

Workers World

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

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Vol. 16, No. 3

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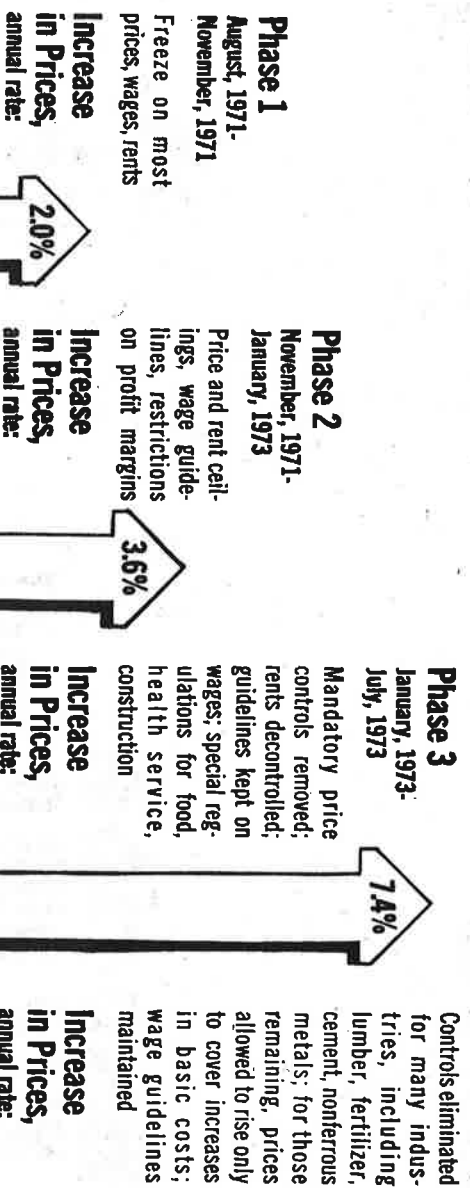
25 cents

Inflation, layoffs, shortages . . .

Workers ask: How bad can it get?



WITH EVERY PHASE OF CONTROLS, LIVING COSTS MOVE UP FASTER



Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor

Detroit workers (above) line up in 7 a.m. dark for unemployment checks.

Bosses are holding back goods, causing serious shortages, because they expect even higher prices soon. Meanwhile, the larger economic crisis of U.S. imperialism has resulted in thousands of layoffs.

The greedy lords of high finance couldn't care less about the lives of the workers and poor!

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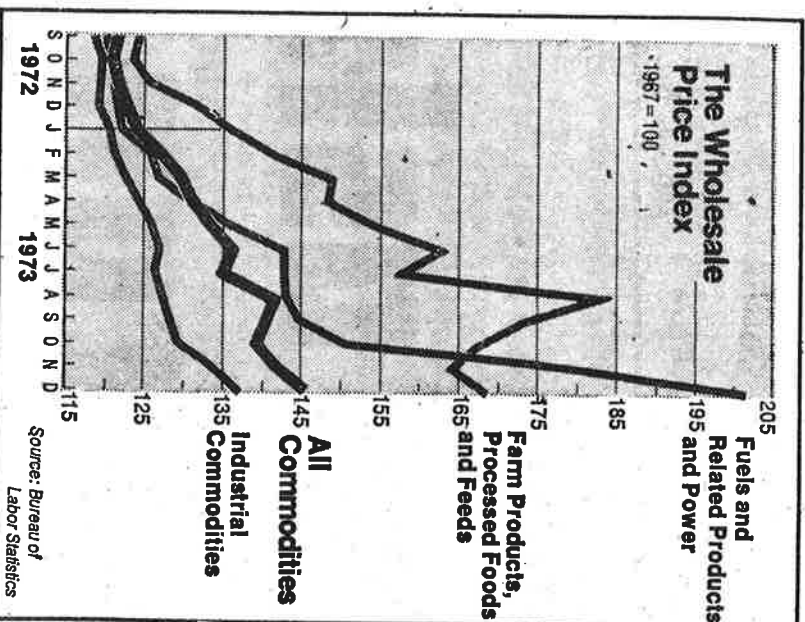
Food prices: strictly from hunger

By JOSEPH WEXLER

Rising food prices are forcing millions of workers to cut down on meat, milk, eggs, fruits, and vegetables. The poorest people are being driven to a desperate situation, squeezed between frozen low wages, welfare cuts, meager unemployment and social security benefits on the one hand and on the other food prices going up at a rate of over 1 percent a week. While the government pays

agribusiness corporations to destroy food and plow under fertile land, the American Bakers Association (an organization of bakery owners) has threatened to raise the price of nonnutritional white bread from an already too high 40 cents for a 1½ pound loaf to \$1.10 a loaf!

THOUSAND-DOLLAR PAY CUT—
MORE TO COME
Because prices went up over 18 percent



The New York Times/Jan. 9, 1974
This graph shows that wholesale food prices have actually declined since August 1973. Why wasn't this decline reflected in our supermarkets?

Laird and Readers Digest

Contributed by a Chicago postal worker

What do Melvin Laird and Readers Digest have to do with the price of postage stamps? Plenty.

On December 21, the Cost of Living Council announced that a postal rate increase scheduled to go into effect January 5 had been delayed until March.

This seemed an unusual measure, since the U.S. Postal Service anticipated a \$1.4 billion deficit even with the proposed increase. And certainly the Cost of Living Council has never been concerned with the effect such increases have on the budgets of poor and working people or on working class newspapers such as Workers World.

But the fog begins to clear when we find that two days before the announcement, Melvin Laird revealed that he would be leaving the White House in February to take a \$100,000-a-year job with Readers Digest. Postmaster General Klassen has since discovered and leaked to the press that Laird used his influential position to encourage the Cost of Living Council's decision.

Readers Digest will save about \$2 million in mailing fees from the two-month delay. You might say that Laird has already earned his first year's salary for Readers Digest.

last year, a family of four earning \$12,614 in 1972 would have had to earn another \$1,168 in 1973 just to keep up with rising prices. These figures, from the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, do not reflect the fact that rising food prices hit the poor even harder because the prices of necessities such as meat, milk, cereals, and vegetables went up much faster than prices of appliances and other "nonessentials." Of course, the poor spend most of their money on food and shelter, and these went up at a faster rate than all prices taken as a whole.

The rise in prices is increasing much faster than early in 1973. In December alone prices rose 2.2 percent.

New York City's Department of Consumer Affairs keeps a record of what it costs to feed a family of four. Six weeks ago the 38 items on the department's shopping list cost \$56.06. Last week, the cost of feeding four people in New York City had gone up \$2.78. It's hard enough for those with an average wage or salary. If you're on Social Security or welfare it's just impossible!

Government economists are now predicting that food prices will continue to rise at these rates at least for the next half year. These price increases inevitably result in hunger and malnutrition for millions of people, as more and more people simply cannot afford to buy the food they need to remain healthy.

PEOPLE WILL FIGHT BACK

In response to the continuing rise in food prices, working and poor people all over the country have been fighting back. Women United for Action, which has chapters all across the country made up of women on welfare, and working and retired women of all races, has opened a campaign to force food prices down. At present they are concentrating on a campaign to roll back milk prices. In New York State they have set up a Commission for a Fair Milk Price that comprises a cross-section of women. They are fighting for the right of this commission to see the records of the dairy and supermarket corporations and to determine what the prices of dairy products should be.

An illustration of how desperate the situation has become was the recent revelation that there has been a sharp increase in "shoplifting," particularly by retired people who must struggle to stay alive on Social Security and, if they're a little more fortunate, tiny pensions.

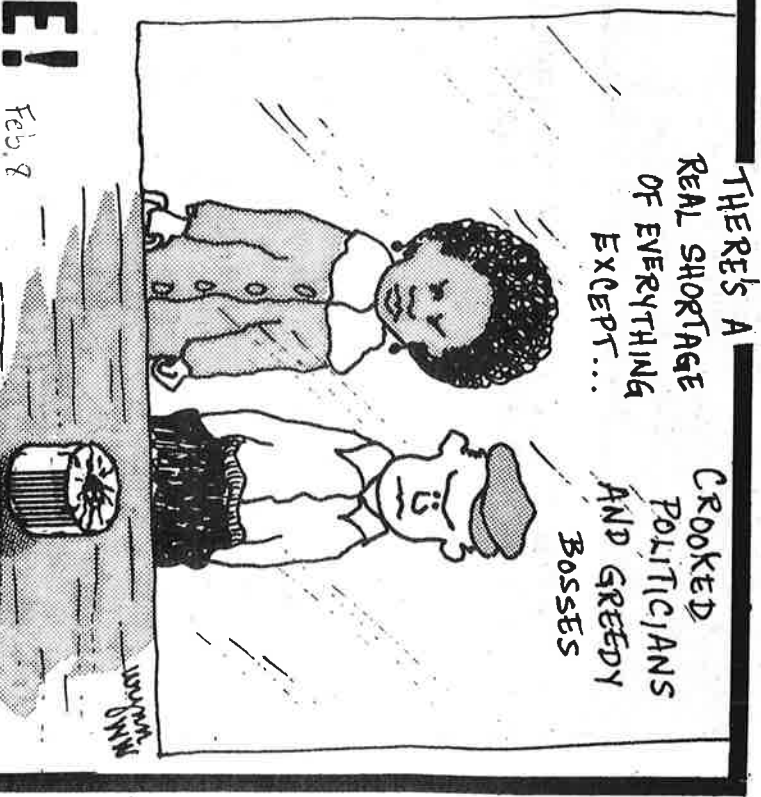
Of course, there is no reason why food should cost so much and be unavailable to so many people. Agricultural technology in the United States could, if it were used for providing food rather than making profits, not only guarantee a plentiful, nutritious diet for the workers and poor of this country but also feed the millions of people in Africa (who are dying in the worst famine in their history) and the millions more of hungry people throughout the world.

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Feb 8



Worldwide food shortages: product of profit system

By SHARON SHELTON

Food riots recently erupted in India, leaving thousands arrested, many others injured, and at least 38 dead. In Bolivia, a general strike was launched against exorbitant food prices and there were 48 demonstrators arrested with eight dead. The strike has since mushroomed into a full-scale protest by workers and peasants, and a state of emergency has been declared by the government.

In India, officials blame a crippling 1972 drought for the shortages that prompted such an angry wave of rebellion to sweep through its provinces. The drought, they say, reduced India's wheat output to 97 million tons in 1973 from 109 million tons the year before. Food prices for the year climbed by a staggering 22 percent, while per capita income dropped by 30 cents. In India, 40 percent of the population already lives virtually at starvation level—earning less than \$40 a year.

The Banzer regime in Bolivia blamed food smugglers for the drastic shortages and soaring food prices that have plagued a population suffering from inflation. But for Latin America as a whole, food production has stagnated. Wheat output, for example, rose only 3½ million metric tons during all of the sixties, and per capita agricultural production actually declined by 3 percent. The general strike of more than 100,000 Bolivian miners, industrial workers, bus drivers, and bank and insurance clerks came in response to President Hugo Banzer Suarez's doubling of food prices this year. Now fighting has broken out between troops and factory workers, and thousands of peasants have blockaded roads in the central provinces. The protests have led more than one fearful administrator in the Banzer government to complain that the protesters aim at establishing a worker-peasant government.

Undoubtedly, India did in the past year suffer from catastrophic weather conditions. And smuggling in Bolivia may have contributed to the food shortages there. But neither explanation gets to the heart of the problem, which goes far beyond the particular situation of India or Bolivia. Hunger is being felt in a considerable part of the world, in fact, and is so severe that one U.S. agricultural spokesman has predicted that as many as 20 million people will die of starvation next year!

But a look at those countries where the workers have taken power shows that the threat of massive starvation is a problem exclusive to the capitalist world.

An example is the People's Republic of China, the only country in the world that has a larger population to feed than does India. Before the revolution in 1949, China was plagued by many of the same problems that India is facing now. Starvation was so widespread, for example, that former U.S. Secretary of State Acheson predicted that China's several hundred millions were an "unbearable pressure" and "it was unlikely that the Chinese Communist Party would be able to solve this problem of feeding them."

Not only was agriculture in pre-revolutionary China vulnerable to natural calamities, but a whole harvest could be wasted because of lack of transportation facilities to get food to famine-stricken areas. Also, wealthy governors had control over the food in their own provinces and often would rather hoard food for their own personal gain than release it to people dying of hunger. As a result, before 1949 at least 10 percent of the Chinese population died of starvation or malnutrition.

Yet, since the founding of People's China, the changes have been dramatic. Today no one in China dies of hunger. Food no longer is a tool of the wealthy or of hoarding warlords to increase their fortunes, but belongs to all of the people in the hands of a centralized government.

Now, a vast transportation network connects the huge land area of the People's Republic, insuring that drought-stricken

areas will get food.

Also, the country has managed to overcome natural disasters through its rational system of agricultural planning. In 1972 when drought gripped the northern part of China, just as it did in India, there was no fear of massive starvation. There have been no food riots such as India has just witnessed. In fact, through the use of irrigation, additional deep wells, and extensive water conservation, agricultural production actually increased in the People's Republic of China.



Why shortages and inflation?

By ANDY STAPP

The energy crisis is only the latest (and most extreme) example of a dual trend that is spelling disaster for millions of working people in the U.S. That is the combination of rampant inflation and serious shortages of the basic necessities of everyday living.

These two tendencies do not operate independently of one another. To a large extent the shortages are caused by inflation since big suppliers withhold goods from the market in expectation of higher prices. The inflation, in turn, is fueled by the \$400 billion national debt.

This national debt, piled up by the tremendous military expenditures of the U.S. government, is "owed" to a handful of great commercial banks in New York City. In 1973 just to service the "interest" on this staggering debt, the federal government paid out \$21 billion of our tax money to banks such as Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan and the Morgan Guaranty Trust.

While vast sums of money are taken from our pockets by the U.S. government and piled up in the vaults of Wall Street banks, spiraling inflation continues unabated.

As U.S. News and World Report noted (January 14): "Costs of basic raw materials, the key ingredients of everything people buy and use, are shooting skyward."

"In just two months the prices of a representative group of metals, fibers, rubber, hides and other raw materials increased more than 11 percent."

The gigantic monopolies see in the rampant inflation an opportunity to redouble their already bloated profits. As prices continue their steep and relentless climb, the monopolists withhold goods from the market. Whether it's oil or onions, paper or any other commodity they control, the masters of the largest banks and corporations are conspiring to hold back all kinds of products, refusing to sell today when inflation guarantees them an even

This increase is part of a gradual increase in food production since 1949. Over the last 20 years, for example, grain output has risen by an average of nearly 4 percent a year, while the population has grown about 2 percent a year. And in the last ten years, this growth in grain yield has increased to 5 percent a year. All of this could not have been possible without an economy geared to fulfill the needs of the people instead of to get quick profits.

Meanwhile, in the United States and in the other advanced capitalist countries, the workers are suffering from artificially created food shortages and manipulated prices. And in those countries that are oppressed by imperialism, suffering is the greatest.

In countries such as Bolivia and India, traditional agriculture, which one time



Twenty-five years ago, China and India both had food shortages and mass starvation. Today, China's children are well-fed, but starvation persists in India.

might have fed the population, has been destroyed. In its place are huge concerns that put out cash crops such as sugar, tobacco, coffee, bananas, tea, and rubber. These crops are grown mostly for export, and the money they bring does not improve the lot of the masses of people, but finds its way instead into the pockets of foreign capitalists. Increasingly, the small and unproductive tracts of land are left for production of food for domestic consumption throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America. More and more, these countries are forced to rely on the imperialist countries to provide basic foodstuffs.

And when it is not profitable for the imperialists to sell food to the poor nations, or when catastrophe threatens already diminishing domestic crops, starvation inevitably spreads.

Jamieson tells us (Time, February 4) with a straight face, "We aren't making windfall profits."

The bosses try to make inflation appear to be something sent by god from heaven.

The simple truth, however, is that inflation is generated by capitalism. It is now plaguing the working people of every capitalist country in the world and it does not yield to any administrative measures of the capitalist class. When "price controls" are established by a capitalist government, it is just another fake, the "price ceiling" being set after government consultation with the very companies that are supposed to be regulated. In fact, these monopolists tell their various governments what they think a good price would be, and after the politicians announce them, the state enforces these prices until the monopolists wish to have them raised again.

Only the socialist countries are free from inflation. With their planned economies, any price fluctuations or shortages are generally small and of a temporary character. Oil allocations are planned on the basis of what industry needs, not on the basis of profit. As a result, there is no energy crisis in any workers' state.

Crisis, and the human misery it brings in its wake, is endemic to capitalism and will never be abolished until the capitalist system itself is overthrown and replaced by socialism.

