

Workers World

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Vol. 16, No. 7 April 5, 1974

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Agribusinesses plot seen in chicken kill



Delegation from
Women United for Action
in front of Senate
Office Building prior to
meeting staff of
Senate Agriculture Committee.
WUA will testify
April 10 before
House dairy and poultry
subcommittee on
dieldrin killings.

Remember a few months ago when millions of baby chicks were smothered to keep poultry prices high? They're at it again.

Toward the end of March, the people of the U.S. learned that 8 million chickens would have to be destroyed as a result of "contamination" from dieldrin crop pesticide in Mississippi.

With food prices already orbiting out of sight, the loss of a substantial part of this year's chickens comes as a real blow to the millions of people who have come to rely on chicken as a beef substitute.

With indecent haste, the Senate Agriculture Committee rushed to offer millions of dollars of the people's tax money to "compensate" the farms which destroyed their birds. The Eastland committee is offering to pay \$1 per chicken, even though the average bird brings only 67.5 cents to the poultry producers.

PROFIT OFF CATASTROPHE

The men who stand to gain the most from this bill (called S3231) are not small farmers scratching a meager living from the soil. Five of the farms which slaughtered a portion of their flocks together control one-third of all broiler output in the state.

How did the birds get poisoned? Nobody knows. And the Senate committee didn't try to find out, either, before offering the \$8 million. Is this another agribusiness conspiracy to swindle the consumer?

Shell Oil Company produces dieldrin. In certain doses it causes cancer. The government says "too much" got into the chicken feed. How much is "too much"? Why are we getting any of this dangerous chemical in our food?

Why are Senators Eastland, McGovern, Ervin, and the other servants of agribusinesses like Swift, Pillsbury, etc. (who control 90 percent of all poultry sales in this country) so anxious to ram S3231 through?

What has become a catastrophe for poor and working people of the U.S. is a profit feast for greedy millionaires who stand to rake in the bulk of the \$8 million provided by Eastland (himself a major Mississippi farmer).

Consumer groups have demanded a public hearing and investigation into why these chickens had to be destroyed. They want to know if this is another agribusiness-government conspiracy to drive food prices still higher.



4/3/74 Tom:W

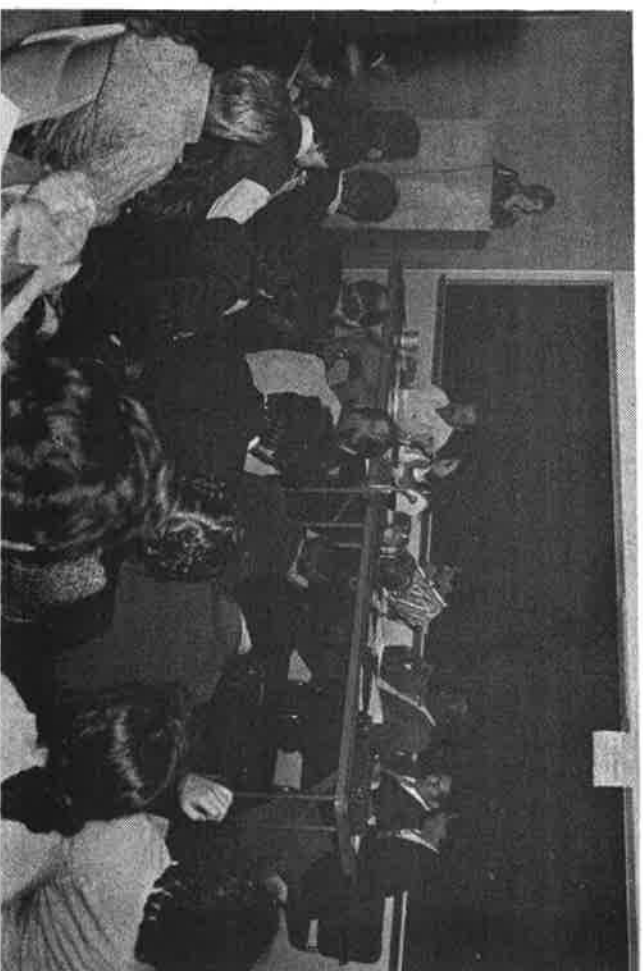
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Debate between Teamster leaders and United Farmworkers organizers resulted in rank-and-file Teamster support for the farmworkers' union.
UFW photo: Fabian

Teamster ranks hold debate to support UFW

NEW YORK, March 21.—They came to New York from the West Coast to orient rank-and-file members of the New School Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Local 1518. The Western Conference Teamsters left tonight in disarray.

The occasion was a debate organized by the workers of Local 1518 to get more support among fellow Teamsters for the United Farmworkers Union (UFW). It pitted James Butler and two organizers from the Western Conference of Teamsters against Dolores Huerta and striking organizers of the UFW. After the debate, 300 people who jammed into the New School Auditorium, unanimously went on record to send a telegram to Frank Fitzsimmons, President of the IBT. They called on him to "return the contracts now held with the growers to the UFW for their representation" and to give material assistance to the UFW in a show of solidarity in their struggle against the powerful anti-labor farm conglomerates: Dow Chemical, Tenneco, Southern Pacific Railroad, and Standard Oil.

In opening the meeting, a member of the Political Action Committee of the Teamster chapter quoted from a Jan. 24 letter from President Fitzsimmons telling all Teamster locals to support President Nixon by financially supporting a pro-Nixon committee called "Americans for the Presidency." "We would rather see the Teamsters contribute to the support of the Farmworkers Union," she said, "and concentrate Teamsters' efforts in presently unorganized areas. Remember, we Teamsters have to fight the same profiteering bosses that Farmworkers fight, and in unity there is strength."

The 300 spirited people listened critically to the IBT organizers trying to defend their actions in the grape and lettuce fields, where they have gone in and signed contracts out from under the UFW without ratification by the farmworkers themselves.

UNION HIRING HALL

VS. LABOR CONTRACTORS

Dolores Huerta of the UFW pointed out that their fight wasn't with the Teamsters but with the giant growers. She attacked the

contracts that permit child labor and hiring and firing at the whim of the notorious contractors, while under UFW contracts hiring is done through the union hiring hall and provides seniority rights and job security.

The IBT organizers, for their part, attacked the UFW hiring halls, claiming farmworkers had come to them complaining of unfair treatment. According to them, the picking-and-choosing method of hiring preferred by the contractors is better than seniority rights in a union hiring hall! Next we will hear that no contract is better than a contract!

WHY DO THE BIG GROWERS

PREFER THE TEAMSTERS?

Four members of Local 10 IBT sent up a question to the Teamsters organizers asking why the Teamsters waited until 1972 to organize the lettuce workers and why, in 1973, they picked up the expired UFW grape contracts when the UFW had begun organizing as far back as 1965?

Another Teamster, a member of Local 104, asked: "If the Teamsters' contracts are so good, why did the anti-labor growers sign so readily last spring when they were refusing to negotiate with the UFW?"

The IBT organizers tried to cloud the issue by claiming that the IBT contracts are not "sweetheart," until members of the audience began demanding a direct answer to the question. Then the IBT representatives accused the audience of being hostile and unfair and threatened to walk out.

Shortly after, the question period ended and the crowd of about 20 IBT officials left in order to avoid hearing the resolution calling on Fitzsimmons to support the UFW.

The meeting ended with the announcement that the New School cafeteria has agreed to use only UFW lettuce.

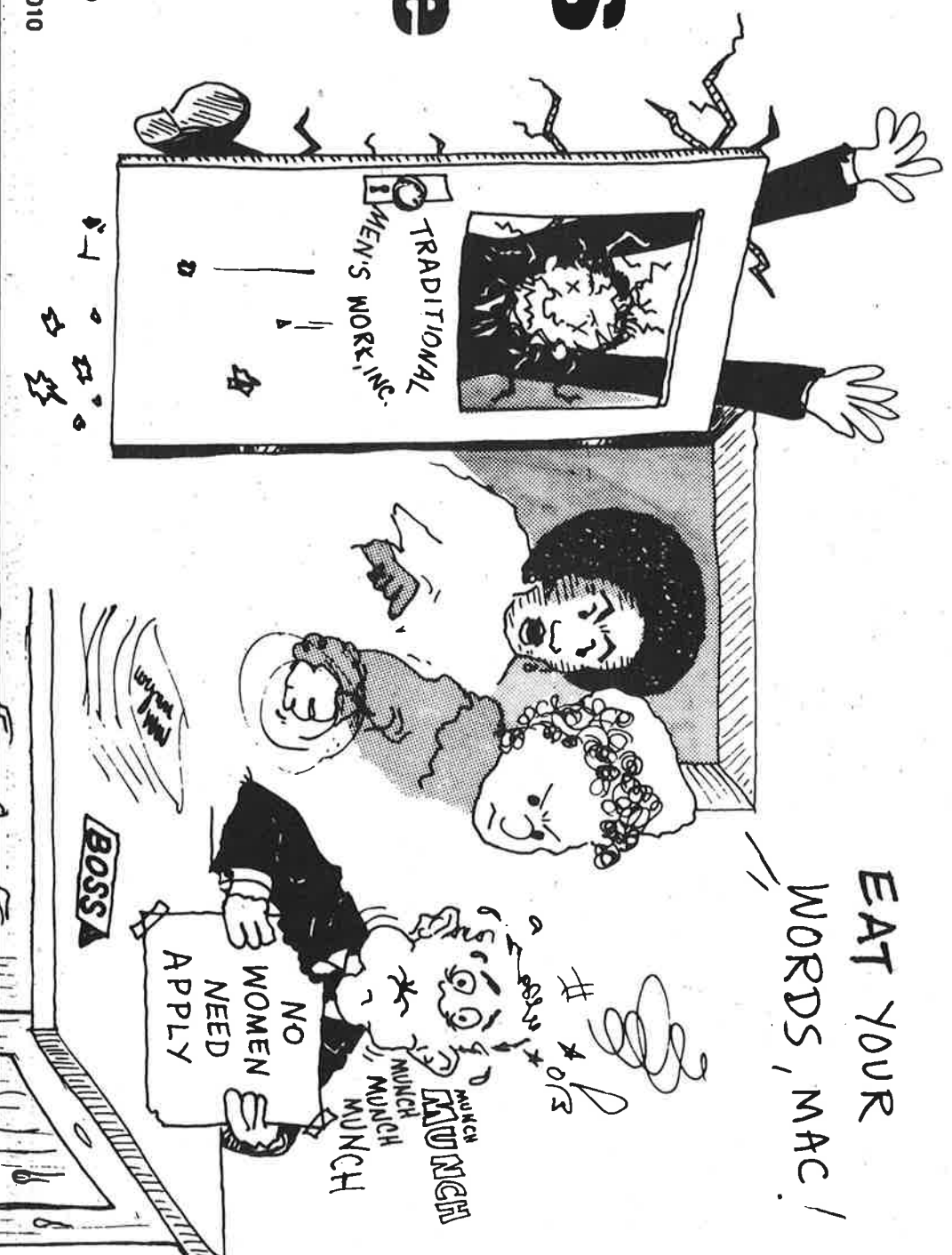
IBT OFFICIALS

BANKROLL CAMPAIGN

Despite growing support among rank-and-file Teamsters for the UFW, however, the farmworkers face a hard battle to win recognition of their union. The Teamsters leadership has announced it is earmarking \$100,000 a month to its campaign to sign up farmworkers into the IBT and displace the UFW. It has already set up offices for a staff of 100 organizers, clerks, secretaries, social workers, and technicians who are being financed out of the international union's treasury.

Teamsters are asking themselves, how come the international couldn't come up with this kind of money for an organizing drive before the farmworkers had formed their own unions?

EAT YOUR
WORDS, MAC!



Coalition of Labor Union Women launched in Chi.

By NAOMI COHEN

CHICAGO, March 24—Steelworkers, telephone operators, textile workers, boiler makers, welders, electrical workers, and many others came from 48 states to the founding conference of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). Over 3,300 women representing some 50 international unions and 100 independent unions traveled here this weekend to form an organization of trade union women to fight for their rights in the unions and on the job.

Among the objectives of the organization that were formulated here were:

1. Encouraging unions to be more aggressive in efforts to organize unorganized women (this is a major demand, since only 4 million of the 34 million working women in this country are presently unionized)
2. Strengthening the participation of women in their unions
3. Encouraging unions to fight sex discrimination in pay, hiring, job classification, and promotion
4. Supporting legislation for providing adequate childcare, better wages, improved maternity and pension benefits, as well as working for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (with the provision that protective legislation be extended to both sexes)

A highly progressive statement of purpose was approved by the conference; it read in part:

"Of the 34 million women in the workforce, little more than 4 million are members of unions. It is imperative that within the framework of the union movement, we take aggressive steps to more effectively address ourselves to the critical needs of 30

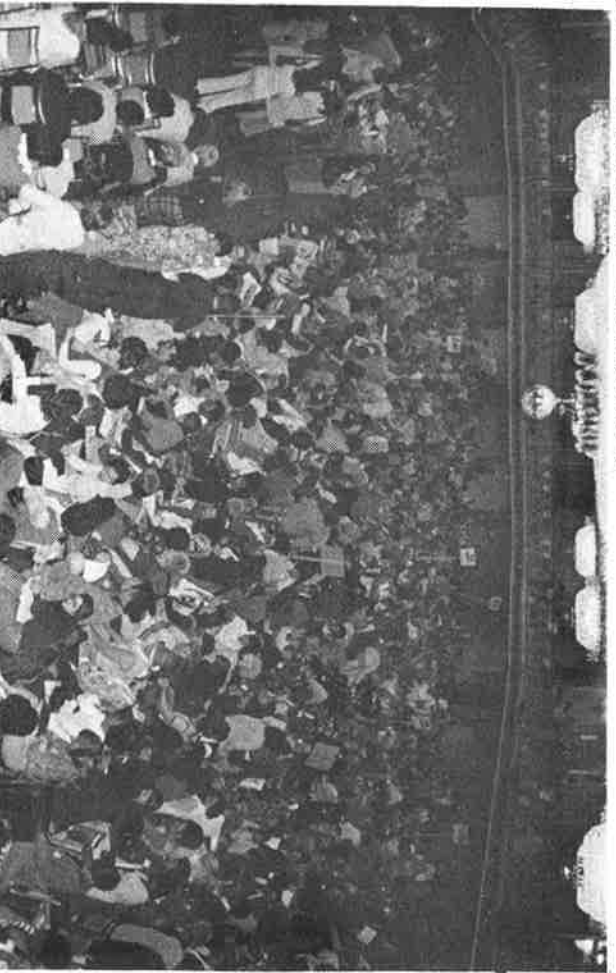
Affairs for the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workers Union, was elected Vice President.

In addition, four women from each international union and one representative from each independent union were elected to the National Coordinating Committee (NCC). The majority sentiment in the workshops seemed to be for passing a resolution stipulating that at least 25 percent of the NCC had to be rank-and-file women. However, this issue, along with the questions of representation for women involved in organizing drives and of orientation toward CLUW actively participating in organizing drives, was deferred to later conferences.

The one issue that was most controversial, and which the organizers of the conference tried hardest to prevent from being brought up for discussion, was the question of support for the United Farmworkers Union (UFW). A delegation of about 30 Chicana women were here to seek support from the conference for their organizing efforts, which have been badly damaged by the Teamsters Union. The Teamster leadership has been carrying on a vicious campaign to sign sweetheart contracts with many growers to keep the UFW out.

SUPPORT FOR UFW

While the overwhelming sentiment among the rank-and-file women here was for support of the UFW, the leadership of the Teamster delegation threatened to leave the conference if a statement of support for the UFW were voted. The UFW representatives, however, did win a victory when the conference voted to delete an item from the conference statement that said CLUW



WW photo: Cheryl

In an historic conference, over 3,300 women representing unions throughout the country met in Chicago to form the first women's trade union organization in this country.

million unorganized sisters and to make our unions more responsive to the needs of women... especially minority women who have been traditionally singled out for particularly blatant oppression."

The statement went on to declare, "We recognize that our struggle goes beyond the boundaries of this nation and seek to link up with our working sisters and brothers throughout the world through concrete action of international workers' solidarity."

RANK-AND-FILE ENTHUSIASTIC

While the conference was organized for the most part by women already in leader-ship positions in large unions such as the UAW, the vast majority of women here were rank-and-file members. 25 percent of them Black and Latin, who showed the greatest enthusiasm for launching an organization to fight for working women's rights. The conference elected Olga Madar, a Vice President of the UAW, as President of CLUW. Addie Wyatt, Director of Women's

CLUW and the women's liberation movement

By DOROTHY BALLAN

Every emerging movement stands on the shoulders of the lasting achievements and heritage of its forerunners. The successful launching of the Chicago Convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) would have been impossible without the preceding groundwork and accomplishments of the women's movement.

The tumultuous struggle of women in the 1960s, which released such enormous energy and enthusiasm and led to such tireless agitation and propaganda on every aspect of women's oppression, reverberated throughout all sections of society. It, in turn, drew its inspiration and received a tremendous impetus from the long-delayed Black Liberation struggle. Notwithstanding its predominantly white and middle class composition, the women's movement inspired thousands of spontaneous struggles all across the country. It raised the position of women once again to a principled political issue in the country, which none could easily avoid.

It was inevitable that sooner or later the sparks set off by the women's struggle of the sixties would ignite the latent consciousness of working women.

This is exactly what happened. The CLUW conference, which drew the astonishing number of 3,400 trade union women to Chicago to form a working women's organization, is most eloquent testimony of this.

FIRST LABOR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The conference was distinguished by being the very first of its kind in this country. And CLUW is a distinctly unique social development. There were in the past (and still are) organizations of working class women in Europe. And more recently, women's organizations have grown up in both the newly developed and independent countries and in the socialist countries.

