

# Carter's national health hoax

By HILLEL BAILIN

**JULY 30**—The Carter administration announced yesterday the principles of its long-awaited national health plan. According to Carter, his plan will "provide all Americans with coverage for basic health services and with protection from catastrophic expenses." But a look at the text of the ten principles of Carter's plan reveals that the tens of millions of poor and working people who are waiting for medical relief will have to keep waiting.

For starters, Carter's plan states that there will be **"no additional Federal spending until 1983."** No money, as everyone knows, means nothing done. Even after 1983 the health plan must help "control inflation," "include the private insurance industry," and "strengthen competitive forces in the health care system." Translated, this means promote layoffs and low wages for hospital workers and help the giant drug industry, private hospitals, insurance companies, and other private

medical concerns to make more profits at the expense of public medical care.

#### CARTER'S PRIORITIES

And if this weren't enough, principle number 7 states that "careful consideration should be given to the other demands on government budgets" (like the Pentagon?). In other words the health plan is not guaranteed any funds. It must wait in line behind the Pentagon, the space program,

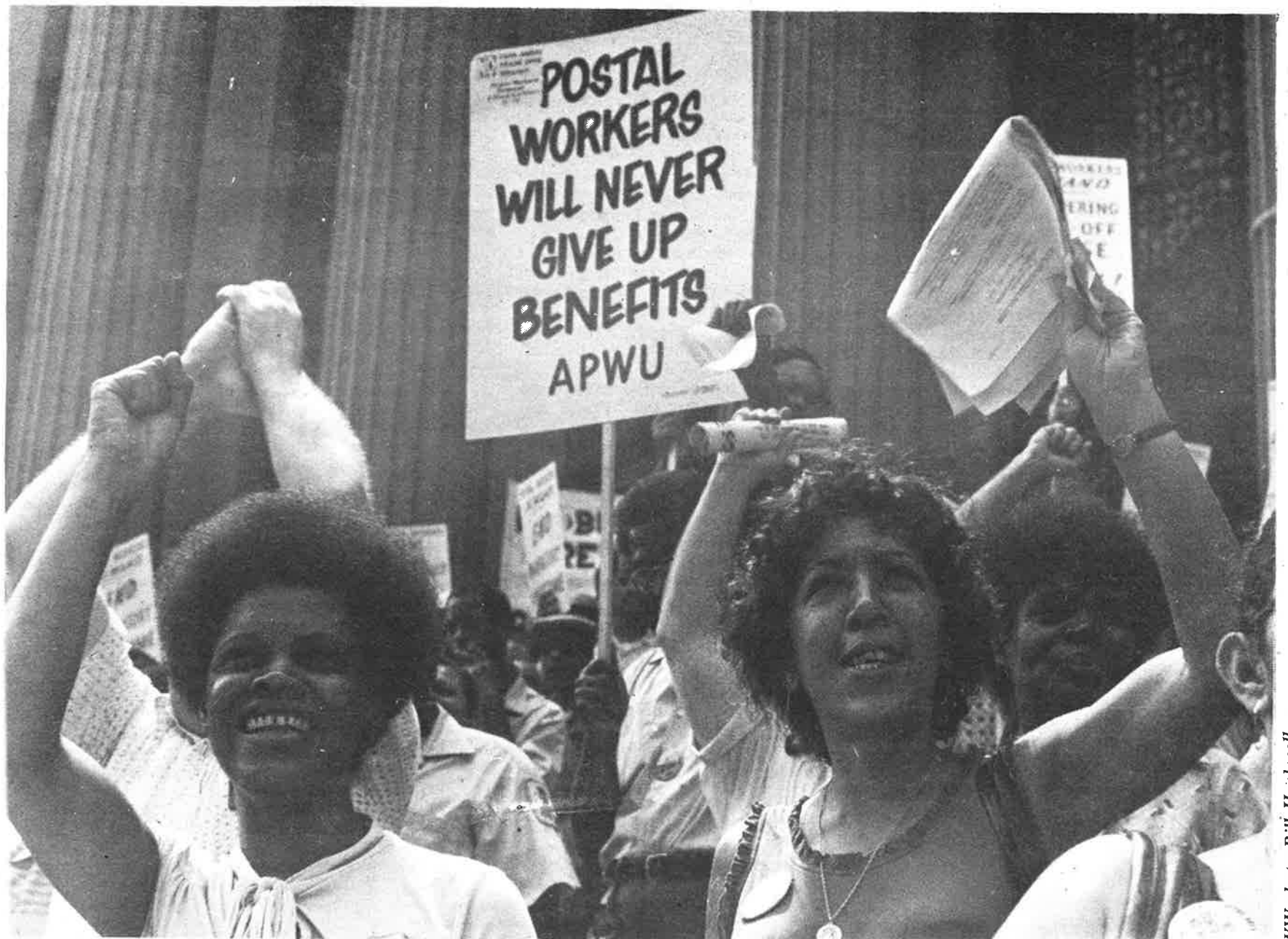
military aid to puppet dictators, and so on.

Already, even Democratic Party members like Senator Edward Kennedy have criticized the plan as being completely inadequate. Kennedy for years has promoted a national health care plan which itself is no great shakes. The fact that Kennedy calls Carter's plan inadequate means it's an absolute fraud. Carter's plan does not even come close to the meagre promises that were part of the Democratic National Campaign Platform

which Carter ran on in 1976.

Of course, the new program does have supporters. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joseph Califano Jr. fully endorsed the proposal which he undoubtedly helped write. Califano has in the past endorsed similar "health" plans like preventing Medicaid payments for abortions and cutting back funds for public hospitals and medical research. In addition to Califano, the plan was endorsed by Walter J. McNerney,

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WW photo: Bill Hackwell

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## Three supporters of gay rights arrested in Seattle

**Special to Workers World**  
SEATTLE, July 27—As part of the continuing campaign of harassment against lesbians and gay men here, three gay rights supporters were arrested Saturday.

Members of the bigoted group, "Save Our Moral Ethics" (SOME), have been gathering signatures all over the city to put an anti-human rights Initiative 13 on the ballot. Members of the Washington Coalition for Sexual Minority Rights have been countering these actions by leafletting against them wherever they appear.

Initiative 13, if it gains access to the ballot and is passed, would legalize discrimination by deleting the words "sexual orientation" from the city's fair housing and employment ordinance. It would also abolish the enforcement powers of the Seattle Office of Women's Rights and transfer sex discrimination complaints to the already overburdened Office of Human Rights, thus weakening enforcement powers against all discrimination.

The latest incident of gay

harassment occurred Saturday when an off-duty cop, hired by SOME, appeared, taking pictures of the anti-13 leafletters. After 25 minutes three leafletters, Will Britt, Jim McMahan, and Gary Ames, were arrested and charged with "disturbing the peace" and "interference with initiative signature gathering." This event has received a great deal of media coverage with SOME forced on the defensive. The Coalition has put out a statement condemning this blatant attack on freedom of speech.

This is the third arrest of gay and lesbian rights supporters since the start of this campaign. This is not surprising as Dennis Falk and David Estes, leaders of SOME, are Seattle cops. Last May a gay rights benefit was raided by cops and two people were arrested. In June two lesbians were arrested by Estes for protesting the initiative by entering SOME's offices and throwing blood on office files and initiative petitions.

It is ironic that those who face harassment continually because of their existence as homosexuals should be charged with



Hundreds of thousands of gay people and their supporters have turned out across the country this year to demonstrate against bigoted anti-gay referendums being peddled by ultra-rightist political elements.  
WW photo: Alan

harassment against those who seek to take away what few rights they have!

But Initiative 13 has not forced gays and lesbians into the closet—it has only strengthened our resolve to fight back. Just as 4,000

people marched in the Seattle Gay Pride march this year, thousands marched against Bakke and the Nazis. Only a strong, militant struggle will turn back the racist, sexist, anti-gay attacks on the lives and living standards of gay people.

## In NYC

### Woman sues her attackers

By BEVERLY SLAPIN

NEW YORK, July 26—On Monday, July 11, about midnight, as Susan Heeger was returning home from a movie, an "old, battered car" started following her down East 28th St. here. The street was quite dark, she later explained, so apprehensively, she started running toward the light at the corner.

The driver shouted from the car, "That's right—keep running, keep running," Heeger said. Then he leaped out of the car and ran toward her, "grabbed me by the hair, and dragged me to the ground."

"I started screaming," she said, "as he dragged me by my hair across the intersection toward the car. My body was scraped and my neck was wrenched. I kept screaming and crying for help."

People in a nearby apartment building were awakened by Heeger's screams. Witnesses said that she kept screaming and crying to "get the police."

What she didn't know at the time was that the man accosting her was the police—arresting her for "loitering for the purposes of prostitution."

All the while, the crowd that had gathered yelled at the man to let Heeger go, as she shouted, "I don't believe they're cops. Please make them wait until the real police get here."

But they were the "real police," and today, Susan Heeger and the New York Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the validity of the New York State law which prohibits "loitering for the purposes of prostitution." Her class-action suit is asking \$300,000 in damages against Ptl. Frank Constantino, and against Gov. Hugh Carey, Mayor Edward Koch, and Police Commissioner Robert McGuire for allowing the continuation of street-sweep procedures against women.

Susan Heeger found out that women walking the streets of New York are in real danger from the police. They can be young or old, Black or white, walking home, jogging, waiting for a bus—any woman can be picked up, harassed, threatened, battered, and charged with "loitering."

After the embarrassing and humiliating episode, Heeger had almost decided not to press charges. But, she said, "I finally decided that it was too important for me and other women to let it go."



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By Bob McCubbin

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## —Health plan

(Continued from p. 1)

president of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Associations who must have particularly appreciated the "significant role for the private insurance industry." The private corporate interests in the medical field, that McNerney represents, stand to gain billions in profit from Carter's national health hoax.

### HEALTH CARE: A BASIC RIGHT

What lies at the heart of the matter is the one principle that Carter couldn't fit into his ten point scheme. Every person has a

right to quality health care regardless of ability to pay. What is more fundamental to the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness than the right to eat and the right to complete medical care? Shouldn't this be the number one principle of any national health care plan? It is precisely the one Carter leaves out.

Is free and complete health care for all an impossible dream? In every socialist country there is complete and totally free health care for all, from preventive hygiene to the most complicated surgery. In a poor country like Cuba, if someone is sick they just go to the nearest doctor, clinic, or hospital and they will be treated—no insurance card, no premium, no bill, no prescription costs. Even in some capitalist countries like England or Sweden, most medical costs are covered by a national plan as a result of hard-fought struggles of the workers there. But as long as health care is kept a profitable business for private companies, working people and poor people cannot afford to get sick. And Carter's national health hoax will not change this painful fact.

## DECLINE AND FALL

### Sapphires are a boss's best friend

New York Times, May 12

"... Americans are completely uneducated about jewelry as an investment", Mr. Bulgari said. "They have always bought for ornamentation. They've been able to, because they're very spoiled in that area; Americans have never had to escape at the last minute with a bag of something."

"At the moment, if you have to reduce your earthly possessions to a bag of something, you'd apparently do well to make it sapphires. 'Definitely a good buy now,' Albert Friedel assured everyone, and as Bulgari's resident gemologist, he ought to know."


### Gum monopoly's bubble burst

New York Times, April 18

"Two bubble gum manufacturers will go to court to settle an antitrust suit in which one of them charges that the other has illegally shut out competition in the vital area of baseball cards. The Supreme Court left standing a decision that Topps Chewing Gum must face trial on charges by the Fleer Corporation that its rival had created a monopoly by signing up major league baseball stars to exclusive picture card contracts."

### Liberians protest

NEW YORK, July 26—Around 50 Liberians held a demonstration here today in front of the Liberian Consulate to protest the lack of human rights in Liberia under the U.S.-backed regime of William R. Tolbert. The action was aimed at a recently amended sedition act which makes virtually all forms of opposition to the puppet government a felony.



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# Postal workers versus the courts

By KENNY PETERSON

AUGUST 2—Although they perform an arduous and vital task, postal workers are the frequent butt of vicious wisecracks and outright slanders. They are pictured in the boss-owned media as slow, inefficient, and so on. This is the result of a deliberate policy of anti-labor agitation that is the main staple of the poisonous diet dished out by corporate media chiefs to the American public.

Postal workers, who are the largest organized segment of federal workers—570,000 strong in four unions, have seen their wages and working conditions steadily deteriorate over the years. The tentative contract that was reached between the Postal Service and the unions on July 21 would guarantee three more years of falling income and abominable working conditions. With a grueling speed-up and forced overtime, the heart attack rate among postal workers is a national scandal.

