

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Carter, Shah plot
against Ethiopian
Revolution —Page 7

January 6, 1978

Vol. 20, No. 1

25 cents

Unemployment forecast grim

More steel layoffs to hit Youngstown

By JESSE LEE

JANUARY 4—Five thousand more steelworkers in Youngstown, Ohio will have their jobs stolen from them this year. The U.S. Steel Corporation announced yesterday that it will be closing its Youngstown mills and will be laying off some 5,000 workers in 1978.

This cold, blunt announcement by the richest steel monopoly in the world did not contain even one word of sympathy for the plight of the steel valley men, women, and children who are facing untold hardship from unemployment.

Life-long residents of Youngstown are being forced by the recent wave of layoffs to uproot their families and move to unfamiliar cities where prospects for jobs are uncertain. Houses and cars are being repossessed by ruthless bankers. The whole city is deteriorating rapidly, and this final stab by U.S. Steel may be enough to push the city into the grave.

The steel barons in the U.S. have only one desire—that is profits and more profits. Just over one week ago, in fact, the steel corporations decided to give themselves a raise in profits and they hiked the price of steel.

Higher steel prices, while it will mean more profits for the billionaires on top, will not create any more jobs. It will not modernize the crumbling steel mills in Youngstown, Buffalo, and Johnstown, Pa. Higher prices will not help the sagging U.S. economy in any way that will benefit working people. In fact, it will raise prices for cars, and other items made with steel and this will create more hardships for all working people.

MORE UNEMPLOYMENT EXPECTED

For the unemployed in Youngstown and elsewhere in the U.S., the prospects are grim for a job any time soon.

The Wall Street Journal of Dec. 28 reported that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development predicts a continued rise in unemployment during the next year. This gloomy report, from a major capitalist agency, (Continued on p. 8)



It was JoAnne Little's courageous struggle, plus the mass pressure by her supporters, that won her acquittal in 1975. Only the power of the people can win her freedom now.

Free JoAnne Little!

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Jan. 3—As the next court date for JoAnne Little approaches here, supporters have announced their intention to take legal action as part of the effort to fight Little's extradition to North Carolina where they fear her life will be in danger.

Target of a coordinated campaign of persecution both in the racist North Carolina dungeons and here in New York where she is presently held, the courageous young Black woman whose struggle has come to stand for the right of oppressed people to self defense, goes to court Jan. 6 on fabricated New York charges of resisting arrest and assault.

A demonstration in front of the Brooklyn Criminal Court, called by the Prisoners

Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism, will coincide with the court proceedings.

The New York charges arise out of Little's arrest here in December. Forced to escape the constant harassment she had faced in North Carolina prisons, especially since her 1975 acquittal on murder charges for defending herself from a rape attack by her jailer, JoAnne Little was seized on Dec. 7 by New York City cops. These cops repeatedly fired upon the car in which she was riding and later brutally beat her. To cover themselves, the cops accused her of "assaulting" them and originally even tried to say it had been she who had shot at them—although this lie was

later abandoned since Little had been unarmed.

SUPPORTERS TAKE LEGAL ACTION

Persecuted in New York, Little's fate would be even worse if extradited. She herself has told reporters that she would rather die than be returned to the torment she was forced to undergo in the North Carolina prisons.

In addition to the efforts of her lawyer, William Kunstler, to stop extradition, legal action to block her return to North Carolina has been initiated by a Coalition of women's and Black organizations represented by Attorneys Emily Jane Goodman and Flo Kennedy. Goodman recently told *Workers World* that the coalition will either file a brief in court or

petition New York State Gov. Hugh Carey not to sign an extradition order.

The coalition has pointed out that Little is "in extreme danger of losing her liberty and her life should she be returned" to North Carolina and that she should therefore be given political asylum. Certainly there are many instances—such as in the case of Scottsboro Brother Haywood Patterson—where states have bowed to public pressure and refused to extradite escape prisoners into the hands of lynch justice.

NORTH CAROLINA'S LYNCH JUSTICE

That JoAnne Little ever was imprisoned in the first place is (Continued on p. 8)

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Settlement after eight months of bitter battle

Lessons of the Essex strike

By a Detroit UAW worker
DETROIT, Dec. 30—The eight-and-a-half month strike of mostly women workers at the Essex Wire Corporation in Elwood, Indiana came to an end Dec. 21. While the settlement of this strike resulted in a setback for the Essex workers, the example of courageous struggle demonstrated by these members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1663, on strike since April 6, stands as an inspiration to UAW members and all workers across the country.

The Essex Wire Corp. employed every union-busting tactic, including shootings and beatings of strikers, the use of state police to escort scabs into the plant, and many legal maneuvers, including injunctions against picketing, in its attempt to break this long strike.

Essex Wire, is a subsidiary of United Technologies, a multinational corporation with 155 plants in the U.S. and Canada, whose president earns \$1.6 million a year.

Finally Essex Wire forced the following contract on the 220 Essex workers:

A 61 cent raise over the next three years, which brings their wages to a meager \$3.37 an hour by 1980 (a few pennies over what the minimum wage will probably be then). This was 1 cent an hour less than they were offered months before, with that penny being directed to raise sick and accident benefits from \$35 to only \$37.50 a week.

Eleven workers still remain fired

for their activities on the picket line, with their cases to go to arbitration. Eighty workers still face trumped-up felony charges and other charges for violating injunctions against picketing. One hundred ten scabs are to be retained by the company, while many strikers still have not been recalled to work, though they remain on the seniority lists for possible recall. Seniority for job preference within the plant is being ignored by the company, with strikers who had been inspectors being placed on difficult press jobs.

UAW LEADERSHIP CAPITULATES

The Essex Wire workers were forced back to work in part due to the capitulation of the UAW International leadership to the Essex Corp. Just a week prior to the settlement, Essex sued the UAW for \$600,000 for so-called punitive damages. Local 1663 members stated they felt this was the company's last-ditch attempt to break the strike and the long-term resistance by the strikers. But the UAW leaders in Solidarity House, ever fearful for their pocketbooks, launched into a marathon bargaining session with Essex the following week and with less than a day's notice to the strikers, scheduled a ratification meeting.

At this meeting, Essex workers reported, UAW International officials gave them an ultimatum that they either accept the settlement, or that the only support they would get from the International

would be strike payments "as long as the money held out" (even though UAW President Douglas Fraser was quoted only a week earlier as stating that the union's strike fund was in excellent shape).

"THEY DIDN'T WHIP THE MEMBERSHIP"

As one woman worker at Essex put it, "They whipped the International, but they didn't whip the membership." The President of Local 1663, Paul Couch, added that they are now going to start building a militant caucus among the workers to move forward and apply the lessons of the strike.

This strike was a tremendous example of the militancy and struggle that U.S. workers are capable of. For the eight-and-a-half month battle, the Essex workers stood up to shootings by the company which resulted in the wounding of two strikers including a mother of two who suffered partial paralysis.

For five days the strikers defied court injunctions which limited them to five pickets in front of the plant. These injunctions were geared to allow the Indiana state police to escort scabs into the plant. The strikers withstood beatings by company goons, including a severe assault on a striking grandmother in her own home. Another striker who was seven months pregnant was run over on

the picket line.

SUPPORT FROM OTHER LOCALS

Workers at other UAW plants demonstrated solidarity with the Essex strikers, despite the lack of initiative by the UAW International leadership. UAW shops in the area took up bucket drives and donated the proceeds to the strike fund. An official of UAW Local 62 from the Delco-Remy plant in Anderson, Indiana wrote a letter to the local press condemning the settlement.

In Detroit, several UAW locals also took up collections for the strikers. Workers at Local 900 took up a Christmas collection of toys, canned food, clothing, and cash contributions which they drove down to Indiana on Christmas Eve.

The real lesson of this strike is that as the economic crisis intensifies, the companies will use every means possible to attack the union movement and the gains it has won. Too often, the union misleaders are unwilling or incapable of answering the attacks. Just as it was the rank and file who took the initiative to form the union, in this period it will again be imperative for the membership itself to organize on a militant union-wide basis to defend the unions against the companies and their government agents, and to push the working class movement forward.

Victories at Stearns, Ky.

Special to Workers World
STEARNS, Ky., Jan. 2—Striking miners and their families here have recently won two glowing victories in their struggle for a United Mine Workers (UMW) contract. Due to continued struggle on the part of the miners, their families and their supporters, 11 jailed miners were released a few days before the holidays. Also due to the struggle, a grand jury, which had been investigating the case of 24 women arrested in the same incident with the men, decided not to hand down any indictments.

These men and women were arrested and beaten by cops on Oct. 17 because they were picketing the mine to prevent

scabs from entering it. A number of those injured by the police have not yet fully recovered.

Faye Keith, vice-president of the Stearns Miners' Womens Club, said, "the miners being released boosted everyone's spirits terrifically."

The picket lines at the Blue Diamond Mine at Stearns have completely halted the flow of coal since the strike began 18 months ago.

As the second winter of the strike begins for the miners and their families the growing support they have gained has made them more determined than ever to stay out until they win a UMW contract. "We've gotten support from
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Bay Area transit strike

By JOANNE GAVIN

OAKLAND, Ca. Dec. 21—For two months now, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 192 have been on strike here for a pension plan that would enable retirees from the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit Company (ACT) to live decently after their years of service.

The transit workers are also seeking a cost-of-living increase, not only for future retirees, but also for those already retired.

Earlier retirement is also being demanded. As one union member put it, "I see guys who have been driving for longer than I have been alive, and that scares me."

A provision of the present contract bases retirement benefits

on the highest-earning five-year period that a potential retiree has worked, and is pushing many older workers to work long hours and skip holidays. One of the strikers told **Workers World** that this provision has resulted in ACT retirees actually having a short life span.

Although management has so far refused to seriously consider the workers' demands, the Local 192 membership is determined to improve its working conditions.

DECLINE AND FALL

Court gives nod to KKK

New York Times, Nov. 11:

ALBANY, Nov. 10—"A regulation prohibiting members of the Ku Klux Klan from working as state prison guards was declared unconstitutional today by the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court.

"In upholding a lower-court decision, Justice Louis M. Greenblott of Binghamton, writing for the majority, said the ruling violated the freedom-of-association doctrine implicit in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution....

"...Membership in the Klan was forbidden to prison employees, effective Oct. 1, 1975, by Benjamin Ward, commissioner of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, who said it interfered with the right of inmates to humane treatment.

"Justice Greenblott said the regulation was constitutionally repugnant because the state failed to prove that inmate fear of the Klan will upset the delicate peace of the correctional facilities."

All the justice money can buy

Detroit Free Press, Nov. 19:

AMARILLO, TEX. (AP)—Multimillionaire Thomas Cullen Davis, acquitted on capital murder after a sensation-filled four-and-a-half-month trial here, says

he will be back to work in Ft. Worth Monday.

"Davis, 44, spent his first hours of freedom Thursday night drinking and dining at a fashionable Amarillo pub. The guest list included his girlfriend, Karen Master, who supported his alibi; his million-dollar legal team; three members of the jury, and the presiding judge, George Dowlen.

"Davis had been jailed without bond last year, charged with stealing into his Ft. Worth mansion and shooting to death his twelve-and-a-half-year-old stepdaughter, Andrea Wilborn, and his estranged wife's lover, Stan Farr, 30....

"... Davis conceded that his ability to afford high-priced lawyers played a role in his acquittal. "If I had been poor," he said, "one or two things would have happened. At least I would have been granted bond. And I would have ended up in the penitentiary in no time flat."

"At the celebration, Judge Dowlen, a bachelor and frequent pub visitor, conceded that his attendance might cause some talk. But he said he would have attended the prosecutors' party had they won the case....

"During one of several post-trial news conferences, Davis was asked if he planned to take some time off before returning to work. "I've already had 15 months off," he quipped."

A murder trial is more like a vacation to a multimillionaire in this society, because who knows better that "only the poor go to jail."

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Jan. 6, 1978

As Carter rules out independent Palestinian state

Israeli-Egyptian 'peace talks' flounder

By P. MEISNER

JANUARY 3—The Carter administration has now made it clear that Israel is really totally dependent on U.S. backing in the Israeli-Egyptian "peace" negotiations. Last Thursday, Carter restated the common U.S.-Israeli position against the establishment of any independent Palestinian state whatsoever. In a TV interview, Carter said:

"Permanent peace can best be maintained if there's not a fairly radical, new, independent nation in the heart of the Middle East area."

Now the U.S. imperialist chief

executive is capital hopping from Iran to Saudi Arabia, and tomorrow to Egypt trying to line up reactionary Arab regimes behind the U.S.-Israeli "peace" plan.

The "peace" terms proposed by Israeli leader Menachem Begin are such a sham that Sadat was even embarrassed by them and caused Jordanian King Hussein (who has yet to join in the Cairo talks) to reject them outright. The U.S.-Israeli proposal for a Palestinian "homeland" or "self-rule" in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank amounts to nothing more than a Palestinian Bantustan, or even worse, a thin disguise for a long-

term Israeli settler takeover of the two territories.

MASS OUTRAGE MOUNTING

Washington and Wall Street's strategy was first to get Sadat to capitulate to Israel and then have other moderate and reactionary Arab rulers follow Sadat's lead. But Sadat's Arab Munich so far has failed to reap dividends for the U.S.-Israeli maneuvers, as the outrage of the Arab masses at the Sadat betrayal has been mounting every day.

Even in Egypt there appears to be rumblings underneath Sadat because of his bankrupt and futile negotiations with the Israelis. The

New York Post of Dec. 31 reported:

"Many Egyptians were already uneasy over what is coming to be viewed as the failure of the Christmas summit conference

between Sadat and Begin.