But the CLUW conference marks the first time that women trade unionists in the U.S. have called a conference of their own. Its rudimentary beginnings can perhaps be traced back almost a century ago to the formation of Women's Auxiliaries (called Ladies' Auxiliaries). These were formed by women to help their husbands, brothers, and fathers in the mills and mines of the country.

Usually they were hastily put together during the long and bitter strikes in mining and mill towns. During strikes particularly, women played heroic roles along with their husbands in life-and-death struggles for survival against the greed and avarice of the mine and mill operators. (The film *Salt of the Earth* is a vivid portrayal of just such a struggle.)

And even right now, the brave and courageous women of Harlan County, Ky., and their husbands have renewed the bitter struggle to win union recognition for the United Mine Workers.

Anyone familiar with trade union politics these days knows what a mockery most national union conventions are. Any real business is transacted way before the convention in secret caucus meetings of the top bureaucrats. Conventions held in plush areas of Miami, Bal Harbour, Honolulu, or any place away from the rank and file are usually little more than vacation jaunts where most of the time is spent carousing in bars and hotel rooms. Then, in the plenary session, with little or no discussion, the delegates are permitted to ratify the decisions made long before the convention started.

NO TYPICAL CONVENTION

But CLUW was something else. What a

sharp and refreshing contrast! The conference sparked with genuine interest, and broad participation was evident throughout the proceedings. This was particularly true of the workshops. It was clear that the women had come for the purpose of forging an organization that would struggle for working women's needs. The CLUW conference was far more reminiscent of the early days of the CIO, when it thrived with membership participation, than of the stultified atmosphere generated by labor officialdom today.

Of course, the conference was not merely a rank-and-file gathering spontaneously organized from below. In the present circumstances of the North American labor movement that would hardly be possible. The women who initiated the CLUW conference are themselves part of the trade union bureaucracy.

WHY LABOR LEADERS ACTED

The fact that they went ahead and initiated the conference (without the overt opposition of the hierarchy and, in some cases, even with its assent) can be accounted for by two powerful factors.

In the first place, they are women. No matter what exalted position they may hold in the union, they are still the object of oppressive and discriminatory practices that grow out of the very nature of the bureaucratic trade union apparatus, which is so overwhelmingly male. The highest position held by a woman in any international union is that of vice president, and there are precious few of them. Even fewer have real executive authority. This is true even in a union like the International Ladies' Garment Workers, where the membership is composed overwhelmingly of women workers.

The second and by far the most fundamental factor which induced the organizers of the conference to take the initiative was the growing realization that there is a veritable sea of indignation and profound discontent on the part of millions of working women—many of them young, Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicano—who have been added to the work force in the last decade. This pressure coming from below has begun to make itself felt, and is finally pushing its way up through the heavily encrusted labor officialdom.

The success of the CLUW conference cannot be judged by the multitude of issues which were thrust upon it and which would be expected to pass at a working women's conference. It was to be expected that there would be general agreement by the women on many issues and struggles such as childcare, organizing the unorganized, support to strikes, and support to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

POSITION ON FARMWORKERS

There was, however, one vitally important issue which served as an excellent gauge of the progressive character of the conference. This was the question of whether to endorse the United Farmworkers and their organizing drive. It was clear to everyone that the conference was overwhelmingly for endorsement.

The question did not come up exactly in this form. As a matter of fact, it was camouflaged by some of the top brass from among the organizers with a proposal that CLUW not take sides in any jurisdictional union dispute.

However, the matter of the farmworkers can hardly be put in the category of a jurisdictional dispute between two warring unions, that is, the United Farmworkers (UFWA) vs. the International

(Continued on page 4)

Dockworkers show support for struggle in Zimbabwe

By JOSEPH WEXLER
and JEFF BIGELOW

BALTIMORE, March 30—Dockworkers in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Burnside, La., have struck a blow in support of the liberation struggles in Zimbabwe ("Rhodesia") and the rest of white-ruled southern Africa. The dockers are refusing to unload cargoes from Zimbabwe, in line with a United Nations resolution imposing economic sanctions on the white-settler regime. The U.S. does not support the UN sanctions.

In a related struggle, members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in San Francisco refused to cross a picket line of over 200 people and refused to unload a ship carrying South African cargo on Feb. 15. The South African Congress of Trade Unions has asked that no cargo going to or coming from South Africa be handled.

At a February meeting in Miami, the executive council of the East Coast International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) passed a resolution in support of the boycott of Rhodesian goods. The resolution had been introduced by a Black longshoreman from Richmond, Va., and was supported by Tony Scotto, president of Local 1814 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

On March 6, however, the African Sun docked in Boston and unloaded its cargo in spite of an agreement by ILA Local 1066 in Boston not to unload Rhodesian cargo. A picket line of 150 people was at the dock. Farrel Lines, owner of the African Sun, had fixed the ship's manifest so that it did not show any goods from Rhodesia. Manifests and labels had been changed to show Rhodesian chrome and asbestos to be coming from Mozambique and South Africa, both white-ruled countries. Zimbabwe is a landlocked country and goods must be shipped

through one of these two neighboring states. Last month in Philadelphia the African Sun arrived, with asbestos, but the predominantly Black dockworkers refused to unload it. White longshoremen supported this boycott action.

On Monday, March 18, the African Sun arrived in Baltimore loaded with bulk chrome ore and refined chrome. It was met by a strong picket line, and, as in Philadelphia, Black and white dockworkers refused to handle the cargo.

Dockworkers in Burnside, La., have also refused to unload Rhodesian cargoes from the African Sun, and there have been demonstrations by Black students in support of the boycott whenever the ship has come.

U.S. DEFIANCE OF BOYCOTT DELIBERATE

The importation of refined chrome from Rhodesia has already resulted in the loss of nearly 1,000 jobs in Steubenville and Brilliant, Ohio, and Charleston, S.C., steel plants.

Chrome ore, needed to make stainless steel, is available from the Soviet Union, Pakistan, Turkey, the Philippines, and Brazil, which all export the ore, often at a price lower than Rhodesia's. Armco Steel and the other corporations continued buying this ore in the face of UN-sponsored sanctions, not because of any economic necessity but as a deliberate act of hostility toward the liberation struggle being waged by the people of Zimbabwe against the white-settler regime.

The Black and white dockworkers in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Burnside, and San Francisco, as well as the organizations that have picketed ships carrying outlaw cargo from settler-ruled nations in South Africa, are showing all of us a concrete way to support African liberation struggles.



200 people demonstrate at East Boston waterfront against goods from racist colonial government of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).
WW photo

-CLUW

(Continued from page 3)

Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT).

The real issue, the issue which the organizers tried to mask, was what attitude CLUW would take to the national (racist) oppression of the Chicano people. That most certainly is the gut issue.

And there are very few in the labor movement who are unaware that the Fitzsimmons bureaucracy has been consciously sabotaging the efforts of the UFWA, and has been working in ill-disguised collusion with the growers against the farmworkers.

It soon became clear at the conference that the will of the overwhelming majority could not be thwarted. And so the organizers

who had fashioned the proposal on jurisdiction were forced to beat a retreat. What came out of it was not exactly what the UFWA would have wanted, but it was nonetheless a victory.

If the conference had done nothing more than that, it still would have established itself on this issue as the vanguard of the labor movement.

It was a welcome boost to the UFWA, as it comes at a time when the Fitzsimmons bureaucracy has launched a massive \$100,000-a-month so-called organizing campaign against the UFWA—which is nothing more than a brutal attempt to wreck it.

ECONOMICS UNDERLAYS POLITICS

Finally, the conference proved the correctness once again of the Marxist generalization on the primacy of economics over politics. The new material condition



NEW YORK, April 1—About 150 people from communities in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and elsewhere protest extortionate rate increases which have been granted to Con Edison at an ever-quickening tempo by the state Public Service Commission. When asked by the speaker at a rally following the City Hall demonstration if they would pay their bills, they shouted their pledge not to pay, but showed little confidence and some open hostility to the line-up of politicians addressing the rally.
WW photo: Beverly

Racist Nixon-Rodino bill threatens Latin workers

By BETO SANCHEZ

CHICAGO—During the past few months the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization has been studying ways of curbing so-called illegal aliens in this country. Most of the people who come to this country "illegally" are Mexicans who cross the border looking for jobs or who are brought into the country by the large landowners who need cheap labor to harvest their crops. Many are poor Mexicans also used as scab labor in the Southwest to divide Mexican-Americans from their Mexican brothers and sisters. As one immigrant explained his plight: "I came to this country to find a job to help my family survive in Mexico because there are no jobs for unskilled workers there." Despite the fact that many Mexicans are lured here with false promises by the grower-bosses, the U.S. government continues to arrest and harass Mexican nationals in this country.

In the city of Chicago, there is constant surveillance by the Immigration Department in the Pilsen community, comprised mostly of Mexican-Americans. They stand in front of churches on Sundays and harass people as they come out. They also do this at factories and restaurants. Latin people who they claim look "suspicious" are required to prove their identity.

It is important to realize, however, that many Latinos who come to this country, either legally or illegally, are forced to take the jobs that no one else wants. They usually get jobs at wages below the minimum wage level, with long hours, unsafe conditions, no

governing the economic life of the people ultimately asserts itself and breaks through the old, outmoded legal restraints and the ideological rationalizations which support them.

Just in the last few years, over 6 million women have been drawn into the work force, bringing the total of working women to 34 million, or almost half the total labor force.

If this irrefutable objective fact of economic life has not penetrated the heads of the labor lieutenants of North American capitalism, it has been taken very much into account by the corporate heads of industry, who look upon women as a source of super-exploitation, that is, extra exploitation over and above that of male workers. It is this material condition which is the well-spring for the rapidly changing consciousness in the North American working woman. There are those who, recognizing the

hospitalization, no security, and no unions to represent them. Most people in the U.S. do not want such jobs, and employers are able to pay the immigrants less than they would a citizen here.

Now, Congressman Peter Rodino of New Jersey has sponsored a racist bill called the "Anti-Illegal Alien Act," H.R. 982. If this bill is passed, all Mexicans, other Latin Americans, and other minority workers will be obliged by their bosses to produce identity papers, and many workers who apply for jobs will be denied a chance for employment solely because they may be "alien illegals."

The Rodino bill gives complete authority to employers to determine whether employment should be denied on the basis of U.S. citizenship, or not having legal immigration status. With this power, these employers, who operate both in the U.S. and Mexico, will be able to increase their racist practices against Mexican people more than ever. Their long history of dividing workers—on the basis of white vs. Black and Latin, men vs. women, union vs. nonunion, etc.—will now have a new dimension, that of "legal" vs. "illegal."

The fight against this bill has been started by "The National Coalition for Fair Immigration Laws." Its purpose is to launch a massive campaign for the defeat of this racist bill and to change the immigration policies. For further information contact: C.A.S.A., 2671 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90006. Call: (213) 487-4336.

validity of Marx's generalization on the ultimate primacy of economics over politics, believe that the irresistible drive of capitalist production to continually draw more and more women into modern industry will inevitably and automatically bring about the elimination of women's oppression. But the history of class struggle shows a more complicated process. The objective economic conditions will not automatically liberate women, but will generate a political struggle to do so.

Lenin's contribution on this question was to see the need for an extra, that is, a special, struggle by women (and men) precisely because of women's extra, special oppression. (This is similar to the need for a special struggle against national oppression.)

The CLUW conference is an indelible contribution to the unfolding development of such a struggle.

Life for the poor in Chicago: Part 4

Schools uphold U.S. system

By GREGG MOSSBERGER

CHICAGO—The U.S. educational system serves as the single largest "captive audience" propaganda medium in this society. Its purpose is to glorify the present system and to get people ready to accept their "place in life." History is distorted by the twisting of the real role of Black people in the U.S. and by the racist portrayals of Native American, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Chicano people, whose lands were stolen from them in genocidal wars by the European colonizers. There is also a decided lack of information about the heroic participation of women in every aspect of the struggle for a better way of life, and the whole glorious history of the working class fight for emancipation is virtually ignored.

For the most part, in every field, the oppressed and working people are taught only what the capitalist class wants us to know. Geography, economics, political science—all are structured in such a way as to present the best possible image of the U.S. government and the imperialist billionaire class it represents. To quote an elementary-school geography book commonly used here: "Despite massive U.S. aid, Puerto Rico remains a very poor country."

Moreover, the very environment encountered in the schools is geared to regiment us into prescribed roles and to make us accept capitalist legitimacy and authority. Certainly, Chicago schools are, in essence, no different from any others in the U.S.—only they illustrate the decay of the capitalist system better than some others perhaps.

DETERIORATING CONDITIONS

Nowhere is this decay more apparent than in the physical conditions of the schools here. Fully 44 percent of the public schools are over 50 years old. There are 116 schools that are more than 75 years old, including 4 still in use that were built in the decade following the Civil War! Needless to say, many of these buildings are nothing but unhealthy fire traps, with poor heating, ventilation, and lighting—to say nothing of the overcrowding due to the growth of Chicago's population in the last century.

One school official was forced to admit to the state legislature, "Some of our schools are in horrible condition." This understatement was only too dramatically attested to last April when the roof of the 79-year-old Audubon Elementary School collapsed. A major tragedy was averted only because the collapse occurred on a Sunday.

Apparently those in control of the school system learned little from this incident: 30 buildings are still in use which have been termed too dilapidated for rehabilitation and have been recommended by even some of the school officials for demolition. Are they waiting for a building to collapse during school hours?

The politicians and the superwealthy they serve generally send their children to private schools, often in the suburbs. Perhaps this helps explain some of their callousness toward the poor, who send their children to the public schools out of necessity, hoping that the children, through some miracle, will learn something that will help them "get ahead" later in life.

If "liberal" Governor Walker were to get his way, it would take a miracle. Certainly the badly needed funds aren't forthcoming. In fact, a promised 25 percent increase in state support of local schools has failed to materialize. For Chicago, Walker's budget means over \$20 million less than was promised in per-pupil aid. Of the \$19.8 million in increased funds for vocational, bilingual, and special education programs sought by the Board of Education, less than \$3 million has been provided.

aren't the only things that need improvement, though. While students are literally in danger of losing their lives in the overcrowded, uncomfortable, and ill-equipped classrooms, they are also often hungry. School lunch programs have been drastically reduced during Nixon's administration. Moreover, just this past month, the Board of Education was being asked to raise milk prices in schools. The more fortunate students buy about 80,000 half-pints per day from Nixon's friends, the dairy monopolies. Meanwhile, 69 schools are without milk altogether because the school board failed to pass an emergency appropriation for it.

All the old problems were compounded this year due to the "energy crisis." While oil company profits were soaring, schools, especially those in the poorest communities, were forced to turn down the heat. Diseases naturally increased as a result.

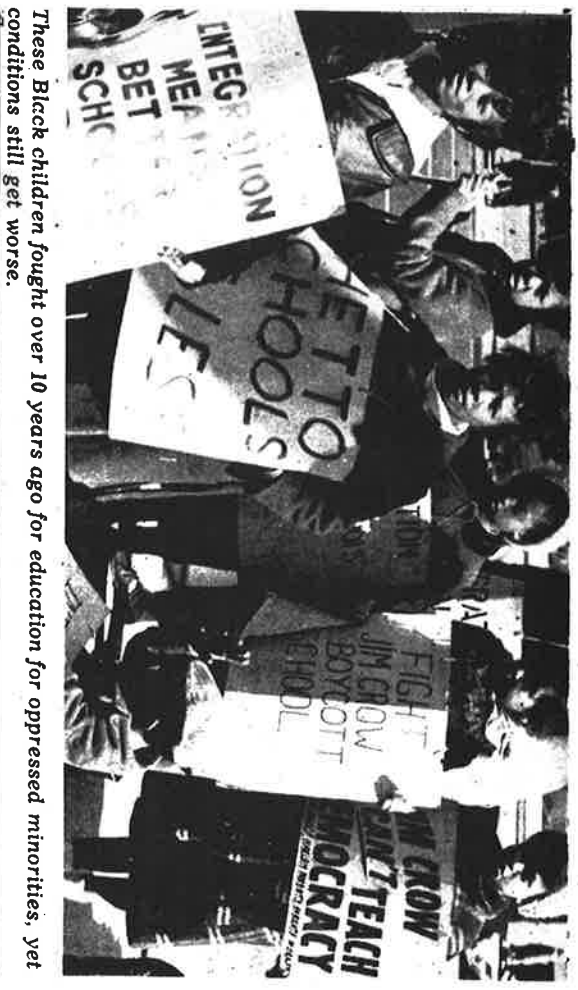
This situation, combined with boring lessons—which the students realize are often distorted, racist lies—naturally leads to restlessness. What's the solution according to the administrators? Not better conditions, but more repression! Principals and officials are pushing for "closed campus" at inner-city schools—having classes run from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with no lunch break. This would merely enhance the concentration camp atmosphere, not solve any problems.

One visitor to Chicago, on seeing one of the schools here, recently remarked, "Is that a school, a factory, or a prison? It's hard to tell the difference." Indeed, it's often hard to tell the difference on the inside, too! One mother with three children in Chicago schools told *Workers World* that she and her husband had gone to the school to complain of physical brutality by the teachers. Typically, one particularly brutal teacher is still "on the job" after several complaints.

Several other parents complained of forced drugging of their children to "calm them down." In addition, the illegal drug traffic in the schools seems to be a very profitable business, as well as a great pacifier. It is certainly not about to be stopped by the police or school authorities. Little is ever done about the brutality or drugs, except to label the victims as "troublemakers" and thus justify the repression.

