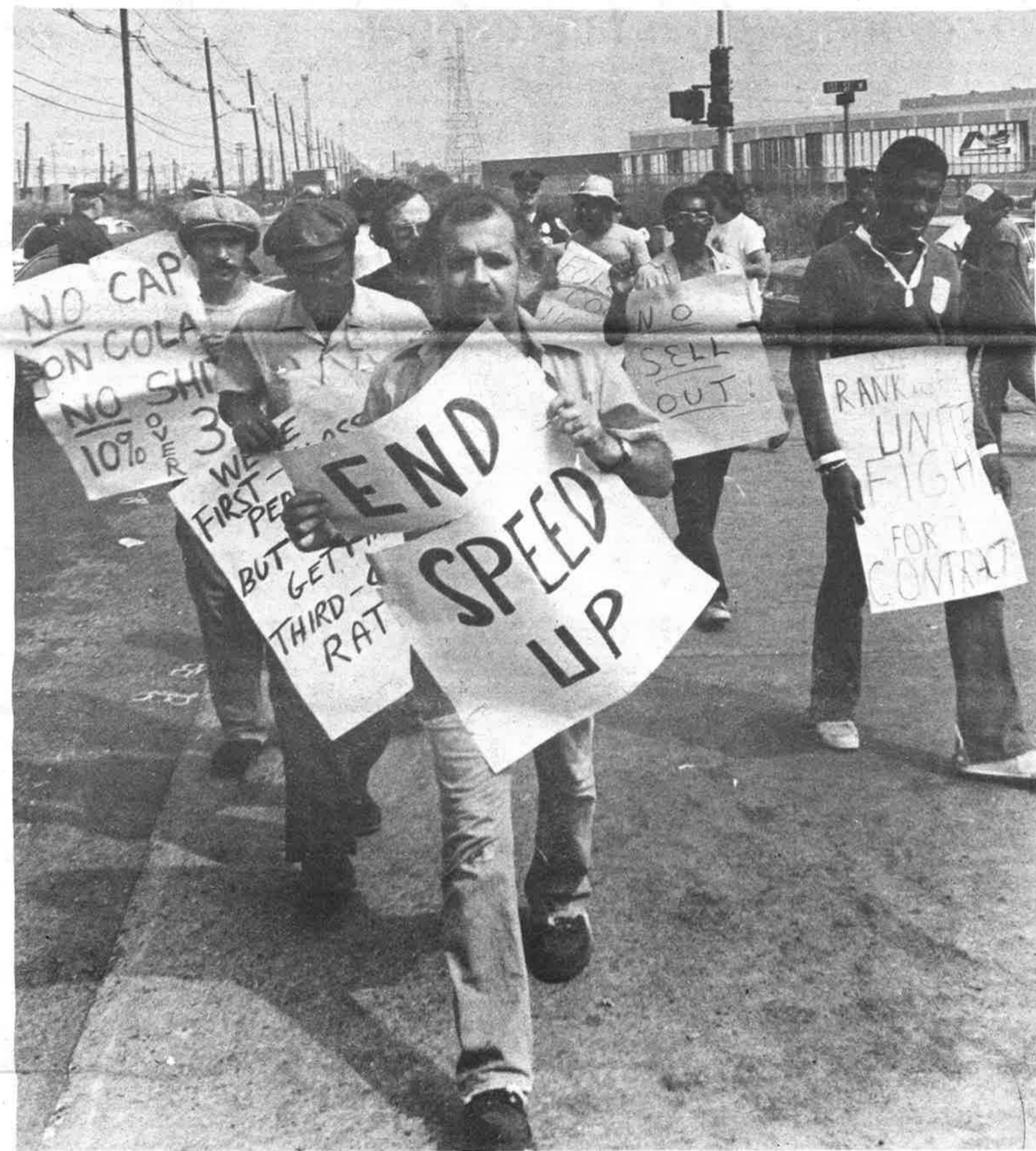


Over rotten contract

Postal union delegates OK strike



BULLETIN

As we go to press, the first results in the contract vote for some 600,000 postal workers have just come in. A spokeswoman for the National Association of Letter Carriers told Workers World today that the 200,000-member union has voted by a more than 4-to-3 margin to reject the contract. The final count was 78,288 for rejection, with 58,832 voting to accept. Results for the 40,000-member mail handlers' union are expected tomorrow, and the vote of the American Postal Workers Union 280,000 members will be counted by Friday.

By a delegate to the APWU National Convention

DENVER, Aug. 19—Delegates attending the national convention of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) here this week voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if the proposed contract with the U.S. Postal Service is voted down by the union membership.

Members of the APWU as well as the other major postal unions are currently voting on the contract in a mail referendum with the results expected to be announced on August 25.

As reported in last week's *Workers World*, the 2,700 delegates here voted 5-1 against the contract at a rollcall vote. This stunning blow to the conservative national officers of the APWU was followed up by the strike authorization. Specifically, if the contract is voted down, APWU President Emmett Andrews must immediately request renegotiations. If the Postal Service does not agree within five days, Andrews must call a nationwide strike. If renegotiations do take place Andrews has 15 days to come up with a substantially better contract or he must call the strike. Andrews, very much on the defensive, said he would carry out the convention's mandate.

In another important move, the delegates voted unanimously to seek total amnesty for APWU members fired for wildcat strikes at the New Jersey and San Francisco bulk mail centers. A special fund was set up with an initial \$50,000 from the union's contingency fund and thousands of dollars more in contributions from the locals to support the fired workers and their families.

Two resolutions presented by the Womens Caucus, one in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and another in support of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, were approved by

(Continued on p. 2)

Jersey City postal workers' wildcat strike last month. The APWU union delegates voted unanimously for amnesty for workers fired in Jersey City and San Francisco. WW photo: G. Dunkel

Patriotic Front leader at UN says
'Rhodesian settler state collapsing'

—Centerfold

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Love Canal tragedy part of**Sea of chemical industry pollution**

By D. WARD

NIAGARA FALLS, Aug. 12—Today's Buffalo Evening News reported that the state was preparing to issue a permit to Hooker Chemical's Durez Division to dump untreated benzene compounds and toluene into the Niagara River. These are some of the most dangerous chemicals found in the Love Canal waste dump that recently forced the evacuation of families living in the area for fear of their health.

The government's cozy relationship with Hooker Chemical may be criminal and disgusting, but it is not unique. The active aid of government agencies to the large corporations in poisoning the environment cannot be overlooked.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists only 5 of

50,000 chemicals in use as hazardous: vinyl chloride, berilium, asbestos, mercury, and benzene. The EPA has been proposing to make field studies to find out how widespread the chemical problem is. But under three administrations (Nixon's, Ford's, and Carter's) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has refused the EPA the necessary funds. As it is, solid waste disposal gets only 1% of the EPA budget.

The Niagara Gazette of Aug. 9 quotes an EPA official as saying about the Love Canal disaster, "We spend millions of dollars on military facilities, waste water treatment plants, and pork-barrel dams, but not a penny to help people who are hurt by this kind of disaster."

The Occupational Safety and

Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 is also supposed to guard workers' safety. Yet OSHA has only 20 out of at least 1,960 known carcinogens under regulation. And what's worse is the fact that there are hundreds of new chemicals produced and discharged every year.

Bob Rauch of the Environmental Defense Fund said, "I've estimated that at the current pace it would take until the year 2050 to regulate all carcinogenic chemicals."

Nor has any of the other government agencies done anything to curb the profit-mad owners of industry. More often than not, the pliant politicians can be found cutting back environmental rules for industry, who claim that they cost too much

money.

**"CANCER VALLEY,"
W. VIRGINIA**

Highly industrialized Kanawha Valley, W.Va., called "Cancer Valley," is a prime example of a corporate-created nightmare come true. Kanawha Valley leads the country in instances of cancer of the lung, bone, endocrine glands, and blood (based on mortality rates from 1950-60). And now, according to the West Virginia Department of Health, cases of lung cancer in the state have doubled since 1969.

Nevertheless, the West Virginia legislature has not passed any new environmental laws to protect its people. In fact, it does just the opposite. West Virginia is trying hard to attract the death-dealing petrochemical industries by promising lenient (read non-existent) pollution laws.

Industry in New York State alone produces over 1,000,000 tons of toxic wastes every year. This figure doesn't include over 600,000 gallons of nuclear wastes sitting menacingly in West Valley, N.Y., waiting to tear loose. It is estimated that there are over 80 million gallons of spent nuclear wastes lying around the country. There are also untold amounts of nerve gas, benzene, carbon disulfide and other cancer-producing, potentially deadly chemicals and mixtures. What is being done to curb these toxins?

It is crystal clear that the profit-mad industry has no solution to the destruction and death it is fostering. What is needed is industry developed and controlled in a rational manner, based on people's needs, with concern for workers' welfare, with control in workers' hands. What is not needed is a continuation of the deadly trail of devastation, disease, and waste which has resulted from the anarchy of capitalist production. There is only one ultimate solution to a system gone mad—sowing death and destruction—and that is to **destroy it** and build a system that is geared toward human health, safety, and happiness.

**Pinto recall shows Ford guilt
in covering up gas tank danger**

AUGUST 21—Judy Ulrich, her sister, Lynn, and their cousin, Donna, put gas in their car at a self-service pump in Goshen, Ind., and stopped along the road some time later to check whether Judy had replaced the gas cap. When the car was struck from the rear by a van, the car's gas tank exploded, making the three teenagers victims 57, 58, and 59 of the Ford Motor Company's neglect of human safety.

Their car was a Ford Pinto. Six of these deaths have occurred since June, when Ford was forced to recall the Pintos because of the many fiery accidents involving Pintos hit from behind.

Ford has refused to admit that there is a safety problem with the cars, but has agreed to recall them to install devices to shield the gas tanks. In other words, Ford says that "we didn't do anything wrong and we won't do it again."

The agreement to recall the Pinto came six months after a revealing display of Ford's profit-before-all operations was made public in the January issue of Mother Jones magazine. The article documents the fact that Ford, in competition with Volkswagen for the super-profitable small-car market, rushed the Pinto into production after only 25 months of research.

Ford engineers had already discovered in pre-production crash tests that rear-end collisions easily ruptured the Pinto's gas tank, making the Pinto, in effect, a motorized firetrap. But since assembly-line machinery had already been tooled when the defect was discovered, the Ford executives ordered the car manufactured anyway—exploding gas tank and all.

To make matters worse, Ford owned the patent on a safer gas tank but wouldn't install it because to do so would have cut into profits. Instead, Ford suppressed the documents, lied to pliant government commissions, and lobbied against a government safety standard. This corporate wheeling and dealing allowed Ford bigshots to produce the incendiary Pintos for eight years before they got caught.

CHARGE MURDER

Ford's boondoggling made millions for the company—at the expense of human lives. Ford's

reasoning was that it is cheaper to spend millions to settle damage suits and lobby against federal safety regulations than it is to make safe cars.

Ford's Autogate would never have happened without the aid of the government regulatory agencies. These so-called watchdog agencies allowed Ford to produce the Pinto for almost a decade while the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration failed to notice the traffic accident statistics.

In a memo entitled, "Fatalities Associated With Crash-Induced Fuel Leakage and Fires," Ford had even argued openly that there was no cost-benefit in complying with proposed auto safety standards that admittedly would have resulted in fewer auto fires, burn deaths, and injuries.

But try talking "cost-effectiveness" and "cost-benefit" to the Ulrich family, and to the other families of those who died because of Ford's constant drive to increase profits.

Firestone 500: killer on the road

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY

AUGUST 11—Officials of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company were scurrying this past week to make a fast deal with the federal government to avoid recalling an estimated 13 million dangerously defective tires.

Firestone is trying to settle the matter out of court by proposing a "voluntary recall" of the faulty tires while at the same time denying the charges of danger.

The Firestone 500, a steel-belted radial tire manufactured since 1972, has been found unsafe by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) according to an Aug. 8 New York Times report. Hearings held on Aug. 7 by NHTSA were attended by an overflow crowd of 300 people who were prepared to tell of numerous mishaps related to the tires.

One tragic case cited was that of a seven-year-old child who had to have her right leg amputated as the result of an auto accident where the Firestone 500 was named as a contributing factor. Several other people lost their lives in the same accident.

Firestone's stubborn refusal to recall their tires and the NHTSA's lack of speed in directly prosecuting the second largest domestic maker of tires is undeniably related to Firestone's

insatiable drive for profits—even at the expense of human life. That this is Firestone's primary concern was reflected by the company's attorney who said, "Our management is itself extremely concerned that, as a result of the extensive media attention to this controversy, many members of the motoring public now perceive the radial 500 as an unsafe tire."