"Sadat's insistence that there has been real progress toward peace, progress beyond anything imaginable two months ago, has failed to convince even some high-

(Continued on p. 7)

Iranian students ring out the old year with militant picket in D.C.

By PAUL E. MELNICOFF

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 31—A militant picket line held here by members and friends of the Iranian Students Association (ISA) ended 1977. At the height of the demonstration, 300 to 400 picketers marched in Lafayette Park across from the White House, to protest the visit of "human rights" Jimmy Carter to the murderous Shah of Iran—destroyer of civil liberties, servant of U.S. corporate imperialism, and the man responsible for the murder, torture, and imprisonment of countless thousands of people since the CIA-sponsored coup of 1952-1953.

Iranian demonstrations and pickets were also taking place in San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles; and in Teheran, Iran, thousands demonstrated against Carter in direct violation of orders from the military when his plane touched down there at 7 a.m.

Fascist Iranian troops, backed up by tanks and armored vehicles, were also on hand but made no move to suppress the militant and determined demonstrators who turned out at the airport to vent their rage against the U.S.

president.

Anger against Carter's visit was so high that sources in Iran report guards were on every floor of the Teheran Hilton where he and his party were staying.

PERMIT DENIED ISA IN WASHINGTON

The ISA was denied a demonstration permit by the U.S. Parks Service here which cited last month's clashes between anti-Shah and pro-Shah forces instigated by the SAVAK (the Iranian secret police) and backed up by D.C. Metropolitan and Park police. In denying the permit, the government claimed that the proposed demonstration posed a clear threat to the safety of the president and to "peace, and law and order." Of course, no mention was made of the threat posed by the SAVAK, U.S. imperialism, and the puppet regime of the Shah to the Iranian masses whose daily life includes terror and fascist repression. The permit denial was fought in court, and a victory was wrung from the hands of the government.

Today's demonstration follows by just a few days, the bombing in

Iran of the U.S.-Iranian Cultural Society, an organization now acknowledged to be a front for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) and CIA activities against those who stand for justice and liberation for the people of Iran. Today's demonstration here saluted that struggle, and once again restated the Iranians' dedication to free their country from the stranglehold of U.S. imperialism.

Banker picked as new head

No change at Federal Reserve

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

JANUARY 2—Arthur Burns, the Nixon-appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who for eight years used his position to carry out the top bankers' policies against poor and working people, is finally out.

Starting Feb. 3 there will be a new chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, which plays an important role in manipulating the economy by controlling the money supply. President Carter has appointed G. William Miller to succeed Burns, and no one can accuse Carter of having picked another pawn of the bankers. That's because Miller, as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, is a banker himself, besides being chairman of the huge Textron conglomerate and a member of an influential Wall Street law firm.

Carter's appointment of banker-businessman Miller is in keeping with the long tradition of "independence" of the Federal Reserve. Throughout its history, the Reserve has been independent, not only of the slightest pressure from the masses of people, but even of the capitalist politicians.

Although the Reserve is a federal government institution, both Congress and the President have little authority over it as far as the law goes, and in practice they have had even less. The members of its Board of Governors are appointed to 14-year terms and the chairman to a 4-year term (he is almost always reappointed to a second term). The governors and the chairman are always bankers, industrialists, or their representatives, and once they are appointed they do as they please. They don't have to tell Congress or

the public what happens at their meetings until one month later, even though their decisions have immediate impact on the economic situation.

MEANY PRAISES MILLER

Together with all the major spokesmen for the ruling class praising Miller's appointment was labor misleader George Meany. Meany was evidently pulled in by the capitalist media's claim that Miller is a "corporate humanist" who will change the Reserve's policies to "reduce inflation and unemployment simultaneously."

But there is no indication that Miller's appointment will represent any policy changes. It can be safely assumed that if there was, the choice of Miller would not have gotten such universal approval from the ruling class dynasties. Even if Miller did make policy changes, it would only be to institute phony "stimulative measures" which are supposed to "trickle down" to the masses. The trickle always gets soaked up on top, and the only thing that makes its way down to the working and poor people is higher prices.

Meany and the rest of the labor bureaucracy never question the right of the bankers and industrialists to control the Federal Reserve Board. Why is this so? If the U.S. were the democracy the ruling class claims it is, there would be no reason why even Meany himself couldn't be appointed chairman of the Reserve. But in reality, labor leaders are traditionally never appointed to any important government post, no matter how much that post has to do with working people.

The banker's open control of the Federal Reserve is a glaring example of the capitalist class' dictatorship over the working people. When it comes to controlling the money, they don't take any chances.

Carter appeal defends Nixon's 'dirty tricks'

By T. GRENDL

NEW YORK, Jan. 2—In direct contradiction to his 1976 presidential campaign rhetoric, "Jimmy" Carter, through his Solicitor General Wade McCree is appealing a federal court ruling that former President Richard Nixon and two of his top aides had violated the constitutional rights of a former White House staff member by allowing a wiretap to remain on his home telephone for 21 months.

The basis of the appeal will be that Nixon and other presidents should be immune from liability in such cases, particularly if they acted in "good faith" and if there does not already exist a body of law holding their actions to be illegal. According to the chief of the special litigation section of the Justice Department's criminal division, the main argument in the appeal is likely to be that the President "has to be able to avoid the distraction of people suing him for every action." Particularly if the President has acted in "good faith."

The case at issue involves a wiretap placed on the home telephone of former Kissinger aide Morton Halperin in May 1971 and

kept in place for 21 months—even after he no longer was an aide to Henry Kissinger—in the hopes of learning the source of information leaks to the news media. This and other wiretaps by the Nixon gang were held to be impeachable offenses by the House Judiciary Committee in 1974 and ruled illegal in a district court. Former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Nixon Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman were the two accomplices named with Nixon in the case.

Presidential candidate "Jimmy" Carter was sanctimoniously opposed to all of the aspects of the Watergate scandal and vowed to return the Presidency "to the people." However, this was before the election.

But however much Carter and other politicians talk about putting Watergate "behind us" and so on, the fact is that they cannot. The conflicts within the ruling class which erupted into the crisis known as "Watergate" are not over, though things have been restored to the appearance of normalcy. The attempt to reverse the verdict in the Halperin wiretap must be viewed in this light.

U.S.-Japan trade war heats up

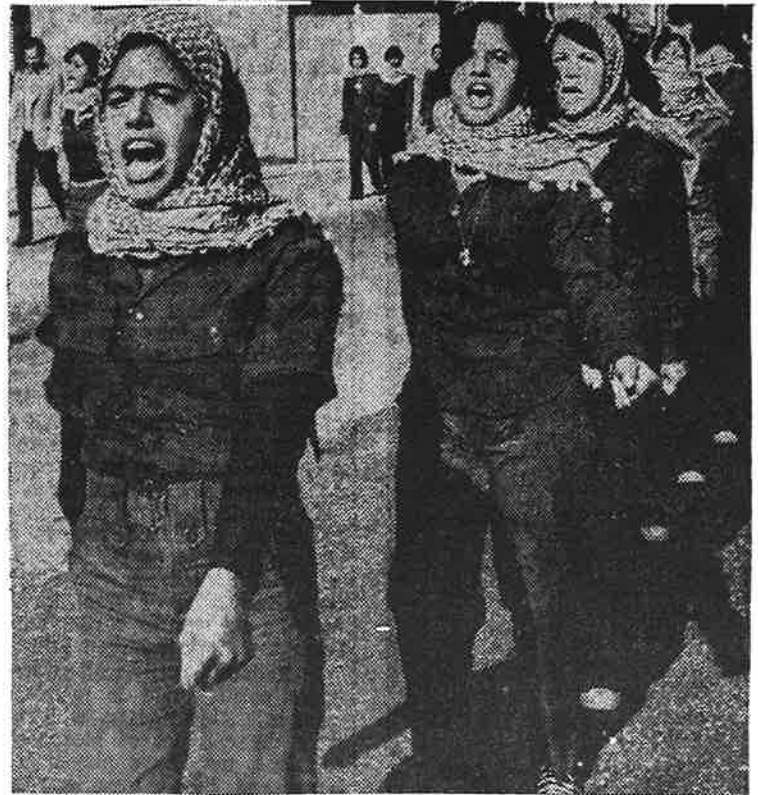
JANUARY 3—As part of the growing trade war between Japanese and U.S. imperialism, Japanese farmers held a nationwide rally yesterday to protest the Japanese government's decision to ease import quotas to permit more imports of U.S. food.

The easing of the import quotas to allow the lower-priced U.S. agricultural produce to be sold in Japan was a concession the Japanese imperialist government has made to the demands of their U.S. imperialist competitors.

While taking measures to block Japanese products such as steel and TV sets from the U.S. market, the U.S. ruling class has at the same time arrogantly demanded that restrictions that bar U.S. products from the Japanese market must be dropped. A large influx of cheaper, basic farm products from the U.S. will spell economic ruin for thousands of small Japanese farmers.

The current cut-throat competition which is shown in the case of agriculture is being fueled by the deep economic stagnation which is plaguing the imperialist world. This stagnation is the result of a capitalist crisis of over-production. Both Japan, the U.S., and the Western European imperialists currently have a surplus of basic commodities such as steel and food which they are unable to sell at a profit.

Instead of providing more for everyone, over-production under capitalism causes crisis, misery, and deprivation. Only under a socialist system in which production is based on need instead of profit can the national antagonisms and irrational waste from capitalism be ended forever.



Palestinian women from a refugee camp outside Beirut in a recent demonstration in the Lebanese capitol denouncing the Israeli-Egyptian "peace" talks.

November inspection warned of danger

Grain elevator explosion kills 18

By ALEX RODRIGUEZ

HOUSTON, Jan. 3—Eighteen workers, including four federal inspectors, were killed in a tragic grain elevator explosion in Galveston, Tex., Dec. 27. It has been revealed that a November inspection by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) reported hazardous conditions and "management less than professional in the matter of safety" at this elevator.

The blast, which ripped through an underground conveyor system, and blasted the top off the 300-foot-tall elevator, also injured 22 people. As the last of the victims was dug out of the debris, an insurance industry source placed the material damage at over \$20 million.

Many of the workers interviewed after the explosion admitted they knew the work was dangerous. However, a lot of work in Galveston on the docks and in the port also has its risks, and people had to earn a living somewhere.

The document released by the FGIS further stated that in terms of hazardous conditions the elevator owned by the Farmers Export Company was "very dusty and general housekeeping is inadequate." The report also said, "The disposal of dust by open fall from floor to floor causes enormous dust clouds that are explosion hazards as well as health hazards."

HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

Also, welding had occurred in the elevator while grain was being moved. This is an extremely hazardous practice and FGIS employees should have been withdrawn on the spot, the report says.

The report also referred to a previous accident in which a worker fell as a result of a heavy

dust accumulation on the steps. The elevator's superintendent was "openly hostile and he rather belligerently maintained that all elevators were dusty and knowing this, anyone who was injured had only himself to blame."

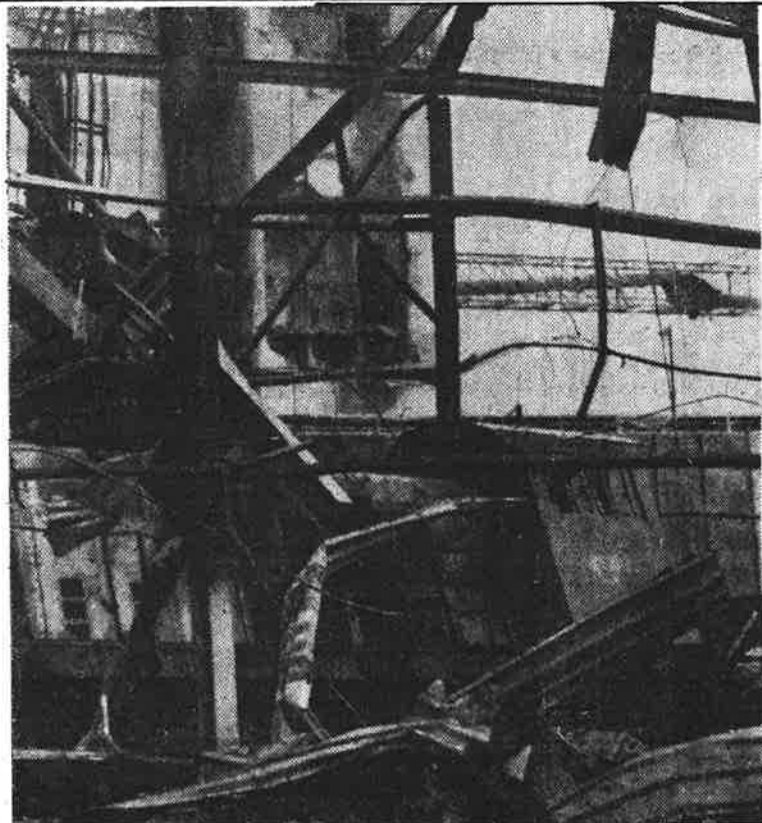
The Farmers Export Company had been given six weeks to comply with the safety recommendations or the safety manager of FGIS was to have recommended that inspection service be withdrawn. The FGIS does not have any authority to enforce safety standards at export elevators. But its employees can leave the elevators if they believe an imminent danger exists. This would close the elevator if the company wanted government grading.

Apparently the FGIS is not anxious to shut down grain export elevators despite their knowledge of unsafe conditions which

threaten workers' lives, including the lives of their own inspectors. It had already been six weeks since they had issued the six week ultimatum to Farmers Export Company.

An administrative spokesperson for the FGIS rationalized that a shutdown "poses catastrophic economic losses to America's farmers, to individual companies, to the United States' economy, and to our balance of payments." (!) But a shutdown might have prevented the tragedy of 18 persons being killed and 22 injured and spared the misery of the wives, husbands, and families of these victims.