Since the average elementary school principal in Chicago makes \$24,386 per year, most aren't worried about their own children suffering under these conditions. With all this going on, is it any wonder that students in the average city high school have a reading level about two years behind the national average, according to recent tests?

(More to come on racism and sexism in the Chicago schools.)



These Black children fought over 10 years ago for education for oppressed minorities. Yet conditions still get worse.

Greedy bondholders bilk Chicago transit

CHICAGO—Working and poor people in the Chicago area have experienced a continuous and serious deterioration of the public transportation system over the past 10 years. The fare of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) has gone up steadily to its present cost of 45-55 cents, while service has been cut back. The entire collapse of the CTA has been threatened over and over.

The reason for the CTA crises is profit—the enormous profit that CTA bondholders began to rake in when bonds started coming due in the mid 1960s. Bonds were originally purchased (at a highly inflated and exorbitant price) to buy up bankrupt private transit companies and combine them into the CTA. About \$300 million will eventually be returned to bondholders who paid an original total of \$138 million—meaning they'll get about a 220 percent profit from a supposedly "public, nonprofit" transportation "authority." And that profit comes out of the pockets of the riders whom the CTA is supposed to benefit. Fare hikes, layoffs, and service cutbacks have all been for one reason—to try to insure that bondholders will get their money.

As an alternative to the CTA, the Illinois State Legislature came up with a new package—the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which extends authority for public transportation over the entire six-county Chicago area. The RTA will continue operations of the CTA; in addition it can purchase service from, or buy up, commuter railroads and suburban bus companies, many of which are now claiming financial difficulty or bankruptcy. The RTA is supposed to improve the transportation system in Chicago. But what it really implies is the exploitation of the people by the transportation companies.

\$575M BOND ISSUE

The RTA will be funded by fares, state and federal taxes, and special taxes and fees that the RTA is empowered to impose on the people. In addition, \$575 million of bonds will be sold. These bonds can be sold privately,

with no competitive bidding, and they offer a lucrative profit to those rich enough to afford them.

Also the RTA has power to condemn public and private property and to exercise eminent domain over it. The rights and duties of the RTA board, plus the way the state funds the RTA, cannot be changed—to "protect the integrity of the bonds and the position of the bondholders."

The RTA was approved by the legislature after much fight and compromise over funding and controlling it. The real issue—who will pay and who will profit—was carefully kept from the public during these proceedings.

The RTA had to be voted on in the six counties during the March 19 primary elections. A big campaign for the RTA was conducted by the Chicago press and many politicians and businessmen. The Illinois Central and other commuter railroads threatened to drastically raise fares or go out of business if the RTA was not passed. Opposition to the RTA came mostly from politicians and businessmen in the suburbs, who felt they wouldn't be given enough opportunity to profit from the RTA.

It is the nature of elections to give people a feeling of participation in decision making, while actually denying them a voice. In the RTA election, as in all elections, it was difficult for working and poor people to intervene and express their interests and feelings. Some Black and Latin organizations did campaign against the RTA because it allows greater taxes to be imposed on the people and provides no new advantages over the CTA, but many poor people were persuaded by the powers that be that a vote for the RTA was a vote for public transportation.

The vote over the RTA showed no real enthusiasm for it. The RTA passed by only 1 percent of the votes, while only 35 percent of the voters actually went to the polls. In Chicago and Cook County the RTA passed by 60 percent, probably because the people there feel the greatest need for mass transportation and have been faced over and over again with CTA fare hikes and crises. Voters in the surrounding five counties were against the RTA by 80 percent, mostly because they saw no real benefit in the RTA.

Despite the big campaign for the RTA, there is obviously great distrust of it among the people. The RTA is designed to bail out the private transit companies and provide superprofits for bondholders, at the expense of the people.

The RTA issue is not settled, however. It faces court and political opposition from politicians and businessmen opposed to it. Also the RTA is required to hold public hearings on its budget and service. The people who have paid for the present transportation system time and again, while putting up with increased fares and inadequate service, may finally get an opportunity to express their anger over the transportation system that is being run in the interests of profit, and not of people.

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EDITORIAL

The transit settlement and the escalator clause

The contract which the Transit Workers Union (TWU) won this week in negotiations with the City of New York is bound to have significance that far transcends its meaning to the transit workers of this city. In winning a cost-of-living escalator clause, they made a breakthrough which will help not only all the other workers employed by New York City, but also workers throughout the country.

BREAKTHROUGH FOR PUBLIC WORKERS

While escalator clauses have become more frequent in recent years because of galloping inflation, no municipal, state, or federal workers had previously won such a clause. In this sense, the Transit Workers Union and the Amalgamated Transit Union have broken new ground. This is sure to result sooner or later in similar benefits for millions of city, state, and federal workers, especially those with contracts coming up this year, such as the sanitation workers in New York City.

Of course, the escalator clause just won by the transit workers doesn't go into effect immediately. In fact, it won't be operative until April of next year. This is a decided drawback and disappointment to the transit workers. And it is something that a militant trade union leadership could easily have corrected once it became obvious that the transit workers had the Roman-Beame boss politicians on the run.

Once this motley crew of Manhattan Transit Authority (MTA), city, and state officials, including Mayor Beame and indirectly Governor Wilson, capitulated on the principle of the escalator clause, it shouldn't have been necessary to waive an entire year—a year which is sure to see zooming prices and uncontrolled leaps in the cost of living.

This giveaway on the part of the Guinan-Van Riper bureaucracy is all the more inexcusable because it was pretty obvious that the union's negotiating position had become remarkable strengthened since the 1966 subway strike. A new mood of militancy

and confidence, nurtured by 8 years of consistent and relentless inflationary pressures from without and management's constant prodding for on-the-job productivity from within, has resulted in a much more combative spirit in the workers than existed in 1966.

This was encouraged by the new spirit of insurgency which is evident to one degree or another among all layers of the working class.

The citywide strike of the San Francisco municipal workers, which won a considerable victory, could not have been lost on the transport workers here—nor on the politicians negotiating for the MTA, who had far more time and opportunity to assess the San Francisco strike.

WHO DECIDES PRICE INDEX?

There is an aspect of the escalator clause that was not raised by the transit union, nor has it been raised by any of the unions that have enjoyed such clauses for years. That is the question of what criteria should be used in measuring an increase in the cost of living. Almost all unions—following the example of the UAW—have agreed that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) should be the standard use in measuring the cost of living.

And who makes up the Consumer Price Index? The unions have no voice in the matter. It's not jointly arrived at through negotiations between the unions and management. It is made up by the government. Its staff is, for the most part, reactionary anti-labor politicians who owe allegiance either to Democratic and

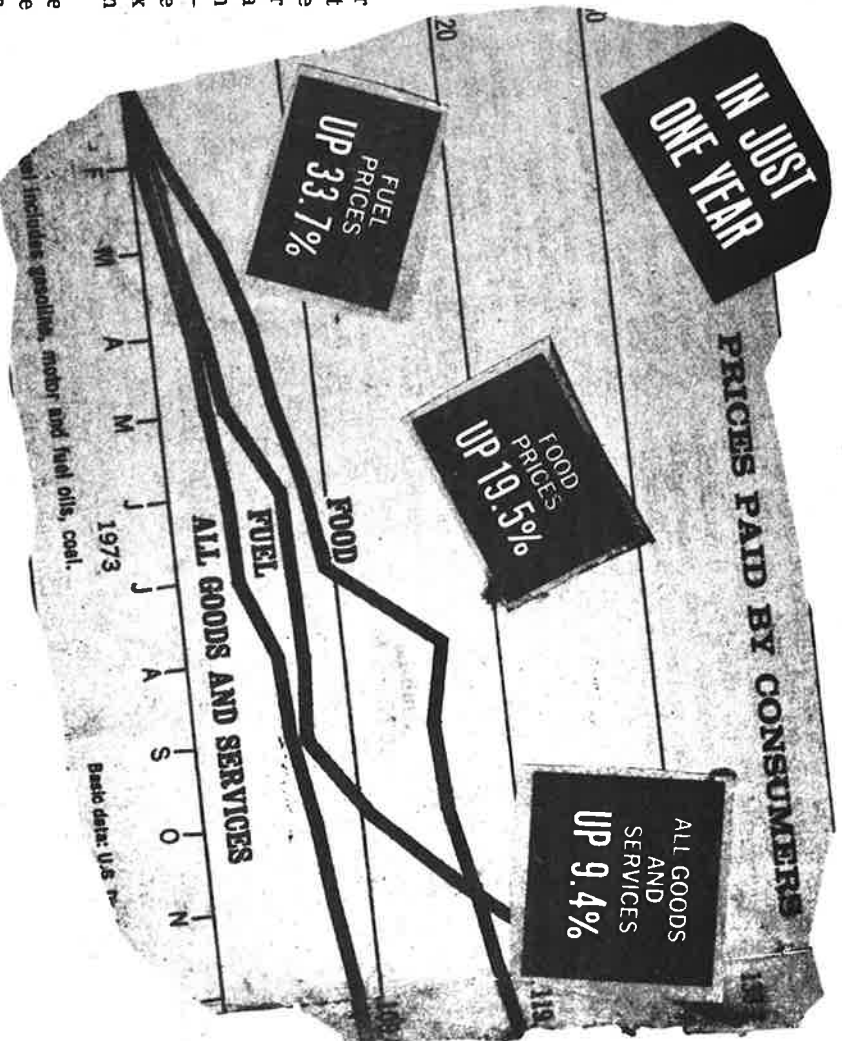
Republican overlords or to the industrialists who got them the appointments in the first place.

As matters stand now, the index does not at all accurately reflect the steady erosion to which the worker's pay check is subjected. The corporation-minded statisticians who make up the CPI balance a decline in the price of a world tour on the Queen Elizabeth or the latest Cadillac against the rising cost of feeding and clothing an ordinary worker's family.

Therefore, unions fighting for an escalator clause must also raise the question of what criteria are to be used in measuring the cost of living. Rank-and-file trade unionists should demand a minimum of 3 percentage points for each percentage point shown in the CPI. Even this tentative measure should be used only until the labor movement perfects a better and more accurate one.

The wage package which the transit workers won, aside from the escalator clause, is modest enough and not likely to bring any cheers from the workers. Unquestionably, if the militants in the union had been able to put their leaders at the negotiating table and send the old Guinan-Van Riper clique into retirement, much more would have been won. Nonetheless, the agreement as finally executed represents a significant advance for the transit workers.

This is all the more true as the union faced not just a single private employer but the entire capitalist state apparatus. But even with the collective strength of the entire capitalist class arrayed behind them, the ruling class politicians, recognizing a new spirit of fight and confidence in the ranks, thought it the better part of wisdom to grant significant concessions to the workers.



Government price index balances luxury items against workers' necessities. Unions with escalator clauses must fight for voice in determining price index.

and extent of police corruption in the nation's fourth largest city were strikingly similar to those of the Knapp Commission, which in December 1972, concluded that a 'substantial majority' of New York policemen were corrupt.

"The Philadelphia findings also parallel the corruption patterns suggested by the indictments during the last year of 60 Chicago policemen for extortion and bribery.

"In summary, the commission report said 'corrupt practices' had been found in each of Philadelphia's 22 police districts or precincts and that officers from the rank of patrolman to inspector had been involved. "A Philadelphia policeman testified that in more than half of the narcotics arrests, part of the contraband was kept by the arresting officer. The illegally seized drugs were retained for resale or for 'farming,' the slang expression for planting false evidence, the policeman said."

Pig has 'accident'

The New York Times, March 27:

"Santiago, Chile—In some neighborhoods, the Junta's police have staged highly publicized raids and picked up scores of suspects. In the factories a much quieter campaign is on, using new workers as in-

formers to uncover the remaining political activists.

"One informer, Roberto, joined a metallurgical factory about a month ago. He receives a monthly salary of \$23—but he is paid up to \$95 in bounty money each month.

"I just sweep the floors and keep my eyes open," he said. "It is easy to know everybody because they now have identification cards on their shirts."

"Roberto said he had suffered two close brushes with workers. Once he saw several load a container with new metal parts and dump it into a garbage truck at a side entrance. The workers spotted him and questioned him. "They told me not to hang around that part of the factory and that they would keep an eye on me from then on," he said.

"Roberto said he was worried because another informer in the factory was severely injured in an 'accident' when a forklift ran him over."

That big bank in the sky

Atlanta Constitution, March 4:

"The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Buffalo, N.Y., has been accepting Master Charge, BankAmericard, and Empire credit cards. The Pastor said credit-card use placed the parishoner's obligation to the church in a more proper perspective as 'one of the ordinary expenses of life, such as debts to utility companies, grocery stores and banks.'"



For the man who has everything

New York Post, March 25:

"The American Underwriters ads appeared under headlines that said 'Kidnap Insurance Available.'"

"The offer read in part: "Now, for the man who appears to have almost everything, a new kind of insurance has come into existence, instigated by the current rash of kidnappings."

"It's already happened in Argentina," said Bernard Burns, who is an independent insurance agent in Milford, Conn. "Things have gotten so bad there that no U.S. companies will insure executives who work there."

"Last year, American businessmen paid out \$90 million in ransom to overseas terrorists, according to the State Department."

One year for each button

New York News magazine, March 24:

"One paraprofessional employee of legal aid heard an assistant district attorney

Farming in Philadelphia

The New York Times, March 11:

"Philadelphia, Pa.—The findings by the Pennsylvania commission about the nature

The leftist tendencies and Solzhenitsyn

By SAM MARCY

Now that the tremendous campaign led by the U.S. bourgeois press to promote sympathy for Alexander Solzhenitsyn has somewhat abated, it's a good time to examine the major radical tendencies in light of their positions on this question.

The Daily World, reflecting the view of the U.S. C.P., at first tried to avoid the Solzhenitsyn question—with ample reason. Solzhenitsyn's first work, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, a fictional account of life in a Siberian labor camp during the Stalin era, was published with approval of Khrushchev and widely acclaimed in the Soviet Union (and of course in the West).

As late as last month, a commentary in the Daily World which compared Solzhenitsyn's Gulag Archipelago to D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*, still had high praise for Ivan Denisovich. This is not to be wondered at. When this book was published, it was quite possible to determine the political direction in which the author was trying to lead the reader. Was this exposure of the monstrous terror and police regime inaugurated by Stalin an effort to revitalize the social system in the USSR, to regenerate the workers' state? Or was it an attempt to discredit and disqualify the very idea of socialism?

No one could deduce from that book alone what the author's real position was. Soon it was made plain enough, however, with the publication of *Cancer Ward* and other prominent works by Solzhenitsyn.

In effect, the Khrushchev liberalization opened a flood gate of bourgeois reaction, of which Solzhenitsyn remains the consummate literary expression. But the Soviet bureaucracy took fright at this avalanche of bourgeois criticism which the liberalization had released. Khrushchev was summarily dismissed, and an indiscriminate clamp-down was reintroduced with the elevation of Brezhnev and Kosygin to succeed him.

The pendulum has by no means swung all the way back to the repressive days of the Stalin period. But the Pandora's box which Khrushchev opened revealed what a vast reservoir of reaction Stalin had built up. (Khrushchev's experimental bourgeois liberalization, by the way, had nothing whatever to do with restoring proletarian democracy.)

CP BURIES ITS HEAD IN GROUND

The Daily World would have liked nothing better than to forget the whole thing

“In effect, the Khrushchev liberalization opened a flood gate of bourgeois reaction, of which Solzhenitsyn remains the consummate literary expression.”

and pretend as though nothing had really happened—either Khrushchev's revelations of Stalin's crimes at the 20th Congress of the CPSU, nor his uncereimonious ouster by Brezhnev, Kosygin, and company. Nor were they ready to admit the existence of a formidable array of bourgeois dissidents in the Soviet Union. If only things could quiet down so that the only news from the USSR would be one socialist triumph after another.

Then came the publication of *Gulag Archipelago*, which put the Daily World in an extremely embarrassing position. Their embarrassment was offset to some extent by the wild and unrestrained publicity in the capitalist press. It was obvious that the book intended not merely to expose the

repression during the Stalin period, but was calculated to falsify and discredit the early Bolshevik Revolution, the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky, and socialism in general. This relieved the DW of some embarrassment.

When Solzhenitsyn finally made public his now celebrated letter to the Central Committee of the CPSU, written last September, the Daily World not only breathed a deep sigh of relief, but jumped to the attack with unprecedented eagerness and enthusiasm. Solzhenitsyn had now revealed himself to be, not only blatantly antisocialist, and anticommunist, but for the dismantling of the Soviet Union. He attacked Western capitalism for its liberalism (!) and even called for a return to an agrarian society based on clerical authoritarianism.

That seemingly answered all the questions, not only about Solzhenitsyn, but

are likely to be more fit to retire to the camp of the bourgeoisie, as did their predecessors—Joseph Clark, John Gates, etc.

Some of the Western CPs took a different tack on Solzhenitsyn. The Belgian paper *Le Drapeau Rouge*, the Italian CP's *L'Unita*, and the paper of the Swedish CP disassociated themselves from the Soviet position banning Solzhenitsyn's book and sending him into exile. This was done, however, under a barrage of redbaiting unleashed by the bourgeois press with the publication of *Gulag Archipelago*. And while it presumably shows their spirit of independence, these parties all had a golden opportunity to show real working class independence earlier, and failed.

WHEN INDEPENDENCE COUNTED

This was during the Haiphong mining crisis. When the Brezhnev leadership so



also about Sakharov, Amalrik, and all the others. No need to argue anymore. It is only necessary to show that they are enemies of the Soviet Union, of socialism and communism, and are in reality pro-West.