Four hundred Haitian exiles living in the U.S. are threatened with deportation to Haiti, where they face torture and even death at the hands of the Duvalier secret police. The U.S. government has admitted hundreds of thousands of Cuban counterrevolutionaries to this country, but says Haitian exiles can't stay here because they didn't enter country "legally."

DEMONSTRATE with the Haitians on Thursday, February 14, at the offices of the U.S. State Department, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, from 11:30-1:30 (lunch hour).

Stop the deportation of Haitian exiles!

State of the Union: Racism, jingoism, lies Nixon says we've never had it so good

By ANDY STAPP

Nixon flunked his State of the Union address. All the old formulas were trotted out: (racism) "It's more profitable to go on welfare than go to work"; (jingoism) "We must never allow America to become the second strongest nation in the world"; (outright lying) "People are earning more." But this demagoguery that served him so well in the past just doesn't do the trick anymore.

The sight of Nixon appearing on the TV screen wearing his costume jewelry flag-pin is bad enough, but when he lectures us about how rich and happy we all are and how "with the help of God who has blessed this land so richly" he hopes "in my three remaining years" to make us even richer and happier, it's enough to make even last year's hardened Nixonite wish that crowd of Venezuelan workers had finished him off in 1967.

Many of Nixon's statements bordered on the grotesque. "We will make a historic beginning on the task of defining and protecting the right of personal privacy for every American," intoned the President who for almost five years secretly taped-recorded every telephone call he made or received, every conversation held in his office, and even had the Secret Service bug his own brother.

"America's military strength has always been maintained to keep the peace—never to break it," boasted the commander-in-chief whose armies killed and maimed 6 million Indo-Chinese in one of the most barbarous and aggressive attacks ever unleashed in the long, ugly history of imperialism.

"We will check the rise in prices,

Polls show wide skepticism toward gov't, big business

By B. LAPIDES

The New York Times reported on January 18 that for the second year in a row, Richard Nixon topped the list, in a poll of visitors to Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London, as the man the visitors "hate and fear" the most. He was followed on the list by Adolf Hitler and Jack the Ripper.

Even on his own turf, Nixon is despised. The Times reported on January 7 that "catcalls and boos" were heard plainly all during the church service when the Nixons attended the San Clemente Presbyterian Church. This kind of direct attack—violating the "sanctity" not only of Nixon's office but of the church—is significant.

The syndicated Evans and Novak column of January 21 reported on a survey of voter attitudes in a section of Newark, Ohio, thought to be a good barometer of national election results. As expected, an overwhelming majority of those polled regard Nixon as a liar, a tax chiseler, and a poor president. More surprising perhaps was that half of those polled believe he knew about the Watergate burglary before it was planned—a charge no establishment figure has ever made.

Most significant of all, this survey (conducted by the Oliver Quayle organization) found very heavy opposition to impeaching Nixon, arising from a sense of futility. "Underlying this seeming contradiction is pervasive, deepening skepticism that any successor to Nixon would improve things much." A 29-year-old wife of a factory worker said that she and her husband have decided they "will not vote in 1976 or any future elections." But even in prescandal 1972, there were more eligible voters who chose not to vote at all than there were who voted for the winner—and this is a trend that has been growing for some time.

BROAD SHIFTS IN OPINION

Just how impressive the change in a popular opinion has been was reflected in a

without administering the harsh medicine of recession, as we will move the economy into a steady period of growth at a sustained level," promised the man who conspired to drive up prices of oil, milk, and other basic commodities in return for contributions from big corporations. In his written message to Congress (not the public relations pap he gave in the TV address), Nixon admitted that these too were lies:

THE CRIME CAPITAL

"Right here in this nation's capital, which a few years ago was threatening to become the crime capital of the world, the rate of crime has been cut in half."

Richard Nixon in his State of the Union address

THE CRIMINALS

Indicted or in jail: Nixon's Attorney General, John Mitchell; Nixon's chief fund raiser, Maurice Stans; Nixon's chief domestic adviser, John Ehrlichman; Jeb Stuart Magruder; Frederick LaRue; Donald Segretti; David Young; seven Plumbers; Egil Krogh. Facing indictments: Nixon's FBI chief, L. Patrick Grey; Nixon's Chief of Staff, H. R. Haldeman; Nixon's private secretary, Rosemary Woods; and Colson . . . and Rebozo . . . and . . .

"We have known for some time that a slowdown in economic growth is inevitable in 1974. . . . We expect that during the early part of this year output will rise little if at all, unemployment will rise somewhat and inflation will be high."

In any case, one more pledge to "hold the line" on prices does not carry much credibility when in the last six months coal

wide-ranging Lou Harris survey appearing in the Times on January 21. "In 1967 substantial majorities of our sample—60 to 75 percent—thought the following people were 'dangerous or harmful to the country': people who didn't believe in God, Black militants, student demonstrators, prostitutes, homosexuals. In the fall of 1973, we couldn't find a majority to say that any one of those groups was dangerous."

"Today the people considered 'dangerous' by a majority of Americans are these: people who hire political spies (52 percent); generals who conduct secret bombing raids (67 percent); politicians who engage in secret wiretapping (71 percent); businessmen who make illegal political contributions (81 percent); and politicians who try to use the CIA, FBI, and the Secret Service for political purposes or to try to restrict freedom (88 percent)."

Of course, politicians are merely front men for the capitalist establishment. But, according to an earlier (pre-Watergate) Harris survey, while the people have lost confidence in the federal government, in the military, and in organized religion, the most dramatic opinion change has been toward business. Whereas 70 percent of the people expressed confidence in major companies in 1966, this fell to 58 percent in 1969, and to 29 percent a year ago.

While 28 percent thought in 1966 that big business was actually "dangerous to our way of life," 46 percent thought so by the end of 1972. And that was before the meat, milk, and energy crises. Cynicism is now so widespread that a three-to-one majority of those polled by Quayle believe the oil companies cooked up the current crisis to increase profits.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The January 28 U.S. News & World Report saw the shift in opinion as serious enough to run a long article by the chairman of Mays Département Stores asserting that "this appalling drop in the reputation of

and oil prices leaped 45 percent and food at the supermarket shot up another 20 percent.

Nixon's claim that "What you earn buys more, more than ever before" was torn to pieces by his own Bureau of Labor Statistics, which, only four days before Nixon's address, reported that real wages dropped by 3.3 percent in 1973.

Of course, if you owned 66 percent of the

stock in Exxon, as does the Rockefeller family, you would be doing OK, since Exxon's 1973 profits totaled \$2.44 billion. The Rockefellers were, naturally, heavy contributors to Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign. This connection does not sit too well with the working people who cannot get heat for their homes and apartments or gas for their cars. To top it off, Nixon has

proposed a \$99 billion budget for the military that includes \$3.2 billion allotted the Pentagon for purchasing oil to fuel the war machine.

At the end of his version of "the State of the Union" Nixon briefly spoke on Watergate. After saying that he would cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee "so that it can conclude its investigation," Nixon vowed, "And I want you to know that I have no intention of walking away from the job that the people elected me to do for the people of the United States!"

But the people know that the election was a fake and they have shown in the various polls that they want Nixon out.

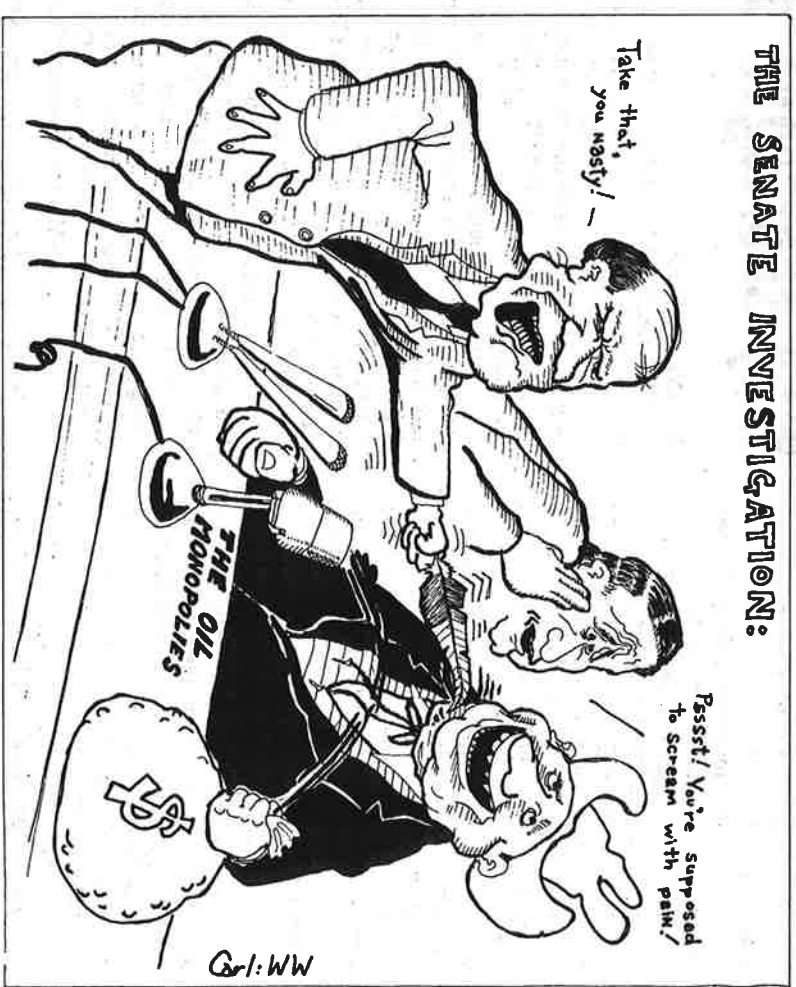
Nixon, however, was not talking to the people. He was telling the congressmen in polite language the same thing that his fascist-minded aide Gen. Alexander Haig had threatened more openly: "There will be blood in the streets." Haig had warned (February 4, New York magazine), if there is any attempt to remove Nixon.

Is that all that can be said about the state of the union? A criminal in the White House protected by military fanatics in the Pentagon who threaten a coup if the gutless anti-Nixon majority in Congress attempts to impeach him?

No.

There is also an optimistic side that would be very wrong for socialist revolutionaries to overlook. Never in U.S. history has the bourgeois government and its head been so despised and hated by the people. The capitalist system is cracking. The imperialist defeat in Southeast Asia, the Watergate convulsions, the energy crisis, and other symptoms of decay expose the rot of a dying order.

The masses of people are asking some very pointed questions about how this society is run, and the ruling class cannot tell them the truth.



business in our lifetime is a fact, and it is disturbing and dangerous." A recent Harvard survey asked a broad sampling of children of various ages this question: "Do you think men who run large companies are honest?" When they got to the age of 11 and up, more than half of the kids answered "No."

These current attitudes should not be overestimated, for they are impressive only in relation to the past. It seems a lifetime since Eisenhower was playing a bland, self-righteous Mr. Clean—and getting away with it. It seems incredible that John Kennedy could so recently have projected himself as young King Arthur in Camelot. What struck most Americans three months ago on the tenth anniversary of his murder was not that he is missed but how many illusions have been given up since then.

(A survey of college students in New

York last fall showed a great majority unwilling to reject the theory that that assassination had been part of a rightwing conspiracy, possibly with government connections.)

But since this general cynicism, widespread though it is, stems from disillusionment, the giving up of regressive capitalist reality, it should be seen only as a preliminary stage on the way to truly progressive class consciousness. Its significance lies in this: that many of the blinders which the mass media, churches, and schools have taught the people to wear are stripped away for the time being. The developing economic crisis will make it hard for the establishment to replace those blinders, but the growing discontent must be organized and shaped by those working class activists ready to seize the opportunity.



Are people being laid off in your area? Send us in clippings, personal accounts, or other news sources about what's happening to the workers in your city or town.

Wall Street Journal, Jan 9:

"NEW YORK—Singer Co. has laid off temporarily some 700 of its 1,400 employees at its business machine division plant in Albuquerque, N.M., because of a shortage of certain electronic parts....

"The company attributed the lack of electronic parts to factory closings during the Christmas and New Year's holidays."

A. R. in Cleveland writes us:

"General Electric: GE announced a national layoff of 6,000 workers. In Cleveland 200 are being laid off at a Pitney Glass plant (of the GE lamp division). The plant will completely shut down for one week. And there have already been several shorter shutdowns of the same plant. According to Local 707 of the International Union of Electrical Workers, the laid-off workers will be unable to collect unemployment compensation. Apparently, during the earlier shutdown in December (of several days' duration) workers could have applied for unemployment compensation, so that during this shutdown (which will last for one week) they could receive payments. Under Ohio law one has to wait one week before receiving payments. Consequently many will simply lose one week's pay.

"General Motors: GM in Ohio plans to lay off over 5,000 workers, which is 5 percent of GM's Ohio labor force. These 5,000 will be permanent layoffs. There will be still more 'temporary' layoffs.

"Hardest hit in Ohio is the Dayton area where GM's Frigidaire division is located. Out of a total workforce of 15,000, 700 are on permanent layoff. That plant makes automobile air conditioners for big cars, and makes home appliances, such as kitchen ranges and refrigerators."

Buffalo Courier-Express, Jan. 28:

"LOCKPORT, N.Y.—Almost as an ironic twist of fate, the state unemployment here is located across Walnut St. from the main plant of the Harrison Radiator Div. of General Motors.

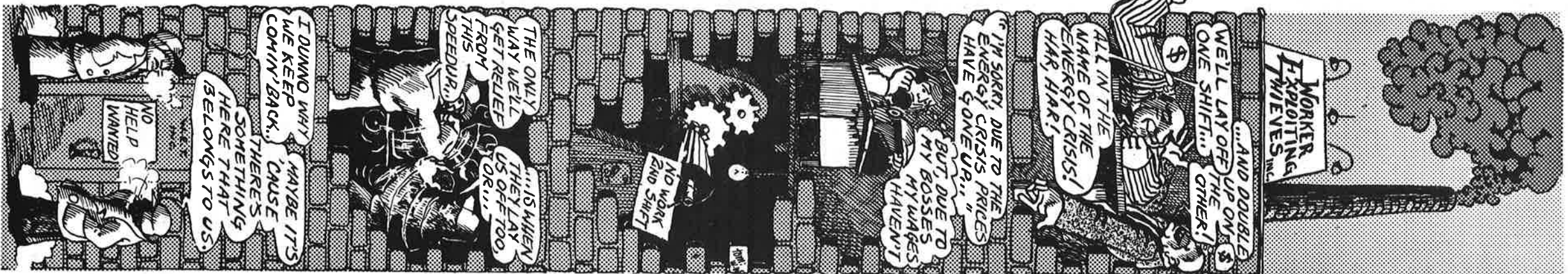
"And many of the people who report weekly to sign up for unemployment benefits are the workers who went daily less than a week or a month ago to Harrison jobs. Idled because of slumping car sales, they are victims of the energy crisis....

"Although Harry Zoller of 5074 Carriage Lane, Lockport, has been laid off before, that doesn't make him feel any better. 'I receive supplemental employment benefits,' he said, 'but the worst part of this is how useless I feel....'

"The worst feeling in the world,' said one man, 'is getting that little pink slip that drops the bottom out of your world....'

"Mrs. Leona Esposito of 221 Erie St., Lockport, said she would not feel so bad if she knew her sacrifices were ultimately doing someone some good. But I don't think it will," she added.

"Look at Nixon, for example,' she said. 'He asks us to turn down our thermostats, which is fine. But then if he gets cold he just jets down to Florida.'"



Detroit auto workers face increased layoffs

By KAREN PAULICH

DETROIT, Feb. 1—"Nixon should be laid off!" declared one woman standing in a long unemployment line here in Detroit. Each day, the lines are swelling with more and more unemployed workers who are expressing these very same feelings.

During January, national unemployment took the steepest climb in four years. Unemployment has increased from 4.8 to 5.2 percent, according to official government statistics (which don't count many of the unemployed). This reflects the loss of at least 370,000 jobs, mostly due to the energy crisis.

At the heart of the auto industry, Detroit has been one of the cities hardest hit by the wave of layoffs.

Over 100,000 UAW workers have been laid off indefinitely by the Big Three—with no promise of being called back. Temporary and indefinite layoffs together have thrown 148,000 auto workers out of jobs. At least 63,000 of these are Michigan workers.

General Motors, the biggest and richest corporation in the world, has laid off the most workers so far. Last week they announced that at least 75,000 assembly workers will be idled for various periods of time, and 50,000 of them will be from GM's Michigan plants.

Ford is "giving the pink slip" to more than 10,000 plant workers this week, 2,200 for indefinite periods. The number of Ford workers expected to be laid off indefinitely during the next three weeks alone will range between 9,000 and 11,000. Entire Ford plants are scheduled to be shut down, like Wixom and Wayne Assembly in the Detroit area, and plants in Los Angeles, St. Louis, and Mahwah, N.J.

