



Carter does nothing

Mass alarm grows over rising food prices

Meat boycott of '73...



...time for a bigger struggle?

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the price of food in this country is rising at new record breaking rates. This trend is sure to provoke protests like the one shown above held against high meat prices in 1973. Note the jump in today's prices compared to those shown in the photo.

By BILL DEL VECCHIO
MARCH 27—Both at the supermarket checkout counter and the negotiating table working people's paychecks are under attack.
And this attack has not gone unnoticed as recent polls have indicated that U.S. workers are starting to view inflation with growing alarm and anger.
Food prices, the largest single expense of poor and working people, have skyrocketed in the past three months, and the normally optimistic U.S. Department of Agriculture said yesterday that it's going to get worse.
At the same time that inflation is secretly cutting workers' wages, the current negotiating strategy of both big and small corporations is to try to force open wage and benefit cuts down the workers' throats.
Wielding this double-edged sword, the capitalist class has

already begun to hack away at the standard of living of the masses of poor people. During the month of December alone, the ruling class' statistic makers at the Commerce Department admitted that working people's buying power dropped by 3%.
According to the Agriculture Department report the rise in food prices for February will be almost as high as the huge hike during January, with meat prices leading the way. If food costs continue to increase at January's rate all year, it will mean a 14.4% increase.
A rise in the price of food almost immediately takes its toll on the standard of living of working people—and these continuing price increases certainly have deepened the hidden wage cuts which were revealed in December.
The profit-mad capitalist class isn't content with the slow and

subtle form of wage cuts via inflation. Increasingly they are demanding major concessions from unionized workers and imposing them on non-unionized workers. Gloating over this trend, the New York Times said yesterday, "In recent months the spark points in contract talks have been management demands for givebacks or 'takeaways'—the cancellation of some of labor's old gains."
In addition to hundreds of small shops all over the country, workers in the coal industry, construction, city workers, newspapers, and aircraft workers have had to fight their bosses over "takeaway" contract demands.
Up until the powerful strike by coal miners, many of labor's recent battles against takeaway demands have been unsuccessful. Even the and pension benefits, but only after defeating major takeaway
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Bryant, neo-nazis bring filth to Illinois as...

Gay people, supporters hold strong protest

By **BETH SEMMER**
 DECATUR, Ill., March 19—Joe Louis, the great Black boxer, once said concerning a fleet-footed opponent that "he can run but he can't hide." This is also true of Anita Bryant, who was met by a militant demonstration of lesbians and gay men here as she brought her anti-gay roadshow to this small industrial city in south-central Illinois today.

Sponsored by the Revival Fire Ministry of Joplin, Mo., the revival meeting was held at a public high school here. While Bryant spoke inside the school, a group of her supporters stood guard outside. According to today's Chicago Tribune, this group was made up of "fifty persons carrying pro-Bryant signs and claiming to belong to local Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations and the Ku Klux Klan." Actually the group was closer to 30, but the right-wing Tribune is correct as far as the presence of the Klan, the VFW, and, it might be added, the American Legion.

"ANITA AND KLAN, SCUM OF LAND!"

However, what was outstanding was the turnout of gay and lesbian activists and their supporters from various parts of the state to confront the forces of racism and anti-gay bigotry symbolized by Bryant and the Klan. A multinational grouping of over 100 women and men chanting, "Anita and the Klan—scum of the land" and singing "Move on over or we'll move on over you—cause gay folks' time has come," intimidated Bryant's Klan contingent into near silence for the two- to three-hour period of the demonstration.

Racist epithets directed against a very militant group of Black transvestites from Decatur were easily drowned out by the loud chanting of "Anita, the Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan work together hand in hand." Never was a chant shown to be so truly accurate and appropriate. The presence of the Klan caused even some of the original pro-Bryant grouping to pack up and leave the area.

Groups participating in the demonstration included the Chicago Committee for Gay Rights, the Springfield Gay Rights Action Coalition, Campaign Dignity, the 43rd Ward Gay Caucus, the Gay Illini, Gary Nepon, a gay candidate from Chicago, Youth Against War &

Fascism, and several gay and lesbian activists from the Decatur area.
 Millie Leonard of the Chicago Committee for Gay Rights, in closing the rally after the demonstration, tied together the struggle for Black liberation, the struggle of the coal miners, and

the struggle for gay rights and promised that the struggle would not only continue but would lead to the total liberation of all the oppressed from forces represented by Bryant, the Klan, the mine operators, and the corporations that profit from the oppression of the poor and working people.



By **JOHN IVERSON**

BOSTON, March 16—About 1,000 students from Boston University (BU) demonstrated against tuition hikes for three hours here yesterday. At one point, the students trapped the Board of Trustees inside the Student Union for 30 minutes.
 The students were also protesting the fact, recently disclosed, that the Board of Trustees were selling admission into the university's medical and law schools for huge sums to wealthy students.
 The militant protest, which focused on a hike in tuition of \$550 bringing the yearly cost of tuition, room, and board to a whopping \$6,280, left one student arrested and three injured, including two BU cops.
 The students had forced BU President John Silber to agree to meet with them, but before a date was agreed upon, all 50 trustees and administrators were forced by the angry protestors into a room, ironically called the "Hall of Benefactors." The Boston police finally rescued the administrators.
 This protest is the largest that has occurred at BU, which saw many smaller demonstrations last fall and spring over administrative policy.

Fascists fear for their lives

3,000 anti-racists rout Nazi group

By **JOHN HUTTON**
 CHICAGO, March 16—On Saturday the so-called National Socialist Party of America, a Nazi splinter group, attempted to march through a predominantly white neighborhood in south St. Louis. Their goal was to hold a "white power" rally in Gravois Park, then move to a new party headquarters for a convention.

They never made it. Facing the 40 or so uniformed Nazis (and 150 police) was a crowd of more than 3,000 people,

determined to prevent the march from taking place. The frightened Nazis were forced to cower in a truck along the "march route," while anti-racists pelted them with snowballs, stones, and bottles. Some chanted, "Death to the Nazis!" Unable to hold their planned racist rally, the Nazis fled to their headquarters, while the crowd was held back by police riot squads—some mounted, some with police dogs. Ultimately, the Nazis were forced to leave even this shelter and take refuge in the local police station (where they changed

into regular clothing and slunk away).
 Asked why the Nazis didn't return to their headquarters, a police captain replied, "They feel they'd be killed if they went back there."
 Many of the crowd came originally out of curiosity; one man described it as being like "going to see the monkeys in a zoo." Confronted with the uniformed Nazis and swastika flags, however, they spontaneously lashed out against the fascists and drove them from their community.

New attack on women's rights in Ohio

Women fight anti-abortion offensive

By **MARTHA GREVATT**
 CLEVELAND, March 8—Recently, women in Ohio have seen several attempts by the right wing to deny them the right to

choose abortion, underscoring the need for poor and working women to organize in defense of gains won in past struggles.

Several weeks ago, an abortion clinic in Cleveland was the target of two violent attacks. In one of these attacks, a woman worker was seriously burned after being doused with gasoline.

Last week, the Akron City Council passed an ordinance severely restricting the right of a woman to obtain an abortion. This ordinance, while a serious setback, was not passed without a fight. Some 250 women had packed a hearing and about 300 had demonstrated to prevent its approval by the Council. This ordinance is considered a "model" by the so-called Right-to-Life grouping, which now plans to push it in cities throughout the country.

Some of the provisions are that a woman must notify the father before an abortion, that minors notify their parents, and that women seeking abortions first listen to "the other side"—"Right-to-Life" propaganda. The ordinance limits the performing of abortions in hospitals, and even restricts the use of certain contraceptives!
 Now, the Cleveland Heights City

Council is reviewing the same legislation passed in Akron, and right-wingers are pressuring the city to block a proposed abortion clinic in that suburb.

On March 6, 100 women filled the Cleveland Heights City Council chambers to defend the right of the clinic to operate and to oppose introduction of any anti-abortion legislation.

All of these assaults on the right to choose are part of a well-financed, well-organized, national campaign to roll back the gains women fought for in the 1960s. This campaign has been spurred on by the vicious Hyde Amendment, denying poor women the use of Medicaid funds for abortions.

Like the Hyde Amendment, these attacks hurt poor, especially oppressed, women the most. Rich women have always been able to obtain abortions, even if it meant going overseas.

The fight for free, safe abortion, no forced sterilization, for paid pregnancy leave, for free, quality childcare, and for the right of women to raise healthy children will continue—in Ohio and elsewhere—until every battle is won.

The St. Louis debacle was intended by Nazi leader Frank Collin as a springboard for a planned march in the largely Jewish Chicago suburb of Skokie. Recent court decisions have struck down Skokie ordinances preventing such a march, although the Skokie Village Council is appealing. Collin and his thugs have called for a Nazi march in the suburb for April 20—Hitler's birthday.

Faced with the outrage of many Skokie residents at the very existence of these fascists, Illinois Gov. James Thompson has called for a counter-march on the same day (preferably, he says, in Chicago rather than Skokie, to "avoid a confrontation"). Backed by both major daily newspapers in Chicago and 34 area Jewish organizations, the idea for the counter-march has picked up considerable support.

No matter how cynical or manipulative the high-placed supporters of the march might be (and many, such as Thompson, a reactionary Republican, are both), the fact is that the idea of a march against the Nazis has struck a chord among progressive and decent people here, especially among survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. The support this march has drawn shows clearly that the racist and fascist forces symbolized by Collin's tiny band do not speak for the people of Chicago.

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March 31, 1978

No help for the jobless

Carter's urban plan: making the rich richer

By JESSE LEE

MARCH 27—After over a year of almost complete neglect, President "Jimmy" Carter has finally announced a plan to halt the "deterioration of urban life in the United States." Rather than sending the aid—which in any case falls short of what is necessary to solve the crisis of the cities—directly to the poor and the oppressed, Carter's plan is designed to help those who need it the least: the businessmen and bankers.

The Carter plan, presented with great fanfare today, allocates \$8.3 billion to "save" the cities. Of this, \$4.4 billion will come from federal aid, \$1.7 billion will be in the form of a tax reduction for big business, and \$2.2 billion will be in guaranteed loans to industry.

This is the program that is the government's answer to the high unemployment, cutbacks in social services, and severe decay that has hit the nation's cities during the last four years of economic recession.

Last year, leaders of the Black and Latin communities had estimated that it would take at the very least \$40 billion in emergency funds just to begin the kind of large-scale program that is needed to turn around the crisis of the cities. That was in 1977, yet it took until now for the government to come up with its highly limited proposal.

NO JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED

In today's speech, Carter offered less than one-quarter of what was urgently needed a year ago. Carter did not even present a plan for immediate employment for the

millions who are presently without jobs, even though this was one of his most publicized campaign promises.

Much of the \$8.3 billion program is actually money that is already being spent by the government. In fact, no funds will be added this year, and only \$742 million is being proposed for 1979. Carter said, however, that by 1981 his plan would add \$4.4 billion to the current budget. Compare this with the \$115 billion the Pentagon will get this year alone.

What Carter did not emphasize today is that Congress must vote on all of this before any new money is spent. As everyone knows, this can mean long delays while Congress bickers over details, possibly even reducing or changing altogether the program before it is okayed.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF IS POSSIBLE

If Carter were really serious about helping poor people in the U.S. metropolitan areas, he could have enacted an executive order that would take effect right away. Money could be allocated from the bloated war budget that is now larger than ever before in U.S. history even though there is no declared war at this time. This war money, which produces nothing of value for society and just brings greater inflation, could be put to good use creating more jobs and rebuilding poverty-ridden neighborhoods.

Carter has instead said that he wants to turn over billions of dollars to the banks to be loaned to businesses and small manufacturers. This is supposed to create jobs, according to the

President. This "trickle down" thinking is similar to Richard Nixon's position that if the rich are made richer, somehow the poor will benefit.

Carter calls this the "new partnership." But there is nothing new about a partnership between the big bankers and the government that fronts for them!

Another aspect to the Carter plan that spells trouble is that all federal money is to go to the state governments and "approved community groups." This cuts out all local city officials. Because the

bulk of federal payments will go to the state politicians, this will mean that the purse strings for most of the money will be held by 50 wealthy white governors, hardly a group that is sympathetic to the most needy.

This move by Carter, which was aimed at appeasing the right-wing of the ruling class, is also an attempt by the government to get a tight stranglehold on the country's oppressed and working class communities.

Though no one has seen the fine print on Carter's plan, where even

more devious schemes may be hidden, it is clear from the outline presented today that this minimal program will not solve the problems that so desperately need a solution.

Even the most conservative of the Black community organizations have already denounced the president's new policy. It should be painfully clear by now to all concerned that Carter has no intention of living up to his campaign promise to improve conditions for poor people, but is only a pliable tool of the rich.

Large-scale opposition in Europe to the neutron bomb

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

MARCH 25—In the face of growing mass opposition among European workers and continued reluctance in the West European governments, the Pentagon is continuing to try to push the neutron bomb's use on the territory of the U.S.'s NATO allies.

Last week U.S. Gen. Alexander Haig told a Pentagon news conference, "The utility of the weapon, its usability, its credibility generally in deterrence terms contributes to the reality that it will not have to be used."

Haig, the NATO commander, was using typical Pentagon doubletalk to push the new weapon system that kills people without destroying much property—the "ideal capitalist weapon" some have called it. Since its introduction into the U.S. arsenal last year, the Washington

militarists have tried to deploy it in Europe, to threaten directly the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries in Eastern Europe.

Despite U.S. pressure, most West European NATO countries still have not approved the use of this horrible weapon. In fact, the Belgian parliament, not particularly noted for being progressive, recently voted a resolution against the deployment of the neutron bomb.

MASSES OPPOSE IT

What the bourgeois parliaments fear is the growing resistance amongst the European people. As evidence of this resistance, 50,000 people marched through the streets of Amsterdam, Netherlands, on March 19 to protest the use of the neutron bomb. The march followed an

international conference on neutron weapons systems in which 1,500 delegates from 28 countries from Europe, the U.S., and Canada participated.

Haig claimed at the press conference that the USSR will have to assume that the new neutron warhead is more likely to be used than today's nuclear weapons, and would then be less likely to launch an attack on NATO.

The class conscious European workers, knowing that the danger of attack comes from the capitalist NATO side, don't want to see a weapon that doesn't destroy property in the hands of the propertied classes that rule the U.S. and Western Europe. These bosses have shown in wars from World War I to Vietnam that they don't care about the lives of workers.

Freedom for Imani draws global support

By TOM GARDNER

ATLANTA, March 24—Both UPI and AP, the two major bourgeois wire services in the U.S., last week carried articles on the growing support in the socialist countries for the freedom of Black death row prisoner Imani (Johnny Harris).

Imani was scheduled to have been executed by the state of Alabama on March 10, but won a 60-day stay following protests by supporters across the U.S. and internationally.

Imani was framed and sentenced to death in 1975 by an all-white, all-male jury for supposedly killing a prison guard-hostage who died when guards attacked a prisoners' protest at Atmore prison on Jan. 18, 1974. In Imani's trial, the state presented no direct evidence of Imani's alleged role in killing the guard. In fact it was clear to this reporter and other courtroom observers that Imani had killed no one. He was convicted solely on the basis that he participated in the rebellion and was therefore "guilty as an accessory."

Prior to winning the stay, thousands of people all over the U.S. had responded to an emergency appeal from the Committee to Defend Imani and Stop the Death Penalty by sending telegrams to Federal Judge Pittman in Mobile, Ala. Demonstrations were organized by the Committee and by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee in New York City and in Mobile. Members of the Black Congressional Caucus had telegraphed their concern for Imani to arch-racist Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

The Soviet Union's TASS News

Agency carried articles on the case. And Amnesty International sent an investigator and mobilized over 1,500 letters to Gov. Wallace, according to the Mobile Press-Register.

During the entire crisis prior to the scheduled execution, the establishment press and wire services in the U.S. refused to carry news of the national campaign to save Imani's life.

TRYING TO DISCREDIT SOVIET SUPPORT

However, now that the stay of execution has been won, the wire services are trying to reduce the magnificent support of millions of people in the socialist countries as some kind of "red plot."

For instance, papers in Birmingham, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga., the two cities which are the organizational centers of the defense effort for Imani, carry the following outrageous headlines: "Red propaganda campaign built on case in Alabama," and "Soviets jab at U.S. over Alabama con."

The Atlanta Journal compounds its red-baiting slant with a racist bias well-known by the Black citizens of Atlanta. The paper calls a statement in defense of Imani by one of the greatest Black actors ever on stage as, "...New York criticism from 'actor' Ossie Davis." It is this kind of racism that has prompted civil rights groups in Atlanta to call for a boycott of the Atlanta Journal and Constitution.

But in spite of the racist and anti-communist tone in the U.S. press, the message from workers in the socialist countries will not be missed by oppressed people here.



Heavy rain didn't stop these demonstrators outside the Federal District Court in Mobile on March 7 from demanding a stay of execution for Imani (Johnny Harris). WW photo: Tom Gardner

The Birmingham News and Post-Herald recently reprinted from the Soviet newspaper Izvestia the following quote from a Moscow steelworker: "Let the judges of Alabama state know that by sending to death an active fighter for the equality of Black Americans, worker John Harris, they have thus passed a severe sentence on their much boasted 'democracy.'"

"POLITICAL EXECUTION"

Associated Press quotes TASS as reporting that in Budapest, "the

Hungarian Solidarity Committee declared that the Harris sentence amounted to a political execution." And Rude Pravo, the Prague, Czechoslovakia, newspaper, said that "the sentence was a political murder and that Harris was suffering for his struggle against racism."

The Vice-President of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences reflected the view of those in the U.S. familiar with Imani's case when he declared that "the sentence passed on John Harris means viciously doing away with

the civil rights fighter for his progressive views."

The outcry from workers in the socialist countries is an international echo of the chants raised by Black and white workers picketing in Mobile, Ala., who shouted, "Imani is Innocent, Stop the Execution" and "Death Row Must Go. Free Imani Now!" It is the mobilization of support throughout the U.S. and the growing international solidarity which will win Imani's freedom—and ultimately tear down the walls of the barbaric prisons.

New stage in UTIER strike

Puerto Rican electrical workers locked out

By DAVID PEREZ

MARCH 27—The strike in Puerto Rico by the Union of Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers (UTIER) against the Water Resources Administration (AFF) has entered a new and crucial stage in the now three-month-old struggle.