Indeed, all this is only too true. The bourgeois press long ago correctly evaluated the political physiognomy of the “dissidents,” which explains why it has been so enormously sympathetic to them and so eager to be helpful.

Workers World Party, for our part, years ago analyzed the nature of the Khrushchev liberalization and the bourgeois reaction it brought to the surface.

CP CAN'T ASK: WHY A BOURGEOIS OPPOSITION?

But the Daily World, in its defense of the Soviet leadership against these bourgeois opponents, carefully avoids asking that all-important question: What is the cause for the development of a Solzhenitsyn, a Sakharov, or an Amalrik? Or of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of so-called dissident writers, artists, scientists, and other intellectuals?

What has caused the development of what amounts to a formidable bourgeois opposition to the Soviet bureaucracy?

The Daily World carefully dodges this question, for to answer it calls for an indictment of the very leadership whose political and ideological line they so assiduously pursue.

Not that they are entirely happy with the situation. They constantly live in the hope that this whole problem in the Soviet Union will go away by itself, will be laid to rest quietly. How unprepared this leaves them for the next and more devastating events to follow on the heels of Solzhenitsyn! When disillusionment sets in, the Daily World editors, instead of searching for a revolutionary reevaluation of their conduct,

miserably capitulated to Nixon's threats against North Vietnam. The conduct of the Soviet leaders with relation to the Palestinian question is another area where real revolutionary independence from the present Soviet leaders could be shown by parties loyal to communism.

SWP STILL FOR HIM

So far as the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) are concerned, they have treated Solzhenitsyn like a revolutionary hero. It is an incredible spectacle to see them pile up effusive praise for him—praise that often rivals that of the bourgeois press. For a long time, nothing Solzhenitsyn did to expose his reactionary essence seemed to phase them. Their only concern was that he “exposes Stalinist repression.” But he also falsifies the Bolshevik Revolution, lies about the Civil War, attacks both Lenin and Trotsky, is an enemy of socialism and communism. In a word, he is for bourgeois restoration—which is exactly what Trotsky warned Stalin's policies would lead to. And that, essentially, is why Trotsky fought Stalin.

Yet all this makes no difference to the SWP. He is “against Stalinist repression.”

Finally when it became abundantly clear to everyone just how reactionary Solzhenitsyn is, and even the bourgeois liberals here had to cringe at his attacks on heroes of theirs like Ramsey Clark and Ellsberg, the SWP moderated their position by a hair's breadth. They now explain Solzhenitsyn's embrace of bourgeois reaction as the product of circumstances, the Stalinist repression. Fine. But isn't everybody the product of circumstances?

Isn't Rockefeller the product of circumstances? Under different circumstances, Rockefeller might have become a social-democratic editor of *The Militant*.

Just because we can explain human

conduct as the product of material conditions doesn't mean we must justify that conduct! Every worker understands that circumstances may induce a shopmate to become a scab, but it's another matter to justify or condone scabbing.

The truth of the matter is that the SWP, under the label of anti-Stalinism, support the bourgeois opposition in the Soviet Union. Under the guise of freedom of speech, they have championed the so-called dissidents and deliberately brushed aside the class character of this opposition. It is one thing to stand up for the restoration of civil rights in the Soviet Union. It is another matter entirely to encourage and promote a bourgeois opposition under the banner of “freedom of speech.” The SWP's attitude on this question clearly demonstrates that they have become transformed into an out-and-out petty bourgeois social-democratic party.

MAOISTS SAY OPPOSITION IS BOURGEOIS BUT PROGRESSIVE!

The Maoists, on the other hand, suffer from an entirely different political disorder. On the one hand, they clearly recognize that Solzhenitsyn, at least, is an unadulterated reactionary. If *The Guardian* is any guide, they regard all the so-called dissidents as proponents of the bourgeois order. But since they view the Soviet Union as imperialist and a police state, they conclude that even a bourgeois democratic opposition is progressive!

What explanation do they have, if any, for the destruction of democracy and suppression of civil liberties raised by the so-called dissidents? They put almost all the blame on Khrushchev and his successors. But the whole thrust of the bourgeois opposition in the USSR is against the Stalin regime, with its tremendous repression of millions of people and establishment of concentration camps.

The Maoists assert that Stalin only committed some violations of civil liberties. A few articles in the Maoist press refer to “gross” violations, but no specifics are ever given. Stalin comes off fine, as the inheritor of Lenin's mantle.

But how could a few unspecified violations of civil liberties, even “gross” ones, culminate in the establishment of concentration camps as a virtually permanent feature of the entire Stalin period?—to mention just one aspect of Stalin's political rule during all the years he was in power. Khrushchev merely lifted the lid on this odious spectacle, he didn't create it. He had gone along with it, as did the other members of the Politburo and the bureaucracy. And while it was Khrushchev who let the bourgeois opposition surface, and encouraged it with increased material privileges, it was Stalin who had used these privileges in the first place.

The Chinese CP had in 1956 endorsed the very report Khrushchev made to the 20th Congress revealing Stalin's crimes. Not the least of these crimes was the extermination of the revolutionary Left Opposition, which both the “dissidents” and the Khrushchevites either hide, approve, or assign to negligible significance. But even without assigning the campaign against the Opposition its proper place, Khrushchev's report still contained much that the revisionist CPs, as well as the Maoists, are now anxious to forget or even deny.

The Maoists are in an acute contradiction. They admit the existence of a bourgeois opposition. They even go further and characterize the entire Soviet state as fascist. But how did all this happen? Lacking a rational explanation (let alone a Marxist, materialist explanation), they resort to the conspiracy theory of history. Khrushchev and his clique, they say, brought about a counterrevolutionary coup d'état and restored the capitalist system. This must be the first time in history that a government, and even a new progressive

(Continued on page 15)

"Nixon eats steak—Vets starve with honor!"

By JULIO A. CHIGLIOTTY, Sgt. E-4 (Ret.)
WASHINGTON, D.C., March 31—In a desperate scramble for credibility, Richard Nixon declared March 29 to be Vietnam Veteran's Recognition Day. (This day was the anniversary of the so-called withdrawal of the "last" American troops from Vietnam.) Speaking at the National War College at Fort McNair, Nixon said, "The American effort (in Vietnam) was in good conscience, honorably undertaken, and honorably ended." He was speaking to a civilian and military higher-ups and a select group of hospitalized war veterans.

Meanwhile, here in Washington over 600 veterans, mostly led by the City University of New York Veteran's Action Committee (CUNYVAC), packed the Veteran's Com-



Vietnam war veterans charge that the VA neglects benefits and discriminates against those with undesirable discharges.

mittee hearing in the Senate Office Building to demand of Senator Vance Hartke (D., Ind.), Chairman of the committee, that any veteran's legislation proposed to the Congress include the Vietnam Veteran's Bill of Rights that they had drawn up. This Bill of Rights includes the right to a free education, adequate medical care, abolition of the SPN codes (codes that appear on discharge papers to secretly classify vets), and, in general, parity with what World War II veterans received.

Senator Hartke attempted to co-opt the mood of the veterans by saying that his panel would push for a 23 percent increase in educational benefits, bringing the amount to \$270 a month for a single veteran attending school full-time, but the veterans present didn't care for this proposal, pointing out that that sum was still far below parity with World War II vets. Promises by the Senators that they would fight for better legislation were met by shouts of "Lies, lies, lies"—a reaction to the many times that promises have been made and reneged on for Vietnam veterans. "We've heard the words," shouted a veteran, "now let's see some action."

"WHERE WERE THE RICH?"

Warren Nagel, President of the Hunter College Veteran's Club in New York City, declared in his testimony that he and his wife could barely make ends meet with the \$261 a month he receives for attending school full-time. "I feel like I'm humbling myself to this administration in order to get something I'm due," said Mr. Nagel.
Veterans from colleges in

Massachusetts and Connecticut were selling apples, symbolizing the extent to which vets have to go in order to make ends meet. They asked the committee members if they would like to buy some. No response was forthcoming.

The point was made by Michael Dempsey, a vet from Staten Island in New York City, that it was the poor and working people who fought the war for the rich. Another veteran in the audience demanded to know: "Where was your son while I was in the rice paddies, Senator?"

Under this militant attack, born of frustration and desperation, Senator Hartke abruptly adjourned the hearing shortly after noon. The veterans responded to this with boos and shouts of "That's American justice for you, brothers; they turn their backs on us."

After a brief picket line in front of the Senate Office Building, the vets marched to McPhearson Park across the street from the Veteran's Administration Building. Along the route of march, was the U.S. Treasury Building, which received the anointment of

a barrage of apples from the vets; ditto for the FBI building. The lead banner, signed by the American Servicemen's Union, read, "Vets demand the right to a decent life."

"VETS STARVE WITH HONOR"

Chanting "Nixon eats steak—Vets starve with honor," the angry vets marched to the VA Building and demanded to see Donald Johnson, head of the VA. In typical VA manner, the vets were not allowed in and guards blocked the doorway. The angry chants of the veterans rebounded from the cold, gray walls of the bureaucratic canyons of government buildings here, as the vets demanded to know why they were not allowed to enter a public building supposedly set up to take care of their particular problems. Congressman Murphy (R., Staten Island) attempted to placate the vets and to look like their friends. He talked to the VA bureaucrats and came to an agreement that a delegation of 20 vets would be allowed to talk with VA officials. When Murphy reported this "decision" to the vets, he was met with a resounding "No!" The veterans spontaneously began a chant of "Together, together, together," refusing to be split up.

Today's powerful demonstration of veteran power ended with the demand that Donald Johnson resign as head of the VA. He was given 30 days in which to hand in his resignation and a promise that "We will be back."

Today, President Nixon announced in a radio broadcast a new program, "To insure that we have policies that pull together the activities of the entire Government, and

Fight against milita

more fully meet the needs of veterans, I am today creating a new Domestic Council Committee on Veterans Services." This committee is to be headed by none other than Donald E. Johnson himself, the already-hated Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and will include as members the Secretaries of Labor; Defense; Health, Education and Welfare; and the Director of the Office of Management and the Budget. Veterans are sure to be marching on Washington again soon!

Blacklisting SPN codes dropped by Brass

By Ex-PFC PETE PERKINS

Over the past 2 decades, the U.S. military has been confronted by massive GI resistance during an epoch of imperialist aggression in Asia. The old tactic of court-martialing the first guy who got out of line has become increasingly ineffective, first during the Korean War and then in Vietnam. So to try to reinforce their stranglehold over GIs, the Brass brought out a new weapon during the Korean War—the Special Processing Number, today known as the SPN code.

Tucked innocuously away in paragraph 11a of a GI's discharge papers, under the heading "Reason and Authority for Discharge," was a 3-digit number that could thoroughly mess up a veteran's employment prospects for life. In their idle hours the Brass dreamed up over 500 such code listings, all of which were given out arbitrarily without even the slightest pretext of due process.

Men and women were labeled for such reasons as homosexuality, suspected drug abuse, alleged obesity, and even suspected practice of witchcraft. A confirmed alcoholic "lifer" could escape without a code, while a dissident draftee could be branded for life as a "junkie" with no proof at all.

Word was passed along to prospective employers through a handbook published by the archreactionary Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During the Vietnam War the Brass started handing out branded discharges like pieces of poisoned candy. From 1960 to 1973, fully 12 percent of all discharges were branded with SPN codes or outright less-than-honorable character-of-service designations. That totals over 2 million such discharges, most of which went to draftees.

No wonder Vietnam-era vets have the highest unemployment rate of any group listed in official Department of Labor statistics, more than 50 percent above the rising national average!

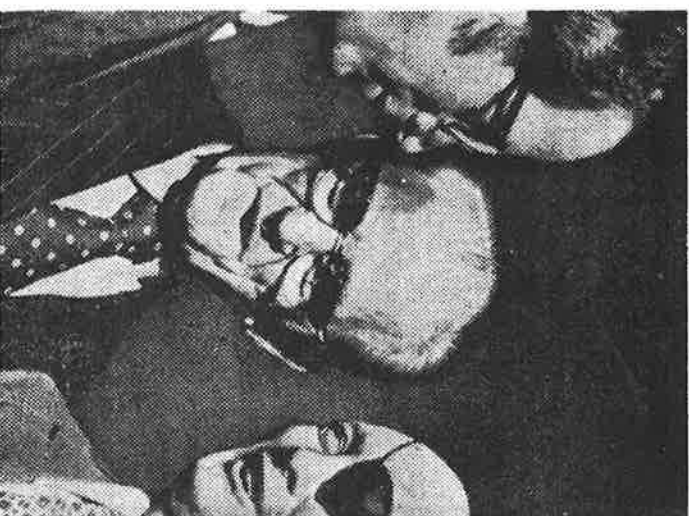
Until recently these figures were kept quiet, sort of like the Watergate hush

much so that the whole veil of secrecy has been lifted.

There are many skeletons in the closets of the Pentagon's vast secret crypts, far too many to keep them all hidden. Like the Pentagon Papers and many of the Watergate disclosures, SPN codes became an embarrassment to the Big Brass.

Realizing that they had to give ground, they contacted a trusted friend, Congressman Edward Hebert, Demagogue from Louisiana and Chairman of the House Armed Dis-services Committee. Hebert explained to the press how he and Secretary of Aggression James Schlesinger had reached a gentlemen's agreement to end the practice of SPN codes. How nice.

Whom do they think they are kidding? Progressives and the masses of the



Moshe Dayan meets with South Carolina Senator Attorney General Saxbe denounced "Jewish

money. But last May, over 500 vets marched on Washington under the leadership of the American Servicemen's Union to demand economic justice for veterans. Among their demands was the abolition of all less-than-honorable discharges. Since that time, the issue has received increasing publicity, so veterans themselves abolished SPN codes. They are the ones who handed the Pentagon another defeat. Like it or not, the Brass have nothing else to look forward to but a steady diet of such defeats.

Anti-Semite Saxbe planning new witchhunt?

By ANDY STAPP

Is the U.S. ruling class contemplating a new witchhunt against the left? Do they

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rism and repression!

intend to revive anti-Jewish hysteria again?

Attorney General William Saxbe's April 2 statement about "a worldwide conspiracy in terrorism and other forms of civil disturbances" might well have reminded many people of the late, unlamented Joseph McCarthy. But, when speaking two days later, he added that "there was a great distrust of intellectuals because of the Jewish intellectual" who was, according to Saxbe, "very enamored of the Communist Party." This "international Jewish-communist conspiracy" version of history has always been associated with the most vicious anti-Semitism. Has the U.S. Attorney General passed over from standard ultra-rightwing politics into the camp of neo-Nazism?

Saxbe's own reactionary and brutal



Senator Strom Thurmond (right). On same day, with intellectuals.

nature is easily shown (he was an officer in the Ohio State National Guard unit that murdered the Kent State students), but some may feel that a new wave of repression is not likely at this time when Nixon seems on the ropes. Could the U.S. extreme right attempt to whip up anti-Semitism when the U.S. is so openly committed to supporting Israel? Didn't Senator Strom Thurmond meet with Israel's leading military figure, Moshe Dayan, on the very day Saxbe announced his discovery of a "worldwide conspiracy"?

But Thurmond himself is both a white racist fanatic and a close friend of the worst fascists! In 1968 the anti-Jewish John Birch Society pushed for a Thurmond nomination at the Republican National Convention.

The Birch Society said Thurmond could "stop this gradual surrender of American sovereignty into the grasp of a cruel worldwide tyranny striving to make this once great country part of a world socialist government." Thurmond, the fascist Birchers wrote, would smash "the tremendously powerful forces at work right here on American soil that lie behind this whole nightmare of insanity and subversion." Isn't this virtually the same vile language used by Saxbe?

When Dayan has to go to Thurmond for military hardware, it just means that the setting up of the Israeli state has delivered millions of Jewish people into the hands of the worst racists and anti-Semites. Just because the U.S. imperialists have found Israel convenient to their Middle East policy, this hasn't erased their bigotry. After all, nor did Hitler's alliance with the Japanese Prime Minister Tojo cause him to abandon his ideology of the supremacy of "the Aryan race."

At present Saxbe is only a pint-size McCarthy. Are his claims that the Justice

Department must step up its campaign against "subversive activities and organizations," coupled with Hitlerite incitements against "the Jewish intellectual" and communists only the ravings of a rabid rightwing political hack? Or do they signify that Saxbe has been given the go-ahead by a sector of the ruling class to begin a repressive red-scare campaign?

1,000 protest against Nixon; call for impeachment

HOUSTON, March 19—Tonight Richard M. Nixon spoke to the manipulators of American media at the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters. Inside the mammoth Jones Hall in downtown Houston, Nixon's slimy lies were received with enthusiastic applause from those who twist mass communication in this society to suit the every whim of the capitalist class. But outside, almost 1,000 people rallied to demand the impeachment of Nixon and to condemn the policies of the vicious government he heads on behalf of U.S. imperialism.

Several hundred Houston cops and a large number of Secret Service and FBI agents were mobilized to "protect" their leader from the largest political demonstration in this city since the January 20, 1973, march against the Vietnam War. Police lined the sidewalk with attack dogs; snipers were visible on the rooftops of nearby buildings; and generally every effort was made to intimidate the demonstrators. But the police and federal cops were denied their "pound of flesh" this night. No one was brutalized and there were but 15 arrests on minor charges.

Many progressive and left organizations participated in the action. Among them were members and friends of Youth Against War & Fascism, whose prominent banner read, "Wages frozen, profits soar, who needs Nixon anymore? Nixon, you swine! It's time you resign!"

The local wing of the media faithfully attempted to report something that did not happen: a warm welcome for Dick Nixon. This went so far as to claim that tonight's demonstration was divided almost evenly between pro- and anti-Nixon forces! But the



Demonstrators in Houston want Nixon out.

poor and working people of Houston know better than that. They know that Nixon is a swine and that it definitely is time for him to resign!

