

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Trying to regain the initiative in Boston, the school committee defied a federal court desegregation order just 2 days after 25,000 people marched against racism in that city. See page 4.

Vol. 16, No. 29

Dec. 27, 1974

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Big business to dump more workers in 1975

By ANDY STAPP

More people are now out of work in the U.S. than at any time since the great depression. And while five million here are laid off and unable to find jobs, the crisis has deeply infected all the other capitalist countries as well.

The auto industry is in a full-scale depression with 200,000 workers pushed out into the street. Unemployment among steel workers is another typical example, with U.S. Steel alone dumping 18,000 in the last few months. Meanwhile, the Labor Department has admitted workers' real

wages took a "record drop" in November due to rocketing inflation and forced cutbacks in the average hours worked.

It's the same everywhere: layoffs, cutbacks, and "furloughs" have cut deeply into the earning power of the average American working man or woman.

In November industrial payrolls were down another 2.5 percent. On a yearly basis that is a \$7 billion drop in the earnings of the working class.

And as income drops, so do sales. More workers are laid off by bosses who cannot sell their products to people who simply

cannot afford them anymore. These additional layoffs further erode the purchasing power of the people, lead to greater pile ups of unsold products, further layoffs, on and on in a descending spiral.

ARTIFICIAL ECONOMY

The greedy monopolists who control both the economy and the U.S. government are incapable of halting this disaster and in fact have brought it on. They have never paid the workers enough to buy back all the

[Continued on page 3]

DETROIT UNEMPLOYMENT LINE AFTER CHRYSLER LAYOFFS

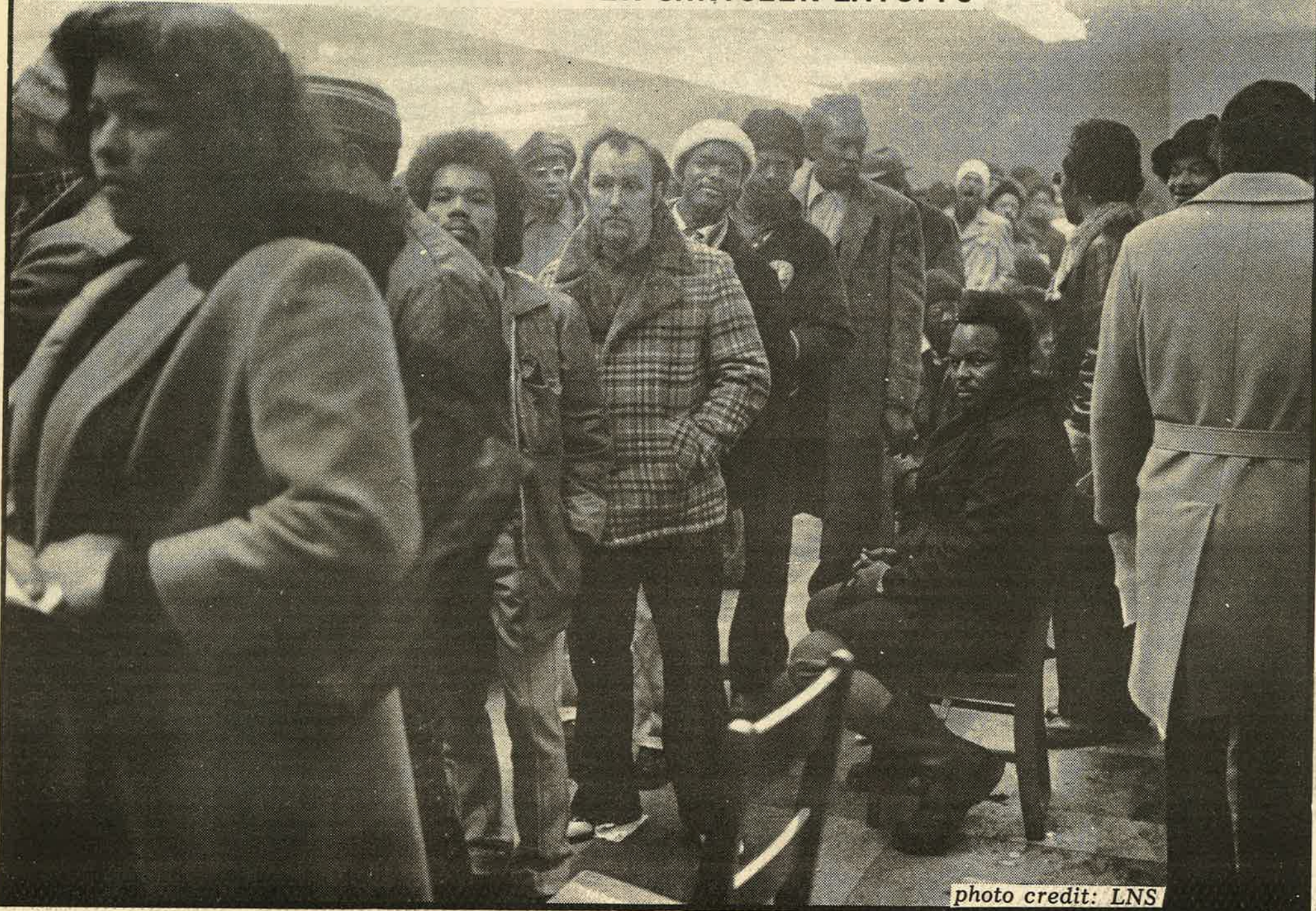


photo credit: LNS

New evidence cited

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By MOLLY CHARBONEAU
DECEMBER 19—With factual evidence mounting that there was a conspiracy behind the assassination of Robert Kennedy, a call has come from Paul Schrade and Allard K. Lowenstein to open a new investigation of the 1968 shooting.

Schrade is a former Kennedy aide who was wounded when RFK was shot; Lowenstein is a former Representative from Long Island.

In a press conference on December 16, the two pointed to ballistics evidence and eyewitness testimony which contradicts the police version that Sirhan Sirhan, acting alone, killed Senator Kennedy.

KENNEDY BULLET
NOT FROM SIRHAN'S GUN

A call for a new investigation has also been made by Los Angeles County Supervisor Baxter Ward, who held a hearing on the ballistics evidence last May. In a comparison of a bullet taken from Senator Kennedy's body with one that wounded William Weiser, an ABC producer, experts dispute that Sirhan Sirhan's gun could

have fired the Kennedy bullet. Herbert L. MacDonnel, a professor of examinalistics from Corning, N.Y., points out that the bullet removed from Kennedy's body contained only one cannellure, or groove, while the Weisel bullet had two. The eight cartridge casings removed from Sirhan's gun all came from an ammunitions manufacturer that has never manufactured a 22-caliber bullet with only one cannellure.

Another flaw in the prosecution case is the discrepancy between eyewitness reports of Sirhan's position when firing (from 2 to 10 feet in front of Kennedy) and the coroner's report on the fatal wound (behind Kennedy's right ear, with powder burns showing the gun had to be within 2 to 3 inches).

THE SECOND GUN

These remarkable facts were dramatically made public last year in a documentary film called "The Second Gun," which not only presented additional evidence that Sirhan could not have killed Robert Kennedy, but also showed, through eyewitness reports and circumstantial evidence, that

there was a man with a gun standing right behind Kennedy who could have been the murderer: Thane Eugene Cesar, a hotel cop and an admitted right-winger who said in the film, "The Kennedys gave this country to the commies and the minorities. I worked for Wallace."

Schrade and Lowenstein say that they have no other theories about the RFK assassinations, just a large number of questions which should be answered.

WHO BENEFITED?

However, a number of political conclusions are inescapable when viewing this political murder in light of all the others that occurred in the decade of the sixties.