After being rocked by a growing tide of rank-and-file militancy, Chrysler Corporation is putting 39,200 workers out on the street, 26,000 of them from Detroit area plants. Indefinite layoffs will total 10,700

Ohio truckers demanding rollback in fuel prices

By A TEAMSTER

CLEVELAND, Feb. 3—The strike of independent truckers that began again this week has shaken the economy of Ohio and other states. The protest, which included many Teamster drivers (who called in sick to their work places), began very slowly. But by this weekend, it spread to over 20 states, involving thousands upon thousands of drivers. They have received much support from workers also affected by the rising prices.

The major demand of this strike is a rollback of fuel prices. Some independent truckers, however, are calling for higher freight rates, a demand that would only raise prices for the workers and poor in general.

As the strike began, Sohio and Mobil raised their gasoline prices by over 5 cents. This made the national average price of gas 50.6 cents per gallon, up from 46.9 cents last week, and 31.9 cents last May. That's a 56 percent rise in just nine months! This merely added "fuel" to the fire of the rebellion.

In Ohio, the strike has seriously affected the economy. Food warehouses were unable to ship their goods to the supermarkets. Layoffs in Ohio have risen to over 6,000, with GE sending home over 2,300 workers in the Youngstown-Warren area. GM is laying off 600 in Cleveland. And many more layoffs are threatened in the steel and auto industry. The giant GM Lordstown Vega plant, which has been running full-speed ahead on production, can only last two or three more days if the strike continues.

The state highway patrol has arrested over 100 people. Many of the trucks on the

nationally, and 6,300 for Chrysler in Michigan. The Jefferson Assembly Plant, the scene of the heroic takeover last summer, has been hardest hit. Jefferson Assembly has already shut down twice this winter and will soon be halting operations for another month. Some Chrysler plants are laying off all workers hired since October 1972.

One of the most far-reaching effects of the energy crisis for auto workers, besides unemployment, is the intensification of exploitation in the plants. Using the threat of layoffs as their weapon, the auto companies have gone on the offensive, with job elimination, speedups, and unmasked attacks against the workers and the union.

In most plants, while layoffs have drastically cut the number of workers, the same line-speed and production have been maintained. The ten-hour day is still a reality for many auto workers, despite high unemployment. But attempts by the companies to stifle the spread of rank-and-file militancy have met with resistance. The union itself has also been under attack, and has been forced to help the rank and file fight back—even those locals in which the bureaucracy originally responded by running for cover rather than standing up against the companies' attacks.

Workers from the Fleetwood GM plant have reported that speedups and harassment triggered a slowdown there. Militant workers were transferred from the sections conducting the slowdown or were given disciplinary layoffs. As a result, these workers distributed a leaflet denouncing the "gangster tactics" of the company, and copies of the leaflet were posted throughout the plant by sympathetic workers. Rallying to the support of the action begun by rank-and-file members, the local president and other officials spent two full days on the shop floor, at the site of the struggle.

When management continued to violate (Continued on page 7)

highway are driving under armed escort. Meanwhile, the newspapers have editorially opposed the strike, in line with the wishes of big business. And the Teamster Union bureaucracy in Cleveland, still loyal to Nixon, joined the antitruckster campaign. "It's easy to get men out on strike," explained Eddie Lee, officer of Local 407, "but it takes a sensible person to solve their problems while they are still at work." Despite the position of the union leadership, the sentiment of the rank and file is on the side of the striking truckers.

On Saturday, a rally was called in downtown Cleveland to build public support for the strike. The rally was sponsored by Modern Times, a local radical newspaper. One of the featured speakers was George Rynn, President of the Akron-based Council of Independent Truckers. He pointed out that their struggle is similar to the fight all working people have against high prices. "They (the government) are going to have to do something, because we are not backing down." Another leader of the strike, said, "Nixon is like an old Missouri mule. You have to hit him over the head to make him move."

This rally drew about 100 persons, including independent truckers, Teamsters, and several leftist political groups. All pointed the finger at Nixon and the oil companies. One speaker, a retired steelworker, spoke on the problems that pensioners face, with the rising cost of living. He concluded that "more and more control of the oil resources must be taken out of the hands of big business and put into the hands of workers and consumers."



Do we demand U.S. nationalize oil?

With the present crisis over the energy shortage making life difficult and costly for most Americans—and almost unbearable for the poorest—people are looking for a way to fight the powerful oil companies.

Some elements of the trade union leadership—and even a few faint voices in Congress—are calling for nationalization of the energy industry. They are being echoed by the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party in the pages of their newspapers, the *Militant* and the *Daily World*.

Of course, the rightwing brands any demand for nationalizing privately owned companies as “socialistic” and an attack on “free enterprise.” But since there is really no such thing as free enterprise anymore—especially in the thoroughly monopolized oil industry!—these fulminations of reaction should be taken with a grain of salt.

The question facing class-conscious workers and revolutionary communists is: does this demand for the nationalization of the oil, gas, and coal companies answer the needs of the working and oppressed people?

There have been several different historic situations under which the state has taken over a major industry. Some takeovers have been progressive, some thoroughly reactionary.

EXPROPRIATION BY WORKERS

In all the socialist revolutions, one of the first tasks of the working class has been to expropriate the means of production, to take the factories, the mines, the means of communication and transportation, the banks, and the big farms out of the hands of private capital. This has most often been done by the workers and peasants themselves, at the point of production, backed up by the armed might of the workers’ state.

This is absolutely necessary in order to break the political and economic power of the old ruling class, and to reorganize production under a planned economy to meet the needs of the people.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIZATIONS

But there have also been many cases in this century of bourgeois governments stepping in and nationalizing (not expropriating) a major industry. Whether or

not this is progressive depends upon the purpose of such nationalization.

When Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal in 1954, for instance, it was a relatively progressive act, for it meant freeing the resources of an oppressed country from the predatory grip of imperialism. Such a move was absolutely necessary if Egypt were to try to develop from a colonial status to a more advanced industrial nation, even though it did not mean that the Egyptian workers had control of the canal.

Similarly, it is the duty of all progressive people to support the nationalization of the oil carried out by countries in the Middle East that for decades have been robbed of their most precious resource, where there can be no material progress without taking over the industries controlled by U.S. and European imperialism—even though these takeovers are being carried out by bourgeois governments, and usually involve paying compensation to the oil monopolies.

But when it comes to a degenerate imperialist bourgeoisie nationalizing an industry, then we have an altogether different situation.

WHEN NATIONALIZATION HURTS WORKERS

In the U.S. today, the postal service is government-owned. In Britain, the mines and railroads were nationalized at the end of the Second World War. But in neither case has this been of any benefit to the workers. On the contrary, it merely puts more pressures on the workers in those industries, who now are subject to direct government intervention if they go on strike, and who have to take on the whole capitalist

establishment rather than only one section of it. Threats by the British government today to call out the army against striking miners bear this out.

The imperialist bourgeoisie resorts to nationalization in order to strengthen its overall rule. In the cases mentioned above, government takeover occurred when it became clear than no one section of the capitalist class could profitably manage these industries—and the industries were vital to the functioning of capitalism as a whole.

At its worst, nationalization is a deliberate measure of the ruling class to streamline the economy—and regiment the workers—for war. It can be a fascist measure in which the immediate interests of one section of the bosses is subordinated—sometimes by force—to the long-term interests of the survival of capitalism itself. How can the workers have any interest in such a move?

Given the nature of U.S. imperialism and its present ever-growing crisis, it can be seen that any move toward the “un-thinkable”—nationalization—by a section of ruling class politicians is a reactionary development opposed to the workers’ interests. For any so-called Marxist parties to fall in line with this demand is to fall into a trap laid for them by the bosses.

THEY MAKE NO DISTINCTION

Neither the *Daily World* nor the *Militant* explains this. In a January 23 editorial entitled “Nationalize the oil trusts!” the DW said, “Nothing less than nationalization and a democratically controlled National Energy Council will meet the needs of the times. . . .” This position was clarified a few days later, on January 25, when the DW approvingly quoted labor leader Patrick Gorman: “Our nation and its government can do no less. . . than to take over and operate the oil industry in behalf of our people.”

That a so-called communist newspaper could repeat the phrase “our nation and its government” without batting an eye should make any honest member of the CPUSA cringe with embarrassment. How can they forget that this government is controlled by the oil monopolies, as well as the banks, the auto magnates, the coal barons, and so on? Saying the government should take over the oil is telling the goat to guard the cabbage patch!

And the phrase “a democratically controlled National Energy Council!” adds nothing to the demand. The U.S. and British governments both claim to be “democracies.” Britain even had a ruling

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The precinct connection

Chicago Sun-Times, Jan. 23: “A Blue Island police lieutenant with a history of friendships among crime syndicate figures is expected to take over Feb. 8 as police chief of the south suburb, the Sun-Times learned Tuesday.

“He is Marvin Olena, who testified in 1966 and 1967 before the Illinois Crime Commission admitting a 20-year friendship with south suburban rackets boss George Tuffanelli.

“Mayor Richard Withers came to Olena’s aid late last year when the lieutenant was due to be docked for five days pay because he took five too many days of sick leave.

“However, instead of being docked, Olena was placed on special assignment by the mayor, losing only one day of pay.

Labour Party when it nationalized the mines and railroads. But it was the imperialists who held state power and the preponderance of the economy, and they made sure that these vital industries did not fall into the hands of the workers.

CALL ON NIXON TO TAKE OVER OIL!

In effect, the DW is calling on Nixon to take over the oil companies. If there were any doubts about it, the DW cleared them up in its editorial of February 1, when it assailed Nixon for not raising the question of nationalizing the oil resources in his State of the Union message.

The *Militant* is a little more cautious than the *Daily World*, but its position is essentially the same. Although speaking of “workers’ control” rather than a “democratically controlled” energy council, the difference is only a semantic one. For in its issue of February 1, the *Militant* explains that a working class representative in Congress (presumably one of their candidates) would “introduce a proposal for immediate nationalization of the energy industry so that this vital sector of the economy can be rationally planned and run under workers’ control in the interests of the majority of the American people.”

What does immediate nationalization mean? It means having the government take it over. It even means having this present Nixon government take it over!

Not only is such a demand wrong, but it even has no agitational value, for who wants to put Nixon and his gang in control of the oil industry?

The Socialist Workers Party only deepens the illusions sown by capitalist demagogues when it calls on the bourgeois government, as represented by Congress, to hand over the energy industry to workers’ control. What bosses government ever did a thing like that?

FOR REAL WORKERS’ CONTROL

Of course we should fight for workers’ control of the giant oil companies—but not by calling on Congress to nationalize them. Instead, we must call on the workers, the oppressed and downtrodden, to carry out a struggle against both the oil companies and the capitalist government that is in blatant collusion with them. It is the independent power of the working class—a power that has long been shackled by capitalist demagogues and opportunist labor leaders—that must be revived in the struggle against the energy crisis, which is a struggle against capitalist greed and anarchy of production.

“Also, Olena recently has been assigned to head all investigations made by the Blue Island police. In this position he receives reports on all follow-up work done by investigators on the force.

“In March, 1966, Olena was suspended by the Blue Island Civil Service Commission after it was learned that he traveled to Las Vegas with Tuffanelli supposedly to inspect a shopping center owned there by the rackets chief.

“At the time, Olena was being sought for questioning by Cook County sheriff’s police in an investigation of the Feb. 28, 1966 murder of gangland musclem Clarence Forrest. Witnesses reported having seen Olena, Tuffanelli and Forrest together on the night of the killing, detectives said. Forrest’s body was found 10 miles south of Hammond.

“Investigators linked the killing to strife between two mob factions vying for control of suburban vice and gambling.

“Olena, who has moonlighted as a bouncer at Eagles A-Go-Go, a Calumet Park nightclub run by Tuffanelli and Louis Pratico, was subpoenaed to testify before the Illinois Crime Investigating Commission in September, 1967.

“At that time, the commission was seeking information regarding the kidnapping of Blue Island Mayor John Harp.

“Mayor Withers said that he does not foresee any problems with Olena as chief. ‘We’ve never had any problem other than his association with these people,’ the mayor said.”



Arrest 90-year-old woman

Philadelphia, Jan. 25 (AP):

“Francis Kelley, a 90-year-old widow, insists she’s innocent of narcotics possession charges. And she’s angry at ‘the kind of world’ that could allow her arrest.

“‘I just don’t want to die before I clear my name,’ Mrs. Kelley said of last weekend’s arrest as she walked to a playground to pick up a neighbor’s child.

“‘The officer came up to me and told me to put up my hands. He had his gun out. I thought it was a joke and I laughed. But he searched me all over.

“‘He searched me good, pulling open the zipper of my blouse. I asked him what he expected to find in there, and I guess I hit him. I was so upset and mad.

“‘He found \$16 in my purse and he said I’d been selling two bags of dope. I said the 6 dollars were from my Social Security and the 10 belonged to the lady that has the water ice stand.

“‘The police told me some woman reported me as a suspect. But they never showed me my accuser, and I have to face her, don’t you think?’”

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The trend in Sino-Soviet relations

By SAM MARCY

A tiny five-line item buried on the bottom of page 9 of the February 4 New York Times is welcome news to all who are concerned with halting the progressive deterioration in relations between the two great socialist countries. It reveals that an Ilyushin-62 jet in the Soviet commercial air fleet left Peking for Moscow—3,723 miles away—February 3 on the first nonstop flight between the two capitals.

This indicates that commercial air traffic between the USSR and the People's Republic may be resumed on a larger scale and that trade and commerce, having remained for so long stagnant and on a pitifully low scale, may even accelerate.

Admittedly this nonstop commercial flight from Peking to Moscow is a thin reed on which to base the emergence of a new trend in relations between the USSR and the People's Republic, especially if it is viewed against the background of the increasingly bitter and vituperative escalation in the political and diplomatic struggle between the two socialist countries. One need only examine some of the recent issues of the Peking Review or its counterpart literature in the Soviet Union, or look at the reciprocal expulsions of Soviet and Chinese diplomats from the two countries, to see to what level the Sino-Soviet dispute has sunk. Nevertheless, the dispute is not presently on the scale or intensity it reached in the period following the border conflict between the two countries.

U.S. TRIED TO INCITE WAR

It is now several years since Harrison Salisbury published his book, War between Russia and China. The book, based on a visit to the Mongolian People's Republic during the excitement following the Sino-Soviet border struggle, was meant to be read here as a forecast of impending war. However, there is little doubt that its intention vis-a-vis the Soviet Union and People's China was to actually incite them to fight each other, thus fulfilling his prophecy. Fortunately, it has failed in this purpose.

The gradual but minimal increase in commercial and economic ties between China and the USSR from the low point following the border war is important, even if it is very small. The last few years have demonstrated an extraordinary eagerness, both on the part of the USSR and of China, to greatly increase their trade with the West, and the Soviet Union in particular has gone to great lengths to accomplish this. Unquestionably all this is tied, both on the part of the USSR and China, to an accommodation with the Nixon administration which dates back to the latter's visits to both Peking and Moscow and accounts for a good deal of the deference both the Soviet and Chinese press have shown towards Nixon following these visits.

"NORMAL RELATIONS" AT WHAT PRICE?

Normalizing commercial, economic, and diplomatic relations between imperialist and socialist countries is both desirable and proper, if it doesn't interfere with or isn't made at the expense of working class internationalism. But this is exactly

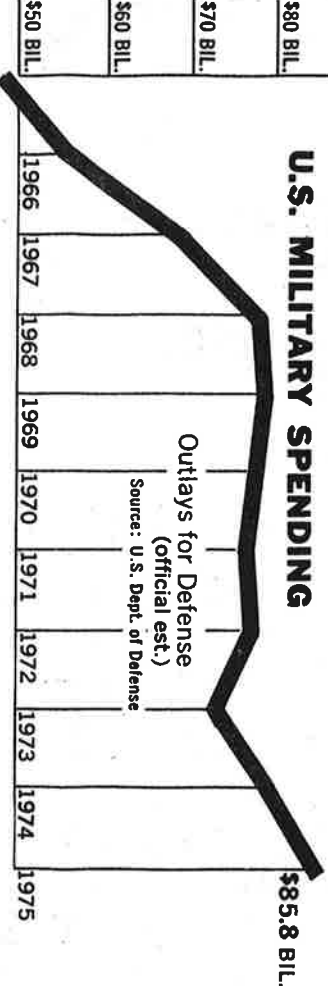
what happened with the capitulation during the Haiphong crisis and again when the Palestinians were let down in the Middle East negotiations.

If normalization of economic and diplomatic relations is desirable and proper between socialist and imperialist states, then all the more so is normalization desirable—indeed absolutely necessary!—between socialist states, particularly between such big countries as China and the USSR.

