



WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12

X-523



SOUTH AFRICA

Labor unions have become an integral part of the liberation struggle in South Africa. 4

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sam Marcy writes on the relation of the stock market to the capitalist economic cycle, and shows why the crash is only the beginning of the crisis. 6

SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

A timely conference in New York City on Nov. 14 will present a unique Marxist view on the crash on Wall Street. 5



RED OCTOBER

Nov. 7 marks the 70th anniversary of the revolution that established the first workers' state. Was this historic event in Russia just a secret coup, as some claim, or a genuine mass uprising? 9

Weinberger out — militarism still in

Growing anti-war sentiment forces change in style at Pentagon

By Joyce Chediac

Why is Caspar Weinberger leaving the Reagan administration? The reason has a lot to do with form and little to do with substance.

His exit is a reflection of a concern in the Reagan camp over the approaching elections, and the fact that cuts in the bloated defense budget are becoming increasingly popular.

There is a growing hostility among the mass of the people to the calls now being made by Reagan and the leaders of Congress to make further cuts in social programs while the Pentagon's budget continues to rise faster than the stock market is falling.

Despite the media's attempt to play it down, Jesse Jackson's call for cuts in military

spending is one reason for his growing popularity. People are tired of having huge chunks taken out of their paychecks to make military contractors rich while their own families, friends and neighbors are being put into the poorhouse.

Weinberger, more than any other official in the Reagan administration, is associated in the public eye with the \$1.5 trillion giveaway to the Pentagon. His name is firmly wedded to Star Wars and to Washington's aggression in the Persian/Arabian Gulf.

While the ruling class as a whole is firmly behind this gargantuan military buildup, when election time rolls around it likes its parties to look more peaceful in order to increase their popularity. Weinberger, who is well-known as a

hawk, is now seen as a liability for the Republicans and a potential focus of anti-war sentiments.

Some of the media have made reference to a dispute between Weinberger and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). But it is important to remember that the Defense Secretary is never 100% aligned with the Joint Chiefs, who have their own political agenda. The JCS may well want Weinberger to take the heat if events backfire for them in the Gulf.

This is not the first time that a Defense Secretary has been ousted in the mid-term period before elections. Under the Ford administration, James Schlesinger, who was also known as a hardliner, headed the war department. As the

Continued on page 6



'U.S. OUT OF PERSIAN GULF, CENTRAL AMERICA!'

Marchers take message into streets around the country.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Country singers stage benefit for Leonard Peltier

By J. Marquardt
San Francisco

Following a benefit concert for political prisoner Leonard Peltier, held in the Costa Mesa Pacific Amphitheater in Southern California on Oct. 27, two Los Angeles-area radio stations refused to play songs by two of the performers: Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson.

The stations took the action after a public statement made prior to the concert by Los Angeles FBI agent Richard Brezing attacking Peltier. Leonard Peltier is a leader in the American Indian Movement (AIM)

and was part of the historic 1973 liberation of Wounded Knee in South Dakota. Following Wounded Knee, the federal government responded with armed FBI raids into the Pine Ridge Reservation and other forms of harassment aimed at breaking the Indian movement.

Peltier has been jailed for 12 years, wrongly convicted in the deaths of two FBI agents who were part of a planned government assault to crush AIM. His case has been cited by Amnesty International as an example of political imprisonment by the U.S. government. A wealth of documentation has built

up over the years showing the FBI conspiracy to convict and jail Peltier because he was a leader of the American Indian Movement. The FBI's secret war against Peltier was similar to its covert operations against Martin Luther King.

The concert, dubbed "Cowboys for Indians and Justice for Leonard Peltier" drew several thousand people, despite some hostile picketers. In addition to Nelson and Kristofferson, the benefit also featured Jackson Browne, Joni Mitchell, Clayton Moore and Robin Williams.

San Bernardino, Calif., station KQLH-FM and Riverside, Calif., sta-

tion KWRM-AM maligned the benefit conference. Station KQLH-FM's president and general manager Pat Michaels repeated the FBI's version of events as the reason to ban the performers from the airwaves.

This version of what happened has been denounced worldwide by such figures as South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, 55 members of the U.S. Congress and 47 top religious figures in the U.S. Attempts to discredit the efforts to free Leonard Peltier brought even greater attention to the case than was previously given, as print press and aired news repeated details regarding the entire Peltier matter.

Court opens gate to California executions

By Stephanie Hedgecote
San Francisco

The California Supreme Court handed down two decisions that clear the way for many death sentences to be upheld, and many more to be imposed.

On Oct. 13, the court overturned a 1983 ruling that to impose the death penalty in murder cases requires a finding of intent to kill. State Atty. Gen. John K. Van de Kamp had said that the ruling is expected to speed the rate of death penalty decisions. Some 198 capital cases are pending court review or decision at this time.

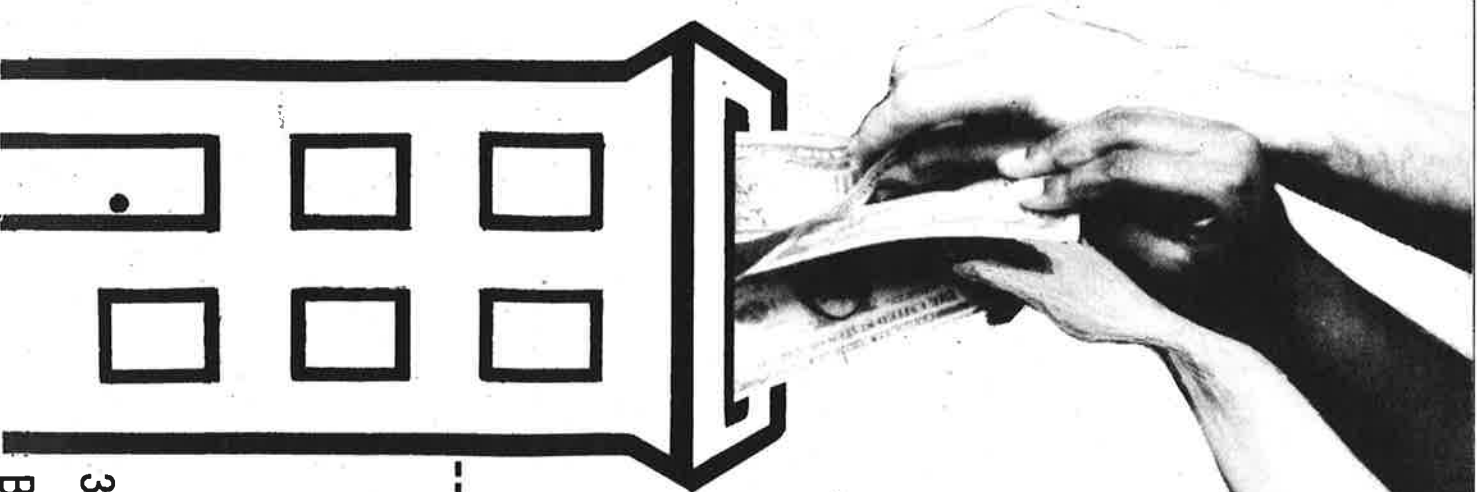
Two days later the court upheld the death sentence of Oscar Gates on a murder conviction, citing the earlier ruling. Gates' appeal also involved the