Like the killings of John Kennedy, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, the Robert Kennedy assassination benefited reaction. It was the right-wing of the imperialist ruling class that gained politically by removing RFK from the scene the very night that he had won the key state of California in the Democratic primary and would certainly have run against Nixon for President.

And, as in the John Kennedy assassination, the kind of cover-up needed to conceal or deny such overwhelming evidence of a conspiracy could only be carried out by a significant organization within the ruling class, having many connections into the police forces and other repressive agencies.

Workers World, in an article entitled "Fascist Violence and the Kennedy Assassination," pointed out on June 6, 1968, that Southern California is a hotbed of racism and reaction. The article stated, "Yorty (then in control of the investigation of the assassination) was a political enemy of Robert Kennedy from the right. . . . In short, Yorty and the Los Angeles police are certainly prime suspects themselves!"

As capitalist crisis deepens, the cracks between different ruling class factions widen. A reopening of the investigation into both Kennedy assassinations would inevitably expose to the mass of people another aspect of the corruption, violence, and decay of U.S. finance capital—of which Watergate was only a glimpse.

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Treaty hearings on Sioux land
could set important precedent

DECEMBER 23—Hearings to determine the validity of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty between the Sioux nation and the United States government got underway December 16 in Lincoln, Nebraska, before Judge Warren Urbom.

If the treaty were to be recognized as binding, it would be the first step towards a recognition of Indian sovereignty and a return of land guaranteed the Sioux in 1868. Under the treaty, the Sioux were to have sovereignty over all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River.

This includes the area around Wounded Knee. The Indian attorneys are arguing that the federal assault on Wounded Knee was illegal under the terms of the treaty, since it prohibited anyone, including government agents, from being on Indian land. The hundreds of cases stemming from the battle for Wounded Knee would have to be dropped if the treaty were

recognized.

Even though the legality of the Indian case is well-documented, the long history of broken treaties and land-grabbing from the Native American peoples shows that law and tradition have held little sway when the economic interests of expanding U.S. capitalism were at stake.

Just 3 years after the signing of the 1868 Treaty, the U.S. Congress passed a law declaring tribes of Native Americans to be "wards" to be administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This unilateral action has been the "legal" base for the genocidal policies against Indian people pursued ever since.

Over 200 tribal elders, descendants of the signers of the treaty, will present testimony on the history of the Sioux nation at the hearing. A government objection trying to exclude the tribal chief's testimony as "hearsay" was overruled by the judge.



"Which is the savage?" asks the original caption of this 1873 drawing. Despite treaties, the U.S. government continued its brutal and genocidal war against Native Americans.

DECLINE AND FALL

REAL EARNINGS HIT
7-YEAR LOW

New York Post, Dec. 20:

"Workers' real earnings have hit a 7-year low, the government reported today.

"The index which measures how wages have kept up with the cost of living showed that the nation's workers were actually earning 5.6 percent less last month than they were a year ago."

IS THAT WHY SECRETARY
BUTZ NEEDS CHARITY?

Buffalo Courier-Express, Nov. 24:

"Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz, who says the farmers deserve more money for their produce, got a free turkey on Saturday.

"Butz was spotted at a Washington supermarket by a reporter. He was wearing a blue Camp David blazer with his name

embroidered on the front. He cashed in a gift certificate for an \$11.70 turkey. The store manager estimated the bird weighed about 22 pounds.

"The manager said he did not know where Butz got the certificate."

... AND CORPORATION
EARNINGS HIT NEW HIGH

Buffalo Courier-Express, Nov. 24:

"The nation's bankers have discovered a loophole in the Federal Reserve System that allows them to help corporations delay paying bills for a day or more, thus collecting more interest.

"The idea, according to an article in the current Business Week, is called 'extended disbursement float (EDF)' and means that business can retain perhaps \$1 billion annually just slightly longer than before.

"In the case of one company disbursing

about \$100 million a year, Robert E. Fentress, vice president of Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. of Winston-Salem, N.C., told the magazine, 'We use extended-disbursement float to add \$1 million a year to their bank balances.'"

"There's tricks in every trade, they say, but the bankers' trade knows the trickiest tricks of them all."

GIs PREFER EXILE
TO PHONY AMNESTY

Buffalo Evening News, Nov. 23:

"The chairman of the presidential clemency board finds it 'greatly disappointing' that fewer than one percent of those men eligible have filed applications with his agency.

"Of the 100,000 persons found guilty of desertion and other absentee offenses, 508 have applied to the board."

HOW MANY MORE?

Buffalo Courier-Express, Dec. 22:

"NAPANOCK (UPI)—A Ku Klux Klan

member has been suspended from his post as an instructor at an Upstate prison following a probe into Klan activity there, a state corrections spokesman said Saturday night.

"The action came after an inmate at the Eastern New York Correctional Facility here was reportedly asked to make Klan-inspired paintings and after suspicious fires in the cells of Black and Spanish-speaking prisoners.

"Earl Schoonmaker, a teacher for high school equivalency diplomas was verbally suspended from his post.

"Schoonmaker told department officials he was a leader of a local chapter of the Klan, the spokesman said, and a copyrighted article in the New York Sunday News identified him as the area 'grand dragon.'

"The News said the KKK was conducting a reign of terror against the prison's Black inmates, attempting to set white inmates against Blacks, and threatening those who sought to rehabilitate Black inmates."

Hard-hit workers worry about prospects for '75

By T. MITCHELL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—What will 1975 bring? How much worse will the layoffs and high prices get?

These worrisome thoughts are adding a somber tone to the usual holiday season cheer.

The outlook is grim according to official reports. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, which acts as a consultant body for 24 industrialized capitalist nations, predicts that, of all its members, the U.S. in the next year will undergo the greatest economic decline.

Every day brings more bad news. While the economy is way down even during this peak period of the year for business activity, the question on the minds of workers all across the country is whether the bottom will completely fall out after the holidays.

As wage earners brace themselves for greater hardships to come, telling their children that Santa Claus is poor this year, the quack government economists have grown quiet about how the rapidly mounting layoffs are good medicine. What will they prescribe next?

BUSINESS EXPECTS CONTROLS

The biggest capitalist owners of industry met in New York City on December 5 at the annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers and voiced their expectation that the government will impose economic controls by the middle of 1975, in comments to reporters outside the meeting.

While many refused to be interviewed and other insisted that their names not be used, the consensus among those overlords of the assembly lines is that inflation will continue to aggravate the economy, spurred on by their tactic of raising prices extra amounts now to protect themselves

against any future limits.

The NAM convention also addressed itself to getting even more subservient politicians into government to make sure that the owners of giant industry, the most powerful people in the country, get just what they expect from the government.

And it's not high prices that big business wants controlled. At a time when slumping sales, caused by the drastic cut in the real income of working people, have slightly slowed the bosses' ability to jack up prices, the class that collects the profits from monopoly prices is concerned with beating back the efforts of the working class to catch up through wage increases.

The NAM bosses, who have inflated prices as much as they can for the time being, want the government sitting in at the negotiating table to outlaw any attempt by the workers to reclaim the real income that has been stolen by them.

ROCKEFELLER SPELLS TROUBLE

President Ford has announced that Rockefeller will be named to head the Council on Domestic Affairs, a title that the billionaire butcher of Attica will use to exercise authority over the economy. Why has Rockefeller chosen to assume prominence and political liability at a time when the economy is heading ever deeper into what promises to be a prolonged and severe recession?

In spite of all his pious denials of narrow self-interest, Rockefeller is dedicated to protecting and promoting the enrichment of the capitalist class, especially the Rockefeller family oil and banking empire. Normally, he is content to leave the job to the paid-off political stooges he calls "good men in government," but now the entire world capitalist system is in crisis.

None of us can say for sure what

this man is scheming, what criminal designs are on the mind of one who so ruthlessly ordered the massacre of the Attica prisoners for demanding humane treatment. We can expect that the more aggravated the crisis of the profit system becomes, the more likely it will be for the capitalists to resort to the most extreme measures against the poor and working people.