Indeed, as we have said on other occasions, if peaceful relations between socialist and capitalist states are to endure even on a precarious and unstable basis, then an indispensable condition is not only peaceful coexistence between the socialist countries but the unity of all the socialist countries and the support of the worldwide working class and the oppressed. How can a Marxist view it in any other way? The threat of imperialism makes it necessary to strive to achieve such unity. The workers' parties should not be led astray by this or that ill-conceived and harmful move made by the leaders of either the Soviet Union or China in their continuing nationalist rivalry.

USSR'S ASIAN SECURITY PLAN

For a considerable period now, the Soviet leadership has vigorously pushed on the international arena a so-called Asian security plan, which of course has been roundly denounced by the Chinese press. At



"One would think that the renewed belligerence of the Pentagon would make the Soviet leaders think twice about their struggle with China."

the very best this plan is vague, ambiguous, and moreover worthless.

While it is the U.S. that has carried out two Asian wars since World War II, this plan is by no means clearly directed against the U.S. This can easily be verified by the fact that it hasn't in the least upset Nixon or Kissinger. That is why there has been such scant attention to it from the State Department and in the U.S. capitalist press.

How different from the days when China and the Soviet Union signed the Friendship Pact of 1950! That pact marked a milestone in cementing the relationship between the Soviet Union and China. No wonder it so disturbed John Foster Dulles, Eisenhower, and the Pentagon.

Despite evidence that China has rejected the collective security plan, the Soviet leaders are pushing ahead with it. But how can there be an Asian security pact without China?

Everything the Soviet Union wants to do in the way of really aiding Asia against aggression by the U.S., Japan, and whatever satellites they can muster, the Soviet Union can do by timely assistance

since broken off negotiations on the local contract, until the company ends their speedups and scare tactics.

According to workers at Ford's Michigan Truck Plant, the company's plans to use the layoffs to club the workers into line may be backfiring. Not only has there been a lot of speedup and job elimination, but workers have been disciplined and sent home for petty reasons, like not wearing safety glasses. Rank-and-file anger is rising over this obvious crackdown and intimidation.

Last week, when workers weren't properly notified about overtime, they walked off the job. Even the local bureaucrats encouraged the walkout. Just a few weeks ago, these same cowards had told

agreements which, for the most part, it has anyway. Certainly the fact that there is no Asian security pact at present hasn't inhibited the Soviet Union from contributing whatever the Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian people need in the way of military and economic assistance against U.S. imperialist aggression. In fact, by completely breaking with the Lon Nol clique, which it has not yet really done, and recognizing the liberation forces, it could do a lot more for Asian security against U.S. aggression than would be accomplished by this so-called Asian security pact.

China has every reason to be suspicious of the pact on the grounds that it may be directed against the People's Republic.

A NEW ATTACK ON CHINA?

An equally harmful move from the Soviet leadership lies in a reported proposal to utilize the projected meeting of the West European Communist parties as a springboard to launch a new attack on China. It allegedly proposes to exclude China from consideration as a socialist country. If this proves to be true, the USSR would be repeating the very harmful mistake made by the Chinese leadership in casting the Soviet Union in the role of a "fascist dictatorship," "ruled by Czars."

There is every reason to believe that the Chinese leadership arrived at this conclusion in haste and as a reaction to the joint announcement by Washington and Moscow

in 1963 that Khrushchev and Kennedy had agreed on a test ban treaty which prohibited nuclear testing in the atmosphere. What justifiably upset the Chinese leadership the most was that Khrushchev agreed to the treaty without consulting them.

China drew the conclusion from this that Khrushchev and Kennedy were conspiring to isolate her and to prevent her from becoming a nuclear power. In summing up the test ban treaty with Washington without consulting China, Khrushchev in fact broke with China as a socialist ally with whom he was obligated to consult on such vitally important matters as a nuclear treaty, and violated the Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1950 which obligated both countries to consult each other on matters of common interest.

This opportunist departure from Leninist norms of socialist conduct between socialist countries on the part of Khrushchev was bad enough. But unfortunately it was matched by other blows: for instance, the abrupt halt without provocation of economic and technical assistance to China in 1958 and the withdrawal of Soviet

workers that "times are getting rough," and that it was better to back down on a grievance than risk losing a job.

While the rank and file and even some of the local UAW leadership have been responding defiantly to the threats and layoffs used by the Big Three, the reaction of the UAW international is a very different matter.

Hundreds of thousands of UAW members and their families are faced with scratching out a living on meager unemployment checks. The companies are at- tempting to clamp down with an iron grip on those still fortunate enough to be working.

Yet Leonard Woodcock and other labor misleaders cover with fear, when their members are eager to fight the energy crisis

technicians, and the support of Indian expansionism in the border struggle with China. But none of this makes the Soviet Union a capitalist state, no matter how one views the conduct of the Soviet leaders.

CHINA FALSIFIES CLASS CHARACTER OF USSR

When, later in the summer of 1963, the Chinese press thrust upon an unsuspecting world movement its new conception of the Soviet Union as a capitalist state, a state where capitalism had been restored, and still later amended it by the use of the term "fascist," it was obvious that the move had received no theoretical or political consideration. No documents presenting an exhaustive analysis of the Soviet Union, demonstrating how it supposedly evolved from a socialist country into a capitalist state, have ever been published. There is no evidence whatever that a broad discussion, or for that matter any discussion, took place either in the party as a whole or in the Central Committee.

Considering the enormous significance this change of evaluation in the class character of a socialist state entails, the scantiness of material on developments in the Soviet Union by the Chinese press is appalling. Only blind and uncritical adherents can accept or support such a position.

China's constant attacks on the Soviet Union as a fascist state not only falsify the class character of the Soviet Union (which is in reality a deformed or bureaucratized workers' state) but discredit the working class movement and oppressed people everywhere.

All the more dangerous is it for the Soviet leadership particularly at this moment, to embark upon the same political course by falsifying the class character of the People's Republic of China. One would think that the renewed belligerence of the Pentagon, the tremendous escalation in budgetary increases for U.S. arms and more deadly weapon systems, would make the Soviet leaders think twice about adding fuel to the fire in their struggle with China's leadership. The use of the West European CPs as a forum for a new departure in the struggle against the Chinese leadership would at most get lukewarm support from the Western CPs, most of whom have become little better than reformist parties, and might well boomerang.

In any case, the tactic must be roundly denounced. It is one thing for working class parties to independently arrive at their own sociological evaluations of the USSR, China, or for that matter any social or political phenomenon relating to the working class movement. It is another matter to have something foisted upon them.

Ideological and political discussion is indispensable. Its use as a springboard to what now is certainly a state-to-state struggle between the Soviet Union and China is absolutely impermissible and must be avoided by all in the working class movement who look forward to the reestablishment of genuine fraternal relationships between the USSR and China. The reweaving of all the socialist countries into a common front, in spite of any and all ideological differences, would certainly impart a tremendous impetus to the world working class and the oppressed everywhere, and at the same time administer a momentous setback to imperialism.

and the layoffs. Whatever resistance is put up on the local level cannot be successful without a battle against the bosses on a national level.

But instead of fighting the capitalist class, Woodcock has proposed a curb on foreign car imports and has even called for an end to the attacks on Nixon, supposedly so that everyone can work together to salvage the economy.

Whatever excuses Woodcock makes for the bosses, he cannot hide the truth from the workers—that the capitalist class created this crisis and, in fact, is profiting from it. It is only when we "lay off" rich parasites like Nixon, Ford, and Gerstenberg that we will solve this "economic crisis" called capitalism.

—Detroit layoffs

(Continued from page 5). the contract with illegal speedups and suspensions, the local issued a leaflet that threatened a strike and attacked the energy crisis and layoffs as well as speedups and harassment. This leaflet condemned the management as "a bunch of profit hungry vultures," and certain bosses were dubbed "the Frankenstein of Fleetwood," "stooges," "henchmen," "czars," and the "Little Caesar."

The Fleetwood bosses have totally ignored these protests, and the union has



200 Native Americans to face racist trials

Almost one year after the beginning of the armed occupation of Wounded Knee, S.D., over 200 American Indians are on trial or about to go on trial, facing a myriad of serious charges arising from the 71-day siege.

Charges of riot, arson, and conspiracy have been freely handed down by the U.S. Justice Department against both prominent leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and dozens of others whose names were unknown to the world until their arrests after the takeover ended. Scores of Native Americans have been herded into federal courts, manacled about the waist and wrists with chains. This racist roundup has laid the ground for some of the biggest mass trials in U.S. history, involving hundreds of Indians in Sioux Falls and Custer, S.D.

Meanwhile, Russell Means and Dennis Banks are already on trial in St. Paul, Minnesota, facing 10 felony counts each. Means and Banks were much in the news during the Wounded Knee seizure and are leaders in the American Indian Movement.

So far, their trial has been a farce, conforming to the kind of "justice" Native Americans have had inflicted upon them for over two centuries. Of the 62 candidates for their jury, all but one are white! As Banks said, "When we moved this trial (from S.D.) there was a feeling among the defense that we would be getting a fair trial because of the ethnic composition of St. Paul. However, the jury wheel somehow missed a lot of Native Americans, Chicanos, and Blacks."

The Justice Department, senators like McGovern, and large sections of the press, including the liberal New York Times, have tried to depict AIM leaders like Means and Banks as "outside hoodlums" who were not wanted at Wounded Knee.

This lie was ripped apart last week

when Russell Means won the primary election for tribal president of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Means defeated Richard Wilson, the current president, a corrupt and brutal puppet of the federal government. In fact, it was Wilson's misrule that, in part, brought about the Wounded Knee uprising in the first place. Wilson, who has terrorized the Oglala Sioux people at the Pine Ridge Reservation with a private army of goons armed with M-16 rifles provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, was characterized by Means as a "fascist."

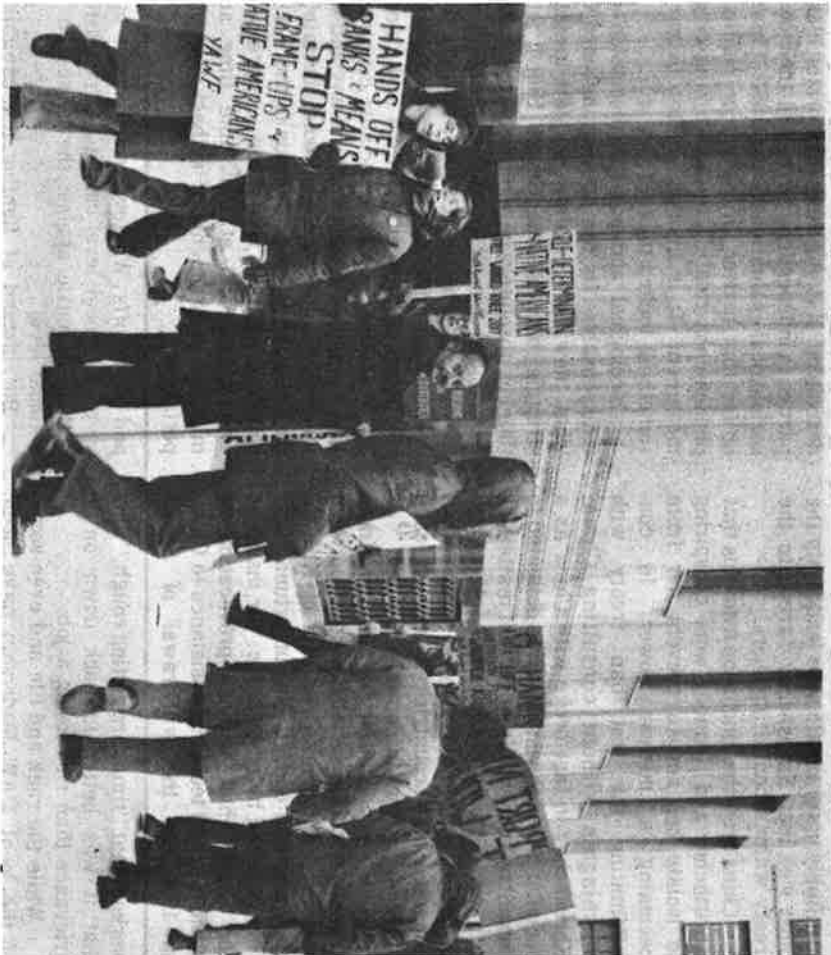
Means has promised to restore democratic government at Pine Ridge, vowing to change the notorious Reorganization Act of 1934, and has said he would fight to remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs police, vigilantes, and oppressive government puppets from the reservation.

A run off election between Means and Wilson is set for February 7.

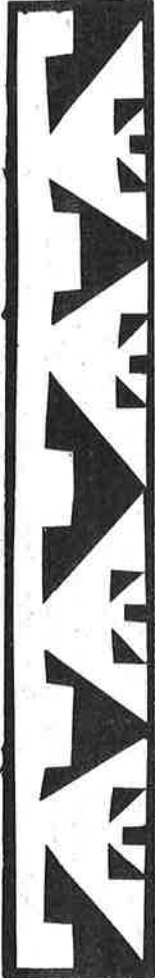
Meanwhile, the terror goes on. Wilson, who had his goon squad stuff 500 fake ballots in the primary, has made it known that he would like to see Means dead after the election. Wilson has stepped up his campaign to instill fear in the Pine Ridge Indians over recent weeks. Some members of the Oglala Sioux civil rights organization, who invited AIM to Wounded Knee last year, have been physically frightened into refusing to testify for the defendants at the St. Paul trial. The FBI has also taken part in intimidating these necessary defense witnesses.

Testimony in the Means-Banks trial is likely to begin February 11.

Support for the Indians, who are fighting for dignity and justice denied to them in their own land, can be sent to: Wounded Knee Legal Defense-Offense Committee, Box 255, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101..



DETROIT Jan. 8—Youth Against War & Fascism called a demonstration today in support of the Wounded Knee liberation fighters going to trial in St. Paul, Minn. Fifteen people chanted "Jail Nixon, Free the Wounded Knee 200" and "Free Means and Banks, Stop the War Against Native Americans" outside the Federal Building. A YAWF spokesman explained to the passersby the heroic struggle of the Native Americans and the frameups they are now facing for declaring Wounded Knee liberated territory.



Rheingold bosses leave workers high and dry

By TOM MITCHELL

BROOKLYN, Feb. 5—More than 1,500 Rheingold brewery workers are hoping against hope that operations will be resumed and their jobs regained in spite of PepsiCo's announcement last Thursday, January 21, that the 17-acre plant was going out of business immediately.

In a desperate effort to save their jobs, or at least get their pensions and vacation and severance pay, more than 200 workers went into the plant on February 1 and began a sit-in with the support of the leadership of Teamsters Locals 3 and 46, while union lawyers went into court to get a restraining order against the closing.

On Sunday, hundreds of Rheingold workers, along with their families and friends, picketed outside the plant in support of the workers inside.

Yesterday the workers ended their occupation at the direction of union officials after PepsiCo came across with vacation paychecks and the media was filled with rumors that a Democratic Party official, Jerry Finkelstein, would buy the plant. Closing of the brewery has been put off until midnight, February 8.

The union charges that PepsiCo bought up Rheingold two years ago only in order to get soft-drink franchises held by Rheingold, with the intention all along to close down operations for a \$57 million tax write-off.

Last spring PepsiCo signed a 3-year contract in which the workweek was increased from 35 to 40 hours with no pay

raise, in an attempt by the unions to persuade PepsiCo to keep the plant open. This pay-cut contract provided for hiring workers from the Schlitz brewery, which had just shut down even though it was running at a profit. If Rheingold closes, Schaefer will be the last operating local brewery here.

Most of Rheingold workers have 20 years or more seniority, with only a few years to go to retirement. Now they are facing the prospects of losing everything: their jobs, their pensions, their future. Welfare will be their reward for giving their working lives to the profits of Rheingold's wealthy owners.

Why is it that PepsiCo can at a moment's notice begin pumping beer into the sewers after they have signed a contract to maintain operations? Why can PepsiCo run out on pensions and severance pay that is guaranteed by the contract? By what right do these bosses take the lives of those who have worked hard for years and flush them like so much sewage?

The Rheingold workers know all too well that the contract has always been enforced when it could be used against them. Now they deserve to have back all the wealth they have created for the owners before a single worker is put out the door.

The leadership of Teamsters Locals 3 and 46 is calling for a boycott of all PepsiCo products until these crass bosses own up to their obligations to the Rheingold workers.

Community backs Houston 12

Special to Workers World
HOUSTON, Feb. 4—Last night the Houston 12 Defense Committee held a public meeting to rally support for the defendants against the frameup trial awaiting them this month. The meeting was one of the largest of its kind in a long while in the Houston area, with supporters coming mostly from Houston's Chicano community.

