

Profit drive responsible

Job hazards biggest cause of cancer deaths

By HILLEL BAILIN
SEPTEMBER 12—What is the leading cause of cancer in the United States? Is it a virus? Smoking? Pollution? According to a major new study by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the single biggest cause of cancer in the United States may be *profits*.

The study, released by the Carter administration yesterday, admits that at least one out of five cases of cancer in the U.S. involves a worker who got the cancer from unsafe conditions on the job. The most dangerous occupations, according to the study, include work in

leather and shoe factories, coke ovens, cadmium production, metal mines, and in any type of job that involves asbestos. While many steps could be taken to make these industries safe, the owners refuse to correct cancer-causing conditions because safety is less profitable.

For example, exposure to asbestos on the job may alone cause 2 million cancer deaths in the next three decades. Despite the fact that the danger of asbestos has been known for years, it is still used in thousands of products like clothing, electric wire insulation, roof tar, and even children's toys. The workers who make these products are

forced to handle the dangerous material or lose their jobs. Management provides little or no protective equipment.

PROFITS COME FIRST

As far as the owners of the big and small businesses are concerned, profits come first. Safety equipment costs money. Substitutes for cancer-causing chemicals are hard to come by. Safe working conditions slow down production. Thorough medical check-ups cut into production time. Each boss figures he can simply hire another worker to replace someone who gets sick or dies.

Instead of trying to help make their factories and shops safer, the corporations have been fighting against even the mildest health and safety regulations. Groups like the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have been pushing for a bill which will deny protection to as many as 10 million workers currently covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). According to the proposed bill, small businesses which employ fewer than ten workers will not have to follow OSHA regulations. This bill, which is in reality being backed by the

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Anti-Shah, anti-Somoza protesters in D.C. join forces



WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 9—About 300 Nicaraguans and their supporters gathered in DuPont Circle here today to back the current struggle against U.S.-puppet Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza and in particular the Sandinist Front for the Liberation of Nicaragua. With the red and black flag of the Sandinists carried high, the demonstrators marched to the White House, where they held a joint rally with the Iranian Students Association who were protesting the

repression in Iran and U.S. support of the fascist Shah.

The feeling of solidarity between the two groups of demonstrators both protesting the role that U.S. imperialism has played in solidly backing the repressive governments of Iran and Nicaragua was demonstrated by the chant, "Down with Somoza; Down with the Shah."

WW photo: S. Lesser

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Boston coalition call endorsed by political, community groups

Justice demanded for victims of racism

By CHARLOTTE ECKARD
BOSTON, Sept. 9—A press conference sponsored by the Citywide Coalition for Justice and Equality was held here today to call for justice in the case of Edward Soares, Richard Allen, and Leon Easterling, the defendants in the Puopolo case, which will be appealed before the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court on Sept. 11.

These three men were sentenced to life in prison without chance of parole for defending themselves against a racist attack by a group of Harvard football players which resulted in the death of one of the players, Andrew Puopolo. The original trial was characterized by systematic and deliberate racism. A jury, which was all-white with the exception of one Black man,

and the outright racism of the prosecutor and the judge made it impossible for even a facade of justice to stand.

The incident took place in November of 1976 in Boston's "adult entertainment" district, where the Harvard football team was celebrating the close of the season. Soares, Allen, and Easterling became involved when they came to the defense of a Black woman who was down on the ground being kicked and assaulted by a large group of football players. They in turn were set upon and outnumbered by the players.

The statement read at today's press conference, which was endorsed by the entire Black Caucus of the Mass. Legislature and by a broad group of political,

religious, and community leaders, pointed out that these three Black men were given natural life sentences despite the fact that two of them were unarmed and one was not even at the scene of the stabbing. Testimony by the football players themselves showed that Leon Easterling, who admitted to stabbing Puopolo in defense of himself and Soares, had acted in an attempt to cool the situation and had not taken advantage of several more favorable opportunities during the incident to stab individual players.

CONVICTED IN PRESS

The defendants were hung by the media even before the trial started. The media continually played up the fact that Puopolo was a pre-med student at Harvard

and a member of the football team. The defendants, on the other hand, were viciously portrayed in a racist and sexist manner as "thugs" and "pimps."

Easterling stated that "the sensationalism by the press has outrageously degraded the judicial process. The pre-trial publicity that was given our case was contrived coldly and deliberately as a weapon."

The Citywide Coalition for Justice and Equality has called on the Supreme Judicial Court to overturn the murder convictions of Soares, Allen, and Easterling or to at the very least grant these victims of racist injustice a new trial. The Coalition will be supporting the defendants at their appeal hearing on Monday and plans to continue to build support for the case.

In Virginia

Unions lead attack on utility rate hikes

By JOE CELUKA
NORFOLK, Sept. 9—Each year in Virginia, the monopoly utility company called VEPCO asks for a rate increase. And every year there is an outcry from the state's poor and working people, who already pay the fifth highest electric rates in the country.

This year, however, that outcry has become more powerful and organized, as a coalition of labor unions and community groups has taken up the cry of "Say no to VEPCO!"

On Sept. 7, VEPCO officials went before the State Corporation Commission (SCC) in Richmond to request a \$246 million rate increase, the largest single request in the company's history and one that, if granted by the state regulatory agency, would result in a 25% increase in individual electric bills.

As part of the resistance to VEPCO's assaults on the standard of living of poor and working people, about 175 people, many of them elderly retired people on fixed incomes, had packed into a courtroom at the Chesapeake Civic Center on Sept. 5 as the SCC opened a regional field hearing on the rate hike. This hearing was the first of its kind ever held in connection with the rate hikes, and was itself a result of the mass pressure on the state to deny VEPCO its annual rate increases.

Despite the inconvenience of the hearing's time and place (a daytime hearing held in an isolated area of Tidewater, on a

workday, the day after a holiday, and the first day of school), a long stream of individual consumers, labor union members, and representatives of community and elderly groups took the microphone to blast not only VEPCO but also the SCC, which they accused of acting as a rubber stamp for the state's utility companies.

CULA RESOLUTION

A representative from the Center for United Labor Action (CULA) presented a resolution against the rate hike that had been endorsed by five labor union locals, four community groups, and representatives of two area churches. The resolution detailed the continuing attacks on the

living standards of Virginia's workers and poor people, charged that VEPCO had callously cut off electricity to thousands of Tidewater residents during the coldest months of last winter, and declared, "If this situation is ever to be turned around, it will only be when the poor and working people of Virginia, through their labor unions and community organizations, raise their voices and make their opposition heard."

Earlier, eight labor union locals and six community organizations had sponsored a "Labor and Community Speak-Out Against VEPCO" at Norfolk's Holiday Inn-Scope. Organized by Local 2202 of the Communications Workers of America and the Norfolk chapter of CULA, the

Speak-Out featured three union local presidents and a shop steward, representing long-shoremen, telephone workers, hotel employees, and factory workers; plus representatives from the NAACP, Consumers Congress of Virginia, and the CULA.

The SCC is expected to make its decision on the rate hike in about a month, and the labor and community coalition is now discussing ways to keep the pressure on the state to deny that rate hike. Regardless of the outcome of this particular rate hike battle, however, it is obvious that a new force is growing in Virginia, a grassroots people's movement led by organized labor that is sure to have an increasing influence on the future of Virginia.

—Cancer deaths

(Continued from p. 1)
largest corporations, has just passed the Senate and will become law if Carter signs it.

The results of the new cancer study were announced by Joseph Califano, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, who spoke yesterday at the AFL-CIO

National Conference on Occupational Safety and Health in Washington, D.C. Califano and other officials of the Carter administration were trying to convince the labor movement that the big business government really cares about the workers' health.

The fact that the government

released the study findings at all is no doubt due to the pressure of the AFL-CIO and millions of organized and unorganized workers who risk being sickened or even slaughtered every day on the job. But besides a few speeches, the Carter administration has not given any sign that it will do anything to actually protect the country's workers.

South Bronx to mark Lares uprising on Sept. 21

NEW YORK, Sept. 13—Plans are underway here for a commemoration of the historic Puerto Rican pro-independence uprising in 1868 known as El Grito de Lares.

The Caribe Village Organization, along with the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the Puerto Rican Independence Party, the Union of Democratic Puerto Ricans, the Committee to Free the

Four, the Panama Defense Committee, and Workers World Party will be sponsoring a two-day festival starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, at Vyse Ave. between 167 St. and Home St. Refreshments will be available and entertainment will feature La Cooperativa and Tipica Naturaleza.

For more information, contact Ponce Laspina, (212) 893-3802.

When the Legionnaire's Disease broke out in New York City, it took the lives of three people. The federal and city governments set up a command post, washed down city streets, and made a big publicity campaign in the hunt for an unknown microbe. Well enough, but what about industrial cancer that may kill 300,000 instead of 3? The cause is known and ways to prevent it are known. Prevention of job-caused cancer, of at least one-fifth of all cancer in this country, will cut into profits for big business, but is this any reason to let so many workers die?

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CHINA: the suppression of the left By Sam Marcy

Comprised of articles from Workers World newspaper, this pamphlet analyzes the sweeping developments in China following the death of Mao. Written in the very heat of the events and verified by later events, it deals mostly with the defeat of the left wing of the Chinese Communist Party and the comeback of the rightists who were purged during the Cultural Revolution. A major contribution to understanding the course of the Chinese Revolution.



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Despite martial law, brutal repression**Anti-Shah actions rock puppet regime**

By JOHN CATALINOTTO
SEPTEMBER 12—The mass demonstrations last Friday in Iran and their bloody repression by the army ended all of the phony talk of "reform" and "liberalism" from the Shah. Instead, the regime imposed bullets, martial law, and curfew on the capital, Teheran, and 11 provincial cities.

With the appointment of the ultra-conservative, religious leader Sharif-Emani as Prime Minister in late August, the Shah had hoped to appease the regime's religious opponents and split them from the swelling opposition. But mass protest continued, reaching a new pitch which revealed that the demonstrations are not basically religious in character, but political—demanding the ouster of foreign business interests and their stooge, the Shah. Hundreds of thousands of people spilled into the streets of Iran's cities, under the slogan: "The Shah is a murderer—down with the Shah."

To appeal to the soldiers facing them with bayonettes, the people threw flowers at them, calling on the soldiers: "Brothers, don't kill your brothers." Many troops expressed sympathy with the people in the streets, and one soldier, for instance, was seen by Western reporters going over to the demonstrators, who hoisted him on their shoulders, his machine-gun raised in the air.

ARMY FIRES ON STUDENTS

The army wavered, but was still in the hands of the Shah. Last Friday, facing 3,000 unarmed students in the Jaleh quarter of Teheran, the army showed its cruelest face. The students were seated in the street. The troops, led by U.S.-trained officers, fired once quickly in the air, as a mock warning, then turned their guns down and fired in the thick of the crowd. An Italian journalist on the spot said they looked like a "firing squad."

News of the bloodbath spread like a flash through Teheran, giving rise to new demonstrations against the regime and martial law, and new clashes with the army. The powerful bourgeois newspaper, Kayan, reported that 3 million people in all took part in the demonstrations.