Death and injuries on the job will continue to rise at a staggering rate if the bosses have their way. The organized might of the workers, demanding not only jobs, but safe jobs, is the only force that will stop this kind of abuse.



The twisted wreckage of a switch engine and freight testify to the power of the blast that ripped through the Farmers Export Co. grain elevator in Galveston, Tex., last week.

Asbestos workers resist hazardous jobs

By BEVERLY SLAPIN

JANUARY 2—Many workers know someone who has died or has been sickened or injured on the job. It used to be that those who were poisoned at work by fumes or solvents, or suffocated by lung-filling dusts—just died, their families quietly accepting the diagnoses of cancer, heart disease, emphysema.

But now workers are challenging their fate.

One of these workers is William Morris, a 50-year-old former asbestos worker in Texas, now dying of lung cancer and asbestosis. Another was Paul Stirba, who died of cancer last

March in New Jersey. Morris, Stirba, and hundreds of other workers and their families, took action which could prompt far-reaching changes in the enforcement of federal occupational health and safety regulations.

Morris, who told a reporter last month that he had only a few more months to live, said that for years neither his employer nor federal health inspectors warned him that clouds of dust he was breathing into his lungs at work caused cancer.

NOT WARNED OF CANCER CAUSING AGENTS

"It was pretty damned dirty of

them not to let us know," Morris said. And he was not alone in his anger and despair. Several months ago, a suit brought by Morris and 400 other workers and their families resulted in an historic \$20 million settlement against the company, the suppliers of asbestos to the factory, and the negligent government agencies that visited the factory.

The asbestos disaster took place in a small east Texas plant which had been used since 1954 to produce insulation sleeves from raw asbestos. The plant, until it closed in 1972, was owned by the Pittsburgh-Corning Corp., a subsidiary of PPG Industries and

the Corning Glass Works.

\$210 FINE

After having given the company a "warning" in 1963, public health officers had visited the plant in 1967 and 1970, and in December 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is often criticized by business as being too harsh, proposed a fine of \$210 for "insufficient dust control."

Two months later, Pittsburgh-Corning closed the plant, and in January 1974, a \$100 million damage suit was filed by eight asbestos workers who were later joined by 400 of their fellow workers.

The suit charged that the company's medical advisor "failed and refused to advise the workers of health hazards and their own physical problems," and that the government was liable because it failed to warn the workers of its findings.

Several months ago, the company and the government agreed to settle for \$20 million.

"DUST FLYING ALL OVER THE PLACE"

In New Jersey, Paul Stirba, 62, his body wracked with cancer of the lungs, kidneys, and stomach, testified in a \$500 million lawsuit involving 600 workers. His testimony was against Johns-Manville Corp., the country's largest asbestos supplier, and six other companies that supplied the material to the Raybestos-Manhattan plant in Passaic.

Until the Passaic plant closed in 1972, Stirba operated a machine that helped manufacture brake linings, brake shoes, fire hoses, and bowling balls. Each day for 37 years, Stirba inhaled asbestos dust and fibers that hung in the air and covered the floors of the plant.

"You'd have dust flying around all over the place," Stirba said. "And so you used to put the stuff into the grinder and, shoo, you'd see a whole big gobber of dust coming back out of the machine right in your face."

"Nobody ever said anything. Nobody ever gave out any safety equipment. Nothing," he said. "Just all they were interested in is how much work they could get out of you, that's all."

They got over 30 years of work out of Stirba; he died two weeks after he made these statements.

'Act of God' or act of bosses?

The needless tragedy of dam disasters

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY

JANUARY 2—It is nearly eight weeks since sweeping waters claimed the lives of 39 people, 19 of whom were children, in Toccoa, Ga., when the Kelley Barnes dam collapsed. While this tragedy follows other dam disasters, such as the infamous Buffalo Creek flood in 1972 which left hundreds dead and thousands homeless, the U.S. government and President "Jimmy" Carter have taken only token measures concerning safety from floods.

CAPITALIST IRRESPONSIBILITY

When a dam caves in, the only answer the bourgeois press can muster is that an "act of God" is responsible for the devastation. However, with each dam collapse, condemning evidence piles higher and higher in yet another searing indictment of the capitalist system and the U.S. government.

Five years ago (following the devastating Buffalo Creek, W. Va. and Rapid City, S.D. floods which combined killed over 300 people) Congress ordered the Army Corps of Engineers to inspect for safety all non-Federally built dams. Since that time the only accomplishment of the Corps has been to locate and inventory the country's approximately 50,000 privately built dams and to categorize these as to their safety.

According to the Washington Post (Nov. 11), "at least 40% of those dams, and perhaps many

more, could kill significant numbers of people and damage property." (That amounts to roughly 20,000 dams!) And the New York Times (Nov. 7) further states that since the list of "high hazard" dams was assembled in 1972 by the Corps, "No funds have ever been authorized to carry out the inspection program." And there are no means to enforce safety standards on privately-owned dams—like the ones at Buffalo Creek and Toccoa.

Responsibility for "high hazard" dams is tossed around from federal to state to local governments, to various public service agencies to private companies and back like a hot potato, with no one taking any action.

"HIGH HAZARD" DAMS AND THE NEUTRON BOMB

The Public Works Act 1978 under Title II allots \$15 million to begin an inspection program of all dams. But the cost of inspecting every dam over a five-year period has been estimated at \$367 million. (This amount does not take into account any necessary repairs.)

The same Public Works Act, under Title I, which provides funding for the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), has appropriated \$1.6 billion (or more than 100 times as much) for "national security programs including research, development and testing" of the neutron bomb!

This makes the priorities of the U.S. government perfectly clear. It would rather perfect the neutron bomb—which kills people without damaging property—than repair "high hazard" dams which threaten the lives of thousands!

PROFIT SYSTEM: THE REAL PROBLEM

If Congress or President "Jimmy" Carter were tomorrow to appropriate the \$367 million for the inspection of all the country's dams (and they won't), this amount would do nothing towards repairs and maintenance. That alone would require more extensive funding, and the Pentagon is hardly willing to pare down any of its precious budget to save lives.

In addition, contracts for facilities such as dams are awarded to the lowest bid submitted, practically guaranteeing the use of inferior, low quality materials. Dams built by private companies do not fall under federal, state or local jurisdiction. Prior to the coal-slag heap collapse at Buffalo Creek in Logan County, W. Va. in 1972, county officials had been warned repeatedly of the dangers. Nothing was ever done, though the people had demanded that the heap be drained. Fourteen communities were wiped out in the flood and 118 people were murdered by the malicious neglect of the Pittston Co., which owned the slag heap and the government. And though Pittston admitted that the dam had been built illegally

across a tributary of the Buffalo Creek, a Bureau of Mines official said that while a "tragic mistake" had been made he was unsure that any laws had been violated! The "federal aid" that was pumped into the area went mostly to rebuild roads—used mainly by the coal industry.

Many people who lost their homes and suffered the most are still living in "temporary" housing, and continue to fight for federal money to which they are entitled to rebuild their homes. It was no "accident" either that on the board of the Pittston Co. was the brother of then-Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton.

The list of "tragedies" and "disasters" forced on working and oppressed people is long and bloody. The two examples cited are among many hundreds of such incidents that are often unreported and that have occurred over the years due to the abject neglect of the capitalist system which puts profits above people's safety.

The capitalist system, especially in its period of intensifying decline and decay, is only capable of offering imperialist and expansionist war as a "solution" to the crisis-ridden system, and so seeks to further fatten the already bloated military budget.

A socialist system with a planned economy places the peoples' needs, health and safety as its first priority and not the profit-driven appetites of the corporate and military bosses.

Despite government repression

Puerto Rican utility workers continue strike

Governor Romero Barcelo has unleashed a campaign of harassment, lies, and brutal repression against the striking workers of UTIER. Ex-police agents employed by the company have bombed electrical sites and other AFF plants in order to discredit the striking workers. Already one Jose L. Milan, formerly of the Security and Internal Protection Division of the police has been identified by UTIER as working for the AFF. An investigation has been demanded.

Police have also been attacking the numerous picket lines. In Guayama, one worker had his arm fractured, and another had his head cracked by club-wielding police. The workers have said that they'll not stand for more intimidation and that they'll fight back.

Of course, the colonial administration, in unison with the AFF, has accused the workers of being responsible for the bombings and for the provocations on the picket lines. But workers aren't easily fooled. They know of the extreme anti-labor policies of the Barcelo government. The tactics used against this strike are the same as those used against the

(Continued on p. 8)

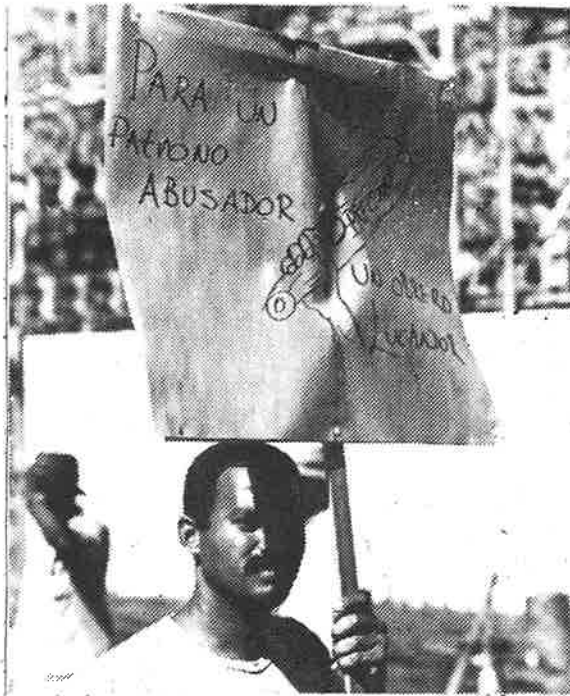
would have a devastating effect on the already poor workers of Puerto Rico.

But all their talk of no money is just downright lies. According to Luis Lausell, president of UTIER, the company has in its coffers allocated for salary increases enough to offer the workers a 74 cents an hour increase. In other words, in their money put aside for wage increases alone (and that doesn't even cover all of the labor expenses, profits, executives' salaries, etc.) they have enough to give each worker a 74 cents an hour increase, but they're offered barely one-quarter of that! So it's plain to see that the management isn't even bargaining in good faith.

And there's more. Economists inside the AFF have admitted that in 1976 profits reached the \$102 million mark despite a loss of almost \$80 million by the abandoned construction of a nuclear plant that was "found out" to be not viable!

Another lie spread by the AFF (and in which the press, radio and TV also joined) is that the workers of UTIER "make a lot of money." This is rubbish. Lausell, in an interview with Claridad, stated that in 1970, the workers' wages

A national strike of all electrical workers in Puerto Rico began on Dec. 29. This picketer's sign reads, "Para un patrono abusador, un obrero luchador." [For every abusive boss, a fighting worker.]



represented 36% of the total money made by AFF in profits. In 1976, this figure was down to 18%. In comparison with workers in North America who do the same

job, UTIER workers made \$2.00 an hour less even though the cost of living is substantially higher in Puerto Rico.

The colonial government of

By DAVID PEREZ
JANUARY 2—Workers of the Water Resources Administration (AFF) in Puerto Rico have gone out on strike after negotiations over a new contract broke down on Dec. 29. Mass picket lines were set up throughout Puerto Rico immediately following the breakdown in talks.

According to the December, 1977 issue of Claridad, newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), the workers, represented by the Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers Union (UTIER) are furious over the salary increases offered by the AFF in their new contract. UTIER first asked for an increase of \$1.69 an hour. Management countered with 11 cents. The union then went down twice, to a \$1.50 increase. Management increased their offer to 18(!) cents and refused to budge. So the workers went on strike.

AFF LIES AND CRIES BANKRUPTCY

The AFF has claimed that they are broke, that they have a deficit. They even said that to meet the workers' demands the electrical rates would have to go up (this

Angry crowd confronts new mayor on acquittal of killer-cop Robert Torsney

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Jan. 2—In his first Brooklyn inaugural appearance, New York City Mayor Ed Koch was confronted yesterday by an angry crowd of over 100 people, mostly Black, who were protesting the acquittal of killer cop Robert Torsney.

In November 1976 Torsney shot a 15-year-old Black youth, Randolph Evans, in the head at point-blank range without provocation. Torsney, a known racist, was acquitted two weeks ago on the phoney grounds that he had gunned down the unarmed youth during an "epileptic seizure." After the trial, a group of well known neurologists exploded

Torsney's epilepsy claim as impossible.

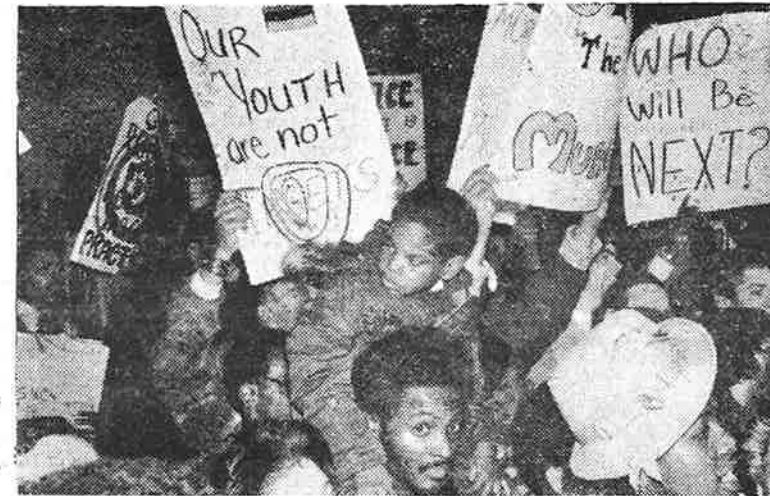
Showing a total disregard for the growing anger in the Black communities here over the killings of Randolph Evans and other Black youths by racist cops over the past few years, Koch boasted to the news media that he would "never be silenced by demonstrators." Under pressure from the demonstrators, who were chanting "Stop the killing now" and carrying signs reading "No more Black targets" and "Who will be next?", Koch reluctantly agreed to a meeting to "discuss" the issue within the next ten days.