In a truly massive assembly held March 21, the UTIER workers voted almost unanimously to end their strike and return to work. However, UTIER made it clear that the negotiations over the hotly-disputed wage increases will continue.

(UTIER, after originally demanding an immediate pay increase of \$1.41 an hour, went down to 69 cents, while the AFF

continues to insist that all it "can afford" is 31 cents. The UTIER rejected this "offer" in the assembly.)

Despite the willingness of UTIER to return to work and bargain in good faith, the AFF has decided to keep the plants closed until the workers accept their ridiculous offer.

AFF boss Pedro Vazquez said that the UTIER workers want to go back to work to "destroy inside what they can't destroy outside," referring to the recent 200-odd acts of sabotage of electrical sites. Vazquez, in charging sabotage, echoes the position of the colonial administration of Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo.

"Preventing sabotage" is not the real reason for keeping the UTIER workers locked out. The real issue is that the AFF and Barcelo want to break this fighting union and discredit the whole organized labor movement in Puerto Rico.

An acceptance of a 31-cents-an-hour wage increase would mean only a \$50-a-month raise; this is what is already given to non-unionized workers (when they get any raise at all).

Vazquez has also threatened to decertify the union on the pretense of the "illegal" acts of sabotage.

UTIER FIGHTS BACK

On March 22, the UTIER workers tried to go back to work only to find hundreds of police blocking their path. So they set up

picket lines and denounced the police, the AFF, and the Barcelo administration.

UTIER plans to protest the lockout before the National Labor Relations Board, and the workers are planning to file for unemployment compensation.

The condemnation of this attempt to destroy the union has been widespread, and Romero Barcelo is almost alone in his support of the AFF.

The next few days will tell which way the struggle will go. Although UTIER has not been able to stop the supply of electricity, their leadership is strong and extremely militant and refuses to give up with nothing gained. They know the important example that the

UTIER must show to the working class in Puerto Rico.

But whatever the outcome, this struggle has exposed the true class character of the colonial government and state. The policies of the government, no matter what colonial political party is in office, has consistently shown itself to be against the workers.

But Puerto Rico's working class has seen its strength grow, as evidenced by the tremendous support actions that have occurred during the UTIER strike. The economic crisis in Puerto Rico, spurred on by the worldwide capitalist crisis, can only bring about more resistance from the already-impooverished working class in Puerto Rico.

Protests mark

Two years of U.S.-backed military rule in Argentina

By BILL HACKWELL

NEW YORK, March 27—Over this past weekend two important events, a demonstration and a public meeting, took place here to draw attention to the two years of military rule in Argentina.

It was on March 24, 1976, that a right-wing, U.S.-backed, military tribunal was set up in Argentina under the pretext of bringing about "law and order" to that country. Since that time, over 30,000 people are unaccounted for, another 10,000 have been openly murdered by the military junta's "security forces," and more than 20,000 political prisoners now languish in Argentine jails.

The extreme measures that the junta has implemented come from the economic pressure of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This has produced a 200% yearly inflation rate, and a 60% decrease in workers' real wages.

FRIDAY DEMONSTRATION

On Friday, in angry protest to these repressive and intolerable conditions, over 300 people held a picket line in front of the Argentine Consulate here. The demonstration was called by

Movimiento Anti-Imperialista y por Socialismo (MASA) and sponsored by various progressive groups including the North American Committee on Latin America (NACLA), Non-Intervention in Chile (NICH), and Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF).

A busload of supporters from the Argentine Coalition of Boston also attended to add to the protest against the fascist character of the Jorge Videla regime.

For two hours, chants of "Argentina si, junta no!" and "Argentine junta—made in USA," could be heard all along 56th St. during rush hour as workers were leaving their jobs.

150 ATTEND SOLIDARITY MEETING

On Saturday night, a crowd of 150, predominantly Latin Americans, along with North American supporters attended a program to show solidarity and to pay tribute to the resistance in Argentina.

The theme of the heroic struggle being waged by the Argentine people was conveyed by the revolutionary music of Martin Ruiz, an Argentine singer; by Roy Brown, Puerto Rican singer and poet; and by Los Rumisongos, an Andean folk group.

In addition, the movie, "Triple A", was shown. The movie is based on a letter of protest written to the military junta on the first anniversary of the overthrow of the Peronist government. The author of the letter, Rodolfo Walsh, has since disappeared. The movie exposes how the junta uses medieval torture methods in its prisons and conducts late-night executions of civilians, claiming later they died as a result of gun-battles.

Pablo Lopez, a member of the political commission of MASA, speaking on the deep economic and political crisis gripping Argentina, explained that although the workers are in a defensive period due to the tremendous level of repression, they are still capable of initiating huge strikes, like the Renault Auto factory strike in Cordoba in October of 1977. This strike went on for six days and set off a wave of similar walkouts and retaliatory actions against the government throughout the country.

Lopez pointed out that now is a period of the rise of new leaders and the forging of new alliances. He went on to call for the unification of all those who oppose the junta and for the growing continuation of international solidarity with Argentina that was expressed at this meeting.



Chanting "Argentine junta, made in USA," 300 people picketed the Argentine Consulate in New York City on March 24 to protest the fascist dictatorship in that Latin American country.

WW photo: Bill Hackwell

—Food prices

(Continued from p. 1)

and union-busting schemes of the coal operators.

President Carter has made it clear which side he stands on when it comes to both open and hidden wage cuts. With his attempted use of the Taft-Hartley Law and intervention on behalf of the coal mine owners, he demonstrated his readiness to use the full forces of the federal government to help the bosses to win their wage and benefit cuts.

And when it comes to the few times that Carter has addressed himself to the problem of inflation (which his administration is only beginning to view as a problem), Carter has said that he will try to restrain both prices and wages! As if workers wages were a cause, and not a casualty of inflation.

No, it won't be Carter who will stop the sword of the bosses from hacking away at poor and working people's living standards; he's the one who provides the sharpening stone. Only a militant and resolute struggle against the ruling class, such as the one put up by the rank-and-file coal miners, can beat back these attacks.

Fire Department official links Bronx sewer blast to illegal chemical dumping

By RAY RAMOS

NEW YORK, March 24—Around 40 people were hurt as nearly 20 miles of sewers blew up in a series of explosions in the South Bronx here today.

The explosions were most likely caused by illegal dumping of chemicals into the sewers, either by factories or storage plants in the area, according to Deputy Asst. Fire Dept. Borough Commander Thomas Halford, quoted in Friday's New York Post.

The South Bronx is an area where sewage and uncollected garbage are a constant problem for the Black and Puerto Rican people that live there. When it rains in this area the sewers become flooded and the inter-sections look like rivers.

The Friday explosions knocked plate glass out of store windows and apartments, and sent glass, debris, and manhole covers weighing 50 to 100 pounds into the

air. The largest of the explosions occurred in a building for low-income families. This blast tore doors off apartments and elevators, disintegrated a sewage connection pipe, and knocked loose chunks of cement, plaster, and bricks. The second largest explosion occurred in a shopping area where hundreds of people were Easter shopping.

Dumping of chemicals is strictly against the law, but since the law is always in favor of the rich and not for the people that live and suffer in the oppressed communities, the city officials had to find someone responsible other than themselves. So they began "looking" for clues of "sabotage."

USED AS PRETEXT TO ATTACK FALN

Right after the explosions, the reactionary newspaper, El Diario, blamed the blasts on the FALN, a Puerto Rican independence

organization.

The FALN (Armed Forces for National Liberation) has been the target of repression by the FBI, grand juries, and the police. Two weeks ago the police arrested Puerto Rican activist Vincente Alba and three other brothers on trumped-up charges, claiming they carried "FALN literature."

El Diario came out with this anti-FALN hysteria in hopes of confusing the people of the South Bronx and also to cover up what had really happened.

If the city officials really cared about the people of the South Bronx, they would fix and clear the sewage system and jail anyone responsible for dumping illegal chemicals into the sewage system and for endangering the lives of oppressed people. But only in a planned society, where the health and well-being of the people comes first, will people be safe from this and other similar disasters.



150 people hit the streets in Houston, Texas on March 18 to launch a fighting campaign against Carter's racist attacks on undocumented workers. WW photo: Barbara Timko

Houston march demands

'Stop the deportations!'

Special to Workers World

HOUSTON, March 18—Flags. Banners. Placards. Loud chants.

It was a colorful and noisy crowd that responded to the call to "take the streets" on the edge of downtown here this afternoon. The marchers, about 150 of them, had assembled at City Hall and walked past the Federal Building and down Main Street to publicize the dangers of the "Carter Plan" to undocumented immigrants and native-born workers alike.

Organized by the recently-formed El Comite in Defensa del

Inmigrante, the march launched a campaign to protect undocumented workers and inform U.S. workers of how the ruling class seeks to pit working people against one another in an effort to disguise the growing economic crisis. In states like Texas, where undocumented workers are numerous, the Comite feels it is especially important to expose these racist lies.

Shortly after taking to the streets (illegal without a \$500 permit), the marchers entered a Chicano community, where many undocumented workers live. In the heart of this "East End" neighborhood lies Eastwood Park. Here the marchers rallied.

RALLY SPEAKERS UNMASK CARTER TREACHERY

Speakers and dramatic presentations at the rally unmasked Carter's fake amnesty plan. Teatro Lagrimas y Risas presented two sketches. Ruben Solis of CASA-General Brotherhood of Workers (HGT) in San Antonio spoke of how the I.D. card system Carter proposes would discriminate against any worker who "looks Mexican," possibly causing some "legal" or native-born workers to lose their jobs because employers wouldn't want to bother with checking I.D.'s. He likened the I.D. system to the

yellow stars Hitler forced Jewish people to wear in Nazi Germany.

Lorenzo Cano, chairman of Harris County Raza Unida Party, delivered a solidarity message, as did Eduardo Canales of Texas Farm Workers Union. Another message of solidarity was read by a member of Iranian Students Association (Confederation of Iranian Students, National Union).

Henry Washburn of Corpus Christi warned that the Carter plan, which would require all undocumented workers to register with the government, was aimed at tricking some undocumented workers into revealing their illegal presence in the U.S. in the false hope of gaining legal status.

Lola Castillo of Partido Mundo Obrero (Workers World Party) said the pass system Carter wants would be like that of South Africa and create a form of apartheid here. This she branded as an official government use of racism in hopes of dividing and weakening the working class.

To this the people responded with enthusiastic chants, "In the workers struggle there are no borders!" Determined to fight this latest imperialist treachery, they returned to their homes throughout Texas with the rallying cry of "The people united, will never be defeated!"

Chicago demonstration opposes Carter's immigration plan

By BETO TORRES

CHICAGO, March 18—Today despite a fierce gusting wind, 125 to 150 people marched up and down State Street here to demonstrate their opposition to Carter's phony amnesty plan for immigrant workers. The demonstration was called by the Midwest Coalition in Defense of the Immigrant Worker.

People from the Mexican community and other immigrant communities marched together and chanted strong and militant slogans such as "We say no, we say no, we say no to Carter's plan," "Jobs yes, deportation no," and

"People united will never be defeated."

These chants were in both English and Spanish. Literature was well received by the shoppers in the downtown area. The march ended up at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), where many undocumented workers here are held for deportations. Speakers included people from immigrant communities, such as the Iranian, Filipino, and Haitian communities and from the Mexican-Chicano community.

The main speaker, Jesus Garcia, from the Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants, pointed out, "Our present task is to

educate people in the community about their rights so when they are confronted by the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service), they may resist in a collective way, and this way we can stop the illegal harassment of the immigrant communities."

The demonstration was the first of a series of actions that the Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants has planned. More actions will follow until all the racist attacks against undocumented workers cease, and the working class can unite to defend the rights of all workers—whether they are documented or not.

Toledo conference calls for undocumented workers' 'Bill of Rights'

Special to Workers World

TOLEDO, March 18—A two-day "Conference on the Undocumented Alien" ended here today with a call to stop Carter's proposed legislation for undocumented workers, and to propose the idea of a "Bill of Rights" for such workers.

The conference was sponsored by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the Catholic Social Services of Toledo, in conjunction with the Midwest Commission for the Defense of Undocumented Workers.

Those in attendance came from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. A majority were Latin.

Rev. Lydio F. Tomasi, executive director of the Center for Migration Studies, explained that the real issues, not confronted by Carter, are wages and employment. He also pointed out that when industries and growers need "cheap" labor for the Southwest, then border patrols do not enforce the law.

The implications of the Carter proposal were discussed by Joseph Billings of the Centro de Inmigracion of the Georgetown University Law Center, as he stated that it can easily lead to a national I.D. system.

Bert Corona, speaking for the National Trade Union for Immigrant Workers, gave a short history of the anti-immigrant movements and legislation of the past, in particular the Chinese Exclusion Act. Labeling Carter's plan a "non-solution proposal," he added that it could mean the loss of seniority, pensions, and union contracts for a great many workers.

Jorge Bustamante, from El Colegio de Mexico, and one of two

speakers from Mexico, showed how immigrant labor is actually providing more wealth for the U.S. in the form of goods and services, than it or Mexico is receiving. "One might say that the Mexican economy is subsidizing the U.S. economy," he concluded.

The other panelist from Mexico was Maria de la Paz Becerril, of the Center for Immigration Affairs. In an eloquent address in Spanish, she carefully explained that "the problem of undocumented workers is more than an ethical question of human rights. The problem has to do with

economic interests, domination, and the system of exploitation."

She told how the U.S. is able to dictate economic policy to Mexico, thereby holding back its economic and social development. She also discussed how the solution to the problems faced by undocumented workers is bound up with the problem of the domination of capital over workers and countries.

The conference was able to pass along much information that can be ammunition for people to take back to their localities in the continuing international fight to defend the rights of all workers.

Hundreds in Milwaukee

Support undocumented workers' rights

By J.R. CUNA

MILWAUKEE, March 18—Chanting "Raza si, Migra no!" more than 400 demonstrators marched from the Latin community on the south side here to the Federal Building in downtown Milwaukee demanding unconditional amnesty and full civil and democratic rights for undocumented workers.

"We have been working hard for the last year educating and gathering support for the undocumented workers," said Ernesto Chacon, director of the Latin American Union for Civil Rights (LAUCR). "This is not the beginning and this is not the end. The Carter plan has to be defeated."

The LAUCR and other Latin organizations in the community and throughout the state, as well as hundreds of supporting organizations and individuals, participated in the two-mile march which stretched two city blocks.

Thousands of leaflets were received with spirit by shoppers and onlookers at the largest demonstration in Milwaukee this year. "We march because we know that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (La Migra) has historically oppressed undocumented immigrants. We know that we must be united in order to defeat racist legislation that is being proposed by Jimmy Carter," the leaflet read in part.

Father Thompson, representing the Bishop's office, Alfredo Santos, representing the parish council, and other supporting speakers appeared at a rally before the long march. Eloisa Gomez explained the abuses of forced sterilization and asked for unity of all groups to demand an end to such genocide.

A spokesman for Workers World Party pointed out that the struggle against the Carter plan is the struggle against all forms of oppression against the poor and



This group in downtown Milwaukee on March 18 demands amnesty and full civil and democratic rights for undocumented workers. There are no borders in the workers' struggle! WW photo

working people who create the wealth in this country. "It is the same powerful forces that attempt to divide us in this struggle that attempt to divide us in struggles against forced sterilizations, in struggles against the Nazis and the KKK, in struggles against anti-gay bigotry, in struggles against the government denying the rights of self-determination for oppressed nationalities," he said.

Colorful banners and signs of the demonstration could be seen from afar as the march made its way into downtown Milwaukee, where the chants of the hundreds of demonstrators could be heard blocks away. "Raza si, Migra no!" became a familiar phrase in a matter of minutes to thousands of shoppers.

The picket line at the Federal Building, the nest of the INS in Milwaukee, took up the entire block. Again, speakers supported the tremendous turnout on this national day of support for the

undocumented workers. Then Maria Ortega, an elderly woman and long-time activist in Milwaukee, came to the microphone. Speaking softly in Spanish, her eyes showing her strength and courage, Ortega told the crowd that there was very much work to do in support for undocumented people, and that most important, she was happy to see so many people coming together on this day.

Supporters of the rally and march included Latin American Union for Civil Rights, La Raza Unida de Wisconsin, La Federacion de la Raza, Ray Mendoza Defense Committee, Esperanza Unida, United Migrant Opportunity Services, MECHA (UW-Madison), Whitewater, Milwaukee), La Causa Day Care Center, Workers World Party, United Farm Workers-Milwaukee, La Raza, Inc. Beaver Dam, Bilingual Bicultural Program, La Guardia, Ltd., and many others.

In Buffalo

PSC covers up utility's guilt in freezing death

By BRIAN CARR
BUFFALO, March 17—The Public Service Commission (PSC) recently released the results of an "investigation" into the deaths of Rachel Wallace and Howard Cunningham, who froze to death in their homes last January after National Fuel Gas (NFG) discontinued service.

This investigation—conducted only because of pressure from organizations like Women United

for Action, which charged the utility with murdering Wallace and Cunningham—was a coverup by the PSC, which has granted nearly every rate request by NFG.

The PSC report tries to imply that Rachel Wallace was responsible for her own death by alleging that she was mentally ill and by suggesting, totally without grounds, that she "refused" to answer her door. In the case of Howard Cunningham, the PSC

takes a similar approach, insinuating he had died of old age, ignoring the fact that when Cunningham was taken from his apartment to the hospital he had a body temperature of only 80 degrees!

The PSC report concludes by saying that NFG and Niagra Mohawk Power Corp. had complied with all required procedures and regulations.

The March 4 Buffalo Courier Express reported that another Buffalo man had struggled to survive for over a year after his gas and water had been shut off. Frank Zientarski, a retired Westinghouse worker, drank melted snow and rain water and utilized a small electric space heater to heat his bedroom in a desperate attempt to live without gas or water. A neighborhood counselor who eventually helped

Zientarski get into warm lodgings said that Zientarski's legs were blue when he was moved.

How many others are at this very moment struggling to survive a gas shutoff? And how many people are going to freeze to death due to the profit-mad actions of the NFG bosses?

STOP SHUTOFFS NOW

People here have been fighting the gas company for a long, long time. As early as 1919, the mayor of Buffalo, George S. Buck, brought a lawsuit against William Judge, a man who had succeeded in monopolizing all the gas business in Buffalo. The action was brought primarily to prevent a rate hike by the gas company and it was presided over by none other than the Public Service Commission. In spite of the fact that the franchise held by the company had specific limits regarding gas prices, the PSC ruled that such limitations were unreasonable and granted the rate hike.