In these clashes between the unarmed people and the police and the army, anywhere from 250 to 6,000 Iranians were killed, according to stories passed around Teheran. Helicopter photos shown Friday night on U.S. television showed sections of Teheran burning.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Despite the bloodbath and the martial law, the struggle against the Shah's regime continued. Opposition leaders who escaped arrest began to function clandestinely. Through Saturday and Sunday demonstrations flared up in the face of the army and the ever-present threat of death. The National Liberation Front, a strong political force in the opposition, appealed to the people to "continue and intensify the struggle."

Teheran was quiet but tense, its streets paralyzed by a general strike. In other cities only the presence of the army in full battle dress kept the regime in control of the streets.

Mohammad Hosseini, one of the opponents of the Shah now in the U.S., spoke today with **Workers World**. Hosseini was angry with the coverage in the U.S. ruling class press of the events in Iran.

He explained that people were not against the Shah's so-called modernization, as the U.S. ruling class press has tried to claim, but against the foreign control of their country. The U.S. alone has tens of thousands of military advisors, businessmen, and oil technicians in Iran. Western dress and culture is imposed on Iranians along with rule of western capital. This is what the people are against.

"Ayatollah Khomeini, the most popular of the religious leaders," said Hosseini, "is so popular because he most consistently calls for the downfall of the Shah." He also pointed out that Iran's poor and oppressed go far beyond the orders of these religious leaders, who tell them not to destroy the banks. "The people smash them anyway," he stressed, "especially those banks in the poor neighborhoods which hold mortgages on homes and small shops."

Hosseini made it clear that the events in Iran were thoroughly progressive in character, were directed against the Shah and against imperialism. "The people are now looking for arms," he said. "Some say arms are coming from Afghanistan. Some say soldiers are giving them arms.



The bloody repression of mass demonstrations in Iran last week ended all the phony talk of "reform" and "liberalism." Here, angry demonstrators carry the coffin containing the body of one of some 250 to 6,000 Iranians reported murdered Friday by the Shah's police.

Only the bare armed force of the state—the police and the army—stand between the people of Iran

and the monarchy. And the people are standing up to that armed force.

"They are appealing to the soldiers. They are preparing to fight."

U.S. imperialism backs Shah

By JOHN CATALINOTTO
SEPTEMBER 13—His hands freshly covered with the blood of thousands of Iranians, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi reached for the phone last Sunday. On the other end was his staunchest supporter, U.S. President "Jimmy" Carter, offering friendship in his hour of need.

Carter had called to "express his regret over the loss of life and his hope that the violence would soon be ended." A presidential spokesman also said that Carter voiced support for the Shah and said he hoped "the movement toward political liberalization would continue."

The spokesman didn't say if Carter considered the use of troops to fire point-blank on demonstrators and the imposition of six months of martial law as part of this movement toward "political liberalization."

Along with this presidential

support, the U.S. ruling class press, which calls itself the "free press," also has backed up the Shah. It falsely has painted the opposition as religious fanatics and terrorists backed by the USSR, and has called the Shah the best leader for Washington's reliable ally on the Persian Gulf.

A typical editorial was that by syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft. The U.S., says Kraft, is "heavily dependent on the Persian Gulf for oil. With weak regimes in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and India, Iran is the only force for stability in the area."

Kraft insists that the U.S., that is, the U.S. ruling class, doesn't have the luxury to demand human rights or a corruption-free government in Iran. He wants action to prop up the Shah's regime, and says Carter's phone call "is only a beginning of the kind of American backing required if the Shah is to play in global politics the role this country

(the U.S.) demands."

While these words show the ease with which the U.S. politicians and media can find reasons to continue to back a mass murderer, they also raise the threat of further U.S. military intervention in Iran. The U.S. already has 40,000 businessmen, oil technicians, and

military advisers there, ready to defend the "vital interests" of the ruling class that Kraft is worried about.

The vital interests of the U.S. working class, on the other hand, lie with the Iranian workers and peasants, against the Shah and any U.S. intervention in Iran.

L.A. cops arrest 171 progressive Iranians

SEPTEMBER 10—On Sept. 1, nightstick-wielding Los Angeles cops launched an assault against a picket line of anti-Shah students from Iran, arresting 171 of the over-400 participants.

The demonstrators, members of the Iranian Students Association, were protesting the pro-Shah news coverage in the Los Angeles Times, which had given support to the Iranian regime's lie that the opposition

had set the fire which killed over 500 people in Abadan, Iran.

As the march approached the Times building, 50 police attacked, beating people to the ground before arresting them. Many demonstrators were hospitalized for injuries, including a broken leg and a fractured skull. The courts set outrageous bail on the students, totaling \$450,000.

Middle East summit**New U.S. maneuvers against Arab masses**

By JOYCE CHEDIAC BETRIES
SEPTEMBER 12—The Middle East summit meeting now in progress in Camp David, Md., between U.S. President "Jimmy" Carter, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat, and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin is a far cry from the "peace" meeting it is made out to be.

No, this meeting of the heads of state of the most savage and predatory imperialist country in the world, of its garrison state in the Middle East, and of the Arab government which caved in to imperialist pressure and betrayed the liberation struggles of the Palestinian and Arab people, has war on its agenda—war against the Palestinian liberation movement and the countries where it has its bases of support.

If these parties are so interested in peace, why did Israeli forces, using U.S.-supplied planes, conduct a vicious air attack into

Lebanon only three days before the summit began? Why did Israeli fighter bombers fly so low over Beirut on Sunday that they cracked sonic booms? Why were 25,000 Israeli soldiers massed in the occupied Golan Heights last week? Peace? These are invasion preparations.

"PLOTS AGAINST THE ARAB NATION"

No, this is not a peace meeting. Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Daddam has called the Camp David meeting, "a link in a chain of plots against the Arab nation." And yesterday Tass, the Soviet press agency, accused the U.S. of pursuing at Camp David "selfish interests of a military character insuring a strengthening of U.S. control over the Middle East and its oil arteries."

And indeed, Carter has proposed a military pact with Israel that may bring U.S. troops into the West Bank and a U.S. air

base in the Sinai Peninsula. It is this proposal, adventurous in the extreme, that Carter said he would present to Sadat and Begin at the summit meeting. U.S. troops in the Middle East would pose the very real threat of a Vietnam war against the Arab masses.

There are other forces, however, at work in the Middle East that stand in the way of U.S. imperialism's realization of its predatory dreams. Increased war threats from the U.S. could cause Arab governments to rely more on the Soviet Union for help. Last week, for example, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam said, "Arabs should mobilize themselves and make military pacts with the Soviet Union if current efforts to conclude an American-Israeli mutual defense pact are realized."

In addition, though Washington and Tel Aviv are congratulating themselves on Sadat's capitulation to them, just by raising the peace

question they sparked a hope within many Israelis for a real peace. On the eve of the Camp David summit, more than 100,000 Israelis, demonstrated in a protest organized by the "Peace Now" movement, against Begin's intransigence and called for the return of the areas occupied by Israel in 1967. In a population of 3.5 million a demonstration of this size indicates that there are many in Israel who do not want more war.

And real peace in the Middle East can only be achieved when the right to self-determination of the Palestinians, and their right to regain their stolen homeland becomes a reality. To the last child, this is what Palestinians, supported by the masses of the Arab nation, are fighting for. And whatever new adventures the Pentagon may embark on in the Middle East, gains for U.S. imperialism can only be of a temporary nature.

Is racism really on the rise?

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

SEPTEMBER 12—Have racist attitudes on the part of the masses of white people in the U.S. really been on the rise in recent years?

Directly countering the "white-backlash-is-gripping America" notion that has been widely distributed by the idea manufacturers of the capitalist media, a 12-year survey of racial attitudes reported on in the June issue of Scientific American shows just the opposite.

The findings of the nationwide survey, conducted by the National

Opinion Research Center (NORC), showed that "since 1970 white Americans have moved steadily towards approval of racial integration" with a sharp leap in that direction occurring between 1970 and 1972.

The survey was conducted in 1963, 1970, 1972, and 1976 by asking a sample group of approximately 1,350 people a set of questions such as, "Do you think that white and Black students should go to the same schools or different schools?" Those giving what were considered to be "in-

tegrationist" responses were then counted up in comparison to the rest.

The results showed that in 1976 over 75% of those polled showed an acceptance of school desegregation (although the survey showed a slight backward trend on this issue since 1972).

TREND CONFIRMED

The leading nature of the questions and the smallness of the sample size could make the survey's findings questionable taken by themselves. But this

NORC survey consistently asked the same questions over an extended period of time, and as a result shows a trend which has been confirmed by other NORC surveys on related issues and further confirmed by Gallop Poll results.

One interesting aspect of the NORC's findings was the role of young people throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Before 1970, the youngest age group questioned became anti-racist in both the North and South much faster than any other age group. But

between 1970 and 1972, age no longer remained a major factor as the three older test groups registered the largest anti-racist gains over their past prejudices while the younger group remained about the same.

PART OF OVERALL PROGRESSIVE TREND

According to the Scientific American article, a number of studies of U.S. attitudes on other issues show a similar pattern of slow but steady change in a progressive direction throughout the 1960s, a rapid change in the early 1970s, and a return to the steady rate of the 1960s in recent years. James A. Davis, a researcher at NORC, showed this same pattern in the population's support of abortion rights for women and other women's issues.

The confirmation of the sharp increase in progressive sentiments among the masses between 1970 and 1972 sheds more light on the real nature of the right-wing campaigns such as the "anti-busing" and "right-to-life" movements that sprung up during that period and continue today. These campaigns were a conscious, organized response by the reactionary forces to counter the growing progressive, anti-racist and anti-sexist views among the masses of poor and working people, particularly among white workers and poor. "Backlash" was what the ruling class wanted, not what they had. An example was the close connection between the Pontiac "housewives movement against busing" led by a local Michigan rightist Irene McCabe, and by the Nixon regime, which was in power during that time. McCabe later stated publicly that she had been used by Nixon, and that the small group she led had served as a cover for the administration's attacks on the gains won by the civil rights movement, giving a pretense of having widespread popular support for these attacks.

These organized attempts by the ruling class to turn back the struggles of oppressed people and women for equal rights and to stifle support for these struggles have intensified in recent years. The capitalist class depends on racism, sexism, anti-gay bigotry, and reactionary prejudices of all kinds to keep the working class divided and exploitable.

Although racist attitudes and more importantly serious material inequalities still exist to divide the working class the advance that was achieved during the 1960s and 1970s over the broad prejudices that have been perpetrated among white workers and poor by the ruling class are the direct result of the heroic liberation struggles of the oppressed people within the U.S.

Federal report shows

Ultra-right dominates election lobbying

By BRIAN BECKER

SEPTEMBER 12—A report issued last week by the Federal Election Commission shows that four of the five biggest money-raising lobbying organizations for this year's elections are identified with the ultra-right.

The function of these money-raising outfits is to support Congressmen, governors, judges, and other office-seekers, who, in return for financial contributions, promise support for the racist, anti-labor, anti-woman, and anti-gay programs of the extreme right.

These lobbying organizations,

which the AFL-CIO claims have raised \$40 million this year already, are fronts for established big business interests. The leading organizations, in order of financial clout, are Ronald Reagan's Citizens for the Republic, the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, the National Conservative Political Action Committee, the American Medical Political Action Committee, and the Gun Owners of America. The fifth leading money-spender, the American Medical Society, which is allegedly "non-political," also has a history of supporting the most rabid right-wing candidates.