Kent State guardsmen indicted; Brass still free

By A. ROTH

CLEVELAND, March 29—A federal grand jury today handed down eight indictments against former and present National Guardsmen for the murders and wounding of students at Kent State University 4 years ago. The indictments charge the men with violating the civil rights of the students. Penalties range from 1 year for shooting up to life for the four murders.

Although eight of the guilty were indicted, the grand jury, true to form, did not bring indictments against the "higher ups." As one Kent student who led the effort to have the grand jury convened, commented, "Some take orders and some give orders."

THE CHAIN OF GUILT

In May 1970, hundreds of students took to the streets of Kent to protest Nixon's invasion of Cambodia. The symbol of the military on campus—the ROTC building—was burned to the ground. The then-Governor Rhodes responded by calling up the National Guard to enter the campus and

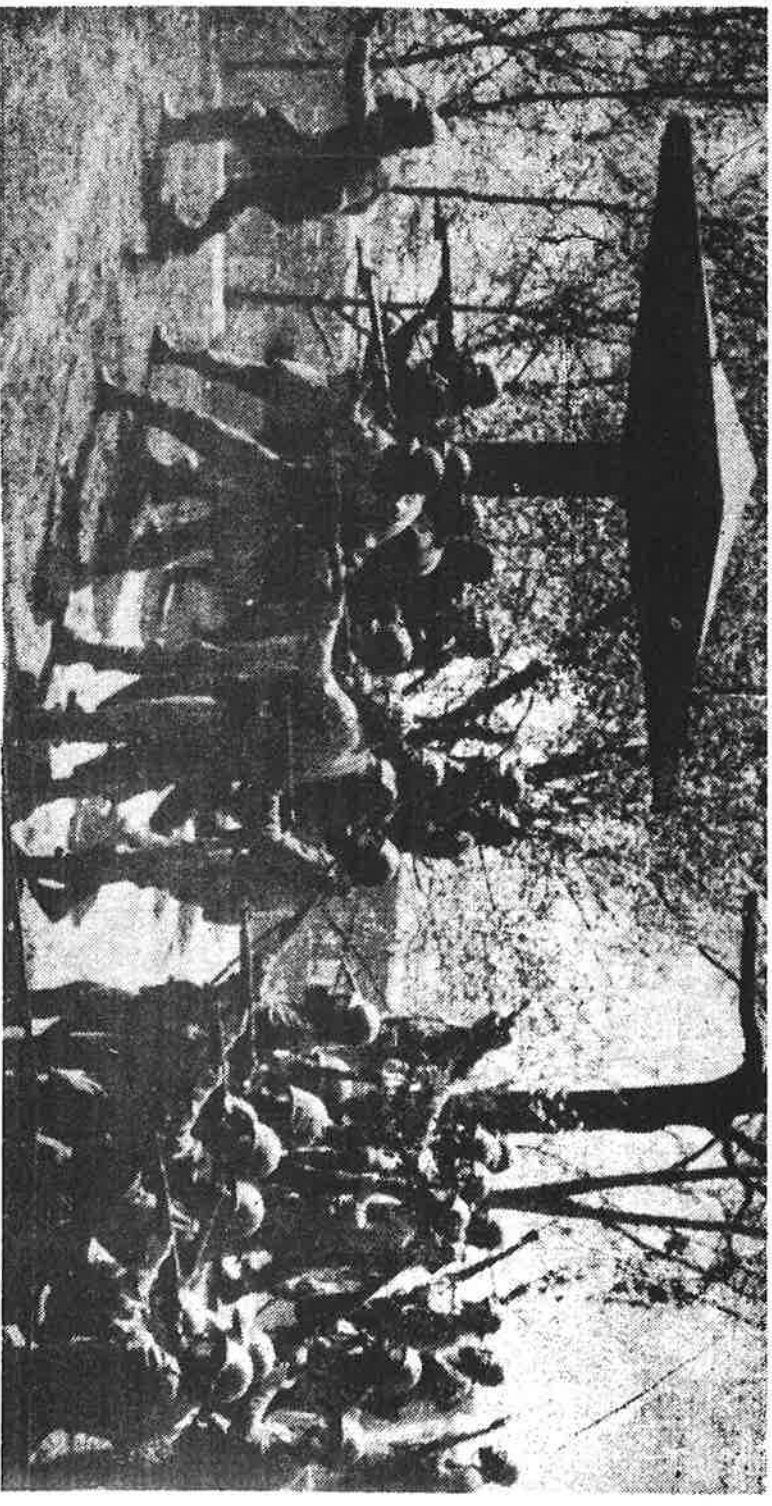
use "whatever force necessary" to stop the demonstrating students. The commander of the Guard was General Sylvester T. DelCorso, a gung-ho racist and reactionary, who twice led the National Guard in the occupation of Cleveland's Black community.

But the real guilt lies with the planning bodies the FBI and the White House. When in the late 1960s there was a rising Black liberation movement, a militant student movement against the Indochina war, and even a new awakening among the working class, sections of the ruling class responded by setting up a conspiracy of violence and terror to stop the growing movement. The murders of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Fred Hampton, the countless shootings and frameups of Black Panthers, and the killings at Kent State, Jackson State, and Augusta were all part of this overall strategy.

William Saxbe, Attorney General (in 1970 an Ohio senator), said only 2 days after the shootings, "It had to happen as confrontations grew in violence all over the country. And when it finally did, it brought them to a screeching halt."

In other words, the murder of students was a deliberate tactic to terrorize students into submission!

The court system is not interested in uncovering this conspiracy. They will settle for a trial of only those who pulled the trigger. (The trials are set for this summer. The Guard has yet to be convicted.) But even if the eight Guardsmen are found guilty, the Kent case will never be closed until the whole conspiracy is exposed and all the guilty are brought to justice.



Who gave the order for the Kent State murders, designed to bring antiwar demonstrations "to a screeching halt"?

New Wallace appeal, same old racism

By SHARON SHELTON

George Meany says he's "mellowed." Senators Edward Kennedy and Henry Jackson make no secret that they're courting him. Newsweek magazine says he's "moving to the left." And even The New York Times indicates he's changed, granting him much coveted space in its magazine section and featuring him on its cover.

Who is he?

None other than arch-racist George C. Wallace. The very same George Wallace who promised in his 1963 inaugural speech as Governor of Alabama, "segregation today... tomorrow... forever."

The same Wallace who won notoriety by personally standing in the door of the University of Alabama to block Black students from entering, who ran in two presidential elections on an undisguised lynch-law-type platform, and who is continuing his headline campaign against busing, for example, and for restoration of the death penalty—even amidst the recent attempts to dress him up as someone other than the racist reactionary he is.

And although meetings with Black leaders in the past few months have been trumpeted by the liberal press as proving he's changed, Wallace himself is the first to point out that this is not the case.

"This is nothing new. I haven't done a turnaround. There have been some differences on powerful, federal bureaucratic control, but I've been meeting with Blacks for years, right here in the Governor's office."

This represents no "move to the left." When he speaks on opposing "powerful, federal bureaucratic control," what he really means is that he is against welfare, school desegregation, and laws against forced sterilization of Black women. In short, George Wallace's racist message hasn't changed one iota.

So why is he suddenly commanding the attention of the press?

The answer lies in the deep crisis faced by the U.S. rulers, anxious to revive declining fortunes in Vietnam and the Middle East and fearful of repercussions of Watergate at home.

With the Nixon administration facing further profound shakeups, the economic and international future uncertain, and the different political factions in the ruling class trying to reorganize within a fluid situation, Wallace with his solid reactionary bloc is seen as pivotal for the next election. And so he is being courted by conservative and "liberal" alike. But if Democrats of the Kennedy stripe are to win Wallace's support—or at least neutrality—without alienating some of their own supporters, Black and white, who can't stomach him, then they have to tone down his racist image.

In other words, in moving to the right to accommodate Wallace, they must make it appear that he is moving to the left.

Although Wallace himself claims to speak for the "people," it goes without saying that he is not speaking for Black people. An example of the systematic terror and genocide faced daily by Black Alabamians surfaced just recently when a Black family filed suit against the state after Mary Alice Relf, 12, and Minnie Lee Relf, 14, were sterilized without their knowledge and without the family's consent. Even though Wallace supported this sterilization and others like it, The New York Times still has the audacity to suggest that "there is no denying" that he has at least changed his "outward appearance on the subject of race."

Moreover, he doesn't represent any working people, Black or white. Alabama is unsurpassed in its antilabor laws, such as the prohibitive so-called right-to-work law, which has served to keep the majority of

Alabama's workers unorganized. Wages there are pitifully low; in fact, according to 1971 government statistics, Alabama ranked 48th in the U.S., the state's per capita income totaling only \$3,050 annually.

Also, Alabama has the second lowest public assistance payments in the nation. In 1972, Aid to Dependent Children payments were only \$75 a month. Only Mississippi has lower welfare allotments. Wallace is particularly outspoken on welfare—he would rather recipients starve than receive the pittance they are currently allocated.

Certainly, it is not the workers whom he claims to represent who are flocking to Alabama! It is the big corporations who are coming in by droves—lured by low wages, low corporate taxes, a friendly state government, and by the wedge between Black and white workers so eagerly encouraged by Wallace and his racist appeals. Alabama is a haven for the rich, and George Wallace is the guardian of big business.

So Wallace's record in Alabama shows he has not changed, but is the same racist demagogue he always was—despite the feeble attempts of the press and the politicians to portray him otherwise.

'The Exorcist': Mysticism of a decaying system

By ANDY STAPP

"There are forces of evil of a supernatural kind that sometimes get ahold of people."

Dr. Arthur Michael Ramsey,
Archbishop of Canterbury,
commenting on William Blyat's
book *The Exorcist*

"There's no other explanation for some of the things the communists did."
From Blyat's *The Exorcist*

"A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of Communism. All the powers of old Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre."

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels,
The Communist Manifesto

Since it opened at movie theatres in a score of cities across the U.S. 3 months ago, 6 million people have paid \$15 million to see William Blyat's *The Exorcist*. Over 10 million copies of his book of the same title have been sold since its publication in May 1971.

The story line is simple enough: A young girl of a nonreligious home is "possessed" by a satanic demon that tor-

tures and degrades her in the most cruel and revolting ways.

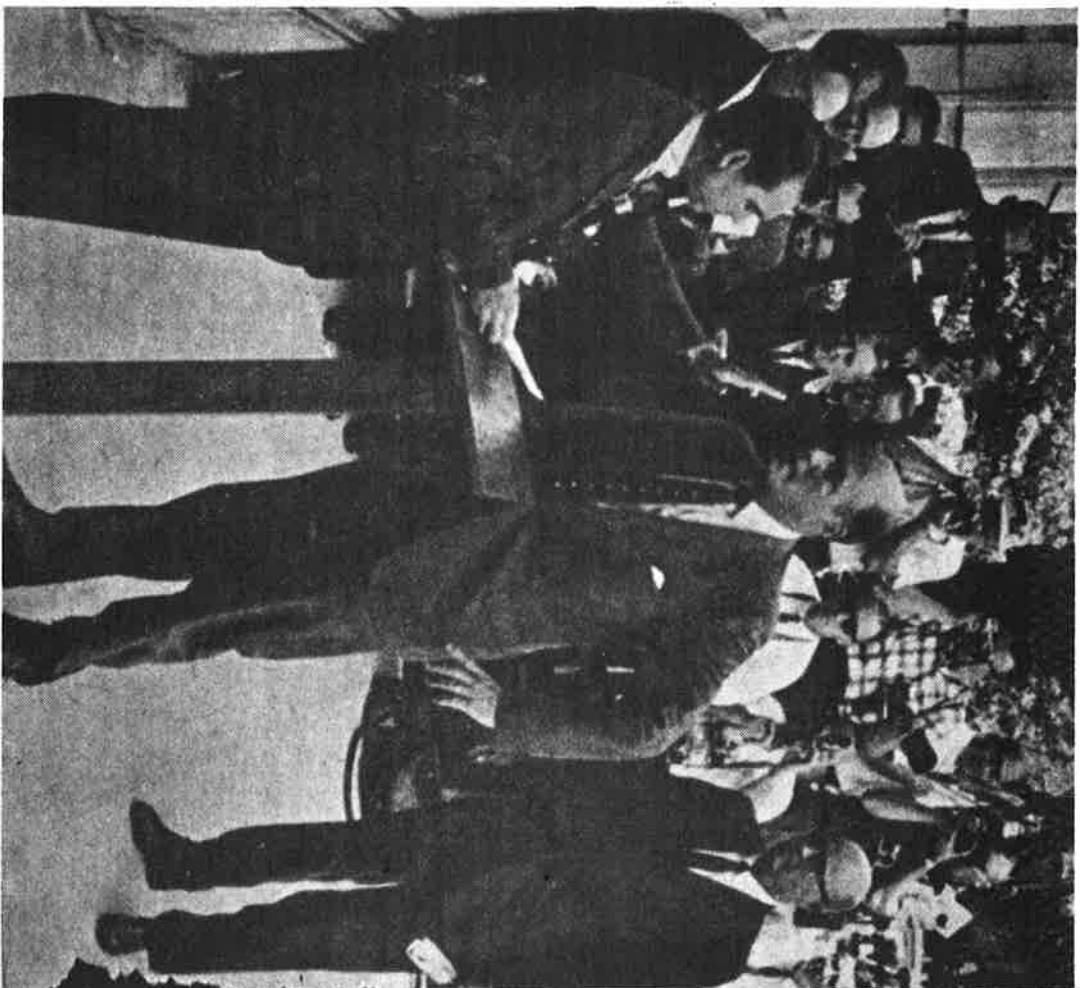
All manner of medical doctors are consulted to determine the cause of her bizarre and heartbreaking behavior but they are foiled by powers "far beyond their understanding." When science has utterly failed to save the wretched child from her torment, the Catholic church steps in, determines that it is a case of "possession," and, after heroic efforts, exorcises the unclean spirits, releasing her from her hellish sufferings.

Blyat insists that his tale is basically true, and is based on an actual exorcism that took place on a 14-year-old boy from Mount Rainier, Md.

The Exorcist, according to a New York Times book review, "comes to grip with the forces of evil incarnate."

"The film," says Jesuit Father Thomas Birmingham (who acted in the film along with such other church luminaries as Father Edmund Ryan, Executive Vice President of Georgetown University), "puts repulsive actions in their true context as coming from their authentic source—the Devil."

Monsignor Luigi Nevaresse, official exorcist for Pope Paul's own diocese of Rome, jumped on the bandwagon and



Wallace in 1963, blocking the schoolhouse door at the University of Alabama. "I have not done a turnaround."

proudly told the press that he had performed 60 exorcisms over the past 27 years. Nevaresse added that in one exorcism, the "possessed" man's eyes bulged with balls of flame, and fire issued from his mouth. No joke, that's what he said.

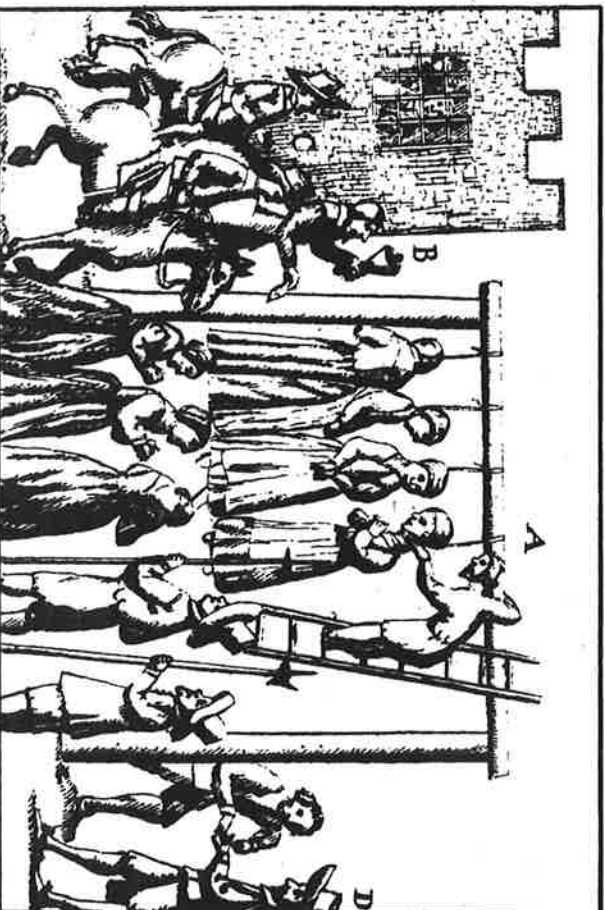
This modern witch craze has begun to slop over from priests to psychiatrists, like Allen Reed who opined that devil possession was indeed "possible." Not to be outdone, Dr. Walter Brown, a psychiatrist at New York City's Mount Sinai Hospital admitted, "I believe all that stuff."

'UPTHRUST OF THE IRRATIONAL.'
Dr. Thayer Green, a Jungian analyst, exulted that the belief in "Satan" as the cause of human misery is a "Compensatory upthrust of irrational forces—not necessarily evil." This "doctor" deplors modern society for being "so rational."

The human race has from ancient times sought to personify in some fantastic spirit the source of the alienation of human beings from both nature and from one another. This terrible spirit has been known by many different names: Satan, the Devil, Lucifer, Mephistopheles, Belial, Beelzebub, Asmodeus, Mephisto, lo Diabolo, the ruler of darkness, Loki, Moloch, and so forth.