The new Mayor's contempt for the demonstrators should come as

no surprise, since his election campaign focused largely on the reactionary demand for the restoration of the death penalty, something aimed like a dagger at the poorest and most oppressed people who would surely be its first victims.

Yesterday's demonstration was organized by a group of Brooklyn-based organizations and individuals from the Black communities. This same group earlier organized holiday pickets of Brooklyn department stores in protest of the killing of Randolph Evans.

The group is demanding Torsney be indicted by the U.S.



Demonstrators confront New York City Mayor Ed Koch, protesting the acquittal of killer-cop Robert Torsney.

Attorney General on a civil-rights violation for the murder of Evans and the immediate formation of a federal commission with subpoena

powers to investigate the violence and denial of human rights by the New York City Police Department against the Black community.

Outraged Detroit community wants Nazi store shut down

By DANA ELLIS

DETROIT, Dec. 22—"My son came home from his paper route and told me, 'Mom, those people that killed the Jews have put up a store in our neighborhood,' and he described the swastikas on their sign. He said, 'Mom, will they try to kill me too because I'm part Mexican?'"

Thus a southwest Detroit woman observing an anti-fascist picket line of over 100 people outside a Nazi "bookstore" on W.

Vernor near Central described how she first learned of the store's presence. Her reaction was typical of many other outraged responses in this working class, Latin, Arab, and white neighborhood.

A young Turkish-born man said disgustedly, "Burn it down!" and a woman in a Chrysler auto plant jacket said of the furiously-chanting picket line, "People should stand up for what they believe in. My brother died fighting the Nazis in World War II." A

middle-aged working man watching with his daughter said, "In East Germany, they'd know what to do with the Nazi filth."

Over 100 people, Latin, Black, Arab and white, picketed the store for over an hour and a half on Dec. 19, just days after it opened.

They chanted, "Get the Nazis out," "No more Hitlers," and "Nazis and Klan, scum of the land," and beat on the store's boarded front with their fists until the police moved in to protect the

Nazis. More people have returned for daily picket lines since.

In a TV interview, the head of the community's Neighborhood City Hall said angrily, "The Nazis killed 12 million people—not only the Jews, but Poles, Slavs, and many other nationalities represented in our neighborhood. We want them out!" An older Armenian man on the same interview said of the "White Power" slogan painted between two swastikas above the store's boarded windows, "That's no good—no good at all."

These responses in opposition to the opening of the Nazi store are building into a strong community movement. People in this neighborhood are showing themselves to be very much against this bookstore which carries an abundance of professionally-printed anti-Black and anti-Semitic literature and which serves as an outlet for the mislabeled National Socialist Movement.

NAZIS ARE ARMED AGAINST COMMUNITY

In extensive publicity about the bookstore and the community opposition to it, the Nazis have openly admitted that they keep an arsenal of weapons including a sawed-off shotgun in the store.

Two young Arabs who live in a flat next door to the store, told **Workers World** that they had been chased by some of the Nazis in the store.

The owner of the building, who leased it to the Nazis without realizing what they were, has since instituted eviction proceedings against them, saying emphatically, "We don't need any divisiveness in this neighborhood." Community organizations ranging from Latin groups to associations of small businessmen from the area are holding emergency meetings to discuss how to deal with the open appearance of Nazis in the neighborhood.

The Nazi bookstore in southwest Detroit is part of a concerted organizing effort by various Nazi organizations in outlying areas of Detroit and in its suburbs that has been stepping up over the past several months. Vilely racist flyers have been slipped into the mailboxes of homes around the Detroit-Redford Township border, and another Nazi office has been opened up in one of the suburbs. But the Nazis are profound enemies of all poor and working people, and the reaction of the community in southwest Detroit shows clearly that Detroiters are ready to fight the Nazi scum.



Community protest against the opening of a Nazi bookstore in a southwest Detroit neighborhood.

Nationwide British firefighters' strike enters eighth week

By BRIAN BECKER

JANUARY 2—Some 35,000 underpaid and overworked firefighters in Britain are entering their eighth week of a bitter nationwide strike. This is the first time ever that British firemen have struck to improve their sub-standard wages, and the outcome will have far reaching significance for all public sector workers who have been hard hit by the 10% limit for pay increases set by the government. This doesn't nearly keep up with prices which have increased by about 15% in 1977.

Forced to work a minimum 48-hour week on 24-hour emergency call, the firemen risk life and limb for a weekly wage amounting to 20% less than the average industrial worker in England.

The firemen are demanding a 30% increase—the average industrial wage plus a 10% allowance for their special skills (four years training is required to qualify as a firefighter), for job hazards, and for the round-the-clock emergency call system.

The response to the firemen's strike by the Labour Party government of Prime Minister James Callaghan revealed its callous anti-labor policy which seeks to make the workers pay for the capitalist economic crisis through a harsh reduction in their living standards.

Nine-thousand army troops were immediately called out to take the place of the firemen while the government announced its intention to "stand firm" and force the workers to accept a 10% increase which would leave them far behind the average industrial wage.

CHALLENGE TO AUSTERITY MEASURES

All other public sector workers have had the 10% pay settlement shoved down their throat by the

government. The firefighters strike represents the biggest challenge so far to these austerity measures demanded by British big business and dutifully carried out by the pro-capitalist Labour Party leaders who constitute the current government.

In addition to trying to break the strike with the army, a hysterical press campaign has aimed at undermining the widespread public support for the embattled firemen.

Every fire, especially ones involving injuries or deaths, are seized upon by the capitalist press to depict the firemen as "irresponsible, calloused, and uncaring about the lives of the people." The headlines in the boss-controlled newspapers have been explicit: "High-rise families flee homes," "Towering inferno fears as firemen start all-out strike," or alleging sabotage with, "Wreckers hit vital fire equipment."

The Daily Express, a paper echoing the line of the "humanitarian" bosses, wrote in its editorial under the headline "The Public will stand firm," "It is a bitter paradox that the firemen who are individually decent and courageous men can collectively act so immorally."

The strikebreaking propaganda against the firefighters really rests on trying to convince the general population that firemen, and all civil workers for that matter, have no right to strike. In other words, the government should have the right to freeze or even cut wages, to disregard job safety, and to lay off, but the workers have no right to fight back. It's like telling workers that it's "immoral" to try to lead a decent life. While the national Trade Union Council tops have capitulated to this pressure, the workers and poor in Britain, especially in the trade union

district and local councils, have rejected the bosses' propaganda and for the most part, stood solidly behind the firefighters.

WORKERS BACK FIREFIGHTERS

By the time the strike was three weeks old, over 500,000 people in London had signed a petition supporting the strikers. In early December, 10,000 firemen and their supporters marched through the streets of London to dramatize their demands and get the word out.

From the big auto plants to the mines, trade union locals have organized food collections and given financial donations to the strikers.

Of particular worry to the government is the success the firefighters have had in winning the sympathy of many of the troops who are forced to do the hazardous work of the firemen but without any of the necessary training and skills. As one organizer of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in Merseyside said, "The young men (meaning the rank-and-file soldiers) are there because there are no other jobs for them." The troops, who get paid even less than the firemen, are often seen bringing mugs of tea to the firemen who are picketing round-the-clock in the cold of winter.

While the firefighters' strike will undoubtedly affect all British workers in their struggle to get pay hikes that catch up with the soaring inflation rate, the strike is also of importance to the labor movement in this country.

Public workers are denied the right to strike here and when forced to strike are subjected to harsh fines and even jail sentences. When the big banks in New York declared war on this city in 1975, they demanded that whole hospitals be closed, 8,000 children



Demonstration of striking British firefighters and their families.

were shut out of their daycare centers, thousands of teachers laid off, fire departments were closed and garbage pick ups reduced—all told, 60,000 city workers were fired. For the city workers and especially people in the poorest neighborhoods, these cutbacks and layoffs amounted to virtual death sentences.

But when the New York City hospital workers struck in 1976 to try and stop the layoffs, they were accused in the newspapers owned by the banks "of endangering the

lives of thousands of patients." They were also slapped with a restraining order by the courts and had the infamous Taylor Act (which fines every worker two days' pay for each day of the strike) held over their head.

This is really the same thing that the British firefighters face today. That the firemen have been able to stay out for two long months with the backing of workers throughout Britain is an important example and inspiration for the hard-hit public workers in the U.S.

On eighteenth anniversary of Revolution

Cuban workers enjoy benefits of socialist construction

By PAUL WILCOX

JANUARY 3—When fascist dictator Fulgencio Batista, along with the robber barons of the United Fruit Co. and the stooges and gangsters of U.S. sugar and nickel monopolies started their round of parties in the holiday season of 1958, they did not have in mind the impending victorious struggle of the Cuban people. This struggle, under the leadership of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, inspired poor and oppressed people everywhere with the hope and promise of socialism.

What did the legacy of hundreds of years of colonialist slavery and U.S. imperialist exploitation mean to Cuba?

What did it mean to the Cuban people that U.S. corporations controlled 90% of the cultivable land and 85% of the mineral wealth of the country? The hundreds of millions of dollars that poured into U.S. banks and monopolies from Cuban labor meant nothing but poverty, unemployment, death and starvation to the people of Cuba.

In 1959, Cuba had 600,000 unemployed, as many proportionately as in the U.S. during the depression of the 1930s. Half of the population had no electricity at all. Over half lived in shacks and slums with no sanitation. Rent was one-third of family income. The illiteracy rate was 40%. Some 100,000 people, 2% of the pop-

ulation, had tuberculosis, and 95% of the children in rural areas had intestinal parasites. Only 10% of the people had even a third grade education.

These and many other facts were the reality behind the fancy corporate reports on Wall St. about U.S. interests in Cuba.

CUBAN PEOPLE TAKE CONTROL

When the Cuban people took control of their own lives and resources, they faced the hatred of the entire U.S. ruling class, which has never stopped trying to destroy the Cuban revolution through murder, sabotage, bombings, and outright invasion. The U.S. still occupies Guantanamo Bay, and maintains a continuous economic blockade around the island.

Despite the enormous problems imposed on the revolution by U.S. imperialism, the gains of socialist construction in Cuba, aided by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, have become too obvious even for the imperialists to cover up. According to a report published by the New York Times (Dec. 18), which has every reason to underestimate the achievements of Cuba, in Cuba today all education and health care are free, rent is no higher than 10% of a worker's income, and the price of basic foods has not increased in 12 years. Public transportation and telephones cost next to nothing. Cuba now has 880,000 students



In 1958, before the Revolution, only 10% of the population even had a third grade education. Cuba now has 880,000 students in secondary schools and 130,000 in universities. Here are members of the Pioneers, a mass Cuban youth organization.

in secondary schools, and 130,000 in universities. In 1959 there were only 70,000 high school students. Where medical care was once unknown to many people, Cuba this year alone will graduate a class of 3,500 from medical school.

Vast programs for housing projects and education are eliminating the traditional rural poverty known in capitalist

societies. The New York Times is forced to acknowledge: "Havana is virtually the only major city in Latin America that is not surrounded by a ring of fetid slums."

As much as the revolution has served to improve the daily lives of every Cuban worker the achievements of socialism in Cuba have spread to many

countries struggling against U.S. domination. In Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, in revolutionary Ethiopia and many other countries, the doctors, technicians and revolutionary experience of Cuba are helping to make the grinding poverty and oppression caused by the entire imperialist world a distant memory of the past.

French forces intervene in Western Sahara struggle

By G. DUNKEL
DECEMBER 31—The open intervention of France's air force into the national liberation struggle of the Saharan people confirms that Morocco and Mauritania were in the process of being defeated in the Western Sahara by Polisario and that these two are acting as frontmen for France.

Polisario's struggle began against Spain, which was the colonial power in the Western Sahara until 1975. Since it could no longer hang onto the Western Sahara after Franco's death, Spain agreed to hand it over to Morocco and Mauritania in order to keep its investments safe. The Saharan people were never consulted and Morocco and Mauritania had to use armed force to assert their control.

According to the New York Times, Dec. 24, Polisario claims that two Jaguars—the French plane used in the attacks—were shot down and three others damaged. The French Defense Ministry denies this, but the French bourgeois press reported that a damaged Jaguar was seen landing at Dakar's civilian airport in Senegal, confirming Polisario's claim.

An important factor in Polisario's military success, according to French analysts, is its ability to shoot down Morocco's jets with Soviet SAM-7 missiles. France hopes its air force can reverse Polisario's military momentum and put it on the defensive.

Polisario has had some military success despite the French air attacks. It is entirely possible that it will defeat the French airforce. In case that happens, France is preparing to use ground troops on a large scale. It already has a sizable number of "advisors" in Mauritania.

THE STAKES IN THE WESTERN SAHARA

The stakes are high: not only are there rich phosphate and uranium deposits in the Western Sahara, but the continued neo-colonial control of northwest Africa and the entrance to the Mediterranean by imperialism is threatened as well.

A hundred Moroccan political prisoners, who were on a hunger strike from Nov. 8 to Dec. 24, recently smuggled a statement from jail which points out, "The liberation combat carried out by the Saharan people has undone the imperialist maneuvers in the

Sahara and has advanced the struggle of all the people in the Magreb (i.e., the western Arab world) against imperialism and its local reactionary henchmen." (Afrique-Asie, Dec. 12 issue.)