The recent Supreme Court decision upholding the racist Bakke decision, the failure to ratify the ERA, and the recent referendums denying civil rights to gay people are the most glaring examples of the aggressive shift to the right by big business. Also targeted has been every reform won by labor since the 1930s.

TARGETS OF THE RIGHT WING

The right-wing fund-raising organizations have used their millions to help defeat the Labor Law Reform Bill, to stop any national health insurance legislation, to restrict and roll back the meager consumer

protection laws, and to further limit the powers of OSHA (the federal job safety agency). They are now pushing for the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires that workers on federal construction projects be paid union scale.

Another big effort being pushed by the bosses is a referendum to make Missouri the 21st "right-to-work" state. "Right-to-work" laws, which outlaw a union shop, are a bosses' dream. Workers in those states, particularly in the South, where "right-to-work" laws predominate, have learned that they really mean the "right" to work for less.

Founding conference set for Sept. 18

Indian women to form militant rights group

By DIANE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, Sept. 8—"We the women of all Red Nations will take our place and stand proudly with our sisters in the world in the common struggle for all basic rights."

This statement is part of the founding Declaration of a militant new organization, Women of All Red Nations (WARN), who will hold a founding conference in Rapid City, S.D., from Sept. 18 to 22.

Lorelei Means spoke to *Workers World* today about the plans for the organization of WARN. Means, a Winnebago-Minnecojou Lakota, is a respected leader of the American Indian Movement and is a member of the We Will Remember Survival Group.

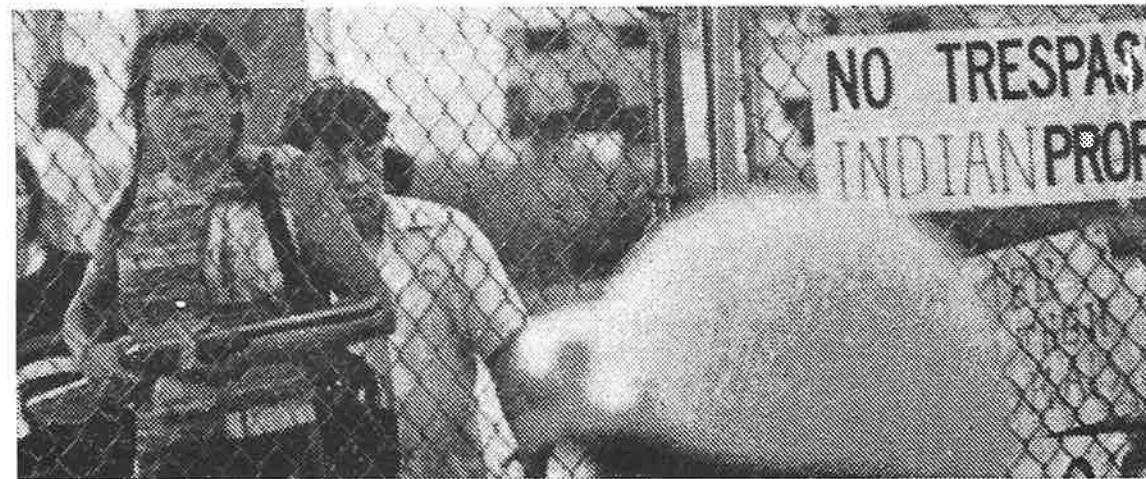
"WARN will be women of the Indian nations in this country that are in struggle—women of the Northwest nations involved in the fishing rights struggle, women of the Navaho nations in the Southwest involved in fighting gassification, strip mining, and coal mining on Indian land," she explained.

"From South Dakota will come women fighting oppression like the poor people all over the country," Means added. "We have the Black Hills, and every major energy corporation plans to move in on a large scale, if we don't resist now."

"Women of the Iroquois nation are involved in the formation of WARN; Ojibway women from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada will be participating; Northern Cheyenne women who are fighting strip mining and women of various tribes in California will be involved."

ROLE OF NATIVE WOMEN

Means pointed out that the formation of WARN did not mean that women had not been involved



"In resistance, women are the backbone of the total struggle of Indian people." Here, a Menominee woman stands guard at a missile site in Chicago which members of her tribe took over in June 1971.

all along. "Women were involved in the formation of the International Indian Treaty Council, were the backbone of the American Indian Movement," she said. "Legal defense committees formed for Indian political prisoners of war are actually run by Native women." She noted the struggle of indigenous women against racist sterilization abuse and the development of alternative education schools for Indian youth.

"All areas of Indian life, in resistance, women are the backbone of the total struggle of Indian people," Means emphasized.

Means explained that the respected role of women within Native nations is not a new phenomenon. She said, "Women in the traditional world of Native people were mothers of chiefs and warriors, and women actually picked the chiefs. In the Indian world and up to today, women and men alike have got to earn the respect of the people.

"I'm a woman. I've been involved in the American Indian Movement since I was 16. I earned the right to get up and speak, just as my husband (Ted Means) did.

Women have always been involved in the fight against U.S. imperialist colonization," she said.

AN ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN IN STRUGGLE

Speaking of WARN's future, Means said, "This organization will be a mouthpiece for Native women in struggle in this country. How to go about, what to do. We have plans after the conference to have women staffed in both Treaty offices (New York and California). We want women involved in meeting ambassadors, going on international tours, disseminating information to the country."

"We are concerned with the oppression of all people in this country," Means stressed. "We are hurt when the Puerto Rican people are denied sovereignty from U.S. colonialization. We suffer when the Black people are under oppression in this country and the white people.

"We have a responsibility to take care of the land in this country, we are the caretakers," Means said. "There's a Lakota prophesy (all Indian prophesy really). The day will come when

this country will decay and the Wasicu will be dying. Wasicu doesn't mean white, it means "takes the fat, takes the best." On that day when the last Wasicu is dying—an Indian will be there to help."

For more information contact: WARN, c/o Lorelei Means, Porcupine, S.D.

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Postal workers wary as

Arbitrator set to impose contract terms

By KENNY PETERSON

SEPTEMBER 13—This past June, about one month before the postal workers' contract was due to expire, the Carter administration put the word out that it "would lean hard on the 600,000 postal workers to sign a new contract that would slow wage gains" (New York Times, June 16; our emphasis—WW).

Jimmy Carter has lived up to at least one of his promises. The postal workers have been hit with federal court injunctions, the mass firing of militant rank and filers, the mobilization of 90,000 troops for strikebreaking duty, a 5.5% freeze ordered by Carter on all government workers' raises, and now—government-imposed contract terms through so-called "arbitration."

ANTI-LABOR OFFENSIVE

The postal workers comprise the largest bloc of unionized federal workers, making them a major target of (and potential obstacle to!) Carter's wage cutting. The 5.5% freeze is one more anti-labor measure in a long series which the government and the corporations are trying to fashion into a wide-ranging anti-labor offensive.

Against the array of anti-worker weapons wielded by the postal authorities and the government the workers have but one defense—the strike. But the top officials of the postal unions have relinquished this weapon, defying the mandate of the rank and file and their delegates. The U.S. Postal Service has succeeded in pressuring the top leaders of the postal workers' unions into betraying the workers' cause and submitting to Carter's wage cutting.

RANK AND FILE BETRAYED

At the conventions last month of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Association of Letter Carriers

(NALC) resolutions were passed requiring the national leaderships of these two unions to initiate strike action if the Postal Service refused to reopen negotiations leading to an acceptable agreement. Emmet Andrews of the APWU and J. Joseph Vacca of the NALC instead violated the instructions of the conventions and agreed to limited negotiations and arbitration.

This betrayal was bitterly opposed by the postal workers. They saw that without democratic procedures, the government was able to exert more influence over the union leaders than was the rank-and-file membership itself. Although a majority of both unions (the APWU and the NALC comprise 480,000 of the country's 570,000 postal workers) rejected the proposed contract with the

Postal Service, Andrews and Vacca agreed to exclude from the renewed negotiations the issues of amnesty for the fired workers, excessive forced overtime, a "cap" on the cost-of-living formula, and a host of other problems from which the postal workers are demanding relief.

Andrews and Vacca agreed to negotiate on the issues of wages and the no-layoff clause only, with arbitration to be imposed if no agreement is reached within 15 days. It now appears that the government-appointed arbitrator, James Healy of the Harvard business school, will impose binding contract terms this Saturday, September 16.

"A NEW WRINKLE"

In what a worried Wall Street Journal report describes as "a new

wrinkle," Andrews announced that he would submit the arbitrated contract to the APWU membership for ratification. Obviously troubled by this exercise of elementary democratic procedures, officials of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service have derided this move as an "empty gesture," since arbitration is supposedly "binding." Yet they fear most of all, real rank-and-file ratification and its logical corollary, the right to strike. According to the government's "labor relations experts," the needs and desires of over half a million workers count for less than the word of one Ivy League professor who never has to lift anything heavier than a law book.

But Healy is not just an individual "arbiter," and certainly not an impartial one. The ar-

bitration process which he personifies is a device employed by the government to impose unfavorable terms and conditions on the workers who, though unwilling to submit to management, have been prevented from carrying out an open struggle in defense of their demands. By pretending to be "neutral," and by offering just a mite more, perhaps, than management's "final" offer, arbitration is regarded by the postal authorities as the "bait" for a lousy contract.

But the postal workers are not about to be fooled. They may get cheated out of what they deserve, but they understand very clearly what is happening to them. Sooner or later, they will use that knowledge to win their demands. And in their struggle, they deserve the support of all labor.

In 35-day-old strike

Broad labor support for NYC pressmen

By BILL HACKWELL

NEW YORK, Sept. 12—The 35-day-old newspaper pressmen's strike re-entered negotiations here today after a two-week break-off.

The immediate issue in the strike is the newspaper owners' attempts to eliminate half of the 1,600 pressmen. As one striking pressman told *Workers World* at strike headquarters today, "This would double the amount of work we'd have to do. It would mean the remaining workers would have to run all over the plant; you'd never finish one thing. It would make work on the presses haphazard and more dangerous."

The conditions that have been presented by the publishers are outrageous and totally unacceptable to the pressmen. What the owners have done is to come

with terms to force the workers to go out on strike in a premeditated attempt to test the durability of the union. The question of union-busting is something that is always on the minds of the bosses, but in the newspaper industry, the defeat in 1976 of the Washington Post pressmen's union is still fresh on the owners' minds.

According to the Sept. 6 *Christian Science Monitor*, the New York Post owner Rupert Murdoch, who is anti-labor and anti-worker, is considering ways to publish the Post completely with non-union labor. It was Murdoch who in March began bringing in small numbers of scabs protected by armed security guards to replace union pressmen. It is the general feeling of the striking

pressmen that if Murdoch and the Post proceed with his plans it will open the door to a violent confrontation.