Rockefeller and the entire capitalist class have only one answer: to make the working class pay, through layoffs and wage cuts, or war, or both. What Rockefeller plans is the single key question that never got asked in the confirmation hearings.

WORKING CLASS UPSURGE

There is no reason for factories and offices to be closing down or for construction of schools, hospitals, and homes to come to a halt, except for the irrationality of capitalism.

The masses of people who get up day after day to do the work and turn the wheels of industry are being thrown onto the unemployment lines through no fault of their own, while those who remain on the job are ordered to speed up.

The entire working class is under attack, and while most workers have no clear understanding that capitalism is the fundamental cause of their increasing misery, when you get hit, you hit back as hard and as effectively as you can.

Whatever extraordinary measures against the workers that the capitalist government may take in 1975, there will be no denying a massive widespread upsurge of the class struggle. In rising up to defend the small gains made over the years of prosperity, the embattled workers will throw aside unresponsive and faint-hearted leaders and turn to those who most militantly champion their rights.



... The following program is suggested for mature audiences. Those easily disturbed or offended are urged to tune to another station. And now, we present the President of the United States speaking on the economy...

-Layoffs

[continued from page 1]

products they produced, and for over three decades the capitalists have attempted to overcome this contradiction by artificially pumping money into the economy through huge Pentagon war expenditures.

This one trillion dollars squandered on the war machine, however, has fueled the rampant inflation that, along with monopoly price fixing and two devaluations of the dollar, has driven the prices of even basic necessities above the reach of millions of Americans.

The iron law of capitalism—expansion, bust, depression—has reasserted itself with a vengeance. This system, whose only criterion is what will swell the profits of the millionaires and billionaires in complete disregard for what the masses of working people need, shows more clearly with each passing day its complete bankruptcy.

THERE IS AN ANSWER

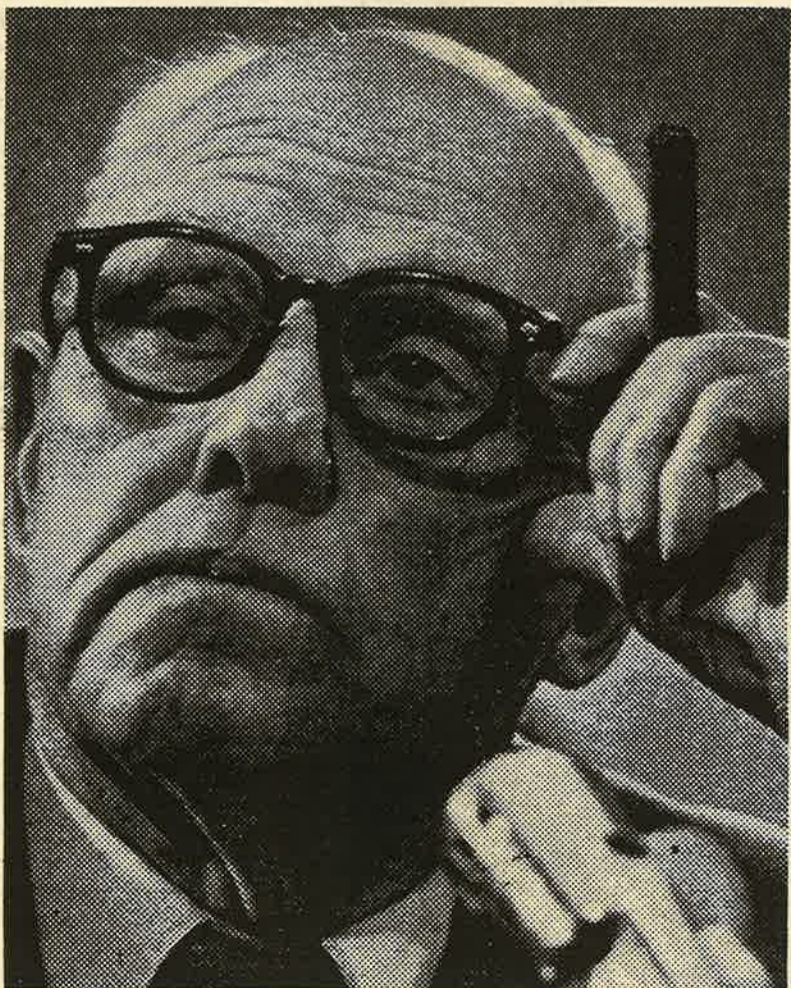
The economic catastrophe which is ruining the lives of millions of

people in the big capitalist countries and is literally killing through starvation millions upon millions in the underdeveloped semicolonial nations—all this misery and suffering is totally unnecessary.

Standing in stark contrast to the tottering capitalist system are the workers' states of China, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Cuba, Vietnam, and North Korea. Here, where capitalism has been abolished, there is no inflation to speak of. There is no unemployment. No family is deprived of decent medical care because of "bad times"; there is no starvation. Yet all these countries were forced to begin socialist construction with either backward or war-torn economies.

Socialism puts human needs above all else. In the workers' states the economy is planned. There is no "crisis of overproduction," for wages and prices are calculated on the basis of satisfying human wants and providing full employment for all who can work.

The capitalists used to say: "Socialism, sharing, putting the collective needs of humanity ahead of the greed of a few, is a beautiful idea but it won't work." Now it is all too apparent that it is capitalism that does not work.



George Meany: "...Trying to batten down the hatches of racism and reactionary inequality..."

Labor fakers and Democrats

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—George Meany, head of the AFL-CIO, and his closest henchmen are resigning from the National Committee of the Democratic Party.

Is this because they are fed up with capitalist politics and determined to fight for the interests of the working people, instead of maneuvering around for an occasional few crumbs from the bosses' table?

WOULD THAT IT WERE SO!

No, Meany & Co. are quitting the Democratic National Committee, believe it or not, because it is too "radical." It is dominated by the "New Left," they say. It is "catering exclusively to Blacks, Browns, and women." (It would be a substantial improvement if it were catering even every odd Thursday—which it is not—to Blacks, Browns and women!)

There is no labor movement in the world that is saddled with such a reactionary, moss-backed, hateful, white supremacist bunch of fakers as the U.S. labor movement. And only in the U.S. could labor "leaders" find a

capitalist party too "democratic" for themselves.

The truth, of course, is that the demagogic moves of the Democrats give only seeming and superficial equality to "Blacks, Browns, youth, and women" (in the party leadership, not in jobs generally), and not even very much of that.

DON'T SPEAK FOR WORKERS

Meany & Co. exist on the dues money of the above "nonpersons" as much as they exist on the dues of white males. And if one were to count the white male workers who are really satisfied with Meany, Hardy, Rafferty, Maloney, and their class-collaborating cohorts, it would be a very small minority indeed.

The trouble with these well-heeled, white-supremacist, male-supremacist, flag-waving, America-First-er "labor leaders" is that the Democratic leadership has asked them to move their backsides slightly sideways to make room for others on the backbenches of the party. This request has practically nothing to do with

any real, substantial struggle for equal rights for the great rank-and-file in or out of the unions.

However, one thing these well-tailored traitors to labor do understand is that a new wind is really blowing in the working class. And they are trying to batten down the hatches of racism and reactionary inequality in order to stop the wind from blowing themselves down with everything else.

They feel they have to do this to protect their own privileges and the privileges of the highest-paid white minority, whom they keep indoctrinating with chauvinism of all kinds.

Militant unionists still have to work with these labor fakers occasionally, more is the pity, to help organize a broader and nationwide struggle for the working class as a whole.

But the moment the advanced section of the labor movement gets strong enough, and conscious enough of its own needs and destiny, we are sure that the above-mentioned characters will have to look elsewhere for a job.