Because the stakes for imperialism are so high, the U.S. up to now has been backing France and its neo-colony Morocco. Saudi Arabia, that staunch bagman for U.S. imperialism, supplies a major portion of Morocco's military budget, which is jumping from \$350 million in 1977 to \$640 million in 1978.

THREATS AGAINST ALGERIA

Algeria is the main supporter of Polisario's struggle and a major objective of French diplomacy is to stop this.

Furthermore, the statements of high level French politicians, make it clear they are politically preparing the French people for another war with Algeria. For example, one politician compared Polisario to Nazi Germany and its prisoners to concentration camp

inmates. Other politicians say the armed forces of Polisario are part of the Algerian army. The whole thrust of the French government's handling of the eight French "hostages" held by Polisario was to prepare for such an aggression, even though some of the so-called hostages admit that they were serving the Mauritanian army.

But the real hostages are the one million Algerian workers living in France. A fascist organization called Delta, successor to the OAS—the Secret Army Organization which fought against Algerian independence—has been attacking any prominent person in unions, or their families, or groups which support Polisario's struggle. It claimed credit for the murder of at least one Algerian in Paris during December. Other Algerians have been killed by racists, who are generally treated very leniently by the courts if the cops bother to find them. (According to Afrique-Asie, Dec. 26, a few months ago, while one court was releasing a Frenchman convicted of killing an Algerian, another was giving a



Polisario training its troops.

month in jail to a Frenchman convicted of killing a dog!) Such an attitude on the part of the cops and the courts has to be an official policy.

France has never forgiven Algeria for winning its independence through armed struggle and then struggling politically and economically not to become a neo-colony.

Another sore point for imperialism is Algeria's support of the Tripoli "rejection front"—a group of Arab states opposed to Sadat's maneuvers with Israel. A Dec. 24 New York Times article details the important role that

Hassan II, the king of Morocco, played as an intermediary between Egypt and Israel. Hassan II also supplied the troops that France airlifted to Zaire to put down a popular rebellion.

On the one hand, if Algeria faces a war with Morocco, it will be more difficult for it to support the Palestinian struggle. On the other hand, if Hassan II loses in the Western Sahara, and loses his shaky throne as a result, then imperialism, and France in particular, would lose an important tool in Africa and the Arab world.

Carter, Shah plot against Ethiopian Revolution

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

JANUARY 3—Attempts to strangle the developing Ethiopian Revolution continue to be high on Washington's priority, despite the carefully cultivated air of "neutrality" being disseminated by the administration.

Take, for example, Carter's much-publicized trip abroad. A most important part of his discussions with the Shah of Iran (although mentioned in only two paragraphs in yesterday's New York Times) was on the question of Ethiopia. There were no big press releases on it, nor official statements by Carter or the Shah. But the Times reporter, with access to unnamed "diplomats," said that there is an "intensive behind-the-scenes American attempt to get Middle Eastern and African countries to lead a drive for ceasefire negotiations" in the fighting between Somalia and Ethiopia.

What does this really mean? Back last June, Somali troops launched a major offensive against Ethiopia at a time when the revolutionary military government in Addis Ababa had just ousted all U.S. imperialist military advisers and turned to the Soviet Union

and other socialist countries for aid. It was revealed later in Newsweek that Somalia had been encouraged in this adventure, by promises of U.S. military aid relayed directly from Carter by way of a U.S. physician to Somali President Siad Barre.

Washington hoped that the military pressure from Somalia, coupled with the secessionist movement in Eritrea which has been receiving substantial aid from the reactionary Arab regimes of the Sudan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, would lead counter-revolutionary elements in the Ethiopian military to topple the revolutionary leadership.

WASHINGTON'S COUP HOPES FOILED

But this didn't happen. Instead, the Ethiopian Revolution has continued to move forward internally. Through the worker and peasant militias, hundreds of thousands from the revolutionary masses have joined in the defense of the Revolution. The mass organizations on the land, in the

cities, and in the factories have continued to grow, test out their leadership, and organize to boost production.

And finally, the most highly placed enemy of the Revolution, Lt. Col. Atnafu Abate, Vice-Chairman of the Derg or Provisional Military Administrative Council, was executed—an act which immediately elicited the support of the revolutionary masses.

Now the Somali invasion of the Ogaden region, which by the end of November had actually reached as far as the important city of Harar in the mountains leading to Addis Ababa, seems to be turning into a rout. Gone are the vain and premature claims of the Somalis that they had "liberated" Harar.

(The Somalis had laid claim to the Ogaden on the basis that most of the nomadic peoples there were of Somali ethnic origin—a basis which can be, and is, used by Somalia to also claim one-third of Kenya and the small territory of Djibouti. This has alarmed the pro-Western government in Kenya, of course, which is

probably one of the reasons why the U.S. cannot openly support Somalia's aggression into Ethiopia, even though it is doing everything it can to back it secretly.)

Ethiopia has now retrained its troops to use their new Soviet weaponry, according to the Western press, and is in a much stronger position to push back the Somali army.

So now—yes, now—the U.S. is mounting an "intensive behind-the-scenes attempt" to get a ceasefire before the Somalis are driven out. Exactly the same tactic used to legitimize Israel's grabs of Arab land in 1967 and 1973! This "ceasefire" ploy will also be "an important part of Mr. Carter's talks in Riyadh, the Saudi capital," adds the Times.

U.S. TALKS "CEASEFIRE," PUSHES FOR WAR

Yet at the same time that Washington talks of peace, it prepares its puppets and client states in the area for war. Just last week the Carter administration announced it was selling 12 fighter planes to the Sudan for about \$75 million—that money conveniently to be supplied by Saudi Arabia and Egypt. It made clear that the sale of combat arms to Sudan—the first ever—was because Washington was worried about its "Marxist neighbors."

The lineup in the Horn of Africa has become crystal clear for all who are willing to see. Deeply alarmed over what it sees as a profound and deep-going social revolution in Ethiopia which is on the road to a workers' and peasants' dictatorship in the Leninist sense, U.S. imperialism is feverishly lining up all its puppets in a frantic effort to thwart that Revolution. Sadat, the Shah of Iran, the Saudi monarch, and Jaafar el-Nimeiry, butcher of the Sudanese left—all are willing accomplices of imperialism in this plot.

The Ethiopian workers and peasants, and their courageous leaders who have embarked on such an earth-shaking course, are on their part working feverishly to mobilize, organize, train, and strengthen themselves for the struggles yet to come.

—Mideast

(Continued from p. 3)
ranking members of his own government.

"These officials and other informed Egyptians were uncomfortable even before Carter spoke out because, as 1977 ends, all the old framework of Middle East diplomacy, centered on a unified Arab stance and a peace conference in Geneva, has been dismantled and no one knows what is going to take its place."

But the U.S. rulers' wrecking of the planned U.S.-Soviet jointly sponsored Geneva Conference by upstaging it with the Sadat-Begin fraud was based on one fundamental aim—to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and all other revolutionary

forces within the Palestine liberation movement.

Carter, Begin, Sadat then hoped to find some "new" and "moderate" Palestinian leadership. But the mass-based support for the PLO from all Palestinian quarters has so far denied that vain hope. In fact, the PLO perhaps held its largest rally ever on Jan. 1 when more than 10,000 Palestinians turned out in Beirut, Lebanon to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the beginning of the Palestinian Revolution. In a rally held in Damur, Lebanon a day earlier, Yasir Arafat, head of the PLO, accused Carter of trying to destroy the Palestinian liberation movement. He told his Palestinian audience:

"Let Carter listen to this. There will be no peace, no surrender! We will keep on fighting until victory!"

From the pages of Workers World

The Ethiopian Revolution & The Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism



A Marxist analysis from the pages of Workers World. Shows imperialism's attempt to strangle and dismember the Ethiopian Revolution because of the pro-

found social revolution that is going on there. Order from: Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., NYC 10010. \$.25

EDITORIAL

Carter's world trip

Carter's current world trip has not produced the results that the ruling class here had hoped it would. This has been clear practically from the very beginning when Carter arrived in Poland.

In Poland the U.S. imperialists have a lot going for them with the substantial forces of bourgeois reaction represented by a strong Church hierarchy. Nevertheless, the crowds that greeted Carter were small, certainly compared to those who turned out for previous visitors like Robert Kennedy. Moreover, his remarks in a Warsaw press conference defending the neutron bomb did little to endear him to people who feel rightly that they are among the potential targets for this horror weapon.

In India the results (or rather lack of results) of Carter's visit were much as in Poland. On the eve of Carter's journey, the Vietnamese pointed out that the goal of this trip was "to recruit allies for intervention" against the socialist countries, and in India this was very much on Carter's mind. Carter wanted to bring the new, rightist Indian regime into an even more hostile anti-Soviet and anti-Chinese posture, but a headline in the Times of London (Jan. 3) pretty well sums up the results of Carter's efforts on the subcontinent: "Mr. Carter fails to budge Indians." Although well to the right of the Ghandi government and even more repressive, the Desai regime is far too mired down by the terrible condition of the Indian economy to give much thought to helping the U.S. On the contrary, Desai wants Carter to help him!

Nor has Carter been any more successful in consolidating Arab reaction against the Palestinians, and so far he remains alone with Sadat over in right field. In Saudi Arabia, ironically, Carter had nothing to say on human rights, although it is well known that Saudi Arabia is one of the most repressive regimes in the world.

VISIT PROTESTED
IN INDIA, IRAN

The trip to Iran did little for Mr. Carter's image as the leader of the "free world," since he went way out on a limb praising the fascist Shah, "for the respect, admiration, and love your people have for you." In both Iran and India there were significant street demonstrations against Carter's visit.

It is worth noting, however, that both the Shah and Carter stepped up their team effort to subvert the revolution in Ethiopia.

According to the New York Times (Jan. 1), "Earlier in the week, the Shah received President Mohammed Siad Barre of Somalia and promised to pass on a message to Mr. Carter appealing for United States support and weapons" (for use in Somalia's invasion of Ethiopia). "Iran has already been providing light arms, trucks and hospital equipment," the Times adds.

Still, this is not a new development, and it is difficult to see any real gains Carter got out of his visit with the much-hated Shah.

Even in Jordan, an out-and-out imperialist neo-colony where it was recently revealed that the reigning king was on retainer with the U.S. CIA, Carter achieved little.

The headline in Monday's New York Times: "Carter Fails to Persuade Hussein to Join Peace Bid" pretty well summarizes Carter's difficulties on that leg of the trip.

On the whole, Carter's journey has achieved very little success toward its main objective which is to consolidate the influence of U.S. imperialism around the world. And that is something that will cause no sorrow among the camp of oppressed people or those fighting for the socialist future.



LETTERS

I am writing you this letter because I have a subscription to your paper and enjoy reading the articles. As an employee of the Federal Government, I wish to state that any article you write concerning the government is as close to the truth as anything could be. I have seen for myself the utter waste and bungling that goes on in the Federal Government. I used to be

proud to be a government employee because they gave me my first job but as of now, I find that "favoritism," "boondoggling," and "bossism" have made me feel ashamed and disgusted with the System. I urge you to keep on with your columns as they do serve a very needed purpose.

A.G.
Keansburg, N.J.

I'm an inmate in Auburn Correctional facility. I've been reading your paper for a year. It is very informative and I personally feel your paper is essential to the struggle and to the fight of the Third World people which is very important to me because I am a part of that world (the have-not) and would like to be kept informed as much as possible.

D.K.

—Little

(Continued from p. 1)

proof of the racist treatment poor Black people face daily in the North Carolina "justice" system—from her original conviction on minor unsubstantiated charges and imprisonment on a 7-to-1-year sentence, though only a teenager with no prior convictions, to sudden termination from work release and repeated denials of parole.

(On the eve of Little's flight from North Carolina, prison officials had already begun trying to build up a case to unfairly deny her parole once again.)

Because she had suffered the same repression as so many others in concentration camps throughout this country and because she stood up against her oppression, JoAnne Little has become a symbol of resistance to prisoners and anti-racists everywhere. Yet, she is also a symbol to the cops, the judges, the jailers and all the other agents of repression who have never forgotten her acquittal in 1975 and who fear the struggle of the poor and oppressed for their rights.

It is for this reason that all enemies of racist and sexist injustice must fight the extradition of JoAnne Little to North Carolina where her life is threatened and must continue to struggle until this sister is finally freed.

—layoffs

(Continued from p. 1)

said that the situation will be bad in the U.S. in 1978, and that there will be even worse unemployment in the capitalist countries of Europe. The New York Times added today that "the recent unemployment rate equals the worst levels in the four postwar recession periods."

What has "Jimmy" Carter done

in response to this grave situation? Himself a multi-millionaire, Carter has acted only to guarantee more money for the rich. He has promised big business more tax cuts.

On the other hand, in the words of one worker, "Carter hasn't done one thing to insure a job for anyone other than his brother Billy." Carter has virtually condemned the poor to lives of misery.

People need jobs. In the U.S. there is a huge need for steel. New construction of homes, schools, and hospitals alone could put tens of thousands back to work. Such a project would be a simple beginning on a program to bring full employment.

Carter has apparently forgotten that he is publically pledged to full employment. It will take the organized might of working people to topple the present rule of big business and create a planned economy that will make full employment a reality.

—Stearns

(Continued from p. 2)

places we've never heard of. Knowing there's so much support really keeps our spirits up." Faye Keith continued, "We wouldn't have had a Christmas at all if it hadn't been for all the toys and donations people sent."

Buffalo Women United for Action, distributed leaflets in that city explaining to workers there the Stearns miners' fight for a union and asking for donations of toys and clothing. After collecting hundreds of items, the group then wrapped and sent it all to Stearns.

"It's really the support that's really kept us going," said Faye Keith. To continue much needed support to the Stearns miners, send contributions and letters of support to: Stearns Miners' Women's Club, P.O. Box 488, Stearns, Ky.