What Firestone's esteemed counsel didn't say was that if the motoring public feels that the tire is unsafe, Firestone will be faced with lawsuits, and more im-

portant, substantial monetary loss.

While Firestone stalls, the government agencies waffle, and the people who bought the tires are being killed and maimed.

Only in a capitalist system which is owned and operated for the profit and benefit of a tiny number of cut-throat bandits could such a travesty occur. And only a society realigned on the basis of human needs, safety, and comfort can eliminate the pain and suffering brought on by the greed inherent in capitalism.

**—Postal
workers**

(Continued from p. 1)

the delegates. They also voted to boycott anti-union companies, in particular J.P. Stevens, Coors Beer, and Brookfield Uniforms.

The rebellious mood of the convention was well expressed in two messages sent to President Carter. One withdrew support from his 1980 election due to his anti-postal worker policies. The other stated, "During your last election you promised you would resign if you ever lied to the American people. We urge you to keep that promise."

**Aug. 29 action:
Free Puerto Rico!**

AUGUST 22—The United Nations Committee on Decolonization will be taking up the question of Puerto Rico again this year. In an unprecedented decision, the colonial governor, Carlos Romero Barcelo, and the president of the colonial Popular Democratic Party, Miguel Hernandez Agosto, have announced that they will testify for the committee. A demonstration will be held outside the UN at 12 noon and 4 p.m. on Aug. 29. All supporters of Puerto Rican independence are urged to attend.

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As real wages drop, profit figures show

Big Business making big money

By HILLEL BAILIN

AUGUST 22—While unemployment and high prices are killing poor and working people, some giant corporations are making a killing. According to Business Week magazine, this year U.S. corporations are expected to make a record **\$116 billion in profits after taxes**. Newly released figures show that profits rose sharply in the three months from April to June which economists call the second quarter. Although some of the increase in the profits is just a result of inflation, the Business Week report shows that businessmen are doing a whole lot better than working people.

In newspaper ads, on radio and TV and at every contract negotiations table in the country, business executives complain about how bad things are for them. They say they cannot afford to give their workers more than a 5.5% raise, if that, and how they must raise their prices again and again. But Business Week is not so concerned with public relations. It is written for business executives, managers, the rich and the would-be rich. In an article called "Corporate Scoreboard," the August 21 edition of the magazine shows that behind the cloud of inflation and unemployment lies a silver lining in the bosses' pockets.

STEEL'S STEAL

For example, Bethlehem Steel which recently said it was "forced" to lay off thousands in Buffalo made \$84 million in the three months—after taxes. Citibank which has demanded that New York City stop spending "so much" on social services made \$137 million profit in the same three months. If anyone wondered why food prices were so high, General Foods Corporation came in with \$57 million of gravy and McDonald's didn't do it all for you, since they did \$45 million in profits for themselves. Things went even better with Coke which made \$109 million.

All of these figures represent big increases from the same second quarter of last year. On the average, airline companies made 91% more in profit than last year. Steel companies increased profits 71%, banks 27%, and drug companies 20%. That is a lot more than the 5.5% which President Carter says should be the limit—on wages.

But the average increases don't tell the whole story. Not every industry and not every company did better. General Motors Corp.

made almost no increase from last year but still managed to make over a billion dollars in profit. Some made less profits than last year and a very few reported no profits or even losses. In order to make the overall average as high as it was, the companies that did well did very, very well.

REAL WAGES LOW

How did these companies do so well? Basically, a company's

profits come from the difference between the value of the products that workers make with their labor and the wages that the company pays the workers for their labor. When unemployment is high, wages are lower. When prices are high, real wages (measured in food, clothing, and other goods instead of money) are lower still. There are many other factors nationally and internationally that make the situation more compli-

cated, but a large number of the biggest corporations are taking advantage of the general economic crisis and are getting even richer.

Productivity, speed-ups, and price hikes are some of the ways in which the corporations are squeezing more and more out of the workers. Corporate tax-breaks, real estate tax relief, social service cutbacks are other ways in which profits are pushed up at the expense of the poor. And while some

businesses will lose money and go bankrupt, other, bigger businesses will gobble them up and get bigger still. The Business Week "Corporate Scoreboard" proves that this is exactly what is going on.

One may expect that the businessmen and executives will continue to plead poverty. But the next time a boss says he can't afford to give a raise, perhaps the union will tell him to check out the latest copy of Business Week.

NYC pressmen vow

'Wash. Post union-busting won't be repeated'

By KENNY PETERSON

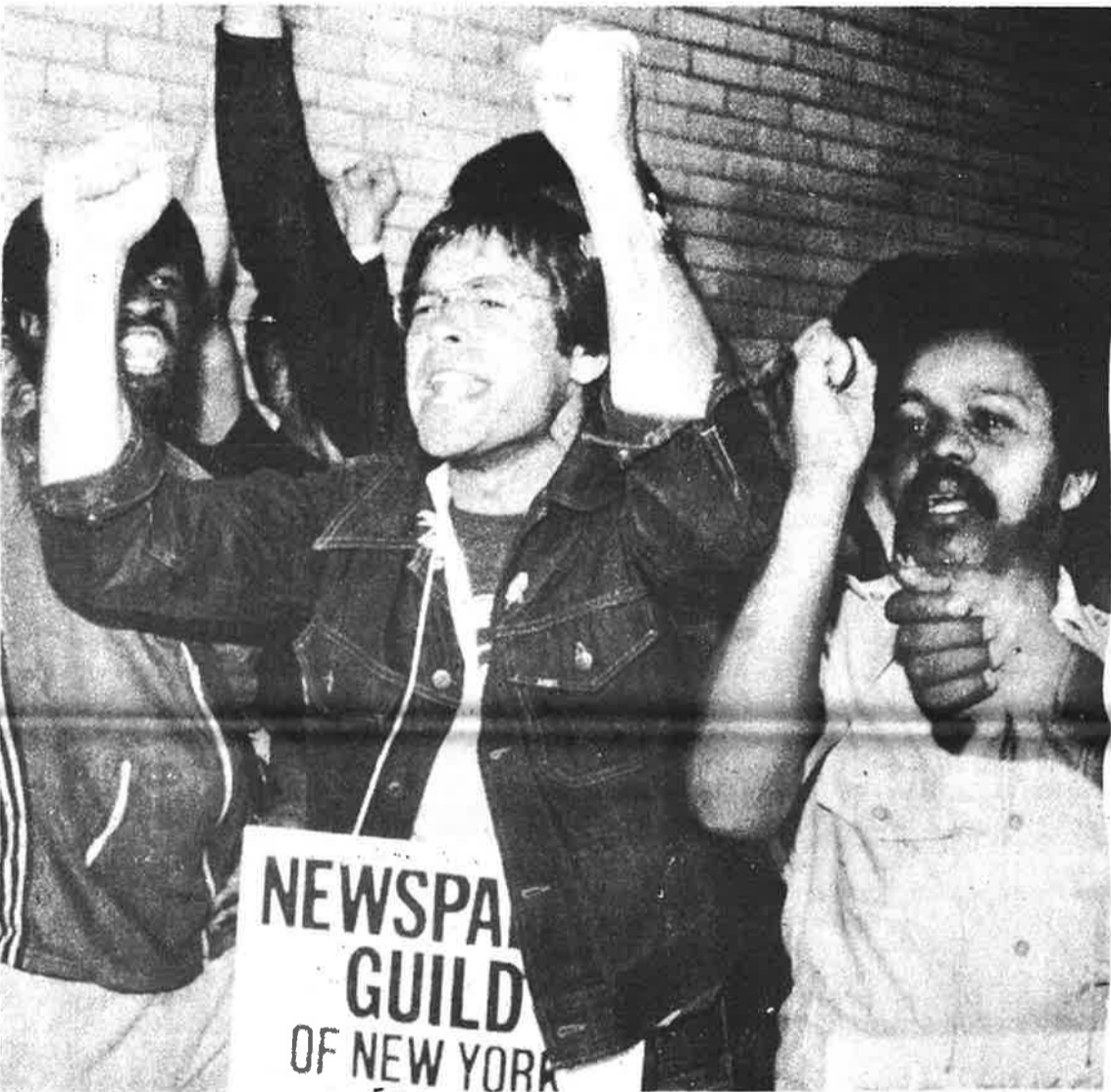
NEW YORK, Aug 22—The newspaper pressmen have been on strike here for two weeks in a determined effort to save their union from destruction. Both workers and publishers appear committed to a long-term struggle: "You won't see a settlement for a long, long time," predicted Rupert Murdoch, owner of the New York Post.

The immediate issue which forced the strike upon the pressmen was the publishers' posting of new work rules which halved the number of pressmen at New York's three major dailies. The pressmen, members of the New York Newspaper Printing Pressmen, Local 2, AFL-CIO, had been working without a contract since March 30 when the newspaper owners broke off negotiations by unilaterally posting the new rules on August 9.

STRIKE SPREADS

The three big dailies have been shut down tight ever since the pressmen walked out, with all of the other approximately 10,000 unionized workers honoring the picket lines. Within the last week, the paper handlers, the electricians, and the machinists have officially struck the papers also, and the Guild has declared a strike against the Post when that paper's management walked out of negotiations.

The real issue in this deepening confrontation between the newspaper workers and owners is the centuries-old question of **union-busting**. The newspaper publishers, with the arrogance born of great wealth, are embarked on a "game plan" to smash the unions. The defeat of a pressman's strike against the Washington Post in 1975-76 and the consequent ouster of the union



The New York City newspaper publishers' union busting is being met with workers' solidarity. Above, the Guild strike at the Daily News last June.

from the paper is the model for the publishers' present "game plan," according to William Kennedy, president of the pressmen's union here.

The workers, however, have learned from their defeat and George McDonald, president of

the Allied Printing Trades Council (a coalition of ten newspaper unions) warned: "There will not be a repetition of what happened at the Washington Post." This statement reflects the consciousness, determination, and spirit of struggle which have been

apparent in the workers' ranks in the several clashes between the workers and the papers earlier this year. This has produced a brand of solidarity among the workers of the various unions that has resisted the divide-and-conquer tactics that are the mainstay of most attempts at union busting.

The New York Times yesterday announced it was suspending its payments towards the workers' health insurance plans and other benefit programs. "This is a new tactic that the Times picked up from the Washington Post," said pressmen's union president Kennedy. The Guild announced that its members would be covered

(Continued on p. 5)

In Memphis

City-wide strike threat stops attack on union

By JESSE LEE

AUGUST 22—Labor solidarity and the threat of a city-wide strike brought a quick settlement of the week long municipal job action in Memphis last week.

The strikers settled for a 6% increase now with an additional \$30 a month raise next April. The two-year contract also provides for reopening wage bargaining in one year. They also won amnesty for all strikers.

The Memphis city government had decided to try to put the economic squeeze on the municipal workers by offering a three year contract that ignored inflation. This is a now familiar tactic that has been followed across the U.S. ever since the severe economic downturn of 1974.

The firefighters had been the

first to resist the city's tight-fisted policy. Their three-day walkout in July had won the quick support of the city's sanitation workers who are best known for their militant landmark 1968 strike. They went back to work following a court injunction.

On Aug. 11, the Memphis struggle escalated when the police force refused to work. (The police can't be considered workers—since their job is to be used as a force against workers. There can be no place in the labor movement for a band of racists armed with truncheons and handguns who are hired by the government to protect the property of the rich.)

The National Guard was called out to act as supercops armed with M-16s. Their sole purpose was to safeguard the holdings of the

landlords, businessmen, and bankers.

Three days after the cops walked off, the firefighters returned to the streets. Picket lines were set up—sanitation workers and teachers refused to cross the lines. On Thursday, Aug. 19, a march of thousands of workers, a large number of them strike supporters from the community, went to City Hall to demand economic justice for the city workers.

The Memphis Labor Council voted for a general strike on August 21 if the city did not come to an agreement or if the mayor carried out his threat to withdraw union recognition. The momentum was then turned in favor of the city workers, and a settlement soon followed.

Once again, the unions have shown the strength that is possible through a united struggle. Demonstrations and the threat of a city-wide shutdown were enough to force the mayor to back down on his refusal to bargain and his declaration that all strikers were fired.

As inflation deepens, and the value of the dollar drops, the capitalist economic crisis is continuing. Under cover of the "tax revolt," which aids only the rich, many city governments are putting the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the workers. But, there is a counter-revolt being waged by municipal workers against the cutbacks being carried out in the name of this phony "tax revolt" (of bankers).