The proposed contract would "raise" their wages by 2% the first year, 3% the second year, and 5% the third year. In addition, small and limited ("capped") cost-of-living increases and some slight improvements in their benefit plan complete this miserable package. The postal workers are acutely aware that with the present rate of inflation, this contract is in fact a vicious wage-cutting document dictated by none other than President Carter.

Naturally, there is tremendous opposition to this contract by the postal workers. The National Association of Letter Carriers at its convention in Chicago this week voted overwhelmingly to reject the pact, as did the national rank-and-file bargaining council of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) last week. In addition, local unions across the country have voiced strong opposition to the proposed agreement.

The most striking opposition to the sell-out came in the form of wildcat strikes at the giant bulk mail facilities in Jersey City (N.J.) and Richmond, Calif. Wildcats took place at postal centers in other parts of the country as well, and the prospects of a national strike began to frighten the postal authorities into taking drastic reprisals against the workers.

The exact number of postal workers fired is not known, although it appears that between 150 and 200 were summarily deprived of their livelihood for the "crime" of striking. Federal statutes make it a felony for postal workers to strike, despite the constitutional prohibition against "involuntary servitude." Along with the struggle for a decent contract there is now the need to fight for complete amnesty for those workers singled out for their role in the mass walkouts.

The cutting edge of the government's program to force this wage-cutting contract on the postal workers was a strike-breaking injunction issued in federal district court in Newark last week. The primary object of this injunction was to prevent the holding of a strike authorization vote by the New York Metro local of the APWU.

## THE INJUNCTION

Federal Judge Frederick Lacey announced in court that he was going to "enjoin any action authorizing, encouraging, directing or advancing a possible strike in any way," or "from participating in any way in a vote that could lead to a strike, sponsoring such a vote, paying the expenses of any organization conducting such a vote, or encouraging such a vote." (Quite a mouthful, even for a judge.)

Moe Biller, president of the New York local which was the target of Judge Lacey's injunction, can-

celled the scheduled strike vote although he has continued to voice opposition to the proposed settlement. Postal authorities had feared that a strike vote in the New York area would inevitably lead to a national walkout.

Ballots for the contract ratification election are expected to be mailed out later this week to postal workers throughout the country. A rejection by the national membership could lead to renegotiations and possibly a strike.

## AN EVIL HISTORY

The strikebreaking injunction has a long and evil history in this

country as one of the major anti-labor instruments in the arsenal of the bosses. It has been used literally countless times to inflict painful defeats on labor. The injunction lines up the police powers of the state behind a tyrannical judge whose function is to impose the will of the corporations upon the workers.

The injunction is only one form in which the capitalist government intervenes in the struggle between capital and labor, although it is one of the most pernicious. It is a legal mechanism that suspends the "normal" operations of government when there is at least lip

service paid to such elementary rights as due process, trial by jury, the rights of free speech and assembly, and of course, the right to strike. It substitutes a judicial order (with ample backing from the police) for the entire fabric of the so-called democratic system.

First used against the national railroad strike of 1877, the strike-breaking injunction transformed the ordinary and supposedly constitutionally "protected" actions of the striking workers into "contempt of court." Flushed with success, the U.S. courts went on to deploy the injunction against the

(Continued on p. 4)



JULY 25—New York Bulk Mail workers give thumbs down to anti-strike injunction.

WW photo: G. Dunkel

## Texas Instruments' union-busting means low wages, few benefits

By JESSE LEE

JULY 28—Texas Instruments (TI) has some 45,000 production workers in 15 plants in the U.S. The Austin, Tex., plant employs

mostly women who sit in rows of 20 at long, gray worktables, soldering components to a variety of electronic gadgets.

Paying only pennies over the minimum wage of \$2.65 an hour, TI hires from the vast pool of unemployed and unskilled people who are desperately looking for a job.

Like the many other non-union assembly plants and sweatshops across the country, TI does not offer workers any "extra" benefits such as major medical coverage, dental care, or any of the other necessities that unions have won for working people.

Today's Wall Street Journal calls TI "the third largest nonunion company in the United States, after International Business Machines and Eastman Kodak." Texas Instruments makes computers, digital watches, calculators, and other electronic gear including guided missiles. Sales last year topped \$2 billion.

TI has become a darling of big business because of its resistance to several union drives over the past 25 years. So, the Wall Street Journal sent in a reporter to get a job on the line to find out how the union is kept out. As the Journal headline says—"Our reporter gets

a job there and finds herself fired"—all within three weeks.

The article describes how the Journal reporter talked with her co-workers about the union, all in the interest of finding out how the company keeps out the union. The company got wind of her union talk, and fired her right away.

## "LIKE 1984"

The article reports: "'It's like 1984,' says one worker as he waits for a machine in the lobby to read his badge and unlock the entrance door. 'Big Brother is always watching for spies and for invaders from the union.'"

Machinist union organizer Steve Williams adds, according to the Journal, "For every 100 TI employees, there's one guy whose main job is to keep those people from joining a union."

Texas Instruments may believe that their attempts to create a climate of fear among the workers will hold off the union forever. The Rockefellers believed this when they ordered the Ludlow massacre in 1914 where 74 people were killed for organizing coal miners. Today however, the mine workers stand at the forefront of all organized labor.

## Michigan Labor Briefs

### Convention hits 'tax revolt'

JULY 27—A big issue at the three-day Michigan State AFL-CIO Convention held in Dearborn July 24-26 was the phony "tax revolt" currently threatening jobs and services here. At least three resolutions were introduced by locals while many speakers addressed the "tax revolt" issue, exposing it as a windfall for real estate interests and big business.

A new note of labor solidarity was evident in resolutions and actions. Support of J.P. Stevens workers, Oakland Press strikers and then-striking Harper-Grace Hospital workers was shown. Cross-union delegations from the Convention made the rounds of area department store chains and won several agreements from them to drop J.P. Stevens products being boycotted nationally.

The ability of the union to fight on these issues, however, was seriously weakened by the union leadership's promotion of a host of electioneering politicians. This can only mislead and sidetrack the growing anger and energy of the rank and file into fruitless election campaigns.

### City workers threaten strike

JULY 30—One year after the city-wide one-day strike of Detroit AFSCME workers to win a new contract that fought take-away demands, the union is being forced to consider strike action again.

The city has been working sanitation workers, members of Local 26, 16 hours a day using mandatory overtime provisions to avoid hiring needed extras. Other city locals have been confronting city officials over wage cuts, seniority, and their refusal to accept binding arbitration rulings, among other issues.

While the city administration's intransigence is at the root of the problem, many union militants had warned last year against accepting an inadequate

contract. It has taken a year's experience to prove them right to the union officials who pushed that contract through.

Many locals have already voted to go out in sympathy if the sanitation workers walk out. Union leaders are still trying to resolve the problems through intense bargaining with the city.

### Harper-Grace strike settled

JULY 27—In a close vote members of SEIU Local 79 ratified a contract with Harper-Grace Hospital. Over 1,800 workers had been on the picket lines for one month to beat back a union-busting, scab-hiring attack against the three-year-old local. With support growing from other area unions and the threat of 1,000 Michigan AFL-CIO State Convention delegates being bused over to walk the picket line, Harper-Grace management settled. The contract included 35 cents over each of three years and a dental plan.

### Labor solidarity brings rewards

JULY 27— Officials of AFSCME Local 2435, currently in negotiations for a new contract with Detroit Memorial Hospital (DMH), report that the Harper-Grace strikers won a victory for DMH workers too. The day after Harper-Grace management was forced to settle, the deadlock in DMH bargaining was broken. Many issues of contract language were granted to the union allowing talks to move forward to money matters.

DMH union workers and officers had picketed several times in solidarity with Local 79 at Harper-Grace. The impact on management of these actions was revealed when chief negotiators for DMH brought it up in negotiations. Apparently, Harper-Grace had sent pictures of the picket lines to all area hospital administrations for them to identify who were the strike supporters!

## The industrial army

"Masses of laborers, crowded into the factory, are organized like soldiers. As privates of the industrial army they are placed under the command of a perfect hierarchy of officers and sergeants. Not only are they slaves of the bourgeois class, and of the bourgeois state; they are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine, by the overlooker, and, above all, by the individual

bourgeois manufacturer himself."

Sound familiar? The authors of this quote could be describing conditions at Texas Instruments or any of the many sweatshops or piecework assembly lines that can be found in the U.S. today. It is, in fact, a quote from the **Communist Manifesto**, written 130 years ago.

—J.L.

# 15-year prison term fails to silence Truong

By DIANE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, July 20—Facing the court at his sentencing on July 7, David Truong, a Vietnamese resident in the U.S. and an anti-war activist, asserted, "Gentlemen, one may be poor, one may have to tighten one's belt because of enduring hardships, one may even have to give up one's life—but no Vietnamese will ever flee before this government."

Truong and Ronald Louis Humphrey, an employee of the U.S. Information Agency, were indicted on phony "espionage" charges by the U.S. (In)Justice Department on February 3, coinciding almost to the day with the tenth anniversary of the heroic Tet offensive. Both men were found guilty by an Alexandria, Virginia federal court on May 19. Truong was sentenced to 15 years in U.S. concentration camps.

Truong told the court before his sentencing, "Let me say first that whatever happens today will not change my love and affection for the warm people of this country whom I've known for more than a decade and in the course of this trial. A few of them are here today, most in other cities, so it would take many courtrooms if they all came. Whether close or afar, I want to thank them for their boundless love, friendship and solidarity."

"I am not a spy or anybody's agent, and reaffirm my innocence."

## SHCHARANSKY: NOW THERE IS A SPY!

David Truong received a stiffer sentence from U.S. courts than did Anatoly Shcharansky, a real spy, a spy against the Soviet Union, who earlier this month was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 13 years by a Soviet court. But Truong and Humphrey were accused of giving away material that was political in nature and had nothing to do with U.S. military affairs or defense—something even the prosecution had to admit.

The charges against them are even more spurious considering that a columnist like Jack Anderson has made a whole jour-

nalistic career out of reprinting classified documents that high level bureaucrats have leaked to him!

Compare this to Shcharansky. Even one of the largest news magazines in this country—Newsweek—had to admit Shcharansky had given secret defense information about the Soviet Union to U.S. intelligence agencies. Let the record note that Newsweek (July 24) said that Shcharansky "had supplied the names of secret Soviet defense plants and research institutes masquerading as civilian establishments" to a U.S. reporter who passed it to the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency.

## U.S. POLITICAL MOTIVE EXPOSED

When he spoke at sentencing, not only did Truong assert his innocence but he went on to expose the political nature of the frameup. He said:

"What did take place about this case and in this court will, for a long time, cast large shadows on this administration, notably the Justice Department and the intelligence agencies—the CIA and the FBI. Aside from not inspiring additional confidence in the carrying out of justice, my case, and where it will lead, will also sap the government's credibility to a severe extent."

"My case stands clearly as a violation of human rights in the U.S. and will be seen as such by peoples everywhere."

"No matter how hard the government tries, this case can never erase the horrors and destruction that were unleashed upon the people of Viet Nam for decades. Frankly, your honor, even a life sentence for me would look pale beside the untold number of war crimes and countless Vietnamese women, children, and men who died during the term of four administrations."

"If I would add a personal level, I know of a government that came to southern Viet Nam, crippled my father for his views by imprisoning him for more than five years at hard labor, and then left in April of 1975. In between, it managed to

jail my little brother for a while.

"The heavy legacy of Viet Nam—those bombings of Christmas, 1972; those millions of Vietnamese uprooted, wounded, and killed; those hundreds of thousands of undetonated explosives in Viet Nam—is something no Administration can wash away."

"If one learns anything from history, and, of course, from the

tragedy of the Viet Nam war, it would be that the people always count. They shape and mold history. And they stood together, in difficult and good times alike—that is the history of two peoples, Americans and Vietnamese, during the war.

"And now, they will stand even more firmly together in their pursuit of healing war wounds in Viet Nam and here, and of nor-

malization of relations between two countries. Nothing can change that. With that certain knowledge, my mind is totally at peace, ready to climb the highest mountain and go down the deepest valley, no matter how long it takes.

"History will once again show that the peoples will decisively turn that new page in the history of U.S.-Viet Nam relations. They will win and so will I."



Vietnam: the aftermath of war. The Pentagon bombs, poison gas, and deadly chemicals. Despite the ruin and carnage it caused, the U.S. government still refuses to pay reparations.

Photo: Vietnam News Agency

## Karl Armstrong sentence reduced

By DEE KNIGHT

NEW YORK, Aug. 1—After more than six years in prison, anti-war activist Karl Armstrong recently won a sentence reduction, from 23 to 14 years. Under the Wisconsin "good time" law that establishes mandatory parole deadlines, Armstrong now can be released in the fall of 1979.