In the late Middle Ages, the Vatican began a great witchhunt against people who were supposedly "possessed." The true purpose of these prosecutions was to strengthen the privileged position of that vast feudal institution, the Catholic Church, by crushing all opposition in a reign of terror. Nicolas Remy of Lorraine sent 3,000 victims to be burned at the stake in the years 1596 to 1616. The pious Archbishop of

(Continued on page 14)



Women hung for "witchcraft" by the Holy Inquisition. Exorcist attempts to revive bigoted ideas of the Dark Ages.

WHAT POSSESSES THEM?
The Socialist Workers Party may not be much in the struggle, but it does pretend to be Marxist and materialist. Incredibly, when Norman Oliver (*The Militant*, March 1) reviewed *The Exorcist* (which is the greatest advertisement for medieval mummary since Lourdes), he praised the book! Oliver wrote that "The Exorcist is the story of a life and death struggle between absolute good and absolute evil," as if such nonmaterialist concepts actually existed in the real world. He says the film "is far less convincing than the book," and that "the novel is the kind of book a good director could improve on" by "sticking to the spirit of the book."

Power of the banks in age of imperialism

By BOB McCUBBIN

They stand stark and tall, of glass, steel, and stone. They are a feature common to all big cities of the United States. They are like monuments (tomstones?) rising high in the middle of the wreckage and ruin that marks the major metropolitan centers.

What are they? A great many of these huge buildings are the headquarters and district offices of those great institutions of finance capital—the banks.

Lenin said in his work, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, "As banking develops and becomes concentrated in a small number of establishments, the banks grow from humble middlemen into powerful monopolies having at their command almost the whole of the money capital of all the capitalists and small businessmen and also the larger part of the means of production and of the sources of raw materials of the given country and in a number of countries."

If this description was true 50 years ago when Lenin wrote those words, how much truer it is today!

THE 15 BIGGEST BANKS

The 15 largest banks in the U.S. have assets of over \$315 billion. The 3 largest, BankAmerica, First National City, and Chase Manhattan, have assets greater than any corporation except American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T). BankAmerica alone has over 1,000 offices, scattered all over the U.S. and the rest of the nonsocialist world.

But assets and offices are actually very inadequate measures of the power of the great U.S. banks. It's what they control through their stock holdings and other financial levers that is literally staggering.

For example, AT&T (the largest corporation in the world) had assets in 1972 of over \$60 billion. Yet Chase Manhattan Bank, which holds only about 1.1 percent of AT&T stock, has, because of this holding, the single most powerful voice in AT&T management and policy. This 1.1 percent is worth roughly \$300 million and, though a seemingly small part of the total, is actually the largest single holding.

Similarly small percentages, from 1 percent up to about 5 percent, give Chase Manhattan and a handful of other big banks controlling interests in virtually all the nation's big-business enterprises, including manufacturing industries, transport, retailing, utilities, insurance—and the banks themselves!

INTERLOCKS

In addition to their financial leverage and control, the banks also have more direct power over the means of production and of raw materials. One such arrangement is the interlocking directorship. In a survey of 49 banks conducted by the Banking Committee of the House of Representatives, 8,000 cases were cited in which officials of banks served as directors of other companies and vice versa.

Another vehicle of control is found in the confidential (and illegal!) channels of communication that exist between the commercial loan and the trust departments of the major banks. The commercial loan departments have access to the most intimate details of the financial conditions of companies seeking loans from them. This kind of information is of tremendous value to a bank's trust department as it picks and chooses among companies to invest in.

On the international scene, investment by U.S. corporations has increased by 700 percent since 1950. The total market value of U.S. foreign investments is now estimated at roughly \$300 billion. Because the banks are so closely wedded to the corporations, this tremendous industrial expansion has been accompanied by a burgeoning role for U.S. banks in countries all over the world. Lenin's description of banks continues

to be an accurate one because the economic system that is the lifeblood of these banks continues to exist. Under capitalism, profit is the driving force of economic life. But the money obtained through profits must be "put to work," that is, invested in improvement and expansion of production, if the individual capitalist is to survive the competition from other capitalists who are always finding ways to increase production, cut costs, etc.

The "expand-or-die" character of capitalist enterprise is a basic law confirmed by the whole history of capitalist development in the U.S. and Europe. In all the major industries the "small guy" was long ago eaten up by the monopolies, each of which now represents a vast empire generating new capital at a furious pace and searching frantically for new profit-making

enterprises and new markets.

So when you hear that a couple of Senate subcommittees, under the leadership of Senators Metcalf and Muskie, are investigating "unfair banking practices," you just know it's got to be a joke. The real unfair practice is, of course, capitalism, which systematically exploits the poor and working people of the world and runs the productive apparatus for profit instead of human need.

When Samuel R. Callaway, head of Morgan Guaranty's huge trust department, complained recently that the evil antibank critics never explain "why banks would want to take over everything or what they could possibly do with everything once they had it," his friends the Rockefeller, the DuPonts, the Mellons, and all the others had a good laugh for themselves. These super-rich parasites, through their banks, their trust funds, and their political flunkies, already do control almost everything and will continue to until that approaching day when their fabulous empires are expropriated by the working people and put to use for the betterment of all.



The role of the English monarchy in politics

By MYRON JEFKA

The recent attack on the limousine of Britain's Princess Anne, regardless of its motives, raises the question once again: what role does the British monarchy play?

Princess Anne is the daughter of Queen Elizabeth and is fourth in line of succession to her mother's throne, after her three brothers. Her horse-riding talent in international competition has kept her in the spotlight of media coverage. (The royal family receives \$300,000 yearly appropriation for the maintenance of the royal stables alone, making such equestrian ability possible.)

The "socialite" publicity around Princess Anne underscores the figurehead role of the royal family. But the British monarchy was in the news recently in quite a different light when Harold had to kiss the Queen's hand before being sworn in as the new Labor Prime Minister. Was this just the dead hand of tradition asserting itself in an insignificant way—or is there a lesson in this as far as the contemporary class struggle between the workers and the capitalists is concerned?

NOT JUST A FEUDAL RELIC

First of all, the British monarchy is not just a feudal relic. It took its present form as a limited or constitutional monarchy in 1688 as a result of a rotten compromise between the rising bourgeoisie which had come to

power in 1648 under Cromwell's revolutionary dictatorship (which beheaded the absolute monarch Charles I) and the bourgeoisie landed aristocracy to which some of the power of the small, inexperienced, and "uncultured" bourgeoisie was returned. The so-called restoration of this monarchy maintained a two-house Parliament, with the bourgeois House of Commons and the feudal House of Lords. It also swept aside the radical Calvinist or Puritan church, under whose ideological cover the revolution of 1648 was made, and restored the Episcopal or English feudal church, in a somewhat Calvinized form.

But the decisive thing was that bourgeois property relations were allowed to flourish. The heirs of the old feudal lords were allowed to keep their titles and many of their landed holdings and become capitalist landlords. However, the semi-bourgeois, semi-feudal form of government was maintained to the everlasting shame of the greedy but cowardly bourgeoisie.

The British monarchy has since that time been, and still is today, a depository of ideological reaction as well as a potential club with which to batter down the workers and oppressed, should the bourgeois-democratic parliamentary facade covering the naked force of the state apparatus become sufficiently discredited and paralyzed in a time of crisis.

It is also to the everlasting shame and

'SMALL' BANK'S FAILURE IS BIG BANK'S GAIN

Barrow's titled the story "Big Bank Failure" and warned that the collapse of the billion-dollar United States National Bank (USNB) in San Diego showed last fall that "bank failures are getting bigger." According to the article, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation "now has 156 banks on its 'problem list' with total deposits of \$4.3 billion...."

Now you might suppose that USNB's big brother banks in California would be shaken up by such a colossal collapse. It's true that the failure was hushed up for fear of a run on deposits. But Crocker National Bank, a West Coast biggie, had been lusting for USNB's 64 California offices for a long time and, for the measly sum of \$69.5 million, it finally got them and USNB's billion-dollar assets to boot.

By the way, the former president of USNB, C. Arnolt Smith, is a close personal friend and financial backer of, you guessed it, Richard M. Nixon.

Ignominy of the leadership of the British Labor Party that, both in and out of office, they have bowed to the feudal-bourgeois norms of royal respectability, and have allowed the monarchy to go unchallenged as a legitimate institution.

LEGITIMIZED BY LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP

Back in 1925, when the Labor Party leaders voted in Parliament for the appropriation of traveling expenses for the Prince of Wales, Trotsky wrote: "They consider that they are called upon by destiny to rebuild from the bottom up the old social system.... How can they dare threaten bourgeois property, when they do not even dare refuse the Prince of Wales pocket money?"

"The royal power, they declare, 'does not interfere' with the country's progress, and is cheaper than a president, if we count all the expenses of elections, etc. etc. These speeches of their 'peculiar' nature which cannot be called by any other name than conservative stupidity. The royal power is weak because the instrument of bourgeois rule is the bourgeois Parliament and because the bourgeoisie does not need any special activities outside Parliament. But in case of need, the bourgeoisie will make use of the royal power with great success as a concentration of all non-parliamentary, i.e., real forces aimed against the working class...."

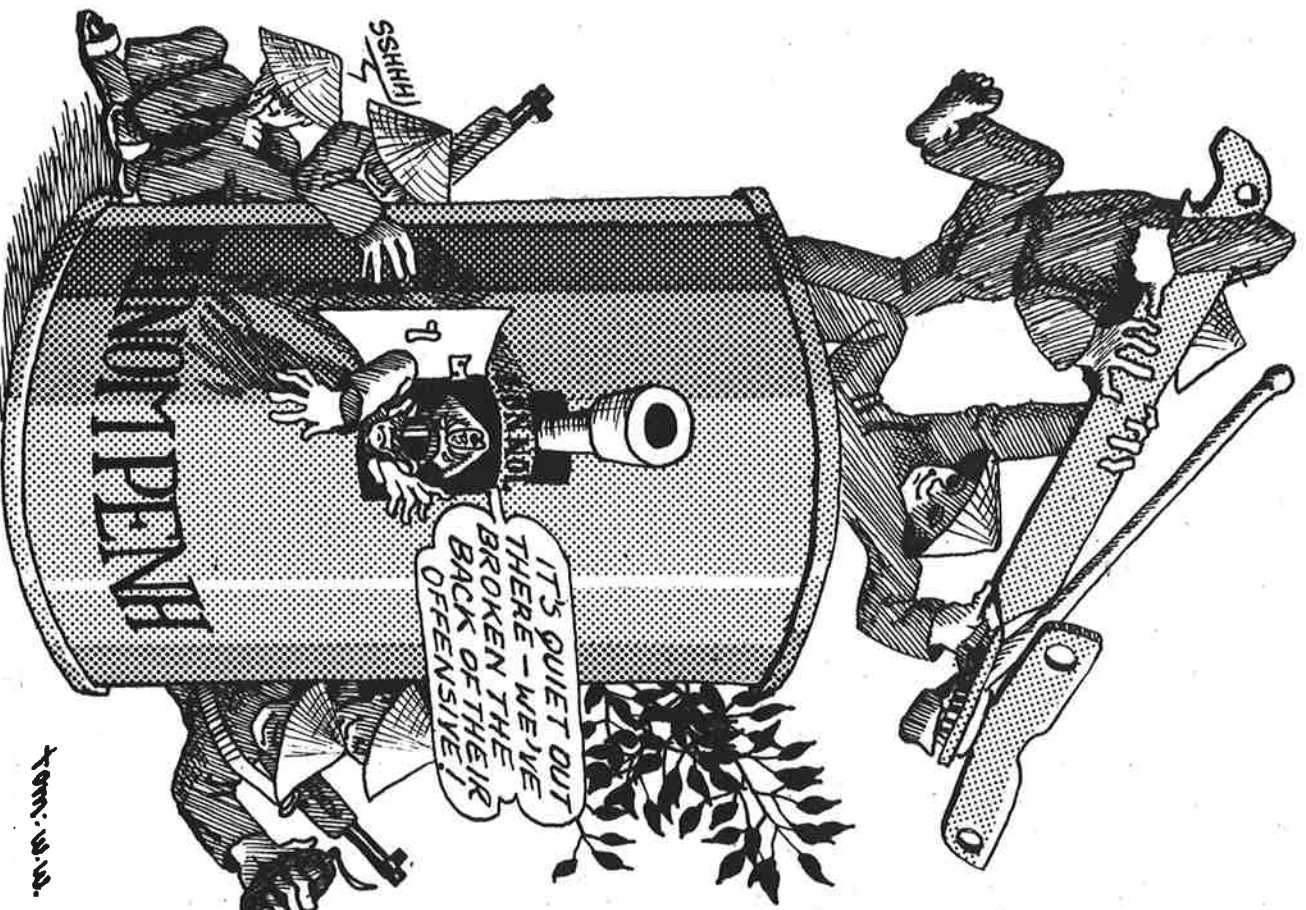
Analyses like this have had no effect on the labor leadership. They have continued to grovel before the royal pomp to this very day. They have allowed the Queen to summon Parliament. They have allowed the Queen to dismiss Parliament and call for new elections. They have let the new Labor government take office at the Queen's behest. Last time he was Prime Minister, on several occasions, Mr. Wilson respectfully asked the Queen to make a Royal Declaration of a State of Emergency under the infamous Emergency Powers Act, in order to put down "labor unrest."

While this may be passed off as merely symbolic, it is symbolism with a vengeance.

SYMBOL OF NATIONAL CHAUVINISM

Year after year the British masses have been urged by their leaders to act respectful before the pomp of centuries-old traditions which have kept them in their place. They have been led to bless His (or Her) Majesty's Royal Navy and fight and die for King (or Queen) and country. They have been led to tolerate the rape of a global empire and the enslavement of their Irish, Scotch, and Welsh neighbors under the regal name of the so-called "United Kingdom."

Certainly, the period of working class struggle now opening up in Britain will hasten the departure of this outworn institution from the stage of history—along with the bourgeois ruling class it so comfortably serves.



New 6-point peace plan proposed by PRG

By P. MEISNER

Despite the most concrete peace plan offered by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (PRG), Washington and its puppet regime in Saigon are continuing their campaign of aggression and repeated violations of the ceasefire treaty signed a year ago. Thus, the South Vietnamese people are still denied their freedom, independence, and right to self-determination from U.S. imperialism and their Saigon lackeys.

U.S. plans for further aggression in Indochina were revealed by the Pentagon's latest request for an almost 50 percent increase in military spending on Vietnam. The Pentagon is asking for an increase in the present budget (signed last year by Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974) from \$1.1 billion to \$1.6 billion. Nixon has, in addition, asked for an immediate increase of \$54 million for "economic aid," most of which will wind up in the coffers of the Saigon military dictators.

It is no secret that both the puppet regimes in South Vietnam and Cambodia have been losing more and more territory, as well as popular support, to the liberation forces. In South Vietnam, the Saigon regime has just engaged the NLF in the heaviest fighting since the signing of the Paris ceasefire agreement. The Thieu dictatorship is desperately trying to hold onto a stronghold near Kontum city in the Central Highlands. In Cambodia, the liberation armed forces captured the key city of Phsar Oudong, a former royal capital of Cambodia just 24 miles northwest of Phnom Penh.

PRG 6-POINT PLAN

The PRG issued a lengthy statement on March 22 outlining a new 6-point peace plan, which included:

1. A simultaneous and identically worded ceasefire order for both sides throughout South Vietnam.

2. The release of all captured and detained civilian and military personnel, to be completed in 3 months.
3. The immediate and full guarantee of democratic rights for the people of South Vietnam.
4. The rapid formation of the National Council of Reconciliation and National Concord, with three equal components, within 3 months after the ceasefire has gone into effect.
5. Free and democratic elections to be held within a year after the formation of the National Council.
6. The mutual reduction of armed forces.

However, the PRG statement also said that the U.S. "must put a complete end to its military involvement and its interference in South Vietnam's internal affairs." The PRG also warned that if the U.S. and Saigon "continue to plunge onto the path of violating the agreement and sabotaging peace, they must be held fully responsible for all the consequences resulting from their acts."

The Thieu regime has already rejected the PRG's new proposal, since the regime would only agree to elections if the NLF and PRG were denied (as they are now) the most elementary political freedoms, i.e., the right to the use of the press, the right to hold political rallies, the right to distribute literature, etc. The Saigon fascists know they would be soundly defeated at the polls should completely free elections ever be held in South Vietnam.

The fascist Thieu and Lon Nol dictatorships are totally discredited in South Vietnam and Cambodia. They only barely survive with the large funds pumped into those regimes by the Pentagon. But the efforts of the liberation forces in both countries are bringing the two U.S.-puppet regimes closer and closer to total collapse.

People's Korea abolishes taxation!

With April 15 approaching once again, the American people are reminded that "there is nothing sure in this world but death and taxes." This has always been true for the working class—and this year even Nixon has to pay up!

It was Nixon himself who admitted, "The average American works 5 months a year just to pay his city, state, and federal taxes." Almost half a worker's income goes to taxes!

As in so many other fields, however, workers' revolutions and socialist planning have made this capitalist norm obsolete.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea completely abolished all taxation.

Abolition of taxation was the first item on the agenda at the Third Session of the Supreme People's Assembly that convened in the capital city of Pyongyang on March 21. The Deputy Vice-Premier of the Administrative Council opened the session of the SPA by declaring, "The problem of doing away with taxes stands out as a historic task that the working class and Party and state must correctly solve." The solution, he said, lies in "the state completely eliminating taxation, a hangover of the old society."

Freedom from taxation is now a con-

situtional right in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

How can they do it? Funds for schools, hospitals, government administration, and defense come directly from production, which is owned by the people and not a handful of billionaires. Thus a worker gets a full, honest wage and is not ripped off daily in a hundred concealed ways.