issue of the presiding judge's clarity in delivering instructions to the jury. According to a 1985 Supreme Court ruling, jurors must be instructed that they have broad discretion in weighing aggravating and mitigating evidence, and are not obligated to reach a decision they believe to be wrong.

Gates, a Black man, had never been in trouble prior to an incident with a racist store owner in Mississippi, where he grew up. Later, he was beaten by California police. Gates' lawyers had proven this and additional mitigating evidence, but the judge had given improper instructions to the jurors and had not referred to the mitigating evidence. The State Supreme Court ruled that procedural errors had occurred, but were not serious enough to retry the case.

These reactionary rulings follow a recomposition of the high court after last year's right-wing attack on Chief Justice Rose Bird and two other judges, who, as a result, were defeated in state elections. The attack was intended to move the court to the right in its review of death sentences.

Last April, Amnesty International began a campaign to expose the racist use of the death penalty in the U.S. Black people are condemned to death 600% more frequently than white people in cases involving white homicide victims. The numbers of Black and white homicide arrests in the U.S. since 1972 are almost equal. The numbers of Black and white murder victims have been roughly equal, yet 87% executed since 1977 were convicted of killing white people.



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30th ANNIVERSARY

BUILDING FUND

In this issue...

INTERNATIONAL	
Gulf war protested.....	3
South Africa unions lead liberation struggle	4
October Revolution	9
NATIONAL	
Weinberger out — militarists remain	1
Leonard Peltier benefit	2
Supreme Court nominee — Son of Bork	3
Marxist conference on market crash	5
Wall Street workers' jobs threatened	5
Stock market glossary	5
Next phase of crisis by Sam Marcy	6
ARC-AIDS vigil enters 3rd year	11
Arizona governor targeted for racism	11
On the picketline	11
FEATURES AND EDITORIALS	
Whose war?	8
Farcical amnesty	8
NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL	
Sudafrika	12
CIA	12

WORKERS WORLD

46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010 Telephone: (212) 255-0352

Vol. 29, No. 45/Nov. 12, 1987 Closing news date: Nov. 4, 1987

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Editorial office: (212) 206-8222. Subscriptions: One year: \$10.00; 6 months: \$6.00. All letters received by Workers World become the property of the newspaper. We reserve the right to print letters in condensed form. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or Xerox from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010. Bundle rates available on request.



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The Bolsheviks And War

By Sam Marcy

In this book Marcy deals with questions long at issue in the anti-war movement both for the historical record and in light of today's dangerous international situation and the Pentagon's build-up for nuclear war.

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From: World View Forum
46 West 21 Street
New York, N.Y. 10010

Anti-war forces protest U.S. role in gulf war

By Joyce Cheediac

November 2 — Demonstrations in four cities this week said a firm "no!" to Washington's war of aggression in Central America and the Persian/Arabian Gulf.

The actions also aimed their fire at Wall Street and U.S. corporations as the force behind the Pentagon, stood in solidarity with the oppressed people of the Middle East and Central America, and demanded social justice at home.

On Oct. 31, more than 300 people took to the streets in New York City and 70 marched in Rochester, N.Y., both through busy downtown shopping areas.

Boston protesters picketed a Navy recruiting station on Oct. 30. San Francisco anti-war activists demonstrated today in front of Chevron's headquarters in that city's financial district, where speakers included representatives from the Committee to End the Iran-Iraq War and the Nov. 29 Committee for Palestine. This protest also hit Chevron for its massive pollution of North Richmond, Calif.

In marked contrast to the impression given by the daily media, demonstrations in New York City and Rochester found a real concern among working and oppressed people and youth over these war moves abroad and their impact at home.

Young people from campuses and high schools were enthusiastic participants in these actions. The protests were favorably noted by passersby who sometimes smiled and waved, with some joining in to march for a few blocks and others coming over to hear speakers. The clearly anti-corporate message of key speakers was especially well-received by the youth.

In New York City, the diverse protesters — young and old, Black, Latino and white, Iranian, Arab and Kurdish, disabled and able bodied — began their demonstration in front of Macy's department store.

Stepping off behind a banner which read, "U.S. out of Central America and the Persian Gulf! Stop aid to the contrast! No war against Iran!" demonstrators snaked their way through this packed shopping area where they were seen and heard by thousands.

Chanting "We need jobs and services, not war!" and "We won't fight for Wall Street!" they picketed the military recruiting station at Times Square and then marched to Exxon's corporate headquarters. Speakers addressed the crowd at each site.

"To the White House, Central America and the Persian Gulf are seen as colonial territories, as possessions, not as independent nations," said Larry Holmes, a national coordinator of the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM). "The billions of dollars now financing aggression should be used instead to eliminate poverty, racism and all forms of inequality and discrimination."

Yvonne Melendez, one of the Puerto Rico 15, gave a solidarity message from all the defendants. "We are struggling to stop the use of Puerto Rico as a military base and warehouse for nuclear weapons and as Washington's practicing ground for maneuvers to invade Nicaragua and El Salvador."

