Sam Marcy on Political implications of the GM-Hughes deal —p. 9

June 20, 1985 Vol 27, No. 25 25¢

workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Reagan tax plan offers nothing for the jobless

Workers, unemployed need supplemental aid

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

By Andy Stapp

JUNE 12—Workers are taking a second look at the Reagan tax plan. And they are finding that while it's great for the rich, it offers nothing to the far larger number who are unemployed, bring home only marginal pay or who have no incomes at all.

It is beginning to sink in that this so-called "tax revolution" actually reduces taxes on money accruing to the wealthy from the sale of jewels, but soaks the jobless for a cut of their unemployment check!

This is all wrong.

It's not more giveaways to millionaires that working-class people want, but supplemental aid for themselves to make up for all those losses of the past half decade. Almost two-and-a-half million manufacturing jobs have been lost for good since 1980, as what was promoted as the "reindustrialization" of auto, steel, mining, textile, chemical and oil has become instead "deindustrialization." Factories rust and a virtual army of the laid off is driven to seek employment in low-paid service jobs.

Officially there are now 8.5 million jobless, more people than in 1980, which Reagan at the time called a year of economic "depression." Now he merely says that the unemployment rate is "holding steady."

The federal government's supposed solution to this stagnant jobs picture is slave labor at a sub-minimum wage, a step that will only put more money in bosses'

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Class-wide unity the theme at Fight Back Conference

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NYC hotel strike

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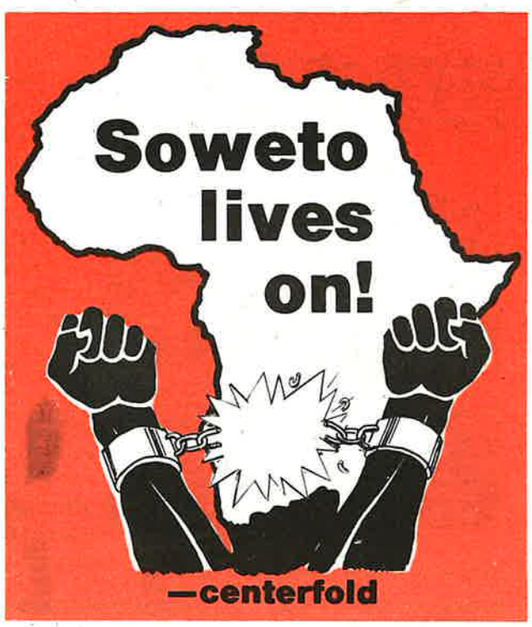
'We're going to walk this line until they sign.'

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS



—centerfold

Congress wages 'hate-in' against Nicaragua

Vote to aid contras brings U.S. closer to criminal invasion

JUNE 12—Today's Congressional action giving $27 million to fund the contra war against Nicaragua brings Reagan and the Pentagon a giant step closer to their hearts' desire: a full-fledged American military invasion.

To facilitate this goal, Congress also voted to repeal the Boland Amendment, the law they had passed in 1982 barring the U.S. from supporting "military or paramilitary operations" aimed at overthrowing the Nicaraguan government. They also overwhelmingly voted down a bill forbidding the use of U.S. combat troops in Nicaragua without advance notice to Congress. That's a clear enough indication of what's coming down the road!

The halls of Congress were transformed into a virtual hate-in against the Sandinistas as one politician after another rose forth to froth at the mouth about which one hated Nicaragua the most.

The stampede in the House and Senate comes at the very moment former Central Intelligence Agency Director Stansfield Turner charged that the Pentagon and CIA were covering up information indicating the contras have no chance against the Nicaraguan counter-offensive that is driving them out of the country. The politicians just shrugged.

They also ignored a warning from McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's and Johnson's former national security advisor, who testified before Congress that continuing the secret war "will not bring the Sandinistas to President Reagan's feet, and it will not overthrow them, but it will bring discredit on our government among millions of our own citizens and more millions of our friends abroad." But this doesn't fit in with what the politicians want to hear.

Instead it was Reagan who held their rapt attention with his plans to expand the contras from their current size of 17,000 to 35,000, with his song about the "noble effort" of the anti-Sandinista leaders who have "put their lives on the line for democracy." In the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the main contra group, 46 out of 48 senior commanders served as officers in the National Guard of the ousted Somoza dictatorship. They are the nucleus of the "government" which the Pentagon plans to install in Managua after it invades.

Last Sunday, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar appeared on ABC TV's This Week with David Brinkley to speak about the ease with which "U.S. aircraft may strike military targets in Nicaragua."

That's what they used to say about Viet Nam and that's what they thought when they sent the Marines to Beirut.

Invasion will meet resistance

"It will not be so easy," Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega warned Friday. "An invading force will meet a very mobile, very irregular form of resistance." Ortega spoke of people's war, of how troops and supplies have been distributed all over the country. "Thousands of armed groups," he said, would greet the invaders with mined roads, poisoned water supplies, urban guerrilla squads and "vehicles loaded with explosives."

Ortega explained how "a direct intervention by the United States" will "logically have to extend itself to neighboring countries" where "popular forces throughout the region will unleash their violence" against the interventionists.

"There will be tens of thousands of people in different parts of Central America armed with rifles, anti-aircraft guns and other weapons, in addition to tens of thousands in our country" along with spreading protests in the United States, Ortega said with quiet confidence.

As they prepare for news that the enemy has landed, the Nicaraguan people have settled into a mood of calm defiance. Across the street from the U.S. Embassy in Managua they have erected a large billboard on which appears the message the legendary guerrilla leader Augusto Sandino sent to the U.S. Marine general commanding the American occupation troops in 1927. It says, "I have received and understood your communication of yesterday. I will not surrender and await you here."

WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

Pickets hit U.S. Central America policy. On Tuesday, June 11, some 150 people picketed at the Grace Building in New York City demanding "U.S. hands off Central America" and protesting the aid packages in the 1986 budget for the U.S.-backed dictatorships in Guatemala and El Salvador and for the Nicaraguan contra gangs. Carrying stuffed effigies to represent the suffering of the people of Central America, the marchers went east on 42nd Street, some going into Grand Central Station with the effigies. As the marchers passed a struck hotel, they began to chant, "Money for jobs, not for war, pay the hotel workers more!"

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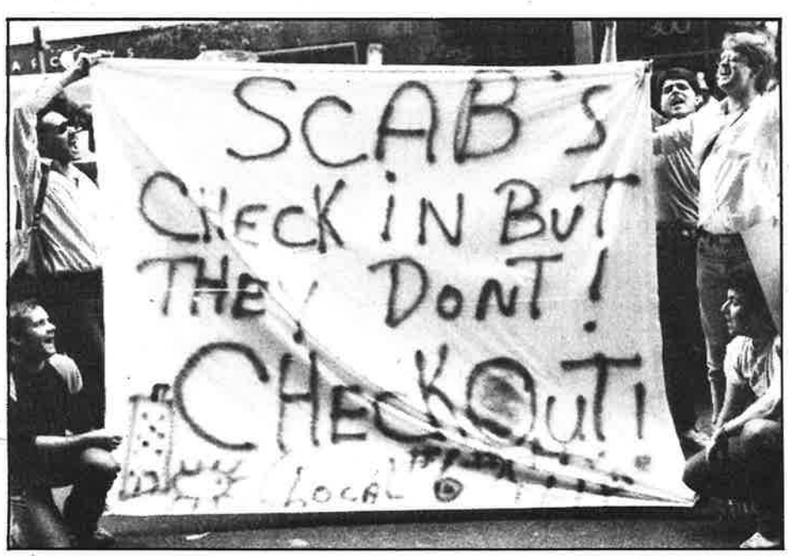
SOWETO REBELLION

The June 16, 1976 Soweto rebellion was not just an episode of struggle and repression but a turning point in the South African liberation struggle that is now leading to the collapse of the whole rotten apartheid system. (Page 6-7.)

FIGHT BACK CONFERENCE

The more than 600 grass-roots organizers at the Fight Back Conference in Baltimore combined discussion of labor and community issues with analysis of broad national and international questions. (Page 5.)

Workshop on racism and police brutality, Fight Back Conference.



Hotel strike in NYC. (Page 12.)

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

HOTEL STRIKE

While the New York hotel chains are facing big-buck losses, the strike by 14,000 hotel workers is going strong and gaining momentum as they take their struggle into the streets. (Page 12.)

GM-HUGHES DEAL

General Motors' buy-out of Hughes Aircraft does more than concentrate and centralize the means of production in fewer hands. It also marks a profound shift of civilian industry toward the military-industrial complex and strengthens the Pentagon in its attempt to become the central organizer of the capitalist economy. (Analysis by Sam Marcy, page 9.)

ARMS TREATIES

Reagan's conditions for U.S. adherence to previously signed arms treaties with the USSR leave the path clear not only for a continuation of the Pentagon buildup, but for an eventual nullification of these agreements altogether. (Page 12.)

HARVEY MILK SCHOOL

The bigots are waging a hysterical and reactionary campaign against a NYC high school set up to meet the special needs of lesbian and gay young people. This attack also undermines the rights of all youth to an education in a secure environment. (Page 11.)

COST OF A LIFE

The Reaganites have produced a "cost/benefit analysis," spelled out right down to the penny, that says workers' lives are a lot less valuable than their own. (Page 3.)

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Layoffs, hard times hit Silicon Valley

By Bill Del Vecchio

JUNE 11—The American dream is still a reality in the field of high tech, claims Ronald Reagan. Two college kids can start a million-dollar corporation from their garage, he tells us, and that's why he's giving the computer and other related industries tax breaks so that their productive innovations can bring prosperity, mom and apple pie for everyone.

But after several years of phenomenal growth, the computer industry is now in big trouble. Just like the crisis that struck the auto and steel industry a decade ago, the computer industry is finding it has produced just too much too fast.