School board defies integration order

New efforts to revive racist frenzy in Boston

BOSTON, Dec. 23—The Boston school committee, which has been a major instrument in opposing school integration, made clear that it intends to deepen the busing crisis when, on December 16, it defied a federal court desegregation order. The committee voted 3-2 not to implement the federal court ruling, which ordered busing after finding systematic and conscious segregation in the Boston school system.

This move by the school committee was evidently aimed at reviving the racist anti-busing campaign which had been given a strong rebuff when 25,000 people, mostly from the Boston area, marched against racism on December 14.

Earlier in the week a screaming lynch mob had besieged 100 Black students trapped inside a South Boston high school, threatening to kill them. Louise Day Hicks, a member of the City Council and leader of the notorious anti-busing organization ROAR (Reinstate Our Alienated Rights), told the crowd, "I won't tell you to go home."

This incident in South Boston was handled by the press as a reaction to the knifing of Michael Faith, a 17-year-old student. A Black student was charged with the attack. Not one paper or radio station has mentioned that Michael Faith is a leader of WAR, a faction of ROAR which has been a prime initiator of the racist violence and is composed mainly of young white South Boston gangs. Black community leaders have demanded that Black as well as

white students be interviewed to tell the story of how the fight developed, and that attacks on Black students (several were hospitalized the same week) be given equal publicity in the press.

The South Boston and Roxbury schools have been closed down until after the holidays in January.

Last week's decision of the five-person school committee to defy the federal court puts the committee in contempt of court. They could be given jail sentences and the three lawyer members disbarred. But the federal judge presiding over this question, Judge Garrity, has ruled out such action, showing the federal government has no intention of carrying out a real struggle against the racist, segregationist, all-white school committee.

John Kerrigan, chairman of the school committee and leader of the anti-busing movement, said, "This is a vote against the Globe (Boston's 'liberal' paper—B.D.), it is a vote against those maggots who live outside the city. And it's the proudest vote I've ever cast in seven years."

Kerrigan later ranted, "Expel the constant troublemakers. Let the court hear of the constant assaults on the teachers by these troublemakers."

DEC. 14 KNOCKED WIND OUT OF RACISTS

When 25,000 poured out into the streets on December 14 to say "No to racism," the racist forces, however, were seriously derailed. This was reflected in their anti-busing rally held the next day, Sunday, on the Boston Common.

This was to be their "answer" to the 14th. One right-wing radio announcer had been predicting for weeks that it would be at least ten times as big. And yet after years of racist, segregationist mobilizing, and despite beautiful sunny weather, only 4,000 people showed up for that rally. They could only console themselves by starting

their rally with, "Look at the weather yesterday (drizzling—B.D.) look at the weather today, you know which side God is on!"

Their rally was small, weak, and completely defensive in tone. For the first time they actually had a Black speaker—a man flown in from Dallas, Tex., to attack busing. Rally organizers had to go around the crowd beforehand urging people to "behave themselves" and not yell racist slurs. Even then, when the speaker began, part of the rally broke into "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." Other signs and placards at the rally tried to tone down their image with slogans like, "We are not racist pigs, we are parents."

The small turnout (about one-seventh the size of the Dec. 14 action) was seen as a significant retreat for the racist forces. But the school committee's fascist defiance of the desegregation order shows that the racists are trying to regain the initiative in Boston. The bold offensive of Black and white working people begun with the glorious December 14 March Against Racism must be a stepping off point for further blows against the racists.

An answer to SWP slander

What really happened in Boston

By BOB DOBROW

NEW YORK, Dec. 22—Since the December 14 March Against Racism in Boston, that truly historic event has been reported and commented on in the press of all stripes. It was front-page news from Boston to Mexico City, and a good part of the world took notice of the march's significance.

Workers World devoted major coverage in our last issue to the march and the strenuous organizing effort that went into making it a success. We also interviewed Black and white members of the Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism, which had organized the march, and told of some of the difficulties they had with the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) and Young Socialist

Alliance (YSA).

These two groups had tried in the early stages of the committee's formation to take over the Emergency Committee organizationally; when that failed they set up a parallel and competitive effort around the student teach-in, and on the day of the march led a break-away "student contingent" of about 1,000 people (out of 25,000 at the march) who marched separately to the Boston Commons a full 45 minutes before the real body of the marchers, and who tried to bring others with them on the basis that they were taking the "legal," "authorized" route.

The SWP has now tried to cover its shameful and disruptive role by criticizing the march, the Emergency Committee, and Youth

Against War & Fascism (YAWF).

The SWP, in the December 27 Militant, attacks the march organizers as well as the role of YAWF in an article entitled "A 'confrontation' that the media exploited." The article contains a heap of lies and distortions.

WHAT MOTIVE BEHIND THE ESTIMATE?

It is interesting to note that the Militant assesses the total number of demonstrators at 12,000, while admitting that the media and police estimate was 20,000. Did the Militant want it to sound as though the authorities had reasons to exaggerate the size of the rally? When has that ever happened with a progressive cause? (The New York Times, which in its early Sunday editions said the march

was 15,000-20,000, cut this down the following day to 5,000! Their motive was clear: not to embarrass the racists, who had only a few thousand at their Sunday rally.)

Then they write: "A handful of demonstrators tried to lead marchers away from the agreed-upon march route and wound up in an unnecessary scuffle with the cops. . . . YAWF, joined by state senator-elect William Owens, decided in the name of the sponsoring Emergency Committee to try to lead the march away from the police-granted route and onto Boylston St. . . . What the adventurers really wanted was to 'challenge' the cops."

The Militant goes on to congratulate the real break-away contingent that it organized for having "established that the march could go along the official route without a confrontation with the cops."

THE ROUTE

What the Militant leaves out is that there was no "official" or "agreed upon" route. They—the SWP—were the only ones who took the bait and agreed to march on Commonwealth Avenue.

The Boston Black leadership tried up until the last minute to get the mayor and police to agree on letting the demonstrators march on Boylston Street. The SWP in effect sabotaged these efforts by pushing for the route the cops wanted while the leaders of the demonstration were still trying to get a better and more direct route of march. Of course they had no confrontation with the cops!

The Militant leaves out that among the "adventurers" who symbolically walked up Boylston Street was the Rev. Ralph Abernathy. This move was not some wild attempt to provoke a free-for-all but a protest against the arbitrary decisions of the police authorities—in the spirit of the militant civil rights movement. When such acts occurred in Alabama, the Militant thought them heroic. But when its in their own backyard. . . .

The Militant writes that it was "a meaningless dispute over which of two streets to walk down." But neither the cops, nor the proud and militant demonstrators thought it meaningless. What really was at issue was: Do Black people have the right to walk the streets of Boston?

When the cops did charge the



demonstrators, it was not the "good political sense of the marshals of the Student Committee" which prevented a bloody and dangerous situation. They were nowhere to be seen, having marched out 45 minutes earlier. It was the guides of the Emergency Committee who kept order, protected the demonstration, and rerouted the march down Commonwealth Ave.

Why didn't the Militant tell its readers how the entire city government was against the demonstration ever taking place? It could have quoted Mayor Kevin White, who said, "Who runs this town, Bill Owens or me?" Or it could have cited Deputy Police Superintendent Joseph Jordan when he told reporters that "Boylston Street businessmen had complained, and therefore the march could not go through" even though the racists have often marched on Boylston. Above all, why didn't it place the onus for any violence which occurred (and this was minimal) on the racist city government and its tools, the cops, rather than on the righteous anger and spirit of the marchers?

ROLE OF YAWF

A word needs to be said on the role of Youth Against War & Fascism since it was singled out, along with some of the Black leaders, for attack by the SWP, and since it did play a very strong



25,000 people—Black and white—marched behind this banner on December 14 demanding an end to racism. WW photo

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Child taken from Black mother by transit cop dies in foster home

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Dec. 21—The last time Mrs. Josephine Harris saw her 8-week-old baby he was alive and healthy. Now he is dead.