Memphis is a battle that was won by the workers.

Striker killed

BERKELEY, Aug. 22—A striking worker was killed and another badly injured today when a strikebreaker drove his car into their picket line at the gate of Lucky's supermarket in Vacaville, Calif.

The strikers are members of the Teamsters union and have been picketing for three weeks in their effort to gain a new contract with wholesale food suppliers. Also on strike in California are the Retail Clerks, whose strike is against 25 supermarket chains.

Three Cleveland actions hit racism

By AL NORMAN

CLEVELAND, Aug. 16—Racism was met head-on several times this week as three demonstrations were called to protest bigoted remarks that recently came out of the mouth of Cleveland attorney Milt Schulman.

Schulman, active in right-wing causes and presently legal counsel for "anti-busing" groups, aimed the slanders at Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Appalachian whites, following a racist "anti-busing" rally here.

The NAACP and many other concerned organizations throughout the city immediately demanded his disbarment. The news media criticized him. Even one of the so-called anti-busing groups (that at times rally with Nazis) was embarrassed by Schulman's rather candid display of what really lies behind the movement against busing.

On Tuesday, Aug. 8, oppressed

In Cleveland

people reacted. Ernie Harris of the Bell Community Center, a human services center in the Black community, held a press conference in front of an abandoned building in Hough, one of the poorest parts of the city. He pointed out how this building, as well as many others in the oppressed communities, is owned by Schulman—getting rich off the poor.

RESISTANCE FROM OPPRESSED

The next evening, Clevelanders United Against Racism (CUAR), confronted a Schulman-sponsored rally against busing and welfare. Nearly half of the protesters were brought by the Spanish Community Development Task force and by "Chispa," a progressive newsletter collective.

Schulman's rally was held in the public Lincoln-West High School on Cleveland's West Side. Even though the local school board had

denied Schulman use of this school, the State Appeals Court intervened and ordered that he be allowed to spew his racist garbage there.

As the racist group entered the school, they had to pass by the CUAR picket line and hear chants like "Schulman and the Klan work hand in hand," and see a large pink banner that read, "Say NO to racism—No al racismo."

Bernadette Cozart, a CUAR organizer, told the protestors that racist rallies breed racist violence. She referred to the recent gunshots fired into the house of NAACP president Rev. Austin Cooper and the KKK threat letter he received.

She also spoke about George Cicero, a former leader of the George Wallace campaign who had bombed school buildings throughout the city, doing most harm to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Vocational School.

Two days later, the Spanish community held a large and mili-

tant picket line in front of Schulman's downtown offices, where 75 demonstrators picketed during the busy lunch hour.

When Schulman arrived and caused a provocation on the picket line, the cops arrested Abraham Santiago, charging him with assaulting Schulman. Then, when Schulman accosted another Puerto Rican man, the cops looked the other way. A defense committee has been established for Santiago.

ANTI-RACIST MARCH PLANNED

On Sunday, Aug. 20, Clevelanders from all over the city will be marching together in support of peaceful school desegregation. This effort, sponsored by WELCOME (West Siders and East Siders, Let's Come Together) will culminate in a walk from the East and West Side of the city to the center of the bridge that connects both sides.

CUAR, as well as a host of other

anti-racist, community, labor, and religious organizations, are supporting this march. Its success and the continued anti-racist struggles are part of the effort to guarantee oppressed people the right to attend the schools of their choice.

—Mexico

(Continued from p. 12)

have a stranglehold on the Mexican economy through the tremendous foreign debt owed them by the Mexican government, bear responsibility for the economic hardships imposed on the Mexican people and for the repression.

Moreno read a salute to the meeting from the Jose Medina Defense Committee in Los Angeles. A letter was read from Hector Marroquin, also a Mexican revolutionary now seeking asylum in the U.S. The General Hospital workers and the Nacozari miners gave solidarity statements with all political prisoners, the disappeared, and the exiled.

At a discussion of documents and bylaws, Moreno said, "We all agreed on a resolution to call for a demonstration for the 26th of July not only because it was the anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, but it is also the tenth anniversary of the student-worker movement of 1968." She added that the purpose of the demonstration was to ask the president for amnesty.

40,000 DEMAND AMNESTY

Moreno said about 40,000 people attended the demonstration. (This is especially heroic as most demonstrations are not permitted in Mexico, and the government has often ordered troops to open fire on them—WW)

Moreno continued, "The main banner that headed the demonstration was a huge red banner that said, 'We want the government to present the politically disappeared.' It was carried by a companera by the name of Eantelma Jardon, a peasant from the state of Guerrero, whose husband has been disappeared for the last two years, by Matilde Gonzalez de Avila, the mother of a young man student and worker from the General Foods of Mexico who has been disappeared for a year and a half, by the wife of a man who is exiled in Cuba right now, and by other mothers."

There were contingents from independent unions such as STUNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico Workers Union, and the Nacozali workers. Many people joined the demonstration. At the march, "there was an agreement that a proclamation for freedom and amnesty for these people would be written and given to the president on Oct. 2 at another mass demonstration." Ten years ago on that date government troops opened fire on a student-worker rally at the Plaza of Tlatelolco killing hundreds and breaking the back of the Movement of 1968.

"One of the strongest chants in the march was 'We don't forget Tlatelolco!'" Moreno added. "Other chants were 'Freedom to political prisoners,' 'Amnesty now!' and 'The left united will never be defeated.'"

"It was very exciting when we walked by the Yankee embassy," said Moreno, "all these 40,000 people were chanting, 'Cuba si, Yankees no,' and that was wonderful!"

Issues behind mayoral recall election

By J. WILSON

CLEVELAND, Aug. 14—Mayor Dennis Kucinich yesterday defeated a recall attempt by squeezing through with a close victory in the mayoral recall election on Aug. 13. This victory at the ballot box foretells a continuing struggle if the mayor clings to the ideas he expressed before and after this victory. If he capitulates, he will be no different than the other flunkies of the vested interests.

This recall election is unprecedented because it is the first one in the history of Cleveland. An understanding of this recall election is possible by looking at the events that led up to it.

Kucinich was elected mayor in November 1977 over two opponents, representing the Republican and Democratic Parties. Kucinich differed from the two opponents in his opposition to a tax abatement to big business and in his fight to keep

control and ownership of the Munny Light by the city, refusing to sell it to the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company which wants to get it for a pittance. He was supported in these efforts by the United Auto Workers and senior citizens but was opposed by big business and the AFL-CIO which claimed that tax abatement would mean more jobs (primarily for the predominantly white construction workers).

None of the three candidates, not even Kucinich, took a strong position against racism or showed who benefits from it even though the school desegregation issue is a big and important one in the city right now. The business interests behind the Republican and Democratic Parties are deliberately keeping this issue hidden because they are the bulwark of racism—because it helps to keep the workers and the oppressed divided. Many of Kucinich's supporters live in the white section

of the city and do not favor desegregation, and Kucinich even made an appeal to the racist vote before the recall by saying he was "personally" opposed to busing. And none of the candidates—including Kucinich—uttered a word about unemployment even though about 50% of Black youth here are without jobs.

When Kucinich was elected mayor, a struggle broke out over City Hall personnel, contracts to companies, and primarily over giveaways to big business. Kucinich vetoed over 30 bills which dealt with giving away money to corporate interests.

Big business and its mouthpieces decided that this continuing conflict must end and in their favor. They decided to try to recall the mayor. The excuses they gave were not the reasons—they claimed that the new mayor was too inexperienced, too abrasive, and caused too much division in the city, that the sewer system was

not in order, and that the financial crisis in the city was unsolved, a financial crisis caused by the banks.

The recall campaign had the full support of the Republican and Democratic Parties, 24 of the 33 Councilmen, the Teamsters Union, the AFL-CIO, the two daily papers, many of the clergy, and of course, the business community. Polls showed that the greatest support for recall was in the richest sections of the area. And even the leadership of the United Steel Workers opposed Kucinich because he didn't agree to give away riches to Republic Steel, claiming that jobs would be lost if Republic didn't get what it wanted.

Against this array, those who opposed recall were Kucinich's group, the United Auto Workers, and a few small locals, including steelworkers locals. This support was being given mainly because of his opposition to giveaways to the wealthy.

When the results of the recall election revealed Kucinich the winner by a few hundred votes, Kucinich announced that this was a victory of the poor and working people. But the supporters of the recall pledged that they would continue the fight. This means that the battle is by no means ended if Kucinich clings to his position. Big business can be depended upon to fight for its interests and will find means if they have to. They will go to the courts where they have friends and they will use financial and economic action to try and gain their end.

Only if the broad mass of oppressed, unemployed, poor and working people come onto the firing line will there be a chance to win against big business in Cleveland. This doesn't seem to be the case right now. The poor and oppressed in other cities or in Cleveland are not rebelling now and certainly the battle cannot be won in only one city.

As events unfold, more and more people will enter the struggle and will bring to realization the end of this exploitation by corporate greedy interests. The working and oppressed people of this country will be the force that will institute a rule by the producers of all the wealth rather than one by the money bloated minority who live off the labor of the workers.

NYC cops attack taxi drivers



NEW YORK, Aug. 23—Club-swinging cops in the Bronx attacked a peaceful caravan demonstration of Latin taxi-drivers without medallions (the so-called "gypsy" cabs) last Thursday leaving three of the drivers injured, three arrested and beaten in the 41st Precinct station house, and 17 cabs damaged. Above, two drivers show their injuries. These cab drivers, who provide virtually the only taxi service to the oppressed communities of the city, are constantly harassed by the police for not possessing the extremely expensive medallion, or taxi license. The taxi drivers had held the protest to demand a meeting with New York City Mayor Edward Koch to discuss police brutality.

In assassination of Martin Luther King

Evidence points to rightist conspirators, FBI

By KENNY PETERSON

August 21—The House Select Committee on Assassinations has concluded its public hearings on the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The committee's hearings were focused on the testimony of James Earl Ray, the man convicted of the April 4, 1968 slaying of Dr. King, while the Black leader was in Memphis on behalf of a sanitation workers' strike.

Ray now denies that he was the one who actually pulled the trigger on that fateful day, although he admits purchasing the murder weapon as well as following Dr. King for two weeks prior to the assassination. Although Ray's

testimony has sparked much discussion on this point, that is, who actually fired the shots that felled Dr. King, his testimony and all the evidence points to a much more fundamental aspect of the assassination.

RACIST CONSPIRACY

All available evidence points to a conspiracy of right-wing businessmen who conceived, plotted, financed, prepared, organized, directed, and carried out the assassination of America's then foremost civil rights leader. And furthermore, this racist conspiracy had the assistance of the FBI in perpetrating this horrendous deed and in covering

up its role afterwards.

It is now well known that former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had targeted Dr. King for a campaign of harassment and elimination. "Operation Zorro" was the code-name of the FBI's secret war "to destroy Dr. King," according to a 1976 report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Hoover appropriated over \$7.5 million for "Operation Zorro." According to the FBI, "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." This incredible assertion was found in an internal FBI memo

signed by William C. Sullivan, the federal police agency's "intelligence operations" chief.

Sullivan, who was deeply involved in the factional conflict of the Watergate period, was fired by Hoover in 1971. Last fall, Sullivan was scheduled to appear before the House Committee on the King and Kennedy assassinations, but he was killed in a suspicious "hunting accident" near his home in New Hampshire.

FBI COVER-UP

Other evidence has been unearthed which plainly shows an FBI cover-up of the right-wing conspiracy behind the King assassination. Also, there have

been recent disclosures of FBI participation in Ku Klux Klan terror against Black civil rights activists.

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Dr. King's closest aide at the time of the assassination, in testifying last week before the House Select Committee put his finger on the political motives behind the civil rights leader's murder: "I think when Dr. King started to bring poor people together, someone in a very high place in our country decided we must eliminate this young Black leader and cut him down." (Our emphasis—WW.)

Abernathy charged that the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King was the product of a conspiracy, and that the killers probably received the assistance of the Memphis Police Department and the FBI. When asked by Congressmen if he could supply names, Dr. Abernathy replied, "I would not eliminate Mr. Hoover."

The fact that the FBI could collaborate with a group of neo-fascist businessmen to carry out a political assassination of such a magnitude as Dr. King's may be difficult for some people to believe. Nevertheless, it should be recalled that the multi-billion dollar corporation ITT enlisted the aid of the CIA not only to assassinate Chile's President Salvador Allende, but to overthrow the entire government as well!