Speakers during the evening concentrated on preparing the audience for a February 7 hearing scheduled for the presentation of pretrial motions. This hearing is for those five of the defendants who face the stiffest charge—assault with attempt to murder a policeman.

The Houston 12 were arrested last October after being attacked by the police at a demonstration against U.S.-Israeli aggression in the Middle East. After being beaten in the street, in the police van, and in

Already there have been close to 25,000 leaflets handed out in the streets of Houston telling of the case and announcing the hearing and demonstration. The leaflets have found a good reception, especially in the Chicano community, which has often witnessed the same police brutality visited upon the demonstrators.

William Christiansen, in order to make clear to supporters what would happen at the hearing, went over the more than 20 legal motions and arguments prepared by the defense. Among them was one stating that the defense requires a lengthy delay because of prejudicial media coverage immediately following the arrests in October and in every instance since that time. If no delay is granted, the trial will begin on February 25.

Since the super-rich oil barons of Houston control the press, along with the

BULLETIN: Houston, Feb. 7—At a hearing today, Judge Wallace Moore adjourned the trial of the first five defendants in the Houston 12 case until April 8.

the jail by Houston's racist cops, they were charged with assault!

The five defendants going to court this week are Miguel Trujillo, Jose Berriga, Alex Rodriguez, Bartee Haile, and William Christiansen. The other seven defendants, facing lesser but still significant charges, will be tried separately.

The defendants themselves addressed the meeting. Miguel Trujillo discussed the letter-writing campaign the committee is waging. He encouraged supporters to send letters to Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz, Police Chief Carroll Lynn, and D.A. Carroll Vance demanding that they drop the charges against the Houston 12 and take measures to end police brutality in Houston.

Alex Rodriguez explained that the five defendants will hold a press conference at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 7, in front of the courtroom. There will also be a demonstration supporting the frameup victims.

mayor and the courts, it is not surprising that all have taken such a strong position against those who were attempting to expose the oil interests behind U.S.-Israeli aggression in the Middle East.

The meeting concluded with a question and answer period, which brought out more than anything else the audience's support. The one or two isolated hostile questions were handled ably by chairwoman Linda Rangel. When she explained that the defendants had been demonstrating in October because they were exercising their constitutional right to expose the new Vietnam war being planned for the Middle East, the audience broke out in thunderous applause.

The Houston 12 defendants have received support from all over the country but they still need your help. Send messages of support and funds to this new address: Houston 12 Defense Committee, 2401 San Jacinto, Rm. 101, Houston, Texas 77002.



Families join Rheingold brewery workers in fight to keep their jobs.

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Oil barons vs. rural poor

By CAL BONNER

Along the watery routes that feed the Mississippi River, the estuaries and bayous that constitute so much of the geography at the sole of the boot-shaped state of Louisiana, dwell thousands of families whose survival has depended upon sharing with Mother Nature that biological bounty which has won for Louisiana the name "Sportman's Paradise."

In the upland parishes (counties) can be found the track of the fast-disappearing red wolf. Bear, deer, and numerous species of smaller wildlife abound. It is ironic, but true, that more animals are crushed to death under the wheels of automobiles than are deliberately gunned down by hunters.

Along the bayous of southern Louisiana live various peoples, mainly Indians, Blacks, mulattoes, and Cajuns, who for generations have looked to the streams as the bringers of life. In the inland freshwaters gar, catfish, and buffalo fish are caught and cooked; nothing is wasted. Along the highways of the rural South one may observe older poor people, with their fishing poles in hand, getting free from the unpolluted waters what many people elsewhere have to pay much money for. Mind you, what they're doing is not easy; a lot of patience is required to sit nearly motionless for hours in anticipation of gathering that "mess" of fish for the night's cooking. Oftimes there is so much fish caught that the surplus is sold to friends and neighbors, depending on their ability to pay; sometimes it is just given away.

For some time now the blight of pollution has been fast approaching, causing the protein supplement to the diets of the rural poor to take a proportionate downturn. The threats to the environment posed by increased offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and the callous disregard for the environment shown by the oil companies in their plans to extract petroleum from shale are bad auguries for both humans and the animal world.

OIL SPILL FROM TANKERS WORST THREAT

The recent oil fire which burned for two days after the collision between the U.S. oil tanker Key Trader and the Norwegian freighter Baune highlights the increased danger to our environment and already eroded quality of life. We American workers face this loss because of the oil companies'

frenetic scramble for profits. The two ships collided January 18 at the mouth of the Mississippi River near Plottown, Louisiana, some 80 miles southeast of the city of New Orleans. Besides the loss of human life from the accident itself, the resulting oil spill and fire have further broken the links in the natural chain of life—a process that cannot help but adversely affect the future of earthbound humanity.

Oil spills occur in many ways—from pipeline leaks, tankers running aground, ships colliding with oil platforms, and occasionally from some of the Gulf's many hurricanes. According to the Bureau of Land Management's environmental impact statement, there were 39 spills of at least 50 barrels each from 1964 to 1972. Some 280,000 barrels of oil were dumped into the sea in these accidents.

The worst spill, according to the bureau, occurred in October 1967, when a ship dragging her anchor during a storm broke a pipeline near the mouth of the Mississippi River. "The resulting oil spill went undetected for nearly two weeks, releasing over 160,000 barrels of oil into the sea," the statement read.

The bureau added that there had been 81 explosions and fires since offshore drilling began in the Gulf and in the Pacific Ocean in the 1940s. Five resulted in air and water pollution. The fires and explosions also killed 59 men and injured 120.

FISH PROCESSING JOBS THREATENED

The Gulf yields about a third of the commercial fish consumed in the U.S., and fish processing plants in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida employ 8,822 seasonal and 6,398 full-time workers.

Commenting on this fact, the impact statement read, "If oil should reach an estuary where larval and juvenile forms of commercially and ecologically important fish are found, the impact would be severe because larval stages are ten to 100 times more sensitive to oil contamination than their adult counterparts."

This translates roughly into the awful fact that the arrival of the oil companies, with their oil pipeline breaks, tanker oil spills, and oil platform blowouts, will destroy thousands of jobs that provide food, shelter, and clothing to the workers along the Gulf, especially the national minority workers. Their livelihoods, like the fish, will be snuffed out by oil.

Life for the poor in Chicago: Part II

Cook County Hospital: Butcher shop for poor

BY JILL ROUNDTREE

This is the second in a series of articles about the conditions of life for working and poor people in Chicago.

+ + +

Because of a lack of private physicians, many of Chicago's poor are forced to use Cook County Hospital for their primary medical care. Over 50 percent of Chicago's Black population goes to Cook County. It has been shown that they must travel an average of 16 miles back and forth.

Often there are no other private hospitals in the poor communities. Those that do exist can only be entered on the request of a private doctor. Although welfare patients are technically supposed to be able to use any facility free by presenting a green card, many hospitals are reluctant to fuss with the red tape of welfare programs. One woman told WW this story about how she tried to get into a private hospital with a welfare card:

"When I went to the private hospital with the green card I found out how they tried to just send me to County. They said I would have to put down at least half the money. They said that when welfare sent the money I could get it back.

"The treatment is different if you're on welfare. A lot of times they won't give you any medication for pain—like if you're having a baby. When I was having a miscarriage, they kept me in the Grant Hospital three days without doing anything for me, to get that money. Finally I walked out. I went to County and they took the baby the same day. County is really bad. I had to lay on an operating cart with a thin mattress, instead of a bed. You are in a room with 12 or 13 other patients. The food is no different from what they serve at County Jail. How are you supposed to get well like that?"

Many studies have disclosed the appalling situation at Cook County Hospital. It is the largest hospital in the world, "serving" more than 60,000 bed patients each year. Despite its size, it has continually been plagued with mismanagement and financial problems. In the 1960s it went for long periods without full accreditation. It almost closed several times in 1970-1971, and has had a whole series of administrators (salary \$60,000 annually) in the last few years.

Clinic patients often have to wait all day. There is a severe lack of nurses, resulting in poor care. Over 10 percent of the patients in the medical wards die there! It has twice as many premature babies as the city average, and low-weight babies are 20 times as likely to die as normal-weight babies.

A few other hospitals (Woodlawn Hospital is one) admit poor patients via emergency cards and the teaching hospitals (Michael Reese, Presbyterian, Universities of Chicago and Illinois) via emergency and outpatient clinics, if the cases have teaching value. Poor people know that if they are "lucky" enough to be admitted there, the care will be experimental. A patient is not always informed of his or her legal rights under the circumstances and may become a human guinea pig.

Provident is the only Black-owned hospital in Chicago. It is 80 years old and has served as the only hospital on the southeast side of Chicago. It has only 200 beds. According to Ebony, "it is a dilapidated structure that reached its prime more than 30 years ago."

Thus, although hospitals exist in Chicago, the decent private ones are reserved for the white and primarily the wealthy.

MEDICAL CARE SHOULD BE FREE

About one-seventh (14 percent) of the

The criminals in black robes

CHICAGO, Jan. 27—A report issued this week by several community groups reveals that judges in Cook County spend an average of 4¼ hours on the job each day, including time spent on the bench as well as in chambers.

While we working people slave for 8 to 10 hours a day in factories, shops, and offices, only to take home survival pay, these judges receive salaries of between \$28,000 and \$40,000 for working half a day (if what they do can be called work).

And their fringe benefits are enormous. For instance, Judge Franklin Kral paid no property taxes in 1972 for his \$100,000 house in the suburbs, and only \$525 for the big tract of land it sits on. He also owns stock in a Cicero nursing home which received a \$5,000 break on its building permit, thanks to his friend John Kimbark. Cicero's town clerk, who son is a director of the nursing home. Young Kimbark is also the judge's personal bailiff, for which he draws over \$900 a month, even though Kral has been relieved of his duties to await a hearing on charges of buying household goods at a

discount from a slumlord who frequently appeared before him in Housing Court. Kral is now getting his \$40,000 salary for doing nothing at all pending the hearing.

Although judges individually do so little for their money, the state maintains an army of them large enough to ensure that the jails and prisons are bursting with poor people who own no property, and so have never, as has Judge Kral, received a property tax break. And even if judges spend most of their time on the golf course, the new \$16-million courtroom building now being planned by the County Board will certainly be made use of by the local rulers in their continuing war against our class.

Chicago newspapers and liberal politicians have reacted to the report by calling on judges to put in an eight-hour day so that the judicial process will be more "efficient." Wouldn't poor and working people be much better off if these judges didn't work at all, and if their courtrooms, jails, and prisons were dismantled? That would be our version of "efficient" justice.



Chicago-area population is too poor to afford either physician or hospital care. About half of these people are Black. Because of the racism and greed of the private doctors and hospitals a large segment of Chicago is excluded from any medical attention. High prices of rent, food, and clothing mean poor and working people and their families are more susceptible to illness. But we are given the worst medical treatment. As one mother told Workers World:

"I want to move because we live in a housing project that has dry heat. Especially on rainy days and in the winter, the kids are always sick. Shawn gets real bad, so I take him to the hospital. I go in at 8:30 and wait usually until about 11:00.

"I read on the charts Shawn has bronchitis. Then I talk to other people, older people, they tell you what they've seen, what to expect or how to treat it. The doctor told

me I need a vaporizer. If you go down to the aid office and get the forms and send them back, aid will give you one. But it's a big run-around and as long as it takes, you'd rather find a way to get it yourself."

Why should a poor woman have to hustle for medical supplies for her children? If a poor person can get to see a doctor, where is the money supposed to come from for prescriptions?

What about the humiliation and indignities suffered at a "free" clinic, where the nurses and doctors act like they're doing you a favor treating you at all?

Medical care should be free and available to everyone. When working people have taken power, as in socialist countries, our needs will be met. Every child will have what she or he needs to eat and wear, and when they are sick the doctors and medicine will be there for the asking.

'Rat-infested, rotting, gutted-out'

By ALICE GRAY

CHICAGO, Jan. 22—Poor and working people looking for decent housing in Chicago are finding it next to impossible. With the economic crisis in this country, rising food prices, welfare and budget cuts, the housing problem is increasing. While the slumlord's are raking in the money, we live in cold, rat-infested dumps.

In the continuing fight for better housing, 120 tenants of five community action groups—Northwest Community Organization, The Woodlawn Organization, Uptown Peoples Action Program, Organization for a Better Austin, and the Highland Community Organization—filled the housing courtrooms of two judges who agreed to spend one day hearing some 50 slum building cases on "slum day."

At a press conference held earlier in the Civic Center lobby, a spokeswoman for the group declared that Tuesday was the start of a "war on slumlord," saying the time when slumlord's could receive 40 delays without final court action had to stop.

Year after year community groups have taken the slumlord's to court and, year after year, they have been getting the runaround. Today the 120 court-watchers had to hear the same old excuses and delays.

By the end of the day, tenants had shown videotapes of cockroaches crawling across the kitchen floor of a north-side apartment. Snapshots, affidavits, and inspection reports from city building inspectors were given as evidence. In all parts of the city, building after building was described as rat-infested, gutted-out, rotting, unsafe, and unsanitary. The proof piled higher, but again there was the same old runaround. In almost half the cases continuances were granted.

In all, there were three dismissals, a total of \$22,500 in fines, nine demolition orders, and three orders to board up buildings.

This leaves 17,000 housing code cases pending, and 120 court-watchers fighting mad!

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Battle lines form as British coal strike nears

By BOB McCUBBIN

FEBRUARY 7—Britain's 270,000 coal miners voted yesterday by a hefty 81 per cent to go on strike at midnight, February 9. The Heath government is maintaining its hard-line position against the miners and each day has brought new government attacks on them. Heath has asked the Queen to dissolve Parliament and call new elections in a frantic maneuver to stop the strike.

Coal miners are among the lowest paid British workers, averaging basic wages between \$68 and \$83 per week. For the last 11 weeks, the miners have been refusing overtime in an attempt to pressure the government into accepting their demand for wage increases of \$18 to \$29 per week. The Heath government's answer has been to try to turn public opinion against the miners by blaming the country's severe economic problems on them. In addition, citing the need to conserve dwindling energy supplies, the government has imposed a three-day workweek on the nation, a vicious tactic that has resulted in skyrocketing unemployment and further economic hardship for British working people.

The tactic is really a national lockout and has provoked the largest monthly increase in unemployment since 1945. According to the government, 2,294,438 workers had applied for unemployment benefits as of mid-January.

SEVERE CRISIS GRIPS BRITAIN

All this is happening in the context of a disastrous economic crisis that the British

Miners hit bricks

News briefs from the London Times on developments in the miners' struggle:

JANUARY 24—More than 400 miners went on strike yesterday at Brich Cop-pice colliery in Straffordshire. The men alleged that outside contractors called in by the coal board to do work underground worked overtime during the night in defiance of the national ban.

JANUARY 27—Further indications of a hardening of attitudes come from the moderate Lancashire coalfield. An emergency meeting in Bolton voted overwhelmingly for a stoppage. At a meeting in Yorkshire, the area's Left-Wing president, Arthur Scargill, urged the whole trade union movement to join with the miners in a national strike. He said: "We shall expect that if we take strike action the 10 million workers in the TUC will give us their active support."

JANUARY 27—John Pardoe, Liberal MP, yesterday predicted that a miners' strike could produce severe civil violence in Britain and advised police to "refuse to take the miners on."

JANUARY 24—Leaders of 2,000 miners in the Merthyr Tydfil area of Glamorgan have decided to stop coal leaving for power stations because they say the coal board has failed to provide concessionary coal to miners' widows and retired miners.

Expanding Empire

by VINCENT COPELAND

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capitalist class is trying to make the workers pay for. Britain's balance of payments deficit for 1973 was more than \$5.1 billion, the greatest imbalance Britain has ever suffered. The retail price index rose by 10.6 percent during 1973, more than in any year since the index was begun in 1956. Food prices as a whole rose 19 percent in 1973, but certain foods rose as much as 80 percent.

A particularly ominous development for the capitalists, reported in the current issue of Barron's, has been the decline of the so-called London fringe banks. Along with four actual failures, 26 other London financial institutions are in immediate danger of folding. Barron's calls this development, which the Bank of England is trying to hush up, "the biggest banking bust since the 'Thirties.'" Related to the banking situation, last year brought a record number of business bankruptcies for Britain. Barron's predicts that record will be broken this year.

HEATH ESCALATES ATTACKS ON MINERS

These facts make a government settlement with the coal miners extremely unlikely without a fight. And both sides are stepping up their preparations. Heath has killed rumors of a move to a four- or five-day workweek and, instead, the British press has dutifully begun talking about further hardships, increases in unemployment, and maybe even a two-day workweek.