For at least 59 years people have been fighting the gas company in the bourgeois courts and before the PSC. Yet people are still freezing to death. And gas company profits have never been so great. It should be clear by now that the only solution to gas company price-gouging and to stop the shutoffs is for the workers and oppressed to take over the gas companies and operate them themselves.

'Not safety—but economics'

Government 'discovers' LNG unsafe

By BARBARA TEEL
NEW YORK, March 10—Five years after a disaster which killed forty workers, the U.S. government has finally admitted that liquified natural gas (LNG) facilities endanger the lives of millions of people.

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) has recently released a report outlining the dangers posed by the tanks. According to a recent issue of the New York Times, the study said such things as serious storms or earthquakes could rupture the tanks, causing the deaths of "tens of thousands of Americans."

The GAO said that such a "catastrophic failure" could release large quantities of explosive gases into sewers and subway tunnels, setting off a series of explosions. There are more than 60 LNG facilities in the U.S., most

of them near major metropolitan areas. In New York City, Consolidated Edison, Brooklyn Union Gas, and Texas Eastern Transmission Co. all have LNG facilities, with other companies storing the dangerous fuel in the surrounding area.

40 KILLED IN EXPLOSION

New York residents have been all too aware of the dangers posed by LNG storage since 1973, when 40 workers were killed by an explosion in an LNG tank which had been emptied ten months earlier! Following that disaster, residents of the Staten Island area near the tank waged a campaign for the shutdown of the tank. They pointed to the known dangers of the fuel. But at that time, the federal government completely denied there was any danger in LNG storage.

Suddenly, the GAO admits that the LNG stored on one truck is enough to fill 110 miles of sewer line or 15 miles of subway with a highly explosive gas. The report predicts that "one or more of them (the tanks) will probably fail by falling over on its side, immediately spilling all its contents. If this sequence of events happens in a densely populated area, a catastrophe may take place." The GAO admits that most state and local safety rules are not adequate.

In 1944, an LNG accident in Cleveland killed 130 people and injured more than 225. If the wind had been blowing in a different direction, a large part of the city would have been destroyed. Yet the government has allowed the continued expansion of LNG facilities for more than 30 years. Now the GAO has recommended

that no more tanks be built.

The tanks have not become any more dangerous, nor has the government suddenly become concerned with the safety of the people. As the Times admitted, "The objection is not safety...but economics." The LNG must be imported, liquified by cooling it to -200 degrees, and transported and handled with special equipment. The cost of the fuel has become prohibitive, and the corporations would rather run their factories with oil than pay the high price of LNG.

For decades while LNG facilities have served the interests of the huge corporations they have been allowed to endanger the lives of millions of people. This is only one more example of the twisted priorities of this system which puts profits ahead of people's lives.

Tannery explosion fatal to 8 laid to company and government neglect

By JEFF SOREL
CHICAGO, March 15—Eight workers at the Horween Leather Co. here were murdered last month—murdered by a criminally greedy company which puts profit ahead of safety.

The eight dead and 36 injured workers were victims of deadly chemical fumes produced when a truckload of sodium sulphhydrate, a corrosive used to remove hair from hides, was "accidentally" hooked up to the wrong valve and mixed with chrome liquor, an acid used in tanning.

Suddenly workers' eyes and noses began to burn and chests felt about to explode. People "were dropping like flies," said one worker, Clarence Williams. Some of the unconscious were dragged by co-workers from the block-long tannery, but eight would never recover.

The hooking of the chemical tanker's hose to the wrong intake valve would never have happened if the most basic safety precautions had been seen to by the company's management. But:

- No signs were posted showing which chemicals could be pumped into which intake valves;

- Special nozzles designed to prevent incorrect hose connections were not provided;

- Incoming chemicals were not inspected before unloading;

- Proper ventilation and isolation equipment to limit the spread of toxic gases had not been installed.

Responsibility for this criminal neglect must be shared by the federal government, which by law is supposed to inspect and enforce safety requirements. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) never once inspected the Horween plant,

even though similar accidents in other tanneries clearly exposed the dangers.

OTHER "ACCIDENTS"

According to Jorge Camargo, business agent of Amalgamated Meatcutters Local 43-L which represents 700 mostly Black and Latino tanning workers at six neighboring firms, a leather worker was killed about two years ago from chemical fumes at one of these tanneries.

Furthermore, last month six deaths and injuries at Horween Leather were a virtual replay of two others that claimed nine lives. Six workers died in Berwick, Maine, in 1971 and three in Milwaukee in 1975 when delivery trucks were hooked up to the wrong valve at tanneries having no warning signs or other safety measures. The Milwaukee incident led to the Spencer Leather Co. being hit with four citations by OSHA, but the penalty was but a slap-on-the-wrist \$1,000 fine.

(The average OSHA fine for a serious violation is \$240, so that companies often find it cheaper to pay the fine than make the necessary improvements.) Workers' lives apparently aren't worth much to either these companies or the government.

Most tellingly, OSHA did nothing to implement the lessons learned from these disasters. "Tanning is known to be a hazardous industry. There is no excuse for OSHA not having been there previously," declared David Simmons, secretary of the Chicago Area Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. "It is time OSHA stopped waiting to act until after people have been killed in large numbers."

Clearly, the much-publicized

promise of OSHA director Eula Bingham to concentrate on high-hazard workplaces has not been activated. And the small budget allotted to OSHA by Congress shows the extent of the government's concern.

The mounting toll of industrial deaths can be turned around, but not as long as safety conditions are in the hands of profit-hungry businessmen and government officials. Only the workers themselves, through their unions, are in a position to know what is needed to protect their health and safety, and the demand for union control of the workplace must be raised and won if industrial murder is to be stopped.

—Ethiopia

(Continued from p. 11)
which is a carryover from the old days.

But the masses are increasingly armed and politicized. The momentum and upper hand continues to be with the revolutionaries within the armed forces. The support of the socialist countries is thwarting the attempts of the imperialists to sabotage the economy and dismember the nation.

Can anyone who genuinely desires the success of the Ethiopian Revolution say, as the Guardian does, that whether there will be "a transformation from feudalism to state capitalism or socialism is in dispute"? How academic, how uncommitted to the struggle! It is the duty of every progressive person to raise their voice in defense of this great revolution when it is in need of such support and by so doing help determine its socialist outcome.



Murdered by the Horween Leather Company. Workers "were dropping like flies," in the Chicago plant, and despite heroic rescue efforts by fellow employees, eight died in this grisly and unnecessary tragedy.

—Indonesian prisons

(Continued from p. 10)

where the prisoners feed their jailers?"

Families are allowed to join the prisoners in the camps. But once they arrive, they can never leave.

For those few released back into society, there is house arrest, confinement to their native villages, and the constant threat of reimprisonment. As one released prisoner put it, "What is given to us is freedom on loan. It could be taken from us at any time."

U.S. IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION

U.S. imperialism viewed the creation of the fascist Indonesian

regime as one of its greatest triumphs. The transnational corporations overran Indonesia after the coup, draining the country of its resources and exploiting the labor of Indonesian workers.

But a wave of student demonstrations has swept Indonesia in the past few months, protesting widespread starvation and condemning the unopposed "re-election" of Suharto. As the struggle against the fascist regime grows, the prison walls and labor camps will not be enough to keep the generals—or the corporations they serve—in power.

Judge refuses to hear witnesses testify

JoAnne Little's life threatened in North Carolina

Bulletin: As we go to press, Workers World has learned that the four-judge panel denied JoAnne Little a hearing on extradition. Due to a dissenting opinion by one of the judges, Little has a 10-day stay pending another appeal. Supporters can call the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism in New York, 989-3932, for the new appeal date.

By DIANE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, March 27—At a hearing in Kings County Appellate Court (Brooklyn) held today before a four-judge panel to grant either a stay of extradition or an evidentiary hearing to reveal the mortal danger JoAnne Little faces if returned to the clutches of the vindictive North Carolina prison system, the judges reserved decision, forcing supporters to wait to hear Little's fate.

Last Thursday in Brooklyn State Supreme Court, Judge Leonard Skolnick refused to "grant" an evidentiary hearing to give defense witnesses a chance to speak out, despite the fact that defense lawyer William Kunstler had demanded the chance to allow at least eight witnesses to testify that her life was in danger in North Carolina.

WITNESS HEARD DEATH PLOT AGAINST LITTLE

Kunstler is prepared to call a highly placed North Carolina official who can testify that prison officials were ordered to harass JoAnne Little in every way and ensure that she would never receive parole. Another witness ready to testify has actually overheard a plot to murder Little if she is returned.

Disregarding all of this with a sweep of his hand, Skolnick had denied an evidentiary hearing to allow witnesses to speak. When he ordered Little removed to Rikers Island in order to be extradited immediately to North Carolina, JoAnne Little and her 200 supporters exploded with shouts of

outrage and anger, "Where is the justice? Free JoAnne." Later, Skolnick granted a stay for four days until today.

Throughout the Thursday hearing the state had done everything to intimidate Little's supporters. People had packed the courtroom despite the fact that at the last minute the time of the hearing had been changed from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and despite the fact that supporters were forced to endure two and three searches before entering the courtroom.

The state had tried to keep half the people out of the courtroom while packing the court with their own personnel, but after a protest by Rev. Timothy Mitchell, all 200 people, mostly Black, had filled the courtroom.

Although New York State Gov. Hugh Carey has implied that he "had" to sign papers ordering JoAnne Little back to North Carolina, his protestations seem even more ridiculous after Gov. Jerry Brown of California refused to extradite Dennis Banks back to South Dakota last week because Banks feared for his safety in South Dakota. This is the same reason that Little has demanded not to return to North Carolina.

When today one of the judges in appellate court heard that the North Carolina official would testify on Little's behalf he commented, "Maybe he had better plan to stay up here if he testifies." The judge was acknowledging how vindictive and dangerous the state government of North Carolina can be when faced with exposure. One can only imagine the danger that faces JoAnne Little, who as Kunstler described, is the first Black woman to ever be acquitted for killing a racist attacker in self-defense.

Lennox Hinds, president of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, told the press here today that a victory can be won in the case of JoAnne Little's fight against extradition if the people make clear their protest.



In city after city all across the country the cry rings out: "Free JoAnne Little! Stop the extradition!"

Racist landlord guns down Black child in New York City

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY

NEW YORK, March 20—The life of another Black child was taken yesterday, this time by a racist landlord. The slain child was Ciprian Septimo, a 13-year-old Black Dominican who suffered from a chronic heart condition and was deaf.

Ciprian Septimo is not alive today because Paul Monaco, the landlord of a building he was playing in with a friend, shot him in the head with a Winchester 30-30 rifle.

The landlord claimed that, on seeing Ciprian and another child playing in a vacant apartment in the building, he got his rifle, loaded it, went to a window, and commanded Ciprian to stop. Because of his hearing handicap, Ciprian kept going.

The landlord fired, killing the child instantly.

What compelled Monaco to rush for his gun at the sight of a Black child in the building he owned? What could have been in the mind of the man who pulled the trigger of a gun aimed at the head of a person who was obviously—in full daylight—a child?

"ANTI-CRIME" HYSTERIA WHIPPED UP

A carefully calculated "anti-crime" campaign has been waged in the bourgeois press, directed at inflaming and encouraging racist outbursts and attacks against oppressed people. The last few years have witnessed growing numbers of nationally oppressed children—Clifford Glover and Randy Evans, to name only two—shot down in their youth by cops

who "thought they saw a gun."

All these murders and maimings have their roots in the same sick and twisted racist ideology perpetrated by a tiny handful of super-rich who profit from bigotry and hatred. Racism and chauvinism exist only to keep oppressed people, who have everything in common to struggle for, divided and weak.

But more and more these artificial barriers to solidarity are being dismantled as larger numbers of people participate in organized efforts to stop racist harassment and police brutality, and fight for decent education and job opportunities. It is this struggle that has the power, once and finally, to eliminate racism and the social system that allows it to flourish.

Huey Newton's trial continues

'Don't let the evidence stand in the way'

By JESSE LEE

MARCH 27—"The government's slimy tactics in my 1968 trial are the same as the 1978 version. The operating theme is: get rid of Huey Newton, and don't let the evidence stand in the way," the Black Panther Party president said recently.

The government's secret police operation to eliminate Black leaders in the U.S. is continuing with the trial of Huey Newton.

Ever since his return from Cuba last July, Newton has been fighting government charges of assault and murder—charges that were fabricated in 1974 as a part of a broad ruling class conspiracy to destroy the Panthers and other Black liberation organizations and leaders. More than 40 members of the Panther Party were killed by police agencies in the U.S. in the 1960s and early 1970s.

The charges against Newton were all made during a two-week period in July and August of 1974. He was charged with assaulting a cop who had actually beaten him

and other Panthers. Newton is also accused of hitting a tailor, imprisoning two people, and murdering a third person in Oakland, Calif.

GOV'T BRIBES WITNESS

These charges have been denied by Newton, and eyewitnesses have offered to testify in his defense. Earlier this month, Newton's attorneys offered evidence to the judge hearing the case showing that the government's only witness connecting Newton with the murder is being bribed to testify with promises that criminal charges will be dropped in return.

When the indictments were made against Newton in 1974, he felt that it would be impossible to get a fair trial and that his life was in danger because of the intense government campaign against him and the Panther Party. It was at that time that he chose to go to Cuba.

"I'm often asked if I think I can get a fair trial this time around," Newton said. "If the government

ever sticks to the rules of the Constitution, I might even have a chance. But, realistically, the best I can hope for is to legally force the government to be a little less unfair."

The defense for Newton, who is being held on a \$100,000 ransom-bail, has focused on the government program to crush the Panther Party to show, as one of his attorneys said, that Newton "was and is the victim of a government conspiracy."

A spokeswoman for the Panther Party told *Workers World* today that "motions for discovery (to uncover documents revealing the government's conspiracy) are being filed at the next hearing on April 5" at the Alameda County Superior Court at 1225 Fallon Street in Oakland.

The struggle for justice and liberation for Black people has not been stopped by the government's attempts at subversion. It is imperative that all progressive people support Huey Newton in fighting these frameup charges.

Longest March in its 42nd day



MARCH 25—About this time the Longest March will be entering Pueblo, Colo., on its 42nd day. Over 100 people left Sacramento, Calif., on Feb. 12 for a march to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate opposition to 11 anti-Indian bills now before Congress.

Two of the worst bills would terminate all U.S.-Indian treaties and severely limit Indian governments' legal jurisdictions.

Meanwhile in Pine Ridge, S.D., the struggle continues against U.S. intervention in Native affairs. For over five years, there has been a massive FBI presence on the Pine Ridge Reservation to harass, intimidate, and even murder Indian activists fighting for justice.

For information on the Longest March contact: Longest March, D-Q University, P.O. Box 409, Davis, California 95616.

NYC transit workers vote to strike:

'No contract'—no work!

By a TWU Local 100 Shop Steward

NEW YORK, March 27—Three-to-four thousand angry New York City transit workers packed into the Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton Hotel here to resoundingly approve a motion to strike on midnight, April 1, if they have no contract.

The ballroom, crowded with members of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) AFL-CIO, resounded with the chant, "We want money!" as they periodically interrupted scheduled speakers on the podium.

John Lawe, Local 100 president, brought the meeting to order with some difficulty, as workers shouted and waved home-made placards, some of them denouncing Mayor Edward Koch and his policies of granting raises to his overpaid cronies while insisting on cutbacks for municipal workers.

TA STANDS FOR TAKE AWAY

When the meeting got underway the workers were informed of the large gulf between the TWU and the Transit Authority (TA) at the negotiating table. TWU's International President Mathew Guinan,

asked if the TWU membership was going to let the TA take away paid lunch periods, and paid washup time, or let the TA make the workforce pay 50% of its health insurance, or end night differential pay, or reduce the number of paid holidays, to mention only a few of the TA's takeaway demands, and the angry answer from the assembled workers was "No! No! No!"

After reading strike instructions for the various divisions of transit work, and repeating the TWU's long-standing tradition of no contract—no work, Local 100 President Lawe, introduced a resolution to empower the officers of Local 100 to "take any and all measures necessary up to and including halting work..." to secure an acceptable collective bargaining agreement. Before calling for a vote on the resolution he stated, "We have a message for Mayor Koch and Governor Carey. If they can't provide the money, find the funds, then we are not going to work after midnight, Friday."

Nowhere in the resolution or in the various statements made from the dais did the word **strike** come up. New York State's notoriously

anti-labor Taylor Law makes striking by municipal workers illegal. But the intent of the resolution was perfectly clear and the unanimous approval was tumultuous and automatic.

ORGANIZED LABOR PLEDGES SUPPORT

Statements of support were made by representatives of the national and state offices of the AFL-CIO. Harry Van Arsdale, chairman of the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York City, was next on the podium. He had difficulty speaking because of the chant, "We want money!" Only when he called for unity in the struggle did he receive applause from the TWU members. Their understanding and feeling for the need for unity with other workers overcame their distaste for Van Arsdale, a Meany-like labor misleader who sits on the Emergency Financial Control Board. It is this illegal assembly, dominated by bankers, which overruled the modest contract gains won by the transit workers in 1976.

This meeting, held on a chilly and rainy Easter Sunday, was considerably smaller in attendance than a similar mass meeting held two years ago during the 1976 negotiations. The weather and the fact that Easter Sunday is a traditional family day for many workers kept a lot of workers away from the meeting. But, compared to the almost festive atmosphere as

the crowds of transit workers milled around the overflowing Manhattan Center and blocked traffic on 33rd and 34th streets two years ago, this Sunday's meeting had an air of deadly seriousness about it.

There has been no wage increase for transit workers since 1974. Although the first Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was negotiated in 1974, and was a significant gain as a precedent, still it has only slowed down—like a little sand on a greasy rail—the decline of the standard of living of the transit workers. The modest improvement in the COLA negotiated in 1976, the only thing won in negotiations, was immediately overruled by the EFCB.

Two years ago the transit workers knew there was some rough going ahead; however, the message was not in their bones yet. But the U.S. economy continues to writhe like a stricken beast, workers who are lucky enough to have a job are being squeezed for more productivity, unemployment doesn't decline so the federal government invents another lie to cover it up, and inflation, never absent, has jumped to double-digits.