NYC Black organizations form new coalition

Koch racism target of Sept. 28 demo

By TANA MARIE LOY

NEW YORK, Aug. 22—The newly formed City-Wide Coalition of Black Organizations representing hundreds of progressive community, church, and professional groups has called for a massive anti-Koch demonstration on September 28 at City Hall.

"The events of the last 6 months have brought us to the point where our frustration leaves us no choice but to take it to the Mayor. . . . The lack of jobs, police brutality, and the policies of Commissioner Bernstein leave us no choice," said Rev. Herbert Daughtry, co-chairperson of the Coalition.

After the savage police murder of Crown Heights community activist Arthur Miller, after the racist gang beating of 16-year-old Victor Rhodes, and after last week's gang attack on five Black and Hispanic persons in another Brooklyn community, the feelings of Black people in this city are outrage and determination to put a stop to these attacks.

The "collective program of genocide" of the poor and oppressed in New York by police and

roving gangs of racists has increased with alarming frequency. Yet these attacks have not been condemned by Mayor Ed Koch. The police who killed Miller still "patrol" the streets in Crown Heights.

WHY HASN'T KOCH DENOUNCED ATTACKS?

In response to the recent beatings of the five people, four of whom were summer youth corps workers, Koch removed all Black and Hispanic youth corps workers from certain "racially tense" areas. Why didn't he remove the police from Crown Heights after Miller's death? Why hasn't he publicly denounced these gang attacks as vicious actions; that would go a long way in easing "racial tension"? In not doing so, Koch has given tacit approval to such racist violence. When racists attack Black communities, Koch has no words for it. But when the Black community takes arms or forms defense units, then suddenly the hysteria of "racial violence" spreads.

The Black United Front which behind their demands for reducing the work force. Yet the work rules under which the pressmen were working before August 9 were in fact dictated by the newspaper owners themselves.

After crushing the predecessor of the pressmen's Local 2 during a strike in 1923, the publishers instituted sweeping changes in the work rules that completed the elimination of that union from the scene. These are the work rules which the publishers are now saying are "breaking" them. Nor are the presses any different today than they were in 1923. "They go faster, that's all," admitted the Post's representative at the negotiations.

The newspaper workers are fighting for their lives. In their struggle to resist the rapacious drive of the owners, they deserve the active support of all labor.

formed in response to the murders of Randolph Evans and Arthur Miller in Crown Heights is part of the City-Wide Coalition. The demand of the Black United Front is complete community control. It has already formed defense units for the protection of the community against racist and police attacks.

The formation of the City-Wide Coalition of Black Organizations, like the Black United Front, is a determined and militant response

to the racism and genocide that pervade this country but has so escalated in New York City. Some of the demands of the coalition are: a complete investigation of Miller's death and other cases of police brutality, firing of Blanche Bernstein, Human Resources Administrator known for racist hiring practices, and the reinstatement of the Community Action and Model Cities Program eliminated by the Koch administration.

3,000 protest police brutality against MOVE

By JESSE LEE

AUGUST 21—In Philadelphia last Thursday, 3,000 people marched outside City Hall chanting, "We're fired up—ain't going to take no more!" This demonstration, called in response to the brutal police attack ten days earlier on the headquarters of the group known as MOVE, constituted an outpouring of anger built over years of racist harassment at the hands of the Philadelphia cops.

While the protest was making its way through the streets of Philadelphia, that city's Black leaders were meeting with Attorney General Griffin Bell on police brutality. Bell's response was to promise a federal investigation. There are already more than 30 Justice Department investigations being carried on in Philadelphia. The Justice Department lawyers are moving in now that it appears that arch-reactionary Mayor Frank Rizzo and his storm troopers-in-blue are facing an explosive situation with the Black community and a large number of anti-racist white people.

The most immediate focus of outrage has been the "arrest" of MOVE member Delbert Africa who, surrendering with his hands raised, was kicked repeatedly in the head by seven police officers during the siege on MOVE headquarters.

The president of the North Philadelphia Action Branch of the NAACP issued a statement recently saying that the entire organization "is shocked beyond belief at the conduct of those officers who participated in the brutal beating, kicking, and stomping of a suspect who was already in custody."

The brutal beating of the unarmed Delbert Africa took place in full public view through TV cameras and newspaper



Philadelphia cops stomping MOVE member Delbert Africa. The Black community is outraged over police violence against oppressed people.

photos. The police version of the story—despite what was seen clearly by hundreds of thousands of people—was that they were simply carrying out a routine arrest!

Another MOVE member, Chuckie Africa, disclosed that after the police attack, "they really beat me up bad in the back of the van. My bleeps (testicles) are so swollen I still can't walk or sit

down the way I want."

While the racist hate-monger known as Mayor Rizzo decides whether he wants to change the city charter so that he can run for a third term or if he would prefer to head a national racist organization pushing "rights" for "white people," the Black community and all anti-racists are stepping up the struggle to end the reign of police terror.

—Pressmen

(Continued from p. 3)

by a reserve fund held by the union.

In an effort to pick up lost advertising revenue, hold onto their subscribers, mollify public opinion angered over the needless shutdown of the city's major source of news, and, most of all, weaken the strike, the newspaper owners have financed three new papers that will appear "for the duration." The appearance of these three papers confirms the general consensus that this strike will indeed be a long one.

Although the real issue behind this strike is the union busting conspiracy of the publishers, they have attempted to mask this fact

Anti-imperialist meetings in NYC

NEW YORK, Aug. 23—Two meetings this coming weekend will provide films and information about the liberation struggles in Africa to the Black community of Harlem.

On Friday, Aug. 25, two films on the Ethiopian Revolution, "Burdens of the Past" and "The People's Militia" will be shown at 7:30 in Room 8A of the Harlem State Office Building at 125th Street and 7th Avenue. The films will be followed by a forum sponsored by the U.S.-

Ethiopia Friendship Committee.

The following night, Aug. 26, the Patrice Lumumba Coalition is sponsoring a program on the struggles of SWAPO (the South West Africa People's Organization) to liberate the South African-held territory of Namibia. The featured speaker will be Theo ben-Gurirab, SWAPO's representative at the UN, and the film "The Forgotten Colony" will also be shown. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Master, 122nd Street and Morningside Avenue.

Mass persecution of India's most oppressed

Landlords wage terror campaign

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

AUGUST 21—While it was loudly hailed by the U.S. imperialists as "the victory of democracy over dictatorship," the coming to power of the Janata Party in India 16 months ago has in fact resulted in a vile reactionary terror campaign against the harijans, or "untouchable" caste, repression against the working class on a massive scale, and increased poverty caused by a deepening of imperialist penetration.

And while the press gave tremendous play at that time to the electoral victory of the Janata coalition over Indira Gandhi, the repressive rule of Morarji Desai and the violent wave of reaction accompanying it in the second most populous nation in the world have received the most minimal treatment in the media.

In the forefront of this reaction are the landlord-inspired attacks against the harijans, the most impoverished people in India who are kept as virtual slaves, deprived of the most basic democratic rights, despite the existence of laws to protect them.

The immediate aim of this campaign is to evict the few harijans who were able to lease tiny plots for subsistence farming under a law passed during Gandhi's rule.

This campaign reached a new high on Aug. 13 as a reactionary mob estimated at 4,500 fought with police outside Desai's residence, demanding that the central government evict harijans living in a small village outside New Delhi before their leases expire in 1980.

Similar mobs throughout India have gone on rampages against harijans, forcing them off their land and burning their huts, and recently a mob burned down a new

school building because it had been named after a harijan leader.

All this mob violence against the impoverished harijans has gotten the unofficial blessing of the Desai regime, but at the same time peaceful protests by harijans against these outrages have been met with bloody police repression.

On April 13 and again on May 1, unarmed harijan demonstrators in the city of Agra were fired on by police, leaving at least ten dead. The Desai government refused even to hold an inquiry into these murders until forced to by a mass campaign by the left.

An estimated 1,000 people have been killed by the police since Desai took power. The vast majority of the victims were harijans or striking workers.

Workers have been hit by even greater repression under Desai than they faced during Gandhi's emergency rule. One example of this was the incredible arrest of 20,000 teachers during April in Uttar Pradesh state for the crime of striking. Strikes have increased despite this repression because of the growing burden of U.S. imperialist exploitation. Debt service to the U.S. alone now runs at \$162 million a year.

ROLE OF GANDHI REGIME

The regime of Indira Gandhi was a loyal defender of India's big industrialists and landlords, but in order to quell the country's bitter class struggles, it assumed the appearance of an arbiter between the classes. To keep up this image, Gandhi had to make occasional concessions to the masses after long struggles, shrouding herself in leftist demagoguery.

This policy had the consensus of the Indian ruling class until 1975, when the bourgeoisie, with the backing of the U.S., turned on Gandhi, leading finally to her removal in the March 1977

election. Gandhi's leftist demagoguery was replaced by Desai's open contempt for the masses.

India's minimal independence in international affairs was surrendered by Desai to the needs of U.S. imperialism.

But these new policies and the increased class struggle and economic crisis that accompanied them have caused great instability for the Desai regime.

The regime's attempts to jail Gandhi and her son have floundered because of Desai's fear of the continued influence of her followers. This hesitation of Desai caused a split within his own cabinet, forcing the Prime Minister to remove two of his fellow rightists, Charan Singh and Raj Narain.

Singh has retaliated by launching an "anti-corruption" campaign against Desai, accusing Desai's son of collecting large bribes.

The instability of the Janata regime has led to discussions among the working class parties of the danger of a military coup. Answering the claim that the Indian armed forces have an apolitical tradition, A. Vanaik, writing in the New Delhi weekly *Mainstream*, replied, "Lest anyone forget, Chile had prior to the coup a far longer history of civilian democratic rule with military non-interference than India has had."

Just as in China before its revolution, the masses of Indians have suffered extreme poverty and starvation solely because of the legacy of colonialism and continued exploitation by imperialism and the Indian ruling class. Only an overturn of bourgeois class relations and the breaking of imperialism's stranglehold can put an end to the hunger and misery of India's millions.



Striking workers in India demonstrate. Repression by the "democratic" Janata Party regime is increasing.

Patriotic Front leader at UN says

Rhodesian settler state is

By G. DUNKEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 22—"No amount of trickery can alter the course of the war leading to total collapse of the Rhodesian regime. . . ."

This was the theme of Callistus Dingswayo Ndlovu, representative of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU)-Patriotic Front at a UN press conference here today. He analyzed the recent maneuvers of Ian Smith's racist Rhodesian regime and the diplomatic moves of Great Britain.

The occasion for Ndlovu's statement was the grudging agreement of Smith to attend an all-party conference to end the guerrilla war in Zimbabwe. Once British leaders learned this, they began pushing for a conference that they and the U.S. imperialists could shape to their and Smith's liking. Great Britain obviously feels, according to Ndlovu, that "no movement over the Rhodesian problem is possible without the consent of the Smith regime." He added that the Patriotic Front "entertains no illusions on the readiness of the Rhodesian regime to negotiate in good faith."

He went on to add that the Patriotic Front has no intention of accepting an amended internal settlement, since this "so-called internal settlement . . . has been totally rejected by the African majority." All they are willing to negotiate is a transfer of power. The Patriotic Front has no interest in a settlement based on a constitution drawn up by racist Rhodesians or their imperialist backers. The Zimbabwean people will decide their own constitution.

The Smith regime, above all else, wants to end its diplomatic isolation and gain "international recognition for its sham (internal) settlement." But the internal settlement has proved a flop. According to the bourgeois French newspaper *Le Monde*, Aug. 19-20, 1,000 racist settlers are emigrating a month and this number will increase once school is out.

Settler morale has never been lower. The extreme right in Salisbury has begun a poster campaign against "Smith's sellout," painting swastikas and their slogans all over the settler

areas.

Smith supporters had hoped that the Black politicians who entered the regime, particularly Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, would be able to exert the influence which they claimed to have on the guerrillas and get them to stop the liberation struggle. Instead, they have lost most of their popular support while the guerrillas have gained in prestige. The number of people attending Muzorewa's

Progressive Iranians c

Shah's agent

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

AUGUST 21—Headlines in the ruling-class press here in the U.S. read, "Hundreds Die as Terrorists Burn Theater in Iran" and "The Shah Blames Anti-Government Extremists."

But behind the headlines is the story of a week-long popular revolt by Iran's poor against the repressive Shah regime, a revolt the *International Herald Tribune* called the Shah's "most serious challenge since August, 1953, when he was forced to flee to Rome."

Behind it also is the belief by Iran's progressives and by the Iranian Students Association here in the U.S., that the fire could well have been started by the SAVAK, the Shah's secret police, whose record of anti-popular cruelty makes them suspect number one.