—P.R. strike

(Continued from p. 5)

recent strike at Ponce Cement. According to Claridad, three agents of the Ferre family (notorious millionaires who own Ponce Cement) were hired by the company to bomb plant sites, vehicles, and to assassinate the union leader, Efrain Fernandez. They have publicly admitted this.

LABOR SUPPORT
FOR STRIKE

The bombings, the "high salaries" of the UTIER workers—this is all part of the hysteria being whipped up by the government in Puerto Rico. But it isn't working. Solidarity is growing among the different unions. So far, the Telephone Workers Union, the Aqueduct workers, the Metropolitan Bus Workers Union, the Teamsters Union, and the General Brotherhood of Workers have all come out in support of the strike. Also, the Federation of Students for Independence (FUPI) has voiced solidarity with UTIER.

Workers in North America should be resolute in their support of the workers in Puerto Rico. A victory for UTIER will have great significance for all the poor and oppressed workers of Puerto Rico. It will have great significance for workers in North America, significance for the whole poor and oppressed everywhere.

The colonial government and its U.S. masters feel the growing workers' movement in Puerto Rico. The outpouring of over 10,000 people into the streets this past November over the assassination that month of Teamster steward Juan Rafael Caballero Santana by the now notorious police death squad was just an indication of things to come. Now with the electrical and irrigation workers' strike, the Puerto Rican workers are continuing the struggle.

Vietnam calls for negotiations with Kampuchea on border dispute

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD
JANUARY 4—The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV), responding to Kampuchean charges of "aggression" along their common border, last Saturday called on Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) for a meeting "as early as possible, at whatever level, so as to together solve the border issue between the two countries in a spirit of brotherly friendship."

The Kampuchean charges and the Vietnamese counter-statement were the first public confirmation of what the bourgeois press had been claiming for some time: that a serious armed struggle has been going on for many months between the two socialist states in Southeast Asia which until recently were allied in the struggle against U.S. imperialism.

KAMPUCHEAN PRESS CONFERENCE IN PEKING

The Vietnamese statement calling for talks was issued the same day that the Kampuchean Ambassador to Peking called a press conference at which he read a statement charging Vietnam with aggression and announcing a "temporary" break in relations with Hanoi. In a dispatch from China, *Le Monde* of Jan. 1-2 reports that "many representatives of the Chinese press, as well as at least a functionary of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were present" to hear the "long and violent indictment" read by Pich Cheang, the Kampuchean ambassador.

Two days later, Kampuchea's Ambassador to Vietnam left Hanoi with his family and aides, after being escorted to the airport in four Chinese Embassy cars. The Kampuchean were seen off by the Chinese and Rumanian ambassadors.

According to accounts in *Le Monde*, the *New York Times*, and in the Vietnamese statement itself, the conflict over the border issue began as far back as May 1975 when Kampuchea made a series of attacks on Vietnamese border villages and islands.

The most serious fighting, however, has been since April 1977 when, according to the Viet-

namese, "Kampuchea fielded a great force made up of many divisions. This force, with massive fire support provided by many cannons and mortars positioned in Kampuchea, has made many concerted attacks on almost all the border areas from Ha Tien to Tay Ninh."

VIETNAMESE ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE DISPUTE

During this period, the Vietnamese kept silent in their press and radio while making attempts to meet with the Kampuchean and work out a peaceful settlement. However, the seriousness of the situation was underscored in August when Gen. Nguyen Vo Giap, the supreme organizer of the military struggle against French and then U.S. imperialism, visited the Vietnamese border areas.

According to the Vietnamese statement, issued on Dec. 31 just hours after Kampuchea announced the break in diplomatic relations, efforts had been made for a period of nearly two years to settle the border question.

"Early in April 1976," says Vietnam, "the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea agreed that leadership of the two parties would meet in June 1976. To prepare for this meeting, early in May 1976, the two sides held a preparatory meeting in Phnom Penh. This meeting was under way when it had to be postponed at Kampuchea's request.

"Afterwards, Viet Nam several times proposed a resumption of the meeting, but Kampuchea did not respond. At the preparatory meeting in May 1976, the two sides agreed on three concrete measures aimed at increasing solidarity and solving border conflicts.

"These measures were: that the two sides strive to educate the cadres, combatants and peoples of the respective countries in the border areas to strengthen solidarity and friendship and avoid conflicts; all conflicts must be settled in a spirit of solidarity, friendship, and mutual respect; and the liaison committees of the two sides must investigate the con-

flicts and meet to settle them.

"Viet Nam has done all it could to strictly implement the three measures agreed upon. It is regrettable that Kampuchea has not only failed to do the same but has also continued its violations of Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty in a systematic and ever more serious manner."

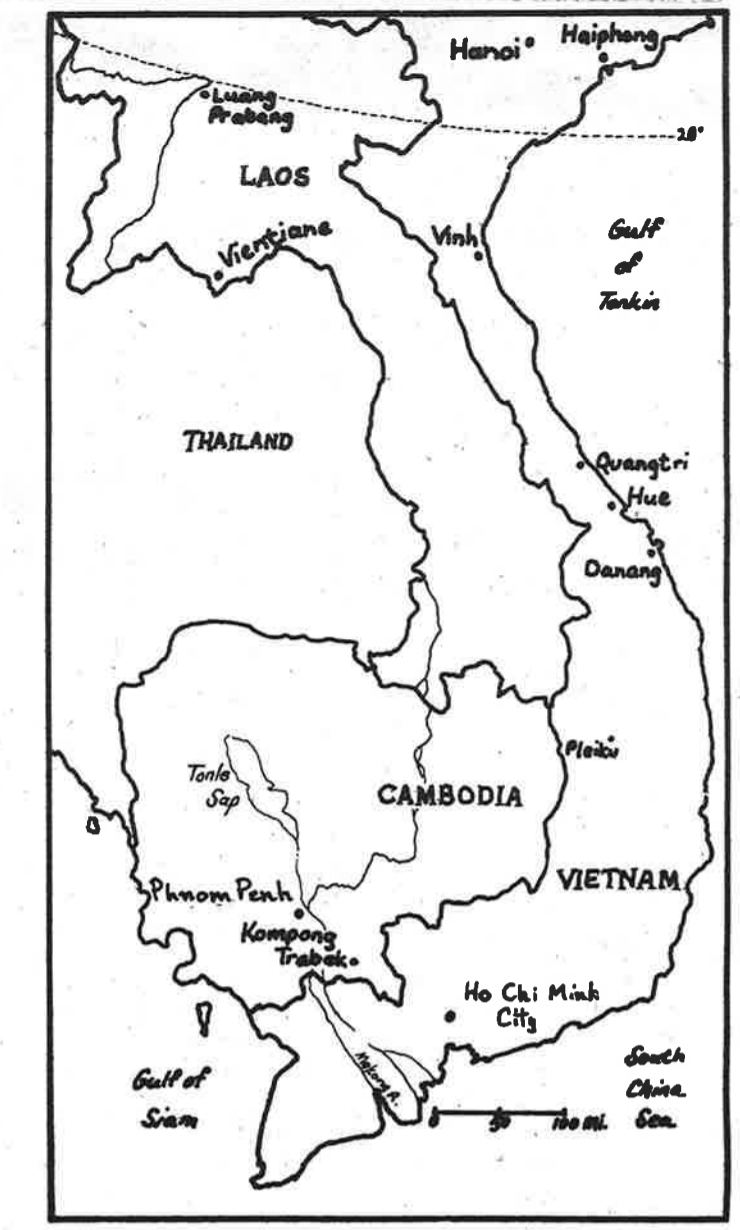
The Vietnamese party again sent a letter to the party and government of Kampuchea on June 7, 1977, proposed meetings as soon as possible between high-ranking leaders of the two parties and governments, but Kampuchea replied that meetings could be resumed only after "a period of time until the situation returns to normal, without further border conflicts..."

According to the Vietnamese and to U.S. and French press accounts, the attacks by Kampuchea continued. Finally this December, around the same time that a high-ranking delegation from China was in Kampuchea visiting the border area, Vietnam launched a counter-offensive and took up positions along a substantial stretch of the border.

KAMPUCHEAN CHARGES INCREDIBLE

Kampuchea has charged the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with wanting to "annex" its neighbor and with behaving like the Nazis when they seized Czechoslovakia. Commenting on the tone of these charges, *Le Monde* of Jan. 3 asks, "On hearing the communiques, almost daily for the last few months, of Radio Phnom Penh, one asks if there exist any frontier zones which are not the object of litigation, if there is one inch of Khmer territory which has not been, at one time or another, the object of Vietnamese 'aggression.'"

Another Kampuchean charge which has raised eyebrows everywhere is the claim that blond and blue-eyed Europeans—presumably Soviets—are "advising" the Vietnamese "aggressors." Since the Vietnamese have built up one of the most battle-hardened, experienced armies in the world and fought off half-a-million U.S. troops without



having to bring in any "advisers" from anywhere, the idea that they would be needed against the much smaller Kampuchean armed force merely proves again that truth is the first casualty in wartime.

LEGACY OF THE WAR

While the fighting in Southeast Asia has its immediate antecedents, and the imperialists are enjoying pointing out that they have nothing to do with it, it certainly also has roots back in the long years of bitter warfare against the U.S. aggressors. The area most in contention now, it seems, is where a salient of Kampuchean territory thrusts into Vietnam and is known as the Parrot's Beak. This was where U.S. troops launched their ill-fated invasion of Cambodia in 1970. The excuse for the invasion was that Nixon's forces were in pursuit of the illusory (and as it turned out

imaginary) Vietnamese "General Command Post" which was thought to be somewhere in the area.

While the strategic aim of the U.S. invasion—to destroy the "Vietcong sanctuary"—was a flop, and the Vietnamese liberation fighters continued to move freely throughout the mountains and jungles of the entire region, the effect that this punishing attack had on the Cambodians cannot be known, nor is it possible to gauge what resentment might have been planted against the Vietnamese because of it.

Certainly the present struggle, although complex and subject to many contemporary international pressures, is also a legacy of the most brutal and uneven war ever fought in human history, whose scars of poverty and pain have barely begun to be wiped away.

Due to mad profit drive of monopolies, banks

U.S. hospital costs rise \$1 million per hour

By RACHEL DUELL
"Hospital costs in this country are increasing at a rate of one million dollars per hour." This admission was made by the callous Joseph Califano, head of the anti-poor Department of Health, Education, and Welfare before a House Health Subcommittee. (*New York Times*, Sept. 9.)

Health costs are rising faster than any other item in a worker's budget. According to U.S. Labor Department statistics comparing 1974 to 1975, the increase in hospital service charges rose more than twice as fast as food and rent. The increase in doctors' fees ran close behind.

Millions of people in the U.S. have never had health insurance to help pay these costs. But personal tragedy increased for another 27 million people, workers and their families, last year when they lost their health coverage with layoffs. For those who are insured, coverage is more limited than before.

money spent on health care going?

Over the past decade, huge corporations and banks have made major investments in the health care industry. They invested when Wall Street announced a steady climb of profits in the health industry. They envisioned that the money spent on health care would line their own pockets.

Dow Chemical is one of many corporations formerly unrelated to the health industry that heeded Wall Street's call. Dow has been correctly remembered as the death peddler of napalm, the chemical used to kill and maim first the Korean and then the Vietnamese peoples. Dow began to buy up small drug companies in the 1960s and has since cornered the market on the measles vaccine.

Monopolies already deeply involved in the industry became increasingly more ruthless in their mad drive to remain among the most profitable manufacturing industries. Pfizer, American Cyanamid, Bristol Meyers, Squibb, and Upjohn, for example,

were exposed for how little they care about the sick when news hit the press that they had been brought to federal court for conspiring to fix the price of the antibiotic tetracycline.

SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT CO. FUEL COSTS

The administrative boards of hospitals are dominated by disease scavengers, the representatives of large industry. Hospital boards obligingly order equipment and supplies at beefed-up prices and pass the cost onto the sick.

These windfall profits have fallen to a variety of giants who saw the time was ripe to invest in health care. Kimberly-Clark, for example, fattens its pocketbook by price gouging on the sale of disposable bed linens and hospital uniforms. The 3M corporation got in with its cellophane, making peel-open packages of sterile surgical supplies and surgical tapes. The rubber baron B.F. Goodrich makes money hand-over-fist from antibacterial

mattresses.

Electronic companies selling heart monitors and other computers to hospitals include well-known names such as United Aircraft, Lockheed, Motorola, and Xerox.

The Eastman Kodak Co. has reaped a large purse from its hospital sales. *Scientific American* (September 1973) reported that more square feet of photographic film are used in making x-rays than are used by the motion picture industry!

Workers' dollars are also paying for unnecessary (but profitable) surgery. The high cost of surgery helps hospitals to pay for expensive equipment. In 1974, a congressional investigation found over 2.4 million unnecessary operations were performed in the U.S. (*Senior Scholastic*, April 1977).

Another factor fueling health costs is that hospitals conduct vicious, massive, and costly union-busting campaigns. Health care workers are among the lowest-paid

workers nationally. In contrast, dollars obtained from high health costs go to pay fat administrative and doctor salaries.

Expensive health insurance also contributes to the huge national health bill. According to the *United Auto Workers* newspaper *Solidarity* (Nov. 11), insurance companies kept \$4.6 billion after paying out benefits in 1975!

The health industry was once made up of neighborhood hospitals, small corner drug stores, and local makers of health equipment. These have increasingly been swallowed up by huge corporations. As a result there are large-scale laboratories and industries which have the potential to increase efficiency, drive down costs, and make new leaps in medical science to save workers' lives. But with monopoly price control, a dominant feature of capitalism today, driving up the cost of health care in so many ways, the tragedy of unnecessary lives lost and the terrible financial burden of illness continue.