Simultaneous with the ending of taxation, the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea ordered a sharp reduction in the price of consumer goods. On March 1, the price of fabrics was lowered 20 to 50 percent, knitwear 30 to 35 percent, footwear 16 to 33 percent, and all other daily necessities 15 to 50 percent.

Meanwhile, in South Korea where taxation is very heavy, the Seoul puppet government admitted that in the last few months oil prices had shot up 92 percent and electricity rates 30 percent. Only the workers' states have been able to hold back this tidal wave of inflation that is rolling over the capitalist world.

The DPRK was able to make these great

(Continued on page 15)

Japanese workers plan general strike vs. inflation

By JOHN C. OTTO

On March 26, 2.5 million Japanese workers held a 1-day unified strike. Engineers drove the "el" trains in Tokyo and Osaka at one-fifth normal speed, disrupting commuter traffic. Railroads and buses were stalled and 60,000 Tokyo taxi drivers also joined the strike. Even 250 of Tokyo's shopkeepers closed their doors in sympathy with the strikers.

This was the second in a series of actions planned by the Japanese trade unions in their struggle for wages high enough to catch up with the skyrocketing prices. On March 1, there was a railway, postal, telephone, and telegraph strike. On March 3, a million workers marched in different parts of Japan chanting, "Stop inflation!" The unions are planning a massive general strike for April 10.

For the past 19 years there have been no such actions by Japanese workers. What, then, accounts for the current upsurge?

ECONOMIC CRISIS WORST SINCE WAR

The answer can be found in the complete turnaround in the Japanese economy in 1973, especially since the beginning of the oil crisis. This economy, which had been growing at a rate of 10 percent per year before 1973, has come to a standstill since

October. Japan imports 74 percent of the oil it needs from the Mideast; about 50-70 percent of that oil is bought from U.S.-controlled companies. The shortages of oil and the extremely high prices charged by these companies have aggravated the economic crisis.

Japanese monopolies, like their counterparts in Western Europe and the United States, have pushed the costs of this crisis of capitalism onto the backs of the workers. Extra costs of oil were passed on by raising prices, and these were pushed as high as possible.

In fact, under pressure from the masses, many of Japan's biggest monopolies have admitted holding back goods in order to drive up prices. In the midst of economic stagnation, profits for many of these companies have nonetheless reached record levels.

WORKERS' WAGES VANISHING

Meanwhile, the mounting inflation has driven down workers' real wages by 5 percent a month since last November. They are now demanding a \$100-per-month increase just to get their wages back to the April 1973 level. They're also demanding an end to profiteering and hoarding; an end to the record inflation of the last 6 months; a cost-of-living clause in labor contracts; a special government "welfare allowance" to

INDIA

Protests over food prices lead to wider rebellion

By ALICE ROBINSON

Several Indian states have been the scene of violent anti-government riots and protests in the past several months.

The protests started over high food prices and have spread to encompass the issues of government corruption, unemployment, and lack of vocational training for students. Government buildings and officials' residences, banks, railroad stations, and post offices have been the special targets of the demonstrators' rage.

In the western state of Gujarat on the Arabian Sea, more than 80 persons were killed in 75 days of protests, according to

The New York Times. The protests succeeded in toppling the ruling Congress Party and government and in forcing the state assembly to be dissolved, with new elections to be held in the future.

In the eastern state of Bihar, bordering Nepal, recent protests and demonstrations in the city of Patna have resulted in more than 26 killed, hundreds wounded, and 600 students and demonstrators arrested. Two thousand students have been confined to their dormitories and to the city and district headquarters towns occupied and patrolled by 50,000 state policemen and 15,000 armed soldiers and policemen. A 24-

Portuguese military revolt: sign of colonialists' defeat

By CAL BONNER

NEW YORK—There is growing opposition within Portugal to its colonial wars in Africa. The discontent was manifested most dramatically 3 weeks ago by a revolt of about 200 men from the 5th Infantry Regiment at Caldas da Rainha, some 50 miles north of Lisbon, the capital city.

The company-size unit reportedly arrested the base commander, his deputy, and three majors and set off in a truck convoy for Lisbon, allegedly with the aim of overthrowing the government of Premier Marcello Caetano. After being stopped on the outskirts of the capital by armored units of soldiers loyal to the government, they returned to their base where they surrendered and were confined to barracks after having been threatened with shelling.

The situation was touched off by the ouster of Gens. Francisco Costa Gomes and Antonio de Spínola, army chief of staff and his deputy, because they had contended that Portugal could not defeat the liberation movements in the colonies of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau by purely military means. The two were the highest-ranking military chiefs in the country and, unorganized, low-paid workers; and the right to strike for public workers.

Despite the extraordinary measures taken by the Tanaka government in Japan to derail the workers' struggle, including an attempt to split union from nonunion workers and claiming union demands are "against the public interest" because they will "cause even more inflation," the March 1 strike was the biggest in Japan since 1947. The Tanaka government, on the other hand, now has a popularity rating of 16.7 percent.

ROLE OF THE U.S.

By the beginning of the 1970s, Japanese imperialism had become a serious economic competitor of U.S. imperialism, outselling U.S. products on the world market. There is increasing evidence that the U.S. monopolies have taken conscious steps to exploit Japan's dependence on imported raw materials, weakening Japan economically. The Nixon administration, wanting to punish Japan for its independent diplomacy following the October Mideast war, would only encourage such actions.

After Japan's leading financial newspaper, the Nihon Keizai Shinbun, demanded that the major oil companies "slash new prices they are quoting to Japan," Exxon's Japanese subsidiary threatened to cut oil supplies to Japan by 15 percent if the Japanese government didn't allow them even higher prices. Mobil and Shell joined the threats. This followed record profits for these oil companies in their business with Japan, with Exxon's profits in this area for 1973 up 243 percent over 1972.

The Tanaka government may have to give in to these demands and is trying at hour curfew has been imposed in Patna and other cities. There are signs that the protests are spreading to other states as well.

On March 18, in Patna, protesters stormed the state assembly to prevent the governor from addressing the opening session. Throwing rocks and debris, the demonstrators fought the police and managed to get inside the assembly and attack some of its members. This protest forced the adjournment of the assembly for 3 days. It resumed only behind heavy bamboo barricades guarded by hundreds of armed men.

At the same time that food protests and riots have brought it under attack, the government is bringing to trial, after 3 years, 68 leaders and cadre of the Communist Party of India, on the charge of conspiracy to overthrow the government by force. These trials stem from peasant

especially in the case of General Spínola, had used their positions of power and influence to try to convince their fellow colonialists that the wars are costly, are impoverishing Portugal, and are isolating it from the world.

In his book published more than a month ago in Lisbon entitled *Portugal and the Future*, General Spínola intimated what the chief of defense, many junior officers, and thousands of enlisted men and draftees have learned through 13 years of unsuccessful fighting the liberation forces of the colonies: The indigenous, Black inhabitants of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau will settle for nothing less than total liberation from Portuguese oppression. Tainted by his former position as chief henchman for colonialist policies in Portuguese-occupied Guinea, Spínola's book requests a policy of greater—though limited—autonomy for the colonies within a Portuguese "federation." While not advocating the relinquishing of a single square inch of African soil, Spínola's arguments had sufficiently angered the fascist-Salazarist bloc of militarists who demanded his ouster.

The mini-revolt by the soldiers

protesting his ouster appears over, but the effects of the rebellion of the enlisted men and junior officers are expected to even more thoroughly demoralize the men at the point of production of the wars—the rank-and-file soldiers who are coerced to fight wars that even the top Brass say are unwinnable. Reports indicate grimmer days in store for the colonialists and reactionaries in Lisbon.

According to Johannesburg, South Africa, radio, 10,000 troops have been transferred to Mozambique from Angola. This would indicate the government's fear concerning its disgruntled soldiers in Mozambique, where the liberation group Frelimo has made life extremely uncomfortable, if not to say precarious, for Portuguese soldiers and settlers alike (see March 8 WW).

CIVILIAN MASSES, TOO, WANT END TO WARS

Civilian opposition also has been building in Portugal against a government that has wasted more than 5,000 Portuguese lives and half the national budget in the colonial wars; which has allowed the cost of living to rise 21 percent last year alone; whose lack of jobs caused more than a third of the work force (1.5 million people) to emigrate to France and other Western European countries; and whose colonial policy has caused some 100,000 young men to wander about Europe as draft resisters or deserters. (Some draftees have deserted from Africa and have gone to Europe with



photo: Kyodo

Taxi drivers in Japan, hard hit by oil crisis, strike to demand fair allocation of gasoline. least to make the most of this politically by placing all the blame for the crisis on the U.S. companies.

But the Japanese workers don't want to pay the price of competition between the U.S. and Japanese bosses. Well aware of U.S. imperialism's greed—after all, Japan was until recently occupied by U.S. troops—

rebellions of 1967-70 in the districts of Naxalbari, Debra-Copivallabpur, and Srikakulam.

The "Naxalite" revolt, as it came to be known, was an uprising against the feudal landlord relations and oppression of the peasants in the countryside of these districts. That the Naxalite trials are now being held at the same time as the new upsurge against the government is an inkling of how the government is trying to repress the protests through force and by attempting to instill a fear of reprisals among the protestors.

FROM FOOD RIOTS TO OPEN REBELLION

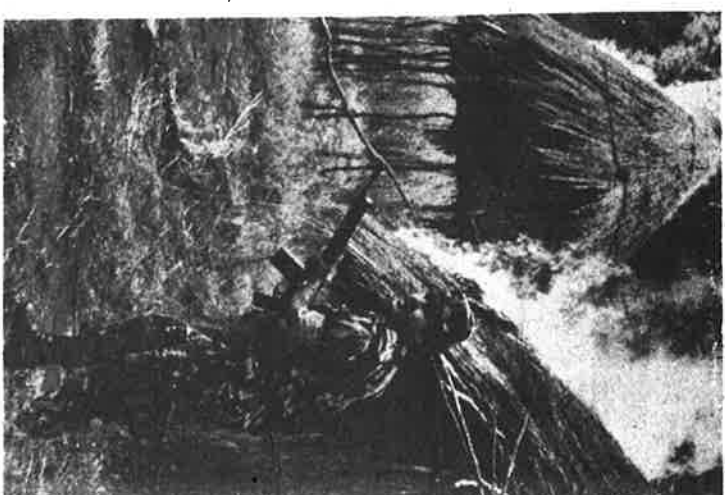
The Indian subcontinent has the largest population anywhere in the world except China. The economy, dominated by foreign capitalists and ruled by politicians in the employ of these foreign imperialists, is incapable of meeting the needs of the Indian

they also don't want to let the Japanese profiteers go unpunished and are not taken in by Tanaka's passing all the blame on to foreign imperialism.

The plans for a general strike go on, an action which deserves the support of U.S. workers together with the workers all over the world.

masses. Inflation has risen 36 percent in the past year in a country where 40 percent of the population lives at a starvation level year-round, earning an annual income of \$40. Although the state of Bihar has vast mineral and water resources, it remains one of the poorest and most backward states, where the scarcity of food, one of the most basic human needs, has brought forth the dramatic protests by the population.

So far, according to the press here, the leaders of the demonstrations and protests have been students who come to the city from the villages. The Student Action Committee, which is statewide, led the attack on the legislature. Originally the students came out solely for their own demands, but conditions have so vividly worsened in the area of inflation and food prices that their protests turned to the larger issues. As one student leader said, "It was not our intention before, but from now



Portuguese soldier fights a lost cause.

the help of African liberation groups.)

Last summer, for the first time in 4 years, a gathering of opponents to the government was allowed to meet in a movie theater in the small, northern town of Aveiro. The convention, consisting of communists, republicans, and monarchists, concluded that: "Twelve years of colonial wars represent a crime against humanity. The destruction of African populations and cultures and the absurd sacrifices that have bled the country in lives and resources, constitute a profound sapping of moral energies of a people who will need these energies to build a future."

Opposition continues despite the growing repression. And it increasingly takes the form of armed struggle, too, within Portugal. In recent years there has been a number of attacks against NATO bases, military installations, munitions bound for Africa, and government communications centers. A bomb demolished part of the military headquarters of the Oporto region last October, on the night before the elections, as a protest against the government's repression (in Portugal, only property-owning, literate males over 21 can vote).

Late last November, the person called "the most wanted man in Europe" and leader of the Portuguese United Revolutionary Action League (LUAR), Ignacio da Palma, was arrested by security police in Lisbon.

Da Palma, who was arrested with five other members of the LUAR, reportedly has led many attacks against Portuguese institutions connected with the colonial wars in Africa. His first and most spectacular act was executed in 1948 when he took part in a sabotage attempt at the air base at Ota near Lisbon. He later spent time in prison, whence he escaped and became an aide to the late General Delgado and Capt. Galvao, the rebels who masterminded the 1961 hijacking of the liner Santa Maria. He hijacked a Portuguese plane during the same year.

The LUAR was formed in 1965, after Delgado's assassination, and carried out its largest operation in 1967 with a raid on the Bank of Portugal. They are reported to have escaped with \$1 million.

Despite the setback to the clandestine movement within Portugal that da Palma's arrest may have caused and the increasing repressive measures the government is taking against its opponents (da Palma himself has been held incommunicado in a prison hospital, where he is believed to be undergoing torture), the struggle continues to build in Portugal against its colonial policy and against the rule of the wealthy.

on we will not rest until this repressive government is toppled and the Assembly dissolved."

Capitalist India is incapable of solving the problems of food shortages and food distribution, inflation, and unemployment. So long as India is saddled with private ownership of the land and industry, so long as it is held in the imperialist camp, the starving masses will rebel, rebel, and rebel again.

political prisoners

Angola 4

By HERMAN WALLACE

ANGOLA, La.—On April 17, 1972, the inmates at Angola Penitentiary in Louisiana, sometimes known as America's worst prison, staged a peaceful demonstration. Their grievances centered around the fact that prisoners put in a 6-day work week of 16 hours a day, making 2 cents per hour!

Two weeks prior, they had petitioned the associate warden about these grievances, to no avail. This time, however, when inmates demanded to speak directly with the warden, he arrived accompanied by 50 guards armed with bats, iron pipes, shotguns, and mace. The inmates were forced to return to work or be beaten.

Twenty minutes later, a free white guard, Brent Miller, was found slain in an inmate dorm. Frightened by the possibility of an uprising, prison officials herded the inmates into a yard, forced them to strip, and checked them for weapons.

Three men were singled out for the murder charge. All three were among the most politicized inmates who were trying to organize other Black prisoners. They were immediately placed in a maximum security area, along with a fourth inmate, also a

Black organizer.

The four defendants have since become known throughout the prison as the ANGOLA 4: ALBERT WOODFOX, HERMAN WALLACE, GILBERT MONTEGUT, and CHESTER JACKSON. All four are in for alleged armed robbery charges. However, the four are being framed because of their involvement in educating inmates about racism and economic exploitation.

Although DA Richard Kilbourne first protested the indictments of the four for lack of evidence, local officers became determined to crush any inmate movement at whatever cost. In the face of such repression, inmates continued to organize. On August 25, they struck, mainly to protest inedible food. Meanwhile, over 200 prisoners were harassed, stripped of yard, movie, religious, social, and visiting privileges, and beaten and gassed for the smallest incidents.

In an overtly racist move, while inmates were transferred out of maximum security and Blacks put in their place. There, they have been restricted to a near-starvation diet, served in rusty tin cans, allowed no window screens, and given old buckets for toilets.

So far, since the conviction of Woodfox and myself, nothing has really changed which one could consider in the interest of inmates and not so much as the interest of the prison administrators. At present, this administration is trying to bring about more

indictments in the Miller case to further weaken the inmates' will for change in its system.

During the trial of Montegut and myself, Jackson had taken the stand and testified that he, Woodfox, and I had "repeatedly stabbed the guard," but he couldn't remember seeing Montegut at the scene. He said the killing stemmed from a discussion among eight inmates about "throwing out" a free man. He said any guard would have sufficed but Miller was picked at random when Woodfox decided it was time to act...

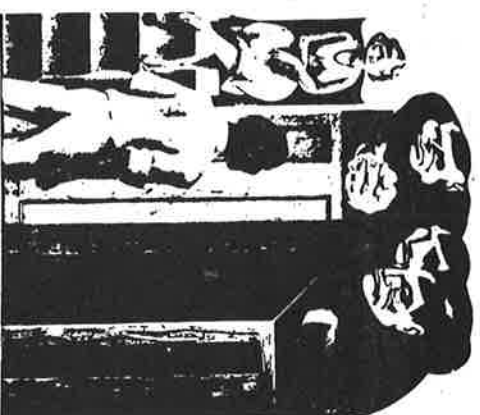
There is much more to this case than what I am presenting, but the main factor of my intent is to get you interested in our plight, and it accomplished, then I personally will see that you have all the necessary information I possibly can send.

Stephen Kessler

Joe Martinez

On February 20, 1974, STEPHEN KESSLER, a prisoner at the Oregon State Penitentiary, was dragged out of the visiting room in the middle of a visit, and told he was being taken immediately to Atlanta, Georgia. He was not told why nor was he given any time to collect his personal belongings or legal material.

Within 5 minutes he was out of the prison and in route to Portland. Family, friends, and lawyers learned he was taken to



SCOTT RICHMAN

RACIST USE OF RAPE CHARGE

The racist use of the rape charge has led to the lynching—both "legal" and otherwise—of hundreds of Black men throughout the South, including such famous cases as those of Willie Magee in Mississippi and the Martinsville 7 in Virginia. Today many Black men are serving long prison terms on similar phony, racist charges, including

mass murder at Auschwitz, atomic incinerations at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, "smart bombs" dropped on hospitals in Vietnam, grinding poverty in the midst of a "surplus" of food, the racist butchery of prisoner's brains by psychosurgery.