What makes the Iranian government even more suspect is their careful control of information about the theater burning and their immediate use of the incident as a weapon against the opposition.

REVOLT GRIPS IRAN

Last Saturday, Aug. 19, the Shah celebrated his 25th year in power with a parade in the streets of Teheran, Iran's capital. He was put in power by a coup in 1953, admittedly organized by the CIA under the direction of Allan Dulles, with Kermit Roosevelt as the CIA agent in Iran.

Using a religious cover

Mercenaries recruited in U.S. for Rhodesia

By BILL MASSEY

CHICAGO, July 29—The bourgeois press here has given much publicity lately to the ravings of one Rev. Paul Lindstrom, who recently announced that he was assembling a mercenary contingent of ex-Green Berets to reopen a mission allegedly destroyed by guerrilla forces in Zimbabwe.

In June a European mission station in Zimbabwe was destroyed in a suspicious attack, which the Ian Smith regime immediately tried to blame on liberation forces. Later even such firm supporters of imperialist rule as the Christian Science Monitor were forced to admit that the attack on the mission had been the work of Smith's own Selous Scouts, a counter insurgency unit trained in the most savage methods of warfare.

It has already been documented that many of these missionaries are in the service of the CIA and/or the settler regime. It has also been shown that when members of the clergy have tried to aid liberation forces in Zimbabwe, they have been persecuted, jailed, thrown out of the country, or even killed by the Smith regime.

Lindstrom has also announced that his Church of Christian Liberty will invite Ian Smith to come to the U.S. and speak. Further he claims to have received word from C.P. Pafitis, press secretary to Ian Smith, that Smith has received many invitations from

other right-wing racist groups across the United States.

Lindstrom says that he has been in close contact with Senators Jesse Helms and Barry Goldwater as well as Phyllis Schlafly and Presidential aspirant Congressman Phillip Crane and that they firmly support his recruitment of racist mercenaries. Lindstrom also brags about his contacts and cooperation with the anti-Castro Cuban terrorist organizations and the support he has been promised from Pinochet's Chile.

The Chicago Coalition on Southern Africa has stated its determination to mount a mass

protest should the speaking engagement of Ian Smith ever materialize. Lindstrom, however, has in the past made wild promises to "free" U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam and to "rescue" the spy ship *Pueblo* from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Lindstrom's church used to support a "mission" in Ethiopia during Haile Selassie's rule, but with the coming to power of the revolutionary government, those missionaries—like the U.S. military—were forced to close shop and take their "missions" elsewhere. Certainly the same fate awaits all those who are in Zimbabwe for the purpose of propping up imperialist-backed settler rule.



Mercenaries, Klansmen from the U.S., and others advocating "white supremacy" make up the Rhodesian army which is taking a beating from the heroic Zimbabwe liberation fighters.

Palestinians respond with unity

180 dead following reactionary bombing in Lebanon

By PADDY COLLIGAN

AUGUST 20—The death toll has now risen to 180 in the massive explosion which shook Beirut during the night of Aug. 12-13. A nine-story building housing the offices of several Palestinian liberation groups as well as Lebanese working class families was reduced to rubble in three terrible minutes.

An investigative committee composed of members of all the Palestinian guerrilla organizations was set up immediately. Including in its ranks militants trained in explosives, the committee has now concluded that the attack was the work of highly skilled demolition experts—almost certainly Israeli or U.S. The explosion was caused by charges placed around the main supports of the building blowing them outward and causing the building to collapse neatly onto itself and all those inside. According to the committee this plan was meant to cause great damage and loss of life to everyone in the building, not just to one group.

The murderous attack seems to have had several purposes. The most obvious purpose was to

discredit the Palestinian movement politically by building an image of a "movement torn apart by quarrels" and "bent on settling differences violently." This was obediently made the theme of the early coverage of the explosion in the bourgeois European and U.S. press. The imperialists, particularly those in the U.S., and the Israelis, want to see as much bad press on the Palestinian movement as possible prior to the Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. "summit" meeting scheduled for next month at Camp David, Md.

MANY PALESTINIAN MILITANTS KILLED

The attack was also undoubtedly to eliminate key political and military figures of the Palestinian movement. The Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) had concluded a meeting in their offices in the building barely an hour before the explosion. Thirty-

seven PLF militants were among the dead. Fatah, the largest Palestinian organization and that headed by Yasir Arafat, lost at least 16 cadre including two military officers.

The presence of Lebanese civilians among those killed and injured by the blast is being seized upon by bourgeois Lebanese politicians to fuel an anti-Palestinian campaign launched by them after the murderous invasion of South Lebanon by U.S. backed and armed Israel earlier this year. These politicians want to drive a wedge between the Palestinian movement and the oppressed Lebanese masses who have long seen the Palestinian struggle as their own and have given it vital political and military support. Le Monde quotes the Lebanese prime minister as calling for Beirut to be declared an "open city" with all weapons banned from residential areas. Of course, this would require the Palestinians to disarm.

However, for years now the Lebanese government has been trying to get the Palestinians to disarm, but to no avail.

SADAT'S CAPITULATION

This latest vicious attack on the Palestinian liberation struggle is a direct result of Egyptian President Anwar el Sadat's capitulation to Israel and to U.S. imperialism which began with his visit to Jerusalem last November. In this Egyptian version of Munich, Sadat, by appeasing Israel and its U.S. backers, deflected a military confrontation from Egypt towards the Palestinian liberation forces and the countries where they have their bases. Hence the Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon last March, the Israeli arming and increasing collaboration with the Lebanese fascists who now patrol parts of the south, the counter-revolutionary coup attempt in the

Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (which firmly supports both the Palestinian struggle and the Ethiopian Revolution), and now this atrocious bombing in Beirut. All this confirms that Washington and its puppet regime in Tel Aviv are out for the total destruction of the Palestinian liberation forces.

However, the Palestinian resistance has withstood tremendous attacks from imperialism, survived, and grown even stronger. Even the invasion of Lebanon by the Israelis, hell-bent on destroying the PLO, turned into a no-win situation for the occupiers who couldn't maintain a battle line and who were subjected to surprise attacks from the Palestinians at any time. So too, this latest attack, this horrendous bombing by U.S. imperialism or its agents, may boomerang and serve to bring closer together the different groups in the Palestinian struggle.

is collapsing

rallies, for example, has significantly dropped, while the casualty rate from the fighting has doubled, and, according to radio broadcasts, guerrilla attacks have taken place only 17 miles from Salisbury.

U.S. ROLE

The Carter administration has not hidden its interest in seeing the Rhodesia question settled in a way to safeguard U.S. imperialist

(Continued on p. 10)

ns charge

ents behind Iran theater fire

In the week preceding the "celebration," a popular revolt spread to all the urban centers of Iran. This included not only administrative centers but also the petroleum capital, Abadan, and the steel city, Isfahan.

By Wednesday, Aug. 16, despite government claims that all was calm, they nevertheless declared martial law in Isfahan and three other cities, put the army in a "state of alert," censored the press, and called off the festival of popular arts in Isfahan and Shiraz.

Then the revolt spread to the capital, Teheran, as a meeting mourning victims of the police was attacked with clubs and tear gas. The people responded with hand-to-hand fighting in the narrow streets of the bazaar, which was completely surrounded by troops.

The Shah, as he did in 1953, blamed communists for his troubles last week. This time, in an attempt to sow more confusion, he attacked "Islamic Marxists." While it is true that some of the leadership of the anti-Shah demonstrations this past year have been religious leaders, the driving force has been the city poor in revolt against the corrupt, repressive regime of the Shah.

The Shah's regime has taken advantage of the confusion caused by the movie-house fire. Reactionary pro-Shah demonstrations were organized for all of Iran's

cities and towns, with shows of police force in the bazaar areas. As of Monday, Aug. 21, the anti-Shah demonstration had been stopped for the time being.

PROGRESSIVES BLAME GOVERNMENT

Meanwhile, religious leaders, who could speak publicly, and progressives, who had to speak privately, denied any role in the burning of the theater. These opponents of the Shah said that it was the "hired assassins of the crown, the provocateurs of the secret service, the infamous SAVAK, who were again soaking their hands in the blood of innocents."

In Washington D.C., about 1,000 Iranian students marched in front of the Washington Post office yesterday, carrying signs reading "The Shah Burns the People, The U.S. Press Blames the People."

The Post had published an article which gave undue credit to the Iranian government's story that "anti-Shah fanatics" had started the fire. A leader of the demonstrators told the Post that the ISA had gotten word from Iran that the theater doors had been locked, and that the press in Iran had withheld news of the incident for 13 hours—with no explanation for the delay. The ISA expressed the belief that the SAVAK had set the fire to stop the growing anti-regime revolt.



Palestinians outside Beirut, Lebanon, after the Israeli jet raid last week.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Nicaragua

Guerrillas seize Palace

AUGUST 23—Last night at 12:40, about 20 leftist guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front stormed the presidential palace of Nicaragua's hated fascist dictator Anastasio Somoza. After a one-hour gun battle with the Palace Guard, guerrillas seized effective control of the building, capturing 67 pro-Somoza Senators as well as Interior Minister Antonio Mora, Luis Pailais Debayle, vice president of the chamber of deputies and a cousin of the dictator, and Jose Somoza Abrego, a politician and nephew of Somoza.

The Somoza family has ruled Nicaragua since 1937 in the capacity of local caretaker of the U.S. business interests that dominate the country. Somoza himself is a West Point graduate. In a reign of terror spanning four decades, the Somoza clan has piled up a family fortune worth at least \$150 million. The per capita income for the average Nicaraguan is \$440 a year. According to news dispatches, the freedom fighters who seized the palace are asking for \$10 million, freedom for all political prisoners, and a plane to take them to Cuba.

The Sandinista guerrillas take their name from Augusto Caesar Sandino who led the battle against the U.S. Marine occupation of Nicaragua from 1927 until he was captured and murdered in 1933.

Last January over half the entire labor force in Nicaragua took part in a 17-day strike against the Somoza regime. This did not prevent President Carter from sending a letter to Somoza last month praising him for upholding "human rights"!

Afghanistan

Right-wing coup fails

AUGUST 22—Last week, the government of Afghanistan foiled an attempted seizure of power by rightwing elements in the country.

The Prime Minister, Nur Taraki, has taken direct control of the nation's military in a step to prevent

further reactionary moves to topple the government. Among those arrested were the Defense Minister, Brig. Gen. Abdel Qadir and Army Chief Lt. Gen. Shapur.

Taraki emerged last April as the leading figure in the revolution that overthrew the reactionary, pro-U.S. regime of Mohammad Daoud. Daoud and his political clique had ruled Afghanistan in much the same way the Saudi family does in the Arabian Peninsula. Since the ouster of the old regime last spring, Afghanistan has been on a leftward course, which has frightened and angered the imperialists and their stooges in the area, the Shah of Iran and the fascist dictatorship of General Zia in Pakistan.

South Africa

U.S., Israel aid apartheid

AUGUST 21—In a gesture reflecting both their diplomatic isolation and their support of the apartheid government of South Africa, U.S. imperialism and its puppet state Israel boycotted the world conference on racism and racial discrimination which will be discussing sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, presided at the opening meeting of this conference Monday, Aug. 14 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The main thrust of the conference will be the discussion of economic sanctions against the apartheid regime. In the past, both the U.S. and Israel have given diplomatic support to racist South Africa. The reason both countries give for boycotting the conference was the UN General Assembly resolution adopted Nov. 10, 1975, which branded Zionism as another form of racism.

At that time, the UN passage of this resolution was a resounding diplomatic defeat for the U.S. and its imperialist allies. They were the ones who set up and supported the European settler-state Israel, in the midst of the oil-rich Middle East. The U.S. Congress, itself the home of some virulent racists, reacted to the UN resolution by forbidding U.S. participation in the UN anti-racist work.


 EDITORIAL

Scratch a liberal, find a militarist

On Tuesday, Senator George McGovern called on the U.S. government to attack the small southeast Asian country of Kampuchea and "Knock this regime out of power" (Washington Post, August 22).

In advocating military action against Kampuchea, McGovern echoed ultra-rightists like William Buckley and other reactionary extremists who have been urging just such a sneak attack for months. But McGovern, of course, had built a reputation of being **against** U.S. military intervention in Southeast Asia, and his call for a new U.S. war there dramatically underscores the rightward trend among liberal politicians who are now scrambling all over each other trying to give themselves a "tougher" image. McGovern, obviously, is working overtime to shed his reputation of being for peace. He aims to become "one of the boys" again in the Senate, and the bulk of the Senate these days is for intervention anywhere in the world that the Pentagon could get away with it.