The computer glut has hit some companies very hard and has affected the whole gamut of corporations from the giant IBM monopoly to one-person consulting companies. Wang Laboratories, whose rapid success used to seem like a fairy tale, announced a layoff of 1,600 workers in Lowell, Mass., this week and said it would lose money this quarter for the first time in its history.

National Semiconductor, a large maker of computer chips, is also laying off 1,300 workers. Apple Computers, Digital Equipment Corporation, Hewlett Packard, Atari and Texas Instruments have all cut back, and several corporations that once appeared to have great promise like Storage Technology and Osborne Computers have bit the dust.

Glut in memory chips

Although demand for hardware and software continues to be high, it in no way can keep up with the out-of-control supply, and many companies won't survive the shakeout that's begun. Sales of personal computers which doubled yearly through the first part of the 80s, may not grow at all this year. Semiconductor sales are expected to drop by 20%, and excess capacity in the production of memory chips is estimated at 40%.

The severe glut in memory chips has caused prices to plunge. The chips in an IBM PC XT that used to cost $319 for example, today cost only $110, and the Apple's Macintosh chips that used to cost $500 now cost only $95.

The only way chip producers can survive these dropping prices is to have the most advanced plant equipment that can produce high volume at the current dirt cheap prices. The going cost of such a production line is about $100 million, and the equipment is guaranteed to be obsolete in less than three years. These production lines can't fit in an average garage.

So, the only way out of the sales slump for these chip producers is to increase production and sell even more. Obviously only a few of the many companies now in business will survive, and the end result will be an industry just as monopolized, static and stagnant as the steel and auto industries.

Technology has always been seen as a cure-all in capitalist society. By constantly increasing the productivity of labor, the capitalists claim, poverty will be eliminated. But the fact of the matter is that the most amazing computer systems are busy churning away while hundreds of thousands of people are rummaging through garbage cans for their next meal.

It's true that technology makes the elimination of poverty possible, but not under the profit system. Only a planned society, which puts the collective needs of the people above individual greed, can properly utilize technology to improve everyone's lives.

'Cost/benefit analysis'—innocent phrase for a Reaganite horror

By Robert Dobrow

JUNE 10—How much is your life worth? How much is it worth in cold, hard cash?

You might think that the question is ridiculous. After all, how can you put a monetary value on your life? But the Reagan administration doesn't think it's so funny. In fact, the government is seriously calculating what it considers the "value" of a human being in dollars and cents. And the results of its calculations are being used to justify the most brutal cutbacks and wholesale destruction of hundreds of occupational, environmental and safety regulations which are supposed to save and protect workers' lives.

The policy falls under the chillingly innocent name of "cost/benefit analysis." It works like this. Suppose it would cost a big corporation $10 million to install some safety equipment in a plant where the workers are exposed to a toxic chemical. Studies show that this equipment might save the lives of five workers who, if the equipment wasn't installed, might otherwise be exposed and die. But the Reagan administration has arbitrarily determined that a worker's life is "worth" $1 million. If only five workers' lives would be saved, that's a "net worth" of only $5 million. Since big business would have to spend $10 million, the cost to the corporation is deemed "excessive" and "unnecessary."

These Dr. Frankenstein accounting methods get even more ghoulish. According to an article by Pete Early in the Sunday Washington Post Magazine (June 9), "Using the 'discounting' method, a child in school would be worth about $22,000 today if his whole life was valued at $1 million. As a result, expenses exceeding $22,000 per child to clean up asbestos in schools wouldn't pass cost/benefit analysis. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that it will cost $96,000 to $208,000 per child to remove or contain asbestos in schools."

The government is now sitting on all proposals and/or regulations to clean up asbestos in public schools.

The effects of this "cost/benefit analysis" are enormous. It affects rules and regulations for protecting workers from cancer-causing substances, cleaning up toxic waste dumps, controlling poisonous gases in hospitals, limiting cotton dust in textile plants, and cleaning up acid rain. But for the greedy corporations, which make more profits every time a workplace safety regulation is stricken from the books, the idea is brilliant.

On April 27, 1978, in Willow Island, W. Va., 51 men died when a scaffold collapsed at the Monongahela Power Co. plant. It was one of the worst construction accidents in this country. But to this day, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) still hasn't imposed a single rule aimed at preventing another such tragedy. OSHA and the Office of Management and the Budget (OMB) are too busy debating how much a construction worker's life is worth.

Workers in dangerous jobs "less valuable"

The government's method for determining the value of a worker's life assumes that people who "choose" to do dangerous work must value their lives less than someone who "chooses" to do less dangerous work. In other words, the life of a chemical worker, construction worker or miner is "less

Continued on page 10

On The Picketline

Massey mine strike. In the latest round of the escalating war against the courageous striking mineworkers at the A.T. Massey Coal company, rifle shots were fired into the bedroom window and the truck of a United Mine Workers (UMW) local president in West Williamston, West Virginia on June 3. The assault against the UMW officer came amid a setting of heightening violence against the Massey strikers, now in their ninth month on the picketlines. The anti-union violence did not go unanswered, however. Just two hours later, dynamite blasts cut off power to facilities at Rawl Sales and Processing, Sprouse Creek Processing and Rocky Hollow Mining, all Massey subsidiaries. After UMW picketers battled with scab truck drivers to stop the delivery of scab coal at the end of May, Massey announced it would discontinue contract talks. The company is the sixth-largest coal producer in the country, and what this strike struggle "boils down to," according to one striker, "is Massey decided it is going to get out of the union business." But with the picketlines still strong in this region with a long history of tough union struggles, the strikers are not likely to let that happen.

• • •

State workers win VDT rights. State employees in New Mexico recently won strong health and safety protection regulating Video Display Terminal (VDT) operations, according to Public Employee, the national AFSCME publication. AFSCME Local 2839, representing workers in the state's Human Services Department, spearheaded the push for the regulations, which call for lighting and glare standards, airflow and air quality, noise, work-area design, seating and other protections. The rules also mandate specified break periods, a six-hour daily limit in front of the screens and protections for pregnant workers. AFSCME officials termed the rules a "milestone" in the fight for VDT safety.

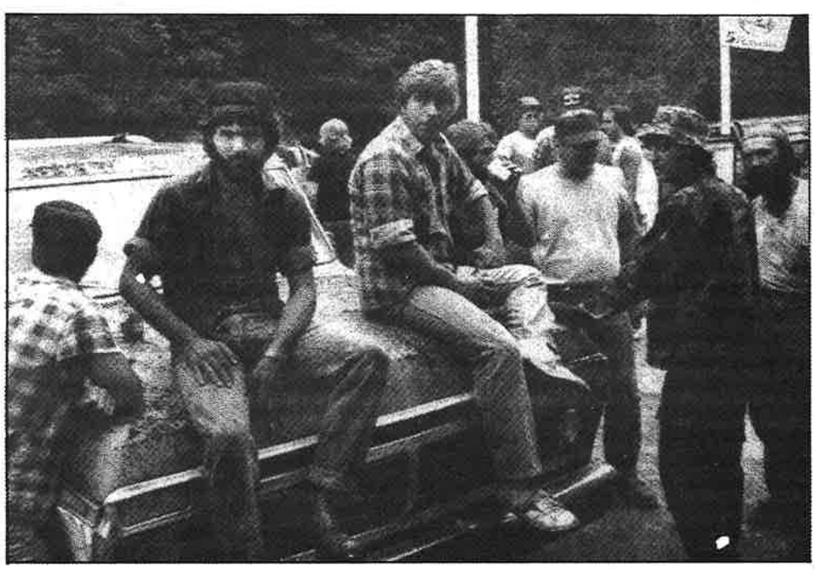
• • •

NYC hospital strike. The Committee of Interns and Residents, the union of junior physicians on staff at hospitals in New York City, called a strike the first week of June at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn. About 150 doctors at the Center's two hospital sites walked out after the hospital management announced its final contract offer, along with its intention to no longer recognize the union. The doctors had been working without a contract since January 1, and the hospitals offered a two-year contract with 5% wage increases in each year. In addition, the strike involves issues of working conditions and scheduling. The Committee of Interns and Residents is a familiar name to many area unionists, who can always call on this union for strike support and solidarity.

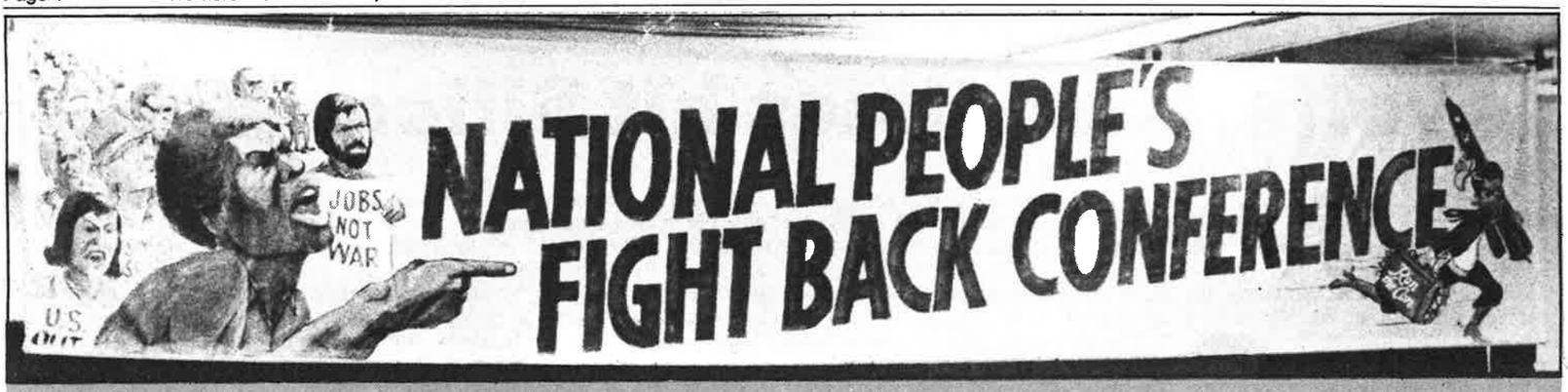
• • •

United strike. It's in its fourth week now, and it's becoming more and more clear that the strike by pilots at United Airlines is developing into another struggle to defend workers against a union-busting company. A full two weeks after the primary strike issue, the design of a two-tiered wage system, was settled, United is still stonewalling on settling the strike. The airline insists that those few pilots who crossed the picket lines should have super-seniority in bidding rights for job assignments, and that the 500 replacement pilots it had lined up before the strike but who refused to scab are out of luck. The union is maintaining that full seniority for all striking pilots is an absolute condition for a return to work, and that the potential new hires who did not cross lines should be given preference in future hiring.