Having lost 18% of their purchasing power, the transit workers were deadly earnest when they chanted "We want money!" Their determination to fight is all the more important as the banks come out from behind their "elected" or appointed front men with their



Rank-and-file miners of UMWA Local 1020 results: 65 to reject, 47 to accept the contract.

fangs showing. The banks are out for blood. They want to break the municipal unions and will go to any lengths to do it.

Before the ink was dry on Monday morning's newspapers the State Attny. Gen. Louis Lefkowitz, got an injunction against the transit workers prohibiting a strike with a show cause order returnable the day before the expiration of the current contract. The banks and their lackeys in New York City and Albany intend to try to take away what it has taken transit workers 30 years to win, and they intend to use the law and the courts to help them.

But the anger and resoluteness of the transit workers was reflected



New York Transit workers cheer and applaud after voting to strike. These workers have not received a raise in years, despite the skyrocketing cost of living.

In New York City

Newspapers out to break the union

By JESSE LEE
NEW YORK, March 27—Contracts with the three major daily papers here expire this Thursday, and already management is stepping up strike-breaking preparations as two of the ten unions involved have announced they will strike if necessary to get a decent contract. The papers—the New York Times, the Daily News, and the New York Post—are all singing the now familiar tune that "the workers have been getting everything for the last 30 years and now we want something in return."

What do these multi-million dollar parasites want?

ANTI-LABOR SCHEME

They want to fire hundreds of workers, reduce pay, eliminate cost-of-living adjustments, take at least 700 workers out of union jurisdiction, reduce extra pay for

second and third shifts, and lower pensions—to name just a few of the anti-labor provisions they have in mind for the next contract.

"They are trying to force the unions into a strike," said George McDonald of the Allied Printing Trades Council.

It's a union-busting game that they are playing, and these giant newspapers have their pawns in place. A week-and-a-half ago, the Daily News brought in strike-breakers to "reacquaint them with production equipment."

Right-winger Rupert Murdoch, who owns the New York Post, has "scab crews being battle readied to be flown in" from San Antonio, Texas, reports the Newspaper Guild's shop paper. This scab crew made a "dry run" this weekend, and produced a 48-page paper.

The New York Times has indicated that it, too, is "building up capabilities for publication in case

of strikes." In plain English—all three papers are planning to try to break the union with scabs.

TRAINING SCABS

The Washington Post, which broke a pressmen's strike three years ago in a situation the Post itself describes as "similar," reports today that the "Southern Production Program, Inc., which is designed to prepare newspapers to publish without their union employees" has been enlisted to help in the anti-union scheme of the New York papers. The Post adds that it had "used some employees trained in the same school to help put out its paper" during the pressmen's strike.

The unions are getting ready to fight against this attack on labor. "We don't think they can put out a (non-union) paper for sale, let me say, not in New York City," McDonald emphasized.

Mayor Koch pleads poverty but,

Is New York City really broke?

By ANDY STAPP
NEW YORK, March 27—The deadline for a new labor contract between New York City's 33,000 transit workers and the municipal government is fast approaching, and, as usual, the city bosses are crying poverty.

Since the last contract was signed with the transit workers, 4,000 jobs have been eliminated, services have been cut back, and the entire transportation network that services millions of New Yorkers is in a shabby state of decline. There is no way that this bad state of affairs can be blamed on the transit workers. In their last

contract with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the workers didn't get **one penny in wage increases**, despite the soaring inflation that has been climbing so steeply since the early 1970s.

Now Mayor Edward Koch hopes to bludgeon down the transportation workers in the hope that this will crush the hopes of the other 200,000 municipal employees whose union contracts are also coming due for negotiations. As a start, Koch has threatened to call out the National Guard to break any transit strike! Angry union leaders (50 municipal unions have formed a coalition for the upcoming contract talks) reacted to this brutal threat with anger, one union president accusing the bosses of acting like Nazis.

Standing above Koch and controlling him is the notorious Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB), a clique of bankers and big businessmen who have been given (illegally) veto power over any union contract they don't like. The current head of the EFCB is Donald Kummerfeld, a former vice president of the First Boston corporation, the financial octopus controlled by the billionaire Mellon family.

EXXON BROKE?

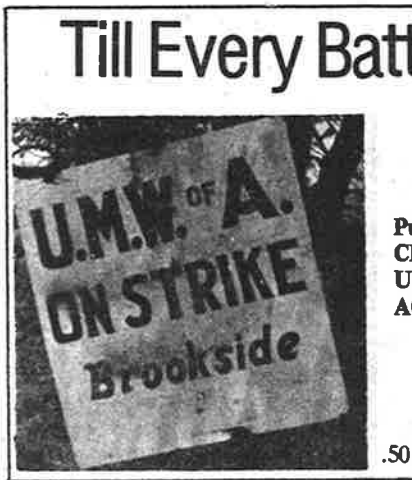
It is almost comical to see these mouthpieces of big money whine that they can't find funds to give city workers a decent living wage. Every schoolchild knows that New York City is the richest urban center in the world. The city is headquarters for Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, IT&T, Western Electric, Union Carbide, RCA, and the majority of the biggest banks and insurance companies in the U.S. The firms listed above by name

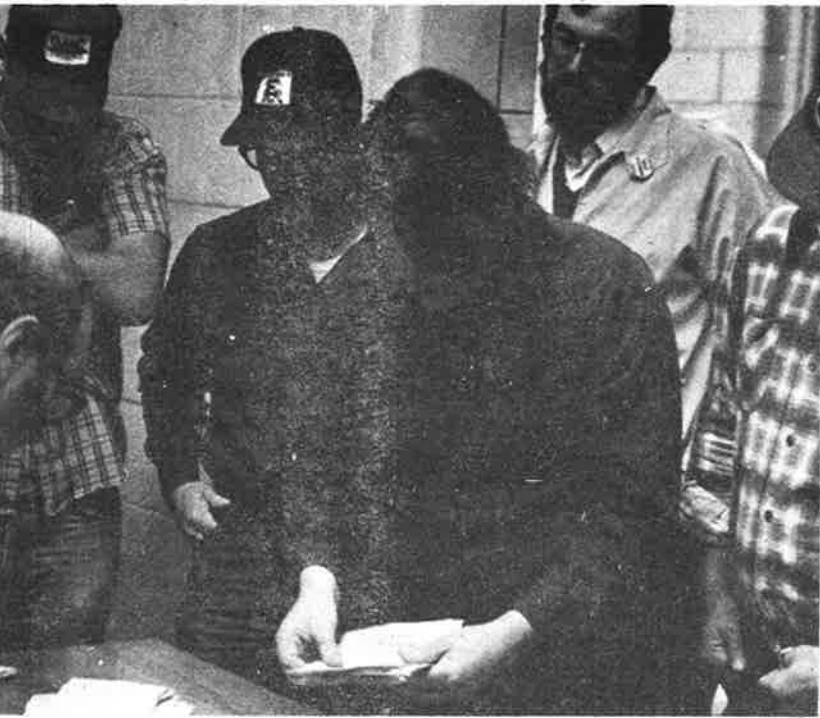
boasted sales last year in excess of \$133 billion. New York City is also the home of Wall Street, "the financial heart of the free world" as David Rockefeller once lovingly described it.

The following U.S. ruling class families list New York City as their home address in the social register: the Bruces (\$400-700 million), the Astors (\$200 million), the Dukes (\$200 million), the Houghtons (\$400 million), the Mauzes (\$200 million), the Whitneys (\$400 million), the Rockefellers (billionaires), the Harrimans (\$100 million), the Ludwigs (billionaires), the Sloans (\$400 million), the Dillons (\$200 million), and the Wolfsons (\$100 million), to name just a few of the worst.

KOCH'S MASTERS

They are the ones Mayor Koch answers to, not millions of poor and working New Yorkers who built the city and suffer from its





A Local 2035 watching as their ratification ballots are tallied. The WW photo: Kenny Peterson

in a statement made by John Lawe to WINS-AM on Sunday night, "If the Transit Authority doesn't come up with some money it will be very hard to avoid a work stoppage."

What the Taft-Hartley Law is to the miners, the Taylor Law is to the transit workers. But, just as the miners' organized strength forced a federal judge to admit: "Why should I extend the back to work order; they don't pay any attention to it anyway," the transit workers strength can win against the Taylor Law. Sunday's rally should make it crystal clear to the TA, the Mayor, the Governor, and their banker bosses that the transit workers are ready and willing to fight.

Broke?

spreading decay. When he was running for office, Koch's campaign bills were paid (according to his own financial statements) by Wall Street banking firms like Kuhn Loeb, and Goldman Sachs as well as other large business interests such as the New York Telephone Company, Colt Industries, Saks Fifth Avenue, and the Amerada Hess Oil Company. They gave Koch the mayorship and now he's returning the favor by campaigning to make New York City a "low wage town." Whipping the transit workers into submission is just the first step toward this goal. But those who recall the great New York City bus and subway strike of 1966 know that these workers aren't exactly powerless. Before the dust has settled Koch and his rich masters may discover that thousands of angry workers are even more powerful than billions of dollars and National Guard bayonets.

Battle's Won

THE BROOKSIDE STRIKE OF HARLAN COUNTY

By John Lewis

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Nationwide coal strike ends after heroic 111-day struggle

By KENNY PETERSON
CASTLEWOOD, Va., March 24—It was the longest coal strike ever, but the miners finally got their point across. The right to strike is not negotiable.

"If we ain't got the right to strike we ain't got nothing!" angrily insisted Hubert Steele as he paced in front of the District 28 headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), here in Castlewood, Va. A veteran miner with 32 years in the mines, he was waiting to learn the results of the ratification election which had taken place today.

"In the four years 1928 to 1932," Steele explained, "13,000 miners were killed in the mines. In 1977, 142 were killed. That's the difference that the union made. If they get rid of the union," he said,

referring to the coal operators, "we won't have nothing."

With the ratification of the proposed contract today, the 111-day strike comes to a close. The 160,000 union coal miners have proven to the mine owners that their fundamental union rights are inviolable. Other provisions of the contract, however, are clearly retrogressive.

BCOA FORCED TO YIELD

On March 5, only three weeks ago, the coal operators' second contract offer was defeated by a rank-and-file vote of two to one. The Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), the management group that conducted the negotiations with the UMWA, was forced to yield on what it regarded

as the major issue of the new contract.

The mine owners attempted to include in the 1978 contract provisions that would allow them to fire union militants for allegedly engaging in wildcat strikes. "You might walk in and complain there's no hot water," one miner explained. "The next day somebody else starts picketing and starts a wildcat strike. And bam, you get fired because you 'fomented' a strike."

UMWA President Arnold Miller was prepared to go along with this union-busting scheme. But the rank-and-file miners intervened. At considerable personal sacrifice, they voted to continue their strike. They knew that they had to save their union no matter what. And they did.

The 1978 contract, despite its glaring deficiencies, represents a rank-and-file victory. The miners had stepped in and saved their union.

While the mine owners received a stunning setback from this rank-and-file rebellion, the mine workers remain justifiably unhappy with the new contract. They know that it does not adequately measure the strength of their struggle. With a militant leadership at the national level they could have gotten much more.

"Miller is working for the coal association," declared Hubert Steele, thoroughly disgusted with the contract that the miners had to vote on today. The attempt to force a contract down their throats has "the president of the United States and the government in on it," Steele said, referring to the Taft-Hartley strikebreaking law.

By analyzing the votes for and against ratification, it is clear that a great many miners remain deeply opposed to this contract. There were 58,384 votes cast for accepting it, 44,210 votes for turning it down, and 57,406 who didn't vote either way.

Although the ratio for ratification was a close 57 to 43, which is very close, only 36% of the 160,000 UMWA members actually voted to ratify. The rest, 64%, either voted no or abstained. And of those who voted for it, no one could pretend to be happy with it.

The election returns also show that hundreds of mine union locals, as well as a number of union districts, repeated the two to one majorities against the contract.

PROVISIONS OF CONTRACT

What are the main objections to

(Continued on p. 14)

Militants oppose coal contract at Virginia pre-ratification rally

By KENNY PETERSON
CASTLEWOOD, Va., March 23—Here in the hills of southwest Virginia, as the warm spring sun began to sink in the west, striking coal miners had gathered for a rally.

"We're out here for a contract!" shouted a striking miner to his audience of about 125 strikers. Tomorrow the rank and file of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) will be voting to ratify or to reject the latest contract offer, and the miners at this rally, at least, are determined to continue the fight.

The mine workers have been on strike for nearly four months now. "Tell Mr. Carter we're sticking together," retired miner Horace Jones said as he stood on the back of a flatbed truck that was serving as the speakers' platform for the rally.

The truck-speakers' platform had been wheeled onto the football field of Castlewood High School, in front of the bleachers where the 100 to 150 strikers were sitting. Just across the road was the District 28 headquarters of the UMWA. Close to the Kentucky and Tennessee borders, District 28 has about 16,000 union miners, 10% of the UMWA membership.

The rally had begun with a performance of bluegrass music by the Buffalo Mountain Boys. They sang their popular number, "The Taft-Hartley Law."

"Going down to Georgia/Pick peanuts in the fall/Ain't gonna run no coal/Under this Taft-Hartley Law.

"Down in the mountain, looks like rain/Keep them mines down boys/The Company is to blame.

"High Sheriff is coming in/To put us in the mines/Other unions giving us a hand/on the picket line."

The Buffalo Mountain Boys know what they were singing about. They are District 28 coal miners from nearby Cleveland, Va.

"YOU STAND BY YOUR UNION"

The first speaker at the rally was Horace Jones, a disabled and retired miner with 29 years in the mines. "You stand by your union even if it costs you your life," that's what my daddy told me," Horace Jones told the assembly of miners.

Brother Jones denounced the state troopers who have arrested and brutalized over 400 strikers in District 28 alone. Only a couple of hours earlier, about 30 police cars

had raced screaming down the highway towards a mine where the day before they had broken up a picket line.

The state troopers are "baby sittin'" for the scabs, Jones said. "But if you're driving your car and you have a wreck on the highway, it takes three hours until a state trooper comes."

"Pour it on them, Horace, pour it on," his enthusiastic listeners shouted back.

"The next time that a politician comes around to ask for your vote," Horace Jones told his listeners, "ask him if he's going to send the police the next time you go on strike." Over and over he reminded his listeners, "You've got to stand up for your rights!"

Jones carefully went through the entire proposed contract, explaining its deficiencies. The health, safety and pension provisions especially came under heavy attack. He pointed out that the medical benefits plan, for example, has been taken out of the hands of the union and placed under the control of a private insurance company.

IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT TO STRIKE

The next speaker was Ratchford Rhea, a veteran miner and the president of his local union. Speaking of the right to strike, which the coal operators were anxious to see taken away, he explained that "a walkout is the



Don Wallace, president UMWA Local 2035, at rally in Castlewood, Va. WW photo

only grievance procedure we have."

He criticized the way UMWA President Arnold Miller was handling (really mishandling) the union relief funds, and he denounced the state government for trying to deny them food stamps. "We pay taxes like anyone else. Next they'll be saying that miners can't use the highway, or their children go to school."

(Continued on p. 14)

Stearns UMWA strikers still out after 21 months without contract

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY
MARCH 28—For 160,000 United Mine Workers, their three-and-a-half month battle against the coal bosses has ended. The fight to enforce the new contract now begins.

But for 160 coal miners in a town called Stearns located in southeastern Kentucky, their 21-month-old strike for UMW recognition is far from over.

For almost two years, the Stearns workers and their families have fought the Blue Diamond Coal Co., their paid gun thugs, the state police, the courts and strike breakers—and these strikers are determined not to be crushed.

On March 17, 31 Stearns miners went to court on trumped up

"kidnapping" charges stemming from miners' efforts to stop scabs earlier in the strike. The judges reserved their decision for 30 days. But despite the harassment and the fact that state police escort scabs (now up to 32 a day) to the mine, the workers remain strong. No coal has been mined since the strike began.

Support for these 160 miners has come from all over the country, rallies have been held, and money, food, and clothing have been collected. Groups like the Center for United Labor Action in Rochester, N.Y., and Women United for Action in Buffalo, N.Y., recently sponsored meetings where members of the Stearns Miners Women's Club spoke. The Women's Club was

organized a year ago and has been successful in organizing aid to the strike.

Despite the coal company's attempts to sabotage the strike and force the miners back to work, aid in the form of money and food has continued to arrive at Stearns. The President of the UMW local there, Mayhan Vanover, and his wife Irene who is President of the Stearns Miners Women's Club are now on a tour to gain even wider support for their struggle.

So in the face of all odds the men and women of Stearns, Ky., continue their fight for a UMW contract. Support is still needed. Send contributions to: Stearns Miners Women's Club, P.O. Box 488, Stearns, KY. 42647.

Anti-militarist sentiment rocks Japan's rulers

Mass protest cancels Tokyo airport opening

By P. MEISNER
MARCH 28—A demonstration of more than 6,000 people last Sunday, including a three-hour pitched battle between militant youth and police, succeeded once again in blocking the opening of a new controversial international airport in Japan. Not even the presence of 14,000 police could prevent several hundred protesting youth from breaking through

airport fences and wrecking and seizing the control tower of the airport in Narita, a town 46 miles east of Tokyo.

The Japanese capitalist government has failed to open the airport for the last five years as a result of the uninterrupted mass protests of a broad coalition of groups, which include students, young workers, small farmers,

radical youth, and a number of progressive organizations. The airport was originally built on land stolen from small farmers, which in itself was enough to rally opposition to it.

However, it was revealed as far back as 1972 that the airport would be used for military purposes and also be a hazard to the surrounding population. Air pollution, noise pollution, the existence of dangerous crosswinds, and the dangers of transporting large fuel loads over an inadequate road system in the area sparked a popular opposition movement in the metropolitan Tokyo area with support throughout Japan.

ANTI-MILITARY SENTIMENT

Besides the farm land issue, the struggle against the airport attracted the anti-militarist senti-

ment among the Japanese masses. In 1972, while the airport was being constructed, a militant opposition movement, headed by many local farmers, erected two 200-foot tall steel towers on the airport's projected runways. For five years, the towers were defended by demonstrators until last May when some 5,000 police finally overwhelmed the protesters who were lodged in a fortress built near the towers. Meanwhile the towers had become national symbols of the anti-government struggle.