Teresa Gutierrez, a leader of the All-Peoples Congress (APC), spoke in solidarity with the people of Central America. "Our enemies aren't in Iran or Nicaragua or anywhere where people are in the White House and Washington."

Elombe Brath, of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, cautioned that



New York City rally alerts thousands to the need to fight U.S. intervention in Central America and the Persian Gulf.

the Reagan administration, faced with an economic crisis it can't solve, may try to scapegoat Black, Latino and other oppressed people.

"The people of Iran and Iraq want this war to end," said Reza, an Iranian activist and a PAM organizer. "But the Pentagon and NATO are not there to bring peace, but to dominate, op-

Reagan's Halloween surprise — Son of Bork

By Sharon Shelton

When Ronald Reagan nominated ultra-rightist Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, setting off a storm of protest from Black organizations, women's groups and others, he promised to put forth someone just as bad if Bork was rejected.

Reagan kept his promise. His new Robert Bork is Douglas Ginsburg, a candidate who was opposed by Reagan's own chief of staff as too reactionary.

Dubbed "Baby Bork," "Bork's ideological clone" and "Son of Bork," Ginsburg, like Bork himself, is known as a pro-big business, anti-labor judge. Ginsburg has a record both at the Justice Department and on the District of Columbia Appeals Court of, in his words, "getting government off the back" of big business and opposing the rights of workers to organize.

Although there is no record of his opinions concerning abortion and the rights of Black and other oppressed peoples, this is partly due to his inexperience as a judge; Ginsburg served only one short year on the appeals court and then ruled mainly on cases concerning federal regulation. He has written virtually nothing on social issues.

One indication of his views on these issues, however, is the fact that during his days at the University of Chicago, when most students were growing their hair long, wearing sandals and attending civil rights and anti-war protests, Ginsburg stayed home from the rallies and wore a three-piece suit and tie to school every day. His classmates say that even during those years of dissent Ginsburg was known as an extreme conservative.

What's more, even as other Reagan cabinet members worried that naming another Bork would touch off the anger of women, Black people and others, none other than ultra-rightist

press and exploit the vast natural wealth — oil and the land."

"It's not the people of the Middle East who are taking away my wages as a Greyhound driver," explained Harold Mendlowitz, president of Local 1202, Amalgamated Transit Union-Greyhound. "It's not the Sandinistas who want to take away my

Attorney General Ed Meese pushed hard for Ginsburg's candidacy. Meese certainly must recognize a fellow reactionary when he sees one!

Anti-worker, pro-big business rulings

One thing that is clearly on the record is Ginsburg's anti-worker rulings in favor of big business. As a member of the Appeals Court, for example, Ginsburg opposed fining the notorious Consolidation Coal Co. for its flagrant violation of coal dust standards in the miners. Apparently, the Supreme Court candidate didn't bother to trouble himself about the suffering of the miners from the dreaded Black Lung disease.

Ginsburg also ruled that teachers working for the military overseas could not engage in collective bargaining against their employer, the Department of Defense.

Working in the Office of Management and Budget for Reagan in the mid-1980s, Ginsburg tried to circumvent Congressional waste disposal. A Congressional committee report complained that his efforts were "secret and heavy handed" and "an unlawful abuse of power," and a federal judge ruled that Ginsburg's interference "raises some constitutional concerns."

Ginsburg's toadying for big business has proved profitable. Although he has held jobs as only a professor and as a government official, he has somehow managed to become a millionaire. According to a financial disclosure statement filed last year, Ginsburg's total wealth is somewhere around a million dollars, mostly invested in real estate.

With those big bucks flowing in from no visible source, the disclosure that Ginsburg held \$140,000 stock in a cable TV company while directing a Justice Department effort to rule in

the favor of cable operators should surprise no one.

The Democrats made a lot of noise about how they opposed Reagan's appointment of Bork, and some say they will fight against the Ginsburg nomination as well. But this doesn't mean that these politicians are therefore the champions of women, Black people and all those affected by the reactionary policies of the ultra-right.

Antonin Scalia is every bit as much an open reactionary as Bork, but when Reagan nominated him to the high court, the Senate — both Republicans and Democrats — unanimously confirmed him, just like they've backed practically all of Reagan's anti-people programs.

In reality, it's getting close to election time and hence the periodic charade that the Democrats go through to make it seem like they're somehow fundamentally different from the other party of big business, the Republicans.

While it's important to oppose the Ginsburg nomination, no one should be deceived that his appointment or rejection could fundamentally change the Supreme Court itself. More than any other branch of government, the Supreme Court is highly undemocratic. Its members are appointed for life. No one elects the nine justices who sit on the bench; no one even asks working and oppressed people how they feel about the candidates to the high court.

Historically, the court's mission has been to reinforce the rule of the rich, to promote racism and sexism, and to circumvent popular will by reviewing legislation passed by Congress.

Any progressive decisions that the Supreme Court has carried out have been due to the struggles of poor and working people in the streets. Ultimately, it is the class struggle that determines the course of history — not Bork and not his ideological clone.

Union movement central to South African liberation

By Carmen Roundtree

In September 1984, the world witnessed an explosion inside of South Africa. A new struggle by the oppressed masses started against the racist apartheid regime. The struggle, not unlike others that had preceded it in Sharpeville and Soweto, was to take on a more prolonged and revolutionary character.

The Sharpeville massacre and the Soweto rebellion were two great insurrections in South Africa's history, amidst a number of smaller ones, that took on worldwide significance. Both of these uprisings marked a new phase in the struggle against apartheid, as well as acting as dress rehearsals for the struggle that will ultimately lead to victory for the workers and op-

pressed in South Africa.

This latest stage in the struggle has shaken the very foundation on which the apartheid regime rests. It has not confined itself to the youth and the students, but has spread like wildfire and singed the very fibers that hold the system together.

Trade unions, which had been outlawed by the government in the mid 1970s after big struggles, became an integral part of the liberation struggle against apartheid, against capitalism and imperialism inside South Africa, and for the true emancipation of the South African masses.

Significance of mineworkers' strike

The strike last September by the South African mineworkers against South Africa's largest gold mining

conglomerate, Anglo American, marked a tremendous advance, not only for the national union of mineworkers but for the entire working class in South Africa as a whole.