Italy

Right-winger says crisis is due to 'lack of authority'

JANUARY 2—Today's New York Times Op-Ed page chose to feature a Radio Free Europe interview with a right-wing Italian history professor, Rosario Romeo. Romeo finds Italians "always on the brink of precipitating a serious crisis."

Whom does Romeo blame for this crisis? The Christian Democrat politicians who ran a corrupt government for the last 30 years? No. The capitalists who smuggle to Switzerland the money they robbed from the workers? No. The fascist gangs who devised the "strategy of tension" in the early 70s along with the security police, committing bombings and assassinations? No.

Does Romeo blame the capitalist system itself, which has led to 1.6 million unemployed (7%), with much higher rates among the youth and in the south? No.

Instead he blames the workers (for striking), the students (for seizing housing), and the authorities only for not acting decisively against them.

Still, Romeo offers some insights into the capitalist's view of Italy. He says, "We are suffering from what could be described, with some exaggeration, as a permanent general strike." Later on he adds, "It has become practically impossible to manage public institutions or private enterprise, because the legitimacy of all authority has been challenged and defeated." In other words, the Italian capitalists are growing frantic, because the Italian workers no longer respect their authority.

Turkey

Demirel regime falls

January 2—There is no doubt that Turkey's terrible economic woes lie behind the vote of no confidence the conservative regime of Suleyman Demirel got from the Turkish Parliament on Sunday. The country's foreign trade deficit now stands at \$3 billion, an enormous amount for a nation where the per capita income stands at only \$980 a year, a figure less than twenty-five percent of the European average!

And, of course, the situation has only been aggravated by the pro-U.S. imperialists, pro-big business policies of the Demirel government.

Demirel's principal bourgeois opponent, Bulent Ecevit, while seemingly more progressive, is basically a traditional social democrat equally committed as Demirel to the preservation of Turkish capitalism and to maintaining the country's subordination to the Pentagon and Wall Street.

While the Communist Party and the Turkish Labor Party are outlawed (although they have a considerable following among unionized workers), fascist groups, like the notorious National Action Party (MHP) are openly encouraged by the wealthy interests. The MHP actually holds two cabinet posts in the Demirel regime. It was the MHP along with rightist Turkish police units which ambushed a large workers' demonstration in Istanbul last May Day, killing 34 marchers and wounding over 200.

The fall of the Demirel regime does not mean that Turkish capitalism will be gone. But it does present the working people and poor farmers there with a favorable opportunity to push the struggle for socialism forward far beyond anything that the moderate critics of the present regime there have ever promised.

South Korea

'Koreagate' forgotten?

JANUARY 3—Remember "Koreagate?" That's what the capitalist press used to call the Korea bribe scandal when it first surfaced almost two years ago. At that time there were big headlines about how over 100 Congressmen had taken bribes from the U.S.-backed south Korean government of dictator Pak Jung Hi. It was, the media all agreed, the biggest case of mass felony in the history of the U.S. Congress.

But then, not so amazingly, the chief witness disappeared. Tongsun Park, the top bribe-giver, was allowed to escape and flee to south Korea. The "investigation" ground to a halt after only two indictments, one against former Representative Richard Hanna (D-Calif.) and one against a south Korean businessman living in Maryland.

About all that came of this was a lot of embarrassment for the Pak dictatorship in south Korea, which, one suspects, was the purpose of this whole carefully orchestrated affair from the very beginning.

Recently a deal has been worked out between the U.S. Justice Department and the south Korean regime to allow Tongsun Park to come to the U.S. to

give testimony before a grand jury, with the provision that he will have immunity from prosecution and that he will not have to testify before Congress.

Obviously the whole business was engineered with the aim of making the south Korean government even more subservient to the will of U.S. imperialism, while protecting the vast majority of congressional bribe-takers from any punishment.

The "Koreagate" scandal had little or nothing to do with fighting corruption. Nor is the Carter administration really serious about withdrawing its occupation army from south Korea, as shown by his increase in the number of U.S. soldiers stationed there last year (U.S. News & World Report, Dec. 26).

Spain

Token Basque autonomy

JANUARY 2—Responding to mass pressure, the Spanish government granted limited autonomy to the Basque provinces early Saturday morning.

The major political parties in the Basque provinces had called on their supporters to take the streets Jan. 4 if the government did not approve a negotiated draft statute by that time. It was fear of this action, which follows years of struggle for self-determination for the Basque country, which forced the concession from the government.

It was the workers of the Basque country who waged the most resolute struggle against Franco, especially in the last years of Franco's rule. The Basque liberation organization, ETA, carried the armed struggle forward even after Franco's death, as Basque political prisoners filled the jails.

The ETA demands independence for the Basque country, and not only the very limited autonomy offered by the current law. Taxation and the police still remain in the hands of the federal government.

Past experience suggests that the Basque workers will not be satisfied with just this token concession.

Chile

Pinochet's plebiscite

JANUARY 2—The fascist General Augusto Pinochet in Chile has organized a phony plebiscite to try to counter world horror and condemnation of the brutal, counter-revolutionary dictatorship. The plebiscite will state, "In the face of the international aggression unleashed against the Government of the homeland, I support President Pinochet in his defense of the dignity of Chile, and reaffirm the legitimacy of the Government of the republic to conduct, in a sovereign way, the institutionalization of the country."

On the ballot to be presented this week, a "yes" appears under the Chilean national flag while "no" appears under a black rectangle. All the Chilean newspapers have been filled with advertisements advocating a "yes" vote while women are being warned to vote "with the security of their families in mind." Leafletters urging a "no" vote were arrested last week. And, of course, it will be the fascist state itself who will be counting the ballots.

Britain

Racist wage practices

JANUARY 2—An Associated Press (AP) documentary film aired in London on Dec. 21 has exposed yet another billion dollar, imperialist corporation for its racist exploitation of Black workers in South Africa. Tate and Lyle, England's most lucrative sugar refinery, was found to have systematically paid starvation wages to Black workers at its South African company, according to a Dec. 22 New York Times article.

The AP documentary interviewed Black men and women workers at Tate and Lyle who stated that women workers were paid an incredibly low \$1.15 per day and that the men received under \$18 a week for back breaking dawn-to-dusk work.

Caught in the act of brutally exploiting the labor of Black South African workers to add to its already huge profits, Tate and Lyle tried to hide its deed by taking out an injunction against the first showing of the film. Using the flimsy excuse that the film "grossly distorted" the company's racist wage practices, Tate and Lyle tried to pressure AP to alter the documentary in the company's favor, even after a company spokesman admitted that "the men's wage was correctly stated." As a last resort, the company even went so far as to fabricate and spread a claim that the statements by Black workers were "lies obtained by reporters with bribes!"

Despite Tate and Lyle's attempts to hide its crimes, the documentary ran as filmed and the Black workers were able to indict the company on England's Independent Television for all the years it had underpaid and overworked them.

Quebec

Trudeau threatens Quebecois with martial law

JANUARY 2—Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau lashed out against the super-oppressed Quebecois people on New Year's night. In one of his most aggressive and belligerent statements since the bourgeois nationalist Parti Quebecois came to office two years ago on a program of independence for Quebec, Trudeau stated, "there cannot be any unilateral declaration of independence" for Quebec Province. He further added, "I'm not going to be shy about using the sword if something illegal is attempted."

The Canadian head of state also alluded to his invocation of martial law under the War Measures Act in 1970 when hundreds of Quebecois were arbitrarily arrested during a time of popular indignation and protest against the oppressive Canadian regime.

While Canada as a whole is under the economic domination of the U.S., Quebec in turn is an internal colony of Canada. The oppressed French-speaking people have the highest rate of unemployment and discrimination in all fields.

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



Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism are organizing and responsible for many of the struggles you read about in the pages of this paper. These groups are made up of women and men, Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native American, young and old, straight and gay, working, students, and unemployed, who fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

ATLANTA—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, GA 30301. [404] 523-8990.

BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 2402 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218. [301] 366-3713.

BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston St., Room 204, Boston, MA 02116. [617] 247-1778.

BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 170 Franklin St. [Crosby Bldg.], Room 410, Buffalo, NY 14202. [716] 855-3055.

CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605. [312] 922-0326.

CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 12576, East Cleveland, OH 44112. [216] 371-9293 or 231-8456.

DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, Third Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. [313] 962-4979.

GREELEY—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 1863, Greeley, Colo. 80631. [303] 356-9408.

HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052. [713] 654-0798.

MILWAUKEE—Workers World Party, 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, WI 53202. [414] 224-0422.

NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010. [212] 255-0352.

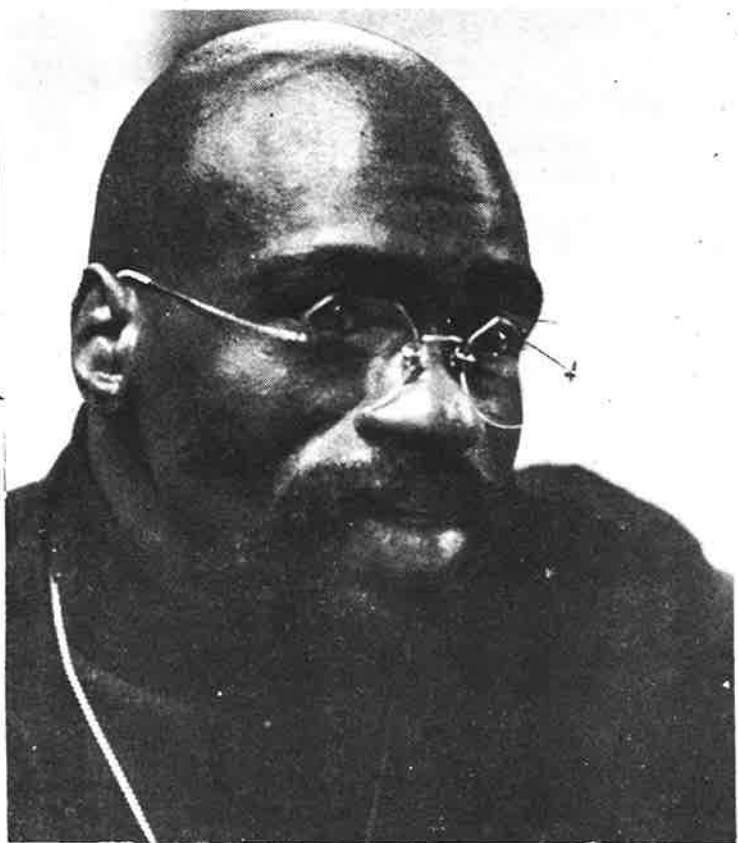
NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, VA 23509. [804] 627-0870.

PHILADELPHIA—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 9894, Philadelphia, PA 19140. [215] 227-3517.

ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State St., Rochester, NY 14614. [716] 546-6429.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, 932 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20001. [202] 347-0138.

POLITICAL PRISONERS



Rubin "Hurricane" Carter

Convicted amidst racist hysteria

Carter, Artis seek new trial

By PRESTON WOOD
DECEMBER 31—One year after being convicted by racist courts for the second time for murders which they did not commit, John Artis and Rubin (Hurricane) Carter are seeking a new trial.

The two men have served over nine long years in prison. They were granted a new trial last year as a result of national pressure after it was revealed that the state withheld evidence which would have helped the defense. In addition, the two key prosecution witnesses both admitted that their testimonies were false and that they had lied on the witness stand as a result of pressure from the police.

RACIST FRAME-UP

At the time of their re-sentencing last year both Carter and Artis once more declared that

they are innocent and that they have been convicted only because they are Black. Both men have pointed to the tone of racial hysteria which has characterized both their trials. The two were set-up for murder charges in the wake of the heroic rebellion in the Black community in Paterson, New Jersey in 1967. Carter, a well-known boxer, had openly voiced support for that rebellion.

POLICE PLANT PHONY EVIDENCE

During the second trial, defense attorneys presented evidence which proved that the police had planted cartridges in Carter's car to insure the conviction on the trumped-up charges. The complicity of the police and the contradictions of the witnesses became more glaring, and in the words of Carter, "not one scintilla of evidence was presented by the prosecution." Lacking any case against the

two men, the prosecution suddenly introduced "racial revenge" as a motive, thus creating an atmosphere of racism which led to the conviction. Carter was re-sentenced to two consecutive life terms and one concurrent life term. Artis was re-sentenced to three concurrent life sentences.

Defense lawyers for Carter and Artis have said that their arguments for a new trial would focus on the fact that the phony "racial revenge" motive was presented without any corroborative evidence, and that the only witness for the prosecution who could place Carter and Artis at the scene of the crime has admitted to multiple perjury.

Defense attorneys Myron Beldock and Lewis Steele have also noted that the move for a new trial for the two innocent men was delayed for a year because the state had denied Carter and Artis free access to the transcripts of last year's trial.

Release Tom Payne!

By SUSAN HOFFHEIMER
CHICAGO, Dec. 31—"How long will people stand around and let such an unjust situation happen?" The situation described by Lucretia Payne to this reporter was the frame-up of her brother, Tom Payne, on false rape charges.

In 1972, Tom Payne signed a contract to play professional basketball with the Atlanta Hawks team. For two years prior, he had been the only Black player on the University of Kentucky team. Shortly after he signed his professional contract, he was arrested and charged with raping two white women; one in Louisville, Ky., and one in Atlanta, Ga. Payne was charged with 16 rapes in Atlanta, but 15 of these charges were dropped.

Originally, the incident in Louisville was supposed to have taken place when Payne was out of town, as his family told police investigators who came to arrest him. Later, when he was charged, the date of the rape had been changed to a time when Tom Payne was in Louisville!