On Sunday, the largest police preparations ever for a demonstration failed to stop the determined demonstrators. Riot policemen exchanged tear-gas cannisters and firebombs with helmeted anti-imperialist youth, who also drove a truck through an airport fence and

police lines to reach and eventually seize the newly built control tower. At least 56 people were reported injured and 115 arrested on this first day of demonstrations. Early this morning, another 51 demonstrators were arrested.

The police mobilization was the largest since the demonstrations against the planned (but later cancelled) Eisenhower visit to Japan in 1960. The failure to open up the airport this week is already regarded by the Japanese bourgeois press as a serious setback for the imperialist government of Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda. And if the heroic resistance struggle in Narita is a sample of the resurgent mass anti-imperialist, anti-imperialist movement in Japan, then the Japanese, as well as the U.S. capitalist rulers have good cause for alarm.

NYC protest against U.S. apartheid backers



NEW YORK, March 21—The thousands and thousands of people who throng 42nd Street during a warm, fine lunchtime today saw a significant and militant political demonstration opposing the financial backing the U.S. gives to South African apartheid.

The demonstration started at the Chemical Bank branch at 42nd St. and 5th Ave. and went along 42nd St. to the United Nations where a short rally was held. The rally was addressed by Leslie O. Harriman, Nigeria's ambassador to the UN and the chairman of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid, as well as Rhodes Gxoyiya, a staff member of the American Committee on Africa (ACOA).

An open letter which linked rotten working conditions to bank loans to South Africa was also distributed to Chemical Bank employees, who received it warmly.

This demonstration was called by the Committee to Oppose Bank Loans to South Africa, Youth Against War & Fascism, ACOA and other progressive organizations.

WW photo: G. Dunkel

100,000 Indonesians remain in jail

Life in Suharto's slave labor camps

By BARBARA TEEL

MARCH 12—More than 12 years after the bloody CIA-engineered coup which installed the Suharto regime in Indonesia, nearly 100,000 political prisoners are still held without trial. Far from nearing release, these prisoners are being transferred to jungle labor camps, where they are forced to carry out grueling manual labor without pay.

That is the picture presented in a report published last month by TAPOL—British Campaign for the Release of Indonesian Political Prisoners. (A tapol is a political prisoner; even the word is illegal in Indonesia.)

In 1965, the U.S. government covertly sponsored a coup which overthrew the progressive Sukarno

regime. Nearly one million Indonesians were killed in the blood-bath which followed. Hundreds of thousands were imprisoned. Many of these prisoners, and in some cases their wives and children as well, have been held since then without ever being charged or tried.

In fact, the Suharto regime itself admits that the majority of the prisoners, the "Category B" prisoners, cannot be tried because there is no evidence against them. They are imprisoned not because of any acts but because of their ideology and their membership in what had been legal organizations.

The prisoners receive starvation rations, and are cut off from all contact with friends, family, or news of the outside world. They must work from dawn to dusk in the fields with only hand tools, and then carry on handicrafts after that to try to raise enough money to buy medicine, soap, and other essentials.

prisoners are transferred to remote islands, where they are forced to build roads, erect buildings, and clear the jungle for planting without pay.

The imperialists are only too happy with this scheme. The World Bank has made \$1 billion in credits for Indonesia contingent upon the economic success of these camps. In addition to the government, private corporations profit from this slave labor system, paying the guards for the use of the prisoners' labor.

The Buru Island Resettlement Camp is one which journalists have been able to visit. The dense forests surrounding that camp are a far more effective barrier to escape than any barbed wire fence. In 1974, 48 prisoners tried to escape. Only 21 survived the jungle to surrender.

When the first group of prisoners arrived on Buru, they weren't even given tools. One prisoner described how "because we had no tools we had to tear the sword grass with our hands until they bled." The only food the prisoners have is what they are able to raise on the poor soil without fertilizer or insecticide. A large part of the food they raise is taken by the guards. One prisoner asked a visiting journalist, "Is there anywhere else in the world

(Continued on p. 6)

Imperialist bankers pressure Zambia

to halt Zimbabwe support



The Benguela railroad runs through southern Zaire and across Angola to the port of Lobito. Map: Africa News

deepened, the price of copper has fallen by half to its lowest point in 25 years.

Lack of foreign exchange has made it difficult for Zambia to import the food and supplies it needs just to feed its people, and has made it impossible to import the raw materials it needs to keep its industry functioning.

Furthermore, Zambia is landlocked and has to ship its copper either over the Benguela railroad through Zaire to the Angolan port of Lobito or over the Tanzam railroad to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. But the Tanzam railroad has severe operational problems and Dar Es Salaam is congested.

Since Zaire is still backing armed counterrevolutionaries inside Angola like the FNLA, the border between the two countries is closed, which means Zambia can't ship over the Benguela railroad, which at one time carried half of its foreign trade.

Much of the road traffic within Zambia must go through a part of Zaire called the Pedicle. Zaire has refused to maintain these roads, or even to let Zambia maintain them. And recently, from reports in the French press, Zairean "bandits" have begun charging heavy tolls on Zambian traffic in the Pedicle.

While the details have not been officially made public, according to the New York Times, the IMF has demanded a 10% currency

devaluation, the dismissal of workers, wage controls, and a freeze on salaries for public employees.

Even the Times admits that these policies would create difficulties for the Zambian government and make it generally unpopular.

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY

MARCH 27—Early last month in Thailand the right-wing military junta, which seized control of that country in a bloody coup in October 1976, arrested three people who had been working to substantiate human rights violations there.

These latest victims of repression by the Thai military government are Chawait Yauwapongsiri and Sukhon Tantakeyoon, both workers for the Coordinating Group for Religion in Society, a group which has documented the terror and violence of the regime. The third, Boontham Chindawong, is a rubber tapper. She had accompanied Chawait and Sukhon during a visit to her brother who had been jailed as a "danger to society" or more accurately the fascist regime.

Their case represents only a small sampling of the terror and

PRISONER RELEASE SHAM

Under international pressure to reform its image, the Suharto regime recently announced a program of prisoner release. But the first releases showed what a cruel sham the promise was. Only the aged, the chronically ill, and the insane are being released back to society. The rest of the "released"

Thais arrested for exposing military junta

repression suffered by the Thai masses at the hands of the reactionary regime.

FASCIST JUNTA: GROOMED AND FED BY U.S.

The military rose to power in a wave of terror, on a sea of the people's blood on Oct. 6, 1976. Progressive students, farmers, and workers by the hundreds and thousands were rounded up, and beaten; many were murdered resisting the takeover.

This coup would not have been possible, had it not been for the weapons, training, and financial backing provided to the military by the U.S. government.

RESISTANCE GROWING

But the repressive military junta's reactionary policies and practices have by no means gone unchallenged. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Thailand, the People's Liberation

Army of Thailand (PLAT) has gained broad support. Forty of Thailand's 72 provinces have been tagged by the junta as "communist infested areas." PLAT has undertaken the work of educating, engaging in production, and administering medical care to the peasants, farmers, and workers in the liberated provinces. PLAT also leads the armed struggle against the regime's military and police, who under the "communist suppression act" are allowed to enter any liberated territory as a "free fire zone."

The military dictatorship now strangling the Thai people with an iron fist, can survive only with the full support of the U.S. government. But what was so clearly illustrated in Vietnam, Angola, and now in Ethiopia is that U.S. imperialism's grip on the people and wealth of the world is weakening, and will one day be broken forever.

By G. DUNKEL

MARCH 27—After Zambia refused a year ago to back the Anglo-American neo-colonialist scheme for settling the "Rhodesian question," economic and military pressures on that country have increased.

The latest tightening of the vise was the condition that the U.S.-imperialist dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF) imposed before granting Zambia a desperately needed loan.

Zambia has allowed the Patriotic Front, an alliance of two liberation organizations carrying out the armed struggle in Zimbabwe, to use its territory for military bases and refugee camps, and this has drawn Rhodesian raids.

A full 90% of Zambia's foreign exchange in 1974 was earned by exporting copper, and 16% of its workers were employed in the copper industry. But in the last two years, as the general crisis in the capitalist economy has

The Ethiopian Revolution:

Why it's not just a few 'reforms'

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD
MARCH 28—In the recent series on Ethiopia in the Guardian newspaper—their first attempt to deal with the question of the revolution going on there after months and months of articles promoting the breakaways of various peoples from Ethiopia, including the Somalis, the Eritreans, the Tigreans, the Afars, and the Oromos—a considerable amount of detail is strung together in what purports to be an analysis of events.

However, one looks in vain to find any weighing of this material to pick out the qualitatively significant leaps in the revolution, those turning points in the struggle which signify that the unbearable tensions between the basic classes in society have been sharply and decisively resolved in favor of one class or another. Instead, the Guardian manages to dwell on the episodic, non-decisive features of the unfolding struggle while tossing off the truly epic events with a sentence or two.

REFORM OR REVOLUTION?

There have been "extraordinary social reforms," admits the Guardian. The Derg has "presided over the destruction of a feudal-bourgeois system that held all but a small minority of the country's 30 million people in virtual bondage."

But this incredibly revealing statement is then brushed aside as describing "social reforms alone."

To preside over the destruction of a social system can never be equated with mere "reforms," certainly not in any Marxist vocabulary. Reforms are those concessions wrung out of a ruling class during the course of the struggle which are conceded precisely to prevent the destruction of the prevailing class system.

These can sometimes be quite radical in character, but their object is to preserve the rule of the class in power even if it alters or somewhat confines the form of that rule.

In Ethiopia, before the spontaneous uprising in 1974 which led to the downfall of the Haile Selassie monarchy and the assumption of state power by the military, the feudal landowning class had begun to grow over into a comprador bourgeoisie as imperialism penetrated Ethiopia from the outside.

The drive for capital and surplus value made this landlord-merchant class even more ruthless in its exploitation of the peasant-serfs than before.

Its fortunes were intimately tied to the imperialist West—especially to the United States, which concretized its hold over Ethiopia by establishing a strong military presence there in the Military Assistance Group (MAG) and at the Kagnew base near Asmara. More Ethiopian officers were trained in the U.S. than came from all the rest of Africa put together, and the Ethiopian army functioned as an extension of the U.S. military.

This feudo-bourgeois class, as the Ethiopians describe it, so compromised and interwoven with imperialism, has been torn apart in the four years of revolution. And the Derg, the military executive committee running this revolution, "presided over the destruction of the feudal-bourgeois system," as the Guardian so rightly put it.

REVOLUTIONARY OR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY?

Yet this fact, which has such earth-shaking significance not

only for Ethiopia itself but for the oppressed throughout Africa and the Middle East as well, is then dismissed in the Guardian "analysis," which goes on to essentially characterize the Derg as counter-revolutionary, since it contends that the real revolutionaries are being exterminated by the Derg.

To bolster its extreme hostility to the Derg, the Guardian quotes what it says is the viewpoint of members of the Meisone party who had been in support of the Derg but broke with it last spring. These Meisone members (and they represent only one wing of the organization, since the real left-wing of Meisone has remained in support of the government) attack the Derg for not stepping down and allowing "democracy" and a civilian government. They claim that the Derg is stifling the revolution,

PLO office to open in Addis Ababa

The Ethiopian government announced on March 8 that the Palestine Liberation Organization will be opening an office in Addis Ababa.

The imperialist press has many times in the past tried to sabotage solidarity between the Ethiopian Revolution and progressive Arab movements by claiming that Ethiopia was being aided by Israel. Completely unconfirmed stories circulated in the imperialist press that Israeli military personnel were advising Addis Ababa. This falsehood was

holding back the mass organizations, and using force against the people to do this.

There has of course never been a genuine deep-going social revolution that did not have opposition elements who claimed to be more revolutionary than the leaders in power. And sometimes they have actually gone into armed opposition to "save" the revolution. Lenin, after all, was shot by a Social Revolutionary, not by a member of the fascist Black Hundreds.

How do proletarian revolutionaries elsewhere in the world get their bearings in understanding a revolution like that in Ethiopia; how do they judge whether the opposition is genuinely representing the revolution or is playing a counter-revolutionary role?

FORWARD OR BACKWARD?

The answer must lie in an analysis of the objective course of the revolution. Is it proceeding forward in its goal of rooting out the old class relations, of destroying and replacing the representatives and institutions of the old system, and of creating new instruments whereby the masses can exercise power? In the case of an oppressed country like Ethiopia, which was so tightly under the heel of imperialism, are the ties—economic, political, and military—to the imperialists being broken?

Or, in the crises through which the revolution has passed, have the reactionary elements managed to get the upper hand?

FOUR GREAT LEAPS

Ethiopia has passed through four great qualitative leaps in its revolutionary process since February 1974, and in each case the result of the crisis has been a victory for the revolution and a defeat for the reaction. This is what the Guardian overlooks, and because of this it can present only the most confused and contradictory picture of what the struggle in Ethiopia is all about.

The first phase of the revolution

consisted of the political struggle against the monarchy of Haile Selassie. It culminated in September 1974—seven months after the tremendous popular uprising that toppled the Crown Council—when Emperor Selassie himself was unceremoniously bundled into a Volkswagen and the Provisional Military Administrative Council or Derg took state power.

But this political victory over the monarchy did not mean a victory over the feudo-bourgeois class, which still owned the overwhelming majority of all the land and means of production in Ethiopia. And so the struggle continued.

Ethiopia at that time had practically no developed political parties or genuine mass organizations of any kind. All the pressures of the contending classes in society were concentrated on the Derg

repeated by some left papers even after Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Chairman of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council, last fall offered the former Israeli Embassy, which had been vacant for several years, to the PLO for its office, a gesture that made it absolutely clear that the revolutionary Ethiopian government supported the liberation of Palestine and had nothing in common with U.S. imperialism's principal ally in the Middle East, Israel.

itself. Within that body could be felt both the hot breath of the masses and the cold feet of the panicky ruling class. And there was of course a substantial element within it beholden to imperialism.

LANDLORD CLASS WIPED OUT

In March 1975, the Derg announced its land reform decree—the most sweeping nationalization of land since the Russian Revolution. At a stroke it wiped out the landlord class, without compensation. This was not just a paper document. It coincided with and spurred on the expropriation of landlord holdings which had already been begun by the peasants.

The decree also set up peasants' associations everywhere in Ethiopia, the basic units for the organization of the vast peasant masses.

This historic defeat of the landlord class was not possible without there having first been a serious struggle inside the Derg itself, in which the Chairman, General Andom, had been deposed and executed.

The next great test of the revolution came in February and March of 1977. Again, a great leap forward for the revolution was preceded by a struggle within the Derg. In February a fierce battle broke out in which the Derg Chairman, Teferi Bante, was killed along with 60 of his supporters—in other words, a tremendous chunk of the top officer corps of the old regime! The left officers led by Mengistu, many of them non-commissioned, won the day in a struggle which far transcended the limits of the Derg itself. Rather, it was a reflection of and a direct response to the tremendous pressures being exerted on that central state body.

This struggle was another watershed, making it possible for the revolution to take another decisive step: the expulsion of the U.S. military in March, which Mengistu described as "cutting

the umbilical cord to imperialism."

JUST A "SHOOTOUT," JUST A "SHIFT"

What has the Guardian to say about these highly significant events, which were taken notice of everywhere in the world, with tremendous alarm in Washington and with great hope in the socialist countries?

The Guardian calls the struggle in the Derg a "shootout," echoing the crude characterization in the imperialist press. And it sees the break with imperialism as merely a "shift" away from one superpower into the camp of another.

How then can it be expected to evaluate the Meisone break, which came just one month later? The Guardian looks at what the Meisone group says, repeats it approvingly, and presents them as the real revolutionaries. But in reality they deserted the revolution. They didn't break when the Derg had made a rightward turn; they left when it was becoming clear that all the imperialist world was moving to destroy the revolution, when the clouds of war were gathering, when the Ethiopian masses had to begin to prepare for the combined assault of all the imperialists buttressed by the reactionary states of the area.

The expected assault came; an army of some 30 to 35 thousand Somalis invaded the Ogaden, to the cheers of the imperialists—and the Guardian. Ethiopia turned to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries for aid and the imperialists howled even louder.

This was not just a diplomatic maneuver like the one made by the Indian bourgeoisie under Gandhi to get material assistance for development by turning to the Soviet Union. This fundamental change in foreign policy coincided with a tremendous internal class upheaval, in which the propertied class tied to imperialism was being expropriated economically and politically.

ANOTHER CHILE HEADED OFF

And finally, in November 1977,

came another decisive internal struggle which once again was a great victory for the revolutionary forces. Col. Atnafu Abate, Vice-Chairman of the Derg, was eliminated in yet another violent struggle, thus dashing the hopes of the imperialists for a coup along the lines of Chile. And they pretty openly admitted this, too.

That further realignment of the Derg to the left opened up the period of "red terror"—the arming of the urban masses and the all-out assault against the forces of counter-revolution who had been engaged in a campaign of assassination against the leaders of the revolution and the mass organizations. It also opened the way for the old bureaucratic apparatus in Addis Ababa to be ousted and replaced by a new city administration based on the kebele (urban dwellers' associations) structure.

The Guardian cannot distinguish between the red terror (the "free action of the masses," as the mayor of Addis Ababa defined it recently) and the white terror—the violence of the counter-revolution that had claimed so many lives over the past couple of years, but which has now been reduced to a minimum. If anything, it sees the white terror as progressive.

STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

The feudal-bourgeois system in Ethiopia has been destroyed—yes, it has. The question on the order of the day now is to complete the conditions for the triumph of the socialist revolution. That was the axis of the struggle with Atnafu; he believed that socialism was impossible in a country like Ethiopia, and he wanted to cultivate friends in both "the East and the West."

But the revolutionary socialist group in the Derg won out. This wasn't the final battle against internal reaction; the revolutionaries in Addis Ababa know and say openly that there are other decisive struggles ahead. There is still the immense problem of replacing the state bureaucracy (Continued on p. 6)

U.S., Somalia charged with plot to take over Djibouti

MARCH 29—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia on March 25 charged that a major theme of the discussions between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Richard Moose and President Siad Barre of Somalia was to create the conditions "for the annexation, in some fashion, of the Republic of Djibouti by Somalia."

Djibouti has been claimed by the Mogadiscio regime as a part of "Greater Somalia." It became nominally independent from French colonial rule last year, but 5,000 French troops still occupy the tiny territory, which lies on the Red Sea coast between Ethiopia and Somalia and provides Ethiopia with an important link to the sea.