The significance of this strike cannot and should not be judged simply on its economic results alone. The real significance of the strike is that it demonstrated the real revolutionary potential of the South African working class. The fact that the workers came out in such overwhelming force, some 340,000 strong, made the strike a tremendous step forward.

While before there had been militant actions by the miners, the last big strike was more than 40 years ago when about 100,000 struck for a few days before being forced back to work by South African troops. The contin-

uation of this latest strike, even though it lasted three weeks, was made extremely difficult by the unrelenting terror employed by Anglo American's so-called auxiliary security forces, who, along with the South African police, fired into the ranks of unarmed strikers on a number of different occasions, killing nine miners and wounding many more.

Role of COSATU

This strike, as well as other struggles by the trade unions in South Africa such as the strike of 100,000 workers against O.K. Bazaar stores and the strike of 32,000 railworkers that lasted for three months, must be seen in the context of the broad social program of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), to which these unions belong. COSATU was formed in December 1985 and has adopted a political program that calls for the "end of the current apartheid government, a large-scale redistribution of the wealth and the nationalization of the mines as well as other sectors of the economy." COSATU also at a recent conference adopted the Freedom Charter of the African National Congress, the outlawed liberation movement.

Is it any wonder that the apartheid regime tries to crush the just struggle of the workers with brute force? These demands, made by COSATU, are part and parcel of the overall liberation struggle being waged by the South African masses, who in many areas in South Africa have already passed from dual power to the political control of self-governing townships.

In the past the racist regime tried to beat the masses into submission through brutal slaughters and attacks. But the oppressed workers in South Africa have taken center stage. They have rendered South Africa ungovernable.

COSATU has embarked on a campaign to organize the unorganized, as well as the unemployed. This is what a trade union should do. This is what makes them strong and scars the living hell out of the imperialist rulers.

South Africa's whole economy relies upon the labor of the Black South African workers. Without it, South Africa's wealth could not be tapped. Capitalist development in South Africa has also meant the further development of more skilled Black workers. South Africa could not be run on the small pool of white workers within its borders.

In the past, South Africa was able to temporarily squash the workers' struggles with their large advanced military apparatus. But what the regime has found out in this latest stage of struggle is that they can no longer rule in the same old way. They can no longer rule the people by force. The repression of the state is only met with the further determination of the oppressed to win their freedom.

And what history has taught us is that capitalism creates its own grave diggers — the working class.



Striking Mercedes-Benz workers in South Africa raise their hands to show they want 5 Rands, or \$2.50, per hour. The West German-based auto company dismissed all 2,800 of the workers when the union asked that wages be raised. The labor unions are playing a key role in the fight against apartheid.

PHOTO: AFP/ARX/IMPACT VISUALS



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In **High Tech, Low Pay**, Sam Marcy uses Marxism to explain the forces of capitalism that are behind layoffs and other changes in the workplace. Marcy shows a fighting strategy that can lead to a workers' victory against the anti-labor assaults.
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Marxist conference to explain stock market debacle

By Robert Dobrow
New York

"As soon as we put the posters up, people come by and start reading them. And they stand there and read the whole thing. Everyone wants to know what's going to happen with the economy."

That's how one Workers World Party member described the poster paste-ups

Crash threatens 200,000 jobs linked to Wall Street

By Mary Owen
New York

November 3 — While media coverage of the Wall Street collapse has focused on the "losses" to the bankers and brokers, relatively little has been said about the impact of the collapse on the workers in the financial district and the New York metropolitan area.

Yet this impact, just beginning to be felt, could be significant.

Due to the speculation and the "boom" on Wall Street, the financial district had been experiencing an increase in jobs. Over 50,000 jobs were directly created in the area between 1982 and 1987, accounting for one-third of all private sector jobs for that period in New York City.

For each Wall Street job, an additional two or three others were created in a supporting area such as clerical, retail sales or restaurant work. That totals some 150,000 to 200,000 workers whose jobs could be in jeopardy if a depression follows the collapse.

A ripple effect

Just as the surrounding community is affected when a factory closes, cab drivers, messengers, clerks, secretaries, restaurant workers and many others could be directly affected by layoffs in the financial district.

However, rather than demand that the banks, big real estate interests and the billionaire speculators who made so much during the "boom" years make some provisions for these workers, the city government is itself launching an attack on its own workers that will have sweeping repercussions on New York City residents.

On Oct. 27, Mayor Ed Koch announced a "preliminary" 90-day freeze on hiring for 5,200 jobs, suspended a 5% raise for 4,000 managerial employees and held up a \$64 million city contribution to the municipal pension plan.

A stock market glossary — that's no bull

Stock A share of ownership in a capitalist corporation. Firms sell stock to raise capital, that is, money for investment. Profits from these investments come from the exploitation of working people.

Stock Exchange An organized marketplace where corporate stocks are bought and sold under a sort of auction procedure where buyers bid for shares. The New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street is the largest in the U.S. There are additional stock exchanges in Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and other cities.

Dow Jones Industrial Average The price of 30 "blue chip" stocks, including IBM, GM, Exxon. This is

which are taking place throughout New York City to build for an upcoming party conference on the stock market crash.

This conference will be an exciting, timely event that will present a unique Marxist view on Wall Street's recent troubles. It may not tell you the difference between a Ginnie Mae and a Freddie Mac or offer advice on where to invest your cash. But it will explain

"Because city workers remember the sacrifices they had to make to bail out the banks during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s, the mayor's announcement has been met with apprehension," said Mike Gimbel, president of Water Resources Chapter 8 of Local 375, DC 37, AFSCME. "At the same time, many workers are infuriated that the city is going after them and their pension funds while not even touching the big real estate interests and allowing their tax breaks to continue."

In addition to the freeze, some planned repairs to streets, sewers and parks have been held up and the city plans to seek reductions in services by non-profit agencies doing work for the city. All this will impact on workers and oppressed people who are already suffering from reduced services.

Potential for fightback

As significant as the repercussions of the Wall Street collapse may be, workers should not be caught up in the doom and gloom spirit of the bosses. The period of the 1930s and the more recent period of plant closings have shown that, after an initial period of understandable inactivation, the workers and oppressed inevitably develop some form of fightback.