Armstrong, who is now 31 years old, has been held in Wisconsin's Waupun State Prison, north of Madison, since 1973, when he was convicted for his role in a series of anti-war bombings in Madison during 1970. He was seized in February 1972 in Toronto, Canada, and returned to U.S. officials in spite of a Canadian law which guarantees asylum to anyone sought for political "crimes" in another country.

"Justice didn't triumph with my sentence reduction," Armstrong commented. "It triumphed when the Vietnamese won." But to signify the victory and build support for his fellow prisoners, Armstrong encouraged a Madison celebration to benefit the Waupun Brothers Defense Fund. Armstrong and three other prisoners at Waupun started the fund to establish and protect prisoners' rights.

The victory culminates a struggle waged by Armstrong's lawyers and supporters since January 1977, when attorney Mark Frankel first presented the motion for a sentence reduction. Frankel argued that the spirit of President Carter's limited amnesty for draft resisters should extend to anti-war activists such as Armstrong; and that the disparity between Karl's sentence and the seven-year sentences received by David Fine and Armstrong's brother, Dwight Armstrong, for the same actions, was unjust.

The motion, and the hundreds of letters from supporters, also noted that Armstrong's father was seriously ill and unable to visit his son in prison, and therefore father and son might never see each other again without a sentence reduction.

In granting the reduction, Circuit Court Judge P. Charles

Jones acknowledged that the original sentence was excessive.

At Armstrong's trial in 1973, the state tried to deny the political character of the anti-war bombings. The establishment press tried to whip up a hysteria over the fact that a researcher, Robert Fassnacht, was accidentally killed in the early morning blast at Madison's Army Math Research Center, in August 1970.

## CITED NUREMBERG PRINCIPLE

During a two-week-long mitigation hearing Armstrong and other anti-war activists demonstrated that the Army Math Research Center was a weapon of

war against the Vietnamese people. They noted the Nuremberg principle that citizens should take extra-legal action when their government is acting illegally.

In his final statement at the hearing, Armstrong said "the acts with which I have been credited were undertaken with the purpose of crippling the efforts of the American government to wage an illegal, criminal, and aggressive war against the Indochinese peoples, to prevent the further loss of life, devastation, and suffering. I have acted out of a sense of moral responsibility and felt for me not to have taken concrete action against this war would have been criminally irresponsible."

## —Postal workers

(Continued from p. 3)

historic Pullman Strike of 1894, crushing the American Railway Union of Eugene Debs out of existence.

## ROUTINE PROTECTION FOR BOSSES

The labor movement entered the twentieth century sniped at at every turn by injunction-wielding judges in the pay of the corporations. The injunction became the routine protection for the bosses from the organizing struggles of labor. The anti-labor injunction was used with such frequency that more far-seeing representatives of the ruling class began to agitate for its curtailment. They feared that the entire U.S. legal system was falling into such disrepute with the masses of people that a revolutionary consciousness would be permanently implanted in the minds of working people.

The Supreme Court, it should be noted, played a leading role in defending the injunction throughout the early decades of this century. By 1932, however, the Norris-LaGuardia Act was passed and it placed stringent limitations on the use of the injunction in labor disputes. The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 as well as subsequent

Supreme Court decisions have restored the injunction, if not to its former prominence, at least to a major role in the anti-labor legal machinery of the bosses.

## CORPORATIONS EXEMPT

Although the injunction is again commonplace today, it is virtually never used against the corporations. For example, when Mobil Oil was collecting illegal price increases during the oil boycott, was it the recipient of an injunction? Not at all, a mere "investigation" was all the government could muster.

And when J.P. Stevens repeatedly defied the NLRB, months were expended on hearings for an injunction that was eventually dropped anyway. Yet anti-labor injunctions are issued at the drop of a hat.

The injunction is a vicious and lethal weapon aimed at the most elementary rights of all working and oppressed people. All the powers of the state are concentrated against a single union, an isolated group of workers. But labor can mobilize as a class to bar the courts from resorting to this police-state measure. It is in the interest of all working people to defend the beleaguered postal workers from this judicial tyranny.

## Cancer spread by army use of chemical warfare in Vietnam

By RACHEL DUELL

JULY 31—A suit by Paul Reutershan, a 28-year-old Vietnam veteran who is dying of massive abdominal cancer because of exposure during the war to Agent Orange, a deforesting agent, raises once again the truth about the Pentagon's chemical warfare program in Vietnam.

Even though chemical and biological warfare had been banned at the Geneva Convention of 1925, many thousands of Vietnamese were sprayed with this same deadly chemical by the U.S. military and are now suffering the same horrible effects as Reutershan.

Reutershan's suit is against the three manufacturers of the herbicide: Dow Chemical Co., Hercules Chemical Co., and Shamrock Chemical Co. The veteran is charging that each company cynically produced the chemical agent even though before selling it for military use they "knew of the properties that would cause cancer." (New York Daily News, July 26).

Researchers have shown that the herbicide contains "hazardous

concentrations" of Dioxin, an extremely carcinogenic chemical.

Following news reports concerning the charges against the chemical companies, Reutershan received calls from over 120 veterans in the New York area alone complaining of similar symptoms which had developed years after their exposure to Agent Orange.

The big business press has remained silent on the delayed cancer producing effects of the toxic Agent Orange on the Vietnamese people who, of course, constitute 99% of the victims of this hideous chemical. The use of Agent Orange was part of the policy of genocide against the Vietnamese people which included napalm, mining of ports and harbors, and the dropping of thousands of tons of bombs in numbers nowhere comparable in the history of warfare.

A continued fight at home to halt any future instances of U.S. intervention against a liberation struggle is vital as is support of the demand made by the Vietnamese people for U.S. government reparations in the reconstruction of their country.



## Two independence activists murdered in Puerto Rico

# Colonial police intensify repression

By DAVID PEREZ

JULY 29—Political repression in Puerto Rico against the independence movement intensified this past week with the assassination on Tuesday of two activist youths in the small town of Villalba by 12 cops. members of the Criminal Investigations Agency.

The fact that the two youths, Edgardo Sotò and Arnaldo Dario Rosado, were with an undercover agent who infiltrated the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) at the time of what the police claimed was an "attempt to sabotage" and the fact that 12 cops were waiting in ambush, shows that this was no isolated case of police brutality but a coordinated effort of the colonial state machine to quash the growing independence sentiment in Puerto Rico.

Then on Friday at least eight Puerto Rican supporters of independence were rounded up by the police. And who gave "evidence" that led to these arrests? According to the July 29 New York Times, it was none other than the same undercover agent involved in the killings of the two youths on Tuesday! Bail was almost an unbelievable \$1 million.

### KILLINGS CONDEMNED

Juan Mari Bras, Secretary-General of the PSP, condemned

the killings as a "horrible crime based on total police fabrication."

Efforts to terrorize and intimidate the independence movement, in particular the working class, are increasing at a time when the economic and

political situation in Puerto Rico is making the island a virtual powder keg. There's the recent jailing and frameups of militant labor leaders, Miguel Cabrera and Radames Acosta; there's the torture and murder last year of Teamster

steward Juan Cabellero Santana; and then there was the bombing a few months ago of the Teamsters Building by right-wing terrorists.

The colonial governor, Carlos Romero Barcelo, of the New Progressive Party (PNP) has

launched a giant campaign for the complete annexation of Puerto Rico by making it the 51st state. This was made crystal clear in a speech of Romero's on July 25, the 80th anniversary of U.S. imperialism's military invasion and colonization of Puerto Rico in 1898. He stated that if the PNP wins the 1980 gubernatorial "elections," he will push for a plebiscite on the status of the island's relationship to the U.S. Independence forces have traditionally boycotted the heavily stacked poll conducted by the colonial puppets themselves.

The U.S. is pulling the strings as usual. Primaries have been slated for October in what is a move to bring the U.S. imperialist parties more direct involvement with the colonial parties on the island. (The Democratic National Convention in 1976 pushed for this after Republican Gerald Ford made a statement calling for statehood for Puerto Rico!). The other major colonial party in Puerto Rico, the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), has officially boycotted these primaries. Some of the ranks of the PPD are pushing for a more "autonomous" type of government, but it doesn't seem likely that the PPD will adopt a militant, anti-imperialist stand.

The imperialist practice of calling Puerto Rico the "showplace of democracy" to counter the rising support among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean for the Cuban Revolution is now exposed. Unemployment in Puerto Rico is over 40%. A full 70% of the island's residents have to receive food stamps or some other type of public "assistance." Inflation is rampant. The average salary of the Puerto Rican worker is only \$2,500, way below the poverty level, while the cost of living is one-third higher than in the U.S.!

The net effect of "democracy" for Puerto Rico has been to increase the anti-imperialist sentiments of the super-oppressed Puerto Rican workers and campesinos. This is what has the U.S. ruling class, with its corporations and banks bleeding Puerto Rico of \$1 billion in profits annually worried. It is in this climate that the U.S. has begun testing the waters for a statehood drive.

But, a colonized people will resist as long as they are under the yoke of imperialist domination. The will of the Puerto Rican people to be genuinely free will triumph, and U.S. imperialism will have one extra nail in its well-deserved grave!



Pro-independence militants gather in Guanica, Puerto Rico, the site of the Yankee invasion 80 years ago. Juan Mari Bras, leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, is speaking. Photo: Claridad

## World Youth Festival opens in Havana



JULY 31—Over 60,000 progressive youth from 145 countries jammed into the Latin American Stadium in Havana, Cuba, on July 28 for the opening of the Eleventh World Festival of Youth & Students.

Pictured here is the Ethiopian delegation of youth with Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam and other members of the government of revolutionary Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Revolution will be the subject of a special tribute at the festival. This is the first time that Ethiopia, which was under the rule of the reactionary feudal monarch Haile Selassie until 1974, will be represented at the Youth Festival.

The theme for the second day of the festival was "in solidarity with the liberation struggles in Southern Africa."

Over 400 youth from the U.S. are also participating in the festival. Progressives in the U.S. marched in the opening ceremony with t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Break the Blockade!" They also carried banners denouncing racism in the U.S. and apartheid in South Africa. Other banners that reflected the significant struggles of their generation called for jobs for youth and full equality for women.

## In solidarity with independence movement

# 'Puerto Rico: Paradise Invaded' shown in NYC

By HILLEL BAILIN

NEW YORK, July 29—Workers World Party held a meeting here tonight on the 18th anniversary of the invasion of Puerto Rico by the United States to support the continuing struggle of the Puerto Rican people for independence.

Tonight's program featured the film "Puerto Rico: Paradise Invaded," produced by the Latin American Film Project. In a dramatic way, the film shows how the United States took over Puerto Rico to exploit the rich resources of that beautiful island. The documentary explains how U.S. big business dominated Puerto

Rico's economy and used the colonial administration to keep wages low and profits high, from the early years of intense sugar production to today's tremendous industrial output.

### DESTRUCTIVE ROLE OF U.S. PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS

The audience saw how most recently, giant U.S. petrochemical companies have polluted the fishing areas and ruined agricultural lands—destroying the jobs of thousands of agricultural workers. In return, relatively few have been hired by these highly automated plants so that

unemployment and low wages have hit the people hard.

About two million Puerto Ricans have been forced to emigrate to the United States in search of work but here too they find unemployment, low wages, and racism as well.

"Paradise Invaded" also shows the long and historic struggle of the Puerto Rican people against this oppression.

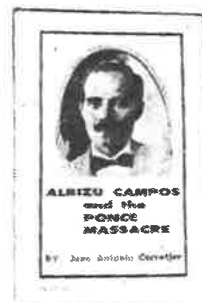
Scenes portraying the rise of the Nationalist movement, the Ponce massacre, the Jayuya uprising, and recent demonstrations illustrate the great determination of the

Puerto Rican people both in the U.S. and on the island to continue the struggle against racism and exploitation, and for independence.

The film was introduced to the appreciative audience by David Perez of Workers World Party. Perez put the struggle of the Puerto Rican people in the perspective of the world struggle against U.S. imperialism. He stressed the importance of the fight of workers and oppressed people who live in the U.S. to bring down the capitalist system which exploits so many at home and around the world.

## Albizu Campos and the Ponce Massacre

By JUAN ANTONIO CORRETIER



An account of the Puerto Rican struggle against Yankee imperialism during the 1930s and the role of Albizu Campos. 25 cents

Order from: World View Pub. 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010



# Albania to China's leaders: End your alliance with imperialism

By ANDY STAPP

JULY 31—The Central Committee of the Albanian Workers Party has sent a 56-page letter to the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party rebuking the current Chinese leaders and objecting to China's orientation toward a de facto alliance with U.S. and European imperialism.

The letter, which was released to journalists in Peking and Belgrade, is, according to today's New York Times, "particularly critical of China's willingness to receive visitors from the West, especially the trips of Mr. Nixon and of Henry Kissinger, his advisor on national security."