"It is significant," said the Ethiopia statement, "that on 15 March 1978, President Carter announced that the provision of U.S. arms to Somalia was contingent upon the renunciation of claims by Somalia on the territories of Ethiopia and Kenya. In this, as well as in subsequent statements by the White House and the Department of State regarding Somalia's renunciation of claims

on the territories of neighboring states, any reference to Djibouti and Somalia's claim to it has been curiously but consistently missing."

The Somali occupation of the Ogaden was broken earlier this month and the Somali army withdrew in disorder from Ethiopia. Since then, according to Ethiopia, "The task of physically eliminating the patriotic elements in Djibouti, by first creating inter-communal conflict which will provide them with a pretext, has been assigned to the remnants of the Somali army which has been instructed to move to Djibouti with their arms after defeat in the Ogaden."

Addis Ababa has stated repeatedly that the only basis for peace in the Horn of Africa is the renunciation by Somalia of its territorial claims on Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti. But the immediate arrival of a U.S. delegation in Somalia offering aid and "defensive" weapons shows that imperialism intends to continue to try and whip up national antagonisms in the Horn of Africa with the objective of weakening the Ethiopian Revolution.

EDITORIAL

Carter and Begin

How serious is the dispute between the Carter administration and the Begin regime in Israel? From reading the capitalist press, one can see clear signs that there are elements in the U.S. government who would like to force Begin to resign, believing that his extreme chauvinism and fanaticism present an unnecessary obstacle to the overall aims of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East. This attitude on the part of some Washington policy makers remains unchanged, despite the recent vote by the Israeli cabinet to support the ultra-rightist Begin.

There should be no confusion on the part of progressive people, however, that this dispute between Carter and Begin represents any fundamental shift or change in all-around strategy on the part of U.S. imperialism. The goal of Washington and Wall Street remains what it has always been: to secure and retain their vast empire of oil in the Mideast and to buttress the basic military and political domination of imperialism over the Arab people.

Quarrels between the U.S. government and its puppets are nothing new. The 1975 report of the Rockefeller commission on CIA activities abroad cited numerous examples of various U.S. presidents ordering the removal of client rulers who had failed in some way to please the State Department, big business, or the Pentagon. The CIA assassination of Trujillo in the Dominican Republic was cited, along with other such actions, notably President John F. Kennedy's orders to liquidate the Ngo Dinh Diem dictatorship in Vietnam when Diem's crimes became so odious to world public opinion that JFK felt the tyrant was hindering the Pentagon's war effort against the National Liberation Front.

Begin and Diem

Interestingly enough, the Wall Street Journal (March 27) raises the Diem assassination again in a lead editorial, stating openly that "the United States Government is conspiring to replace Menachem Begin as Israeli prime minister." "We get apoplectic on this particular point," the Journal continues, "because we remember the last time the U.S. dumped the leader of an allied government for failing to carry out policies dreamed up by some bright bureaucrats in Washington.

"This was in 1963, when we gave the essential go-ahead for the coup against President Ngo Dinh Diem in South Vietnam," the Journal added.

The first thing that strikes the reader of this statement is the unsaid but nonetheless blatant admission that both Diem and Begin are little more than puppets. The real decisions were and are obviously being made in Washington D.C., not in Saigon or Tel Aviv. Certainly neither Diem nor Begin ever considered "removing" Carter or Kennedy!

After Diem was killed, the U.S. imperialists imposed a series of dictators much like him on the people of Vietnam. And if Carter dumps Begin, the oppressed Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples in the occupied lands will get another racist and colonialist Israeli overlord who differs little from Begin except to the extent that he may be somewhat more of a pliable tool of the U.S. government.

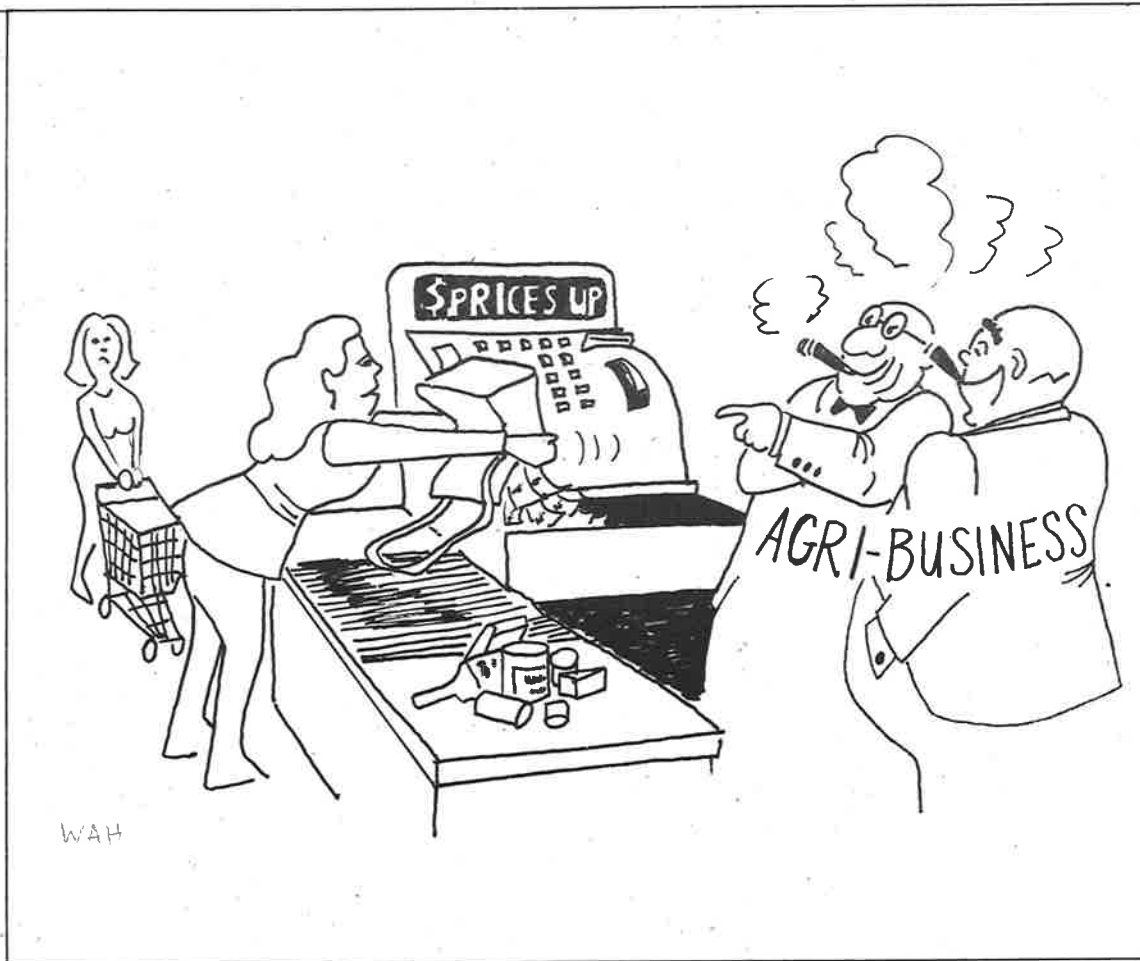
All this is not to say, of course, that Begin has not been a useful tool of U.S. imperialism. He has. Both Sadat and Begin have played out a script written by the U.S. ruling class. And this is just as true for Sadat as for Begin. In an article headlined Sadat's proposal for an Arab Munich (*Workers World*, Dec 2, 1977), Sam Marcy wrote:

"Munich (in 1938) meant this: the imperialist democracies, that is the French and British, with the consent at the beginning of the Roosevelt administration, were most anxious to deflect the military confrontation with Hitler and divert the Nazi forces toward the USSR.

"Sadat, faced with a military confrontation, pulled his Munich in order to deflect the confrontation with the U.S.-backed Israelis and divert them toward the 'rejectionist front,' and in particular toward the Palestinians and their military enclaves in Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Iraq."

Begin's invasion of Lebanon has verified this prognostication completely. In the current situation, however, Begin's rabid intransigence is viewed as a liability by many in the U.S. master class, both inside and outside the Carter administration. But whatever Begin's ultimate fate, it must be clearly understood that the only "principle" at stake in his current squabble with Carter is how best to crush the Arab liberation struggle and, in the words of the Wall Street Journal editorial cited above, how to bring about "the military and political destruction of the PLO."

On the other hand, socialist revolutionaries, fighters for justice, sympathizers of the Arab people's desire for true freedom and especially those committed to self-determination for the oppressed Palestinian nation have a completely different end in mind: the total defeat of both U.S. imperialism and its puppet settler state Israel.



LETTERS

Good coverage

Keep up the good work. Your newspaper covers areas that others do not such as JoAnne Little and the Nestle boycott. Please continue to report on those areas, and also the gay liberation movement.

—J.L.
Lexington, Ky.

Marion Brothers

I pray that this letter will find you and your entire staff in the best of health.

This is just a brief note to let you know that I have received a copy of *Workers World* as of Feb. 21 and I am very thankful that you were able to answer my request.

Thank you and please continue the good work as all the Brothers here look forward to receiving *Workers World* and its in-

formation that keeps us in tune with the outside world.

—Beaumont X Gereau
Marion, Ill.

Likes color cover

I dig your new two-color cover. Also real pleased with coverage of JoAnne Little and International Women's Year Conference in Houston.

—M.S.
Fayetteville, Ark.

Launching a starship

What do you do when you walk a picket line?

I put children into dance classes. And when we chant in the streets—

"Down with the Shah!" or "Don't

buy Coors!"
We hasten the day of factory choirs.

The women of St. Petersburg. The day they made a general strike. Gave jobs to the people of Oriente Province.

And Harriet Tubman was building rural clinics in China While nursing Civil War wounded And guiding America out of slavery's disease.

What were the children of Birmingham doing. Standing there in the firehoses' force? Why, damming a river in Angola, of course.

Mother Jones and the Ludlow miners Helped put "Sputnik" into orbit. And when I type a leaflet against deportations, I am launching a starship.

—Joanne Gavin
Houston, Tex.

—Health care system

(Continued from p. 16)

financial gain above caring for the sick. (Whatever happened to the Hippocratic Oath?) It leads to situations whereby some doctors perform unnecessary surgery, such as hysterectomies, to fatten their fees or are incompetent or uncaring about their patients.

HISTORY OF RACIST POLICIES IN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

Medicine has long been an elitist profession which has been restricted to upper class white males. Even according to the aforementioned President's report, "organized medicine has successfully restricted entry into the medical profession primarily through its control of state licensing practices and the system of medical education."

Isn't this what the Bakke case is all about? Isn't this what Bakke and his corporate colleagues are trying to maintain?

Medical education in the U.S. has historically been almost entirely segregated. In 1948, one-

third of the accredited medical schools (26 of 79) still had official policies of denying Black applicants admission solely on the basis of their race. And because of these policies, only 10% of Black doctors have been trained at exclusive predominantly white medical schools.

Even when Black people have been admitted to medical schools, they have often been prevented from further advancement or from practicing medicine by racist discrimination in hospitals, in training programs and in local medical societies. Black and Latin doctors have often been barred from hospital staffs and are often excluded from local AMA chapters, especially in the South. The AMA refuses to revoke the privileges of any local medical association which prevents minority group members from membership.

In 1970 only 2.2% of doctors were Black, although Black people comprise 11% of the population. And today only 11.2% of doctors are women.

NEED MORE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, NOT LESS

Because of the historical racist exclusion of oppressed peoples

from medical schools, and the inadequate primary, secondary, and college education available to many poor students, special admissions programs are an absolute necessity.

Since the anti-racist struggles of the 1960s won some special admissions programs, the first steps have been taken to break through the racist barriers—although much more is needed.

Through affirmative action, for the first time, the totally racist nature of medical education has been challenged. Since the University of California at Davis and other schools instituted special admissions programs in 1968-69, the number of oppressed students enrolled in medical schools went from 2.4% in 1968-69 to 8.1% in 1975-76.

The courageous struggle for affirmative action has won for women and oppressed people gains to which they have been long entitled and must be defended by all progressive people against Allan Bakke and his ilk. There must be more affirmative action—more spots in medical schools, more decent jobs at decent salaries, and good, quality medical care for all poor and oppressed people.

The 'long march' to catastrophe

The U.S. game plan for China

By SAM MARCY

MARCH 28—In President Carter's saber-rattling, violently anti-Soviet speech March 17 at Wake Forest University, he seemed to cover the entire globe—Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. There was one obvious omission—China. It is no accident.

For many months now, Carter and the State Department have seemed to be carrying out a studied policy of deliberately refraining from mentioning or alluding to the Peoples Republic of China. This omission has been particularly conspicuous in Carter's White House press conferences. Nor have any reporters sought to elicit any of his opinions with respect to China in the recent period.

The U.S. still maintains a mere liaison delegation in Peking and diplomatic relations with China seem further away than ever, at least on the surface. But the ways of imperialist diplomacy are devious and are wont to work more effectively underground with only rare manifestations of a public character. Although there is no official U.S. diplomatic mission in Peking, there are at least two or three unofficial representatives of the multi-national corporations which are doing yeoman service on behalf of American finance capital to swing the Peoples Republic of China effectively into the orbit of American imperialist policy.

SENATOR JACKSON AND CHINA

Henry M. Jackson, who has justifiably been called the Senator from Boeing, is unquestionably a key plenipotentiary on behalf of the U.S. capitalist establishment. His divergences, seemingly far to the right of the Carter administration, should not blind anybody to the fact that he is a central figure in foreign policy and military affairs.

He is the chairman of the Arms Control Subcommittee of the Senate Arms Services Committee and is also the chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

A superhawk during the entire course of the Vietnam war until he decided to run for President, he has always been a bitter foe of the Soviet Union and an unbridled militarist. And recently he made arrangements to meet with Leonid Brezhnev, unquestionably with the sanction of the White House. Significantly, however, his visa was cancelled by the Soviet Union when the USSR learned that his trip to meet with Brezhnev also included a meeting with Andrei Sakharov, the well-known pro-imperialist so-called dissident.

The cancellation by the USSR was particularly apropos because Sakharov is not merely a bourgeois intellectual but a nuclear physicist who had been an insider and had first-hand knowledge of the early Soviet nuclear arms program. Jackson's meeting with him, therefore, was not really a "human rights" initiative of the Carter administration in the interest of "free exchanges," but an attempt to elicit so-called classified information to discredit the pending SALT negotiations between the U.S. and the USSR, in which Jackson is a key figure.

How strange it is then to find Henry Jackson literally glowing with enthusiasm about China. If one were not acquainted with the Senator from Boeing, one would be entitled to conclude from a column he wrote for the New York Times (March 25) that here was a

youthful enthusiast of China's socialist construction in the key field of oil exploration, development, and drilling.

GLOWING ACCOUNT

"Whether in the fields or in the repair shops, on the rigs or off, 100,000 Chinese are working hard to make the Shengli fields first in China," writes Henry Jackson, almost gushing with youthful enthusiasm. "On my first visit to China," he says, "three and one-half years ago, I urged the development of Chinese oil. The response was negligible. On a return visit last month," however, "the story was different. Today, the Chinese are committed to develop their oil resources." Again, happy Henry!

But why should an incorrigible, virulent anti-communist, as Jackson has been during his entire political life, suddenly wax so enthusiastic about socialist construction in China? The answer to this does not lie in any affinity to or newborn regard for China as a socialist country. On the contrary, he as well as the entire military-industrial complex of the U.S. still regard China, in spite of its sharp swing to the right since the death of Mao, as "just as communist as the USSR," if not more so.

Why, then, all these trips to China by Jackson and this lavish praise for Chinese socialist construction in the field of energy?

The reason has absolutely nothing to do with socialist construction. Only the most incredulous, most naive, those utterly uninitiated in the politics of imperialist diplomatic deception could believe that Jackson and his

"Contemporary relations between the USSR and China are the result of conjunctural (that is, accidentally enmeshing) historical circumstances and not of the organic character of the social system of China and the USSR, which despite their ideological differences are basically similar in social structure."

imperialist cohorts have any but the greatest contempt and fear of socialist construction in China, the Soviet Union, or any other socialist country.

HIS MOTIVE

Jackson's interest is motivated wholly by the Pentagon's military strategy. China has oil. And oil, it need hardly be mentioned, is ammunition. That was Standard Oil's advertising slogan during the entire course of the Second World War: "Oil is ammunition." Jackson, as we mentioned, has been for some time a big wheel on Capitol Hill and a self-proclaimed expert on energy. But this is a euphemism for his title as unofficial plenipotentiary of the giant oil companies both to the Pentagon and the White House.

His view, shared by many in the capitalist establishment, is that encouraging China to develop its resources will inevitably force it to accept American, Japanese, and West European technology. There is nothing wrong with China doing that from the point of view of Marxism; a socialist country must try to develop normal relations in trade and commerce for the purposes of developing socialist construction.

However, the history of the oil controversy in Chinese politics brings into focus an aspect of the exchange of strategic raw materials for technology which has been very much neglected and entirely absent, so far as the official

Chinese view is concerned, since the triumph of the rightist faction led by Hua and Teng.

In an article in the Feb. 1, 1977, issue of *Workers World* entitled "Chang Chun-chiao on the oil controversy," we called attention to the fact that Chang Chun-chiao, who before his ouster was a member of the Politburo and a senior Deputy Prime Minister, charged that by exporting oil, "China is going for a colonial economy." He was alluding, we said, to the Chinese who once worked as agents for foreign businessmen. Chang is alleged to have charged that "there is a comprador bourgeois right in the Politburo."

OIL, TECHNOLOGY, AND CHINESE POLITICS

We felt, as we stated in that article (reprinted in the pamphlet *China: the Suppression of the Left*), that Chang might have overdrawn the issue in the oil controversy in the heat of the deep struggle between the rightists and the left grouping headed by Chiang Ching, Wang Hung-wen, Yao Wen-yuan, and of course Chang Chun-chiao.

It is interesting to note, however, that Jackson says that when he was in China three and one-half years ago, his urgings on oil development got a negligible response. Today, however, the story is different. Only recently a high-level delegation from China's oil industry visited the U.S. And one of those with whom they conversed, of course, was Jackson. Jackson considers "the recent visit of the Chinese petroleum delegation to the U.S. of great significance." He

says, "I talked with the leaders of the delegation and there is no doubt that they were very impressed with the off-shore technology they saw here."

He also says he "urged on China's leaders the importance of energy development and the potential of American technology in helping China meet its energy goals." And, "The extent of Chinese receptivity to foreign technology and the degree to which China will enter the world energy markets as an exporter of petroleum are decisions now under consideration in Peking."