During the 1970s fiscal crisis, city workers took to the streets in the thousands to fight the cutbacks. Two years ago, Wall Street experienced its first strike by financial workers at the Depository Trust Company (DTC) who militantly picketed and marched through the streets, receiving the enthusiastic support of other service workers in the area.

Just last week, the New York Stock Exchange workers, members of OPEIU Local 153, voted 18-to-1 in favor of strike authorization after their contract expired on Oct. 31. These are all positive signs that layoffs and cutbacks in the financial district and the city will ultimately be met with resistance by those affected.

the average given on the TV network news every night.

Bull Market A period during which the average price of stock goes up.

Bear Market A period during which the average price for stock goes down. At the beginning of October many capitalists were predicting that the Dow Jones Average would climb another 1,000 points when suddenly it dropped 500, wiping out half-a-trillion dollars.

Stock Broker An agent who executes orders for the purchase or sale of stock, for which he gets a commission. Big brokerage houses, like Merrill Lynch, dominate this business. Five were put out of business by the recent plunge in stock prices, having lost vast sums.

why the crash happened, what it will mean for the workers and oppressed, and what the solution is. It will provide a solid and theoretically sound exposition on the state of the capitalist economy that goes far beyond the glib formulas and pathetic apologies doled out as "economic analysis" by the capitalist press.

After all, as readers of this newspaper know, Workers World Party was not taken by surprise by the financial bust. Unlike the over-paid analysts, brokers and college professors who thought the bull market was a virtual eternal category, Workers World understood — and wrote about it many times — that a collapse was inevitable. The roller coaster boom-and-bust ride of capitalism is part of the ABCs of Marx's revolutionary analysis of the workings of the profit system. And the one thing that the stock market crash did, better than any textbook or academic debate could ever do, was to confirm Marxism.

This theme will be explored in greater depth at the upcoming event.

Party Chairman Sam Marcy will address the gathering. Major speeches will be given by Workers World's president and vice-presidential candidates, Larry Holmes and Gloria La Riva, among others.

Anyone who thinks that this conference will be a dry, academic, textbook discussion of economics will be sorely disappointed. The meeting will present a fresh, militant outlook on the capitalist collapse, and connect it to such seemingly unrelated and distant issues as the Persian Gulf and Central America, jobs and pensions, the AIDS crisis, the coming election and the fight against racism.

A major part of the conference will be nine workshops that will allow for detailed examination and fuller discussion of many aspects of the capitalist economy. See the accompanying advertisement for the topics of these workshops and for the time and place of the conference. The meeting will be free to the public. For more information, contact Workers World Party at (212) 255-0352.

SOCIALIST CONFERENCE SAT. NOV. 14

THE STOCK

MARKET

CRASH

- Why did it happen?
- What will it mean for workers, unemployed and students?
- Will it lead to war in the Persian Gulf and Central America?
- What is the solution to the crisis?

9:30 AM

Hear a Marxist analysis by Sam Marcy

Chairperson of Workers World Party and author of Anatomy of the Economic Crisis, Reinstrumentalization: The Menace Behind the Promise and High Tech, Low Pay

2:15 PM

FIGHT BACK PROGRAM: Hear Larry Holmes and Gloria LaRiva

Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates of Workers World Party, and other speakers.

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM — **WORKSHOPS will take up:**

- 1929 and 1987: What's the same, what's changed? Is capitalism stronger or weaker?
- Why capitalism doesn't work — a basic Marxist understanding of capitalist boom and bust cycles.
- U.S. banks on the brink of home and abroad — The international debt crisis, the national deficit and the Pentagon budget.
- Wall Street crash and the working class struggle: Impact on jobs, social services, the disabled and the AIDS crisis.
- How will this affect the struggle against racism, sexism and lesbian & gay oppression?
- The bankrupt economic programs of the Democrats and Republicans.
- Can the capitalist system overcome the economic crisis through war?
- Capitalist crisis and the socialist countries.
- International effects of the crisis.

Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School

127 East 22 St., NYC (Corner of Lexington Ave.)

Contact: Workers World Party 46 W. 21 St., NY, NY 10010 (212) 255-0352

Investment Banker Sometimes called an underwriter, an investment banker is a middleman between the corporation issuing new stocks and the people who buy them. Most of the time when new stocks are issued investment bankers buy the stock directly from the corporation. They then form a syndicate to resell them. Large financial institutions, led by the Morgan and Rockefeller banks, fund many of these investment operations from behind the scenes.

the customer put up money or securities if the stock price falls below a minimum standard. These margins calls ruined a lot of investors when the stock market took a dive. One, who lost \$15 million, killed his broker in Florida.

Speculator A speculator does not buy stock to get the dividend profit payment each quarter. Instead, the speculator, who may be a rich individual or even a gigantic financial institution, buys and sells a stock, often on the same day, in the hopes that its value will go up. Speculation drove the stock markets of the world to fantastic heights until the crash.

Margin The amount being paid by the customer when using credit to buy

the stock, the balance being put up by the broker. In a so-called margin call, the broker will demand that

The next phase of the crisis

By Sam Marcy

November 2 — When the decline in the stock market took on a really swift momentum in mid-October and the market started to drop by 50, 60 and even 100 points, the financial analysts, stockbrokers, and investment banking officials, all apologists for the capitalist system, insisted that these momentous drops were merely a "correction." They held firmly to that position even after the market crashed 508 points on that critical Monday, Oct. 19.

Even then, the apologists continued to defend their views. They feared the truth might deepen the crisis. For instance, among the networks, ABC and NBC continued to stick with the word "plunge." Only CBS dared to call it a crash, but then corrected itself and retreated back to plunge.

Rockefeller: It's a crash, but . . .

Only here and there did any stock analysts mention the term crash. Finally, when the results were only too obvious, it took none other than David Rockefeller himself, appearing on CNN on Oct. 29 and 30, to legitimize it as a stock market crash of the dimensions of 1929. But he then added, and again reiterated a week later, that it "might cause a recession" if Washington didn't institute "the right policies" (meaning, of course, deep budget cuts affecting the vital interests of the working people).