The first Nixon visit took place in 1972 when Vietnam was under heavy bombardment by the U.S. air force. Nixon's second trip to

China occurred after the Watergate scandal had forced his resignation from the presidency.

## ALBANIAN SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM

On July 13 the Chinese government announced that it was stopping all economic and military aid to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. Three weeks before this, the leading Albanian newspaper, Zeri I Popullit, ran a major editorial expressing strong support for Vietnam against the pressure and threats of the Chinese government.

Earlier, on June 11, the Albanian Telegraphic Agency published a sharp criticism of the Chinese leaders for "opportunistic and anti-Marxist preachings for an alliance with U.S. im-

perialism." The statement particularly attacked their attempt to unite with "the Pentagon, NATO, Wall Street, and Mobutu" saying that "it is not difficult for the peoples to distinguish in it the anti-communist and colonialist front, against which whole generations of revolutionaries and patriots in all the countries have fought and shed blood for scores of years."

These statements from People's Albania further confirm what has been apparent to many others: that is, the reactionary position the Chinese government has taken, especially in putting totally unjustified pressure on Vietnam and also, in joining with U.S. imperialism in attacking the USSR and Cuba for the aid they have given the African revolution.

## Against imperialism and reaction

# Ethiopia to host solidarity conference

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

AUGUST 1—Over 140 organizations, liberation movements, parties, and representatives of governments are expected to participate in an International Conference of Solidarity with the struggle of the African and Arab peoples against imperialism and reaction to open Sept. 14 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Chairman of the National Preparatory Committee, Major Dawit Wolde Giorgis of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced ten days ago that the final preparations for the conference had been made by a working group which included representatives of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, Algeria, African National Congress, Angola, Cuba, Ethiopia, Libya, Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Palestine Liberation Organization, Portugal, Tanzania, USSR, and the World Peace Council.

The working group sent a message to Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Ad-

ministrative Council of Ethiopia, thanking Ethiopia for hosting the meeting which, it said, "in itself is an international demonstration in support of the African and Arab liberation movements and progressive states, tightening the military bonds of their joint struggle for freedom, independence, peace and prosperity."

It also sent a message to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen declaring its solidarity with Yemen's struggle to defend their revolution. South Yemen recently foiled a counter-revolutionary plot.

Major Dawit explained that the conference will be a significant landmark in the unity of the struggle of oppressed peoples, and added, "The struggle of the oppressed African and Arab people has reached the point of no return. Oppressed peoples of the world have been drawn inexorably into social revolutions. Our pride, our dignity and our distaste for the physical, mental and moral pains of degradation and exploitation will be vindicated by the inevitable rule of justice through social

revolution. Imperialism along with its rhetoric that strives to convince us that slavery is freedom, that pain is joy and that hell is paradise will go down the drainage of history and oppressed people shall triumph."

## Following years of pressure from Wall Street

# Soares government falls

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

JULY 31—On July 27, Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes dismissed Socialist Party (PS) leader Mario Soares as premier of the government, two days after the right-wing Center Democrats (CDS) withdrew their support.

The ouster is the culmination of a three-year campaign waged by Portuguese capitalism and U.S. imperialism to turn back most of the gains won by the masses during the 1974 revolution which brought down the Caetano-Salazar dictatorship. Washington and Wall Street never let up on their pressure on the Soares government (which willingly collaborated, despite its "socialist" label), especially by dictating harsh economic terms to Portugal through the imperialist arm, the



In 1975, workers seized the Portuguese daily Republica. At the time the capitalists howled that the takeover was "undemocratic." Today's "democracy" in Portugal means squeezing the workers so that the rich can live in luxury.

International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The coalition government between the CDS and the PS had been formed last December after the PS minority government fell. While the PS has slowly given up the social reforms won by the Portuguese workers and peasants during the first year-and-a-half after the old fascist regime fell in 1974, the CDS wanted a wholesale victory for private capital.

The CDS especially wanted the land seized by peasants and farmworkers in the Alentejo region south of Lisbon returned to the landlords, and in fact demanded last week that Soares fire his agriculture minister.

## RIGHT WING OFFENSIVE

The PS has consistently betrayed the interests of the Portuguese workers and rural poor. They have refused to bloc with the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) and when they blocked with the CDS last year they even said it was time to "put socialism in the refrigerator."

However, the latest offensive by the Portuguese right forced the PS leadership to at least put up a verbal battle. Instead of resigning from the government when the CDS pulled out, the PS leaders issued a statement saying they found a connection between this resignation and "the growing intolerable pressure from the forces of the extreme right who are searching for a way to destabilize democratic institutions and to prepare thereby new anti-democratic and putschist escalations." (Le Monde, July 26).

It was the confederation of industry, commerce, and agriculture, the bosses' organizations, which advised the CDS to leave the government just before they did. The CDS leadership had also conferred with the leaders of the Catholic Church,

an arch-reactionary institution in Portugal.

In another right-wing move, the president, supposedly without the knowledge of Soares, allowed Americano Tomas, who was chief of state at the end of the fascist Salazar-Caetano regime, to reenter Portugal.

## "DEMOCRACY"—U.S. STYLE

It was just three years ago when the U.S. ruling class and their servants in the media were attacking the Portuguese government for not being "democratic." This was when the Portuguese revolution was still on the offensive, during the government of Vasco Goncalves. Revolutionary ferment was stirring among the rank-and-file and some progressive officers in the military. Workers were seizing plants or forming commissions to direct them. Peasants seized land, which in fact they still are trying to hold on to. When the workers and writers of the Portuguese dailies such as the daily Republica seized those papers away from their owners and editors, the howl from U.S. imperialism was that it was an "undemocratic" act.

Today, however, U.S. imperialism finds little wrong with its brand of "democracy" in Portugal—democracy for the rich. Real wages have steadily decreased. The peasants are being robbed of their land. The dailies are back in the hands of their owners, and give the owners' point of view. And the old-time fascists have the "freedom" to come back to Portugal to organize.

Instead of workers planning for the factory, the International Monetary Fund sets the rules for the whole economy, and the already high unemployment mounts. This is the "democracy" U.S. rulers and media spokespeople were clamoring for in 1975.

New pamphlet on the way!

Eyewitness Ethiopia:

The Continuing Revolution By Deirdre Griswold

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

This updated, well-illustrated, 90-page pamphlet contains reprints from Workers World newspaper from August 1977 to January 1978.

\$1.00

Order from: World View Pub.  
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# Iran strike spreads

By G. DUNKEL

AUGUST 1—Protests against the U.S.-backed Shah of Iran's dictatorial regime are continuing and spreading. The most recent anti-governmental protests broke out the weekend of July 25 in Meshed, a city in the northeast of Iran.

According to the July 27 Le Monde, 40 civilians were killed when the government tried to break up a demonstration using light tanks, armored cars, and armed helicopters. Some reports put the death toll as high as 250.

Beginning in January, the Shah's regime has been shaken by a series of demonstrations, often involving large numbers of workers as well as students and peasants. There have even been some rumblings among the lower-grade army officers, although the higher ranks remain firmly

committed to the Shah.

The Shah's secret police, the SAVAK, have been trained by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service. According to the New York Times of July 9, the Shah's cops had used 50,000 tear gas grenades, 35,600 gas masks, and 4,300 handguns supplied by the U.S. to crush earlier demonstrations this year.

So far they haven't succeeded. The workers and peasants of Iran are getting poorer while the Shah and his gang grow ever richer, spending billions of dollars on U.S. arms. One contract with Bell Aircraft alone will cost over \$1 billion.

It is clear that the heroic people of Iran are going to resist as long as they are oppressed and exploited, until they achieve the victory they deserve.

**In Belgrade****Attempt to isolate Cuba rebuffed at nonaligned meeting**

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

AUGUST 1—The conference of foreign ministers of the nonaligned movement ended in Belgrade this weekend having reconfirmed that next year's full meeting of heads of state will take place in Havana as planned.

This represented a rebuff to an imperialist-inspired attempt to cancel or move the nonaligned conference because of Cuba's role in supporting revolutionary struggles in Africa. The countries leading the attack against Cuba were Egypt, Somalia, Zaire, and Morocco. All four have collaborated with U.S. and/or French imperialism in their efforts to thwart social revolution in Africa.

The main issue at the conference was the right of member countries to appeal for outside help when under attack and subversion by imperialism. Cuba's assistance to Angola and Ethiopia, in particular, has been widely acclaimed in Africa, not only by revolutionary countries and movements but by other African states as well.

For example, in the middle of July, Leslie Harriman, Nigeria's ambassador to the United Nations and to the Organization of African Unity, praised Cuban troops as Africa's "greatest asset" against imperialism and added, "Were it not for the Cubans, Mozambique and Angola would still be under the firm yoke of the colonialists."

And Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania, called an extraordinary press conference in early July to rebut the argument that Cuba's assistance to Angola and Ethiopia was similar to Western imperialist intervention in Africa, with both serving the interests of the "super-powers." Nyerere pointed out that Cuba has no economic interest to protect in Angola or Ethiopia, but French troops in Zaire, on the other hand, were there "to protect Western interests, to see that Zaire copper goes only to Western countries."

Although the imperialist press has made much out of the issue of "Cuban troops" while very deliberately playing down the support Cuba has in Africa, the move to change the site of next year's meeting only received the support of four countries—Egypt, Somalia, Morocco, and Zaire—all of which have played a role in imperialism's efforts to undermine and sabotage revolutionary change in Africa.

**THE FOUR STOOGES**

Egypt's Sadat is viewed as a traitor and renegade by the more militant Arab countries for his concessions to the Western settler state of Israel, concessions which were the result of U.S. pressure but which have yielded Egypt nothing.

Somalia was roped in by imperialism when it accepted aid from reactionary Arab regimes and the NATO countries to launch an invasion of revolutionary Ethiopia. Since its rout there, it has been trying to cover its defeat by loudly complaining that the U.S. and the other Western powers lack the "will" to defend their interests—an echo of the arguments of the ultra-right in the imperialist countries resorted to by every unsuccessful puppet of imperialism.

Zaire, it is universally acknowledged, has become totally dependent on imperialist military intervention for its survival. Mobutu Sese Seko, who was first installed as President by the CIA

after it had succeeded in drowning the Congo Revolution in blood, is seen in the Western capitals as nothing but a figurehead for what they themselves call a "shadow government" run by the imperialist banks and corporations.

Morocco has been a North African partner of both French and U.S. imperialism, throwing its military weight behind neocolonial regimes. Moroccan troops have fought alongside the Belgians and French in Zaire (formerly the Congo), and it was UN troops

under the command of a Moroccan general that cut off the first Congolese President, Patrice Lumumba, from his support so that he could be captured and murdered by CIA agents. Morocco took over part of the Western Sahara when Spain withdrew some years ago, and has been fighting the liberation group Polisario there with Western support.

These thoroughly compromised regimes were the only four the imperialists could line up for an

open attack on Cuba.

Despite political independence since decolonization, the riches of the African continent are still overwhelmingly the private reserves of imperialist corporations. It is because of this that the struggle in Africa has taken the road of seeking a socialist solution, the only way to win economic freedom from imperialism.

But without powerful armies of their own, the African people are at the mercy of the puppet troops

of imperialism, the fascist military forces of the white settler states, and the private armies of mercenaries recruited by the secret police agencies of the West.

This is why the physical support that Cuba has given, first in Angola and later in Ethiopia, to revolutionary African regimes threatened by Western-backed forces has so electrified Africa, giving heart to those in the struggle and tremendously alarming the imperialist plunderers.

**SWAPO's Nujoma cautions UN about Western plan**

The following is excerpted from a press summary of comments on the Western proposal for Namibia by Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa People's Organization [SWAPO] before the United Nations Security Council on July 27.

Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO, said the privilege of addressing the Council had initially been bestowed on him when he had appeared before the Council in 1971, as the first freedom fighter to be so honoured. Since then, he and his colleagues had been making frequent appearances to put their views across to the Security Council and to galvanize world community in support for and solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people, under the leadership of SWAPO, for national political liberation, social emancipation and economic self-determination.

The fact that he appeared this time before the Security Council was not accidental, he went on. Rather, it was a result of many years of untold sufferings, sacrifices and hardships of men, women, children, born and unborn, as well as the elderly, at the hands of the racist rulers of Namibia and their imperialist masters, who supported and abetted them in the perpetuation of colonial oppression, racial domination and foreign exploitation of the country and people.

During the past five months, he said, political support and concrete, material assistance had come from the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, socialist countries, the African front-line States and other progressive countries, international organizations, support groups and individuals.

Mr. Nujoma said that the process of exploratory talks, proximity talks and indirect and direct negotiations on the status of Namibia over the last 15 months had been cumbersome and difficult. It had provided an opportunity for SWAPO to present, articulate and defend the position of the oppressed people of Namibia.