—Shelley Ettinger



Striking coal miners at A.T. Massey Coal Company.



'I think we can work together as the APC has proven'

By Neville Edwards

BALTIMORE, June 10—Reagan's and big business's attack upon the workers and oppressed, and the Pentagon's relentless drive towards war has created the need for a movement that truly reflects the interest of all those who want a militant plan of fightback.

Hundreds of people came to the All-Peoples Congress Fight Back Conference here this weekend to chart a course of action for struggle against the Reagan program. Many told Workers World why they believed the APC provided a vehicle for such a movement.

Elizabeth Shea and Edna Williams came from Milwaukee. A veteran of the first APC in Detroit in 1981, Shea has remained an organizing member since. She attributes her daughter's mental breakdown to the cutbacks in social services, but has kept her fighting spirit. "I think we can work together as the APC has proven, and I know that we can win," she said.

Williams, a first time participant, came "because I am interested in what the APC is fighting for. What we gained from this conference we are going to take home and make it work for us in the community."

Large group from Baltimore

The largest group at the conference were poor and oppressed people of Baltimore, "who are feeling the effect of the racist city administration more and more everyday," said Helen Bradford, a local community activist. Bradford, decrying the ban on "squeegee kids" by the authorities, pointed out that "they don't mind if the Reverend Moon people sell flowers to motorists."

Bradford considered the conference a big gain for the Black and poor community, as it "allowed us to speak out about the injustice of the Baltimore police."

Baltimore resident Roger Taswell, a veteran of the civil rights struggle in the South, said, "The right wing bigots and the Supreme Court have been taking away people's rights all the time. The MOVE situation in Philadelphia worries me a lot. The All-Peoples Congress is a multinational, multi-issue organization and it allows me to struggle around many different issues. That's why I'm here."

For many people, the conference was their first political event, and looked on as a place to learn. Roslyn Cady said, "I came to the Fight Back Conference because there were a lot of issues that I was not clear on. I needed to learn a lot more about the APC and Nicaragua and El Salvador. This conference helped to clear them up for me."

Two women from the Caribbean were very active in the South Africa workshop and the New York regional workshop. "Constructive engagement and supporting the contras are wrong, and it's clear that the corporations only want to take from the countries like Jamaica, but they don't do anything for the starving people. The conference helps us to fight against all injustices," said one woman.

Lesbian/gay, labor, disabled, students

"I feel that the conference addressed the question of anti-lesbian and gay bigotry in a very clear way. It is a tough issue to grasp as a result of all the government's attack upon our rights," said a lesbian woman from Harlem, New York. "I've been to many meetings but none like this one. I am very glad to see so many different people join together to fight against the system," she continued.

The union struggles raised at the conference, like the historic and militant strike of the over 13,000 New York City hotel workers, encouraged others to keep up the fight against the bosses' take-back demands. "I am a laid off auto worker and I was inspired by the Phelps Dodge copper strikers and how long they have kept up the fight. The report of the New York hotel strike helps me to understand what's going on in the country," said Raymond from Delaware.

A disabled man from Boston said, "Here I found out that the fight for disabled people's rights is not just in Boston but all over the country. By joining the APC around the issues of disabled people's rights I have become more involved in many other issues. I see a clear link between the right of the Native people and Black and Latin people. It is so rewarding to be here to hear all the different struggles."

Reagan's war against Nicaragua and all the liberation struggles of the world were on the minds of the students at the conference: "I have been working on divestment at the University of Massachusetts and I came to the conference so I could learn some more organizing for next semester," stated Jeanne Kenney of Amherst.

Another student said, "Reagan is making it hard for the poor people to send their children to school and I want to be more aware so that I can fight for more aid for the students." Added Anthony from Boston, "I want Reagan to know that I won't go to fight the Nicaraguan people."

The Fight Back Conference gave everyone the feeling of multinational unity. As Steve from Cleveland stated, "Reagan and the multinational corporations are on a dangerous course, and only a multinational movement can stop them."

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Helen Bradford speaks out on "the injustice of the Baltimore police."

Chris Sprowal of Philadelphia Union of the Homeless. WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Message from a disabled brother

Following is a message from Patrick Haggerty of the Disability Focus of the Seattle All-Peoples Congress. It was read to the final plenary session of the Fight Back conference by Brian Shea of the Boston APC and the Disabled Peoples Liberation Front.

GREETINGS FROM SEATTLE. I can't be there physically, but I am in Baltimore in spirit and through this letter to share with you my concerns for America's disabled, myself included, who have been cast adrift in a sea of poverty by that dinosaur known as the Social Security Administration.

Like most young working people, I was gouged every week of my working life to pay into the Social Security program and hoped like hell I'd never need to collect any disability benefits.

Almost three years ago I came down with a whopping case of Multiple Sclerosis, which predictably devastated my healthy, working and activist-oriented life.

Social Security conceded that I was sick with Multiple Sclerosis, but get this because you won't believe it—they heard I could still do embroidery!

Needless to say, I appealed this decision, but the appeal process takes over a year in itself. Meanwhile, Washington Natural Gas and Seattle City Light dropped me from their preferred customer list and started throwing switches. I found out how to stand in food and bank lines for two hours when I can't stand for over five minutes. If Baltimore activists hadn't liberated the damn cheese from the Department of Agriculture four years ago, I would have been evicted from the planet by now. Multiply this by the millions of other stories of all the disabled who are relying on Social Security.

Indeed tens of thousands of the disabled with life-threatening diseases run a two to three year race with time to collect their benefits before they die. And lose. People with AIDS are very familiar with this little "rat race." The system saves millions every year by delaying benefits until death overtakes the applicant.

Even if you survive the application process and get benefits, they are not enough even to be poor on. Meanwhile, more slashes in Social Security increases while Reagan and company spend our money on such pleasantries as MX missiles, visits to Bitburg, and plastic explosives to blow up Philadelphia whenever we can't pay our rent.

The disabled of America have had enough. We intend to fight this madness and we intend to survive.

So let's fight back!

Patrick Haggerty
Seattle APC—Disability Focus

WW photo: GREG DUNKEL

Brian Shea reads message from Patrick Haggerty.

Black, Latin, Asian, Native, White: 'FIGHT BACK!'

By Deirdre Griswold

BALTIMORE, June 9—"I've been to many meetings, conferences and conventions in my life, but I've never before been to anything like this People's Fight Back Conference," Angel Rodriguez told the enthusiastic crowd at the Civic Center. "I'm listening and learning, and I'm going to take back what I've heard to Arizona."

Rodriguez, president of Local 616 of the United Steel Workers of America, the striking Phelps-Dodge copper miners, was right. The form of working class struggle to emerge at this weekend's National People's Fight Back Conference is still new in many ways, even though it inherits much from the trade unions, the civil rights movement, and the militant anti-war struggles of the past.

The conference brought together many veterans of the struggle movements of recent decades, but it also attracted young people like 14-year-old Patrick Word of Baltimore, who told the opening plenary that he had helped build the conference because "If you're mad, you have to do something. That's what this conference is all about—fighting back!"

The focus of the conference was not on any one issue, but on the need for militant mass action to stop Reaganism on all fronts. It was a magnet for many of the most oppressed who have been fighting a daily battle for survival but who have seen their communities losing ground before the right-wing offensive.

Of the 663 registrants, over 150 came from Baltimore itself, an industrial city with a large Black population which suffers most from the plant closings and service cutbacks that have aggravated the deep poverty here.

Baltimore residents speak out

Darnell Miller of Baltimore opened the conference Saturday morning with a welcome to the activists from all over the country. She told them about the **real** Baltimore—not the "Renaissance City" promoted by the city elite, but a city where jobless men have no place to go but the streets, where teenagers face a heavy fine for washing passing motorists' windshields, where gentrification is bringing impossibly high rents and bus fares.

Later in the day, more grievances generated by the heartless policies of the rich spilled out in the Baltimore Caucus meeting. It was a chance for local people, many of whom had come because of a massive postering campaign and articles about the conference in the Baltimore Afro-American, to finally tell about the bitter times they had known.

A longshoreman who said he had been fighting for 40 years for housing, food and clothing was exuberant. "I came here this morning dejected. But the speech of this 14-year-old brother inspired me. If nothing else, we will continue the struggle in Baltimore, even if we have to go to jail for these issues."

Throughout the conference, all the faces of oppression in this society were raised by those who understand them best: by nationally oppressed Black, Latin, Native and Asian people; by the disabled; by lesbians and gays; by welfare mothers; by victims of police brutality; by unemployed youth; by workers fighting for union rights.

What made the conference extraordinary was that it combined this concern for grass roots issues with a broad political scope, from the opening plenary to Saturday night's rally "In Solidarity with the Struggling People of the World."

Solidarity with liberation struggles

Dumi Matabane from the African National Congress (ANC) and Suzanne Broffman from the Columbia U. Coalition for a Free South Africa related how the struggle against the racist, capitalist apartheid system is becoming more militant and effective both here and in South Africa. A workshop on Southern Africa voted support for the ANC and SWAPO and called on everyone to build for the important upcoming demonstrations on Soweto Day (June 16) and Mandela Day (July 18).