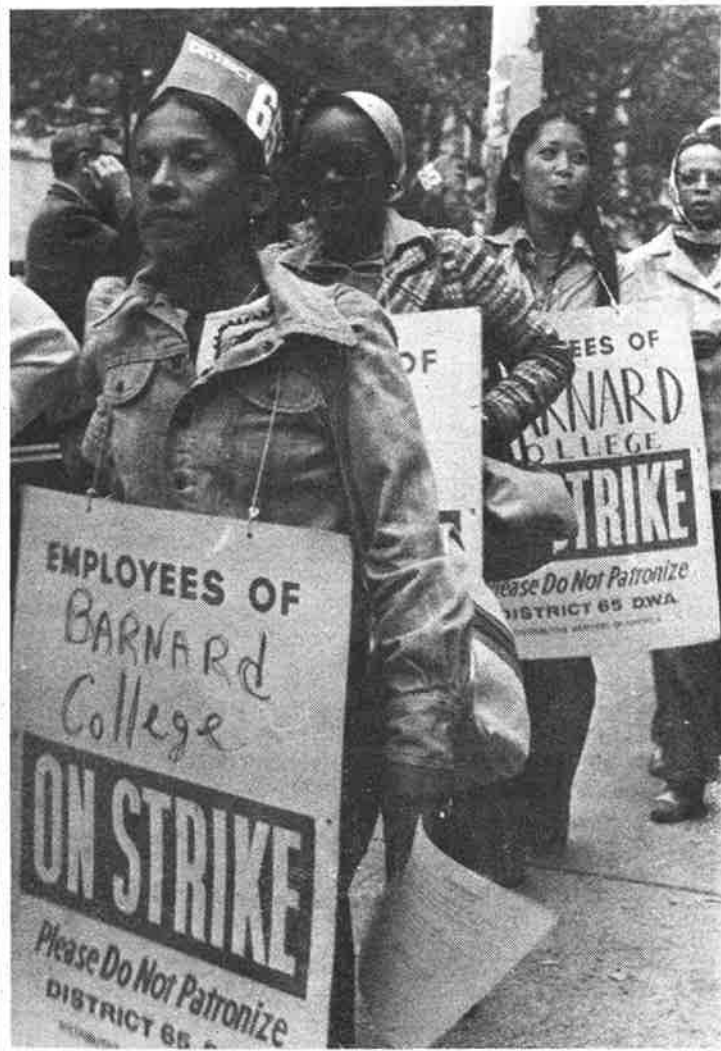
What the owners had not anticipated in this strike was the tremendous solidarity and support displayed by other unions and labor organizations. Not only are the pressmen receiving support from their associate newspaper unions in the city's Allied Printing Trade Council, but also from the garment workers, the hotel workers, the United Farm

Workers, the postal workers, and others.

The atmosphere in the strike headquarters of the NYC Printing Pressmen's Union Local 2 is one of continued determination. Morale is high as the strikers continue to picket New York's three major dailies around the clock.

As one union official told this reporter, "Everyone has been showing up for picket duty and cooperating in doing everything possible to make this strike a success."

Barnard clerical workers reject contract



NEW YORK, Sept. 11—Striking clerical workers from Barnard College here rejected the administration's latest contract offer today. The members of the union, Distributive Workers of America (DWA) Local 65, are mostly women, Black, Latin, Asian and white, and average a mere \$140 per week. Barnard's best offer of an \$8-a-week raise won't even match the rising cost of living. A 24-hour-a-day picket line is being maintained at all entrances to Barnard, and has been honored by security guards and maintenance personnel (TWU Local 264) and by postal workers who have refused to deliver mail.

WW photo: Bill Hackwell

Chicago workers in solidarity action

N & W clerks still out after 2 months

By PAUL ALLEN

CHICAGO, Sept. 5—Clerks have been on strike at the Norfolk & Western (N&W) railroad for over two months. The country's major railroads have set up a "strike-breaking fund," money which they give the N&W as a gift to help them break that strike. The Chicago & Northwestern (C&NW) railroad gives more than \$26,000 a day to that fund.

Last week, clerks from the N&W set up picket lines at the C&NW. They did not succeed in closing down the C&NW's operations; but 100 clerks did refuse to cross the line.

When the C&NW railroad bosses threatened those clerks with disciplinary action, including possible firings, for an act of labor solidarity, the workers shut down the entire rail system.

The strike by 3,000 clerks, which was honored by 10,000 switchmen, engineers, track and

car repair workers, and other union members, brought the C&NW's freight traffic to a halt and shut down commuter traffic in Chicago. In a matter of hours, the C&NW management withdrew its threats.

STRIKERS LOSE IN SETTLEMENT

The settlement had its negative side, though. Fred Kroll, president of the railway clerks' union, assured the C&NW that striking clerks from the N&W would no longer picket the C&NW.

The main issue in the N&W strike is job protection. Clerks at the N&W have lost 40% of their jobs in the last five years due to automation, speedup, and the giving of clerical work to non-union, "management" personnel.

Though the 15,000 other N&W workers are supporting the 4,600 striking clerks, the N&W has been

able to run about 180 trains a day on its system with management personnel—compared to 600 a day before the strike—by completely ignoring every federal rail safety rule.

PUBLIC ENDANGERED BY N&W STRIKEBREAKING

The N&W runs trains up to 150 cars long with no cabooses, without the number of train crew members required for safety. The trains contain broken-down, unsafe cars and engines which the N&W has no people to repair.

The trains carry explosive substances, acids, lye, poison gases like ammonia and chlorine, and flammable compressed gas—that could kill anyone living within a mile of an N&W track. Federal rail safety officials refuse to investigate.

LABOR SOLIDARITY CRUCIAL TO N&W STRIKE

The N&W does not have to rely on its own funds. Its "competitor" railroads fix and switch its cars and give it cash. On smaller railroads, like the Chicago & Western Indiana, N&W picketers have been able to close down operations and force these practices to be stopped. But the chances of the N&W strike will certainly improve if they can win the active support of the hundreds of thousands of other railroad workers.

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Vincent Copeland

Smith imposes martial law but

Zimbabwe forces score major gains

By PADDY COLLIGAN

NEW YORK, Sept. 12—On Sept. 3, liberation forces of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front operating from Zambia shot down an Air Rhodesia passenger plane shortly after takeoff from Kariba in northwest Rhodesia. The guerrilla forces appear to have used a shoulder-launched SAM-7 missile, the proven ally of liberation movements in Africa and Southeast Asia.

The downing of the plane sent a wave of fear through racist Rhodesia because it represents a significant advance for the liberation forces. No longer will the Rhodesian settler regime have unchallenged use of the air to ferry its troops and material around and to launch its murderous raids on refugee camps in neighboring countries.

COMMERCIAL PLANES USED FOR TROOP MOVEMENT

Patriotic Front sources here told *Workers World* today that commercial planes are often used by the Rhodesian military to move troops and supplies into and out of operational zones and that many of those killed in the crash of the downed plane were actually soldiers or their relatives. (Kariba is a civilian and military recreational area.) A spokesman

for the Patriotic Front here said, "If the Rhodesian regime continues to allow tourists and other civilians to enter areas we control, they will have to accept the risks. After all they can't continue to pretend there is no war going on there."

Determined to turn this military defeat into a propaganda victory, the Smith regime came up with a rehash of its usual "anti-terrorist" fabrications. This one had liberation fighters shooting ten of the 18 survivors. Dutifully reprinting this rather improbable tale complete with lurid details, the U.S., British, and French imperialist press forgot to mention that **all reports filed from Rhodesia are subject to censorship by the Rhodesian military.** Any information or analysis which differs from the official statements do not get past the censor.

SMITH IMPOSES MARTIAL LAW

On Sept. 10, Prime Minister Ian Smith announced a crackdown on the supporters of the Patriotic Front, arresting as many as 200 people. He also announced that martial law would be imposed selectively wherever and whenever it was necessary in order to "liquidate" the liberation forces and those who support them. He

should have added "when possible," given the strength of the liberation forces and the support they have throughout the country.

Smith's announcement of the "limited" martial law strategy came as a sharp disappointment to the extreme right inside Rhodesia which has organized for electoral purposes as the Rhodesian Action Party. These ultra-reactionaries have been urging Smith to adopt a policy of "the ruthless prosecution of the war which the situation demands," including the punitive attacks on Zambia and Mozambique which Smith had hinted at earlier. But the racist occupiers of Zimbabwe—dwindling as they are in number—are being taught that the time is past where they can rule without challenge. In fact, Rhodesia's collapse would have occurred long ago if it had not been for the unwavering economic and military support of its imperialist backers.



As Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza cowers in an underground force of the mass uprising of the Nicaraguan people has surprised ruling class backers. Above, Sandinista guerrillas.

Peoples Korea celebrates 30th anniversary

By BARBARA TEEL

SEPTEMBER 11—On Sept. 9, millions of people filled the streets of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding. In the past 30 years, socialist northern Korea has developed out of the poverty and underdevelopment left by Japanese colonialism into a strong industrial nation whose people enjoy the fruits of their own labor.

The successes achieved by the people of north Korea are all the more remarkable since they came after a devastating war launched by the U.S. and in the face of continued U.S. military provocations.

U.S. TROOPS DIVIDE KOREA

The DPRK was founded in 1948, after the U.S. refused to permit the reunification of Korea, which had been divided after World War II. The U.S. has forcibly maintained the separation of Korea with an occupation force of 40,000 troops armed with nuclear weapons. By the time the DPRK was founded, the interim government in the north had already nationalized major industry and the banks, instituted labor law reforms, and begun the collectivization of the land. A massive literacy program began to eliminate the widespread illiteracy.

For the U.S. multi-national corporations, socialist revolutions in China and Korea, especially at a time of growing anti-imperialist struggles in Southeast Asia and throughout the world, meant the loss of huge areas of the world to their exploitation. They looked for a way to win back some of their losses. Korea, which borders on both China and the Soviet Union, seemed to be the perfect target for aggression.

KOREAN WAR

On June 25, 1950, the U.S. launched the Korean War. The U.S. military bombed every structure in north Korea, carried out massacres of civilians, and, according to an international investigation commission, engaged in chemical and biological warfare. Three years after the war began, the U.S. was forced to sign an armistice ending it. For the

first time, U.S. imperialism had been fought to a standstill.

SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION

The DPRK mobilized the entire population to rebuild their devastated country. Although the U.S. militarists had bragged that north Korea could not recover from the war in 100 years, production reached the pre-war level in fewer than three years! Industrial development has continued at a rapid pace. Under the Japanese colonialists, Korea did not even manufacture its own pencils. Now, the socialist north makes its own sophisticated machine tools and electric locomotives.

Agriculture has kept pace with the development of industry. The DPRK, a country which is 80% mountainous, is now able to feed all its people—and still export rice.

One of the first acts of the government in the north was to guarantee equality for women. Women play an important role in society, working as doctors, research scientists, and heavy machine operators.

While socialist construction

advances in north Korea, U.S. troops remain on the border between north and south, posing a constant threat of renewed war. The serious U.S. military provocation in August 1976, when the U.S. came perilously close to launching a war over the cutting of a tree in the demilitarized zone, showed only too clearly what a potential powderkeg the U.S. occupation force is.

U.S. TROOPS THREATEN NEW WAR

Far from withdrawing from Korea, the Carter administration is shipping in huge amounts of new weapons and stepping up its provocations against the north. The Pentagon is adding a new tank unit to the U.S. Second Infantry Division in Korea, and \$800 million of U.S. military equipment is being turned over to the Pak Jung Hi dictatorship in south Korea, which is propped up by hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. aid each year.