Mr. Nujoma, President of SWAPO, went on to say that "it suffices" to bring to the attention of the world community "the following repressive measures and illegal acts" carried out by the South African regime in Namibia during the period of the talks between the five Western members of the Council and SWAPO aimed at a negotiated settlement:

"1. The unilateral and illegal appointment of the so-called Administrator General in August, 1977.

"2. February 28, 1978: Enactment and re-enactment of

numerous repressive measures and emergency regulations e.g. AG 26 of April 1978 under which SWAPO leaders, members and sympathisers have been arrested and detained.

"3. May 4th, 1978: Wanton act of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and barbaric attack on a Namibian civilian settlement at Kassinga, killing and wounding over 1,000 Namibians,

mainly women, children and elderly persons.

"4. June 1978: Illegal proclamation for the so-called registration of voters in preparation for "elections" in Namibia.

"5. Pouring huge sums of money in the pockets of its puppets and quislings of the so-called Democratic Turnhalle

(Continued on p. 10)

**Hunger strike in Namibia**

JULY 31—A hunger strike of 30 Namibians held at Gobabis prison, 200 kilometers east of Windhoek, entered its 12th day as *Workers World* goes to press. The hunger strikers, who began their protest on July 19, were demanding to be put on trial or released immediately.

Under "emergency

legislation" imposed on Namibia by South Africa this year the South African-appointed administrator general can arrest and jail indefinitely without trial anyone who opposes the brutal South African occupation. The hunger strikers are among the scores of Namibians arrested under these laws in recent months.



South African commando unit training in Walvis Bay in Namibia. The racist regime has extensive military installations there.

**Walvis Bay—what it means to the Namibian people**

By PADDY COLLIGAN

Walvis Bay is an integral part of mineral-rich Namibia's economic and political life. On September 1, 1977, however, South Africa claimed it as a part of Cape Province of South Africa. The U.S. response at the time was that it was "untimely" and "unhelpful in terms of the negotiations underway on the transfer of Namibia" to self-rule after a half century of racist South African domination. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim termed it "unfortunate."

Namibian opposition to this arrogant attack on its territorial integrity was, at that and since, unyielding opposition. "We shall not compromise with anybody on Walvis Bay. We are engaged in an intensified struggle

for the liberation of Namibia, and Walvis Bay is part of our country," said SWAPO Administrative Secretary Moses Garoeb in Lusaka, Zambia, last year.

There are almost 27,000 people living in Walvis Bay. The port and settlement have an area of 434 square miles, smaller than that of some U.S. cities. But in spite of its small size, it is of great importance to both Namibia and the racist South African regime illegally occupying Namibia.

Ninety percent of Namibia's trade—including all its considerable mineral exports—passes through Walvis Bay, the only deep water port in Namibia. Deep sea trawlers of the lucrative fishing industry call at the port, where the cannery facilities are located. Namibia's rail and road routes

terminate in Walvis Bay. The Rossing uranium pits, thought to be the largest in the world, lie just outside the area.

**IMPORTANCE TO APARTHEID**

Walvis Bay plays an important role in South Africa's military calculations. The racist regime has modern and extensive military installations in Walvis Bay. These bases pose a threat to all of Africa. NATO countries have already used the facilities in Walvis Bay, according to Angola's Representative to the United Nations in his address in support of Namibia at last week's Security Council meeting.

South Africa has air, naval, and ground installations in Walvis Bay. Its air base has a long, low-

altitude runway useful for coastal reconnaissance, bomber, and interceptor aircraft. Desert warfare, artillery, and counter-insurgency training exercises are carried out at the Rooikop base from which troops can be airlifted to any part of Namibia within a matter of hours. The naval base has the latest communications equipment and is tied into the rest of South Africa's sophisticated defense and offense system.

Continued control over Walvis Bay by South Africa would effectively make Namibia a landlocked country despite its thousand-mile coastline. The racist regime's claim to this small bit of Namibia is a desperate attempt to exercise a stranglehold over the independent state that Namibia must soon be.



# EDITORIAL

## 42 bigots

On July 27, the ultra-racists in the U.S. Senate crawled out of the woodwork and exposed their racial bigotry for all the world to see. Following the lead of North Carolina's Jesse Helms, 42 senators, a near majority, voted to immediately end trade sanctions against fascist Rhodesia.

In 1966 the United Nations voted a trade boycott against the Rhodesian settler regime, and that ban is supposed to have the force of U.S. law. For 10 years, however, U.S. firms broke the ban by buying massive amounts of Rhodesian chrome. The millions of dollars this brought to the white supremacist government in Salisbury played a big role in funding the war against the African freedom fighters who have been fighting to liberate their country from the dictatorship of Ian Smith.

Supporters of Helms' proposal to end sanctions claimed that they were taking "a stand for democracy" since they claim "the guerrillas will destroy a free Rhodesia."

One senator even extolled the "civil liberties they enjoy there," adding that "Rhodesia is developing a nation in which there are all kinds of civil liberties already available."

The freedom fighters of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front were slandered with the grossest lies, accused by Helms' senatorial backers of "committing totally random murders against women, children, and missionaries." (Missionaries who have fled Zimbabwe have accused special commandoes of the Rhodesian army, disguised as guerrillas of committing these atrocities against civilians.)

The guerrillas, thundered Helms, "seek to establish a one-party Marxist state, with confiscation of all property and liquidation of the present regime."

Of course, it is true that the guerrillas want to destroy the present regime, but Mr. Helms left out some pertinent facts in his diatribe. Firstly, only 3% of the population there, that is the European colonialist minority, is permitted to vote. "Public" parks in the capital have signs that read "Cyclists, dogs, and Africans not allowed." Hundreds of Africans have been tortured and murdered in Rhodesia's prisons during the last year. The vast bulk of the country's wealth is held by the tiny European minority, which rules over the Africans like a super version of the Ku Klux Klan.

Supposedly, there has been a new "internal settlement" in Rhodesia, but this "settlement" gives each European vote ten times the weight of each African ballot cast. Smith recently brought a few African collaborators into the government, but when one Black minister of justice, Byron Hove, suggested publically that more Africans should be recruited at higher levels, he was fired—simply for the suggestion. Smith, who remains the unelected "Prime Minister" of this farcical "transitional regime," said of Hove, "the firing kept him in his place."

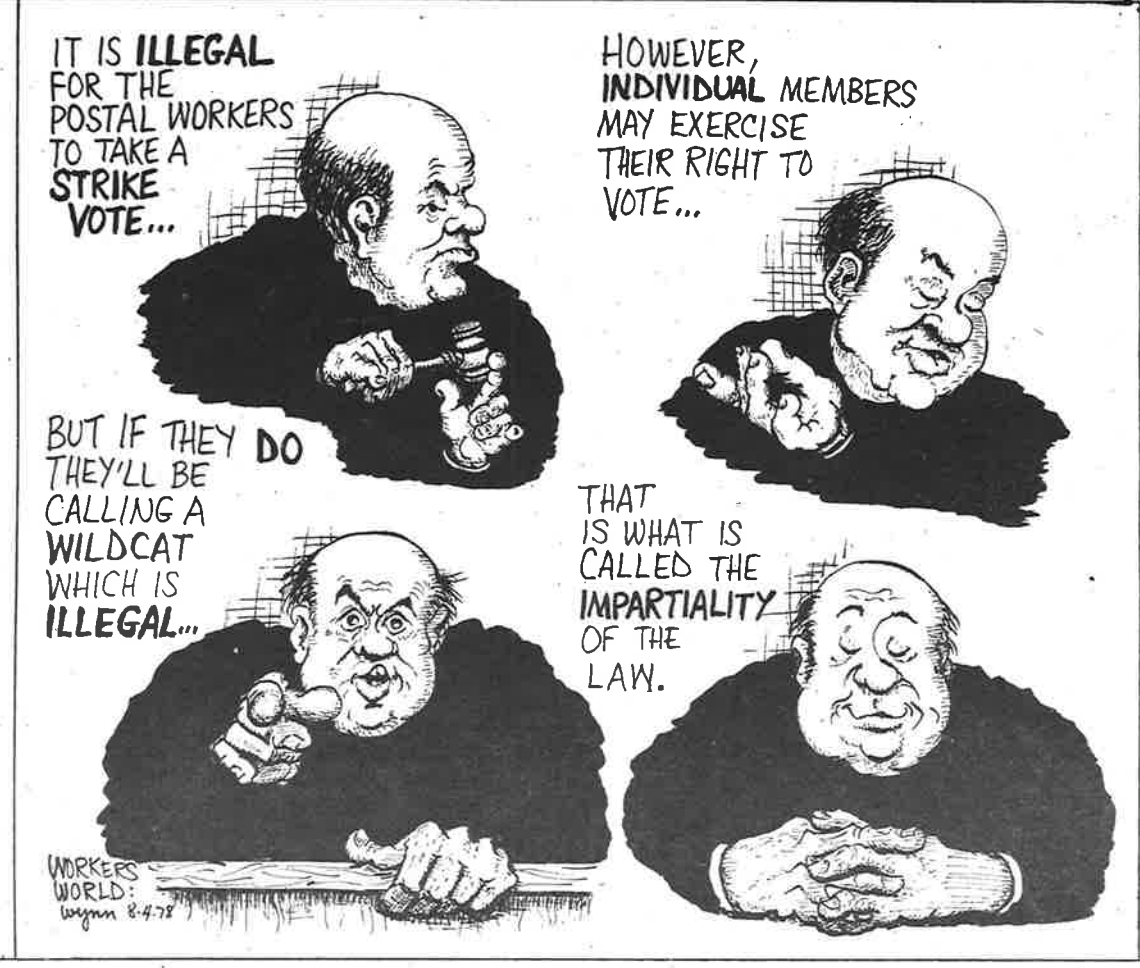
This is the racist cesspool that 42 U.S. senators voted to support! They are, naturally, the very same senators who went wild at UN Ambassador Andrew Young's admission that there are many political prisoners in the U.S.

The senators who opposed Helms, and won by a slim vote, did not express any support for the enslaved African people of Zimbabwe. Senator Allen Cranston, to take a typical example, merely pointed out that the sanctions should remain, since "to be effective, the United States must preserve its neutral image." He also noted that lifting the trade sanctions "would alienate Nigeria, our second largest overseas oil supplier."

"On the grounds of sheer self-interest" he opposed openly dumping the sanctions. Hardly a ringing declaration of human freedom!

It is no secret, in any case, that U.S. firms like Mobil and Caltex violate the trade ban anyway, providing 14,000 to 18,000 barrels of oil a day to Rhodesia via these companies' South African subsidiaries.

Nevertheless, the July 27 vote on Capitol Hill was meaningful in at least one sense. It showed that almost half of the Senate, which likes to call itself "the greatest deliberative body in history," were prepared to go on record supporting a racist regime so hated, so repressive, and so isolated, that not one single country in the whole world has ever even extended it diplomatic recognition.



### Letters

#### Serrette's Bakke article tells it like it is

The July 21st issue of your newspaper, "The Bakke Decision of the Labor Movement," page 8; BAKKE, LABOR AND THE BLACK WORKER, a guest article by Dennis Serrette was interesting, well informative, and above all, TRUE in its entirety, which was in reality no surprise as the author of the article has for many years been in the forefront leading the fight for justice, equality, and human rights and dignity for Blacks, women, and minorities in the Labor Movement, Companies, and the Communities; giving of himself 100% to our cause, making himself available for our needs, no matter what time or where.

After reading the article published in your paper, it is only fitting and proper to share the feelings of those of us within the National Black Communications Coalition, who are especially proud of the fact that this warrior for human dignity and justice is a vital of the organization.

Without his leadership and dedication, there would be no NBCC, there would be no CWA Black Caucus and no upward mobility of Blacks within the Communications Workers of America (CWA) International Union, whether they admit it or not.

It is quite a job trying to fill the shoes of this brother who chose to step down as President of NBCC to allow for the involvement and participation of others to leadership roles within the organization and at the same time continue to unselfishly help build the NBCC into a viable force.

Some persons moving up the ladder of success tend to forget

those forces which were instrumental in getting them there, however, we in NBCC pay tribute to and applaud its founder, first president and at present the National Organizer for the National Black Communications Coalition... Dennis Serrette... and thanks to you for the article.

Jewell White,  
President  
National Black  
Communications Coalition

#### Youngstown steal

This letter comes to us from Youngstown—a steel city—where almost everyone's job is somehow related to the steel mill. Recently, the Cambell works of Lykes Corp. was shut down, bringing great hardships to the people of Youngstown.