Romeo Pasada, a delegate to the FDR-FMLN of El Salvador, told of the mounting struggle against U.S.-sponsored dictatorship in Central America, where "the hearts and minds of our people will not be bought with bullets and guns." A message from Managua from the Nicaraguan Committee in Solidarity with the Peoples of the World greeted the conference in the name of the besieged Nicaraguan people.

The struggle in the Middle East was discussed extensively by Palestinian, Kurdish, Iranian, Iraqi, Jewish and Lebanese speakers in a special workshop, while at the main rally a speaker from the Committee for a Democratic Palestine was roundly applauded when he called for "ending racism from Johannesburg to Palestine to Washington, D.C." The conference sent a solidarity message to the Palestinians under attack in the camps of Sabra and Shatila, and a telegram of protest to the government of Iraq for its execution of 119 Kurdish revolutionaries.

There were few areas of U.S. imperialist intervention that did not find a place on the agenda of this conference. Radames Perez of the Dominican Left Front spoke at the solidarity rally; messages were read from the Office of Information for the Independence of Puerto Rico and the Supporters of the Lebanese National Resistance Front.

Walden Bello of the Philippine Support Committee told the audience, "Multiply this conference one thousand times and you'll have an idea of the revolutionary fervor sweeping the Philippines." The struggle of the Korean people against U.S. occupation in south Korea was described in a workshop on Asia. Josephine Butler of Washington, D.C., reminded everyone of the continuing struggle in Grenada. And music was provided by Rumisonko, a Peruvian singing group.

PAM-APC speakers urge class-consciousness

The conference was organized by the All-Peoples Congress and the People's Anti-War Mobilization, which have been pressing in the progressive movement for the kind of multi-issue approach exemplified by this event. That theme was reinforced and elaborated on throughout the program by PAM-APC speakers—Larry Holmes, Monica Moorehead, Sara Flounders, Sahu Barron, Lydia Bayoneta and Brian Becker—who were already known to many as organizers of previous national and local fight-back activities.

Holmes in the opening plenary stressed how "the main weapon against our movement isn't bombs but division. That's why we bring up all these issues—because we are struggling to build an awareness of our interests as a **class**—the working class."

Moorehead, who opened the solidarity rally, tied U.S. intervention around the world to the attacks on poor and working people here at home. And so it was fitting that the representatives of people struggling in other lands shared the platform with those fighting here.

Like Bob Gustafson of United American Indians of New England, who warned the "cowboy in the White House" that "The Indian wars are not

Continued on page 10

WW PHOTO: GREG DUNKEL

Dumi Matabane of the African National Congress, Thabit of the Committee for a Democratic Palestine and Romeo Pasada of the FDR-FMLN of El Salvador.

Baltimore resident: 'I came here dejected, now I'm inspired!'

By Gloria Queen

BALTIMORE, June 10—Baltimore needed a Fight Back Conference and Baltimore got a conference that will be remembered for many years to come! Nowhere was this more evident than at the Baltimore workshop during last weekend's conference.

Chaired by Andre Powell, the workshop was opened by David Carlton who announced the Baltimore APC's Jobs for Youth Campaign.

Lee Paterson discussed plans in Baltimore to demonstrate against apartheid on Saturday in solidarity with the national initiative on Soweto Day.

Carla Warnock spoke about the struggle to keep Eastern High School open. The city plans to demolish the school to make more parking space for the baseball stadium. According to this activist from Eastern, school officials were shocked when over 300 students and many teachers demonstrated in April against closing the school.

Warnock vowed to continue the struggle to stop the closing along with APC support. Roberta Johnson, representing Baltimore seniors as a member of Eating Together and the MTA Senior Citizen Advisory Panel, talked about the need to fight Social Security cuts.

Peoples' speakout

Following the panel speakers, there was a lively and involved speakout of both experienced and new activists.

Florence Johns, a Westport urban center volunteer, called for the need of improved medical care and services for all. Horace Davis, a 54-year-old Black longshoreman, said "I came here this morning, dejected after 40-some years of struggle for housing, food, clothing. Now, I'm so inspired, so happy I came. If nothing else, we will continue the struggle in Baltimore," he continued, "we must carry the struggle into the streets to go to jail for these issues."

Goldie Mason of the Black, Lesbian and Gay Coalition, spoke out on the struggle for lesbian and gay rights and for immediate action to stop the killing of Black youth. Helen Bradford, a grandmother and vice president of the Penn North Community Association, called for action to support the "Squeegee kids." She called for active opposition to a new City Council law which will fine local teens $50 if they attempt to try to make money washing windshields at street corners.

Sharon Garner, vice president of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization, called for the need to link all people struggling together.

Mehrdad Mojarrad spoke at the workshop and discussed how Workers World newspaper covers all the issues covering poor and working people. After showing the current issue of Workers World to participants, he offered to sell subscriptions to the audience. Many new hands went up, and Mehrdad sold 14 new WW subscriptions on the spot.

The Baltimore workshop of the Fight Back Conference showed to everyone that the time is ripe for struggle in Baltimore. The strength and excitement of this workshop was reflected in the fact that it received prominent and objective coverage in the Sunday Baltimore Sun.

SOUTHERN AFRICA BRIEFS

Reactionaries meet near Namibian border

JUNE 3—The U.S. government sponsored a meeting on June 2 in Jamba, Angola, bringing together representatives of four of the most outlawed, reactionary mercenary groupings in the world today. The private meeting that resulted in the formation of the "Democratic International" was spearheaded by a CIA front, anti-communist organization called Citizens for America, led by the ultra-right millionaire Republican, Lewis E. Lehrman, who ran unsuccessfully for governor of New York in 1982.

The four groups that formed a reactionary pact vowing to continue and step up their anti-Soviet crusades were the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) led by Jonas Savimbi; the counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan led by Col. Ghulam Wardak; the Ethnics Liberation Organization in Laos represented by Pa Kao Her and the Nicaraguan Democratic Front led by Adolfo Calero Portocarrero. All of these pro-imperialist agents have been carrying out bloody, terrorist campaigns in hopes of destabilizing and overthrowing the revolutionary, anti-imperialist governments of Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Laos and Angola.

President Ronald Reagan sent a letter to the meeting via Lehrman expressing his support for these puppets of U.S. imperialism before the participants arrived near the border of the South African-occupied country of Namibia on a chartered aircraft from Johannesburg. Under the guise of fighting for the "American model of democracy and liberty," these groupings have been exposed as the enemies of the oppressed and the exploited masses struggling for their liberation and right to self-determination. U.S. imperialism has always acted as the ventriloquist behind the scenes pulling the strings of its puppets by providing economic and military aid. This meeting has blatantly unmasked their ugly, disgusting role.

Apartheid's latest threat

JUNE 5—Louis Nel, the Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa, stated on June 4 that if U.S. interests were forced to withdraw their $15 billion in investments from the apartheid system, the racist regime would expel more than a million "illegal" Black workers. Pretoria hopes that this warning will help to persuade the Senate not to vote for economic sanctions against South Africa as the House of Representatives did last week, which would apply only to new bank loans and investments, not the already existing ones. It is also a tactic being used to keep this dying system afloat by attacking the divestment struggle in the U.S. giving the false impression that this anti-apartheid campaign would create massive unemployment for Black workers.

It is the apartheid system that has forced Black workers from neighboring countries, like Mozambique dependent upon South Africa for economic survival, to travel across the South Africa border, risking their lives, to take low paying jobs as domestic servants and farm laborers. Apartheid, a form of the capitalist system, depends on this super-exploitation of cheap labor to exist.

It is the apartheid system that has kept Black South Africans out of the traditional higher paid, skilled jobs reserved exclusively for whites. However, more and more Black workers are filling the ranks of these skilled jobs as the Black trade union movement becomes stronger, a development that will help the apartheid system become its own gravedigger. The oppressed South African masses know better than anyone that the cause of unemployment, slave labor, starvation, poverty and racism is not divestment but apartheid and Western imperialism that profits handsomely from it.

South African churches commemorate Soweto

JUNE 11—The South African Council of Churches has issued a call to all churches throughout South Africa to observe the ninth anniversary of the Soweto rebellion by praying for the downfall of apartheid. Many churches have vowed to carry out the anti-apartheid services while some pro-apartheid elements are opposing the observances.

—By Monica Moorehead

SOWETO LI

NINE YEARS AGO today, on Wednesday, June 16, th
massacre of young students demanding justice for
stunned the world as young teenagers defended the
against attack dogs, army helicopters, tear gas, mach
fight to 70 Black townships and sparking a general str
workers.

This was not just one more episode of mass carnage
so many of whom died in the rain of police bullets.
liberation struggle.

And now another page in that book is being writ
August continue unabated, exposing the Botha re
engagement" to worldwide scorn just as Soweto unm
Kissinger's "new Africa policy."

The migratory labor system, the bantustans, the pa
to crack up. Final victory and the day of complete lib

Harvard divestiture protest. Some 150 students, alumni, community anti-apartheid activists and representatives of the African National Congress picketed Harvard University's commencement ceremonies on June 6 to demand that the school divest its over $400 million from corporations which operate in racist South Africa. The demonstrators included three Harvard seniors who were denied graduation because of their participation in a militant anti-apartheid sit-in on campus earlier this month.

IVES ON!

, the Soweto rebellion began, sparked by a police
or Black people in South Africa. The uprising
themselves with their fists, stones and sticks
achine guns and automatic rifles, spreading the
strike honored by 80% of Soweto's 250,000 Black

ge and repression against the African majority,
s. It was a turning point in the South African

ritten today, as the protests which began last
regime and Reagan's policy of "constructive
masked Prime Minister Balthazar Vorster and

pass laws, the whole rotten edifice is beginning
liberation is not to be denied. It will come.

SOWETO REVISITED

Nine years ago,
You were baptized, by bullets, blood and fire
As so many cities have now been redeemed
With this ritual.
You, city without a heart
Authorized ghetto, black spot
At the foot of the mine dump
On the western edge
Of paradise.