Although the official explanation of the cause of the death of Stephen Alexander Pryor was "crib death," Mrs. Harris, a 31-year-old Black woman, will never be sure.

For her son died in a foster home after being taken away from her on December 10 because a transit cop thought the baby was white.

"I can't believe my baby is dead," Mrs. Harris told the Amsterdam News, a Black-owned newspaper and the only one reporting the incident.

Mrs. Harris said her baby was kidnapped from a telephone booth in a subway station.

"I left him in the phone booth,"

she explained, "to look up a phone number. Someone took my baby to the change booth in the subway. When I asked the change booth clerk for my baby he refused to give him to me and called a cop."

Mrs. Harris said that the cop had looked at the child and, uttering a racist epithet, had said that no Black person "has ever had hair like that."

Not only did the cop steal her baby, but he arrested Mrs. Harris for "child abandonment," a charge she still faces.

The child was placed in the foster home by the Queens Bureau of Child Welfare. Mrs. Harris, who was jailed following the incident, was never even told where her child was.

It was not until Dec. 13, when Mrs. Harris had won her court

fight to regain her baby, that she found out he was dead.

The baby's father, William Eugene Pryor, says his child was murdered. He said that the infant had been examined for a minor cold prior to the incident and was found to have "a clean bill of health."

Both parents are all too aware that had they not been Black people living in a racist society, they never would have had to go through such an ordeal. And although it is true that crib death can occur in seemingly healthy babies, the state is at least guilty of kidnapping—and quite probably guilty of murder!



Mrs. Josephine Harris holds picture of her two-month old son, Steven Pryor, who was kidnapped because a Transit Authority cop thought the child was white.

Racist Brooklyn College professor threatens 'Black people in chains'

NEW YORK, Dec. 22—Racists these days generally conceal their hatred and bigotry behind code phrases like "these people," "crime in the streets," etc. But the kind of official encouragement for racism that is subtly coming down from the Ford administration, plus the open organizing of groups like the Ku Klux Klan, have created a climate in which some of these hate-mongers are coming right out with what they had been saying privately.

One such case occurred recently at Brooklyn College, a campus that undoubtedly prides itself on being liberal, enlightened, and so on.

The racist bigot in this case was not some ill-informed student. It was a supposedly educated man, a professor of chemistry, Dr. Harvey Manning.

According to the Amsterdam News, Dr. Manning told his chemistry class: "There is going to be a mobilization of whites to put Blacks in chains if any more Jews and rabbis are killed. Forewarning is foretelling . . . We will pass the word around."

Manning drove home his point about returning to slavery by asking the class, which included five Black and Puerto Rican students, if they knew the title of a famous book by Booker T. Washington. "Up from Slavery," someone answered. The chemistry professor warned, "If any more Jewish people are robbed or raped it will be back to slavery."

The shock of his class can only be imagined. As news spread from

student to student about this scurrilous attack on Black people, anger and alarm rose on the campus. The Black Family of Brooklyn, an organization which includes both students and faculty, demanded his outright dismissal.

The fact that this racist bigot phrased his remarks to sound like a defense of Jewish people makes them all the more vicious. What kind of "champion" of Jewish people is it who advocates slavery for a people who are infinitely more oppressed in the United States today—thus allying himself with those who have been and remain the real oppressors of all poor people, the white (largely "Christian") ruling class?

Manning's students recall that on previous occasions he attacked other Semitic peoples, telling his class, "Arabs are pigs." His students were suspicious when he was absent from class on the day Yasser Arafat addressed the United Nations.

Under mounting pressure, the college administration promised that Professor Manning would no longer lecture at the school, and will not be reappointed. But the outraged students of Brooklyn College, and progressive faculty members, are looking to stronger measures to make sure that this kind of racist poison can never again be served up to the young as part of their "education."



supportive role in the December 14 mobilization.

YAWF had many people acting as guides, security guards, office personnel, fund raisers, and taking other organizational responsibility both before and during the march. Its participation in the mobilization was based on a minimal program of agreement with the Black leadership and other tendencies and individuals: that there needed to be a mobilization against racism and in support of the Black school children in Boston.

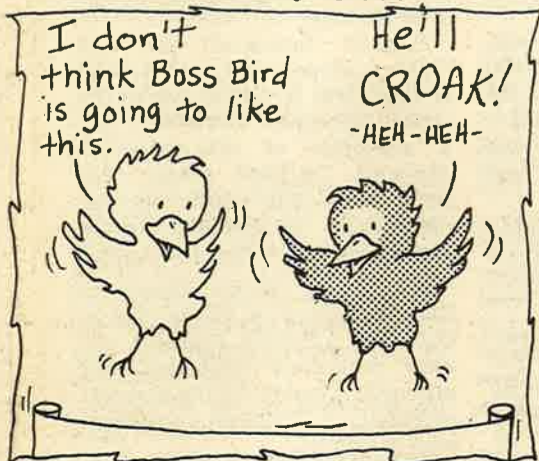
It did not try to introduce any other issue into this march, as did the SWP, which takes a position calling on federal troops to

intervene. On the basis of agreement on this, minimal program for the march, YAWF pitched in organizationally and supported the tactical decisions of the Black leaders.

YAWF showed loyalty and responsibility in supporting the Emergency Committee, while the SWP tried to undermine and outflank the Committee.

Yet despite the SWP's hostility, which was shown in hundreds of ways not only in Boston but in dozens of cities where the mobilization was being organized, the December 14 action succeeded in making a militant, determined and forceful statement against racism.

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Rockefeller

President William Howard Taft was chided by his advisers and political managers for letting the first John D. Rockefeller come to see him through the front door of the White House. That was because too many people would suspect that the Rockefellers were telling the President what to do.

But now John D.'s grandson, richer and more powerful than the original, will be a much more permanent visitor and is openly telling the President what to do.

There is infinitely more to be said about this political development, including the all-too-obvious point that Congress threw out one team, apparently for accepting bribes from billionaires, and now they have replaced it with a billionaire team that does the bribing!

The CIA and false hopes

The demands for an investigation of the CIA that have been raised in the capitalist press and by some members of Congress may raise hopes in many individuals that a major struggle is underway to cut back a significant element of the U.S. secret police apparatus.

But such is not the case. While the expose that is now unfolding may be very valuable in opening the eyes of the masses still further to the violent, illegal, and totalitarian character of the bourgeois state, it is foolhardy to believe that it will result in whittling down the police apparatus.

The secret police—whether organized for “domestic” or “foreign” work—are an integral part of the capitalist state apparatus. The continued working of monopoly capitalism, whereby the decisions and interests of a small ruling clique of billionaires are imposed against the needs of the millions of propertyless producers, would be impossible without the existence of a myriad of police agencies.

Some function in the open. But, as imperialism loses its ideological hold over the masses, the ways in which the billionaires uphold their rule must be increasingly hidden from the public view.

MURDEROUS ROLE ABROAD NOT CHALLENGED

The criticism of the CIA so far centers on its illegal intervention into domestic politics. The agency is prohibited by law from engaging in any domestic activities.

The present dispute does not challenge in any way the right of this super-secret, lavishly financed organization to overthrow progressive governments (as in Chile, Iran, and many more) and employ every kind of skulduggery on behalf of the profit interests of U.S. imperialist corporations abroad. As a matter of fact, to open such an attack would be to go to the very foundations of the CIA, which was formed in 1947 because U.S. capitalism came out of World War II with a global empire and needed to employ sabotage, intrigue, bribery, and coercion (in addition to outright military intervention) to defend it.

There are also many other “intelligence” agencies—that is, secret police—both civilian and military, that carry out similar functions to the CIA.