The government's position continues to be that no exceptions can be made to the Phase 3 guidelines which limit wage increases to 7 percent. To do so, according to the ruling class illogic of Mr. Heath, would be to "sell out" the 4 million workers who

have already settled with the prescribed limits.

Belying his "heart-felt" concern for the people, however, was his January 28 threat to withhold unemployment benefits from the families of the miners who go out on strike. "Millions and millions of people up and down this country are incensed that this should be abused by people who go on strike and are able themselves to live as a result of what is done to help their wives and children."

CAPITALIST STATE PREPARES FOR WAR

The government has also begun to train special police squads in the tactics of strike-breaking. During the 1972 strike, the miners showed great creativity in finding ways to prevent scabs from getting to work. The police are being trained to counter these measures as well as being given refresher courses in the standard police tactics of provocation and brutality. The government has further hinted that it might use soldiers to move coal if the workers refuse to do it.

In this connection, the so-called Labour Party of Britain has shown its true blue loyalty to the bourgeoisie by shamelessly parroting the Heath charges of subversion within the miners' union (while ostensibly supporting the miners' demands). Michael McGahey, a member of the British Communist Party and a vice president of the NUM, said in a recent speech that, in the event of a strike, if the government decided to use soldiers to move coal he would appeal to the troops to aid the miners instead. Both Heath and his Labour Party "opponents" used this statement as the basis for their attack, charging "Communists and other extremists" with attempting to use the labor



dispute to topple the government. So much for Labour Party support for the miners.

MINERS LINE UP ALLIES

But McGahey's idea was a very good one and it is unfortunate that he publicly repudiated it under pressure. It can only be hoped that real efforts are being made to reach the troops and win them over to the side of the miners, no matter what it is felt must be said or done publicly.

Another potential ally of the miners may be the railroad workers, who are also fighting for a living wage and have been disrupting rail traffic periodically since last December. To help the miners, the railroad workers could make sure the existing fuel supplies do not reach their planned destinations. And will Britain's dockworkers, who recently refused to unload a ship full of scab lettuce from the U.S., unload the imported coal that will undoubtedly be necessary?

The coalminers will have many allies in their strike. But their greatest resource will be their own fighting will to throw off the burden they, and the rest of the British working class, now shoulder. They have demonstrated their tremendous power more than once. The struggle that now looms will offer unique opportunities for the kind of victories that will benefit their class sisters and brothers all over the world, in addition to the rest of the British working class.



Workers throughout the world support the British workers in their struggle. These demonstrators made their voices heard in New York on Jan. 25.

YAWF calls first protest in solidarity with British workers

NEW YORK, Jan. 25—More than 135 demonstrators participated in a picket line today in front of the British Overseas Airways (BOAC) offices on Fifth Avenue. Their reason—to show solidarity with British workers whose standard of living

has been cut so seriously by the Heath government. The demonstration, called by Youth Against War & Fascism, "was the very first or at least one of the first demonstrations in support of the British workers to be held in

the United States," according to a co-ordinator, Brian Becker.

The action was called during Manhattan's rush hour and attracted the attention of many people passing by, who stopped to listen to chants, such as "Support the just demands of the British workers," "Nixon is a thief, like Whitelaw and Heath," and "The British workers' fight is our fight, too." Colorful banners carried by the demonstrators read "Support the just demands of the British miners" and "Support the struggle of all workers and oppressed people."

Suez people's army fought Israeli tanks

By FRED GOLDSTEIN

In the wake of the Israeli withdrawal from the banks of the Suez Canal, it has been revealed that the armed civilian masses of Suez City defeated an Israeli armored attack aimed at capturing the city just as the ceasefire was to go into effect after the October war.

The story was told to newsmen by the governor of Suez City while the people, still carrying their weapons, celebrated their heroic victory after a three-month Israeli siege and a ruthless aerial and artillery bombardment that destroyed 80 percent of the city and killed or wounded untold numbers of civilians.

The newsmen, arriving on buses from Cairo the day after the Israeli pullback, were the first outsiders to reach the city since the siege began on October 24.

"The arrival of the four buses caused pandemonium," wrote Henry Tanner in the January 30, edition of The New York

armed the civilians."

"The defenders destroyed 15 of the tanks inside the city and 17 in the outskirts," Mr. Kholy said. He added that more than 100 Israeli soldiers were killed in that operation. The correspondents could see perhaps a dozen burned-out tanks along the main street."

The city was shelled by tanks and planes continuously in a "softening up" operation. The civilian population suffered terrible casualties, hospitals were jammed to overflowing, and the Israelis cut the water supply. Hardly a building was left untouched by the bombardment.

There are undoubtedly innumerable details of the heroism of the people that The New York Times does not care to reveal. Courage, initiative, ingenuity, and sacrifice on the part of the downtrodden masses is something they rarely write about.

The people of Suez City fought under a terrible two-fold handicap. First, there was the terrible firepower supplied to the Israeli

Shah's army attacks Oman revolution

The following press release was received by the Workers World from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

In a press conference held on January 7 at the press association in Beirut, and attended by Deputy Zahir al-Khatib (member of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies), an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf (PFLOAG) spoke of the aims of the military attack which the Iranian forces are carrying out in the liberated areas of the southern province of Oman, Dhofar, with the cooperation of Saudi and British forces. This attack aims at striking at the revolution, whose expansion and influence in the Arab Gulf are increasing. The official made the following press statement:

The Iranian and British forces and the



The armed people of Suez City and Egyptian soldiers celebrate Israeli withdrawal.

Times. "Men and boys wearing various items of military gear and carrying weapons ranging from sub-machineguns to ax handles ran alongside of the buses or climbed on top of them. They waved Egyptian flags of all sizes and shouted 'Suez, Suez!'"

This reporter for The New York Times, whose bosses have been among the most hard-lined hawks in favor of keeping the Arab people down, had undoubtedly hoped to find a city demoralized by hunger, thirst, sickness, and death. Instead, he was forced to acknowledge the "explosion of joy" of the victorious people who "fired sub-machineguns, rifles, and revolvers into the air and danced on the wrecks of Israeli tanks they had stopped in the battle on the main street."

ARMED CIVILIANS FOUGHT

"In the afternoon," continued Tanner, "the governor (Mr. Kholy) told the correspondents that these men and youths in tattered uniforms were the civilians to whom he had given arms on October 24, the first day of the Israeli attack on Suez. They were the fighting force that kept the Israelis from advancing into the city from the suburbs, he declared."

There were 10,000 civilians and 5,000 noncombat army men who took part in the battle. The governor said that "when he heard the Israeli tanks were approaching he

puppet army by Washington. Second, they had to endure the procrastination of their own capitalist government which, unlike the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam, is afraid to arm the people. The governor distributed arms only when the sound of Israeli tanks could already be heard and matters were desperate. This multiplied the difficulties of the people many times and made the achievement even more remarkable.

Without any training in anti-tank warfare or any formal tank weapons, the people were suddenly confronted with an armada. They had to work out tactics from scratch under life-and-death conditions. They had to form themselves into fighting units for urban warfare on a moment's notice, and all the time being under air attack. And they were victorious!

This battle is probably already a legend and an inspiration in Egypt and throughout the Arab world. Battles such as these are what lie behind Kissinger's scurrying back and forth trying to get a peace settlement. It is the revolutionary awakening of the Arab masses that is the fundamental starting point of all diplomatic and military calculations in the Middle East. The masses are making history and no accommodation which runs contrary to their desires for liberation can hold up against the spirit shown at Suez City.

forces of Sultan Qubas are carrying out a large military campaign against the central area of the liberated territories of the southern province of Oman, Dhofar. This campaign is within the framework of U.S. imperialism and reaction's attack aimed at arranging the situation in the Gulf and the Peninsula in line with the arrangement of the Middle East situation, in order to liquidate the revolutionary movements in the Arab region, the foremost of them being the Palestinian revolution, and in an attempt to encircle the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen (PDYR).

The Iranian forces stationed in Omani territories and islands began a very large military landing in the liberated areas on December 20, 1973. The number of forces taking part in this campaign is estimated at several thousand. The CENTO maneuvers in the Arab Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and the consecutive provocative moves of the U.S. 7th Fleet on the PDYR's borders were a cover for this landing. All past attempts to liquidate the armed popular revolution have failed. The most important of these attempts was the October-November 1971 campaign launched by the British forces. The attempt to strike the revolution from within—the September 12, 1970 secessionist movement—also failed.

This failure and the escalation of the

military operations carried out by the popular liberation army and the popular militia—especially after the intensive and concentrated shelling of the British base in Salallah, the besieging of the (Sarfit) position for four days, the downing and destruction of four British planes during the months of November and December 1973, and the killing of a number of Iranian soldiers and officers in these operations—have all led to the massing of Iranian, British, and Saudi forces, and to coordination among these forces in an attempt to liquidate the revolution in Oman and the Arab Gulf and to confront the progressive regime in Democratic Yemen....

Later reports in Western sources confirm that 3,000 more soldiers of the fascist regime of the Shah were sent to Salallah, the capital of Dhofar and the only major area still under the control of the forces of the Sultan. The Iranian soldiers are now engaged in fierce battles against the revolutionary forces of the PFLOAG as well as massing troops near the border with the Democratic Republic of Yemen. The Iranian Air Force is continuously and savagely bombing the liberated regions.

The Shah's "beat" as gendarme of the Gulf has been enlarged. Recent war communiques from the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf indicate that the pace of the struggle has quickened. Reports of downing British airplanes indicate that the people's war in Oman is entering a new phase. It was clear that the forces of the Sultan and his British "advisors" even bolstered by small contingents of Jordanian secret police and Iranian soldiers could not cope with the revolution.

The Nixon Doctrine is clear in its plans for such contingencies. The U.S. puppet regime of the Shah has been shored up militarily for years in order to step in and preserve "Law and Order" for U.S. imperialism in the Gulf. Iran has apparently been given the go-ahead to attempt to intervene in Oman.

The troops near the border with revolutionary Yemen are ominous as well. The imperialists are well aware that the PDYR is "the firm rear area of the revolutionary forces throughout the Arabian peninsula and in the region generally. Attacks in the past have come from Saudi Arabia as well as British bombing raids over the border with Oman. Unless the imperialists attack by sea as the British did when they took Aden in 1839 the only route left is by land from Dhofar.

The revolutionary forces around the Gulf will never allow this vicious attack to go unanswered. The Iranian people in particular have already begun to demonstrate their solidarity with their Arab brothers and sisters by struggling against the Shah's reactionary aggressiveness. Last year 28 martyrs died while opposing the \$3 billion arms purchase of the Shah. This show of solidarity will certainly grow into the unified struggle of the peoples of the Gulf and Iran against their common enemy and this enemy will be defeated.

The task of the progressive forces is clear as well. U.S. imperialism, weakened by its defeats in Vietnam and throughout the world, is attempting to defeat revolutions by proxy through "third" parties such as Iran. Just as we fought direct intervention through exposure, education, and massive struggles against the war in Indochina (which still continues), we must mobilize against the new attacks on the revolution in the Gulf. The PFLOAG has called on progressive forces to begin immediate educational campaigns to educate the people about the struggle in the Gulf. We must respond.

In unity there is victory.

Italy Military alert covers for fascist threat

By JOHN OTTO

Recent events in Italy have disclosed a fascist-military threat and led to ominous maneuvers by the state apparatus. Units of the Italian army, carabinieri, and police were put on alert the weekend of January 26 in the northeastern provinces of Veneto and Emilia Romagna. In the capital city of Rome, the police increased their surveillance of public buildings and the homes of union and leftist political leaders.

A few days after the alert was called off, the Italian government had not clarified the reasons for the alert. The minister of defense minimized these alerts, and the police prefect of Rome made vague hints about an Arab guerrilla threat. However, these stories were received with distrust by the population.

In fact, the Italian CP newspaper, l'Unita, hinted of the possibility of a military coup. It reported that the CPI (Communist Party of Italy) regional committees in Piedmont, Veneto, Emilia (where the CPI has charge of much of the local administration), Latium, and Apulia had discovered that commanders of local army units had called meetings of officers, telling them to ready their striking forces for joint actions with police and carabinieri to defend "democratic institutions now being threatened from many sides."

It's no surprise that with these bourgeois armed forces preparing to defend "democratic" institutions, many Communist Party and Socialist Party leaders in Veneto and Emilia found it prudent to sleep away from home on Sunday the 27th.

NEOFASCIST ARMY CELLS

This military alert followed the government's recent action against neofascist cells within the Italian army. Especially important was the arrest of Lt. Col. Amos Spazziate in January. According to the magazine L'Espresso, Spazzi, who had recently been promoted, was working with a group involving both civilian neofascists and some of the generals attached to NATO South.

These generals use the NATO psychological warfare office in Verona (Veneto province) as their own organizational center to coordinate activity of the neofascist cells. They work directly with the CIA, studying various psychological strategies for use in case of a coup d'etat, civil war, and counterinsurgency, and also in measuring the "political climate" of Italy.

With the arrest of a pro-Nazi doctor last October, papers were found that exposed a plot by this neofascist group to murder 1,617 leftist, union, and government leaders in a fascist military uprising. The doctor had fought as a volunteer with German units during World War II and is currently the leading representative in Italy of the Steel Helmeis, a German Nationalist organization.

If the Italian political climate that the CIA is watching so closely were cooler, it might be possible to believe the Italian defense officials, who pass off these events as "isolated episodes" confined to the northeastern area. Here there are still remnants of pro-Nazi groups, such as the Steel Helmeis, who before the war wanted to annex the area to Austria and Germany, using the presence of people of German descent as their excuse.

Government statements minimize the strength of these neofascist elements, but even if their numerical strength is small, the sensitive positions they hold make them very dangerous. They have connections with the commanders who keep track of the political situation in Italy and the strengths and weaknesses of the workers' organizations. They also have ties with the U.S. government through NATO and the

CIA, and can know when and where they can get support from them.

INCREASING WORKER PROTESTS

However, the Italian political climate has not been cool since the wave of great strikes in 1969, and hardly a month goes by without an assault on the workers' standard of living or a major strike by workers trying to regain wages lost in inflation.

Increasing their economic problems, the energy crisis has hit import-dependent Italy hard—driving is still banned on Sundays and the outlook for the auto industry is bleak. Meanwhile, inflation and unemployment threaten the Italian workers in Italy, as well as the millions who work abroad in West Germany and France.

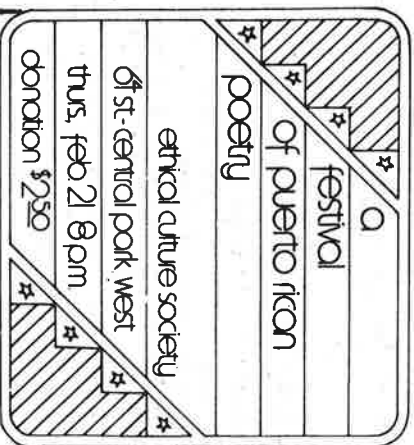
On the electoral front, the Italian CP has made gains recently, and there is the possibility of a Popular Front government, or at least the chance that the CP will be invited to join the government. Though this would by no means make it a workers' government, it is still looked upon by the rightist generals and by the CIA as about equivalent to the arrival of the plague. The fascist butchery in Chile has emboldened these elements, who would not hesitate to use the same tactics in Italy.

This particular neofascist grouping may represent only a small section of the Italian ruling class today; however, as the crisis deepens in Italy, undoubtedly a much larger section will throw their support behind similar groupings.

Although the alert may be finally explained as some sort of precautionary measure taken against neofascists, we must be clear that the forces involved are untrustworthy in carrying out such an action—while they are enemies of the workers' organizations.