Thus, the first inclination of the apologists for the capitalist system was to deny what had actually happened — an unprecedented stock market crash that went beyond the dimensions of the one in 1929. And even after the debacle, the ruling class economists continue to allege that the crash was unrelated to the "fundamentals," meaning the economic situation.

They persist in propagandizing the view that this global, cataclysmic phenomenon was something strictly within the framework of the stock market and did not affect the economic situation. In this way they try to divorce the stock market and the banks — that is, the nerve center of the capitalist system — from its anatomy, the entire economic and class structure on which the stock market is built. Only slowly does it begin to come out that there may be "economic consequences," as they put it.

Can't have it both ways

For decades now, the bourgeois economists have been trumpeting the glories of the stock market and its vital significance for the economic wellbeing of the country as a whole. Now their first instinct on sensing the emergence of the crash is to deny what they have been saying for years, and, in fact, to say the very opposite! They want to have it both ways.

It soon became impossible to maintain this position, so they moved away from it ever so slightly, some saying that the crash might have "marginal significance" for the economy as a whole. But they immediately qualified this with the hopeful note that a rebound is inevitable.

Yes, a rebound is inevitable, as the whole history of capitalism shows. But when? One week from now, one year, ten years? And on what historical scale? Will a rebound of the stock market alone be able to avoid the inevitable economic collapse?

What happens at the stock market is a representation of the conditions of capitalist production. Before much time passes, all this will surely become clear. But it is indispensable to say it, because capitalist propaganda shrouds in mystery the functions of the stock market and financial dealings in general. It cultivates the greatest amount of confusion and deception regarding the true nature of the capitalist economy.

Millions directly affected

How broadly does the financial crisis reach? "As of the early 1980s, three out of four men, women and children in the U.S. either owned shares of corporate stock or stock mutual funds directly in their own names or had an indirect stake through their pension funds, insurance policies, savings accounts or other forms of institutional investments." (From the *Money Encyclopedia*, 1984, edited by Harvey Rachlin.) They used to boast about this. Now they're trying to play it down.

The stock market, which had been an example of capitalist prosperity, now will turn out to be the instrument to facilitate the wholesale expropriation of millions of workers and middle-class people through the loss of their savings, pensions and other retirement funds, insurance funds and other institutions, all of which have played the stock market.

The onus is put on the yuppies, but their numbers have been greatly exaggerated in the capitalist media during the period of capitalist stability, so as to take the heat off the giant multinationals, banks and the stock exchanges and divest them of responsibility.

Before going further, it is necessary to put in historical perspective the role of the stock market in the capitalist economy, without either embellishing it or denying its vast significance.

Engels on the stock exchange

As long ago as 1894, Frederick Engels, in supplementary notes updating Volume 3 of *Capital*, said about the stock exchange:

"The position of the stock exchange in capitalist production in general is clear from Vol. III, Part 5. . . . But since 1865, when the book was written, a change has taken place which today assigns a considerably increased and constantly growing role to the stock exchange, and which, as it develops, tends to concentrate all production, industrial as well as agricultural, and all commerce, the means of communication as well as the functions of exchange, in the hands of stock exchange operators, so that the stock exchange becomes the most prominent representative of capitalist production itself."

Engels also provided valuable insight into the relation of foreign investment to the stock exchange, in England as well as the U.S. At that

early stage of the imperialist epoch, when it was still on the very edge of the transformation of competitive capitalism into expansionist monopoly capitalism, Engels already discerned that colonization was "purely a subsidiary of the stock exchange"!!!

It was in the interests of the stock exchange, wrote Engels, that the European powers partitioned Black Africa and the French conquered parts of northern Africa and Vietnam. "Africa [was] leased directly to companies (Niger, South Africa, German South-West and German East Africa), and Mashonaland and Natal [were] seized by [Cecil] Rhodes for the stock exchange."

How many bourgeois historians of the colonial era ever show this connection between the stock exchanges and the exploitation and enslavement of the colonized peoples? Today the hundreds of billions in indebtedness of the oppressed countries are a continuation on an immense scale of what was merely in embryonic form when Engels noted it.

How prophetically Engels put it, almost 100 years ago!

Stock exchange concentrates production

The stock exchange even then was becoming increasingly more important. Why? Because it tends to concentrate all industry, agriculture, commerce and the means of production in the hands of stock exchange operators. They should be understood not in the narrow sense of stock exchange officials alone, but more broadly as encompassing the heads of the biggest banks (particularly the central banks such as the Federal Reserve in the U.S.), the heads of other exchanges and the governmental agencies like the Securities and Exchange Commission. All these make up the network of what is nowadays referred to as the financial industry.

So that the stock exchange has indeed become the most prominent representative of capitalist production itself.

Temporary ups and downs in market

Of course, it should be stated that not every stock market plunge results in a capitalist economic crisis. Some just reflect the temporary gyrations of the moment and may be due to one or two financial disasters, such as when Lockheed or New York Central went bankrupt. An individual industrial or financial collapse, even of such a large corporation, may have only limited significance for the economy as a whole.

There have also been oscillations of this or that industry. For instance, only recently there was capitalist overproduction in microchips, followed by a moderate recovery based partly, in this case, on limiting Japanese imports. What if there were overproduction in such a key industry as lumber? This would affect construction, housing, furniture — probably most forest products. But again, it might affect only an individual industry, even though it has multiple effects on the economy.

In understanding the nature of the

present crisis, it helps to examine the summary provided by Engels in *Socialism, Utopian and Scientific* that describes how a capitalist crisis develops, bearing in mind that each crisis occurs in a specific historical setting.

When a crisis does occur, says Engels, "Commerce is at a standstill, the markets are glutted, products accumulate, as multitudinous as they are unsalable, hard cash disappears, credit vanishes, factories are closed, the mass of the workers are in want of the means of subsistence, because they have produced too much of the means of subsistence; bankruptcy follows upon bankruptcy, execution upon execution.

"The stagnation lasts for years; productive forces and products are wasted and destroyed wholesale, until the accumulated mass of commodities finally filters off, more or less depreciated in value, until production and exchange gradually begin to move again. Little by little the pace quickens. It becomes a trot. The industrial trot breaks into a canter, the canter in turn grows into the headlong gallop of a perfect steeplechase of industry, which finally, after breakneck leaps, ends where it began — in the ditch of a crisis. And so over and over again. We have now, since the year 1825, gone through this five times, and at the present moment (1877) we are going through it for the sixth time."