Over the years in which these special agencies of the capitalist state have grown to their present enormous size, there have from time to time been moderations and alterations in their structure. Bureaucratic changes have taken place; functions have been shifted from one agency to another.

But the basic repressive apparatus has remained and grown.

There have been any number of exposures of the CIA. Some in the know have even written of actual gun battles between the CIA and the FBI. Bureaucratic pressures sometimes lead to shifting the activities of one agency to another. Is the CIA engaged in domestic espionage? Let the FBI take care of this, say some. Or Army intelligence.

Even the abolition of the CIA—if done by the capitalist government—would only mean transferring its activities to other agencies.

But regardless of which agency is doing the dirty work, the secret police are out to break up the organizations of the masses, bribe or intimidate their leaders, frame up the most courageous, and attempt to hold back the organization of the poor and oppressed. They also try to isolate the workers of this country from their class sisters and brothers in the rest of the world—under the phony excuse of “national defense.”

These hated organizations of snoops, provocateurs, and killers will be dismantled one day—but only when the working class has taken over the reins of political power. The present struggle within the ruling class will no more do the job than did the Watergate struggle remove corrupt political stooges of the billionaires from the government. Or even from the White House.



WHAT WE MEAN BY...

THE CLASS STRUGGLE

By BOB McCUBBIN

Workers and bosses are in continual conflict all over the capitalist world. Whether it's individual disputes on the job, strikes involving the organization of many workers, or the many social struggles that come from the division of society into rich and poor, the battle between the working class and the capitalist class can never be resolved by either reforms or repression.

What is the driving force of this struggle? It is the fact that workers produce more than they are compensated for—Marxists call this surplus value—and there is a constant tug-of-war between the bosses and the workers over this surplus. Workers need it to raise their standard of living above mere subsistence. Bosses need it to increase their profits.

It's in the interests of the bosses to keep wages low and prices and productivity high. These conditions maximize profits, allowing them to both expand and attract new capital. If they fail to do this, they are swallowed up by bigger, more

profitable capitalist enterprises.

But for the workers, low wages and high prices mean hardship and sacrifices. High productivity usually means working harder and faster for the same pay.

Decent housing, transportation, wholesome food, and other basic human needs are of no concern to the capitalist rulers unless there is a buck to be made. Working people are forced to fight a continuing battle just to hold the line against the deteriorating conditions of their lives.

As long as there is capitalism, the gains won by the working class in periods of struggle will be attacked by the capitalists as soon as there is a lull or a general crisis. In this country, we are today experiencing a period in which the wage gains won over years of trade union struggles are being undermined and close to wiped out by inflation—which itself is the result of conscious economic politics of the capitalist government, such as the devaluation of the dollar.

This attack on the living standards of the workers is bound to intensify the class struggle. Already there has been a significant increase in the number of strikes—a basic form of the class struggle.

But strikes for economic demands alone do not go to the root of the problem. It is when the separate sections of the working class unite to struggle in defense of their general class interests against both the bosses and their political weapon, the bourgeois state, that a general strike can take on the character of a political challenge to the whole boss class.

The class struggle is fundamental to the relations between the workers and bosses of any particular capitalist country. But it is also global in character, and is the most basic element in the relations between the capitalist countries and the workers' states. Our class allies are all the workers of the world, the socialist states, and the liberation movements of the colonized countries.

LETTERS

The following is a card which I sent to friends on New Year's Day 1970, but which I feel is still appropriate today.

Are the following just coincidences?

That crusaders like Joan of Arc and John Brown were hysterically arrested, tried, and executed?

That gruesome lynchings of Black slaves are paralleled today by a countrywide attack of killing and of wanton destruction against the Black Panthers? And also

against the heroic people of Vietnam?

No. These are not just coincidences. Basically, all spring from the same cause: the 5,000-year oppression of “underdeveloped” peoples for the private profit of an aggressive and unprincipled few.

We might say that capitalist imperialism has inherited an increasingly inflamed “appendix” from earlier social systems.

The “appendix” is our dog-eat-dog private profit system. The “bacillus” causing this increasing inflammation is the growing “contradiction” caused by continuing private ownership of an increasingly socialized and

monopolized technological system of production.

Franklin Roosevelt put the “mercurochrome” of the NRA and of World War II profiteering on the Great Depression, which itself was a symptom of the inflamed appendix. Richard Nixon does little more than repeat the do-nothingness of Herbert Hoover under a veneer of “law and order.”

But in the Soviet Union, in Eastern Europe, in China, and in Cuba this inflamed appendix has been accurately diagnosed and promptly removed by the surgical operation of replacing capitalism with socialism.

Alex Munsell, N.Y.

POLITICAL PRISONERS



GEORGE BLUE

George E. Blue, a Marxist prison activist now confined at the Federal Prison, Atlanta, Ga., is being subjected to political and racial repression by prison officials for exercising his First Amendment right of freedom of speech.

Blue is a prison writer who is very critical of the prison and social system.

At Leavenworth Prison on Feb. 25, 1973, he was given a conduct report which charged him with, "Engaging in or encouraging a group demonstration." The report further stated, "Blue was noticed by numerous staff members circulating throughout the institution encouraging others to participate in a food boycott." As you can see, the report doesn't say any official heard Blue say this to anyone!

At the time of this report, over 1,900 prisoners were refusing to eat the bad food. Various officials had asked Blue to eat the food and break the boycott. Blue refused, was taken before the Adjustment Committee and labeled a "ringleader," and was transferred to the 'hole' at Marion, Ill.

After staying in the hole for a few months, Blue was allowed into the prison compound at Marion. Captain Buzard informed Blue that if he wrote to any news media or congressional leaders, he would be put back into the 'hole' for the remainder of his sentence.

This government official refused Blue his rights under the First Amendment.

During the latter part of May 1973, an article appeared in the local news media titled, "Racism Behind Bars," in which Blue spoke of the racist practices of the Bureau of Prisons. Five days later he was given a bad conduct report by Senior Officer Westfall, charging, "conduct which disrupts the security or orderly running of the institution."

Westfall wrote, "Blue came into E cellhouse and called for Buchanan 37739-133. I asked Blue what he had in his hand, and he replied that they were some papers to give Buchanan. I asked Blue to hand me the papers and he did so. Blue then left the unit. One paper is titled 'Guardian,' and the other is titled, 'Resist.' Blue is authorized to receive these papers, but I question his using the papers to gain support for his anti-administration feelings. By Blue circulating written matter of this type throughout the prison population, his persuasion could incite others to engage in a group demonstration, sitdown strike, or something else that would interfere with the orderly running of the institution."

You will notice that the report doesn't claim that any rule was broken. There is no rule that says prisoners cannot share

reading material. The Adjustment Committee gave in writing the following reason for placing Blue in solitary for seven (7) months: "He was seen talking to two troublemakers and two musclemen and he was trying to unite the Blacks, Whites and Chicanos."

Do these officials consider it a crime to unite Blacks, Whites, and Chicanos?

On Nov. 23, 1973, Blue arrived in Atlanta, Ga. from the 'hole' at Marion. He was informed by Associate Warden Mullikin that passing papers wasn't allowed, and that prisoners here were well pleased and didn't want any changes. He was also informed by the classification committee that he would be placed in solitary if he did any writing.

This is another example of governmental officials denying an American his right of freedom of speech.

Blue later wrote an "Open Xmas Letter to Norman Carlson—Bureau of Prisons Chief." This was broadcast on radio station WRAS and printed in several media. He also wrote "Prison Officials Won't Recognize Prison Union," which appeared in a local paper.

On Jan. 18, 1974, Blue was given a conduct report signed by Lt. R.M. Carey, which charged Blue with "encouraging others to riot."

Carey stated, "I received information today from four different sources, both officers and inmates, that Blue had been observed contacting different groups. He told some Blacks that they should be at the door to the auditorium when the movie starts tomorrow, the purpose being to block the doorway and engage in a free-for-all with white prisoners."

