentagon warmakers continue to spout their pipe dreams of stabilizing the hated Thieu regime, the Vietnamese people are giving a resounding rebuff to their military plans. The U.S. rulers should realize, said Thi, "that no power on earth can subjugate a people determined to fight for its freedom."

Two years after the Paris accords



Two years ago, thousands demanded that Nixon sign Paris accords to end U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Since that time, Washington has carried on its war policy through money, arms, and "advisors" and wants to commit additional billions to halt advances of the liberation forces.

WW photo: Fabian

By BOB DOBROW

JANUARY 26—The fact that the struggle in Indochina is taking on a more intense character with every passing day is irrefutable proof that the adventurist military madmen in Washington are more determined than ever to desperately hold on to their colonial interests in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. has brazenly defied the Paris peace agreements negotiated 2 years ago. Washington openly admits to reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam and liberated areas in the south. Tens of thousands of military advisers, called "civilians," are stationed in Vietnam. Hundreds of thousands of political prisoners are still rotting in Thieu's torture chambers. Massive arms shipments are being sent and the Ford administration is asking for more.

The so-called offensive being waged by the liberation forces is in reality a defensive reaction to months and months of countless

abuses by the U.S.-Saigon axis.

ROLE OF TREATY

Does all this mean that the Vietnamese were wrong in signing a treaty with the U.S. 2 years ago? Did the treaty sow illusions about the aggressive designs of imperialism? Should the anti-war forces have refused to support the treaty? And should the anti-war forces today ignore the obvious demand for the U.S. to abide by its own agreement and cease all aggressive actions in Vietnam?

Of course not. The ceasefire agreements represented a significant victory—the most that the Vietnamese at that time were able to wrest from the U.S. through their years of bold and heroic struggle. It got U.S. troops out of Vietnam and ended the bombing of the North while leaving the liberation forces, their territory, and their armies intact.

The Vietnamese revolutionaries, who have been fighting foreign domination over 20 years, had no illusions that the U.S. would honor

the agreement. The fact that the liberation forces are fighting so relentlessly and with so much success today shows they were not fooled one iota about the nature of imperialism.

Two years ago, when the Vietnamese called upon the anti-war movement in the U.S. and throughout the world to support the treaty, Workers World played a leading role in urging the anti-war movement to make this demand their main slogan.

Front-page headlines of Workers World read: "Nixon—sign the treaty" (Nov. 3, 1972), "Sign the treaty, stop the bombing" (Dec. 29, 1972), and on Feb. 2, 1973, "Vietnam ceasefire—Victory for all oppressed!"

WHO OPPOSED SLOGAN?

The demand that Nixon sign the treaty at that time separated those who were really interested in aiding the Vietnamese from those who sugar-coated their hostility to the struggle with "revolutionary" rhetoric.

The leading tendency in the latter category was the Socialist Workers Party. Their newspaper, the Militant, chastised the Vietnamese leadership for "giving legitimacy to the Thieu regime." However, it was not the SWP's over-eager leftism, but its desire not to break with the bourgeois liberal friends it had made in the anti-war movement that was behind its need to differentiate itself from the DRV and the PRG.

Two years later one would think it obvious that the Vietnamese have no misconceptions about their struggle and aren't "selling it out." But the SWP still clings tenaciously to its position. The January 31 Militant writes, "the accords taken as a whole meant a setback for the Vietnamese struggle."

No, the Paris accords were no setback. The whipping that the puppet armies are receiving in the south, with the news of provincial capitals and strategic hamlets falling to the liberation forces, is testimony to that.