We challenge the innumerable bourgeois economists who have been awarded Nobel prizes for "economic science" since this was written to present a clearer exposition of the cap-

— Weinberger

Continued from page 1

election approached, Ford decided to make some token military cuts to tone down the militarist image that persisted from the Nixon years. But Schlesinger pushed for tax increases in order to raise military spending. He soon found himself out of a job.

The pre-voting period is the time that administrations replace cabinet members who are associated with unpopular policies with figures who have a more neutral image.

While the media such as NBC News and the New York Times are predicting a softening of the current hawkish posture at the Pentagon when Weinberger leaves, the same thing was said when Schlesinger was let go. Not only didn't this happen, but the period since the mid 1970s has been marked by a steady acceleration in war spending, pushed on by a bourgeoisie which sees no other way out of the protracted economic crisis.

No fundamental change in policy should be expected when Frank Carlucci replaces Weinberger.

Meanwhile when Carlucci, who is currently the president's national security adviser, moves on to his new post, he will be replaced by Lieutenant General Colin Powell. So the National Security Council will remain firmly in the hands of the military.

lers with few buyers, not just in the industrial sector but in all the sectors of the capitalist economy. The stock market is the generalizer that makes this apparent. It is not just a barometer but an economic summary, an economic resume; it can speak of the future rather than of the past, as Engels showed.

1979-82: Concrete confirmation of Marxist analysis of crisis

We have just seen how Engels described the development of a capitalist crisis. We have a concrete example of one that happened less than a decade ago, in the period 1979-82.

As early as 1974, a precursor of the coming downturn could be seen in the collapse of the Franklin National Bank. This event of formidable international dimensions was followed by a significant number of smaller business failures and accompanying stock market declines. However, before the economic crisis really took hold, there was a brief speculative binge in 1978. The economic crisis of 1979-82 greatly accelerated the restructuring of capitalist industry, which had already begun in the seventies.

Capitalist economists today stress that the crisis was overcome through the "cooperation" of labor with capital, that productivity was raised on the basis of a partnership with the official labor leadership (bureaucracy). What this rise in productivity really signified was an intensification of exploitation.

This intensification of exploitation used to be called the rationalization of industry; today it is called restructuring-

italist cycle of development! Don't they instead try to obscure it?

Relation of stock market to capitalist economy as a whole

How do we relate the current truly historical market crash to the classical Marxist concept of an economic crisis?

The stock market is an integrated element of the entire financial services industry, as it is now called, and is intimately bound up with all the credit institutions — the pension funds, the multitude of banks, credit unions, insurance companies, mortgage associations and so on.

In the outline of a general economic crisis depicted by Engels, the financial crisis comes at the very height of the capitalist cycle. The collapse of the market brings about the period of stagnation.

The capitalist economists put the shoe on the other foot. They have been telling us that since there has been no economic collapse, the economic fundamentals, as they put it, are still sound. Only the rate of growth has slowed; therefore there cannot be an economic collapse and the Marxist criteria don't apply. According to them, what happened in the market may be only an episodic event and not the kind of sweeping one which entails an economic catastrophe.

But the stock market is an integral part of the financial industry, and its crash is a forerunner of the economic situation, not the aftermath. This is what the bourgeois economists are deliberately confusing.

Of the many bourgeois economic analysts who have made pronouncements since the crash, only one of them, Alan Sinai from Shearson Lehman Brothers, in a report during congressional testimony covered on CNN, said of the stock market crash that it reflects not the past performance of the economy as much as "what the future holds in store."

Market is best indicator that capitalist cycle has reached crisis point

How does one measure the nature of the capitalist cycle of development in the current historical context? Can it be done on a national scale where there is admittedly a global economy? Does one really know precisely when capitalist production has reached its pinnacle?

Certainly there are a mass of economic indicators, like the gross national product, but in the final analysis there is no way of knowing in advance precisely when a collapse may begin.

Credit, which was developed in order to facilitate capitalist production by expanding purchasing power, also greatly extends its bounds, so that it takes on ever larger risks, thereby exaggerating and aggravating capitalist overproduction and its concomitant — the contraction of working class purchasing power.

Slow economic growth is a relative concept, not an absolute one. To the workers, to the millions of unemployed, there has been a recession for years now. But the crisis becomes generalized when there are too many sel-

trial capitalist must perfect his machinery more and more, under penalty of ruin."

It is no accident at all that there is such a mad race among the capitalists to develop ever smaller microchips, more perfect robots and other advanced forms of automation.

Engels referred to Marx's *Capital*: "Thus it comes about, to quote Marx, that that machinery becomes the most powerful weapon in the war of capital against the working class; that the instruments of labor [computers, robots, etc.] constantly tear the means of subsistence out of the hands of the laborer; that the very product of the worker is turned into an instrument for his subjugation."

Keeping in mind the Goodyear example, we read on: "Machinery, the most powerful instrument for shortening labor time, becomes the most unfulfilling means for placing every moment of the laborer's time and that of his family at the disposal of the capitalist for the purpose of expanding the value of his capital...."

"Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time, accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation, at the opposite pole."

After crisis, what brings a revival?

The bourgeois economists tell us that the revival period since the last recession has lasted for 54 months. In this period of incredible prosperity (for them), which started as a trot, became a gallop and broke into an all-out steeplechase, they amassed tremendous superprofits.

provement in the condition of the working class, with a commensurate increase in wages. The facts, however, demonstrate incontestably that this lengthy period of so-called capitalist recovery was marked not by an improvement but by a drastic deterioration in the wage level of the workers, in particular the oppressed Black, Latino and undocumented workers, and in the general income of the mass of the people.

Data on this is now voluminous. The most recent figures appeared in the Business section of the Sunday, Nov. 1, New York Times: "Real wages are now below 1963 levels, and 80 percent of the jobs created in the 1980s are in retail sales and miscellaneous services where average wages, adjusted for inflation, are below the national average wage in 1949." This is an astonishing admission!

A report put out on Aug. 7 by the Council on International Public Affairs confirms this, as its title makes clear: "Real Wages Drop Below 1962 Levels."