Nine years of bullets, blood and ire
Have passed us, engulfed us
And made us whole, fearless, leonine
Fighting women and men, unintimidated
By your bullets, your tanks, your guns
Your nuclear power stations, your napalm
Unintimidated,
By your corporate supporters
In Zurich, London and New York
Many have fallen, but live on
In our memories,
Hector Petersen is our call to battle
Mathlangu is our college of freedom
The blood gourging from his executed body
Has made a river
Through the barren deserts.
They all shall be avenged!!!
Nine years today
The air was thick
With teargas and the smell of innocent blood

Nine years today, June 16
There were cries in the air
Words bursting out
From the mouths of young people
Young people, young people,
Burning the mortgage
Burning the mortgage
With cries in the air
And fists
Folded in a single demand
Amandla!!
Power!!
Amandla,
Power!!!

Nine years today,
June 16, 1976
A fire was lit, relit, rekindled
In the minds of my people
Our bodies will plough
The field of freedom,
Our blood will nourish
The tree that grows
In the field where
Thousands have ploughed
Never seeing the tree
Never tasting the fruit
Let us not
Remember Soweto
As a massacre
Let us revere it as a day
of struggle in the history of South Africa
And the world.
June 16 Lives
Free South Africa,
Free South Africa!!!!!!!!!!

—Zenzile, June 1985

COME AND JOIN

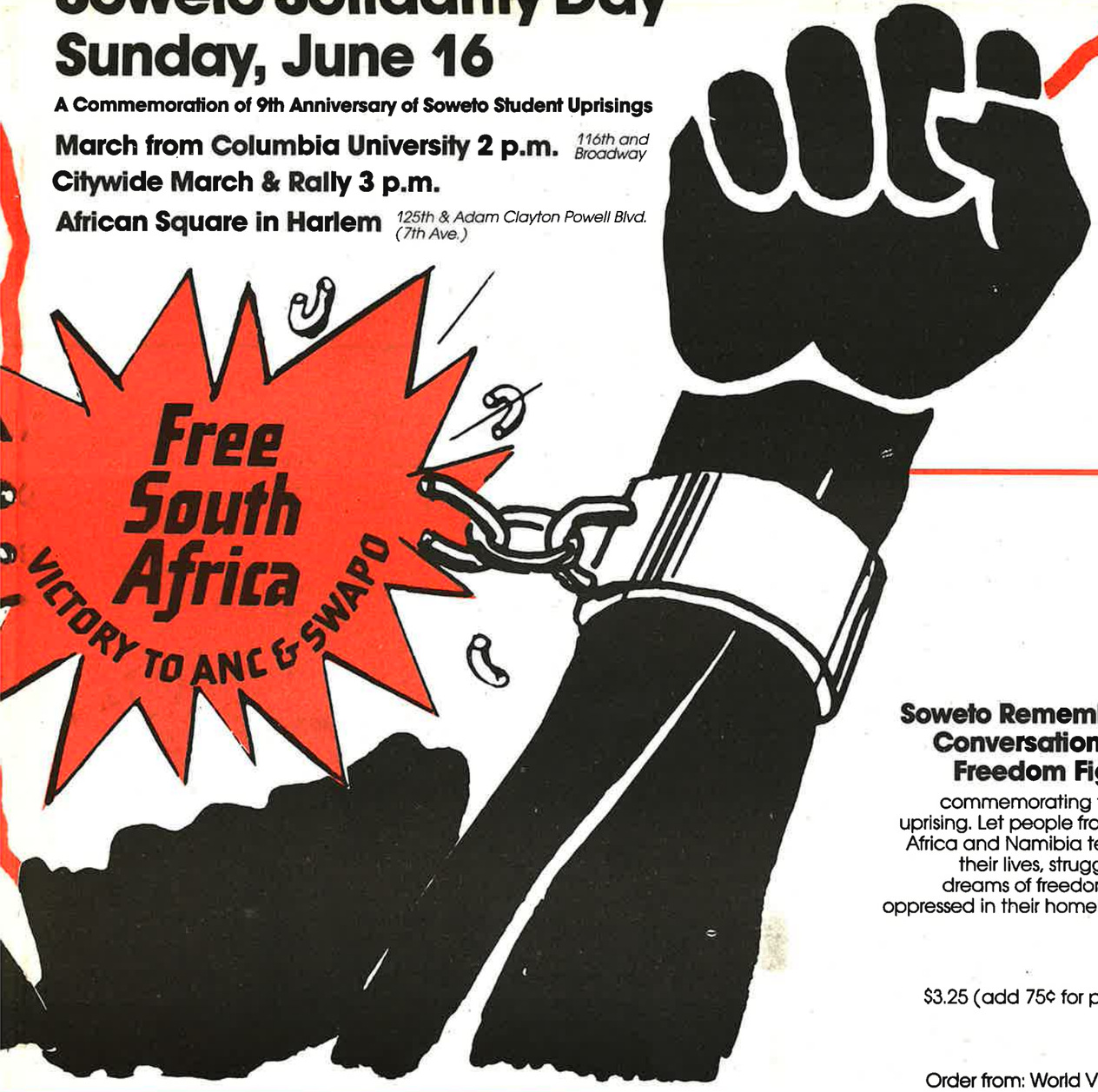
Soweto Solidarity Day
Sunday, June 16

A Commemoration of 9th Anniversary of Soweto Student Uprisings

March from Columbia University 2 p.m. *116th and Broadway*

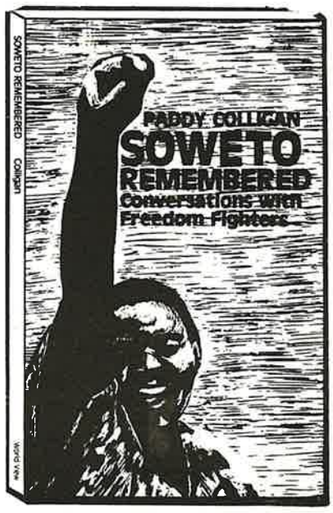
Citywide March & Rally 3 p.m.

African Square in Harlem *125th & Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. (7th Ave.)*



Soweto Remembered
Conversations with Freedom Fighters

commemorating the 1976 uprising. Let people from South Africa and Namibia tell you of their lives, struggles, and dreams of freedom for the oppressed in their homeland. . . .



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EDITORIAL

House vote

THE VOTE BY the House of Representatives to approve economic sanctions against the racist apartheid regime of South Africa comes as a result of growing mass pressure to isolate this despised outlaw state. In and of itself, however, the measure is weak. It does not demand that the already $15 billion worth of U.S. investments poured into apartheid be divested. The various promoters and supporters of these economic sanctions view the bill—which would ban new loans to existing or new businesses in South Africa and new loans to the Pretoria government, prohibit the importation of Krugerrands and block the sale of computers to the apartheid regime—as putting the Botha fascists on notice to reform apartheid. While the bill has yet to pass either the rich, white millionaire Senate or Reagan who has vowed to never sign such a bill, it is at best symbolic, lacking any real substance.

The passing of the bill was a reflection of the tremendous, growing outpouring of demonstrations and other militant actions in the U.S. against apartheid, especially on the college campuses, which took on the divestiture campaign in a genuine and sincere manner. The mass struggle in effect played an indispensable role in forcing the House to pass these sanctions.

However, the struggle must be taken further not only to oppose the policies of the racist South African government but the whole rotten, economic system that bolsters it. Only when the progressive movement in the U.S. takes on the question of apartheid as an integral component of the world-wide imperialist system will a stronger, more effective movement be in an advantageous position to struggle against the domination of large parts of the globe by monopoly finance capital and win.

Taxes and the 'traditional' family

WHEN WHITE HOUSE communications director, Patrick Buchanan, let loose one of his characteristic rounds of right wing rhetoric on June 7, he blew away some of the finer veils surrounding Reagan's tax plan.

A "goal" of Reagan's tax plan, according to Buchanan, is to cut away at social benefits funded by state and local revenue. Also, he said, the plan was designed to favor the "traditional family."

Expounding on the objectives of the Reagan administration, which is eliminating the deduction of state and local taxes on federal tax returns, Buchanan charged that states like New York and California with densely populated cities have "neo-socialist" governments attempting to "redistribute the wealth."

When Buchanan gloated that Reagan's scheme will force state and local governments to cut spending, he meant cutting programs long fought for by the oppressed and by all working people—programs which fund welfare, health care, disability benefits, education, day-care, housing and jobs.

As before it will be the children, whose rate of poverty has soared under Reagan, and mothers in single parent households, Black, Latin, Native, Asian and white who are among the most victimized by these cuts. Of course his administration can't openly admit its policies attack women and children. Instead Buchanan trumpets the administration's bigoted concepts on the "traditional family." He said the tax plan was designed through personal exemptions for dependents, to favor households with a working man, a wife who stays at home and a large number such as "nine" children.

Buchanan should tell us which families with nine children can exist on a single income. Like Alice Through The Looking Glass, Buchanan has it all backwards. The Reagan tax plan is the one for a "redistribution of the wealth"—a redistribution away from the pockets of those who produce it and into the hands of the rich and powerful, especially the military industrial complex.

NATHAN COHEN, a member of the Workers World supporter program, died June 7, 1985, at the age of 70. A machinist and union organizer for the United Electrical Workers union and Communist Party member from the 1930s to the 1950s, he remained active in radical politics all his life. A scholarship for labor organizers is being established in Cohen's memory by his family and friends.

Behind Reagan's 'adherence' to U.S.-Soviet SALT II pact

By John Catalinotto

JUNE 12—In his announcement June 10 that the U.S. would conditionally adhere to arms limitation treaties with the Soviet Union, President Reagan left open the door to continuing the U.S. military buildup that has accelerated so rapidly during his administration.

The announcement followed a week of debate which saw some sections of the administration proposing that the U.S. openly declare it will ignore the 1972 ABM and 1979 SALT II treaties and proceed full-speed ahead with its nuclear arms buildup. This position, associated with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, amounts to aggressive ideological preparation for war with the USSR.