What this means is that this would not be an ordinary commercial tradeoff, should it be consummated on a large scale, between China's key raw material and American technology. Rather it should be seen as an important facet in U.S. military strategy vis-a-vis the USSR. China under this program, in the interest of obtaining American technology, will be milked of its vital raw materials to enable Japanese and U.S. imperialism to be more aggressive and predatory in the struggle against the USSR and the socialist countries as well as the national liberation movements.

Of course, merely obtaining the American technology does not in and of itself make China dependent upon imperialism. But the long delay in consummating this projected exchange does demonstrate it was a cause of deep conflict between the right and the



Deeply symbolic of the diplomatic and military orientation of the current Chinese leadership, is this recent photograph of members of a team of Chinese soldiers trying out the weapons used in Europe by the West German imperialist army.

left in China. And the basic reason for it was not a dogmatic negativism on the part of the Chiang Ching left grouping on the question of importing highly sophisticated technology from the West in exchange for raw materials.

The struggle was over the meaning and significance of this exchange of raw materials for technology in the circumstances of China's underdevelopment. Would such an exchange result in the kind of dependency on imperialism which the Chinese leadership had consistently fought against for longer than a decade and which was presumably one of the basic reasons behind the split with the USSR?

BUT NO TECHNOLOGY FOR THE USSR

The USSR has for several years now urged upon the West the kind of tradeoff which Jackson is now urging on the Chinese leadership. The USSR has been in negotiations with Japan for several years which have come to naught thus far. In the U.S. the entire military-industrial complex is not only opposed to such an exchange but it isn't even in favor of abolishing the discriminatory trade policies against the USSR and other socialist countries—the so-called most-favored-nation clause which effectively bars any substantial trade with the socialist countries.

Why then are the Jacksons and his ilk so enthusiastic about developing this bilateral relation with China and not with the USSR? Why is this vicious anti-communist so keen on having an exchange of oil for technology with China while being so flagrantly and adamantly opposed to it with the USSR? Are they not both "communist" countries, to use his own terminology?

The answer, of course, lies in the strategic and diplomatic conception which the Pentagon holds in relation to China and which with each passing day seems to be the viewpoint of the current leadership in China. It is not, however, Jackson alone who shares this view on this side of the Pacific.

Another key figure in the Administration is certainly James Schlesinger, the former Secretary of Defense who all but urged a preemptive nuclear strike against the USSR. He was unceremoniously relieved of his post by the Ford administration as an embarrassment, not necessarily out of disagreement but because of

talking out of turn, especially on the eve of an election year.

Schlesinger, like Jackson, has been welcomed with open arms in China. Like Jackson he holds himself out as a self-styled "expert" on energy. He is Carter's principal adviser on this question and is officially the Secretary of the Office of Energy. But again, like Jackson, his interests are not really with such issues as conservation, pollution, cost-cutting, or any one of the dozens of complex issues which his office deals with. His principal interest is oil—but from a wholly military-strategic point of view.

Here is where he and Jackson have a common interest. Both are violently anti-Soviet and both are oriented toward the China connection. In this respect they share a common geopolitical view in the world struggle against the socialist countries and oppressed nations.

To this duo should be added the new comer Brzezinski, Rockefeller's envoy from the Trilateral Commission, who for reasons of diplomatic protocol is not that outspoken. But the speed with which he jumped on the Kampuchea-Vietnam struggle as a "proxy war" between the USSR and China, with the implication of course that the USSR is the fundamental enemy, was a dead giveaway.

A DANGEROUS, SELF-DESTRUCTIVE GAME

How far can the current Chinese leadership lend itself to this dangerous, self-destructive game played with those they used to call the "greatest enemy of mankind"? A recent photograph of members of a team of Chinese soldiers trying out the weapons used in Europe by the West German imperialist army is deeply symbolic of the diplomatic and military orientation of the current Chinese leadership. Vice Premier Teng in a recent interview with a West German journalist all but urges imperialist war upon the USSR.

The hopes of Soviet and CP leaders abroad that the current Chinese leadership would prove more progressive in foreign affairs has thus far proved illusory, as we predicted. The Hua-Teng leaders are way to the right of Mao's foreign policy. This can be most vividly seen in Africa (Angola, Ethiopia, Somalia) and in their glee at the desertion of Sadat to the camp of imperialism. At home,

(Continued on p. 14)

UN forces harass and hinder Palestinians

Israeli occupation continues as Begin and 'doves' quarrel

By BILL DEL VECCHIO
MARCH 28—As Israel's Menachem Begin, his "dove" opponents, and the Carter administration continue their quarrel over how to best crush the Palestinian people and oppress the Arab masses, Israeli troops with the aid of hand-picked United Nations forces and Lebanese fascists are busy consolidating their occupation of southern Lebanon.

Since the arrival of UN "peace-keeping" forces, the Israeli invaders haven't withdrawn an inch from the territory they seized. They currently occupy all of southern Lebanon south of the Litani river, with the exception of the port city of Tyre, as well as a section of the mountainous Arkub area near the Golan Heights.

Israeli troops have continued their aggression without the UN

forces taking action against them. The Israelis have attacked Palestinian and Lebanese National Movement forces at the Kawbaba-Hasbani bridge, Qlaia, Merj-Uyun, and around Tyre. Nabatiye, which is north of the Litani, has come under repeated Israeli shelling.

But at the same time the UN "peace-keepers," made up in this case by troops from pro-imperialist nations, have taken an aggressive stance against the Palestinian and Lebanese joint forces, who have been the only military units to defend the Lebanese and Palestinians from the Israeli invaders.

The pro-imperialist Lebanese government decreed that the current headquarters of Al-Fateh in Tyre is now the command post of the UN forces. The Lebanese government and the poorly armed

UN "peace-keepers" are attempting to force the Palestinians and Lebanese anti-imperialists to withdraw their troops from Tyre, and yesterday attempted to evict the joint forces from a strategic position overlooking the coastal road leading to Tyre. In each case the Palestinians and their Lebanese allies refused, knowing only too well that to abandon Tyre is to leave the city at the mercy of the Israelis.

Since the invasion began two massacres of Lebanese villagers in the Israeli-occupied area by Israeli-armed Lebanese fascists have been reported in the U.S. bourgeois press. These massacres are meant to frighten the refugees who fled in order to prevent them from coming back. The Israelis have declared that they would like a depopulated "security belt" around their border.

None of the socialist or militant anti-imperialist countries in the UN are part of this UN force. At best the UN troops are trying to enforce a truce after an invasion not before it. In the view of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, the issue is how to get the Israeli invaders out, not how to maintain a truce between the invaders and the population.

ROLE OF UN FORCE

Further exposing the "impartiality" of the current UN force is the presence of a contingent of troops from France. France is the former colonial ruler of Lebanon, and throughout the 19-month Lebanese civil war they schemed to find a way to intervene to protect imperialist interests there. They are now able to land their troops on Lebanese soil under the auspices of the UN, and are sure to be less than impartial when it comes to dealing with the anti-imperialist Lebanese and Palestinian masses.

Meanwhile in Israel, arch-reactionary Prime Minister Begin has come under pressure to resign following his "gloomy and unproductive" meeting with President Carter last week. Supposedly at issue in the dispute is Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands. Claiming to be in favor of withdrawal, or steps leading to withdrawal are the Israeli

Labor Party, Defense Minister Weizman, and the Carter administration, with Begin opposed.

But the Labor Party, which ruled Israel since its founding, is the actual architect of the current borders and past aggression against Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. Weizman led the invasion of Lebanon and leads it still. And if U.S. imperialism were sincere about wanting Israel to return the occupied lands, it wouldn't maintain its major electronic spy base at the Israeli airforce base of Etzion in the occupied Sinai.

U.S.-ISRAELI DISPUTE OVER TACTICS

In reality the dispute is not over whether Israel should be an aggressive garrison state of U.S. imperialism, only a question of how much aggression is necessary in the current situation.

But the Palestinian people have no illusions about the nature of Israel, U.S. imperialism, or the current "peace-keeping" force in Lebanon. In a statement yesterday, Abu Lutf, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization political department, said, "Let it be clear to all that we are pursuing our armed struggle, including inside the occupied homeland, and we will not stop our armed resistance to force the evacuation of all Israeli troops from Lebanese soil."

—Miners' strike

(Continued from p. 9)

this new 3-year contract? The main objections center around the pension provisions and the medical benefits plan. Under this contract, the division of pensioners into two categories is perpetuated. Those miners who retired before 1976 shall receive only \$275 a month, while those retiring after 1975 will receive pensions averaging \$450 a month.

This division has created tremendous bitterness among the older pensioners. "We built this union," a retired miner with black lung said as he waited outside the District office today.

The health care provisions have everyone up in arms. This is the most retrogressive aspect of the new contract. While miners will have to pay \$200 yearly for the medical plan, their coverage under the new plan is much reduced. Where the UMWA administered this plan in the past, the coal operators and a private insurance company will now control it.

Regarding wages, the miners won a relatively large raise, totaling \$2.40 an hour over three years or \$96 per 40-hour week. While the mine owners are already making much of this, their own profits have jumped 800% over the past several years.

RANK AND FILE REVOLT

The one unmistakable feature of this coal strike is the emergence of the rank and file as the decisive force in the struggle. Against the mine owners, against the state and federal governments, and even against the Miller leadership, which had betrayed them, the rank and file remained indomitable.

The median age of union coal miners has dropped from 48 in the mid-1960s to 31 years old today. The president of UMWA Local Union 2035 is one such young miner. Don Wallace helped organize the Eastover mine in St. Paul, Va., into the UMWA only four years ago. In District 28 where the ratification vote was better than two to one in favor of the contract, Local 2035 voted 65 to 47 against.

The rank-and-file miners and their families were not, however, alone. The hearts of all who are exploited and downtrodden went out to the miners. From New England to California, support for the miners' struggle was raised.

Several large unions gave substantial financial contributions to the miners' relief fund. The auto workers gave \$2 million, the steel workers and the communications workers gave \$1 million each, and several other unions contributed \$500,000.

For the first time in a long time in America, the mutual isolation of workers from each other vanished, the barriers began to fall away. Even small farmers donated food. Caravans of workers from distant cities travelled to the coal fields with relief. Clearly, something new was happening.

A genuine upheaval was taking place.

The coal bosses had hoped to stifle the militant spirit of the mine workers with an assault on the right to strike. What they got instead was the longest coal strike in U.S. history, and a contract that may well see more wildcats than ever before.

The coal bosses had hoped to intimidate the rank and file and instead they provoked the greatest upheaval in rank-and-file insurgency that the mine union has ever seen.

The coal bosses had hoped to strangle the miners' strike with court injunctions and state troopers and instead they aroused the greatest display of working class solidarity since the titanic struggles of the 1930s.

SCHOOL OF STRUGGLE

A strike is a school of struggle. All the lies, the deceits, the fabrications, the concealments, all the pretense of "business as usual" while the workers are chained to their exploitation is blasted away during such a strike as the miners waged.

But a strike is still a means to an end. It is not the end itself. It is an episode in the class struggle. Yet the logic of a strike such as the miners' struggle exposes the irreconcilable differences that exist in society. Its logic, therefore, points to a decisive resolution of this struggle in which the working class shall find its emancipation.

The miners' heads are not bowed. They have not relinquished the struggle. Disappointment with the contract and bitterness towards Miller and the others who betrayed them should not be mistaken for a feeling of defeat. Not at all.

While the end of the strike may close one chapter in the miners' struggle, by no means is it the end of the book. On the contrary, this strike has signalled the opening up of a much broader revival for all labor.

The Eastover mine in St. Paul,

Va., where Don Wallace works, is one of the hundreds of new mines that the coal companies will be opening up in the coming years. More new mines will mean more younger, more militant coal miners. The emergence in this strike of an independent struggle by the rank and file represents the trend of the future. This is the firm belief of Don Wallace, and of thousands of coal miners—young and old—like him.

—Miners' rally

(Continued from p. 9)

The strike has proven one thing, Rhea said. The miners have only themselves to depend upon—it all gets "down to the rank and file." And he added that they shouldn't talk only about "UMWA brothers, because there are also UMWA sisters in the mines, and they are good miners!" he emphasized to the cheers of his audience.

The rally was chaired by coal miner Don Wallace, the young president of his union local. (Each union mine is organized into its own local. District 28, with about 16,000 members, has almost 70 local unions.)

"YOUR COURAGE IS CONTAGIOUS"

The next speaker was John Lewis, who had been invited by the organizers of the rally to address the miners. A shop steward from the Carpenters' union in Norfolk, he had helped raise money for the District 28 relief fund.

"Your courage is contagious," he told the assembled miners. "It's like the flu—everybody is catching it. You are showing labor how to fight for a good and decent contract. You are," he said, "showing us how to do it."

The coal miners have also "shown Carter," Lewis added, "and his pro-coal operator government that a Taft-Hartley injunction wouldn't work. Long ago the great mine workers' leader, John L. Lewis, called Taft-Hartley what it is: a slave labor law. And just as in the past, you ignored it this time as well."

Like the coal strike in general, this rally was a clear sign of the new day that is dawning for working people in America. The desire of the miners to struggle is awesome. It is a true glimpse into the future of all labor. For the present, as Ratchford Rhea said, "We're not whipped, no way. We're strong, and we're going to stay strong."

—U.S. plan for China

(Continued from p. 13)

the Hua-Teng leadership is in the process of dismantling the progressive achievements of the Cultural Revolution and steering a course to the right on all fronts.

Of course, contemporary relations between the USSR and China are the result of conjunctural (that is, accidentally enmeshing) historical circumstances and not of the organic character of the social system of China and the USSR, which despite their ideological differences are basically similar in social structure.

Hence, the great potential of reversing the dangerous course in their relationship.

We search for every sign, no matter how small or insignificant it may be, to point to the possibility of such a reversal.

In a recent Chinese statement by the People's Daily, for instance, commenting on a Soviet overture in February for improved Sino-Soviet relations, the language appears to be somewhat less harsh than previously even though the purpose of the article is to explain why China rebuffed the overture. It is to be hoped that the Soviet leaders will be quick to reciprocate.

Nevertheless, the way the Chinese leadership continually harangues about the inevitability of imperialist war between the "super-powers" is not only a mutilation of the Leninist concept but an obscene caricature of it. It's not a prediction of war but an urging of war against a fraternal socialist country. Where can this dangerous game lead to? How can it really serve the interests of the Peoples Republic of China?

It is one thing to try to normalize relations with the U.S. (which, by the way, the Carter administration seems to be totally

deaf to). It is another matter to try to enter into a strategic military alliance with the U.S. against another socialist country. Such an alliance, were it to be consummated, would ultimately spell out a catastrophe for all concerned.

However, there can be many a slip between the cup and the lip and in marriages of convenience such as this one, where there is a total lack of identity of basic class interests, the chances for its consummation are still at a considerable distance.

There is still time and opportunity to reverse the course. One can only hope that it will be the masses of people, the workers and oppressed in the United States and all over the world who, having the principal stake in the cause of preventing an imperialist holocaust, will with timely intervention stay the hand of the militarist incendiaries who dominate the military-industrial complex and the vital arteries of American economic and political life.

—Bakke

(Continued from p. 16)

been gaining momentum. An example is the efforts of students of Manhattan Community College in New York who were able to get the school to sponsor and to pay for six buses!

The Bakke case is a serious racist and sexist attack that will be met with the active strength of the oppressed, women, students, and progressive people in the demonstrations in Washington and on the West Coast. All out for April 15 and April 29!

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Dharuba

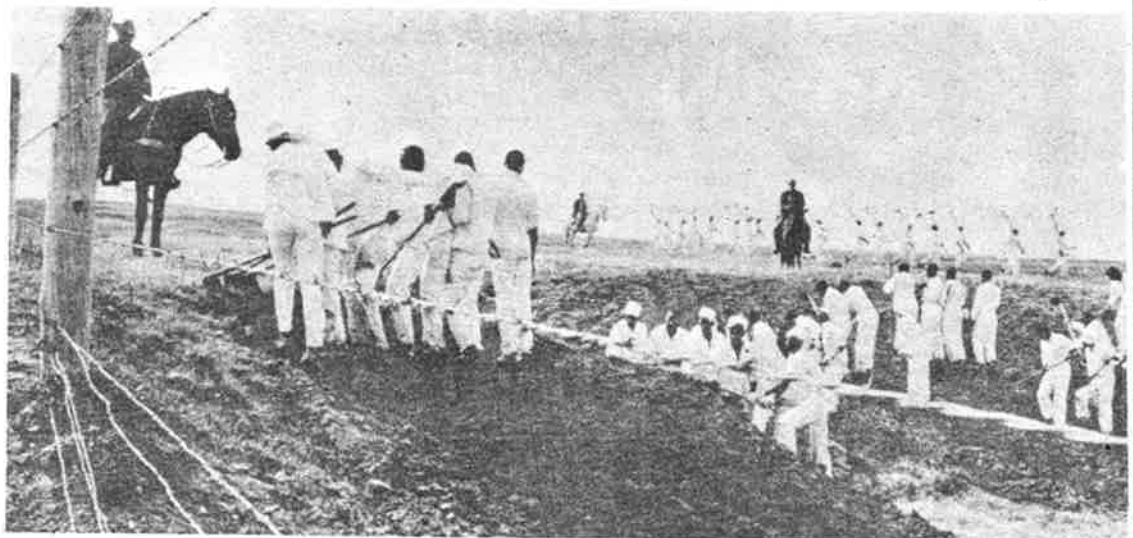
MARCH 25—Early this month, Black liberation fighter Dharuba (Richard Moore) was mysteriously transferred to Sing-Sing prison in Ossining, N.Y. from Stormville. Then he was immediately shipped out to Clinton prison in Dannemora, N.Y., only 30 miles from the Canadian border.

Dharuba, a member of the Black Liberation Army, was convicted on phony charges of attempted murder against two cops on April 23, 1973. A member of the New York Panther Party "21" acquitted in April 1971, of bombing conspiracy charges, Dharuba was later convicted of "attempted murder" due to the

efforts of New York City cops and District Attorney Frank Hogan to imprison the Black freedom fighters.

Dharuba's transfer comes at a time when he had been in the process of filing prisoner grievances at Greenhaven (Stormville) prison. He had pointed out that Greenhaven was near an "Attica-like situation." Dharuba also has a COINTELPRO suit pending.