The people of northern Korea know all too well that all the wealth they have managed to create since the end of the Korean War could be blown to bits if the U.S. imperialists launch another

50,000 Peruvian miners supported by 24-hour protest strike

By TANA MARIE LOY

SEPTEMBER 13—Despite intense repression by Peruvian government troops, thousands of civil employees in Lima went out on a 24-hour protest strike last week in support of Peru's 50,000 striking miners. A general work stoppage, such as swept Peru last month, is again a possibility with steel workers, auto workers, civil service, and banking employees showing their solidarity with the miners. In all parts of the country troops are attacking support demonstrations, and it is as though the country were "under a state of siege."

Last Wednesday, troops shot their way through barricades set up by 5,000 miners and their families in downtown Lima. Dozens were wounded. The miners and their families were dragged away under heavy police guard and boarded onto freight trains returning them to Andes Mountains mining camps.

The firing of 320 union leaders, harsh anti-labor decrees, and a 25% wage hike in a country brought to the brink of starvation with 70% inflation are the main issues. But the miners' strike, as well as a possible "open-ended strike," is an outgrowth of a general economic crisis created in large measure by the pressures of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its loan agreement with the Peruvian government calling for the imposition of new "austerity" measures.

The plunder by the imperialist corporations and banks has already created widespread hunger and even starvation. The IMF—dictated austerity measures are serving to drive the standard of living even lower.

However, the resistance of the Peruvian people has grown and sentiment against the military dictatorship of President Rafael Bermudez and U.S. imperialism is deep.

Stephen Biko 1947-1977



SEPTEMBER 12—One year ago today, Stephen Biko was tortured, stomped, and beaten to death in his jail cell by fascist South African security police, who were later exonerated by the apartheid courts, which claimed that the 30-year-old Black liberation fighter had "committed suicide."

Biko was a widely known and respected leader of Black people in South Africa. A leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, he founded the South African Students Organization, and was honorary president of the Black Peoples Convention.

When news of his death became known, more than 1,000 people attended memorial services in Soweto, the Black ghetto outside of Johannesburg, which was the scene of a mass uprising in 1976. After the memorial service, police attacked a protest demonstration by Fort Haare University students and arrested 1,500 for "terrorism."

The following week, 20,000 African mourners defied police by holding a public funeral for Biko, and all over the country and the world, angry demonstrators chanted, "Avenge the death of Steve Biko."

EDITORIAL

NATO saber-rattling

While Carter, Begin, and Sadat are putting on their "peace" charade at Camp David, the Pentagon militarists and their imperialist counterparts in Western Europe are moving step by step toward war. According to an Associated Press dispatch (Sept. 6), "Some 140 warships and submarines slid through the English Channel yesterday in the first part of a three-month series of intensive NATO military exercises that will range from the North Sea to Turkey."

The AP report added that "the sea exercises, code-named 'Northern Wedding,' involved 40,000 sailors and 800 aircraft."

Tass, the Soviet news agency, has branded "Northern Wedding" as "a new military merry-go-round" in the growing imperialist drive toward war. If anything, this is an understatement. This month alone, 170,000 NATO soldiers are scheduled to take part in so-called war games in Central Europe. In addition to the ground troops, the NATO militarists are committing massive air and sea forces as well as marine units and air-mobile assault units.

A REACTIONARY MILITARY ALLIANCE

There can be no doubt about the character of the NATO armies. The organization is a military pact that brings under one umbrella the armed forces of all the old imperialist and colonialist powers—France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, West Germany, and Great Britain. Until the mid-twentieth century the ruling classes of these countries openly held the vast majority of humanity in colonial bondage and even today the French imperialists continue to occupy half a dozen African countries with their troops. England's savage military occupation of the northern part of Ireland, a continuation of 800 years of British colonial domination of the Irish people, is so notorious that it hardly needs comment.

Of course, these European capitalist countries are only the junior partners in the NATO alliance; the ringmaster is U.S. imperialism. Without U.S. imperialism there would be no NATO; Wall Street and Washington call the shots in this counter-revolutionary pact. It was U.S. imperialism that, working through NATO, installed the fascist military junta on the backs of the Greek people. It was U.S. imperialism, once again using the NATO apparatus, that financed, trained, and equipped the Portuguese colonial forces in Guinea-Bissau, Angola, and Mozambique. And it was U.S. imperialism, using NATO military pressure against the Portuguese people after they had overthrown the hated Salazar-Caetano dictatorship, that worked night and day to undermine and threaten the budding working class revolution in that country.

GIANT WAR PROVOCATION

This year's NATO military exercises are the largest in history, mobilizing troops on three continents. Last week 14,000 soldiers were transported from the U.S. directly to Europe, a signal to the world that the Pentagon is ready and able to move large bodies of troops great distances, that no nation is immune to military attack by U.S. imperialism.

This is not to say that the Pentagon's military might is all powerful. That myth died on the battlefields of Vietnam.

The oppressed people of the world, the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries and the working class of Europe are all overwhelmingly opposed to the reactionary plots being hatched by the NATO high command. Nor do the people of the U.S. want to be led into another war. The latest Harris Poll showed that 59% of the people here oppose Carter's call for increased military spending. The current NATO "war games" demonstrate not only the growing ruthlessness of U.S. imperialism but also its increased desperation, its fear of the rebellious people everywhere fighting to liberate themselves from the grip of capitalism and neo-colonialism. And as can be seen by the recent developments from Ethiopia to Iran to Nicaragua, the future belongs not to a handful of militarists and moneybags but to the world's people.

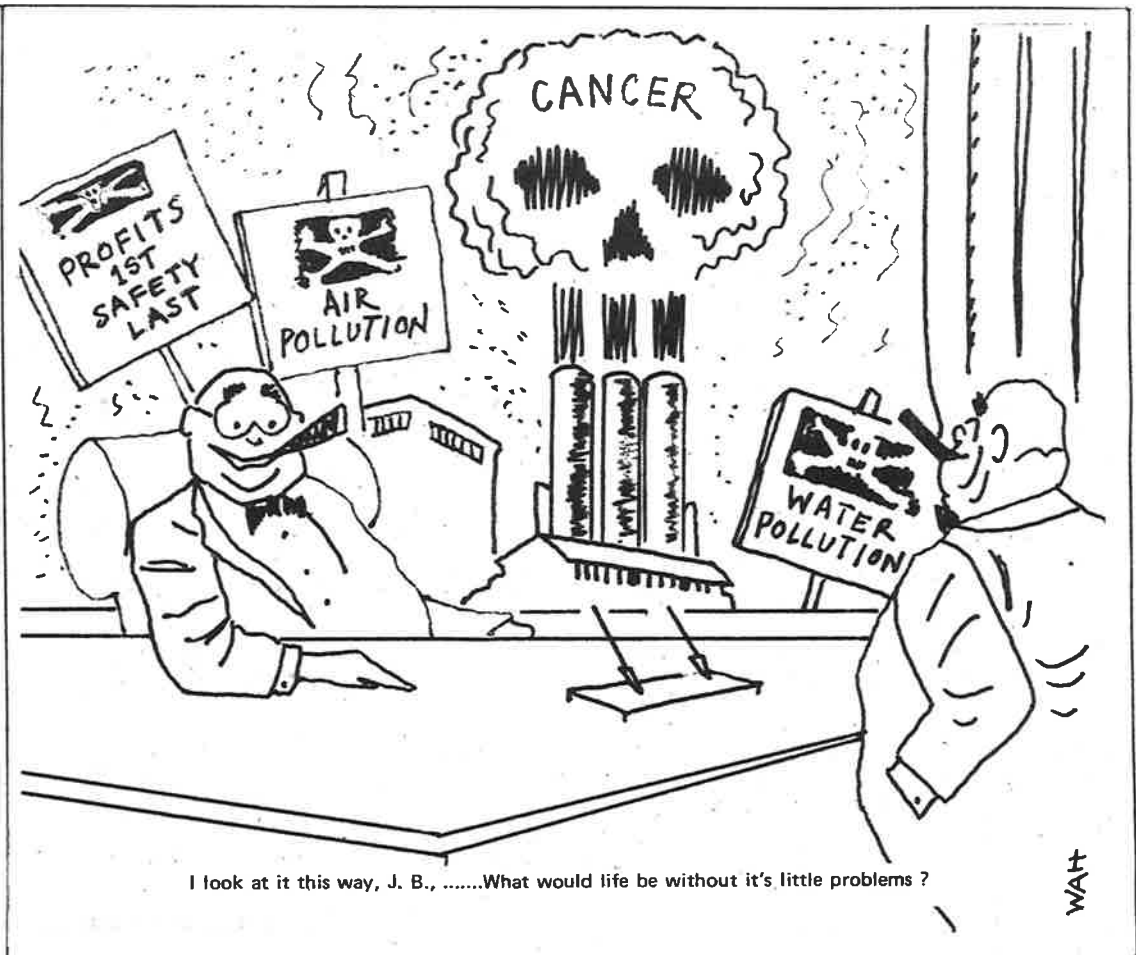
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I look at it this way, J. B.,What would life be without it's little problems ?

JFK assassination probe

House Committee readies new whitewash

By P. MEISNER

SEPTEMBER 12—The House Select Committee on Assassinations has erected a facade for itself as an impartial body investigating the murder of John F. Kennedy—but that facade is crumbling fast. In fact, the committee gave itself away right at the beginning of its current public hearings being held in Washington when it told the press in advance that it had "found no conspiracy."

And although the House Committee has heavily weighted the first week's testimony in favor of the government's "lone assassin" version of the killing, the most significant testimony has nevertheless again pointed towards a powerful ultra-rightist conspiracy.

The committee's most celebrated witness, former Nixon cabinet official John Connally, testified that he is still certain that two different bullets wounded Kennedy and himself in the Kennedy limousine in Dallas on November 22, 1963. The "official" government report, known as the Warren Commission Report, was published in September 1964, ten months after the assassination. The report's "lone assassin" conclusion rests on a virtually implausible theory—that one gunman (Lee Harvey Oswald) was capable and did fire three bullets, one of which wounded both Kennedy and Connally, (known as the "magic bullet") another which hit Kennedy in the head and killed him, and a third which missed entirely.

"MAGIC BULLET" THEORY DISPROVED

Critics of the Warren report have since 1964 proved convincingly that one bullet could not have traversed through the bodies of both Kennedy and Connally even based only on the evidence compiled by the Warren Commission. Furthermore, results from ballistics tests, the application of forensic pathology, and other modern scientific techniques have ruled out the "magic bullet" theory. Nellie Connally, the wife of John Connally (who was governor of Texas in 1963), also agreed with her husband's testimony on two separate bullets wounding

Kennedy and her husband. She testified to the committee:

"I heard a disturbing noise and turned to my right and looked in the back and saw the president clutch his neck in both hands. He said nothing and slumped down."

"The second shot hit him (Connally) as he turned to look at the president. I thought he (Connally) was dead. The only thing I could think of to do was to pull him (Connally) into my lap. I never looked back. I heard Mrs. Kennedy say, 'They shot my husband.' Then I heard a third shot. Mrs. Kennedy said, 'They have killed my husband. I have his brains in my hand.'"

Even the Warren Commission conceded that if Kennedy and Connally were struck by two different bullets, more than one gunman had to have fired at the Kennedy motorcade—since it is accepted by all sides that Oswald's alleged rifle could not have been fired that rapidly to strike Kennedy and Connally one second apart. Warren Commission Counsel Norman Redlich himself acknowledged:

"To say that they were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying that there were two assassins."