To adopt such a belligerent proposal would have openly challenged mass anti-war public opinion, both in the U.S. and in the other NATO countries. This opinion has been expressed, for example, in demonstrations in 1982 in the U.S. and in Western Europe numbering in the millions.

It should also be noted that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff took a position in favor of adhering to the treaties, describing them as helpful to U.S. interests.

Just last week the U.S. Senate passed by 90-5 a resolution urging the administration to adhere conditionally to the agreements. And recently, Western European foreign ministers meeting in Portugal told Secretary of State George Shultz that they would oppose any effort to abandon the treaty.

Both the Senators and the foreign ministers are aware of the mass opposition to nuclear weapons and the popular concern that with its aggressive words and deeds toward the Soviet Union, the Reagan administration has continually increased international tensions and the danger of war.

USSR: 'U.S. crawling out'

In a statement issued yesterday, the Soviet Union discounted Reagan's decision to keep the treaty as a one-time measure. Not wanting to renounce the pact outright because of the widespread opposition, "The U.S. side embarked on the path of gradually crawling out of the treaty and discarding its limitations one by one," the statement said. "The intention is to eliminate the treaty's vital provisions as they become obstacles to the planned program for the creation and buildup of strategic arms."

Both the Reagan announcement and the Senate resolution set conditions for future U.S. adherence to the treaties. These conditions refer to unproved claims that the USSR has violated sections of the treaty in the past. Should these so-called "violations" continue, says Reagan, the Pentagon can go ahead with putting the Midgetman missiles in operation and increasing the submarine fleet.

A closer inspection of these claims reveals that they involve complicated technical treaty areas where "violation" is a debatable point.

Even former U.S. treaty negotiator Robert Buchlein admits that "treaty language is bound to be ambiguous," and that until the Reaganites adopted a position hostile to the treaties, it was possible to work out what the treaty meant with further talks.

In other words, the claimed violations by the Soviet Union are just being seized on by the Reaganites as an excuse to justify the extensive U.S. weapons buildup, which has accelerated since the middle of the Carter administration and has gone hog wild during the Reagan years.

In that period, the Pentagon has escalated the arms race in a number of essential strategic areas. They have deployed first-strike nuclear weapons in Western Europe, developed the MX missile, and begun research into the "Star Wars" program which opens a whole new area for militarism.

While Reagan's announcement appears to be a slight turn from his militarist rhetoric, his "conditions" leave the road clear not only to continue the U.S. arms buildup but to break with the SALT II agreements when it comes up for discussion again at the end of 1985, using as an excuse for the break the phony "violations" that have been a staple of Reaganite anti-Soviet propaganda.

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Political implications of the GM-Hughes deal

The merger of General Motors and Hughes Aircraft is a giant leap in the militarization of the economy. GM was the biggest civilian producer in the U.S. Now it will be integrated into the military-industrial complex. It is Reagan's Star Wars program that made this move irresistible and that accelerates the drive by the Pentagon to become the central organizer of the capitalist economy.

By Sam Marcy

JUNE 10—The buy-out or acquisition, as it is called, of the Hughes Aircraft company by General Motors does more than concentrate and centralize the means of production in fewer and fewer hands. That is a process characteristic of capitalist development generally. However, it takes on a swifter and more destructive, if not ruinous, momentum in this latest phase of monopoly capitalism which has spawned so many mergers, combinations, spin-offs and acquisitions.

The Reagan administration, unlike previous administrations, has dropped all pretense of restraining the huge monopolies and conglomerates. It has in fact become a catalyst, promoter and generator of the merger craze which is sweeping the capitalist economy and ruthlessly destroying thousands of establishments and throwing millions of workers out of their jobs.

Technology not the real issue

It is widely proclaimed that the objective of General Motors in purchasing the Hughes Company was its desire to obtain sophisticated technology, expertise and engineering skill to modernize its auto plants. But if this were the sole factor, why didn't GM take advantage of a considerable market where it could purchase the same sophisticated technology and hire many thousands of engineers and skilled workers with the desired knowhow, all of whom are available?

It could have done this with ease and facility by virtue of the tremendous cash it obtained through the significant concessions made by the auto union leaders and through the layoffs and cutbacks which were enforced thereafter.

In order to feed your family, one doesn't have to buy the whole state of Iowa! Obviously there was an ulterior motive.

What is involved in this particular combination, the GM-Hughes deal, is a very deep and profound shift of the civilian industry toward the military-industrial complex. It strengthens the hand of the Pentagon in its long-standing attempt to become the central organizer of the capitalist economy.

Up until the day of this acquisition, General Motors was the number one civilian producer in the country—the largest auto manufacturer and the largest complex of industrial facilities. As of today, it has become not just the number one auto producer but the number one defense electronics company as well.

By merging with or buying out Hughes Aircraft, General Motors has become inextricably bound up with the production of missiles, satellites, radar, surveillance, guidance and other military products. General Motors thus becomes integrated with the military establishment on a really large scale.

While before this buyout, defense contracts were only 1% to 1½% of its gross production, it is now estimated they will take up more than 6%. It is not, however, the percentages that count. It is the tendency of this development which is of decisive significance. It is a qualitatively different kind of merger.

Leap into arms of military-industrial complex

It marks a giant leap of civilian industry into the arms of the military-industrial complex. What's involved here is not just a huge multinational corporation swallowing up a smaller one. What is involved is the growing tendency for a most significant element of civilian industry to gradually be swallowed up by the capitalist state and in particular by the Pentagon.

Even though General Motors is so huge in comparison to Hughes Aircraft, one must reckon with the fact that it is not Hughes, that is, an individual giant corporation, which will exercise influence over General Motors. That would be absurd. Rather, it is the Pentagon, which has at its disposal hundreds of billions and therefore towers over any corporation, including GM.

It should be noted that the Ford Motor Company has also become involved in military production and Chrysler Corporation has obtained an option to buy Gulfstream Aerospace. This puts the Big Three auto makers into the mainstream of the military-industrial complex.

This will compel more and more civilian producers to follow the trend. It is part and parcel of the Pentagon's effort to militarize U.S. industry.

For a long time the auto industry, in particular, was viewed by a variety of liberal thinkers concerned with the struggle against imperialist war as a mainstay for peaceful coexistence with the USSR and other socialist countries and as a brake on the Pentagon. This was regarded as the material basis for the existence of a moderate grouping within the bourgeoisie, with economic roots in the civilian sector. This merger then comes as a severe blow.

Star Wars gave it impetus

However, it is part of a longer-term trend. The principal motivation for the GM-Hughes merger and its most immediate basis can be directly traced to the Star Wars project, which has been pushed so feverishly by the Reagan administration.

It is important to take into account this extremely significant political development, which gave the final stimulus to the GM-Hughes merger.

In this "most open of open societies" the most important economic and political processes are carried out in secret. Only when they are completed are they brought out into the open as an accomplished fact. The GM-Hughes merger is a textbook example of this.

This extraordinary development, the GM-Hughes deal, could not have been achieved without undercover cooperation among the holy trinity—high industry, finance and the government. What its effect will be on the auto workers and the Hughes workers remains to be seen. It most certainly will entail layoffs for many thousands sooner or later.

It shows how the most important decisions governing the direction of the economy and affecting millions of people are decided by a handful of business executives who are not elected by the people and who are not even subject to veto by the government.

We know now that the deal between Hughes and GM was long in the making. But it is the political process that gave it such a huge lift.

Once the appropriations process in the Star Wars scheme was terminated with the presidential signature, the Pentagon opened up the process of bidding for research and development. Thus began an explosive scramble by all the elements of the military-industrial complex to grab whatever they could of these most luscious contracts, where super-profits are most extravagant.

It must be understood that we are dealing not with a few billion dollars worth of military contracts, but with hundreds of billions. Such is the dimension of the Star Wars project. No large corporation, not even such an enormous one as General Motors, could stand outside the orbit of this magnetic attraction for super-profits.

Aside from anything else, this merger illustrates how utterly hypocritical are the assertions of giant corporations like GM that they are opposed to the government having a hand in private enterprise, that they are against bail-outs or government assistance or involvement. Certainly GM has been the loudest in proclaiming its independence of the government. Now it is completely intertwined with it.

Military coordination of economy

The Pentagon has long sought to coordinate the civilian with the military sector under its hegemony. As of Feb. 21, 1983, a Public Broadcasting System program entitled "Pentagon, Inc.," clearly forecast this development.

The struggle at that time was over the military's effort to take control of the next generation of computers and to establish itself in a dominant position. The military's program was called VHSIC (Very High Speed Integrated Circuit). Unquestionably it has become a stepping stone for the development of Star Wars.

In this PBS broadcast two of the Pentagon's military chieftains, Gen. Weiss and Gen. Skantze, pushed very hard for the military to become the coordinator of the industrial apparatus of the U.S. "Since our war-fighting equipment comes from the industrial base, the condition within that base must be addressed and corrected," they said. "We now have an effort underway to provide **a planning system that will guide our industrial base** and investments and will eventually integrate technology . . . and business investment planning. It is a top-down approach we call 'Industrial Base Planning.' " (See article in Workers World, April 22, 1983.)

The Pentagon was attempting to explain why it is necessary for U.S. industry and government to take on the organizational form of MITI—the trade and commerce ministry which directs the capitalist economy of Japan.

The GM-Hughes combine or merger should be seen in the perspective that the Pentagon laid out at that early date. What has now happened is that the Pentagon has succeeded in bringing the largest civilian industrial organization within the military-industrial complex. It is a giant step in the direction of the Pentagon becoming the central organizer of the capitalist economy.

It's an ambition which the huge multinational corporations have often scorned and pilloried as characteristic of a totalitarian state.

Capitalist centralization vs. socialist planning

Nonetheless, this is precisely the direction in which the Pentagon is orienting, that of becoming the coordinator and the central organizer of the capitalist economy.

Centralization of the means of production in the hands of a socialist government, by contrast, is based on common ownership of the means of production by the working class. It lends itself to a planned development of the productive forces on the basis of a rational, socialized economy.