The description of the man who is supposed to have raped both women (in Georgia and in Kentucky) is of a light-skinned Black man, about 6'2" tall, with a bad stutter. Tom Payne is 7'2" tall, a full foot taller than the description, and has dark skin, and no speech impediment. The fact is that Tom Payne looks nothing at all like the suspected attacker of the two women.

Incredibly, the prosecution in the Atlanta case tried to prove that Tom Payne raped a woman in the back seat of a Chevrolet Camaro, and without leaving any fingerprints (the back seat of a Camaro is only 56" wide—less than five feet). Furthermore, there is virtually no evidence to link Tom Payne to the rapes other than the testimony of the women.

Regarding that testimony, the women had never been asked to pick Payne out of a line up, nor were they shown pictures of other suspects. None had seen Payne in person until the trial.

In Atlanta, the jury that convicted Tom Payne was all white. In Louisville, there was only one Black person on the jury.

Tom Payne was in jail five years in Atlanta. During that entire

time, the state of Kentucky made no attempt to extradite or try him. Finally after five years Kentucky put Payne on trial, even though they had no new evidence. Payne is currently serving a life sentence in Kentucky, where he was convicted in September.

Tom Payne has a wife and a daughter, who along with his mother and eight brothers and sisters, are appealing his conviction. They are also asking supporters to send letters to Governor Julian Carroll, State Capitol, Frankfurt, Kentucky

(and include a copy to the defense committee), urging him to let Payne out on parole.

"Our main goal now is to put pressure on the parole and probation board and the governor, so that Tom can get out," said Payne's sister Debra in an interview.

Supporters are urged to write for information or to send contributions for Payne's legal expenses to: Thomas Payne Defense Committee, P.O. Box 70107, Louisville, Kentucky 40270. Support is greatly needed.

Prisoners form self-defense group

Gays face beatings, death in U.S. concentration camps

JANUARY 2—The conditions for prisoners in the U.S., and in particular the repression against gay prisoners by the prison administration has worsened in recent years.

Lawrence Reed and John Gibbs, along with 300 other prisoners, are segregated from the main population. Both men say that many of these 300 men are gays.

Said Gibbs in a letter to *Workers World*, "Conditions here are unbelievably inhumane. Bug-infested, filthy, with prisoners sleeping on floors in all cells, cold food and no heat in segregation units and no medical treatment.

"All gay prisoners are denied access to any rights and are

ignored and unprotected." Gibbs continued. "Several severe rapes have occurred the past two months since my arrival."

Reed, in a letter to this newspaper, similarly describes the horrors of the state prison, adding, "I have been here 18 months and was raped in a set-up by officials as they are against any gay prisoners, people and gay organizations." He also reports that he has been denied all medical care. Reed continued, "No gay or political papers have been let in either. The gay prisoners are in bad need of support and help as officials have taken up retaliation against anyone attempting to expose the situation."

On Nov. 8, 1973, Gibbs' friend and co-founder of the National Gay Prisoners Coalition was stabbed to death at the behest of the Leavenworth prison officials.

Gibbs has since been threatened, assaulted, and transferred to more than 30 county jails and 7 U.S. penitentiaries in an attempt to prevent him from organizing against racism, sexism, and gay oppression in prison.

Despite threats, Gibbs is a member of a class action suit along with the National Prisoners Association (NPA) to lift the ban on gay literature in federal prisons. Last December, Norman Carlson, Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, ordered the ban with the excuse that receiving the literature marked the reader as gay and could incite violence.

The NPA and Gibbs along with gay activists have insisted that the prison administration which controls every aspect of life behind the walls, is responsible for any violence that occurs.

THREE MURDERED AT MCNEIL ISLAND

Within a two-month period last year three gay activists were murdered at McNeil Island in the state of Washington.

Glenn Levine and Thomas Calvin were stabbed to death, Don Dumas was found dead in his cell.

A fourth gay prisoner at McNeil, Jon Wildes, now fears for his life. As a result of his attempts

to expose the role of the prison administrators in threatening him, he was transferred to four different prisons in a ten-day period.

MEN AGAINST SEXISM

The Nov./Dec. issue of *Join Hands Gay Prisoners News*, contains an article from a prisoner organization in Walla Walla, Washington, called Men Against Sexism (MAS). They describe themselves as a multi-racial group of gay and anti-sexist prisoners confined at Washington State Penitentiary. The group organizes defense for gay and other prisoners.

The group members meet the transporting bus and escort prisoners into the prison. Rick English, director, said the group also offers prisoner self-defense to encourage gays out of segregation and into the prison population.

MAS is asking the leaders of various prisoner clubs to take a stand in support of gay rights; distributing articles explaining the nature of gay oppression to the population; and attempting to create a base of support for the prisoners in the gay community outside the prison walls.

Recently the prison's chaplain tried to prevent a minister from a gay church from performing services for gay religious prisoners. The next day when the same chaplain tried to deliver a sermon on the "evils" of homosexuality he was stopped by 15 MAS members.

"NO ONE CAN STOP THE RAIN"

HERE IN PRISON
RAGE CONTAINED IN MY BREAST
I PATIENTLY WAIT
FOR THE CLOUDS TO GATHER
BLOWN BY THE WIND OF HISTORY

NO ONE
CAN STOP THE RAIN.

—from "Here in Prison" by Agostino Neto, Portuguese
Prison, Luanda, July 1960



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January 6, 1978

American Indian Movement militant faces new legal attack

Peltier to go on trial Jan. 18

By JEFF KANNEL

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 30—Leonard Peltier, American Indian Movement (AIM) activist and freedom fighter, goes on trial here Jan. 18 on five-year-old trumped-up charges of attempted murder of two drunken off-duty Milwaukee cops.

The real reason for Peltier's next legal battle is that he is one of hundreds of Native activists who have been arrested, harassed, beaten, or killed by local and federal police in reprisal for the Trail of Broken Treaties demonstration in Washington, D.C., in 1972. This FBI-led campaign continues today.

TRAIL OF BROKEN TREATIES

Thousands of Indians went to Washington in November, 1972, to call attention to problems in Indian America and to negotiate with U.S. officials over violations of treaty rights. The offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) were occupied for a week. To save itself further exposure and to get the bureaucracy grinding again, the U.S. agreed to an amnesty for demonstrators and agreed to negotiate on treaty issues. The negotiations never took place, however, and the amnesty lasted only until the demonstrators got back home.

Leonard Peltier lived and worked in the Milwaukee Indian



Leonard Peltier

community during that time. To help carry out its campaign, the FBI called upon the Milwaukee police department.

In addition to the frame-up charges against Peltier, other Milwaukee activists faced repeated arrest and harassment, here and on reservations. Herb Powless and Phil Bautista are still in South

Dakota jailed on phony firearms charges.

Speaking in Milwaukee last spring about the federal effort to silence Peltier and the Indian movement, was AIM national chairman John Trudell, who said, concerning the Trail of Broken Treaties demonstration, "We were given amnesty in exchange for

leaving the BIA offices. We should have stayed and stood trial in Washington, D.C. But the government didn't want to put us on trial in Black Washington, because they knew we would walk away free. When we got back home, they were waiting for us, especially at Pine Ridge. The convictions they knew, they couldn't get in Black Washington they knew they could get in white South Dakota." The government hopes for convictions in Milwaukee as well.

VICTIMS OF FBI CAMPAIGN

Peltier was also a victim of the intense campaign against the Pine Ridge reservation. He is currently serving two life terms on frame-up charges of "aiding and abetting" in the deaths of two FBI agents at Pine Ridge. This is despite the fact that the government's original story of the incident has been thoroughly discredited, and no one has ever been charged with killing the agents. Peltier's three co-defendants on the aiding and abetting charges were found not guilty by juries or had charges dropped.

In spite of all this, the U.S. desperately wanted a conviction in the case and moved Peltier's trial to Fargo, North Dakota, in order to get it. Appeals are still pending.

The judge Peltier now faces has virtually denied the defense the

right to present a case and has tried to deny Peltier's supporters the right to defend him outside the courts. For example, John Trudell was arrested for "contempt of court" for arguing with a marshal outside the courtroom while trial was not in session. He served part of a 60-day sentence during the Fargo trial, but the government has waited until now—just before Peltier's next trial—to force Trudell to finish the jail sentence.

Peltier's Milwaukee case is similar to that of Ray Mendoza. Mendoza was confronted by drunken, off-duty Milwaukee cops and was thrown in jail for defending himself. He has recently won the right to a new trial. Since both cases stem from the racist and repressive role played by police in oppressed communities, defense committees for both political prisoners have held joint meetings and are co-sponsoring benefits.

Members of the national Leonard Peltier Defense Committee are in Milwaukee to lead the struggle to free him. Among them is Dino Butler, one of Peltier's co-defendants in the Pine Ridge case, who was found not guilty. The Committee plans an intense effort to educate the city about the Indian struggle, and to expose the crimes of the FBI and federal courts against Native people and nations.

Congressional bill attacks Indian sovereignty

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 21—Hoping to finish the job begun by the Pilgrims, the 7th Cavalry, John Wayne, and the FBI, Washington Congressman J.E. Cunningham is sponsoring a new bill, HR 9054, which would tear up 371 international treaties, and end all U.S. government recognition of the existence of Native people.

HR 9054 proposes "to direct the President to abrogate all treaties entered into by the United States with Indian tribes" and terminate "federal supervision over the property and members of Indian tribes."

Although Cunningham has titled his bill "The Native American Equal Opportunities Act," a quick reading of the bill shows that it is a direct effort to destroy all the aspects of self-government which Indian nations have fought for centuries to preserve.

It would, if passed, wipe out in one sentence the hunting and fishing rights which are central parts of most of the treaties—rights repeatedly upheld in the federal government's own courts. HR 9054 would also end all federal Indian programs, including health, education, and housing. Without these, the poverty and lack of human services on most reservations would become much worse than it already is, forcing thousands to leave their

homelands for the urban centers.

BILL WOULD BREAK UP RESERVATIONS

The bill has specific provisions for breaking up all reservations. Each tribe would vote on whether to keep reservation land as a unit owned by a tribal corporation, or to break it up into individual plots for tribal members. In either case, the U.S. would no longer recognize tribal governments or sovereignty. Land would become subject to property taxes, and much of it would be lost because of inability to pay the taxes.

HR 9054, in short, is an attempt to deny the history of this country. Although the U.S. waged genocidal warfare against Indian nations, it never fully succeeded in crushing them and was forced to negotiate and sign valid, international treaties with the governments of Native peoples.

What would be the reaction of the State Department if Britain were to tear up its treaties with the U.S., declare ownership of all of North America, and withdraw recognition of the U.S. government? Yet that is exactly what Cunningham and his supporters plan to do to U.S. treaties with all Indian nations.

Wisconsin Indians know well that HR 9054 could mean. In 1961, the Menominee nation was terminated in the same way as proposed for all tribes in this bill.

The Menominees kept their land together through a tribal corporation, but the loss of federal programs and the burden of property taxation reduced one of the most self-sufficient reservations in the country to the poorest county in Wisconsin. A long struggle to restore the Menominee reservation succeeded in 1973, but not before they had lost much land and gone deeply into debt.

INDIANS HIT BILL

Indian groups across the country have reacted strongly against the bill. Lobbying and letter-writing efforts have been organized to warn Native people of the dangers of the bill and to pressure Congress not to pass it. The entire front page of the December issue of the Milwaukee Indian News was devoted to exposing HR 9054.

While Cunningham's bill has drawn the most opposition, Rep. Lloyd Meeds has submitted bills which he calls a "middle ground" on the issues. Meeds' bills won't specifically abrogate the treaties, but would have the same effect. He would weaken or take away most treaty rights to self-government, such as hunting and fishing rights and the powers of tribal courts.

Meeds claims to be a long-time supporter of Indians because he sponsored the Menominee restoration act in 1973. If his bills

are not passed, Meeds warns, Congress will pass the more extreme Cunningham bill.

But Charles Trimble, director of the National Congress of American Indians, attacked Meeds' "compromise," saying that "restoration of the Menominees would amount to nothing more than coming back to a denuded government."

Why is Congress considering such legislation, only four years after reversing the Menominee termination? In recent years, groups like the Interstate Congress for Equal Rights and Responsibilities have formed in reaction to Indian court victories and the growth of militancy in the Indian Movement. These right-wing, anti-Indian forces have attacked all forms of Indian self-government, claiming to defend the "rights" of whites on Indian land. A campaign by these forces against Meeds last year nearly cost him his seat in Congress. Meeds has chosen to play along with the anti-Indian right wing in order to stay in Washington.

CAPITALISTS COVET NATIVE LANDS

There are other, larger forces which would like to see Native people's sovereignty destroyed. Real estate developers see the reservations as future condominiums, resorts, and profits. Lumber corporations want to get

their saws into the vast tracts of forest land. And the so-called energy crisis has greatly intensified the pressure from the energy monopolies like Exxon to eliminate Indian control over their own resources and land. A large proportion of the remaining reserves of oil, gas, coal and uranium within the U.S. borders are in Indian country.

The U.S. government would like these bills to relieve them of the "Indian problem." It would like to deny the fact that there are oppressed nations within its own borders. But the struggle of Native peoples has become an international one, with links to movements of other indigenous peoples and some recognition from the United Nations. Added to the greater militancy and organization among Native people, the U.S. can no longer expect to enact anti-Indian legislation without a fight.

Leonard Peltier, AIM activist and political prisoner facing a frame-up trial here beginning January 18, talked about HR 9054 in a letter to Milwaukee Indian News. He warned that if the bill "is signed by President Carter, our people will lose what little we have left for our children. By showing unity here (my trial) it will be a start in letting the government know that we, as sovereign people, will not stand for their latest attempt at genocide against our people." —J.K.