Nevertheless McGovern's about-face on Southeast Asia is not quite the abrupt turnaround that it is depicted as in the capitalist press. When he came out against the Vietnam war in the early 1970s, McGovern did not condemn it as a war fought in the interest of U.S. monopoly super-profits but rather because, as he said, "It is the wrong war at the wrong place at the wrong time." Apparently he has now found the "right war at the right place at the right time" and wants to jump in with both feet.

McGovern has never been an opponent of imperialism and exploitation as such. In July 1972 he gave 100% backing to the racist and colonialist settler state of Israel, saying, "The U.S. must make and carry out a firm, long-term public commitment to provide Israel with aircraft and other military equipment in the quantity and sophistication she needs to preserve her strength in the face of Soviet arming of Arab threats of renewed war." He also at the time advocated leaving a "residual force" of U.S. soldiers in Southeast Asia. No real foe of the Pentagon militarists, McGovern assured a meeting of the American Legion in 1972 that "my budget would give us enough firepower to destroy Russia and China simultaneously 20 times over." Some "peace" candidate!

In addition to all this, McGovern was and is a racist. The *New York Times* of Nov. 9, 1972 observed that "McGovern's campaign strategists believed that they would be able to combine their movement with Mr. Wallace's to overwhelm President Nixon." This unprincipled strategy did not work, most of the racists voting for Nixon, but the very fact McGovern tried in any way to bloc with the Wallaceites shows that he is no friend of Black people. And this is doubly true of Native Indian peoples. On April 21, 1973 Senator McGovern sent a letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst (later convicted of Watergate crimes) saying "I urge you to take action to end the American Indian Movement occupation of Wounded Knee. No matter what the grievances, we can't have one law for a handful of publicity-seeking militants and another law for the ordinary citizen."

"I think," he continued, "we all recognize the patience and caution which the Department of Justice manifested in this situation, but there is a time when silence must give way to deliberate and decisive action." Against the Indians, McGovern comes out more right-wing than even Nixon!

McGovern's advocacy of a new U.S. attack on Southeast Asia is symptomatic of how the liberals of yesteryear, liberals who have caught the rightward change in the mood of the ruling class, are preparing to go with the current reactionary tide. California Governor Jerry Brown, posing as the originator of the anti-poor and anti-working class Proposition 13, is another example of this.

One thing in particular, however, makes McGovern's attack on Kampuchea particularly revolting. He has apparently "forgotten" that U.S. imperialism with its genocidal B-52 saturation bombing killed 800,000 people there. That's 10% of the population. It was the Pentagon that virtually ruined what was until 1970 a peaceful country, sowing the seeds of terrible problems that plague Cambodia to this day. By advocating a new war against a nation that, like Vietnam, has suffered so terribly at the hands of the U.S. military, McGovern demonstrated once again that even the most liberal capitalist politician is, beneath all the fine soundings of demagoguery, just another reactionary defender of imperialist aggression.

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Corporate criminals:

The big business behind Hitler

By ANDY STAPP

Well over 100 years ago, Karl Marx observed "If the profit is big enough, there is no crime that the capitalists will not commit."

A new book, *The Crime and Punishment of I.G. Farben* by Joseph Borkin, exploring the role of one of the huge corporations that backed Hitler during the long nightmare of Nazi rule, fully confirms the truth of Marx's charge.

I. G. Farben is the great German chemical monopoly that bankrolled Hitler on his rise to the top, financing his hysterical and monstrous attacks against Jewish people, Communists, trade unionists, and workers in general. The Second World War, which took 50 million lives, was a veritable profit feast for I. G. Farben and the other big German firms (as it was for the war profiteers in the U.S. as well). During the first three years of World War II, German capitalism expanded as much as it had during the previous half century.

I. G. Farben gave Hitler the explosives, the synthetic oil, the poison gasses, the synthetic rubber, the magnesium, the lubricating oil, and the other industrial products that the Nazis found indispensable for waging modern war.

Author Borkin quotes I. G. Farben executive August von Knieriem as saying that "Hitler's war would have been impossible had not the Americans presented us (at I. G. Farben) with the production plans, complete with their know-how for the making of the gasoline additive tetraethyl lead" needed desperately by the Nazi airforce.

Standard Oil and General Motors gave I. G. Farben the secret formula for the tetraethyl process.

I. G. AUSCHWITZ

At the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp, where the Nazis massacred 4 million people, I. G. Farben opened a branch: I. G. Auschwitz. Borkin writes that "I. G. Auschwitz was itself a concentration camp, complete with a 'standing cell' in which the victim could neither stand upright, kneel, nor lie down, a gallows from which a body or two usually swung as a reminder to others of what could happen to those guilty of

such crimes as 'eating bones from a garbage pail,' 'begging bread from prisoners of war,' 'stealing wood for a fire,' or 'warming hands.'"

Borkin adds: "The hospital wards built by I. G. Farben were so inadequate that even the SS suggested additional wards be built but I. G. refused because of the cost."

I. G. Farben, in addition to its many other crimes, manufactured the Zyklon B poison gas used in the extermination chambers.

What happened to the executives of this horror company after World War II? Nothing really. The most time any spent in prison was 5 years. Fritz ter Meer, an I. G. boss who was convicted of "mass murder, slavery, plunder, and spoliation" did a light prison term and then in 1956 was made chairman of the board at Bayer Aspirin! Once the Cold War had

broken out against the USSR, "top American businessmen were pressing our government to go easy" on the I. G. bosses, according to Borkin. And today the I. G. empire is even bigger and richer than it was under Hitler.

DIFFERENT STORY IN GDR

A pretty dismal picture. But Borkin does not tell the whole story. In eastern Germany, in the German Democratic Republic, the socialist transformation has swept away I. G. Farben completely, all major industry being nationalized and put at the service of the working people.

Capitalist West Germany has rewarded the firm that gassed millions and baked the bodies in ovens. East Germany has broken Farben and all the moneymen who stood behind Hitler. And that single fact speaks volumes about the superiority of the socialist system over capitalism.

EYEWITNESS ETHIOPIA

The Continuing Revolution By Deirdre Griswold



In this booklet:

- Meet members of the peasants' and urban dwellers' associations (kebeles) who are bringing the Revolution into every corner of Ethiopia.
- Visit the war front in the Ogaden where refugees and military commanders explain the international significance of the Somali invasion.
- Hear Chairman Mengistu describe the achievements and tasks of the revolution.

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Hua's trip to Eastern Europe and Iran

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

AUGUST 23—The visit of Chinese party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng to Romania, Yugoslavia, and Iran is being watched with much expectation and even glee by the imperialist world. It is receiving enormous attention in all the Western media, which are trying in every way to capitalize on the anti-Soviet connotations of the trip.

Certainly the intent of the Chinese leaders in picking these three countries for the first trip abroad of a Chinese head of state since Mao visited Moscow during Stalin's lifetime is first and foremost to extend their anti-Soviet, pro-imperialist foreign policy. Yugoslavia and, to a somewhat lesser degree, Romania are viewed by the imperialists as the two countries of Eastern Europe they have succeeded in pulling furthest away from the Soviet Union.

(Albania also broke with the USSR leadership long ago, but on a different basis and has maintained a strong anti-imperialist stand. For years a staunch defender of China's attack on revisionism, it has recently sharply condemned the policies of the Chinese leaders on a wide variety of questions. Albania has not even been mentioned by Chairman Hua on this trip.)

ROMANIA EMBRACED CHINA RECENTLY

Unlike Albania, which championed support for the Chinese line in the world communist movement at a time when that line was revolutionary and anti-imperialist, Romania opened up relations with China in the period after the Chinese leaders invited Nixon to Peking and began their rapprochement with U.S. imperialism.

Romania has also played a collaborationist role in the Mideast struggle. The only country in Eastern Europe to recognize Israel, it was the intermediary through which the Sadat-Begin meeting in Jerusalem was set up, a historic capitulation on the part of Sadat which has made it easier for the aggressive, expansionist Israeli settler state to concentrate its forces against the Palestinian liberation movement, as witnessed by the disastrous situation in Lebanon today.

While Hua praised Romania's "independence," he was not able to use Romania as a platform for an open attack on the Soviet Union. As yesterday's *Le Monde* pointed out, Hua in his final toast "omitted the traditional reference to the struggle against hegemonism, that is to say, in Peking's interpretation, against Moscow."

President Ceausescu of Romania had made it clear before Hua arrived that there is strong resistance in Romania toward being dragged into an openly anti-Soviet alliance with China. In a speech to the party on Aug. 3 reprinted by the Romanian News Agency, Ceausescu reiterated that Romania will remain a member of the Warsaw Pact Treaty "as long as the North Atlantic Pact exists" and will continue military collaboration with the other socialist countries of Europe "with or without the Warsaw Treaty."

He also reaffirmed Romania's participation in the CMEA, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which united the countries of Eastern Europe, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and now Vietnam in mutual economic cooperation.

Nevertheless, the very fact that Romania agreed to host the

Chinese leaders at this time, when China is on an aggressive world campaign against the Soviet Union while standing with the imperialists on every question from Zaire to Chile, puts the Romanians in the position of abetting what the imperialists are calling "a calculated slap at Moscow."

Certainly the leaders in Bucharest must be well aware that the leader of the pack against the USSR and all the socialist countries is U.S. imperialism with its tremendous military machine aimed at the East and its constant propaganda barrage against the workers' states cloaked as a concern for "human rights." The present Chinese leaders did not initiate this campaign to surround and isolate the USSR but are merely serving as imperialism's

"running dogs," a phrase coined and understood well by their predecessors.

TURNABOUT ON YUGOSLAVIA

Hua's next stop was Yugoslavia, a dramatic confirmation of the total turnabout made by the Chinese leadership in recent years. In the period of the Cultural Revolution, Yugoslavia was viewed in China as epitomizing the road of capitalist restoration and total capitulation to imperialism on the political front. The first polemics against revisionism were directed at the Tito leadership, in Yugoslavia, although in fact they represented the opening up of China's split with the Soviet party.

But with the triumph of a rightist grouping inside China,

which was consummated after the death of Mao Tse-tung but had been in progress ever since the fall of Lin Piao, former enemies have become friends. This can be seen nowhere more clearly than in the warm welcome accorded Tito last winter in Peking and now in Hua's visit to Belgrade.

Hua's last stop will be in Teheran, Iran, a powerful friend of imperialist interests in the Middle East, a military bastion of reaction in the Gulf region, and a major recipient of U.S. weapons viewed by the Pentagon as a virtual extension of NATO on the USSR's southern flank.

Not only is this trip an expression of Chinese-U.S. collaboration aimed against the USSR, but it also shows the utter contempt and disregard the present reactionary leadership in

China has for the progressive struggle of the masses. The Shah is under increasing pressure at home. Massive demonstrations have pitted his repressive forces (equipped by the U.S.) against tens of thousands of demonstrators, many of whom are openly anti-imperialist and pro-socialist.

Chairman Hua's trip is providing a comforting diversion for the imperialists, beset as they are with their own grave problems arising out of the instability of the capitalist system. It will further poison the relations among the socialist countries.

And although it gives further proof of the great setback suffered by the revolutionary forces in China, it still does not undo the socialist economic foundations which survive despite the triumph of political reaction.



Vietnamese fighting before liberation: "Czech-made AK-47s were used by the Vietnamese in their heroic struggle against U.S. imperialism."

Photo: Hsinhua News Agency

WW pamphlet reissued

'Czechoslovakia: 1968' stands test of time

By ROBERT DOBROW

NEW YORK, Aug. 21—Exactly ten years ago the Soviet Union, together with Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, and Bulgaria intervened in Czechoslovakia against the regime of Alexander Dubcek.

The meaning of this event, which has been hotly debated both inside and outside the communist movement over the past decade, can be understood with greater clarity today than ever before, especially having seen Czechoslovakia's role in providing aid and assistance to the national liberation struggles of the super-oppressed and colonized peoples in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

It is from this point of view, from the point of view of the world's workers and oppressed peoples, that the newly reissued pamphlet "Czechoslovakia: 1968—The Class Character of the Events" (World View Publishers) approaches the questions raised by the Warsaw Pact intervention. This pamphlet, containing a series of articles written by Workers World Party Chairman Sam Marcy, before, during, and after the August 21 intervention, explores the rightward drift of Czechoslovakia beginning in January 1968 when Dubcek came

to power.

It was immediately noted by the capitalist press in this country that Dubcek and the others he put in high office were "less eager to aid revolutionary forces and regimes in the Third World" (*New Republic*, May 18, 1968) and in fact were moving fast into the camp of the U.S., West Germany, and the other NATO powers.