Ed Speer, number one boss of the far-flung enterprises of the U.S. Steel multinational, gave his opinion of the local organization devoted to raising cash to buy the shutdown Campbell works of Lykes Corp. Probably gagging slightly over the word, he pronounced the whole effort a Communist project. Enlarging a little, he said that such a proposal that would stress worker control and public ownership with the profits going to the community fit his definition of "communism." By thus defining communism as a rational alternative to the anarchic shutdowns of capitalism, Speer unwittingly gave one of the best endorsements of communism to come from one of its enemies for a

long time. Of course that was not his intention—his purpose was to fan up a little red-baiting.

The Ecumenical Coalition currently sponsoring the Save Our Valley campaign has set up a local bank account and is urging both the poor and rich to put their money in it to buy the steel mill. They have about \$2 million and need only \$498 million more to perhaps unlock the doors as a first step. Rather than being communist, it is an effort much more correctly organized as a diversion from a communist (that is, a rational solution) means of coping with the criminal tendencies of capitalist owners to throw thousands of workers on the scrap heap. Telling the workers that they can save their jobs and community by staying within the system diverts their efforts away from the type of action the ruling class so heartily fears—mass demonstrations, appeals to fellow steelworkers and demands for nationalization of the whole fouled up steel industry.

The course of events in the Mahoning Valley since the brutal Sheet and Tube shutdown has shown an instinctive movement among the dispossessed workers towards a socialist solution to the problems of capitalist bankruptcy—the original demand was for public ownership and workers' control and operation—it was only after the idea began to spread that the coalition added the Save Our Valley bank scheme.

The condemnation of the local actions by Ed Speer also shows that the capitalist class and its hired agents have surely lost none of their extremely sharp class consciousness—they instantly move against any development that appears to threaten in the slightest their ideological and economic control of the steel communities.

And then there was the merger of the looted Jones and Laughlin corporation with the sabotaged Sheet and Tube properties, showing, according to a little front-page bulletin in the Youngstown Vindicator, an estimated \$990 million in assets and \$1,500 million in debts. This is truly a bluebeard marriage of pirates in which, sadly enough, the victims will not be the directors but the twenty-five hundred steelworkers at the ancient Brier Hill works.

M.P.  
Youngstown, Ohio

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## Fraser's break

# A crack in the pavement

By SAM MARCY

AUGUST 2—United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser's apparent break with the Carter administration and the big business council known as the Labor-Management Group is a welcome move. It could turn out to be a potentially important development. Its significance as of now, however, should not be overrated.

Fraser's resignation from the so-called Labor-Management Group is a long overdue act. This group was set up by Carter early in his administration and was supposed to be composed of eight top big business leaders and eight from the labor movement, with Carter's Secretary of Labor Dunlop sitting in to represent the administration.

It was obvious from the beginning that the group had no power so far as getting something for the workers or the mass of the population generally. If the group ever met to seriously consider anything that the labor leaders presented, it was a secret. No unified demand was ever made by the labor leaders, publicized, or made a rallying cry for the labor movement. The meetings were nothing more than so-called jaw-boning sessions. The workers in the plants have a less elegant phrase for it.

## THE ECONOMIC TRIO

The real power, the real authority in formulating, shaping, and implementing the Carter administration's economic policies is in the hands of a triumvirate consisting of Federal Reserve Board Chairman William Miller (from the giant conglomerate Textron), Secretary of the Treasury W. Michael Blumenthal (from the Bendix Corporation), and Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Charles Schultz, supposedly representing light industry and with links to the smaller banks. These three advise Carter and together decide and act upon matters of the highest importance concerning the living standard of the workers, most of the time without ever seeing the need to even consult the appropriate congressional committees.

The steel corporations, the aluminum interests, the copper and mining giants all got their price hikes and tax breaks as a result of decisions secretly arrived at by this inner grouping representing the interests of big business.

The labor leaders should have in the first place refused to meet with the so-called Labor-Management Group, which held no authority and was a dead horse to begin with. If they had to meet with anyone, they should have insisted on meeting with Carter's economic triumvirate and, if there was no progress on specific demands made by the labor movement, should have resigned en bloc—as a group.

As matters stood, however, they hung around all the time that inflation was galloping and the cost of living was eroding the paychecks of the workers until even Meany got tired of it. Some time ago even this far-right reactionary threatened to resign. It seems that Douglas Fraser beat him to the punch.

## FRASER ATTACK ON BOSS PARTIES

The significance of Fraser's move, however, doesn't lie in his resignation from the deadbeat Labor-Management Group. Fraser's break has importance because of the sharp attack he

delivered against big business and the Carter administration. Even more important is the fact that he virtually threatened to break from both the Democratic as well as Republican parties by attacking both of them. He said he was looking forward to a strategy meeting to be held in September whose business would be to "reforge the

links with those who believe in struggle—the kind of people who sat down in the factories in the 1930s and who marched in Selma in 1962."

He also accused big business leaders of having chosen "to wage a one-sided class war today in this country—a war against the working people, the unemployed, the

poor, the very young and the very old and many in the middle class of our society."

Finally, he virtually called for the building of a new third party, although he said he was against the formation of a labor party at the present time.

It is this militant blast against Carter and the ruling class, and

the threat to break away from them, which is new and is worthy of consideration. One must remember, however, that Fraser represents one of the most progressive unions in the labor movement whose officialdom have over years of long training acquired the fine art of talking a good fight—and stopping there. It is the good old Reutherite technique perfected by one who was a master practitioner of this very act. And Fraser is one of his disciples.

## CALL FOR LABOR PARTY

The UAW has passed literally hundreds of resolutions over the years in various locals which called for the formation of a labor party. A considerable number of the top leaders of the UAW have from time to time expressed encouragement for it. Even during the 1951 UAW convention, three members of the resolutions committee were able to present a resolution for a labor party.

The UAW didn't act upon it, but aside from that the political significance of the labor party resolution was nil. The crucial question at the time was the Korean War, and no one leader dared to stand up against the ruling class government on the issue which was of the most critical importance. Virulent chauvinism on the war permeated the entire convention and was fueled by the red-baiting, Cold War demagoguery of the Reutherite leaders. Thus, sanctimoniously coming out for a labor party without coming to grips with such fundamental class issues as the waging of an imperialist war makes a mockery of any call for an "independent" labor party.

## VIABLE COALITION?

It would not be surprising if some sort of a broad coalition, which would also embrace civil rights groups, women's groups, and other organizations, arises according to the vague conception outlined by Fraser. One will have to gauge the composition and direction of the September conference to determine if it is indeed a viable instrument for some form of independent progressive labor action.

Any crack in the pavement, no matter how small or narrow, opens up the possibility of green grass pushing through. The wider the cracks, the greater the possibilities for mass intervention by the workers.

It is from this point of view that Fraser's new posture should be evaluated. Any move which promotes or encourages a rupture between the labor bureaucracy on the one hand and the Carter administration and ruling class on the other holds progressive potentialities. It gives the rank-and-file an opportunity to intervene and hopefully begin to take matters into their own hands.

Without the intervention of the rank-and-file workers, without arousing their political interest, without systematically and conscientiously stimulating and cultivating their own class consciousness, no break by the labor bureaucracy can promote genuine working class interests in the struggle against big business, the Carter administration, and the capitalist system which they all serve.

Even a small crack can let through a great deal of light. But the light must be directed towards opening the eyes of the working class to the general character of capitalist exploitation and imperialist, racist oppression.

## United Auto Workers president quits Carter's Labor-Management Group

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

JULY 30—Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and an early supporter within the top labor leadership of Jimmy Carter's bid for the presidency, quit the administration's "Labor-Management Group" on July 19 in a move which has led to wide discussion in labor and progressive circles.

"I cannot sit here seeking unity with the leaders of American industry while they try to destroy us and ruin the lives of the people I represent," Fraser said in his statement announcing his resignation. The committee, comprised of eight top labor leaders and eight business leaders including the union-busting chief of the National Association of Manufacturers, Heath Larry, is meant to foster class collaboration and concessions by labor on issues such

as inflation and unemployment.

Fraser and former UAW President Leonard Woodcock represent the more progressive wing of the top labor bureaucracy, as opposed to the case-hardened reactionary leadership typified by AFL-CIO President George Meany and former United Steel Workers President I.W. Abel. Great attention is now being focused on how the AFL-CIO will respond to this move by Fraser, but so far they have remained on the committee and refused to comment.

## WAR AGAINST WORKERS

"I believe leaders of the business community with few exceptions have chosen to wage a one-sided class war today in this country," said Fraser, "a war against working people, the unemployed, the poor, the very young and the very old, and

many in the middle class in our society."

Fraser referred to both the Democratic and Republican parties as being dominated by business and having "no visible, clear-cut ideological differences between them." He said that his union was reassessing its relationship to the Democratic Party, and that some in his union were talking about creating a labor party. On the question of a labor party, Fraser said his own view was "I'm not there yet," and counterposed the calling of a conference, possibly in September, of new progressive and reform groups, such as women, consumer, and Black and Latin people's organizations, to "reforge the links with those who believe in struggle, the kind of people who sat down in the factories in the 1930s and who marched in Selma in 1962."



UAW President Fraser says big business is waging "a one-sided class war today in this country." These miners can testify to that. Over 100 coal miners and family members were arrested and beaten last October by Kentucky State Police in a fight for a union contract at the Stearns mine.

Photo: Stearns' Miners Relief Fund

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## U.S. guilty of criminal negligence on nuclear safety

# A trail of death and disease

By BEVERLY SLAPIN

In January 1963, Edward Gleason, a dockworker, handled a leaking glass container that had been transported through Manhattan and the Holland Tunnel three times, twice along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and had been stored in Apollo, Pa., and in Newark, N.J.

The container was mismarked and improperly packaged, and when the contents spilled on Gleason, he was simply told to cover the puddle with sawdust. Fifteen other dockworkers were present when the shipment was spilled, repacked, and sent to Brookhaven on Long Island.

A few days later, Gleason learned that the material that had spilled down his left side contained hydrochloric acid and gold, and was contaminated with plutonium. At the time, Gleason had never heard the name of the poison that had infiltrated his body. But the company he worked for, the Eazor Express Trucking Terminal—and the government—had: the area was quarantined, the workers' clothes destroyed, and the men sent to doctors.

In 1966, Gleason developed bone cancer in his left hand. In 1968, his left arm and part of his left shoulder had to be amputated. The cancer spread rapidly, and he died in 1973.

### DEADLIEST SUBSTANCE KNOWN

Plutonium is the deadliest substance known. A single particle the size of a grain of pollen can cause cancer in laboratory animals, and it retains its radioactivity for 250,000 years.

But despite the incredible hazards of using plutonium and other nuclear fuels to generate

electricity, the U.S. profit system has shown that it has neither the will nor the means to provide adequate safeguards against low-level radiation leaks, industrial accidents, spills of radioactive materials on highways or railways, or destruction of marine life in waterways used by nuclear plants for cooling.

By always placing profits ahead of safety, the U.S. energy monopolists have already left a trail of death and disease across the country as a result of their use of nuclear power. Consider:

- In Midland, Pa., whose residents drink the water from a river that flows past the Shippingport reactor, the cancer rate rose 180% during the first ten years of operation, according to an article by investigative reporters Corinne Brown and Robert Munroe appearing in the Aug. 8 *Penthouse* magazine.

- In 1973, it was discovered that 115,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste had leaked at Hanford, Wash., into the Columbia River. That river is now, according to the Federal Water Pollution Control Agency, "the most radioactive river in the world."

- In Grand Junction, Colo., uranium tailings were used as construction fill under homes, schools, churches, and hospitals. People in those buildings were exposed to radiation equivalent to 500 chest x-rays per year.

- In West Valley, N.Y., more than 400 incidents have been documented of lack of safety measures at the plant and of contamination of the area outside the plant. In one of these incidents, radioactive liquid leaked into Cattaraugus Creek, which flows into Lake Erie, which



Anti-nuclear protests across the U.S. have brought public attention to the dangers of nuclear power plants which were built for profit, not for safety. Photo: Shut Down Times

supplies Buffalo with drinking water.

The possibility of an accident releasing radioactive materials from a nuclear reactor is very real. Just as cars crash, planes collide, and bridges collapse, so do nuclear reactors malfunction. The only difference is when the latter happens—causing a catastrophic "melt-down" and spreading of lethal radiation over heavily populated areas—it could result in thousands of deaths and contamination of an area the size of the state of Pennsylvania.

But even without freak accidents, many deaths and countless cases of cancer and birth defects have been caused by the ordinary operation of nuclear

power plants in the United States.

Strontium 90, a radioactive poison waste material, escapes during the normal operations of nuclear reactors in the U.S. Strontium 90, because its chemical composition is much like calcium, lodges in bones and organs and is a powerful carcinogen.