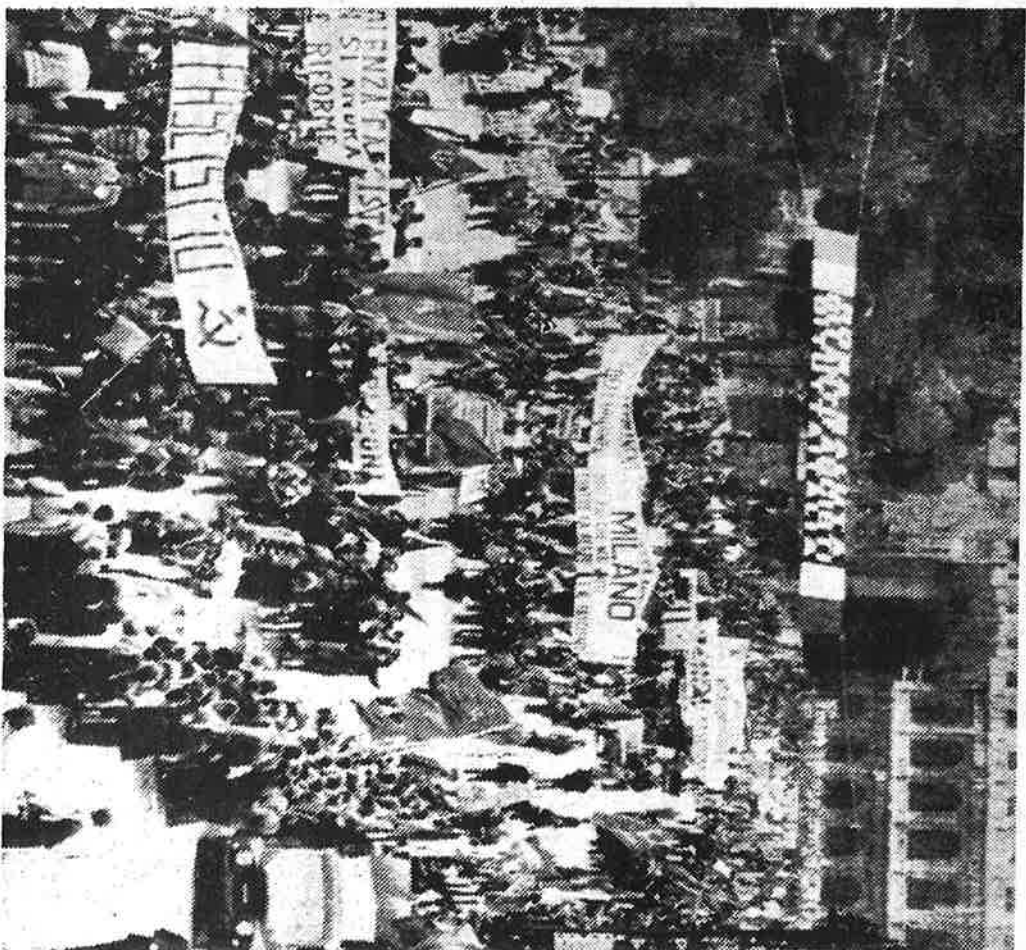
The police and army claim to be protecting democracy with their alert. However, what the alert really does is give practice to the state's oppressive apparatus for future operations against workers' organizations. But the generals, by depending on a passive reaction from the reformist CPI and SP leadership, may well be underestimating the fighting traditions of the Italian working class, and awakening a force they can neither intimidate or control.

FREE PUERTO RICO



NEW YORK—The Committee for Puerto Rican Decolonization is sponsoring a festival of Puerto Rican poetry on February 21. Rita Moreno, Lucius Walker, Ann Waldman, Angel Luis Mendez, Estrella Artau, and Pedro Pietri will read the poetry of Luis Pales Matos, Julia De Burgos, Francisco Matos Paoli, Luis Llorens, Torres, Hugo Margenat, Angel Luis Mendez, and Juan Antonio Corretjer. Songs by El Grupo. For further information, call 260-1290.

RIGHT NOW!



In 1971, Romans turned out in mass to protest against the fascists.

Panamanians resist new U.S. canal robbery

By JULIO A. GHIGLIOTTI, JR.

For 70 years, the blood-drenched flag of Yanqui imperialism has cast its shadow over the occupied territory of the Panama Canal Zone. In 1971, the Panamanian government, headed by Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera, officially notified the U.S. government that the treaties signed in 1967 with respect to the authority over the Canal Zone did not meet with the approval of the Panamanian people.

These treaties provided for joint U.S.-Panamanian authority over the operation of the canal, increased payments to Panama from toll revenues, and political integration of the Canal Zone with Panama. However, they also gave the U.S. the option of building a new, larger, sea-level canal across the Panamanian isthmus—a provision that would benefit only U.S. imperialism.

General Torrijos, in a speech before a UN Security Council session held in Panama City, expressed the feelings of his people when he concluded:

"Finally . . . I would say to you, and through you to the world's conscience, that you must all bear clearly in mind that we have never been, are not and shall never be an associated state, a colony or a protectorate, nor shall we add one more star to the flag of the United States."

These words were especially apt after the U.S. ambassador to the UN declared that the UN was not the right place to discuss these problems; they should be discussed between Panama and the U.S. through the Organization of American States. In other words, the U.S. refuses to discuss the Panama Canal question in the UN in the same way that, in the past, it has refused to discuss the issue of Puerto Rico. Even according to its imperialist founders, the UN was supposed to be a forum for "settling" international disputes. Naturally the U.S. did not like the idea of renegotiating these treaties. However, they have been forced to come to the negotiating table by the Panamanians and have even brought in Henry Kissinger, the "Whiz Kid," to deal with this problem.

These 1967 treaties were the result of negotiations begun after the rebellions that broke out in the Canal Zone in January 1964, when American students in Balboa High

School raised the American flag over the school. Panamanian students reacted to this insult by raising the Panamanian flag beside that of the U.S. As a result, 28 Panamanians lay dead and over 200 wounded—victims of American national chauvinism. The Panamanian government broke relations with the U.S. until April 1964, when negotiations were begun concerning the 1903 treaty by which the U.S. extorted the Canal Zone from Panama.

ANDREW JACKSON WAS INTERESTED IN BUILDING CANAL

Expanding U.S. capitalism had been eyeing the isthmus of Panama for a long time. In 1835, President Andrew Jackson commissioned Col. Charles Biddle to get from the then controllers of the area, New Grenada (Colombia), the right to build a waterway across the isthmus of Panama. He was refused the right.

However, the interest did not end there. On January 28, 1855, a rail line extending across the isthmus was built by an American, W. H. Aspinwall. His monopoly on this shortcut for international trade brought tremendous profit—and provided the U.S. with a foothold on the area. For the U.S. had signed a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with Colombia on December 12, 1846, and Article 35 of this treaty "committed" the U.S. to "guarantee positively and effectively to New Grenada the complete neutrality of the isthmus."

Two shipping companies were established in 1848 to link U.S. East and West Coast trade through Panama. After the railroad was built, over \$710 million worth of gold and other goods were carried by the isthmus railroad in a period of 20 years.

From 1856 to 1902, U.S. Marines intervened in Panama ten times: six times under the old excuse of "protecting U.S. lives and property," and four times at the request of the Colombian government to suppress liberation struggles. All this was made possible by the "Treaty for Peace and Friendship" of 1846.

U.S. IMPOSED
CANAL TREATY ON PANAMA
At the turn of the century, Colombia was
(Continued on page 14)

political prisoners

Thomas Wansley

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 19—More than 50 spirited demonstrators picketed the Federal Building here today to demand freedom for THOMAS WANSLEY and JAMES CARRINGTON. The demonstration was called by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) as part of a statewide effort to intensify the struggle for the two Black men serving life sentence on framed-up rape charges.

The demonstrators carried banners and placards reading "Stop the racist frame-ups, free Thomas Wansley and James Carrington," as well as a number of Black Liberation flags.

The demonstration included a march through the downtown shopping area, where hundreds of people were given leaflets about the two cases.

Other Norfolk groups joining the PSC in the demonstration included: the Center for United Labor Action, the Tidewater Africans, the Defense Committee, the Norfolk Friends of the Farmworkers, and the Committee to Free James Carrington and Thomas Wansley.

A rally was held after the demonstration. Mrs. Otelia Carrington, James Carrington's mother, was the featured speaker. Other speakers were Al Long, Veronica Golas, and Sam Weston of the PSC, and Harvey Hendrix of the Cornel Wilkins Defense Committee. Messages of support came from Local 26 of the Distributive Workers of America, Nathaniel Lee Hawthorne of the Virginia Students Civil Rights Committee, the United Farm Workers Union, and James Carrington.

The participants in the rally agreed to send a message of support to the Black Alliance of Lynchburg, Va., which is fighting for the removal of Royston Jester III, the white racist prosecutor who tried to send Wansley to the electric chair and who recently described Wansley as a "discredit to his race."

Martin Sostre

NEW YORK, Jan. 25—Over 150 people picketed tonight in front of the Waldorf-Astoria where Nelson Rockefeller hosted a party for his millionaire friends to raise funds to further his political ambitions.

The demonstration was organized by the Martin Sostre Defense Committee to confront Rockefeller with his crimes against prisoners: the Attica massacre, the proposed restoration of the death penalty, the attempted behavior modification program, and the systematic disregard of prisoners' human rights.

MARTIN SOSTRE was framed up in 1968 on a phony narcotics charge in Buffalo, N.Y., in the aftermath of a rebellion in the Black community, because the state wanted to shut down his Afro-Asian Bookstore. The demands of today's demonstration were:

1. Stop the sadistic and systematic beatings of Martin Sostre and other prisoners.
2. Stop the rectal searches of prisoners in solitary confinement, a practice already declared degrading, unnecessary, and dehumanizing by federal courts.
3. Stop placing people in remote prisons hundreds of miles from their families, friends, and attorneys, a recommendation endorsed by the state legislature.
4. Grant a new trial to Martin Sostre

—Panama Canal

(Continued from page 13)

rocked by the "Thousand Days' War," a liberal rebellion against the reactionary government seated in Bogota, Colombia. Although unsuccessful in Colombia, the liberals won in Panama, and the Colombian



Support for Thomas Wansley and James Carrington continues to grow. Demonstrators picket as Governor's car passes by.

on the basis of Arto Williams' confession that he framed Sostre in exchange for police favors. The facts and documents are before Judge Curtin and should have brought Sostre's release months ago.

5. Free Martin Sostre from the solitary confinement he has endured for 14 months.
6. End the frameups against Martin Sostre, the Attica brothers, Carlos Feliciano, the "BLA" (Black Liberation Army), Pancho Cruz, and all other political prisoners.
7. Grant unconditional freedom to the five Puerto Rican nationalist prisoners of war held in federal prisons for more than a generation.

For more information on the case of Martin Sostre, contact his defense committee, Box 327, Glen Gardner, N.J. 08826.

BLA

After the prison system and the courts made every effort to force ASSATA SHAKUR (Joanne Chesimard) to suffer a miscarriage, she is now in a New Jersey hospital under constant and heavy police guard. Her trial has been postponed and severed from the trial of SUNDIATA ACOILI (Clark Squire), against whom the state will continue to proceed.

ASSATA had successfully defended herself against frameup armed robbery charges in New York before she was handed over to the New Jersey courts to face murder charges. She and SUNDIATA face these charges for defending themselves against state troopers on the Jersey Turnpike May 2, 1973, an attack which left a Black companion, ZAYD SHAKUR, murdered and a state trooper dead.

Sundiata's trial will continue in prosperous, rightwing Morris County, which is 96 percent white and the only N.J. county to carry Goldwater in 1964. Of the 14 prospective jurors chosen so far, only one is Black.

The trial of SHASHA MALIK (Henry Brown) continues at 100 Centre Street, New York, Part 37, 13th floor. He is charged with the murder of two New York police in 1972 on the Lower East Side. Long before anyone was charged in connection with this event, the police and press immediately went to great lengths to portray their deaths as the work of the Black Liberation Army (BLA).

The trial of the NEW YORK FIVE, Herman Bell, Anthony Bottom, Gabriel Torres, Francisco Torres, and Albert Washington also continues at 100 Centre Street, Part 36, 13th floor. These three Black and two Puerto Rican men are charged with

government sided with the U.S. in intervening and suppressing the revolt. U.S. troops were eventually stationed in the city of Colon, and an agreement was signed aboard the USS Wisconsin on November 21, 1962, which called for a ceasefire and an election of a congress as soon as possible to "deal with the Panama Canal negotiations."

Killing two police in Harlem on May 21, 1971.

Thanks to the press, radio, and TV stations, the names of these two cops, Waverly Jones and Joseph Piagentini, were made household words in New York and a great attempt was made to arouse sympathy among the public. This time, too, the police and press immediately said this was the work of the BLA.

Charges against BERNICE JONES, NEIL THOMPSON, and MICHAEL ALTON have been dropped, and HAROLD SIMMONS was given an "adjournment in contemplation of dismissal."

These four young Black people were arrested on December 27, 1973, and charged with attempting to carry out a plot to rescue six alleged BLA members held in the Tombs, the Manhattan House of Detention for Men.

In the government campaign against the Black Panther Party, over 36 leaders and members were murdered by the forces of repression in this country. Many leaders of the Black liberation struggle have been shot down—Mark Clark, Fred Hampton, Malcolm X, Carl Hampton, and all the other fighters. But has one cop, has one agent of the state apparatus ever gone to trial or jail for these murders?

If a cop dies, for whatever reason, then there is hell to pay. Who belongs to the Black Liberation Army? Whoever the forces of repression choose to frame up. Who must the revolutionary and progressive forces pledge themselves to defend? Every Black liberation fighter who faces these attacks.

And support is especially needed now, when the state has deliberately scheduled all these trials at the same time in order to weaken legal and political defense efforts. Free the BLA fighters!

Smyrna 5

Special to Workers World.

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 2—The SMYRNA 5—Tayari (Ronald Payne), Nihl (Carl Henry), Askofu (Lester S. Johnson), Frat (Gary Watson), and Puff (Thomas Le Grande)—were found guilty of all charges: two counts of assault with intent to commit murder, two of assault on a prison guard, and two of conspiracy. The jury convicted the men after less than four hours of deliberation.

The convictions were not unexpected, as the trial was conducted in an atmosphere reminiscent of Nazi Germany. The five prisoners were transported from prison to court accompanied by 17 uniformed guards and a Delaware State Police escort. The media "dutifully" reported all this—thus,

whipping up a racist hysteria from the outset.

During the course of the trial, plainclothes police, uniformed guards, and off-duty police and guards packed the courtroom, making it impossible for many friends and relatives to watch the proceedings. In addition, guards verbally insulted and harassed friends of the Smyrna 5. Police on three different occasions arrested supporters. Those relatives who were able to attend the trial had to pass through a metal detector system.

Toward the end of the trial, the guards lost all restraint. On January 28, after the court had recessed and the jury was not present, prison guards assaulted Nihl and Puff, both handcuffed, while in the presence of courtroom spectators. After knocking Puff to the ground, they then attempted to clear the courtroom.

When friends and relatives protested these actions, police responded by singling out for arrest two supporters, William Ward and Kwa Uhuru (Cliff Mangrum). They were charged with disorderly conduct and hindering and resisting arrest—classic charges routinely used against Black people and political activists.

The next day, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and relatives of the prisoners held a picket line outside the Public Building where the trial was being held. Later that afternoon, 2,000 leaflets protesting the beatings were distributed downtown. The court responded by banning Keith Watson, a younger brother of one of the prisoners, and Charlotte Flounders, a leading member of the PSC, from further attending the trials.

The state presented no physical evidence linking the Smyrna 5 with the attack on Lt. Earl Pope, a guard notorious for his brutality. Several of the state's witnesses gave contradictory testimony. One guard gave testimony which was considerably different from the statement he had signed seven months earlier. A prisoner, testifying for the state, swore that Thomas Le Grande, one of the defendants, was a prison guard! It was later revealed that he had been promised a parole.

At the time of the alleged attack, the Smyrna 5 were isolated on the notorious B-block, described as a maxi-maxi security tier or as a "prison within a prison." In addition, the prisoners were denied visitation privileges and commissary rights, and had access to showers only once a week. They were physically separated from the rest of the prison population. Yet, the state insisted that the men were able to overcome all these obstacles and attack Lieutenant Pope in his office.

Some months before the attack, in May 1973, prison officials ordered that all metal strips which could possibly be used to forge weapons be removed from chairs, etc. But Lieutenant Pope casually testified that the order was never fully carried out and that some chairs were overlooked—presumably those in B-block, housing the allegedly "most dangerous prisoners" at Smyrna!

From beginning to end, it was obvious that the state intended to legally lynch these five brothers. At the annual "Bench and Bar" dinner held in the exclusive Wilmington Country Club, attended by 200-300 judges and lawyers, the then Chief Justice of the Delaware State Supreme Court, Daniel Wolcott, made statements which showed, as one observer said, "... the five had been prejudged by Wolcott and had been convicted in the Chief Justice's mind." Claiming the prisoners filed

that region and dig, build, maintain perpetually, benefit and protect in that zone, a canal of sufficient depth and capacity for the largest vessels voyaging from the Caribbean to the Pacific." The Hay-Herran Treaty, signed on January 28, 1903, ceded this right to the U.S., but it was rejected by the Colombian Senate.

"frivolous... god-damned petitions," Wolcott also attacked the character of Nihil and Askofo.

State prosecutor Richard Wier unabashedly revealed the strategy during his summation. Waving a blood-stained shirt, which he described as the guard's "red badge of courage," Wier declared, "Really, the case is quite simple. Do you believe Earl Pope?"

Evidently the jury did believe Earl Pope or, what amounted to the same thing, succumbed to the racist hysteria whipped up by the prison administration, guards, police, courts, and the capitalist news media.