"Czechoslovakia: 1968" examines both internal and external aspects of Dubcek's policies and stresses his opposition to what he called the "old course" of giving assistance to the formerly colonial peoples fighting against imperialism, such as Vietnam. The fact that the Warsaw Pact intervention saved the socialist state and suppressed the bourgeois restorationists meant that Czechoslovakia remained in a position to give material aid and assistance to those fighting imperialism around the globe.

Surely this was a crucial factor in the decision of Vietnam, Cuba, and People's Korea to support the August intervention, despite whatever other differences they may have had with the leadership of the USSR at the time. Czech-made AK-47s continued to go to the Vietnamese in their heroic struggle against U.S. imperialism, just as

today Czechoslovakia's working people give substantial assistance to countries like Ethiopia and Angola. If capitalist restoration had succeeded under Dubcek, this aid and assistance would now be going to reactionary client states of the U.S., like Pinochet's Chile.

Surely this is a major plus and a great asset to the national liberation struggles and the world socialist movement.

The relentless pressure of imperialism to subvert all the socialist states and to give encouragement to all the reactionary tendencies within these countries makes the analysis contained in "Czechoslovakia: 1968" still timely and relevant. This 65-page, well-illustrated pamphlet is currently available for \$1.50 from World View Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA: 1968

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Twice victimized by archaic laws

Woman arrested for self-abortion

By SARA FLOUNDERS

AUGUST 21—A woman who performed an abortion on herself with a knitting needle has been indicted for first-degree manslaughter.

Marla Pitchford, 22-years old, will go on trial in Bowling Green, Ky., on August 28. If convicted she faces 10 to 20 years in prison.

It is five years since the Supreme Court, under the tremendous pressure of hundreds of thousands of angry women, struck down the

archaic, anti-abortion laws. The right of women to control their own bodies, the right to prevent or terminate pregnancy was supposedly upheld as a basic human right.

Marla Pitchford is only one, painful example that the legalization of abortion will not guarantee women in capitalist society the right or ability to determine their own lives. Legalization is meaningless if cost and accessibility render abortion

beyond the reach of millions of women.

ABORTIONS NOT READILY AVAILABLE

According to a Planned Parenthood study, 30- to 50% of the women who need abortions are unable to get them. Abortions are not generally available to poor Black, Latin, and white women as well as to women in rural areas and these women are also victimized by forced sterilizations.

Some states provide little or no facilities due to the pressure of reactionary organizations, doctors, and hospital administrators. Private clinics charge fees of \$150 to \$500 and exist mainly in large, urban areas. Abortion in city hospitals for women on Medicaid are now illegal.

Marla Pitchford lived in Scottsville, Ky., a small farm town, 30 miles south of Bowling Green. The nearest abortion clinic is in Nashville, Tenn. She was 20 to 24 weeks pregnant when she used a knitting needle to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. When she was taken to Bowling Green Warren County Hospital for emergency treatment, the doctor turned her over to the police.

In a society where all laws exist for the benefit of the wealthy few, even progressive laws are twisted into weapons against poor and working people. Pitchford is being prosecuted under a new Kentucky statute that prohibits anyone but a licensed doctor from performing

an abortion. The law was intended to prevent quacks from performing back-alley butcheries and to insure safe abortions by trained medical personnel, but is now being used against the very women it supposedly was enacted to help.

The fact that even the most basic rights won through hard fought struggles are never secure in this society is best represented by the callous cynicism of President Carter's remark on the denial of abortions to women on Medicaid that "Some things in life just aren't fair."

For poor and working women and men in this society, very little is fair, right, or just. The only justice for millions of women will be the destruction of capitalist society and the building of a society which will ensure for women the right to control their bodies, the right to decide between healthy children and free, safe abortions, and the right to safe birth control, decent daycare, and full medical care.

Little progress made in women's rights, findings of National Commission reveal

AUGUST 17—The number of working women has more than doubled in the last 25 years. By September 1977, working women accounted for 41% of the labor force, but they earned, on average, only 60% of what men earned.

These were among the findings reported in The Spirit of Houston, the official report of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, which has just been published. The report also notes:

- Only 6% of American families fit the concept of the "average" family consisting of a bread-winning father, a homemaking mother, and two school-age children.

- Alimony is awarded in only 14% of all divorces and no more than 7% of divorced men actually make such payments.

- More than six million children of preschool age have working mothers, but only about 2% of them are in day care centers.

- Women are the poorest of the elderly. In 1976, women over 65 had the lowest median income of any age or sex group—\$2,800 a year—about half the income of men their age.

- A majority of new health insurance plans do not cover maternity services.

- Some state laws permit indeterminate sentences for women, and this leads to longer jail sen-

tences for women than for men convicted of the same crime.

- There have been 1,727 U.S. Senators in history, of whom only 12 have been women. Of a total 9,591 members of the House, only 87 have been women.

- Rape is the fastest growing crime in the United States, occurring at the rate of one every nine minutes.

- Women are 64% of all elementary and secondary school teachers, but only 2% of high school principals and 18% of primary school principals.

- The nation's 15 million nationally oppressed women have lower life expectancy and higher maternal mortality rates than white women.

The 29-cent crime of the century

By ELIZABETH ROSS

On Aug. 3, in the city of Winona, Minn., a 7-year-old boy underwent a court trial, with a prosecuting attorney grilling him for 1½ hours in the presence of a judge, a court clerk, and a court reporter.

What was the boy's crime, that it was thought necessary to subject so young a child—one who in all likelihood could not even read, let alone understand the law or the "rights of private property"—to such a grueling interrogation?

Did he try to murder his father, poison his little sister, or throw a bomb into the police station?

No, he was caught shoplifting a 29-cent plastic squirt gun.

There are few children anywhere who have not, at one time or another, been overwhelmed by the glittering display of tempting baubles they see everywhere in this consumer-oriented society, and it is only to be expected that if they cannot buy what every ad and every TV commercial urges upon them they will take it anyway.

But the judge and prosecuting attorney of Winona were anxious only to show how well they were protecting the property of one of their "leading" citizens, while at the same time filling other would-be juvenile offenders with a solemn dread of the awful might of the law.

Let us contrast this 7-year-old's

treatment with, for example, that of Robert L. Vesco, who is known to have swindled hundreds of thousands of working people out of \$224 million. He lives the life of Riley in Costa Rica and has never had to stand trial in the U.S. for his crimes.

Or, to take another case, let us look at the fate of the great majority of U.S. Congressmen who took millions in bribes from Tong Sun Park, a south Korean CIA agent. Not only have they never had to face a judge in court but were never even questioned by their understanding buddies in a Congressional hearing.

And, finally, did Richard M. Nixon ever go to trial?

'Gays unite and fight back!'

Following an August 11 attack by police on a gay health club in Milwaukee, more than 100 lesbians and gay men marched on the police station to demand an end to police harassment of gay people. The demonstrators encircled the police station and chanted, "Gays unite and fight back."

WW photo

—Zimbabwe

(Continued from p. 7)

interests and has been pushing the Anglo-American peace plan for over a year.

Although there has been no open U.S. aid to the Smith regime, U.S. firms have broken the UN sanctioned economic blockade, and the case against U.S.-owned oil companies is so strong that they are now being sued by Zambia in a court of international law. There have even been some moves in Congress to lift the blockade openly, using the sham internal settlement as an excuse.

According to Ndlovú, the

Patriotic Front estimates that 1,500 U.S. mercenaries are serving in the Rhodesian armed forces. Most of them are in the regular army, but some are serving as officers in the notorious Selous Scouts.

This underhanded support from the U.S., the threat of possible South African involvement, the breaking of the blockade and sanctions, in short all the sly, dirty tricks the imperialists have practiced so often, may postpone the inevitable. But the struggle continues, and victory is certain!

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

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

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

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



Assaults and murder in Reidsville

By BRUCE SMITH

ATLANTA, Aug. 20—Four days ago, one Black prisoner was murdered and three others injured in a racist attack in M-Building of Georgia's Reidsville prison.

Since March 16, one guard, two white prisoners, and three Black prisoners have been killed in fighting at the prison, and more than 30 prisoners have been injured in "major incidents," according to today's Atlanta

Constitution. But Georgia's big business press as usual fails to mention more than a dozen vicious attacks on Black prisoners that took place over the last two years.

Those attacks were exposed as part of an institutional practice of prison guards using backward prisoners to assault and even kill "troublesome" Black prisoners, and prevent all prisoners from uniting to demand human rights and decent treatment from the

guards and their bosses.

Although the big business press has recently printed some letters from prisoners and although former prisoners have charged in press conferences that guards and other state officials are behind the racist violence at Reidsville, the truth behind the fighting at Reidsville has been ignored or dismissed by state and federal officials who have direct authority over Reidsville.

The racist attacks were stopped

in late March when an Inmate Unity Committee (IUC) was selected by 600 Black and white prisoners. The IUC was recognized by the warden and began working out grievances concerning the well-being of all prisoners.

It now appears that then-warden Joseph Hopper, under pressure from the guards, the governor, and department heads, withdrew recognition from the IUC and had its leaders locked up. After that it didn't take long for guards and their racist agents to begin plotting more ambushes of Black prisoners. Since that time, the state and its slunkies have created and maintained a murderous reign of terror at Reidsville.

On July 23 a group of Black prisoners rebelled and one guard and two prisoners were killed in the uprising. Again attempting to escape blame for the killings, the guards have isolated hundreds of Black prisoners and subjected them to weeks of beatings, starvation, nakedness, and totally unsanitary conditions, and threats of medical murder if they go to the prison clinic for treatment.

The situation has been worsened by Federal District Judge Anthony Alaimo, who ordered "temporary" resegregation of Reidsville in July, supposedly to "stop racial violence."

The violence didn't stop but the state now wants the prison to stay segregated, because "reintegrating" would be too difficult, according to Corrections Commissioner David Evans. Judge Alaimo has said that the resegregation order probably led to the guard's death, but he doesn't seem willing to admit the whole truth and reverse his order.

The state's desire to smash desegregation and recognition of human rights for prisoners was made plain this week when Commissioner Evans removed Hopper and appointed Charles Balcom, a former guard, as the new warden of Reidsville. Balcom was quoted in today's Atlanta Constitution as saying, "Inmates will not have any say in how this prison is run," and that he will "formulate policy by the book." As for the IUC, Balcom condemned Hopper's meeting with them and said, "I won't recognize one here." Balcom, with public support of Gov. George Busbee and Commissioner Evans, has ordered a reorganization of the prison into four separate "behavioral" units. The state has given Balcom an additional \$21 million to complete the job in 90 days. All of that money will go to make Reidsville a more totally inhuman and repressive concentration camp for the poor, and especially the Black poor, for whom the system has no jobs or reasonable means of maintaining life.

Family members of prisoners are calling for a protest demonstration in Atlanta on Sept. 22. For more information, contact the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, (404) 523-8990.



Mother Jones

"I asked a man in prison once how he happened to be there, and he said he had stolen a pair of shoes. I told him if he had stolen a railroad, he would be a United States Senator."
—Mother Jones, labor organizer in the early 1900s

Pontiac: 'A long chain of abuses'

The following are excerpts from a letter to Workers World on the recent prisoner uprising at Pontiac prison in Illinois. Because of the threats of reprisals, the prisoner writer's name is being withheld.

The impact of the Pontiac Prison Rebellion on the Department of Corrections and the Imperialist State is still being felt. In its aftermath the Department of Correction has conducted a frenzied investigation in search of scapegoats to place the blame of the rebellion ("riot" as they call it) on.

While there has yet to be an indictment(s) handed down, the investigators have "leaked" to the local bourgeois press the existence of a list of names of possible

prisoners involved in the incident who will be charged with "crimes" ranging from murder to destruction of state property.

A very well orchestrated and well planned propaganda campaign has been unfolding since the rebellion to paint a malicious picture of the incident as both "senseless" and unnecessary. Nothing so ridiculous could be further from the truth. What has happened here was the end result of a long chain of abuses which had gone unabated.

There's a prison controlled grievance committee here which is a complete joke. Grievances filed by prisoners against conditions were either ignored or denied. Such a practice serves to only frustrate and discourage prisoners from using the procedure of redress.

Overcrowdedness was definitely

a problem. At least 1/4 of the prison population was without anything to do except remain in their cells.

WAVE OF REPRESSION

But overcrowdedness was but one aspect of the causes leading up to this last resort act of desperation by prisoners here. With the passage and implementing of Governor "Big Jim" Thompson's Class X crime law a new wave of repression was released by the prison system.