But the government, together with the military Strangeloves and the industry which has virtual monopoly control over the nukes, push the reactors with the enthusiasm of a bible salesman.

### BOMBS AT THE HALLS OF IVY

There is an incestuous relationship between nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons. The arms industry has used the nuclear plants as a cover

for such draconian war technology that even a power-crazed general couldn't dream up.

The University of California (UC), for instance, operates two federally funded laboratories—one at Livermore, Cal., and the other at Los Alamos, N.M.—that are the linchpins of U.S. nuclear weapons technology. The government, through the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration, gives the two facilities a total of \$400 million a year to support research, most of which goes directly into new bombs and warheads.

According to *Seven Days* magazine, UC experts have developed warheads for the Atlas, Titan, Polaris, Minuteman, Poseidon, and Lance missiles. Being developed now are warheads for the Trident missile system, an improved warhead for the Lance missile, the B-77 remote-controlled strategic bomb and warheads for the B-1 bomber weapon, and, last but not least, the W-79 nuclear artillery projectile (known as the "neutron bomb.")

And even supposedly civilian research is oriented toward warfare. Project "Shiva," for instance, which was designed to create safe sources of laser fusion, will be used to simulate H-bomb blasts in order to test and improve weapons systems.

And as a byproduct of the war research, so far 14 workers at the Livermore laboratory have developed malignant skin cancer.

Meanwhile, the government, the military, and the nuclear industry continue to give us contaminated mines, polluted water, lethal uranium tailings, deadly waste, dead and crippled workers, and mutant children—all because the energy monopolists place their profits before human life.

## —Nujoma speaks at UN

(Continued from p. 7)

Alliance (DTA) in preparation for the so-called elections.

"6. Continued organized terror campaign and violence against SWAPO, arrests, detentions, and intimidation of SWAPO members.

Continuing, Mr. Nujoma said despite the fact that SWAPO had agreed in good faith to proceed to the Council in search of a negotiated settlement, arrests and detentions of SWAPO leaders and members continued unabated. The latest in this series was the rearrest of his colleagues who had taken part in the Luanda meeting, among them the SWAPO Secretary for Foreign Relations, Festus Naholo, and the SWAPO Secretary for Transportation, Franz Kambangula.

Mr. Nujoma said that "even at this late stage," the South African regime was threatening to withdraw from the whole exercise.

"We wish to bring these points out to caution that there is still much that remains to be done," Mr. Nujoma said. During this debate, the voices of the spokesmen of the occupation regime would no doubt be heard, threatening to withdraw or actually withdrawing all the so-called concessions made. It was misleading to say at this stage that the diplomatic process had already succeeded in Namibia; hope was no certainty.

Mr. Nujoma said he did not regard the Western proposal as a final document which incorporated all of SWAPO's concerns, programmes or principles and that it was "heavily

weighed in favour of South Africa's colonial interests in Namibia."

He said, the language was "deliberately so vague and ambiguous" so that it was subject to different and unavoidably conflicting interpretations. One area where this was particularly glaring was with regard to the position, powers, authority and working relations between the proposed United Nations Special Representative and the local colonial representative of South Africa, the so-called Administrator General. "Our knowledge of the racist rulers in Namibia and our experiences with similar previous United Nations undertakings, lead us to believe, that it is here, where most, although not all, of our concerns and apprehensions are," Mr. Nujoma said.

Mr. Nujoma commented on the recruitment and deployment of United Nations personnel. "The very fact that Namibia has been for so many years a subject of international dispute has given, in some quarters, a wrong impression that we do not know what is good for us," he said. "Paternalism" is just a few degrees on the positive side of racism or ethnic chauvinism. Both are insulting and despicable and we shall without fear or favour expose and denounce anyone who goes to Namibia with these kinds of attitudes."

Regarding the peace-keeping force, he said that SWAPO, as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, expected

to be consulted about its composition.

The masses of Namibia and the militants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia would, if need be, take up arms to renew the resistance and defend the safety of its people and the integrity of the fatherland.

Continuing, Mr. Nujoma referred to the question of Walvis Bay. He said that, as far as the people of Namibia and SWAPO were concerned, Walvis Bay was and would forever remain an integral part of Namibia. SWAPO, therefore, strongly rejected and condemned racist South Africa's decision to annex Walvis Bay.

"We regard this decision as illegal, null and void and that it is an act of aggression against the Namibia people and a flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of our country," Mr. Nujoma said.

"We only want to make absolutely certain, while we can, that the independence that will finally come to our troubled Namibia, as it inevitably must, is a genuine and complete one for which our people, the past generations and present ones, have suffered, sacrificed and died," Mr. Nujoma continued.



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

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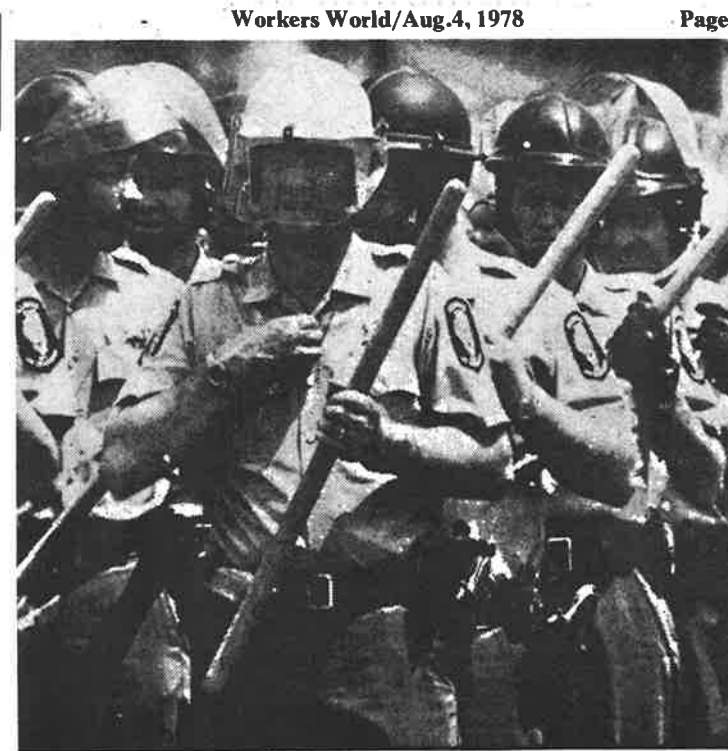
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# POLITICAL PRISONERS



Armed with shotguns and "riot sticks," Illinois state troopers prepare for their barbaric, Attica-style attack on the prisoners at the State Correctional Center at Pontiac.

the new "class X felony law." This law eliminates parole and indeterminate sentences for certain "crimes" providing flat sentences. What it means is if you are convicted under class X you will probably serve more time behind the walls.

After the Pontiac rebellion was crushed, did Thompson say, "Let's see what we can do to alleviate these horrible conditions?" No! Instead he placed Pontiac, Joliet, and Stateville under deadlock. No one is allowed out of their cells and no visits, even with lawyers, are permitted. Allegedly this is to "let things cool down" and to allow a cell-by-cell search for weapons. But its real purpose is to allow all sorts of "investigation" (interrogations) to take place so that some prisoners can be tried (and the state hopes be convicted) for murder.

Has Jimmy "human rights" Carter complained about this atrocity? Has the press? No! But the press has interviewed guard's families and townspeople in Pontiac and printed such racist sentiments as "I'm prejudiced and I'm proud of it. Why let 'em live?"

Another of Thompson's "reforms" has been to raise the starting salary of prison guards in Illinois by \$100 a week and to push for more guard recruitment. He also is trying to see if he can use state police and National Guardsmen as prison guards until the extra men are hired.

But despite the frantic and fascist attempts by the state to suppress the prisoners, the fuse of rebellion, fueled by intolerable conditions, has been lit and is still sizzling.

## Uprisings at Pontiac and Stateville, Ill. reveal

# Prison fuse sizzling

By CHARLES HALE

PONTIAC, Ill., July 22—Today, in what prison officials first tried to call a "gang related disturbance between inmates," prisoners seized and held most of Pontiac "correctional center" for five hours.

The state responded to this righteous rebellion much like they did at Attica in 1971, with an occupying army of guards from other prisons, state police, and deputy sheriffs from Livingston (Pontiac) County, armed with truncheons, tear gas, shotguns, and M-16 rifles. Seeing what kind of bloodbath the state was preparing for, the unarmed men finally surrendered and returned to their cells after being subjected to a degrading strip-search.

Three guards died during the uprising.

### STATEVILLE PRISONERS REVOLT

Earlier in the week, at the rat and roach infested Stateville prison near Joliet, a similar uprising took place. It was suppressed by the goon squad (guards chosen for their physical size, extreme brutality, and racism) using tear gas and three-foot-long clubs. While Pontiac is known to be a dungeon, and the press and state officials have admitted it is severely over-

crowded, no mention of conditions at Stateville was made in the coverage of the rebellion.

At "Snakeville," as prisoners call it, overcrowding is so bad that often seven men are forced to live in four-man cells, toilets often overflow onto the tiers, water rationing is common because the antiquated pumps are always breaking, bats and birds fly around the cell houses because broken windows never get fixed, and racist guards are able to brag of KKK membership without even the slightest reprimand.

The prison has gotten a lot of state money that could have at least remedied the physical problems, but instead it has been used for such "reforms" as TV cameras and other surveillance devices, a gun tower inside one of the cell houses, a device to direct tear gas through the air ducts, and an elaborate system of walls and tunnels that makes Snakeville into five little prisons, by isolating the cellhouses from each other.

### PONTIAC A DEVILS ISLAND

Pontiac, 90 miles from Chicago, and Menard, 284 miles, are both the Illinois equivalent of a Devils' Island. People are sent there to isolate them from their home and family (usually in

Chicago) and both prisons are primarily filled with Black and other Third World prisoners.

Pontiac is a true prison town where racism and reaction are commonplace and almost everyone there is either related to someone who works at the prison, knows someone working there, or works there themselves. It is little wonder that prisoners brought to trial in Livingston county ask to have the trial transferred to another county, rather than be tried by an all-white jury of guards, ex-guards, guards relatives, etc.

After Saturday's rebellion, even Pontiac Warden Thaddeus Pinckney was forced to admit that conditions were bad. He told the press of severe overcrowding (2,000 prisoners in a prison made to hold 1,250) and 110-degree temperatures inside the cells. As well as physical conditions, harassment and sheer brutality by the guards is quite commonplace.

### THOMPSONS' SOLUTION

In spite of all the bad conditions, overcrowding, and mistreatment prisoners in Illinois have to suffer under, Governor Thompson wants to "solve" the problem with more prisons, more guards, and more prisoners. Since he was elected in 1976, "Big Jim" has been trying to get approval for what he calls mini-prisons in downstate Hillsboro and Centralia, even further from Chicago than Pontiac. But this is not to ease overcrowding as might be expected, it is to provide more room for people convicted under

## Tibbs released!

NEW YORK, July 23—"I don't know whether I dare believe it or not but the cloud is gone. It's been hanging over me for four years but today it's gone," said Delbert Tibbs from his home in Chicago yesterday, after a Florida court reversed his conviction.

Tibbs was arrested in 1974 on trumped up murder and rape charges. For two years he sat on death row. Thousands of progressive and anti-racist people rallied to his defense nationally.

Evidence given by defense lawyers during his first trial documented that Tibbs was more

than 200 miles away from the scene of the crimes he was charged with.

Yielding to public pressure, in 1976 the Florida Supreme Court reversed his conviction citing insufficient evidence at the trial. A new trial was scheduled for this September 11.

The decision by the Florida Circuit Court yesterday has dismissed the September trial and Tibbs was released. Another anti-racist fighter has been freed by the continued outrage of civil rights groups and individuals nationally.

## Russell Means jailed

NEW YORK, July 27—American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Russell Means was forced to report to Sioux Falls state prison today to begin serving a four-year sentence. Means was told by the state that he would have to begin serving the sentence before he could begin his appeal process.

On April 30, 1974, a heavily armed Special Weapons and Tactical squad (SWAT) attacked unarmed Indian spectators and defendants in a Minnehaha County courtroom. As a result of this racist violence by police, Russell Means was convicted of riot and "injury to a public building."

Since 1973, Means has been the target of constant harassment by the state and its goons. In five years he has been arrested 12 times, tried in court 10 times, shot three times, and beaten on numerous occasions.

South Dakota Attorney General William Janklow has gone on record in relation to both Russell Means and other AIM leaders as saying, "There is only one way to stop the Indian problem here and that's to put a

gun to the AIM leader's head and put a bullet in it." What justice, then, can Means expect in the custody of the bigots of South Dakota?

Last September, Means said to the United Nations Geneva Conference, "The United States of America is going to steal our natural resources and develop energy at the cost of our lives. I am saying that they have a plan for our extinction, our extermination. We can lie down and give up. Or we can take a stand against our extermination."