But relatives and supporters of the five brothers, who have remained strong and steadfast throughout their ordeal, do not intend to let this verdict remain final.

The Smyrna 5 are innocent! Free the Smyrna 5!



Demonstration for Meisel outside Santa Clara County Jail, Dec. 9, 1973.

Bob Meisel

BOB MEISEL is a 28-year-old house painter and Vietnam veteran who has been held prisoner by the U.S. government for seven months. The only charge is that he has refused to talk to a federal grand jury about the Irish liberation support movement, specifically about gunrunning to the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Currently incarcerated at the Santa Clara County Jail in San Jose, Calif., Bob claims he could not possibly cooperate with the government grand jury schemes designed "to turn us into a nation of informers."

Although no jury convicted or indicted him for any crime, Bob was sent to jail until he is ready to talk or until the grand jury is dissolved in March 1974.

Bob first became involved in the Irish movement in 1968, the year that the civil rights struggle broke out in Northern Ireland. A college student at the time, Bob joined several others to form the Citizens for Irish Justice (CIJ), an organization which was very active for over two years.

His active participation in the support movement was interrupted by the war in

Indochina. He served 18 months in Vietnam, where he became convinced that the U.S. shouldn't have been there. He saw a real parallel between the U.S. presence in Vietnam and that of the British in Ireland.

He returned from Vietnam to a witch-hunt of Irish activists in this country. On the East Coast the Northern Aid Committee had come under attack from the U.S. government in response to a request by the British government. The grand jury was used to intimidate IRA supporters, and five men from New York were jailed in Texas on contempt of court citations.

By October 1972, the effort to crush the Irish support movement had spread to the San Francisco Bay area. Ten people were subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury there. Of these ten, six testified that they knew nothing about the shipment of arms to Ireland; two refused to testify but were dismissed by the grand jury; and Chris Fitch and Bob, who refused to testify, were cited for contempt and set up as examples.

The U.S. Supreme Court turned down the appeal on the contempt charges in June of this year. Today only Bob and DAN CAHALANE, held at Berks County Prison in Reading, Pa., are in prison for refusing to testify to grand juries about the Irish movement.

Several demonstrations have already been held in San Francisco and the Bay area demanding Bob's freedom.

Two were held recently in front of the County Jail in San Jose where Bob is currently imprisoned. Organized by the San Jose Irish Republican Club and friends, the December 15 protest also focused on bad jail conditions in general. Picket signs called for "Jail Nixon, not Bob," "Stop the grand jury," "England out of Ireland," and "End Bad Jail Conditions."

Several prisoners, including Bob, viewed the demonstration through windows.

Less than two weeks after the demonstration a two-day strike occurred at the prison over bad conditions. Some 350 prisoners, including Bob, refused to leave their cells and eat their meals. The strike ended when some of the minor demands were met and an investigation of all demands was ordered by Sheriff Geary.

With support growing for Bob and the prisoners, another picket line was held

outside the jail on January 19. For further information, contact the Joe McCann Irish Republican Club, 255 East William St., San Jose, Calif. 95112.

You can also write directly to Bob Meisel, Santa Clara County Jail, P.O. Box 5547, San Jose, Calif. 95150, or to Daniel Cahalane, Berks County Prison, box 797, Reading, Pa., 19603.

RNA

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 21 (SCEF)—Continuing harassment of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) by federal and local officials has resulted in the arrest of Abdul Malik Mu-min Ghafoor, administrative assistant to RNA President Imari Obadele.

Ghafoor was charged with sending a threatening note to the Circuit Judge Russel D. Moore III, who presided over the trials of RNA citizens following an armed attack on RNA headquarters by police and FBI agents in August 1971. He sentenced three of the defendants to life imprisonment and one to a lesser sentence.

Kahina Amatul Ghafoor, National Treasurer of the RNA, called the charge against her husband "ridiculous."

"Whenever we work to organize around any specific activity, they harass us," she said. "An FBI agent told Malik to get out of town within two weeks. If he was still here, they would come and get him. Then on Monday (January 14) they came with the search warrant."

"There were at least 20 of them, from the FBI, police, and sheriff's office. It was a local warrant, but it seemed like the FBI was in charge."

"The warrant was for a tablet of lined paper, but they searched the whole house for about two hours—took it up, actually. They even took the drain pipe out of the bathroom, supposedly looking for a tablet of paper."

"I saw the piece of paper with the note (allegedly threatening Judge Moore) attached to the warrant. It didn't look anything like my husband's handwriting. But after the search, they arrested him."

According to defense attorney Firnist Alexander, "The maximum fine for this offense is \$500, but bond is set at \$2,500. On its face, the bond is excessive." He expects to move for a reduction of the bond right away. The case is due to come up in court after the second Monday in February.

Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner

RIVERSIDE, Cal., Jan. 28—The third trial of GARY LAWTON and ZUREBU GARDNER has been set for March 4 in Superior Court here. Both are Black men charged with the 1971 killing of two Riverside policemen.

Two previous trials resulted in hung juries, but District Attorney Byron Morton has refused to drop the charges. A third trial after two hung juries is almost unheard of in U.S. legal history.

The District Attorney's office did, in a January 25 hearing, dismiss charges against a third man accused in the case, NEHEMIA JACKSON. It was noted that a witness against him has been threatened with perjury in an unrelated case. Jackson was quoted as saying he has been ordered to appear as prosecution witness in the third trial.

Lawton was not arrested until six weeks after Patrolmen Leonard Christiansen and Paul Teel were ambushed. Just prior to his arrest, Lawton took three lie detector tests; all showed his innocence. Gardner and Jackson were not arrested until six months after Lawton.

The Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee charged that police

were unable to find the real killers, so they arrested the Black men in an effort to create terror in the community.

It was noted that Lawton, a Marine Corps veteran and businessman, has been in the forefront of the fight for rights of Black people for many years.

The first trial, held in Indio, and the second, held in Riverside, have been the longest in the county's history (over six months). Jackson has been tried once, his codefendants twice.

For more information, contact the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee (RPPDC), 3559 Tenth St., Rm. 222, Riverside, Calif. 90201, (714) 684-4098.

Angola 4

BATON ROUGE, La., Jan. 23 (SCEF)—HERMAN WALLACE, the second of four prisoners charged with the murder of a prison guard at the state penitentiary at Angola, La., has been convicted. The death occurred in April, 1972, in the aftermath of a protest against prison conditions. An earlier trial led to conviction of defendant ALBERT WOODFOX in April 1973. This second trial began on January 8, 1974, and ended three days later in the conviction of Wallace and the acquittal of GILBERT MONTEGUT.

The prisoners are known to their friends and supporters as the ANGOLA FOUR. At the time murder charges were filed against them, all four prisoners were active in campaigns to improve conditions of work and living inside the prison. All four prisoners are Black; the guard was white. Thus, in addition to evidence which points to the probable innocence of the four prisoners, at issue in the case are politics and race.

The recent trial was marked with contradiction, inconsistency, and surprise. Chester Jackson, the last of the Angola Four, had a "change of heart" at the beginning of the trial and turned state's evidence. He was one of the key witnesses against his codefendants. His trial was severed from the others and is scheduled to take place some time in the near future, probably on a lesser charge than murder.

Witnesses for the prosecution disagreed with one another on almost every aspect of the incident—the number of killers, their identities, their clothes, and the number of weapons.

One witness said there were five men involved in the murder of the prison guard. Another witness stated there were four. Chester Jackson testified there were only two other men in addition to himself who were involved in the murder.

There were no fingerprints on the alleged murder weapon. Thus, there is no physical evidence to tie Herman Wallace or any other members of the Angola Four to the killing. The two convictions rest solely on opinions and contradictory testimony.

To insure that the trial jury would be appropriately impressed with the importance of the trial and the dangerous character of the defendants, various public officials and prison officials made appearances at the trial, including Ossie Brown, the District Attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish where the trial was being held, and Murray Henderson, the Warden of Angola State Penitentiary.

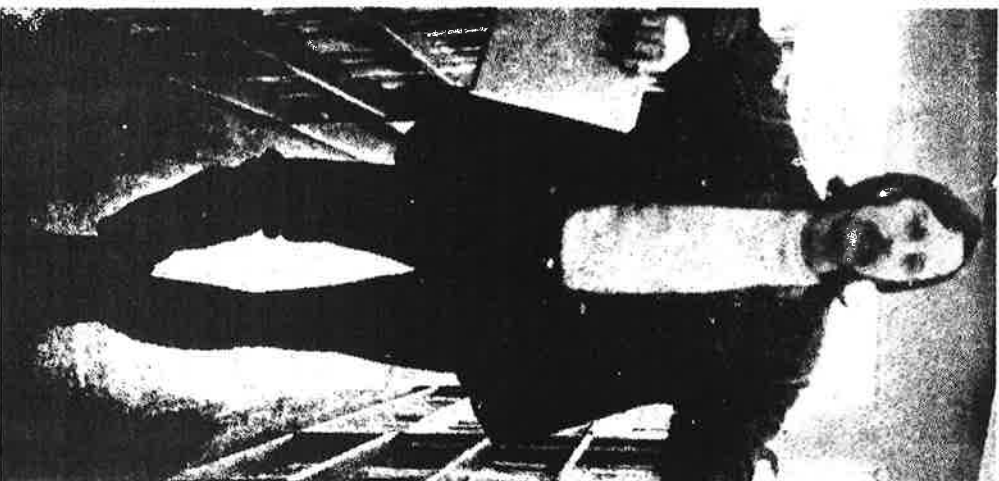
In his closing arguments to the jury, the East Baton Rouge Assistant District Attorney stated: "Inconsistency is indicative of truthfulness."

Apparently convinced of the truth of this statement, the all-white male jury found Herman Wallace guilty of the charge of murder and returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of Gilbert Montegut.

After hearing sentence of "imprisonment for the rest of your natural life" imposed upon him, Herman Wallace shouted to the courtroom spectators: "This is fascism!"

land and have been struggling against it ever since. The Panamanian people are now demanding full, unconditional control over the Canal Zone, with no U.S. troops occupying it. They want to enjoy the benefits of their own territory—denied them by an imperialist power which reaps the fruit of the monopoly.

Philipe Bunau Varilla, director of the French company holding the rights to the Canal Zone area, connived to have the junta empower him to negotiate with the U.S. concerning a treaty for the rights over the Canal. He signed the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty of 1903 on November 18, 1903, without consultation with the Panamanian rulers.



Bob Meisel

Roosevelt's reaction to that was to send 11 warships steaming into the Central American waters loaded with U.S. Marines. Behind the readied guns of the U.S. warships and the protection of the U.S. troops in Colon, a junta was set up to rule Panama. Panama was declared an "independent republic" on November 2, 1903.

Bolivian peasants, workers rock Banzer regime

FEBRUARY 7—A state of seige is still in effect in Bolivia, as the fascist regime headed by General Hugo Banzer is trying to recover from mass protests launched by Bolivia's peasants and workers.

Martial law was declared on January 28 after thousands of armed peasants blockaded roads in Bolivia's central provinces. As many as 100 casualties have been reported by peasant sources in clashes between troops and peasants, although most of the casualties have been on the peasant side.

Large groups of peasants and their leaders in the city of Cochabamba were calling for a worker-peasant government to replace the U.S. imperialist puppet regime in La Paz.

The Banzer government brought on a storm of protest when it announced last month the doubling of food prices. A strike wave had already spread throughout the country in January. On February 2, some



Bolivian peasants blockade road to Cochabamba.

5,000 tin miners in the Oruro mining region went out on strike and declared their "solidarity with the peasants of Cochabamba."

The Banzer regime, a neocolonial captive of U.S. imperialism, has been caught up in a devastating economic crisis which began with a 60 percent devaluation of Bolivia's currency in November 1972. The 2½-year-old military dictatorship has also just suffered its most severe internal factional hostilities, both within civilian and military ranks. The largest bourgeois political party supporting the Banzer regime, the Revolutionary National Movement (MNR), just recently quit the ruling coalition. And rumors of a dissident military wing preparing for another coup are also present.

The most significant aspect of the present crisis is that at no time have the Bolivian peasants and workers ever been so united.

ERP major revolutionary threat to Peron

By P. MEISNER

FEBRUARY 5—Latest reports from Argentina indicate that a guerrilla offensive may have been launched by the Revolutionary Army of the People (ERP), to first isolate the repressive regime of Juan Peron, and eventually split the Peronist left away from the Peronist right (now represented by Peron himself) and over the revolutionary side of the class barricades.

Guerrillas attacked another police station yesterday in northern Argentina, seriously wounding one policeman and perhaps others. The attack followed a successful ERP assault on an army tank garrison just two weeks ago in the city of Azul, 170 miles southwest of Buenos Aires (see Workers World, Jan. 25).

While the ERP and its political party, the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), have concentrated their military attacks on foreign monopolies and the ultra-right armed forces of Argentina, they have also unconditionally attacked the Peron government politically for its repressive measures and its outright subservience to the Argentinian capitalist rulers. The intention to develop a revolutionary vanguard completely independent of Peron and Peronism has clearly differentiated the ERP and the PRT from all other political organizations in Argentina.

However, some radical organizations here in the U.S. have gone out of their way to denounce the ERP. The revisionist CPUSA, for instance, calls the ERP ultra-left for not recognizing the "progressive" aspects of Peron.

These reformists deliberately confuse the post-World War II Peron government with the present one. Peron came back to Argentina from exile this time in an agreement with the Argentine bourgeoisie and military to save capitalism from destruction in Argentina. Peron's role today is clearly to suppress the Argentine working class on behalf of the capitalist class, rather than straddle the class fence as he did for

several years during his earlier regime.

Some of the so-called Maoist groups in the U.S. have criticized the ERP for not adhering to the line of what they call "people's war" and the "two-stage revolution" in Argentina. The latter position claims that Argentina is in the "anti-imperialist and democratic revolution" stage, and therefore, that the ERP attacks on the Argentine military are wrong.

Not only has the two-stage revolution theory been long ago refuted by historical

struggle is a false "Guevarist" position.

First of all, Che Guevara was a leader of a victorious socialist revolution which once again confirmed the Marxist-Leninist position of the necessity of armed insurrection to completely smash and destroy the old capitalist (and in this case also the old colonial) state. Secondly, it is false to say that Guevara excluded parliamentary struggle from the arsenal of tactics to be employed by a revolutionary party. Guevara pointed out the temporary and limited



Police under new Peron regime round up leftwing demonstrators in Buenos Aires.

experience, but to place Argentina, the most industrialized country in Latin America, within that model is doubly absurd. There is no longer any significantly progressive section of the Argentine bourgeoisie to speak of, even in relation to U.S. and European imperialism. And as far as the workers are concerned, the Argentine bourgeoisie is thoroughly reactionary.

Another tendency in the U.S., the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) attacks the ERP as "terrorist" and not "mass-based" or not correctly oriented to "independent electoral politics." This line argues that Argentina is at the present time conducive to "electoral struggle" and that armed

character of the tactic of peaceful struggle in even the most democratic of capitalist nations.

These tendencies in the U.S. were the same ones who vociferously denounced the MIR in Chile during the Allende regime, for very much the same reasons. Yet, the MIR was virtually the only organization in Chile conscious of and prepared for the inevitable counter-revolution in that country. To this day, the MIR offers the greatest resistance to the fascist terror in Chile.

This is not to say that the situation is the same today in Argentina as it was in Chile. But the blind, self-defeating, and opportunist attacks leveled against the ERP

are coming from old familiar voices.

There is certainly room for healthy ideological struggle in Argentina over the strategy and tactics of the ERP and the PRT. But the opportunist attacks on the ERP by some of the major radical tendencies in the U.S. are not in that spirit—they are in a spirit of narrow factionalism and "respectable" capitulationism.

Ask aid for vets

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (ASU)—The American Servicemen's Union, an organization of GIs and veterans which has been fighting to win "economic justice" for vets ever since soldiers began coming home from Vietnam, is asking Mayor Beame to give every New York city veteran a \$100 emergency "energy crisis" grant as an initial display of good will toward vets here on behalf of the new administration.

With this token money, vets may at least be able to purchase a warm coat to wear on the unemployment line, or while sitting at home in dilapidated, freezing tenements. The city council found the money to give itself a generous pay raise, as well as to renovate Gracie Mansion, so it should be able to dig up the money for vets.

The Lindsay administration made a criminal record in the area of veterans' affairs when it was disclosed in the summer of 1972 that city hall appointees had been using funds designated for veterans under the "emergency employment" act to create jobs for political cronies and relatives.

The ASU feels that actions speak louder than words. Vets are tired of empty promises and subway posters boasting: "Hire the Vet." We want something we understand and relate to, like money.

Here is a chance for Beame to start off on a good foot with the masses of New York City veterans who are fighting a downhill battle against employment and inflation.

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