Any attempt by the capitalist state, however, to organize and coordinate all the elements of the capitalist economy on the basis of the private ownership of the means of production, and particularly of strengthening the military-industrial complex, of subordinating civilian industry to the needs of the military, can only aggravate all the contradictions of the capitalist economy.

Under capitalism rational planning is impossible; private ownership engenders anarchy and chaos in production. The attempt of the Pentagon to become the so-called organizer and centralizer of the capitalist economy, instead of containing the anarchy of capitalist production, can only make it more acute. It leads to explosive developments. And unless reversed by overwhelming mass intervention of the working class and of the oppressed people it will lead to imperialist war.

It is this which has to be taken into account by all who are active in the anti-war movement. It is this to which the greatest attention has to be paid. Now more than ever the struggle against imperialist war cannot be separated from the struggle against imperialist monopoly. On the contrary, the struggle must be coordinated and the broadest possible united front formed on that basis.

—Tax plan

Continued from page 1

pockets. That Congress has not once **raised** the minimum wage during all the time Reagan has been in office, is itself a crime against the poor.

As costs continue to soar and wages deteriorate, huge numbers of Black and Latin youth can't even begin to find employment.

While the price of food and shelter climb ever upward, people are told to expect nothing but cuts. Cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. Cuts in supplemental food programs and energy assistance. Cuts in Job Corps funding and cuts in Social Security.

This whole reactionary agenda must be fought. There are now one million millionaires in this country. The rest of the population has been watching them pig-out on Reaganism for four-and-a-half years as the suffering of the poor has become unendurable.

Making big business happy is not a crying necessity. The need is for major assistance to those who have nothing and next to nothing. And whatever course of action is required to get it is the road they will take.

Philadelphia homeless to march for human rights

'People are enraged at police attacks on shelters'

By Lyn Neeley

JUNE 11—Philadelphia's Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless has initiated a June 29 march and rally to not only demand fulfillment of basic human needs like jobs, housing, health care and education, but to protest the violent attacks police are carrying out in Black and Latin communities and against the homeless.

"People are walking around enraged," said Chris Sprowal, a member of the committee and a principal organizer of the march. "Enraged not only at the recent bombing but at the series of police attacks on shelters and community health centers. Police have been kicking in the boards of shelters, arresting people in the streets, pulling them in and interrogating them for up to 24 hours. Houses have been ransacked. Anyone who looks Latin or Black is picked up."

Since last year when a cop was killed in Spring Gardens, a Latin community, police have set up a virtual police state, terrorizing everyone.

"We want to point out the police terror and growing ranks of homeless people," Sprowal went on. "We want to keep alive the fact that people won't sit back and let incidents of this magnitude occur."

Louise James, a supporter of MOVE who lost her son and brother when her home was destroyed by the recent bombing, will be speaking at the rally along with Berta Joubert, a local organizer for the All-Peoples Congress (APC), and principal speaker Sahu Barron, a national APC organizer from New York City.

The demonstration is being supported by a number of community groups including the APC, which is helping to organize for the march in Philadelphia and other cities like Baltimore, Washington, D.C., New York and in Delaware.

The march will begin at 11 a.m. at Progress Plaza in North Philadelphia around City Hall, wind through the business area through South Plaza to the Martin Luther King projects, an oppressed community where the rally will begin at 1 p.m. For more information in Philadelphia call the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless, (215) 751-0466 or 751-0462 or for East Coast information call (212) 741-0633.

WW PHOTO

Housing protest. What began as a simple request for a meeting turned into a militant occupation when John Morgan, regional director of HUD, arrogantly refused to meet with over 100 Boston-area Black, Latin, disabled, youth and senior members of Tenants United for Public Housing Progress (TUPHP) on June 5 to discuss Reagan's budget-axe attack on public housing.

Protesters left Morgan, a right-wing Reagan appointee, with a People's Summons, charging George Bush, David Stockman and HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce with 10 million counts of stealing, malicious destruction of property (3.5 million apartments) and assault on people's dignity.

Steve Gillis

Jury awards Greensboro survivors cash settlement

By John Catalinotto

JUNE 10—A North Carolina jury last weekend found three Ku Klux Klansmen, three Nazis and two Greensboro, N.C., police liable for wrongful death and ordered them to pay $355,100 to the widow of one of five demonstrators shot to death in a 1979 rally against the Klan.

The 13-week-long civil case involved deaths arising from a Klan-Nazi armed attack on an anti-racist demonstration organized by the Communist Workers Party in the fall of 1979 in a mostly Black housing project in Greensboro. At the time, Klansmen and Nazis were shown on national television opening fire with automatic weapons on the demonstrators.

All the more was it seen as a travesty of justice when, in 1980 and 1984, the Klan and Nazi scum were acquitted in criminal cases, instead of being sentenced to life in prison or executed as they deserved.

The injured victims and survivors who brought the civil charges said their "principal purpose was to disseminate the truth about police refusal to apply fundamental principles of equal protection." So said Martha Nathan, the widow of Dr. Michael Nathan, one of the fascists' victims.

Complicity of police agencies

Evidence brought out in the most recent trial showed that U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent Bernard Butkovich had urged the Klansmen and Nazis to take weapons to the rally. It also showed that Greensboro police had conveniently left the rally site despite information from their FBI informer Edward Dawson that the Klan were arriving at the rally with arms.

Though the complicity of federal and local police agencies in the murders was exposed by the civil trial, the jury still stopped short of finding the Klan, Nazis and police guilty of conspiracy to kill the CWP activists.

Also as a result of the trial, Dr. Paul Bermanzohn, who was left paralyzed as a result of a gunshot wound, was awarded $38,359. Thomas Clark, wounded by a shotgun blast, was awarded $1,500.

—'Fight back!'

Continued from page 5

over. They've just begun!"

And like Louise James, a former member and current supporter of MOVE in Philadelphia. Her natural son and brother were killed in the fire caused by a police bomb dropped on the Philadelphia rowhouse where MOVE members lived. The conference listened intently as she angrily described the atrocious persecution against this Black group. Buckets were passed to help James and three of her sisters cover the costs of their trip to Baltimore.

It was self-evident at this conference that all these issues of oppression must be addressed by a genuine people's movement in this country; that it's wrong to pick and choose what's popular or respectable at the moment.

This was also the view of the trade union representatives who played a role at the conference. Stevan Kirschbaum, a shop steward from USWA Local 8751, Boston school bus drivers, emceed the solidarity rally with Sahu Barron.

Jaime Veve, a strike captain in Local 6, Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Union, and an APC organizer, brought the opening plenary to its feet with a rousing description of the New York City hotel workers' strike.

Workshops that worked

This was a conference of workers. And so the conference worked. The workshops and regional meetings were places to exchange valuable information and plan ahead. Their results were brought to Sunday's final plenary.

Chris Sprowal of the Philadelphia Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless got the conference's support of a march June 29 to protest poverty, homelessness and police murders in Philadelphia.

Vera Brown, a long-time fighter from the Buffalo APC, explained how the People's Fight Back Network would carry on what the conference had begun. "People don't need to be shown why they need to struggle," she said. "But they do need to know how the struggle can succeed." She encouraged everyone, regardless of organizational affiliation, to join the network so future struggles can be coordinated. (For information on the Network, contact the All-Peoples Congress, 19 West 21st St., New York, N.Y. 10010, phone (212) 741-0633.)

Shelley Ettinger called on everyone to subscribe to Fighting Back, the monthly newspaper of PAM-APC, which will facilitate building the Network.

A message of solidarity was sent from the conference to the upcoming Baltimore Gay Pride Day.

A member of ARMS, a Boston welfare rights group, enlisted support for a campaign to raise the welfare grants in Massachusetts.

Gloria La Riva urged people to join the June 11 demonstrations in support of the struggles in Central America.

A report back from the workshop on sexual oppression urged people to demonstrate on June 22 in Washington, D.C., against the "Right to Life" national convention.

The plenary heard a special appeal to the conference from the Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee on behalf of civil rights activists who are being prosecuted for "voting fraud." People were urged to send messages of protest to the FBI and Justice Department.

After a day and a half of meetings, workshops, caucuses and innumerable individual discussions, the conference was over. What had it accomplished?

"It gave the people a pickup," said Nellie Cuellar, chairperson of the Michigan chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of the Black Aged. "We got strength from each other."

"We have the People's Fight Back Network," said Vera Brown. "It means you're not alone."

Join us in the struggle

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization—Black and white, Latin, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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Community school to meet needs of gay youth

By Preston Wood

A TINY COMMUNITY school, designed to meet the special needs of a small number of lesbian and gay youth in New York City, has suddenly been catapulted into the headlines, the object of a hysterical and reactionary media campaign led by the odious right wing paper, the New York Post.

The Harvey Milk School, located in Greenwich Village of New York, provides special education resources to 20 lesbian and gay young people who have been so victimized by insensitivity to their needs as special people that they no longer can cope with the general school system as a whole. (Like all the U.S. public school systems, New York City public schools do nothing to combat the bigotry and general lack of understanding about the harmful roots of prejudice against lesbians and gay men.)

This school, which began classes in April, is financed by the New York City Board of Education and the Institute for the Protection of Lesbian and Gay Youth. Its program is to provide an education to adolescent youths in an atmosphere of sympathy, acceptance and non-discrimination.

Like the hundreds of special education programs which are funded by the New York City Board of Education, the Harvey Milk School answers a specific and important need. It allows a small number of young people the possibility of realizing their rights to an education.

But the right wing in New York City, which has consistently mounted bigoted campaigns against any measures which might be adopted to guarantee to lesbians and gay men their rights to equal protection under the law, has seized upon the existence of this small oasis from harassment as a means of creating yet another vehicle to spread bigotry and prejudice by whipping up anti-gay hysteria. They aim at not only attacking the lesbian and gay community of the city, but also undermining the rights of all youth to an education in a secure environment. In addition, this campaign lays the basis for challenging the continued funding of all the special education programs which have been won by the people through long years of struggle.