On August 10, Judge Fred Nichols will preside over a hearing demanding that Means be free while his appeal goes through the federal judiciary system. Letters and telegrams are urged demanding that Means be free to work in the community while his case is being heard by the U.S. appellate system.

Send letters and telegrams to Judge Fred Nichols and Governor Harvey Wollman, c/o Sid Strange, 226 North Phillips Ave., Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57102. For more information call: (212) 986-6000.

## Hearing shows evidence ignored and suppressed

# Free Dacajeweah!

By BRIAN JAEKLE  
BUFFALO, July 29—Over 40 supporters packed a Buffalo courtroom this week to hear defense attorneys seek freedom for Attica Brother Dacajeweah (John Hill).

After nearly seven years since the Attica uprising, Dacajeweah remains behind bars, serving a life sentence for a crime he did not commit. Although New York Governor Hugh Carey has prevented criminal prosecutions of any police charged with Attica-related crimes by **granting the cops unconditional pardons**, Dacajeweah remains incarcerated. He has become a scapegoat for the atrocities committed in 1971 on the orders of then Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

At this hearing, the defense submitted an affidavit prepared by Malcolm H. Bell, a former special assistant attorney general assigned to the Attica investigation. Bell resigned his post with the Attorney General's office when, in his words, "my belief became a certainty that the investigation and prosecution of such crimes and possible crimes by state employees lacked integrity and was being intentionally aborted."

As reported by the Buffalo Evening News on July 22, Bell's affidavit exposes the prosecution's coverup of crimes committed by the state police. Among other things, Bell's 42-page affidavit says:

• That 65 to 70 of the troopers

and corrections officers committed acts that could have been the basis for their indictment on felony charges.

• That the state police investigation systematically ignored, destroyed, and distorted evidence in self-serving actions to avoid prosecution.

• That his superior, former Special Assistant Attorney General Anthony G. Simmonetti, who was in charge of the second phase of the investigation, prevented the investigatory staff from going into the entire range of violent acts committed during the prison's retaking (crimes of the police).

### EVIDENCE IGNORED AND SUPPRESSED

Bell said there were 16 cases in which evidence existed against troopers or guards but it was never presented to the grand jury. An example printed in the News is as follows:

"As James Robinson lay mortally wounded, threatening no one with a .270 bullet in his chest on the B Yard side of Upper Times Square, Trooper 'C' fired a shotgun round through the neck of inmate Robinson at a range of from two to five feet, breaking Robinson's neck and killing him instantly."

Bell's 42-page affidavit was submitted by defense attorneys to demonstrate selective prosecution which should result in a reversal of Dacajeweah's conviction. The affidavit clearly illustrates the fascist manner in which state prosecutors ignored and actively

suppressed evidence of police crimes and chose instead to prosecute Attica Brothers.

Michael Kennedy, attorney for Dacajeweah, compared the role of the state in investigating and prosecuting the state's crimes which occurred during the Attica uprising, to having "chicken thieves in charge of the henhouse."

Defense attorneys also tried to force the state to give them a copy of the secret Albright-Vestner report, Rockefeller's secret Attica investigation. According to recent articles in the local press, this secret report has statements which clear Dacajeweah of the crime he was convicted of.

Despite very clear and convincing appeals made by Dacajeweah's lawyers, the judge said he would not make a decision until September. Although ample evidence exists which shows that an innocent man is imprisoned, the judge does not feel a hasty decision is required. Such is the scorn ruling class courts have for poor and oppressed people.

Now almost seven years after Attica, prisoner rebellions continue. In Illinois and Georgia prisoners recently rebelled against the same oppressive conditions which sparked the Attica rebellion. The time is drawing nearer when these concentration camps for the poor will be destroyed and prisons will be used to suppress the real criminals in our society.

**FREE DACAJEWEAH!  
FREE ALL POLITICAL  
PRISONERS!**

## New revelation confirms

# Right-wing conspiracy killed Dr. King

By P. MEISNER

JULY 31—Another revelation in the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. further points to a highly organized ultra-rightwing conspiracy. A 46-year-old man in St. Louis has just told the House Select Committee on Assassinations that he turned down an offer of \$50,000 to plot King's death a year before the assassination took place.

Russell G. Beyers told the House committee that two men from Imperial, Mo., had offered him the money on behalf of a group of businessmen. The two men have since died, but one of them, John H. Sutherland, was a known leader of the so-called St. Louis White Citizens Council, also an official of the Southern States Industrial Council, and a member of George Wallace's American Independent Party as well.

But perhaps the most crucial aspect of this disclosure is that Beyers' brother-in-law was in close contact with James Earl Ray at the time when they were both serving sentences at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Mo. Ray mysteriously escaped from that prison on April 23, 1967, and was ultimately charged and convicted as the "lone assassin" of King. The latter was killed on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn., but Ray, following an elaborate and well-financed escape, was

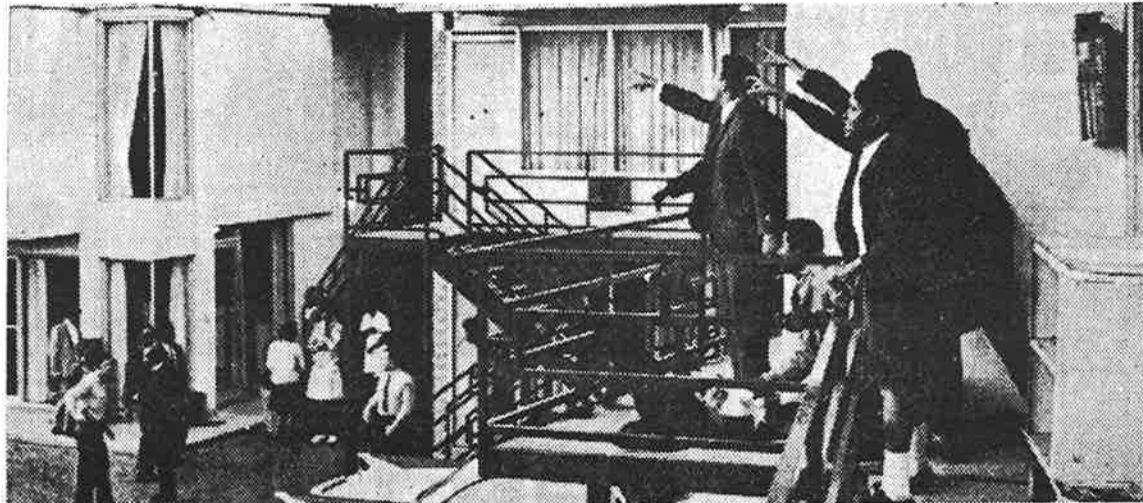
captured in England more than two months later. The House committee is now concerned whether Beyers transmitted the \$50,000 offer to Ray through his brother-in-law.

### "OPERATION ZORRO"

Another significant aspect of the revelation is the role of the FBI, which had been privy to the plot offer some ten years ago, but deliberately quashed any investigation of this lead. But the FBI cover-up of the King assassination is no mere coincidence. The FBI, led by its late chief, J. Edgar Hoover, conducted its own war "to destroy Dr. King," according to a 1976 report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Hoover code-named the \$7.5 million campaign "Operation Zorro."

One FBI memo, signed by the FBI's "intelligence" operations head, William C. Sullivan, stated: "We must mark him (Dr. King) now as the most dangerous Negro to the future of this nation from the standpoint of communism, the Negro, and national security."

Sullivan, who later served the Nixon clique during the Watergate period, fell out of favor with Hoover, and was fired from the FBI in 1971. Last fall, Sullivan was scheduled to testify before the House committee on the King and Kennedy assassinations, but he



As Martin Luther King lay mortally wounded on the balcony of his motel room, his aides point in the direction that the assassin's shots came from.

was suddenly killed in a suspicious "hunting accident" near his home in New Hampshire.

The FBI has continually covered up any trail of evidence leading to the conspiracy that murdered King. The secret police agency denied that Ray had outside help when he escaped from prison in 1967. Prison officials have yet to this day to render an official account as to how Ray actually escaped all by himself. The FBI maintained that Ray was still a "loner" when he subsequently financed his way across the country and into Memphis a year later where he allegedly killed King all by himself.

In "explaining" Ray's 25,000-mile escape from Memphis, which led him through Mexico, Canada, Portugal, and England, the FBI claimed that Ray financed himself through two bank robberies—with no accomplices, no doubt! After his capture, Ray repeatedly stated that a conspiracy was behind the murder of Dr. King, but the FBI never acknowledged such a possibility.

### ANOTHER ESCAPE

And in June 1977, Ray had been under investigation by the House committee when he once again escaped from a Tennessee state penitentiary before being captured

again. The well-planned escape drew the attention of a 30-man FBI force to the prison, but again the FBI was silent on the possibility of outside help.

How long can the capitalist rulers and their lackey politicians hide the truth about the racist conspiracy which assassinated the country's foremost civil rights leader? More and more people, and especially the poor and oppressed, can no longer believe the "lone assassin" fabrication handed out by the government. Only their political intervention on a mass scale can ever expose the brutal conspiracy which murdered Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Gang of bigots protected by police

# Racist attacks on the rise in Boston

By JULIAN FRANK

BOSTON, July 30—Racist attacks throughout Boston are on the increase. On Sunday, July 23, the family of Celeste Rodrigues was attacked by a gang of 200 bigots who smashed the windows of their apartment in the Orient Heights public housing project in East Boston.

Then, while the Rodrigues' were in the hospital being treated for facial and head injuries resulting from the attack, their home was firebombed. They have had to move out of East Boston. The Rodrigues' are a Guatemalan family who have lived in East Boston for 11 years. They have lived in the projects for five months.

The attack arose out of an incident on Sunday afternoon with a racist neighbor. This same neighbor admitted to breaking the family's windows a month ago and had threatened them, warning the family to move out in three hours. The Rodrigues were told, "This place is not for Spanish people."

The attack followed a very similar one in the last two weeks in which the home of Jesse Porter and his family was burnt out in the Maverick Street public housing project, also in East Boston. Earlier the same afternoon, a group of racists from the project had attacked a friend of Porter, Gloria Scott, and their young daughter. When Porter came to his friend's defense, a fight ensued. While Porter was at the



Organizing against racist attacks in Boston has continued since the 1974 March Against Racism which drew 25,000 people including these young community members. WW photo

hospital being treated for wounds, the racists broke into his home, stealing several valuable items, and burning the place.

Recently the project was leafleted by the Nazis, and last Friday, a cross was burned near the Porter apartment. Concerned neighbors were told by the police, "That's nothing."

The Maverick Street project was the scene of massive racist attacks in 1975 and 1976 which led to Black people and white people joining together to defend Black homes, and subsequent police arrests of the victims of the attacks and their supporters. Eventually 25 Black families decided to move as a result of police collaboration

with the racists.

In response to the two most recent incidents a multi-racial group led by Rev. Mel King of the Massachusetts Legislative Black Caucus went to see the mayor to demand action and to express the community's outrage. However, the mayor refused to meet with the group, and in a press conference later, actually referred to East Boston as "a cohesive community like any other which usually reaches out to protect its own." The mayor and the police chief have called for a federal grand jury and FBI involvement to stop the attacks, but grand juries, the FBI, the police, and the other repressive organs of the capitalist state have

time and again shielded Ku Klux Klan members and other notorious racists, while repressing Black people.

In the case of the burning of Jesse Porter's apartment, the police were specifically assigned to protect the house throughout the night, but the break in and burning happened anyway!

These incidents in East Boston come on top of racist attacks in many other areas of the city. In the Mattapan-South Dorchester area, several Black homes have been assaulted by weekend nightriders since last October.

Anti-racist defenders organized by the City-wide Coalition for Justice and Equality actually

caught a group of these attackers approaching one of the homes with bottles and bricks at 4:30 a.m. two weeks ago and gave clear identification of the people to the police, but the response was "They didn't actually do anything." In West Roxbury, the home of a minister has come under similar attack.

Black people have also been assaulted recently on the streets. Approximately three weeks ago in Brighton, Clarence Harris was sideswiped in his car by some racists who then piled out of their car and attacked him with baseball bats. Harris is still in the hospital. He has had considerable difficulty bringing charges against his assailants, and they have actually had the audacity to try to bring counter-charges against him.

Recently, three Black women were attacked in their car near Fenway Park and suffered serious injury and required hospital treatment. The police who witnessed the brutal beating originally charged their attackers with disorderly conduct.

The Citywide Coalition for Justice and Equality is one of the groups organizing against these attacks. They have set up physical defense of the homes of the families, have issued press statements, and have mobilized a court support for victims of racist attacks. They are conducting meetings to plan a strategy to bring the attacks to an end.