R.L. Mullikin gave the following reason in writing for finding Blue guilty of said charge: "Blue had a disruptive record at Leavenworth and Marion, and has continued to preach against the system since arriving here at Atlanta."

Blue stayed in solitary nearly 8 months, until the local district court issued an order directing local officials to give Blue a new hearing before the Adjustment Committee, and that the above-mentioned two officers and two prisoners would have to give testimony and send it to the court. Mullikin and Carey could not find either the officers or the inmates.

Dozens of white prisoners from Atlanta, Marion, and Leavenworth sent affidavits to the court stating that Blue had never had any trouble with whites, and that the officers had lied. Blue's only "rule infraction" was speaking out against the prison system. Blue contends that people have a right to know what is happening behind these prison walls. Prisons are a closed society, in which officials themselves commit murders, graft, blackmail, etc.

The people must ask themselves, what

crimes are the "Prison-crats" committing that they must fear the voice of one man?

We are asking all people to send a postcard to Hon. Ralph Metcalf, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. Tell him, "I request a Congressional investigation into the treatment of George E. Blue, USP Atlanta, by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons."

Do it today!

VERNON LaFRANQUE

BUFFALO, Dec. 18—The first Attica trial to go to a jury ended today in an acquittal on all charges for indicted Brother Vernon LaFranque. The acquittal highlighted a series of recent events stemming from the 1971 Attica prison rebellion which resulted in the murder of 32 Attica inmates (and 11 guards); and the indictment of 61 others now going to trial in Buffalo, N.Y.

Brother Vernon was charged with possession of a teargas gun on the first day of the rebellion, but even the state's own witnesses have proven this charge to be false. For example, William Baker, a guard at Attica testified during the trial that he saw Vernon with a gas gun, but just last March he told an investigator that he never saw a gas gun. Written reports of Baker's view of the events at Attica have mysteriously disappeared.

These discrepancies are similar to those which led to the charges against Attica Brother Willie Smith being thrown out of court on October 12 because there was no evidence.

In this trial it was revealed that the Attorney General prosecuting the Attica cases had used a paper shredder to destroy evidence which the state did not want made public.

This fits well into the pattern of lies fabricated by the state in an attempt to wash the blood off of the hands of butcher Rockefeller and other state officials responsible for the murders at Attica.

During the uprising it was first reported that one of the hostages, William Quinn, was thrown out of a window, but all the windows are barred at Attica making such a feat impossible. Then the state claimed that Quinn was thrown down a flight of stairs. Now, two Attica Brothers, Dacajeweah (John Hill) and Charley Joe Pernalice, both Native Americans, are facing trumped up charges of having fatally beaten Quinn.

Pretrial hearings now taking place around this case were interrupted on December 10 when Charley Joe staggered into the courthouse having just been beaten unconscious by guards in the Erie County Jail adjacent to the courthouse. Charley Joe had been confined in the jail overnight after Judge King revoked his bail for his coming

to court late the previous morning. His car had broken down.

The beating of Charley Joe and the conclusion by Judge King that Charley Joe himself was responsible for the beating followed the traditional pattern of violence against the Attica Brothers beginning with the beatings and tortures that followed the retaking of the prison on Sept. 13, 1971.

To this day, despite the fact that all 43 of the Attica victims were killed by police, not one cop or state official has been indicted. In fact, Nelson Rockefeller, who ordered the massacre, now sits in the White House after just being sworn in as Vice President.

Dacajeweah and Charley Joe will be coming to trial soon as will many other Attica Brothers. We ask you to support these Brothers in any way you can. For more information contact: Attica Brothers Offense-Defense, 147 Franklin St., Buffalo, New York 14202. Tel. (716) 852-0302.

JOHN SIMONE

BUFFALO, Dec. 22—One of the leaders of the union organizing drive at Attica Prison, John Simone, a Black brother, has been transferred out of Attica and subjected to brutal punitive drug treatments.

First he was shipped to the new Rx program in ACTECK Unit 6 at Clinton Correctional Facility (Dannemora), isolated from the other inmates in a psychiatric observation cell, subjected to verbal and physical abuse, and had totally unjustified drug treatments forced upon him. This went on for about one month.

Then he was taken to the psychiatric unit in Comstock Correctional Facility, where he got the same treatment for another month.

John Simone has since then been declared "criminally insane" and removed to Matteawan State Hospital. There he is being pumped full of a behavior modification drug called PROLIXIN, that the manufacturer claims causes irreversible effects.

John Simone was so seriously wounded during the retaking by the State of Attica Prison in September of 1971 that he wasn't expected to live. But he did, and he continued the struggle for human dignity in Attica by trying to organize a labor union there among the inmates.

For this activity the State has seen fit to remove him from the prison population altogether, and as Rodney Haymes, another Attica union organizer who was also punitively transferred out of Attica, has written to us, is now trying to finish John Simone off by either killing him or by making him a "living vegetable."

Legal action is being taken to force the State to drop the ruthless drug treatments and to contest his "commitment."

Protest of this treatment must be made known to the State. Let Peter Preiser, Dept. of Corrections, Albany, N.Y., hear our rage at this barbaric treatment.

Prisons are concentration camps for the poor; tear down the walls!

Book review:

Stories of 'industrial slaughter'

Go reckon our dead by the forges red

And the factories where we spin.
If blood be the price of your cursed wealth

Good God! We have paid it in.

(Anon. 1908)

Muscle and Blood, by Rachel Scott, E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 1974.

I'd like to introduce you to Robert Ferdinand, a former metals (beryllium) worker from Hazelton, Pa. Robert is a married man with five children. In his early forties, he is permanently disabled by berylliosis and hasn't been able to work since 1968.

If you're out in Montana you might stop in to see Donald Olsen, who works for Anaconda

Company. Donald is in his thirties, another family man, who as consequence of his work in a refinery is "leaded"—suffering from lead poisoning that leaves him tired, nauseous, and irritable much of the time. His condition can get worse; he might go insane.

In the South, a young man named Ronald Sayre knows just what that's like. He worked for a few months in the American Viscose rayon plant in West Virginia before having a "nervous breakdown." What Sayre actually suffered was carbon disulfide poisoning caused by the fumes at work. His illness created terrible problems at home—a break with his wife and disorientation, depression, and loneliness. Tranquilizers help somewhat, and Sayre now has his good days as well as his bad.

You might have liked to know Billy Allen, but now you'll never

have that chance. Billy was killed at the age of 24 in a fire that took 91 lives at the Sunshine mine in northern Idaho in 1972.

These men are just a few of the tragic real-life characters in a new book called *Muscle and Blood* by Ms. Rachel Scott. Ms. Scott traveled around the country for 3½ years doing research on health and safety conditions in major U.S. industries, including chemicals, auto, steel, and mining. She talked to workers and management and found that the men in the office quoting safety statistics and claiming that few problems existed contrasted sharply with women and men on the floor who had long stories of "industrial slaughter" to tell.

She tells the personal stories behind the appalling figures published in 1972 that revealed "as many as 100,000 deaths per year

from occupationally caused diseases," as well as "at least 390,000 new cases of disabling occupational disease each year."

Ms. Scott quotes the workers themselves at length. Clearly she has picked many of them from among the most class conscious workers she met. An occasional characterization of the mass of workers as "helpless" and "ignorant" is objectionable, but in general she focuses the blame on the companies, and the picture of the hellhole that exists "beyond the most modern factory facade of shining steel and brick" is indisputable.

Summing up in her conclusion, Rachel Scott says: "The plants I visited... were owned and operated for the most part by huge corporations... with the resources to measure and control industrial hazards. Yet now as throughout American history, companies such as these shrug at the pleas of workers whose health they destroy in order to save money.... They ravage the

people as they have the land, causing millions to suffer needlessly and hundreds of thousands to die.... The truth has been hidden so successfully for so long perhaps because if the truth were fully known, the American profit system would be shaken to the roots."