Yesterday, an acoustics expert

testified before the committee that a recording of sounds from a Dallas police motorcyclist's microphone also shows that four shots were audible in Dealey Plaza, two or them too close together to have been fired by the same gunman.

COMMITTEE COVERS UP

While allowing these testimonies to be aired, the House Committee and its ruling class sponsors hope to make this inquiry the "final word" on conspiracy "speculations." The committee will no doubt eventually publish a report reflecting all versions of the Kennedy assassination but denying that any of the new or old evidence proves the existence of a conspiracy. In other words, a whitewash.

The committee was really established by Congress to squash the truth and prevent, hopefully, any new investigations of the assassination. For 14 years, public disbelief of the massive cover-up of a giant rightist conspiracy has forced the issue to be continually debated, even within the capitalist-run Congress. But only the political intervention of the masses in the U.S. can root out the true story of the neo-fascist plotters behind the events in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

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Chanting 'Viva Lenin' and singing the 'Internationale'

Ethiopian masses celebrate Selassie's overthrow

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD and CLAUDETTE FURLONGE
ADDIS ABABA, Sept. 12—Half a million people turned out here today to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie and to pledge themselves to the building of a socialist Ethiopia.

They also gave a heroic welcome to Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro whose presence at the ceremony in massive Revolution Square symbolized the internationalist aid Cuba has extended to the Ethiopian Revolution.

From the opening with the singing of the "Internationale" to the final detachments of people's militia that paraded by the reviewing stand, the celebration was characterized by the exuberant participation of those who had truly been "the wretched of the earth." The broad masses, young and old, women and men, from all of Ethiopia's varied nationalities made this day their own.

Beginning at four o'clock this morning, it was virtually impossible to sleep here in Ethiopia's capital city. The night pulsed with excitement as thousands of marchers and spectators began to take up their positions near the square. Chanting and singing crowds, dressed in their holiday best and brightest, surged through the streets.

By 7 a.m., Revolution Square was thronged with people. Bright red, blue, yellow, and green uniforms representing different mass organizations were matched by a gay display of flags. Those of Cuba and Ethiopia flew always side by side, flanked by the banners of the many other socialist countries that have aided the Ethiopian Revolution.

"LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM!"

Huge portraits of Marx, Engels, and Lenin looked down on the festive crowds. Two large slogans faced the square: "Long Live

Proletarian Internationalism!" and "Workers and Oppressed Peoples of the World Unite!" As everywhere, more prevalent even than the national flag on display, was the red banner, the international emblem of the working class.

Underlining the serious purpose of the occasion, the program began with a major address by Comrade Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) and the Council of Ministers. Mengistu's talk was a frank and detailed report to the people on the progress of the Revolution. While it reviewed the great successes forged by the Ethiopian people over the past year against internal counter-revolution, invasion by the Somali army, and secessionist movements in the North, it also laid out the tremendous task of economic construction that lies ahead.

Saddled for centuries with a feudal system that was propped up to its dying day by the imperialists, Ethiopia is a country desperately in need of roads, electrification, food, medical care, modern agricultural methods and tools, and light and heavy industry.

"Our goal is socialism and communism," said Mengistu today, even as he urged on the struggle to overcome the feudal past.

The four-hour parade that followed his speech was convincing evidence that the masses of Ethiopia are ready to take up this battle. This display of downtrodden humanity rising to its feet was unique in human history for the richness of its cultures and its pageantry.

There were 4,000 young people in a rhythmic gymnastics display; militia men and women marching with precision and verve; armed workers' detachments who chanted "Viva Lenin;" grizzled veterans of the war against Mussolini's fascist armies fairly exploding with militancy; floats



Photo: Ethiopian Herald

Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam addressing a mass rally at Revolution Square in Addis Ababa in August.

showing workers and peasants plying their art; a sports detachment with boxers boxing, cyclists cycling, soccer players carrying on a running contest, and even a floating volleyball game!

Over it all an army helicopter flew by, dropping revolutionary

leaflets that fluttered down to the outstretched hands of the delighted crowds.

Five thousand marchers represented the urban dwellers associations of Addis Ababa. They carried banners supporting the liberation struggles of the

Palestinians and the peoples of southern Africa and the Western Sahara.

MANY NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED

But the greatest combination of the old and the new was the contingents of all of Ethiopia's many nationalities: Oromos from the South; Somalis from the East; Forest people from Lampela in the West; Issas, Afars, and Kunamas from the Red Sea region of Eritrea, and many, many more.

Oromo men and women rode horseback, the men wearing lion's pelts draped over their shoulders and monkey-fur wigs.

Some tribes wore their native musical instruments: long horns, stringed gourds, even conch shells. Some were barefoot and ragged; others were adorned with bright costumes. They marched in the thousands singing, dancing, and chanting, the women often the most exuberant.

Last of all came a procession of camels, led by men holding aloft red flags. A final banner read: "Forward to the Decisive Revolutionary Victory."

Throughout Ethiopia today, in every city and town, other celebrations were also taking place. But this great day did not belong to Ethiopia alone. It was a fabulous procession in humanity's march towards the socialist future.

At New York press conference

Ethiopia's UN ambassador speaks to press

By KEY MARTIN

NEW YORK, Sept. 12—"The fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian People's Revolution has a special significance," Ethiopia's UN Ambassador Muhammed Hamid Ibrahim declared here this afternoon. "It takes place at a time when the heroic sons and daughters of Ethiopia have scored decisive victories over the combined forces of expansionism in

the East, secession in the North, and counter-revolution from within—each coordinated and aided and spurred by international imperialism and reaction."

Speaking to a group of reporters and writers from Africa, Cuba, and the U.S. media, the ambassador explained that "at one point the national survival was almost at stake."

He stressed that the Ethiopian Revolution is of far-reaching significance not only for Ethiopia but also for Africa and, indeed, for all progressive and peace-loving peoples throughout the world.

"The importance of the Ethiopian Revolution to the world progressive movement," Ambassador Ibrahim continued, "is amply demonstrated by the fact that the contents of our revolution are characteristic of the present era—an era of transition from servitude to emancipation, from exploitation to genuine independence, from capitalism to socialism."

He summarized the achievements of the revolution for those who gathered: from the overturn of the feudal regime; to the nationalization of the land and

extra houses and the return of the land to the tillers; the proclamation of socialism and the "right of self-administration and regional autonomy for all nationalities within a united and revolutionary Ethiopia." He also described the deepgoing significance of the mass organizations of farmers, workers, and city dwellers, and the election, for the first time in Ethiopian history, of "city, borough, and village administrations elected democratically by the residents themselves and fully accountable to them."

Speaking of the invitation to Fidel Castro to visit and participate in the fourth anniversary celebrations, the ambassador added that "it is no secret that the assistance and solidarity shown by the Cuban comrades helped us in our war to defend ourselves when the Somali aggression took place."

He also explained that the Cuban Prime Minister is there to participate in the current international conference which will "forge a united front against imperialism and reaction and as an expression of solidarity with the struggle of the people of Africa against imperialism and racism."

At memorial meeting for Mao

RCP abandons Chinese Revolution

By SARA FLOUNDERS

NEW YORK, Sept. 9—The present Chinese leadership represents a "bourgeois fascist dictatorship over the masses" leading China "down the road to capitalism," declared Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, speaking here tonight to a meeting advertised as a memorial to Mao Tse-tung, a defense of the Four, and a discussion of the right turn in China.

"Teng and Hua carried out a fascist coup" and are "returning all the old feudal junk and with it the misery and poverty of the old society," Avakian declared to an audience of over 1,000, many of whom were bused in from around the country to attend the meeting at City Center. In his 3½-hour talk, Avakian repeatedly used the words "capitalist" and "bourgeois" to characterize the right-wing Teng-Hua group, but failed to give any analysis beyond asserting that "profits are in command" and that "the modernizers" have taken control and are restoring social inequality.

Many of Avakian's specific charges concerning regressive measures instituted by the new leadership are widely known, but he failed to make any distinction between political reaction and total counter-revolution and

declared the Chinese revolution dead.

WWP STATEMENT

Workers World Party issued a statement denouncing the Teng-Hua political reaction, defending the Four and the Cultural Revolution, while at the same time appealing to the participants in the meeting not to abandon the basic class gains of the Chinese Revolution out of disillusionment with the present leadership.

The statement asserted that while Teng and Hua have weakened the revolution at home and caused untold damage to the world movement, the fundamental Marxist criteria of a proletarian dictatorship still apply to China. The basic lever of production still remains the planned economy. The monopoly of foreign trade and the nationalized property in the basic means of production still remain. The old exploiting classes and the repressive state have been smashed. All the characteristics of capitalism—the anarchy of production, wild inflation, depression, mass unemployment, and starvation—have not emerged. Production for social use as opposed to production for profit is still intact.

The Workers World Party statement noted that one only has to review the recent evolution of the

USSR to see the theoretical and political danger in prematurely pronouncing the victory of capitalist restoration. In the 1950s and 1960s, Khrushchev, Kosygin, and Brezhnev alike sought an alliance with U.S. imperialism. They fought China's attempt to revive revolutionary Marxism in the international communist movement. They allied with the bourgeois elements in many oppressed countries to the detriment of the revolution. Domestically they tolerated decentralization of industry and renewed capitalist market forces.

But nevertheless, when reaction became too strong, they were forced to recentralize industry, curtail the market forces, crack down on bourgeois restorationist "dissidents," and are at the moment pursuing a progressive policy of aid to the liberation struggles, particularly in Africa. But the reversal would have been impossible if the capitalist counter-revolution had already succeeded.

ABANDONING CHINESE REVOLUTION

Those who were so hasty to cast out the revolution in the USSR are now getting ready to abandon China and have even resorted to characterizations of "fascist." To

(Continued on p. 10)

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500 Love Canal residents demand action

By BRIAN JAEKLE
NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y., Aug. 31—Over 500 tense and angry Love Canal area residents packed a small school auditorium here tonight to demand answers and greater safeguards from state officials involved in the Love Canal cleanup operation.

A young mother, Lynette Lemaster, expressed the people's fears and received thunderous applause when she said to state officials, "I live less than 50 yards from the canal. I don't want to be there when any of this chemical is exposed. Why should I be, with my eight-month-old baby—or even myself? You can't tell me that those chemicals exposed to air aren't going to be harmful—right? I should not have to live with that fear."

A direct answer to her question was never given.

So far 235 families have been evacuated from the Love Canal area, where leaking chemical wastes buried 25 years ago by the Hooker Chemical Co. have seeped into homes and contaminated the whole area. State officials have evacuated only two streets which border the land-filled canal. They have also closed the elementary school which was built directly on the chemical waste dumping site.

Other residents in the immediate area, however, will not be evacuated unless an emergency occurs during the cleanup operation, scheduled to begin on Oct. 10. State officials in charge of the cleanup called tonight's meeting to tell those people who are not slated to be evacuated that

they had nothing to worry about. This group includes homeowners whose homes are now valueless and renters in a large multi-national housing project who have reported chemical sludge seeping into their basements.

As the meeting proceeded, it became clear that these people have plenty to worry about.

QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED

Love Canal area residents at tonight's meeting wanted to know how far the chemicals have actually spread, but the state officials couldn't say. Michael J. Cuddy, the Love Canal task force coordinator, certainly didn't provide any assurances when he said, "If we studied it for 100

years, we'd be no closer to the solution." Still, the people were repeatedly told, there was nothing to worry about.

Leland Lutz, of 404 101st Street, spoke out against the state's assurances. He estimated that about one-third of the Love Canal area residents are chemical plant workers. Lutz, who has worked 23 years in a chemical plant, said, "I've seen men die from chemical fumes, men have died in all the plants. The people here had relatives who died in plants from chemicals. They're scared and I'm scared."

Marilyn Dolson, a resident of the Griffin Manor Housing Project, voiced everyone's fears when she said that the state's evacuation program was completely inadequate. She said she was especially worried about the children, the elderly, and invalids who reside in the housing project and would not be able to get out quickly during an emergency evacuation.

There were also many pregnant women present at the meeting who had been advised by their

physicians to get out of the area. The state, however, has refused to pay for their relocation.

Relocation is a key demand of Love Canal area residents, but state officials have apparently decided to jeopardize their health and welfare rather than pay for even temporary relocation during cleanup operations. It hasn't helped any that, according to a recent report, the federal government has denied 99% of the aid applications for the Love Canal cleanup.

It appears that city, state, and federal officials are all passing the Love Canal "hot potato" which should be placed in the hands of Hooker Chemical. Hooker, the real culprit for negligently burying the toxic wastes, has been let off the hook by the state.

Meanwhile the people of Love Canal are still awaiting the results of over 4,000 blood tests taken several weeks ago, and while the various governments bicker over which one will pay, it is they, the people of Love Canal, who continue to live in uncertainty and fear.



Marilyn Dolson, one of over 500 angry Love Canal residents who demanded safeguards from state officials in the Love Canal clean-up operation. WW photo

—Nicaragua

(Continued from p. 7)

for supposedly advancing the cause of human rights! Somoza recently brought a Madison Avenue public relations expert in to speak for his regime. Could there be a more blatant admission that it is really Wall Street and Washington that are pulling the strings, that Somoza is nothing but an abject puppet?

In the face of a massive general strike that has shut down the whole country, Somoza has ordered his troops to "shoot on sight" all known or suspected

enemies of the dictatorship. The strike has been in full force since Aug. 25, and there is no sign that the workers are becoming cowed or are preparing to return to work. On the contrary, the freedom fighters yesterday captured most of Leon, Nicaragua's second largest city. And in Masaya, according to today's Associated Press, "Sandinista Liberation Front guerrillas, with red and black bandanas covering their faces, controlled most of the

downtown area."

"One rebel," the AP report continued, "who manned a National Guard machine-gun perched over sandbags on the back of a truck, said he had deserted the 7,500-man Guard and had stolen the machine-gun and the piles of ammunition stacked beside him."

U.S. imperialism and its stooge Somoza have reduced the people of Nicaragua to a condition of extreme poverty and misery. The regime itself admits that 43% of the population is still illiterate, and that the life expectancy of the average person is a mere 54 years.

SOMOZA HIDING IN BUNKER

Yesterday the Sandinistas "struck almost simultaneously at five police stations in the Managua area," according to the New York Daily Metro. In desperation Somoza has moved his headquarters to an underground bunker, while ordering his air force to bomb and strafe many Nicaraguan towns and cities under partial rebel control.

The unprecedented force of the mass uprising of the Nicaraguan people has both surprised and frightened the U.S. ruling class of big businessmen.

As today's Wall Street Journal stated nervously, "The U.S. government clearly doesn't want the advent of a Marxist government in a country where it has supported a right-wing dictatorship for most of its 40-plus years." Revolutionary socialists and supporters of the national liberation movement of oppressed peoples, however, can only hope that imperialism's nightmare of a free and socialist Nicaragua becomes a reality, driving one more nail into the coffin of U.S. imperialism. The hearts of all progressive humanity are with the brave rebels fighting on the Nicaraguan barricades.

the face of bourgeois sabotage, their understanding of the needs of the situation (often much more accurate than those of their leaders)—one inescapably concludes that the mass revolutionary spirit and initiative that was awakened in Chile and that flowered for three years could not be extinguished. The revolutionary organizations were weakened by the coup, but they have survived to build an underground resistance movement. And today the signs of resistance to fascist rule are growing.

The battle of Chile goes on.

—'Battle of Chile'

(Continued from p. 7)

sense of the inevitable development of the class struggle; the workers and peasants of Chile wanted socialism, they were unwilling to wait. Thus the only possible alternatives in the struggle were: revolution or counter-revolution.

Five years of the bloody Pinochet dictatorship has been the bitter lesson of the struggle in Chile. Yet the film raises another perspective for Chile, in spite of the terrible defeat. By showing the enormous energy of the masses, the creative initiatives they took in

statement concluded that while political policies pursued by the leaders in the socialist countries that are harmful to the interests of the workers and the oppressed must be fought against, at the same time it is necessary to vigorously defend the fundamental gains made by the world proletariat against imperialism.

The Chinese Revolution—one of the greatest revolutions in history—is one such gain.

—RCP abandons

(Continued from p. 9)

them capitalism exists in the USSR and is on the way in China. This dismal view regards socialism as rapidly disappearing from the face of the earth—60 years after the great October Revolution!

The statement emphasized that it is high time to abandon the utterly harmful method of characterizing a social system according to the political character of its leadership.

The Workers World Party

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.

BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 416 N. Howard St., Baltimore, MD 21201. [301] 837-3929.

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Attica 1971

Seven years ago, racist and intolerable conditions at Attica prison led to an explosion of protest among prisoners who took over Attica for four days, Sept. 9 to 13, in what has come to be known as the Attica Rebellion. With all the eloquence of oppressed people taking destiny into their hands, the Attica Brothers issued a statement to the world whose attention was gripped by the dramatic prisoner takeover. It said in part: "We are men, we are not beasts and do not intend to be treated as such. This is merely the sound before the fury of those who are oppressed."

This year, Attica Brother Dalou Asahi (Mariano Gonzalez) was assassinated by police and Native Attica Brother Dacajeweah (John Hill) is still being held by the state for his participation in the rebellion. The Attica struggle will continue as long as there is an Attica prison—as long as there are U.S. prisons at all.

WW photo

POLITICAL PRISONERS



Free Russell Means!

NEW YORK, Sept. 9—Imprisoned American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Russell Means, after consultation with the chief of the Lakota nation, ended a 35-day protest fast last week. An injunction had been issued sanctioning the warden to force-feed him. Means was protesting his imprisonment and the mistreatment of Indians and other oppressed people.

Means was taken from the Sioux Falls, S.D., State Penitentiary last Wednesday after he suffered kidney damage arising from the fast. He was placed under heavy guard in a hospital. Means' sister-in-law, Lorelei Means, told **Workers World** here today that he has been moved back to the prison

and that local racists had phoned the hospital threatening his life and making bomb threats.

"Our chief, Frank Foolsrow, asked the warden if he could exchange places with Russ, and he's in his 90s," Lorelei Means said.

Means was forced to report to prison July 27 to begin serving a four-year sentence on charges originating from a police (SWAT) team attack on unarmed Native people in a Minnehaha County courtroom in 1974. The SWAT team attacked when Indian supporters of a Native woman on trial refused to rise when the judge representing U.S. imperialism walked in.

As a result of this racist violence by the police, Means was personally prosecuted by State Attorney General William Janklow and convicted of "riot" and "injury to a public building."

TWO DAYS OF PROTEST OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS

Lorelei Means told this newspaper that two days of rallies at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and a Pow-Wow will be organized on Sept. 16 and 17 to focus attention on the purely political conviction of Russell Means and to demand an end to the continued harassment of Indian political prisoners in South Dakota and other prisons across the country.

Speakers at the two 1 p.m. rallies outside the prison walls will include: Muhammad Ali, Harry Belafonte, Clyde Bellecourt, Marlon Brando, Phillip Deer, Corky Gonzales, Dick Gregory, William Kunstler, Dr. Joseph Lowry, Ken Tilson, Yvonne Wanrow, and Floyd Westerman. The Pow-Wow location will be Cathedral Hall, 504 N. Summit, Sioux Falls.

Lorelei Means stressed the plight of all Native prisoners in Sioux Falls. "The prison population in Sioux Falls is about 400, and 130 are Indian. Every one of these Indians is in for political charges, because of ties

with the American Indian Movement or for some form of resistance," she said. She added that racism against Native people is particularly rampant in South Dakota, especially inside prison walls, where bigoted guards beat Native prisoners and put them in "the hole" for months at a time.

She said that Native prisoners have organized themselves into the Native American Council of Tribes inside the prison to present their grievances to the administration on behalf of all the prisoners.

Last August a hunger strike of Native prisoners was joined by some non-Indian prisoners who supported the protest against the racist administration as well as by Native women at the women's prison.

Last spring, a 250-mile "Run for Freedom" began in Porcupine (six miles north of Wounded Knee) and continued for three days and nights through Indian communities and ended at the penitentiary where participants demanded to speak with prisoner representatives. The run began with 11 people and arrived with 750—all Indian people including many youth.

POLITICIANS STILL RIDE ON ANTI-INDIAN TICKET

Lorelei Means pointed out that Nov. 6 is the date for election of a new state governor and State Attorney General William Janklow is running for that position as the man who imprisoned Russell Means. Janklow, a notorious racist, has publicly said, "There is only one way to stop the Indian problem here and that's to put a gun to the AIM leaders' head and put a bullet in it."

For more information about the rallies and Pow-Wow in Sioux Falls contact: the American Indian Services, Sioux Falls, S.D., (605) 334-4060. Funds are badly needed and can be sent to: Russell Means Defense Fund, c/o Ken Tilson, 400 Minnesota Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.

Black, gay, transvestite prisoner demands retrial

'Served a platter of injustice'

SEPTEMBER 8—"And so when the table was set for my trial, nobody came but the enemy. Justice was mocked, truth was given a holiday, and innocence was systematically transformed into the makings of a scapegoat. They gave me life, not because of my apparent guilt, for my innocence more than spoke for itself. I was served a platter of injustice simply because I was a convenient target...."

The speaker is Valgene Royal, a Black prisoner demanding retrial, who was tried and found guilty this spring of the 1976 beating death of the prison laundry foreman at the Indiana State Prison. Let the local press fill in the blank as to why Royal was a convenient target for an enraged prison administration which had lost one of its own.

The local Post-Tribune said about the trial last February, "Royal, a homosexual and transvestite, made no secret of his intent to appear as a woman. He came in the courtroom wearing earrings, a scarf over his hair, tight blue jeans, and platform shoes. Royal was smooth-cheeked, with eyebrows apparently plucked." This was Royal's real crime.

The all-white jury found Royal guilty of murder despite the fact that the only testimony against him came from a prisoner, also accused in the murder, who testified in exchange for a five-year sentence.

Royal took the stand and said he was in his cell at the time of the attack. Seven other prisoners confirmed under oath that they had seen Royal in his cell that morning.

The prejudiced jury was selected after the public defender for Royal had used up all ten peremptory challenges in excusing other bigoted jurors. Royal is currently trying to obtain a retrial.