Editor's Note: As we go to press, Workers World has just learned that under pressure of publicity, Dharuba has been returned to Greenhaven [Stormville].



Black prisoners on a chain gang.

Yvonne Wanrow

SEATTLE, Wash., March 13—Approximately 250 people, some from as far away as Portland, Oregon, and California came to Washington State Supreme Court here today to offer strong support for Yvonne Wanrow, a Native woman.

At issue was the constitutionality of the law under which Wanrow was first tried and convicted of the murder of a man who broke into the house where she and her children were and threatened them with physical harm.

Wanrow's 1973 conviction was overturned by the State Supreme Court more than a year ago. Since then the Spokane County prosecutor has indicated that she will again be brought to trial.

A number of Native people

attended the hearing today along with a multi-national group of 80 women from Immaculate High School in Seattle. The courtroom was packed from wall to wall with people sitting on the floors and standing in the back.

A Native leader took the floor before the hearing began and said a prayer, making a plea for justice.

After an 1½-hour hearing, about 200 people gathered between the Supreme Court and the State Capitol for drumming and

speeches. Wanrow spoke in a strong and confident tone saying that she will ultimately be freed and then be able to concentrate on raising her children and painting and working for other people's freedom.

A member of her defense committee also spoke and solidarity messages were read from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, the Dessie Woods Defense Committee, and the Native American Solidarity Committee.

Joseph Waller

MARCH 9—African Peoples Socialist Party (APSP) Chairman Joseph Waller and Aziza Ayoluwa, a member of the Burning Spear Support Committee, were arrested in a San Francisco grocery store in late February on the ludicrous charge of attempting to pass a counterfeit \$5 bill.

The arrest came on Feb. 27 shortly before Waller was to speak at the University of California in Berkeley on "Strategies for a United Black Community" as part of Black History Month.

Nine days earlier, a speech by Waller to 300 people at the Edison School had been in-

terrupted by two gunshots. The shots had come from what appeared to be a .357 magnum, fired twice at an angle to hit the speaker.

In the most recent incident, supporters were able to post \$6,500 cash bail-ransom for Waller and Ayoluwa, and Waller went on to make his presentation at the University.

In a press release sent out nationwide, APSP's national office described the attack on Waller as a "continuance of the FBI's counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO) directed at destroying the Black nationalist movement."

Letters from prison

Curtis Brown rearrested

On Dec. 9, 1976, Curtis Brown, one of the seven men accused, persecuted, and indicted for the "Tombs Rebellion" of Oct. 2, 1970, was arrested on charges.

At this time Curtis Brown is before Judge Clifford A. Scott, Part 72, Supreme Court, 100 Center St., N.Y.

The stigma of being a "riot leader" has come into play by the district attorney's office and instead of being innocent until proven guilty, a vindictive persecutor, D.A. Pocaro, who sees himself as the vindicator of Hogan's attempted frameup because of the "not-guilty" verdict in the Tombs Rebellion has seen fit to become part of the most recent frameup that began in the 32nd precinct on 135th St.

Evidence that could help establish the innocence of Curtis Brown has been stolen (news tapes) and tampered with. In spite of all the above-mentioned facts, Curtis Brown is attempting to prove his innocence. There has never been any doubt that just-us has been lacking in the courts of amerikka, but the obvious frameup should not be accepted without a protest by the people.

Write to Judge Scott, requesting that his prejudice be set aside at least until the verdict is in. Attend the hearing now in progress, for with the eyes of the people on Judge Scott, justice will be in the making.

Curtis Brown Defense Committee

Send letters to Judge Scott to Curtis Brown, #344-1795, 14-14 Hazen St., East Elmhurst, NY 11370, Blk-2-2b-4

Lewisburg harassment

Dear Editor:

I am writing in conjunction to the article appearing in your Jan. 27 edition of the *Workers World*, entitled: "Following prison fire—30 prisoners held without charges," written by Kathy Picariello.

On Dec. 22, 1977, a fire did break out at Lewisburg Federal Prison. This fire occurred in the Federal Prison Industry area, in the storage room where most of the cardboard is stored under lock and key.

To add fuel to the fire, on Jan. 13 another fire broke out in the same industrial area, this time where most

of the raw material is stored for the clothing factory. This too was under lock and key.

Both fires, according to the local radio station and newspaper, were caused by arson and ran as high as \$100,000 and \$150,000 in damages.

The prison officials, baffled as to who's the cause of these fires, sought out every possible radical, militant, or potential leader they could find and placed them in administrative detention.

In the first fire, approximately 30 inmates were placed under investigation and held in administrative detention without any charges being placed against them. In the second fire, at least 20 (prisoners) were confined.

Up to this day, at least 25 inmates have been released back into the general population, leaving those whom the prison officials consider to be the most militant, viz, Black Liberation Army members, Muslims, ex-Panthers, and gay leaders.

So far, the only support we have received is from the *Workers World* and the Lewisburg Area Prison Project whose staff have been coming in weekly assisting us on legal action we as a whole could possibly take.

On behalf of all comrades who are still confined in Warden Fenton's Segregation Unit, we ask for your continued support by writing this letter in the *Workers World* newspaper. We also ask those on the outside to support us by writing letters to the warden demanding our release from the segregation unit. Address to: Warden Charles Fenton, P.O. Box 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Yours in Struggle,
Abdul Karim Mu'min

Concern for JoAnne Little

I am expressing my thanks to you for sending your paper to me.

I am also very proud of your coverage of Miss JoAnne Little. And I am sure that without the sympathy and the honest opinion of the majority and their expression of such, that Miss Little would have had a harder time.

Again I offer my sincere appreciation. Please continue to send your paper, *Workers World*, to me. Christopher Stinson, #77021. Box 149, Attica, NY 14011

Assata Shakur

By NANCY KOHN

NEW YORK, March 26—Despite over four years of confinement, mostly in solitary, and continued harassment from the state, Black revolutionary Assata Shakur appeared strong and confident in court last week as she won the dismissal of the last of six criminal charges against her. She was never convicted of any of the original charges, but is currently serving a life sentence plus 30 years for her conviction resulting from a 1973 ambush on a car in which she was riding on the New Jersey Turnpike. Shakur was shot with her hands above her head.

In an ironic twist of U.S. "justice," Asst. D.A. Phillip Russotti requested the dismissal of a 1971 robbery charge against her on the grounds that the state (in fact, his own office) had denied her the right to a speedy trial. He was quick to point out, though, that since her parole was not possible until the year 2000, his

request was "to preserve the court's resources."

Evelyn Williams, representing Shakur, told the court that the defendant whole-heartedly concurred with the request for dismissal. In fact, the defense had filed those motions last January. The charges were viewed from the beginning as a continuing attempt to keep Shakur from appealing her life sentence.

The government is now attempting to send Shakur to a maximum-security prison in Alderson, W.Va., to isolate her and again prevent her from working on her appeal. This transfer attempt will be fought in Federal Court on March 28. Telegrams requesting that Assata Shakur not be sent to Federal Prison in Alderson can be sent to Gov. Brendan Byrne, State House, Trenton, N.J. 08625 or to Acting Commissioner of Corrections Fauver, P.O. Box 7387, Whitteley Rd., Trenton, N.J. 08628.

RNA-11

MARCH 27—More disclosures of FBI repression against the Republic of New Africa (RNA), a Black liberation organization, were uncovered as RNA investigators read through 1,000 pages of recently released government files.

The most damning fact against the government was a document showing that the FBI fingerprint lab was not prepared to support its claim that a palm-print found on a supposed murder rifle really belonged to RNA Vice President Hekima Ana. That allegation played a major role in the state obtaining a "guilty" verdict for Brother Hekima and two others.

The convictions that followed on charges of conspiracy against President Obadele and eight others who were each sentenced to

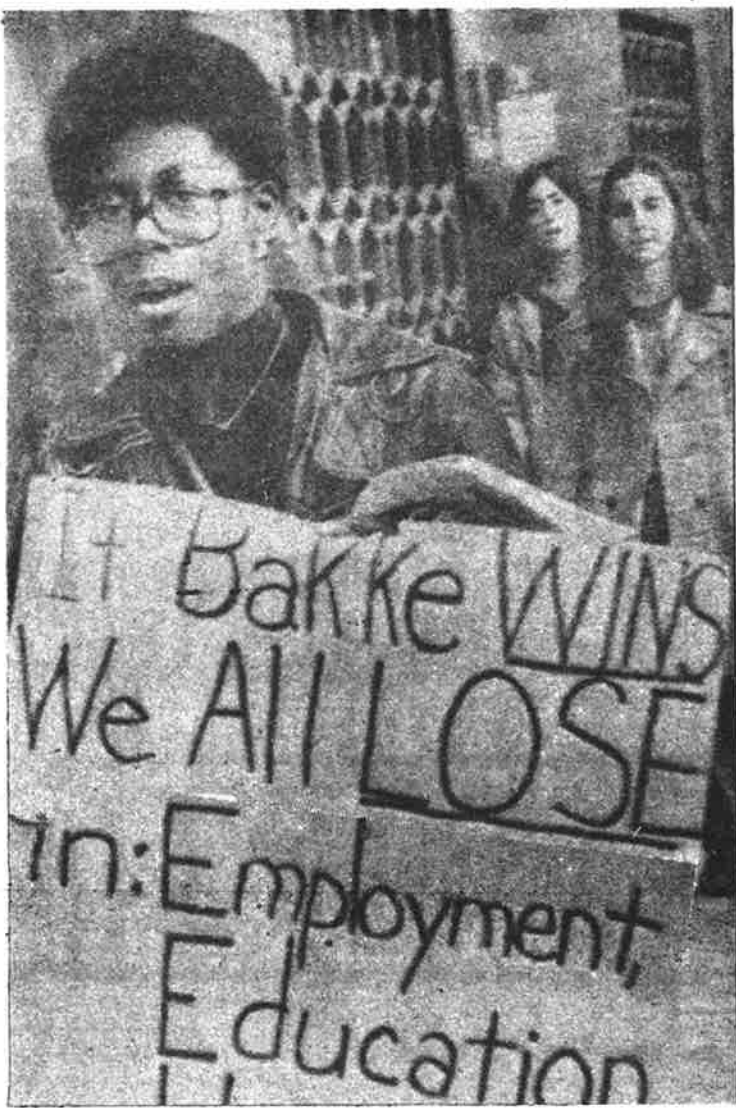
12 years, stems from a murderous police and FBI attack against an RNA residence in early dawn. On Aug. 18, 1971, the combined forces of the repressive state apparatus surrounded and fired upon sleeping RNA members. Their pretext for the attack was that they had come to serve a fugitive warrant, although the person they claimed to be looking for was not at the house.

The police and FBI then arrested President Obadele and three others at the RNA office blocks away where no shooting had occurred.

FBI-released documents also outlined frantic efforts by government officials to find charges against Obadele and Republic of New Africa members that would "stick."

Overturn the Bakke decision

Nationwide march to back affirmative action



Like the Dred Scott decision, the Bakke case poses a clear choice between progress and reaction in the fight for social justice. On April 15 in Washington, D.C. and on April 29 in California the people will demonstrate against the racism Bakke represents and for the rights of all oppressed peoples.

By TANA MARIE LOY
MARCH 27—There are indications that a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on the Bakke decision, an earlier ruling by a lower court which threatens the existence of affirmative action programs for Black, Latin, Asian and Native people and women in schools and workplaces across the country, is imminent.

"Whichever way it goes, the ruling will have the greatest impact on U.S. race relations since the landmark school desegregation opinion of 1954," nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson wrote on March 20.

For the Supreme Court to overturn the Bakke decision, would, at minimum, maintain the limited prohibition of specific discriminatory practices as stated in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. If, on the other hand, the Court upholds the racist claims of "reverse discrimination," the schools and companies would actually be prohibited from giving any special consideration to women and minorities, who have traditionally borne the brunt of prejudicial hiring and admissions practices. In other words, racism and sexism would be mandated by law.

In anticipation of a forthcoming ruling, Attorney General Griffin Bell recently sent a letter to all cabinet members requesting that the Justice Department undertake an examination of all existing affirmative action programs throughout the government.

No matter what the court decides, the march on Washington D.C., on April 15, will be an important mobilization against racism in this country. Plans are

also underway for a West Coast march on April 29. The ruling class is aware that there is a groundswell of support among the poor, the oppressed, women, and all progressive people who are joining together to fight racism and sexism.

For this reason, it becomes even more urgent that anti-racists make plans to attend the demonstrations in Washington and on the West Coast, to buy and sell tickets, to distribute information about Bakke, to help raise funds, and to build for the April 15 and April 29 marches.

Building activities for the marches in many cities will be increasing tremendously in the next two weeks.

The Michigan Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision (MCOBD) has already filled two buses for the April 15 march, and there will probably be more busloads. A new coalition group was recently formed in Ann Arbor, and support in general is growing.

Union support in Michigan is particularly strong. One union is planning a lunch hour meeting so that the issue could be raised among workers. Local 457 of AFSCME issued a statement calling for building the April 15 demonstration, "...to let the Supreme Court and the whole government know that there is a broad movement which believes that affirmative action should not be killed. In short, a victory for Bakke will signal the official abandonment by the Supreme Court of the rights of minorities and women in all aspects of life. Employers who, under pressure, only recently opened their doors to minorities and women will shut them down again and all colleges and universities will abandon their present meager efforts to graduate minorities and women."

The AFSCME statement further

urges participation through fund raising and distributing literature and going to Washington.

In Atlanta, the NCOBD is composed of various civil rights, labor and college groups, primarily fighting against segregated higher education and the use of racially biased standardized tests which prevent oppressed people from getting into colleges. On April 8, a demonstration is planned in Atlanta against the two major newspapers, the Journal and the Constitution, protesting those papers' racist hiring practices and biased reporting. A boycott of these papers is planned. Several community forums are planned and massive leafletting will take place. At least two buses have already been reserved for the April 15 march with interest in the demonstration growing.

In Rochester, N.Y., community and college forums have been held to publicize April 15. There the NCOBD is composed of Action for a Better Community, Friends of Puerto Rico, Dr. Herb Douglas, chairperson of the Afro American Studies of Brockport University, and the Center for United Labor Action. James Wright is a Black man in the NCOBD who has filed suit against the Rochester Library system for denying him a job even though he was qualified, and hiring instead a white man from another state. A bus is already reserved for the 15th, because the anti-racist feeling is strong among progressives in Rochester.

In all these cities and more, attacks on affirmative action policies are already taking place. It is clear that the reactionary forces are not waiting, but neither are the anti-racists, because the mobilization to press for the overturn of the Bakke decision has

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U.S. health care system caters to the rich

By KATHY DURKIN

MARCH 28—What has happened to the Hippocratic Oath? Has it been replaced by the almighty dollar as the ideal of the medical profession in the U.S.?

According to a recent report put out by the President's Council on Wage and Price Stability, doctors' incomes in this country are rising faster than those of any other occupation. Last year doctors' fees rose by 9.3%—much higher than any other rise in consumer prices. In 1976 doctors had a median income of \$63,000 yearly, and that trend is continuing to rise.

Medical care in the U.S. is a business arrangement, with a high financial return for the physician. And the established medical profession regards charging less than the current exorbitant rates as "unethical." In addition, the medical profession upholds reactionary positions on many issues from fighting against the building of new medical schools to covering up malpractice to placing roadblocks in the way of Black, Latin, Native, and Asian people and women.

High rates make quality health care available to the affluent, or to those covered by large health plans. But to those who do not

have coverage, the fact that medical care comes at a high price causes tremendous suffering. Poor people are forced to pay huge portions of their incomes for health care, or go to clinics where care is often not as good and where they must often wait a whole day to see a doctor. Many go without needed medical attention at all.

Even the often-heard argument that doctors charge high rates to pay for their expensive education was disputed in the above report, which stated that the "rate of return on investment in medical education was far in excess of rates of return for educational training in other fields."

A high percentage of doctors enter specializations, such as plastic surgery and psychiatry where high fees are charged, although primary health care and preventive medicine is what is needed in many communities.

The concentration of doctors in East and West Coast cities leaves many areas without enough health care personnel. This trend is on the rise. Ghetto areas of a city have fewer doctors than do other areas of the same city. And while there is one white doctor for every 477 white people in the U.S., there is

only one Black doctor for every 2,779 Black people.

CRYING NEED FOR DOCTORS IN OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES

There is a tremendous need for physicians in the oppressed communities. While there is an average of one doctor for every 620 people in urban areas, there is only one doctor for every 4,200 people in the Black community in Watts, which is typical for many oppressed neighborhoods.

And yet where the need is greatest, the number of doctors is smallest. In poor communities, overall life expectancy is lower and there are higher rates of mortality among infants and young children as well as higher maternal death rates. While inadequate housing and nutrition due to poverty contribute to poorer health, decent health care and preventive medicine is often lacking.

And because entrance to medical schools traditionally has been restricted to the sons of the wealthy and influential, many from the oppressed communities who seriously desire to treat sick people are barred. The way is paved for many who put high

(Continued on p. 12)

NCOBD directory

For more information about national and local anti-Bakke actions, please contact the committee in your area:

- National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, P.O. Box 3026, South Berkeley Station, Berkeley, CA 94703. (415) 549-3297.

- New York Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, P.O. Box 302, Ansonia Station, N.Y., NY 10023. (212) 741-0633, 691-6495. To pick up leaflets: 234 7th Ave. (off 23rd St.).

- Atlanta Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision, P.O. Box 2163, Atlanta, GA 30301. (404) 767-3869, 767-0947, or 523-8990.

- Michigan Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, 409 Griswold, 4th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. (313) 496-1330 or 577-3971. Coordinators: Carl Edwards and Alice Jennings.

- Norfolk Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, c/o CULA, P.O. Box 7002, Norfolk, VA 23509. (804) 857-5193.

- Boston Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, c/o the

Third World Job Clearing House, 15 Worcester St., Boston, MA 02118. (617) 266-8570, or Red Book (617) 491-6930.

- Rochester Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, 656 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14620. (716) 422-1290.

- Buffalo Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, Affiliated to the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, Sidway Building, room 209, 775 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203.

- Philadelphia Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision, Antioch College, c/o Sylvia Lewis, 401 N. Broad St., Phila., PA 19101. (215) 549-6676.

- Baltimore Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, c/o Greg Cherry, 610 Dumbarton Ave., Balt., MD 21218.

- National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, 324 H St., N.E., Washington, D.C. (202) 544-8030.