Through the entire book the golden thread of the profit motive glitters in the fabric of misery that is rolled out before the reader. Although it could have been more defined—attacked more directly—it is there for those who would see it.

Muscle and Blood is a muckraking book and basically says that corporate greed is destroying the physical and emotional lives of a significant segment of the American people. For a good deal of background information on that point, and an indictment of the collusion of industry, government, and the scientific community to perpetuate the destruction, this book is well worth reading.

—Grace Stiles

A controversy rages over the CIA's role in domestic espionage. Can this result in any real cutback in the secret police? See editorial, page 6.

Gold and the not-so-golden dollar

By V. COPELAND

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—On December 31 it will be legal to buy gold in the United States for the first time since 1933. And on January 8, the U.S. government will sell the public (the millionaire public, that is) about 2 million ounces from its 156 million ounce hoard. This is probably the first such action in U.S. history.

Meanwhile, just 2 weeks ago while in Martinique, President Ford made an agreement with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to revalue the French government gold from the official \$42.20 an ounce once dictated by the U.S. to well over \$180. And the French did this on December 20.

SWINDLING THE ARABS

This will have the immediate effect on France's being able to borrow more because its gold collateral is now "worth" more. It will have the longer range effect of diluting the francs or dollars with which France pays Iran and other Arab countries for their oil. Hence there was an almost immediate protest from the government of Iran over this action.

Back at the ranch in Wall Street, however, the gold merchants were getting ready for a gold rush bigger than the fabled '49, and were uncertain whether this was to be a feast or a golden harbinger of famine.

What is this all about? And what is the difference between having dollars and having gold in the first place?

Gold is money. But money is not always gold. Money, as the teachers of capitalist economics are quick to tell us, is a "medium of exchange."

This is true as far as it goes. But not everything can play the part of a medium of exchange—unless it has as much value as the thing with which it is exchanged.

NEITHER KINGS NOR PRESIDENTS

A medium of exchange cannot be such a medium for long merely because a King or a President, for instance, says it can.

Sheep and cattle have been money, and horses, too. Copper has been used for money, so has salt. (It was once used to pay the wages of the Roman soldiers; hence the phrase "worth your salt.") Silver has been so used, of course, and many other things besides metals.

But in every case, it has been a product of human labor, useful and desirable in itself.

Gold has been used for money ever since class society began. But it could not be used universally and consistently until world trade and a world economy (plus the discovery of greater gold deposits) made it universally recognized and universally valued in exactly the same degree.

The socially necessary amount of labor required to produce gold remained constant over many decades. And at the same time, it was easy to carry, easily transferrable, and served as a

stable unchanging measure of value as well as a repository of value.

Paper currency could only substitute for gold when central governments guaranteed to give an equivalent amount of gold on demand.

Originally, the reason that dollar bills could be used as a medium of exchange was that every dollar was supposed to represent a certain amount of gold (or at one time, silver).

THAT "SOUND" DOLLAR

Later the amount of gold in the treasury was relatively reduced. But the dollar was still "sound." This was for the same reason that a solid prosperous bank does not have to keep every gold piece or every dollar deposited by its customers inside the vaults.

It was not necessary to keep an exact equivalent in the government vaults. But for many decades, people could get gold for their dollars whenever they wanted it. Few wanted it, however, because dollars were handier than gold—and especially because they could be profitably invested and gold itself could only be hoarded.

The problem with gold, therefore, is not simply that the U.S. does not have enough of it. In spite of its losses of the past 20 years (paying out billions for trade deficits, etc.), it probably has several times what it had 50 years ago. And yet the dollar is far weaker and worth far less than it was worth in 1924.

If it were really necessary to have as much gold as there are dollars floating around the world, even 20 times as much gold as now would still not be enough.

WOULD \$800 HELP

There is some economic ignorance on this point as illustrated by one panicky letter to The New York Times this month

calling for gold to be revalued at \$800 an ounce so that every dollar bill would be absolutely guaranteed.

The good writer forgot about the additional currency in the form of personal and business checks which would require another couple billion ounces or so of gold—more than now exists above the ground. The Times featured this letter with a double headline at the top of the letter page. The editor's attitude was obviously only half-humorous.

To shorten this already lengthy explanation: It is not precisely the amount of gold that is in question, but the power of U.S. capitalism. Even the enormous budget deficits and the even more enormous previous national debt might not affect the dollar so much, but for the decline of U.S. capitalism itself. And the decline is reflected in the decline of the dollar.

THE GOLD IS GOOD: BUT THE BANK IS FAILING

The U.S. productive apparatus is already outclassed for productivity by its capitalist rivals, Japan and West Germany. And its productive-military potential is further outclassed by the socialist countries in a more and more visible way, with the "little" Indochina war cutting into the very arteries of the U.S. imperialist economic system.

And if this seems too literary a summary of hard economic facts, it may help to view the U.S. Treasury as a bank which has overextended itself.

Instead of making good solid mortgages on struggling but honest farmers, it has played ducks and drakes with its depositors' wealth, not only loaning it for dubious purposes but exploding it in fire and gunsmoke for the most useless and impossible of all economic ventures: the futile attempt to stop the inevitable victory of world socialism.



The sale of gold is precipitated by the decline of U.S. power and the decay of capitalist production.

FALN avenges racist murders

By JULIO GHIGLIOTTY

NEW YORK, Dec. 22—"The murder of Tito is just one of the many attacks directed against the Puerto Rican and Black communities by the racist New York City Police Department.

"... each racist attack against Puerto Ricans... will be met by the armed resistance of the people."

The above statements were contained in a communique issued by the Armed Forces of Puerto Rican National Liberation (FALN) on Wednesday, December 12, claiming responsibility for the explosion at an East Harlem tenement which injured a city cop.

The patrol car carrying Officer Angel Poggi and Detective Raymond Flynn was directed to 336 East 110th Street by a report claiming there was a dead woman

inside. When Officer Poggi opened the door, a booby-trap was set off. His left shoulder was broken, and he lost his right eye.

Martin "Tito" Perez was murdered by the police on December 1 after being arrested for "disturbing the peace" and taken to the 25th Precinct on East 119th Street. After being in a cell a short while, Tito was wheeled out dead, his hands manacled in front of him. His hands had been handcuffed behind him when he was put in the cell. The police claim he hanged himself with his belt.

The December 1st Committee, set up the day after Tito's death, is demanding a full investigation of his death, the suspension of the cops at the front desk on the night of December 1, and an investigation of the 25th Precinct.

infamous for the frequency in which its Third World prisoners turn up dead.

DEMONSTRATION AT PRECINCT DESPITE HEAVY POLICE FORCES

The reports of the bombing arrived while the December 1st Committee was preparing for a previously announced demonstration to be held in front of the 25th Precinct the coming Friday to protest Tito's death and police brutality in Third World communities. Heavy pressure was brought to bear on the Committee, with the police and the media implying a connection between them and the FALN.

CBS-TV went even further and reported that the bombing at the Spanish Harlem tenement by the FALN was "in retaliation for the

death of one of their members" (meaning Tito).

Witnesses who were with Tito at the time of his arrest have been subjected to heavy pressure from the police and the DA's office.

Nevertheless, the demonstration went off as scheduled, and in spite of the heavy and obvious police fortifications, about 100 people picketed in front of the 25th Precinct.

The FALN has declared that the action on December 12 was in retaliation for the deaths of Tito Perez, Clifford Glover, and Claude Reese and all the victims of the police occupation of the Third World communities. And in this action, the FALN has picked up the banner carried by the Black Liberation Army until their brutal extermination by the repressive forces of the state.