Prisoners who wanted to earn good time and go home sooner were forced to accept a greater amount of harassment and brutality from the racism of prison officials. A go-ahead policy was put into practice with complete impunity for whatever act committed in the service of the state. Arbitrary and petty

disciplinary write ups were more frequent and on the rise with the hearings conducted in an open atmosphere of hostility. No prisoner was free from these Nazi-style prison officials. It came down especially hard on Black prisoners who account for about 80% of the prison population.

Add to this a poor recreational program, bad food, over-priced commissary items, a wage slavery system where prisoners earn eight to eleven dollars each month, non-functional academic and vocational programs, and an escalation of the role prisons play in the Imperialist state and its attack upon oppressed Third World nationalities—then the picture becomes clearer.

We are not beasts and refuse to be treated as such. The official response to this act of defiance has been a prison deadlock which may last for months. We are not allowed to purchase smoking supplies or cosmetic items. Visits are allowed for attorneys now, but only for thirty minutes and must be conducted under the watchful eye of the guards!

At present a group of lawyers have taken the case of the deadlock and the visit denials to court, but so far have met with strong opposition.

SUPPORT REQUESTED

We the prisoners at Pontiac are asking that people show their support for us by writing to the Department of Correction demanding that the deadlock be lifted and visits be restored. All letters of protest should be sent to: Charles Rowe, Director of Illinois Department of Correction, 201 Armory Building, Springfield, Ill. 62706.

We are also asking that you write the lawyers who are working in our behalf to learn what you can further do to help. They can be reached at: The People's Law Office, 343 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1607, Chicago, Ill. 60604; 312/663-5046.

We are resolute and firm in our determination to defeat this reactionary practice of the Department of Correction and its functionaries at Pontiac.

If you are interested in learning more about what is happening at Pontiac and what you can do to continue to aid our struggle, write: Pontiac Prisoners Organization, Box 6020, Chicago, Ill. 60680.

George Jackson—rage undammed

On Aug. 21, 1971, state bullets cut down revolutionary leader George Jackson.

Jackson, born in the heart of Chicago's ghetto, moved to Los Angeles as a youth. When he was 15, he was shot six times by L.A. police and sent to a juvenile prison for seven months for allegedly shoplifting. From that time on George Jackson experienced firsthand the racist and oppressive nature of the state forces.

In 1960, Jackson was accused of taking \$70 from a gas station. Convinced to cop a plea by the district attorney in return for a promise of a light sentence, Jackson pleaded guilty. He received a sentence of one year to life imprisonment. He was 18 years old.

Eleven years later (most of it spent locked up in maximum-security), Jackson was Field Marshal of the Black Panther Party, a spokesman for the Black Liberation and prisoner movement, and a skilled revolutionary writer.

Jackson, along with Fleeta Drumgo and John Cluchette, were falsely accused of killing a Soledad guard. The prison officials claimed the guard had been killed in retaliation for an earlier murder of three Black prisoners by a guard firing from a guntower. The three charged known around the world as the Soledad Brothers, proclaimed their innocence. Jackson himself said that he looked forward to the trial to use it as a vehicle to expose the vicious brutality of the U.S. prison system as well as the racist

oppression of the Black community in the U.S.

Before he could be tried, Jackson was slain by prison guards at San Quentin. Although the guards claimed he was shot while trying to escape (he was certainly justified in seeking freedom from his racist captors by any means necessary), fellow prisoner Ruchell Magee charged that the fascist guards had shot George Jackson in cold blood in his cell.

Five years later during the 1976 trial of the San Quentin six, Louis Tackwood, an undercover agent for the Los Angeles Police Department, admitted that over a period of two years he and 18 state and federal officials conspired to carry out the assassination of Jackson and to destroy the Black Panther Party.

The state carried out the murder of George Jackson but it has never been able to erase his revolutionary legacy.

The writings of Jackson cannot fail but to stir generations of youth to come towards ceaseless struggle against racism and all forms of exploitation and oppression. Even the name "George Jackson" awakens to this day anger and pride in oppressed people everywhere.

Jackson wrote his own epitaph with the words; "Hurl me into the next existence, the descent into hell won't turn me. I'll crawl back to dog his trail forever. They won't defeat my revenge, never, never. I'm part of a righteous people who anger slowly, but rage undammed. We'll gather at his door in such a number that the



George Jackson

rumbling of our feet will make the earth tremble."

With these words, and with his example of strength and courage, George Jackson remains a part of the history of the laboring and oppressed class. Revolutionary fighters of every color, fighting shoulder to shoulder around the earth, can face the armed might of U.S. imperialism and say with confidence, "You have taken George Jackson from us once, but you can never take him from us again."

August 22, 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed. Both were innocent.



Demanding amnesty for political prisoners

40,000 hit repression in Mexico

Special to Workers World

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 20—"It was beautiful," said Rosa Moreno of a demonstration of 40,000 people in Mexico City on July 26 held to demand amnesty for victims of political repression there.

Moreno, a member of the Jose Medina Defense Committee, and Medina's wife, went to Mexico to investigate political repression there. Jose Medina is a Mexican revolutionary now living in Los Angeles who is fighting for political asylum in this country.

Moreno explained to **Workers World** that she was invited to Mexico City by Mrs. Rosario Ibarra y Piedra, the president of the National Committee to Defend the Politically Persecuted, Disappeared, and Political Prisoners in Exile of the Mexican Republic, to attend an important meeting of

this organization on July 22.

"The Committee was formed by Mrs. Piedra," Moreno said. Her son was arrested by the Mexican government in 1975 allegedly for being a guerrillero, and "he has been missing ever since." Mrs. Piedra went to many people, including the President of Mexico. "Finally she saw that the only way that anything could be done would be to organize around the issue."

By this time Mrs. Piedra knew many people whose relatives were being secretly held by the government, Moreno continued. "So—she's a very active, very energetic woman—she put together the committee a year ago this month, in August."

COMMITTEE ORGANIZED BY WOMEN

"The meeting I participated in was very inspiring, and it gives a

lot of hope because of what she had done and what those women have done. The Committee is basically women—mothers and wives, sisters," she said. "They have organized around the issue so well that they have organizations of the left with completely different political lines all working together in tremendous unity around the issue of getting amnesty. They want amnesty for all those persecuted, disappeared, exiled and imprisoned."

For example, the National Board of the Committee was formed while Moreno was there. The president is Mrs. Piedra, but on the board there is a representative from the Communist Party, the Mexican Workers Party, the Mexican Revolutionary Workers Party, and representatives from student organizations and from unions.

Besides families of those politically persecuted and the Mexican left, the meeting was also attended by all sectors of the working class, including representatives of the workers involved in a struggle at the General Hospital in Mexico City. The day before this meeting began police broke up the strike there by force and arrested many of the strikers. Now, their names have been added to the list of the politically disappeared.

Also attending were the Nacazari mine workers, who have been involved in a turbulent strike with mine owners, the U.S. banks which finance the mines, and the Mexican military since their strike began on Feb. 26. High school and university students, a women's group, a religious group, and representatives from different colonias outside Mexico City and

in the state of Mexico also attended. These colonias are housing developments that poor people get together and form on their own, Moreno said.

The meeting was opened with a press conference chaired by Dr. Refugio Lopez from the Committee. Mrs. Piedra spoke and Eduardo Balle, from the political bureau of the Mexican Workers Party, gave an analysis of the current situation in Mexico and why the Committee was struggling for amnesty. Also speaking was Valentine Campa, one of the oldest and most respected members of the Mexican Communist Party, Moreno said. Next spoke Barry Fatland from USLA, U.S. Comm. for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners.

It was pointed out at the meeting that U.S. banks, which

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Hunger strike protests

Chile-style disappearances in Mexico

By ESTELA VILCHEZ and KEY MARTIN

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 11—A hunger strike and sit-in led by peasant women which began July 17th in Juchitan in the state of Oaxaca, south of Mexico City, moved here to the capital and occupied the entrance to the offices of the United Nations on Aug. 3, in order to bring world attention to their struggle to free political prisoners in Mexico.

The women related accounts of murders, beatings, jailings, and Chile-style disappearances of peasant organizers and students active in a five-year struggle for land promised in the agrarian reform but kept illegally by the local caciques (rich landowners or latifundists who exercise economic and especially political control to suit their own purposes).

Representatives of the hunger strike explained to **Workers World** today how organizing efforts have been met with the most brutal forms of repression. Sister Laurenza Santiago was killed Nov. 20, 1975, when the police, who generally act as a goon squad for the local caciques, attacked a demonstration in front of the municipal jail to free imprisoned organizers.

At present 18 people have lost their lives and hundreds have been jailed or forced to flee the state in this struggle for land.

When inquiries are made about people who have disappeared, the usual reply is, "They were released and went to the U.S. as braceros (migrant farm workers)."

DEMAND RELEASE OF TWO ORGANIZERS

The hunger strikers are demanding to know the whereabouts and the immediate release of two organizers who have disappeared without a trace in the hands of local military authorities: Victor Pineda Enostrosa, a teacher and peasant leader, and Laureano Luis, a peasant and member of COCEI (Coalition of Workers,



The Peasant Student Coalition in Mexico City stages a hunger strike and sit-in at the UN building. Their demands are freedom for political prisoners and land for the peasants. WW photo

Peasants, and Students of the Isthmus), which initiated the hunger strike.

In Juchitan, 3,000 hectares (over 11 square miles) of land that had been promised to the peasants for the creation of an ejido (communal land collectives promised in the Mexican Revolution of 1910) have remained in the hands of one of nine rich landowners who used it only for grazing cattle or left it idle and uncultivated in the midst of hunger and starvation in the area.

Through the struggle of their coalition, the peasants were able to gain control of 1,000 hectares in 1975—but the best land remained in the hands of the rich family and the peasants were prevented from developing the land they did get by the withholding of water for irrigation and denying of credits from the rural bank for seeds and equipment.

The population of Oaxaca is largely Indian peoples and among

the poorest in Mexico. Many have retained their original Indian languages despite attempts by the authorities to impose the Spanish language on them.

These increasingly harsh conditions were met last year by an upsurge in the people's struggle, creating an atmosphere of insurrection that forced the national government to replace the corrupt state governor with a military administration on March 3, 1977. The military authorities, no friends to the workers and peasants, instituted an undeclared state of seige. The military governor, active Army Gen. Eliseo Jimenez Ruiz, admitted in an interview in *El Dia*, Aug. 6, that the conditions of poverty and latifundist patterns of land control have forced thousands of peasants into clandestine violence to survive.

U.S. COMPANIES CRITICIZED U.S. investments and

agribusiness corporations have come under increasingly sharp criticism in opposition newspapers here for their penetration of the countryside, resulting in the export of large quantities of food to the U.S. even though Mexico is a country where hunger stalks the land.

The hunger strike is struggling against one such U.S. venture—project Alpha Omega—to build an electric railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (the narrow point in the state of Oaxaca between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific) as an alternative to the Panama Canal, and the secret land acquisitions being conducted for it by U.S. interests in league with the local rich landowners.

(Mexico City itself has grown from a city of 6 million in 1970 to a city of 13 million today as millions are forced off the land. Joblessness is at 51% and the effects of

inflation—resulting in large part from the 50% devaluation of the peso last year—are devastating.)

The hunger strike was joined by a number of other groups including FREDEP (Front for Popular Defense) from the neighboring state of Guerrero, who were also demanding the release of political prisoners and disappeared people, including Prof. Eloy Cisnero Guillen, who was condemned to 25 years in prison by a kangaroo court.

A joint statement by students and professors at the Autonomous University of Guerrero declared its solidarity with the hunger strike in a powerful denunciation of the national government.

"Jail, kidnapping, torture, and death is the answer that has been given by the government throughout the country to any popular movement that has raised its voice in protest against the policies dictated by the International Monetary Fund and adopted by the national government. . .

"In our state where hunger and misery have been accompanied by a permanent state of seige, repression has increased when voices of discontent are raised. Two hundred and eighty seven peasants kidnapped by the police in the mountains [of Guerrero], brutal attacks against villages such as the killing of 8 peasants in Buenos Aires in the Cuajinicuilapa municipality in the last few months, are examples as to how the national government 'solves' our social problems." (*Uno Mas Uno*, Aug. 11.)

By going to the United Nations offices, the organizers of the hunger strike are seeking to break through the myth and curtain of silence propagated by the government that there are no political prisoners in Mexico. The hunger strikers have declared to the world: "La carcel y la muerte no detendran la lucha de los pobres" (Jail and death will not stop the struggle of the poor).