VICTIM OF CLASS SOCIETY

Far back into history—before modern-day capitalism, feudalism, and even, ancient slave society—existed societies in which the fact that Royal is Black would have made no difference, nor would the fact that he is gay and transvestite. The prevalence and acceptance of gay and transvestite people, has been documented as existing in pre-class societies on every continent.

Racism and sexism and a repressive state apparatus to protect private property came into existence much later.

But Valgene Royal is a class prisoner of war held by the most monstrous oppressor of the world's people that history has ever known: Interwoven in the rope of super-oppression that binds him are racism, anti-gay bigotry, acts of cruel repression against transvestite and transsexual women and men, and his position in class society.

ON TRIAL FOR BEING BLACK, GAY, TRANSVESTITE

"I wasn't on trial for the alleged murder of a prison official," Royal explained, "instead my character was placed on trial. I was found guilty and convicted for a crime I didn't commit, simply because I choose to be different without regret or remorse and because I refuse to bow down to the degradations and humiliations commonly imposed upon weaker members of my gender."

He said that during the trial, "My character was attacked mercilessly and abusively. I was dehumanized, degraded, and humiliated as I was continuously referred to as 'he,' 'she,' and 'it.'"

He continued, "For four days (of trial), I was forced to actively participate in a conspiratory unfolding drama that placed me in the center of a sacrificial pit labeled 'scapegoat' to appease the ills and frustrations of an incompetent, incarcerative prison system that was crying for blood—anybody's blood—so long as they be Black, and in most cases forgotten."

"As of late," Royal said, "the prison administration has informed my family and I that my life is in danger because of certain prison officials who are rumored to be seeking retaliation for the murder of a fellow officer. And so—for reasons the administration terms as 'safe-keeping'—I'm currently confined to a segregated-isolation unit, cut off from the general prison population, and most of all, cut off from having access to the legal reference I require in my quest for liberation.

"While I'm in no position to entirely disregard the administration's rumors of threats, I entirely disregard their mock concern for my safety. The unit

I'm housed in is more than conveniently accessible to any correctional officer with a set of keys, so who's kidding whom?"

"And so, what happens now?" he asked. "Is justice 'dead' or merely sleeping, awaiting awakening by the potent voice of the American public? Twelve total strangers sentenced me to life imprisonment—only you the public can give it back."

He pointed out, "It's been said that fate is fickle and justice is blind—I say no! It is only the incompetent minds of men in positions of power and authority, distributing 'distorted' justice for a fee, it is they who are fickle and blind.

"Justice must come from the people, the masses, the American public, and it is to them I make my appeal."

For more information contact Valgene Royal (#3943), Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360 and Royal's mother, Mrs. Jessie Lee Royal, 3505 Black Ave., E. Chicago, IN 46312.

Walla Walla prisoners resist racist, anti-gay attacks

SEPTEMBER 8—On July 1, a 15-man goon squad rushed the cells of Men Against Sexism (MAS) leaders Danny Atteberry, Mark LaRue, Joe Green, and Ed Mead. The four prisoner activists were put in Walla Walla prison's segregation unit.

The state carried out the raid on the pretext that the prisoners had a number of weapons.

Several hours after the raid on the prisoners' cells, non-prisoner guests attending a MAS banquet inside the walls were themselves arrested and accused of holding weapons. All but one of the MAS guests were later released. Don Duffy remains in prison.

At a subsequent prison disciplinary hearing, the four prisoners were airdropped on charges of possessing contraband and attempted escape. Green's guilty charge was later overturned.

Atteberry, LaRue, and Green had served three years in the notorious prison-within-a-prison, Walla Walla's Intensive Security Unit (ISU).

MAS is a multi-racial group of

gay and anti-sexist prisoners at Walla Walla who have joined together to defend and to build respect and support for gay people in the prison. MAS members are working at educating the prison population about the nature of gay oppression and have asked the leaders of the prisoner clubs to take a stand in support of gay rights.

On Jan. 21, some 100 Native and gay people demonstrated in downtown Seattle to gather public support for the demands of MAS and the Brotherhood of American Indians inside the prison. The rally was called after both organizations, representing super-oppressed prisoners, met with hostility when presenting their demands to the prison administration.

Walla Walla prisoners have a rich history of resistance, from a work strike in 1970, to a December 1974 seizure of 13 hostages in the prison hospital. Last summer, 1,350 prisoners waged a strike for 46 days—the longest strike in U.S. prison history.

On July 19, following the July 1 state-coordinated arrests, 98% of the ISU went on a three-day hunger strike until the warden and associate warden signed a written agreement conceding to prisoner demands over conditions.

On Aug. 12, when racist harassment continued, a bomb exploded in the control room of the penitentiary. Five guards were injured.

A statement signed by the Walla Walla Brothers said there is a one-sided class war being waged against prisoners, workers, unemployed, women, sexual minorities, people of color, youth, and the aged.

Yet, those who are suffering under the crushing weight of racist, anti-gay, and anti-prisoner repression are not broken and are looking for every opportunity to strike back and wage their struggle against oppression.

For more information write: Danny Atteberry (#126377), Mark LaRue (#629174), Joe Green (#625391), Ed Mead (#251397) at P.O. Box 520, Walla Walla, WA 99362.



ILGWU files suit against INS

Unions moving to support the undocumented

By SARA FLOUNDERS

SEPTEMBER 12—In an important move in defense of the rights of all poor and working people, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) filed suit in Federal Court in Los Angeles against the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)—the hated "La Migra." The union lawyers filed the suit on Aug. 22 in an attempt to force restrictions on INS raids on garment factories, which they charge violate due process, privacy, and search and seizure rights.

The INS is also being sued by a group of Mexicano workers who were arrested in May at Sbecca Co., a factory in East Los Angeles, six days after the Retail Clerks Union began a union organizing drive there. The suit charges that the company called in the INS.

These suits and the increasing efforts to organize thousands of undocumented workers are of great importance to both foreign-born "illegal" workers and to all workers fighting for a better life. In the mass roundups and factory raids, which the INS calls "surveys," federal officials barge into factories, seal off the exits, and hold all the workers in custody while forcing everyone to answer questions and show papers. Hundreds of workers never return home from work. Often their



"The union is adapting to new conditions. The ILGWU was built by immigrants—the only difference now is that it's not legal to immigrate." Here, clothing strikers in 1915 carried signs in four languages.

families don't hear from them until they have been deported. Any worker who, to a racist government agent, looks "foreign-born" or Hispanic can be stopped, searched, and held.

There are now a million undocumented workers in New York City and in Los Angeles. Approximately 50,000 workers a week enter the U.S. in search of jobs. A large portion of the workers in agriculture, canning, electronics, and the garment

industry are undocumented. As these hundreds of thousands of workers without documents enter the labor force, their conditions of life and work become an issue for all workers and for the unions who seek to organize the workers.

WHY ALL WORKERS SHOULD SUPPORT THE UNDOCUMENTED

If any boss knows that he can hire workers for as little as \$50 a week and can threaten deportation

of anyone who demands better wages or working conditions, then no workers are safe. Union-busting and runaway shops become the order of the day.

Many of the top leaders of labor unions hold the short-sighted and reactionary position that foreign-born workers take jobs from and lower the wages of native-born workers. This is just playing into the hands of the sweatshop bosses who use the presence of the undocumented workers to justify the

low wages and terrible working conditions that would be the lot of anyone in sweatshop jobs. Those union misleaders who push this line are just doing so to avoid organizing the unorganized.

For those unions based on organizing workers in the most oppressive factories and sweatshops, however, the rights of the undocumented has become a question for the very survival of the union. Ninety percent of the garment workers of Los Angeles are undocumented workers.

Recently the ILGWU and the United Farm Workers (UFW) have taken the progressive position that leaving undocumented workers unorganized threatens the job security and pay rates of all workers. These unions have called for unconditional amnesty for all undocumented workers and have opened up large campaigns to unionize these workers.

"We try to organize all workers. It's not of interest to us what their status is, except their status as exploited workers," said Frederick Siems, executive vice-president of the ILGWU.

To help organize these workers, 10 of those selected to be on the 13-member task force of the ILGWU in Los Angeles are Mexicano. Posters, leaflets, and pamphlets are now in Spanish. As Mario Vasquez, one of the union organizers, explained, "The union is adapting to new conditions. The ILGWU was built by immigrants—the only difference now is it's not legal to immigrate."

Marching 100 miles from tomato fields

Striking farm workers rally in Columbus, Ohio

By ERIC ZEITERS

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 8—At noon today 200 striking migrant farm workers joined by 200 supporters held a rally in the state capital to make public their demands. Nearly 2,000 Mexican-American migrants in Ohio have been on strike for two weeks to gain "a decent wage for a day's work." The strike was organized by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), as was the march and rally today.

The 200 workers and members of their families had marched over 100 miles from the tomato fields in the northwest part of the state.

The strategy of FLOC has been to pressure the two major canners in the area: Libby and Campbell. FLOC has pointed out that it has been the poor contracts these monopolists have forced on the growers who have ultimately been responsible for the terrible conditions for the migrant workers. The growers, motivated in part by racism, have put the migrants under their thumbs to get their small profit margin instead of confronting the monopolist canners who are raking in profits hand over fist.

DEMANDS

The demands presented by the laborers today were: to be paid 35 cents per 33 lb. hamper of tomatoes (the current rate is 24



Some 200 of the nearly 2,000 Mexican-American migrant farm workers on strike in Ohio make public their demands at the State Capital. WW photo

cents per hamper); a minimum wage that equals \$3.25 per hour when piece rate does not come out to that figure; guaranteed pay equivalent to a minimum of 28 hours work in two weeks; to be paid 8 cents per mile plus 2 cents per passenger from Texas, Florida, or wherever the workers' homes are; a medical program for the workers and their families; and a custodian at each camp to be

paid parity with the earnings of field workers.

At the rally, Baldemar Velasquez, president of FLOC, made it clear that the workers are not appealing to the government, but are trying to dramatize their struggle. He pointed out that if the strike is successful there will be politicians seeking ways to support them, and stressed that it would be the power of the workers that

would bring the legislative initiatives. Velasquez noted that if the farm workers gained a decent wage they would not need to take their families with them into the fields to earn subsistence.

FLOC urges all people to boycott both Libby's and Campbell's products and plans to organize migrant labor to boycott Ohio until a just settlement is won.

Viva la huelga!

RIGHT TO UNIONIZE UPHELD

In the face of growing pressure, a federal court of appeals last week in Chicago upheld the right of undocumented workers to unionize. The case stemmed from a suit by a Chicago leather tanning company to invalidate a union election on the grounds that the workers were in the country illegally. Six of the seven workers were undocumented. They were deported by the INS after having voted for the union. The workers, represented by lawyers for the Leather Workers Union, successfully argued that they were entitled to the same union protection as other workers. They also pointed out that if unionization was outlawed, companies could immunize themselves from organizing drives merely by hiring undocumented workers.

Arturo Viallejo, a 30-year-old Mexican worker, was arrested at the organizing drive at the Sbecca plant. When he joined the suit against the INS he said, "We have to have the union to help us. I think that with our union, maybe we will have some representation. Without it, we have no protection, no benefits." As millions of undocumented workers like Arturo Viallejo struggle for their rights, they add their energy and class-consciousness to the struggle of all working people for a decent life.