1976 Gay Pride March in New York City. WW PHOTO

June is Lesbian and Gay Pride Month!

By Marsha Goldberg

JUNE 10—The month of June is Lesbian and Gay Pride Month and in cities across the country tens of thousands of lesbians, gay men and their supporters will be taking to the streets.

Marches and rallies for lesbian and gay rights are held in June every year to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion—the historic uprising against lesbian and gay oppression when lesbians, gay men and transvestites fought back together against a police raid in New York City with the militancy, anger, pride and solidarity that marked the beginning of the modern lesbian and gay movement.

According to Bernadette Cozart, an organizer from the Lesbian and Gay Focus of the People's Anti-War Mobilization/All-Peoples Congress, "This year it is more important than ever for all those who support the cause of lesbian and gay rights to come out to the activities in their cities and especially to demand that the government provide the money for the adequate treatment and care of those suffering from the AIDS epidemic."

Some of the cities where marches and rallies are planned throughout the month include Boston, Rochester, New York City, San Francisco, Detroit, Seattle, Chicago, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Buffalo and Hartford, Conn.

1,000 protest nukes *in New York harbor*

By Keith Pavlik

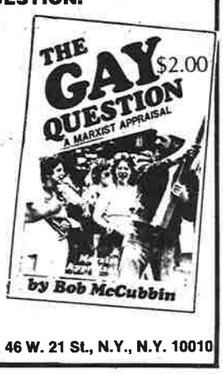
NEW YORK, June 8—Some 1,000 people rallied here today underneath the Verazzano Narrows Bridge to protest plans to bring nuclear arms to New York Harbor.

The Reagan administration has angered the people of this city by its plans to bring Tomahawk nuclear missiles to a Staten Island-based Navy port, despite popular opposition and the potential threat to one of the most densely populated cities in the U.S.

While this demonstration took place at the gates of Fort Hamilton, hundreds of others rallied in Staten Island at the other end of the bridge. Plans to merge the demonstrations on the bridge and form a human chain were stopped by the police; however, a successful march through the surrounding area took place.

Speakers at the rally included a Japanese survivor of the U.S. nuclear holocaust at Hiroshima and Black city official David Dinkins. Many coordinated activities are taking place this week across the country to protest the Pentagon's nuclear build-up. Today's demonstration as well as the upcoming activities were called by a coalition initiated by the Mobilization for Survival.

THE GAY QUESTION: A MARXIST APPRAISAL



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Women to picket anti-abortion convention

By Sue Davis

JUNE 10—The National Organization for Women (NOW) has called a demonstration against the misnamed Right-To-Life (RTL) national convention at the Hyatt Capital Hotel in Washington, D.C., on June 22 at 11 a.m. That is when arch-bigot Cardinal O'Connor is scheduled to address the anti-abortion, anti-women gathering.

This is the first time since the Catholic Church helped launch the RTL over 10 years ago to oppose the women's pro-choice movement that the two have allied themselves so publicly, although the organizational and financial links between the RTL and the Catholic hierarchy are well documented.

It is no coincidence that this aggressive escalation in the RTL's strategy is taking place on Ronald Reagan's home turf. Reagan's bold anti-abortion stance has encouraged not only the violent destruction of 32 family planning centers in 1984, but the increasingly hostile intimidation and harassment of workers in clinics and women seeking abortions all across the country.

The author of the vicious tract, "99 Ways to Close the Abortion Clinics," ex-priest Joseph Scheidler, is also slated to attend the conference. Scheidler's Pro-Life Action League formulated his demagogy into a campaign at its April convention in Appleton, Wisc. His program had the audacious title of "The Year of Pain and Fear," which openly reveals its anti-woman purpose, rather than hiding behind the usual sanctimonious veil of defending the rights of the unborn.

On Mothers' Day, Scheidler attempted to implement this by planning a sit-in at a clinic in Birmingham, Ala. But this rabid reactionary was successfully stopped when NOW members stood their ground in front of the clinic's entrance. To counter Scheidler, NOW is organizing to defend clinics in the Washington area during the RTL conference, according to Maureen Anderson, NOW's coordinator for reproductive rights.

Attacks on clinics continue

Meanwhile, the press is choosing to remain silent about the continuing attacks on women's clinics and abortion-related targets. At least 12 such attacks have been recorded in 1985, with two cases of arson in May at Feminist Women's Health Centers in Los Angeles and Santa Ana, Calif. The Bureau of Aicohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, which has investigated prior cases of illegal firearms, claims no jurisdiction in arson cases. As in the past, the FBI contends that there is no national "terrorist" conspiracy responsible for these ongoing attacks on clinics, which are the most obvious symbols of change in women's social role today.

This reactionary onslaught against women's right to control our lives and our families' well-being must be exposed as another plank in the Reaganite agenda against all working and oppressed people. The cuts in social services—specifically those that ensure quality care for children—attacks on affirmative action, and anti-union campaigns are actually **creating the social and economic conditions whereby women, especially the poorest and most oppressed, are increasingly forced to seek out abortions and/or sterilizations.**

Just as women fought for free, safe, legal abortions in the late 60s, all progressive people must fight today to protect and advance women's reproductive rights. At the same time as women must be able to choose for ourselves whether or not to have children, all women must be guaranteed the ability to provide the necessities of life that every child deserves as a birthright.

—'Cost/benefit'

Continued from page 3

valuable" than an office worker or professional.

In the Willow Island accident, studies showed that 23 construction workers a year could be saved by a new regulation requiring better bracing and shoring of freshly poured concrete walls. The regulation, according to OSHA, would cost industry $27.3 million to implement. And, says OMB, since a construction worker's life is "less valuable" than others, the cost to industry is excessive. The regulation was killed. More Willow Islands, more workers' lives sacrificed at the altar of corporate greed, are now inevitable.

The Reagan brain behind this scheme is someone by the name of W. Kip Viscusi, a Duke University business professor, whom we assume considers his own life extremely valuable, although when workers get a chance to meet with him and discuss his proposals face to face they might have some different ideas.

The Reagan administration immediately took Viscusi's theories to heart, since they are completely consistent with its own ultra-right-wing, anti-working class views.

While the Reagan administration is busy figuring out how much your life is worth, when it comes to attacking abortion rights and the rights of women to control their bodies they sing a different tune. Then they are all for the "sanctity of human life" and start preaching the most sickeningly hypocritical morality, which, as everyone knows, none of them ever practice in their daily lives. The administration's "cost/benefit analysis," a nightmare for the working class and oppressed which smacks of neo-Nazi ideology, is a case in point.

workers world

'Long live the strike, we want a contract!'

New York's hotel workers cheered at Puerto Rican Day Parade

By Shelley Ettinger

NEW YORK, June 10—Ten days into one of the most militant, spirited and inspiring strikes this city has ever seen, the walkout by 14,000 hotel workers here is going strong.

In fact, it's gaining momentum.

On Thursday, June 6, more than 7,000 strikers marched through the streets in a tremendous display of unity and anger. They were heading for Madison Square Garden, where they held a strike rally and unanimously turned down the bosses' latest takeback offer.

They didn't stop there, though. After the rally, these thousands of workers took to the streets once more. They marched back up 8th Avenue, tying up rush hour traffic and drawing the attention of thousands of other workers to their strike.

Anyone present at that march witnessed a living example of the power and force of workers joined together in struggle. Every day of the strike, that same liveliness has been there, as rank-and-filers have continued to organize and carry out street marches from hotel to hotel.

WW PHOTO

Hotel workers protest as Gerald Ford checks in to the Waldorf Astoria.

Oppressed workers take the lead

At yesterday's Puerto Rican Day Parade, an annual event in which tens of thousands of New York's Puerto Rican community take part, some 500 striking hotel workers formed a contingent. They marched behind their union banner, carrying strike placards and chanting in Spanish, "No contract, no work!"

The strikers also coined a new slogan for the parade. "Que viva la huelga, queremos un contrato," they shouted. (Long live the strike, we want a contract!) The strikers' contingent met an absolutely rousing reception from other participants in the parade with many people joining in the chanting, raising fists, carrying placards. The National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, a civil rights organization, joined in and marched with the strikers.

The participation of the strikers in the Puerto Rican Day Parade was an indication of the nature of this strike. The hotel workers are overwhelmingly Black and Latin, and, as the response at the parade showed, they are part of the community. These oppressed workers, many of whom are older women and men who have worked at the rich people's hotels for decades, have stepped forward and taken up the fight for their rights through the strike.

The creative tactics of the workers constitute a unique aspect of the strike. They have refused to be restricted behind police barricades and instead have broken out into the streets, banging pots and pans. Workers World spoke to a strike captain, who pointed out that these tactics originated with workers from Caribbean nations like Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where strike struggles have historically been carried out in the streets, loudly and militantly and with the participation of the community.

The Haitian and Dominican workers, along with other Caribbean, Central American and other Third World workers, are providing leadership for the entire labor movement with this strike. The unprecedented daily marches and the continuing mobilization of thousands of workers can be a shot in the arm for the whole working class.

Impact of strike

Next week starts the summer vacation season in this city, and the strike is clearly having a tremendous impact on the hotel industry. Garbage is piling up and food and supply stockpiles are running out, as Teamster Union truck drivers refuse to cross picket lines to make deliveries or pick-ups. Conventions, banquets and meetings are being cancelled.

The state-appointed mediator, Monsignor James A. Healy, referred to the mounting pressure, saying, "We're talking about big bucks."

But while the hotel chains are facing big-buck losses, the massive strike marchers keep pushing the struggle forward. Today, when the mediator called the two sides together for a bargaining session, some 2,000 strikers immediately gathered, marched from hotel to hotel gaining numbers, then rallied in front of the New York Athletic Club, the site of the contract talks. Chanting, clapping and pounding, they showed what the strike is all about. They let the negotiators know that nothing can happen without the workers, and that the workers won't work until they get a decent contract.

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