The spread of science during the decline of the capitalist system has only increased the misery and psychological anxiety of the majority of the world's populations.

In *Anti-Duhring*, Frederick Engels, who with Marx was the founder of scientific communism, wrote, "All religion... is nothing but the fantastic reflection in men's minds of those external forces which control their daily life, a reflection in which the terrestrial forces assume the form of supernatural forces."

But it was not only Marx and Engels who subjected religious dogma to merciless criticism. The rising bourgeoisie themselves, who in the 17th and 18th centuries still had a revolutionary and progressive role to play in society, attacked superstition from a rationalist point of view.

But today, their system has become so destructive, so irrational, such a brake on

Appeal of Carrington case fights racist rape charge

By JOHN LEWIS

NORFOLK, Va.—James Carrington is a Black man from Keyesville, Va., the heart of what is called Southside, known mostly for its bitter poverty and its ancient textile mills, where Black and white alike work for starvation wages. Before being incarcerated in the Virginia State Penitentiary more than 3 years ago on a phony rape charge, James worked in a foundry full time and helped his mother, Mrs. Otelia Carrington, sharecrop a small farm in Charlotte County.

On April 10, 1970, James was sitting in a car with a white woman friend, when her father and a KKK-style vigilante squad attacked him and nearly beat him to death. The white men dragged James from the car, screaming racist epithets at him, beating him while his hands were tied behind his back, shooting their guns at his feet, and screaming "dance nigger, dance." They beat him and beat him, and only stopped

beating him at the pleadings of the young woman, who promised to go along with them on the rape charge.

When the trial—or rather the legal lynching—began, white people were massed outside the courthouse screaming that "If the court doesn't hang you, you can bet you'll never get out of here alive." The purpose of the trial was made clear by the prosecuting attorney: "We're going to use this boy as an example, so that no colored man will ever lay hands on a white girl again."

There was absolutely no evidence of rape, because there was no rape. There was no evidence even of a sexual act. A doctor who had examined James immediately after his arrest testified in the trial that he had found no evidence of either kidnapping or rape. The jury was, as Ms. Carrington said, "All white, all old, and all men." He was found guilty of rape and was sentenced to 75 years in prison!

—Exorcist

(Continued from page 10)

Trier burned 368 "witches" from 22 villages between 1567 and 1593; in two of these villages only one woman remained alive in 1595. From 1623 until 1631 the Prince-Bishop of Wurzburg burned 900 people for "witchcraft," they included his own nephew and a number of children. Before this hideous campaign (called the Inquisition) was stopped, at least 9 million innocent people were burned alive.

The Exorcist defends these monstrous and sadistic witchhunts of the Dark Ages "We only tortured the snotty ones," states Father Dyer, one of the "heroes" of the novel.

WHY NOW?

Why has *The Exorcist*, a reactionary and medieval religious horror story, been promoted by even such liberal publications

Clackamas County jail to be transferred to Georgia in 5 days. He was not given an extradition hearing or even served with an indictment.

Lawyers went before Federal Judge Burns to dispute the legality of such actions against Stephen. He has been returned to Oregon State Penitentiary, and has until March 26 in which to petition the governor against extradition.

Stephen Kessler has been very active in organizing prisoners and working for racial solidarity among white, Black, Brown, and Red prisoners. Stephen's success in unifying prisoners is viewed by prison authorities as a direct threat to their power and control of the prison population.

Because of his activities he has been transferred all across the country. Since 1968 he has been in 10 penitentiaries and 15 county jails across the country in attempts to isolate him. These attempts have failed to stop his work and education amongst the other prisoners.

In order to silence and keep him locked up for the rest of his life, the government has now had him indicted for two trumped up charges of murder and one trumped up attempted murder charge.

Charged with Stephen on two counts is JOE MARTINEZ, a Chicano brother imprisoned in Marion, Illinois. He is due to be released after being imprisoned for 17 years.

These charges grow out of unsolved

Thomas Wansley in Virginia, who is serving life in prison. Just recently, in Tarboro, N.C., three Black men were sentenced to death on a frame-up charge of raping a white woman!

"If this thing only happened once in a lifetime," Ms. Carrington declares, "we could overlook it. But James is only one example among thousands of Black men who have been brutally beaten, had life imprisonment, or even been killed for crimes just as questionable. I look forward to the day when innocent Black men are no longer thrown into prison because this sin-sick society says that this is where Black men should be."

On Monday, April 1, James Carrington will appear in the Federal 4th Circuit Court of Appeals to appeal the harsh sentence he received at the hands of the white-racist judge and jury. The basis of the appeal is that the jury was all white.

PSC WORKING ON APPEAL.

For more than a year now the Virginia Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) has been working to publicize James's case as well as that of Thomas Wansley and other

further human progress, that bourgeois rationalism itself is dangerous to them—let alone a Marxist and materialist analysis of life.

And so they wallow in tales of devils, the Prince of Darkness, and unnamed "sinister forces."

But the great human race will not march backward with the bourgeoisie, whose grisly dream is to establish a 20th-century Dark Ages, illuminated only by the flickering light of burning napalm.

The 13th century is gone—never to return.

—Solzhenitsyn

(Continued from page 7)

social system at that, was destroyed and the old system restored without the intervention of the masses, without any overt political

Houston trial delayed FBI wiretaps exposed amid police scandal in Wounded Knee case

SPECIAL TO WORKERS WORLD

HOUSTON, March 26—The five members of the Houston 12 accused of "assault with intent to murder a police officer" went to court again today. Attorneys for Miguel Trujillo, Jose Barriga, William Christiansen, Alex Rodriguez, and Barthe Haile exposed recent maneuvers by the district attorney designed to handicap the defense.

After hearing arguments from the defense and the state, Judge Andrew Jefferson, assigned to the case a few weeks ago in place of Wallace Moore, postponed the trial that had been scheduled for April 8. The five will now stand trial either May 20 or June 10. One of those two dates will be decided upon within the next week.

William Christiansen explains the new legal developments: "At our pretrial hearing Feb. 7, Judge Moore ordered the DA to hand over to the defense a complete list of his possible witnesses no later than 30 days before the trial. Not only was the DA a week late in turning over this list, but it was just names with no addresses or phone numbers. It was clear that this was a move to make it difficult if not impossible for us to prepare an adequate defense. Therefore, we had no choice but to demand that the new judge force the DA to comply with Moore's order and also request another postponement of the trial. We won on both demands."

Christiansen added that at this time the state's list of witnesses includes about 20 policemen and 15 civilians, and more are sure to be added. "The DA may not call all of these witnesses to testify," he said, "but we must be prepared for each of them to take the stand. This is why we needed more time, at least more than the 10 days we had."

There is general agreement that this is very probably the last postponement. "We don't expect any other delays," commented Alex Rodriguez. "The state is anxious to try us as soon as possible, and we will be ready legally and politically by May 20 or June 10, assuming of course that the DA doesn't pull any more slimy tricks."

One reason for the district attorney's desire for "swift justice" is the series of scandals rocking the Houston Police Department (HPD). Since policemen will be the key witnesses against the five Brothers, the recent exposures of corruption, crime and brutality in the HPD are undoubtedly destroying the credibility of the police in the minds of many potential jurors.

A giant scandal has surfaced in the narcotics division of the HPD. Nine cops have been indicted on the following charges: theft of cash and illegal drugs from narcotics suspects; possession and sales of heroin and marijuana; perjury; assault; income tax evasion; illegal wiretapping; and conspiracy to violate the civil rights of citizens. All are veteran policemen. While more than 60 percent of Houston's cops have been hired in the last 6 years, the nine under indictment have been on the force an average of 10 years.

These are not the only members of Houston's "finest" charged with criminal conduct. Several other cops have been accused of such crimes as felony, theft, burglary, and rape.

Jack Heard, Jr., is a Houston cop. His father is the sheriff of Harris County. Organized separately from the HPD, the sheriff's department polices the part of metropolitan Houston outside the city limits. A few months ago, Jack, Jr., and one of his cop buddies beat and raped a woman. At first the matter was hushed up, but later when the incident came out in the open Heard and his pal were suspended. Not indicted, put on trial, and jailed; but merely suspended.

But even this "punishment" was too severe. So the Civil Service Commission (CSC) held public hearings on the matter. In these hearings, which were sensationalist front-page news, Heard and his partner explained they had committed no crime



Houston cop in KKK hood covers his badge number.

BOSTON BENEFIT FILM FREE SHOWING THE HOUSTON 12

MOVIE ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, FILMED IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN 1971, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

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because the woman they brutalized and raped was a prostitute and, therefore, "fair game." Apparently the CSC agreed, for it ordered their reinstatement to the police force. But this particular scandal is far from finished.

Finally, hardly a week passes without another charge of brutality being leveled at the Houston Police Department. Just a few days ago, a woman in an interview with a radio station told of a vicious, unprovoked attack on her son by cops while she stood by helpless. The poor and working people of the city know very well that for every instance

By MARK DORAN
The case of the U.S. government against the Wounded Knee defendants Dennis Banks and Russell Means is beginning to fall apart already. The trial has been interrupted for an evidentiary hearing into FBI wiretapping of the defendants.

When Judge Fred Nichol ordered the FBI to open files on Wounded Knee to the defense, it was found that the FBI had accumulated 316,000 items on the case. Among them were at least six reports of phone conversations of defendants monitored by the FBI.

Also included were invoices showing equipment purchases in Rapid City for wire, switches, phone jacks, headphones, a tape recorder, and scores of cassette tapes—in other words, bugging equipment. All of this they attached as a "party line" to the only phone into Wounded Knee.

The Justice Department had previously promised that there would be no wiretaps in Wounded Knee. On the basis of the promise, attorneys had many confidential conversations with their clients.

The FBI continued to lie to the defendants, their attorneys, and the judge, saying there had been no wiretapping. Joseph Trimbach, special agent in charge of the Minneapolis office of the FBI, continued in this way before Judge Nichol until he was confronted with memos detailing wiretaps. He then changed his story saying that FBI agents would accidentally "overhear" conversations of Wounded Knee defendants on the "party line."

Meanwhile the FBI continued to obstruct justice by withholding files and bringing in irrelevant tapes.

These disclosures may be fatal to the government's case. In the Ellsberg-Russo trial, charges were thrown out after the government refused to disclose wiretap evidence.

Means and Banks face life imprisonment and are among hundreds of others who face charges from the takeover at Wounded Knee. The accused are confronted with the largest mass trials in American history.

The conditions faced by American Indians made the takeover fully justified. Indians at the Pine Ridge reservation where Wounded Knee is located have a 70-80 percent unemployment rate and an average income of \$900 a year. In 1971 an 8-year-old Indian boy committed suicide. "Dogs have more laws protecting them than Indians," said Russell Means.

In a related development, the Tribal Council of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation demanded the honoring of the 1868 treaty between the U.S. and the Oglaia Sioux Nation. The treaty set the boundaries of the Great Sioux Nation and includes all of western South Dakota. If the treaty had not been repeatedly violated, Means and Banks would not be on trial now.

The lynchers from the government must not be allowed to railroad Dennis Banks and Russell Means. All progressive people must unite around defense of the Indian prisoners and the just demands of the Native American people.

.....
of police brutality that is reported by the media, there are dozens of other police attacks on the people that are not revealed.

"Yes, if I were in the DA's shoes, I would be worried too," said Gerri Pressnall, a spokesperson for the Houston 12 Defense Committee. "There are too many people in this town who know what crooks and sadists the cops really are. He is going to have a hard time convincing 12 people that our Brothers attacked the police the night of October 9, 1973, and tried to kill them. We are confident that the oil barons' scheme to railroad the Houston 12 to prison will be derailed."

events that occurred 6 years ago in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary.

Before this vicious kidnapping from the visiting room, Stephen's lawyer was in the process of filing an appeal on his original charges, and was optimistic that he would win his release. He was due for parole next year, and has been offered jobs and schooling.

Why now, 7 years later, has the federal government decided to once again move him, and inflict upon him more lies, more phony charges, more time and more persecution?

Contributions are needed for legal fees, telephone calls and mailing. If you can help or would like more information, contact: The Committee to Defend Stephen Kessler, 2465 Roosevelt Blvd., Eugene, Ore. 97402 (688-7788) or 19917 S. Sprague Rd., Oregon City, Ore. (631-3515).

Henry Brown

NEW YORK, March 21—HENRY BROWN, accused in the deaths of two cops on patrol on the Lower East Side in January 1972, has been found not guilty.

Ten of the twelve jury members shook hands with the defendant, said by police to be a member of the Black Liberation Army, as they left the courtroom.

The jury had spent 2 days in deliberation before deciding that the state had not proved its case. Brown had produced evidence that he was not even in New York on the day of the shooting.

The press called the verdict "unexpected," since he had long since been convicted in the major daily papers. But the "Black terror" stories backfired on the cops, when it was revealed during the trial

that two of the suspects identified by the Police Commissioner were working on a Florida tomato farm that day.

"Sha Sha" Brown will not be set free by the court, because he was sentenced to 25 years on charges from the shootout during his capture in St. Louis in February 1973. Brown is also facing charges from his temporary escape in New York while awaiting this trial.

But the state has suffered an important setback in its campaign to lock away everyone they tie to the Black Liberation Army.

Charlotte 3

The federal government paid the two crucial witnesses at least \$4,000 each to fabricate testimony against three Black activists in North Carolina, known as the CHARLOTTE 3—JAMES GRANT, T.J. REDDY, and CHARLES PARKER—as reported in the Charlotte Observer.

The Three have been convicted of setting fire to the Lazy B Stable in Charlotte, N.C., in 1972, killing 15 horses. The stable had been the object of a civil rights demonstration, which the Three helped organize.

For this frameup property destruction charge, the Three were sentenced to 25, 20, and 10 years, respectively, by a Judge who openly proclaimed that the exceptionally long terms were in punishment for their belief in civil rights.

Now it has been discovered that the United States Treasury Department secretly rewarded T.A. Hood and W.D. Washington, themselves threatened with charges, for their incriminating testimony against the Three, and against Grant in a

federal case in which he was convicted of counseling them to escape to Canada to avoid prosecution.

The payments of \$1,000 before the trials and \$3,000 five days after the arson convictions were approved by Robert Mardian, at the time head of the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department.

In this position Mardian was the criminal mastermind of the Nixon administration repression through infiltration, bugging, provocateurs, sabotage, and especially the systematic decimation of the leadership of the Black Panther Party.

Now the case of the Charlotte Three is before the North Carolina Board of Paroles, which is due to decide whether to recommend that Governor Holmouser commute their sentences and release them. Messages of support for Grant, Reddy, and Parker should be sent to the Paroles Board in Charlotte.

New York 5

NEW YORK, March 27—Opening statements were made today in the case of the NEW YORK FIVE, Herman Bell, Albert Washington, Anthony Bottom, and Gabriel and Francisco Torres, who are accused in the deaths of two New York City cops, Waverly Jones and Joseph Piagenini, on May 21, 1971, in Harlem.

The state says the cops were killed because the defendants are members of the Black Liberation Army.

The opening statement by the DA told a story that included obvious fabrications, things he could never know. DA Tanenbaum said the five had met in the apartment of Gabriel Torres before and

Appomattox County NAACP, and members of the Carrington family. Also present was Mrs. Earinda Wansley, whose husband, Thomas Wansley, was recently reincarcerated to serve a life sentence in another frameup rape charge.

In a press conference after the hearing, Mrs. Orelia Carrington, James's mother, said, "My son is innocent. He has spent 3 years in prison and I know that there are hundreds of young Black men like him who are framed, innocent, and suffering in these prisons."



Mrs. Carrington pointed out that "on this date in 1935, the conviction of the Scottsboro 9 was overturned after a national and international campaign to free them, a fight that included people of good will, Black and white." Representatives of the PSC vowed to continue the fight for the freedom of Carrington and Wansley.

Supporters of Carrington are urged to send messages to the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, Richmond, Va. demanding that his conviction be reversed because of racist discrimination in the jury selection.

events or clandestine activity that can be tracked down, and without any violent struggle!

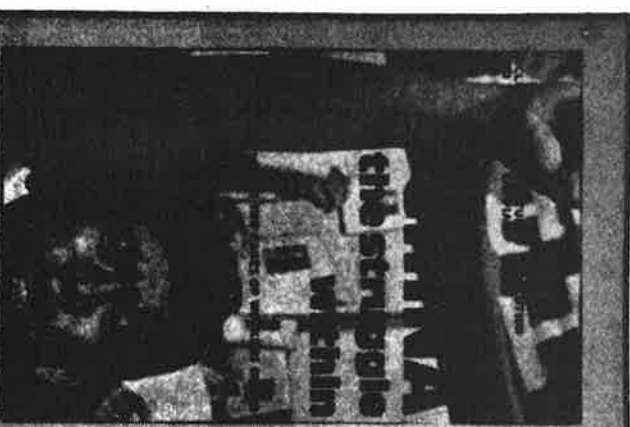
Such a ridiculous theory taxes the credulity of even the blindest and most glibble followers. Like the myth of Stalin's infallibility, it will be swept away by history.

- DPRK

(Continued from page 12)

advances despite the fact that it must maintain a huge and expensive armed forces to protect itself against the U.S. (which has 40,000 troops stationed in the southern part of Korea) and the fascist puppet "ROK Army" of 600,000 men.

It is clear that the DPRK, a society where taxation is abolished and prices are going down is a society set up to meet the needs of the people, unlike the situation in the South Korean military dictatorship, where cholera, hunger, and prostitution are rampant.



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