An article in the May 1987 Scientific American by economist Lester Thurow discussed a conservatively taken survey that revealed the growing polarization between the very rich and the mass of the people. "According to the U.S. Bureau of Census, the share of total income that went to the top 20% of all families was 43% in 1985. Conversely, the income share of the bottom 60% of the population declined to 32%, the lowest level ever recorded." (!)

We demonstrated a year and a half ago that the high-tech revolution sig-

The apologists for capitalism are still trying to deny that the stock market crash is related to the 'fundamentals' of the economy. They try to shroud the workings of the market in mystery. But the market is the nerve center of the capitalist system. Its crash foreshadows a general capitalist economic crisis.

How does capitalist production become revived? What are the forces upon which it relies?

First, it feeds on the devastating destruction wrought by the economic collapse. Many firms go bankrupt, plants close, some are completely liquidated, dismantled and sold at auction, and so on and so forth. The weaker establishments are weeded out; the larger ones swallow up the smaller, which have barely been able to survive. This is the effect of the centralization of capital, as Marx explained it.

This destruction can of course be vastly magnified by the havoc of imperialist wars and counter-revolutionary interventions.

Secondly, the work of destruction brought by the capitalist crisis, especially the huge unemployment, initially weakens the working class. The capitalists subject those who are employed to more intensified exploitation in order to retrieve more profits and continue the process of capitalist accumulation and expansion. The intensification of exploitation is absolutely indispensable in the process of capitalist revival.

1980s 'revival' brought lower wages

If the period from 1982 to the present had been a normal revival phase like those that occurred earlier in the long evolution of capitalist development, it should have resulted in a material im-

nifies lower wages [*High Tech, Low Pay* by Sam Marcy, WW Publishers]. At that time, we said that it had been accompanied by six long years of an anti-labor offensive. And the assault hasn't stopped yet!

There continues to be a shift to lower-paid service workers and a lowering of wages in general based on the restructuring of industry on a global scale. This objective development is deepened by the anti-labor offensive. The Reagan administration has aggravated the oppression of the working class and raised it to new heights by its policies, but Reagan is no more the cause than Hoover was the cause of the Depression or Theodore Roosevelt the cause of the 1907 panic.

The capitalist government didn't cause the crisis, but aggravated it. But crisis comes entirely independently of the will of the capitalist class or its government, which is merely its executive committee, as Marx pointed out.

Anarchy leads to overproduction

Capitalist overproduction is still the outgrowth of capitalist production, notwithstanding all the research, the sophisticated data, the computerized telecommunications at the disposal of the capitalists.

And anarchy reigns in capitalist production, as Engels explained in *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, because "No one knows how much of his

Continued on page 10

EDITORIALS

An ocean of lies

For three days everyone in the United States who read a newspaper or saw a TV newscast was bombarded with the story. An armed Iranian speed boat, according to the account, tried to attack the U.S. tanker Patriot in the Straits of Hormuz.

The Iranian craft ignored two bursts of warning fire from the U.S. Navy frigate Carr and pressed forward with its assault on the Patriot, "racing toward the tanker," according to a Pentagon spokesman.

At that point, the Carr opened up, raking the Iranian attacker with fifty caliber machine gun bursts, forcing it to turn tail. Now it turns out this was all lies. The Patriot was never under attack.

There was no Iranian speedboat. Just a fishing boat, its crew Arab and Indian.

"We were making way for the American ships to pass," says one of the stunned survivors. "The U.S. ship showed a light. We showed a light back. Then the shooting began." One 22-year-old Indian mechanic was killed and three others wounded.

The Pentagon says, "We're sticking to our original story." What nonsense!

India's consul to Dubai is escorting the body of the dead man home. No one believes the Pentagon account anymore, even though the attempted deception continues.

But what if this had been an Iranian fishing boat and the fishermen Iranian? Would ABC or CBS or NBC or the big newspaper chains be challenging the lie? Of course not!

In the previous U.S. Navy actions against so-called "Iranian speedboats," the news media never questioned the Pentagon's version, even though one NBC executive admitted that the navy film showing these engagements had been "doctored." Despite this, all the networks showed this faked evidence on the evening news.

The U.S. military high command has had complete control over the information on the

military action off Iran, and the big business news media is going along with it.

Now they've all been caught. Why should anyone believe them when they tell the next lie?

Death squad amnesty

Within 24 hours after a right-wing death squad executed the president of El Salvador's Human Rights Commission right in the middle of the capital city in broad daylight, the killers were pardoned by the government!

Not that the murders of Herbert Anaya Sanabria actually got caught. In El Salvador, fascist death squad hitmen are rarely brought into court.

Operating out of the military and police apparatus, they are generally immune from any sort of prosecution. But now, the Duarte regime has taken the final step: complete amnesty.

This includes the killers of Archbishop Romero, the four U.S. churchwomen, the labor leaders and students, the thousands of peas-

ants slaughtered in Las Hojas, El Mozote, Santa Barbara and along the banks of the Sumpul River.

Duarte claims his grotesque "forgiveness" is part of the "peace process." In this, the voice is Duarte's but the words are scripted in Washington.

The Pentagon and the CIA are the ones really running the war against the people of El Salvador. It was the U.S. ambassador who set up Herbert Anaya Sanabria, denouncing him as "pro-communist," before the death squads moved in for the kill.

It is Washington which just appropriated additional funds for Duarte's Treasury Police, a real nest of assassins and torturers. Duarte was so grateful for this that, on his last trip to visit Reagan, he kissed the U.S. flag for the TV cameras.

Peace will not come in El Salvador or anywhere else in Central America by granting immunity to secret police murderers. Such a notion is simply an insult to the millions who have suffered there for so long. Real peace will arrive when the domination of U.S. imperialism ends.



Letters

Censorship

"One cannot endure a penalty so monstrous as the lack of freedom without demanding of one's mind and body a labor at once delicate and brutal, a labor capable of warping the prisoner(s) in a direction which takes him ever farther from the social world." [Jean Genet's introduction to *Solidad Brothers*.]

I was recently reading through the Aug. 6 issue of *Workers World*. (The only issue I've been able to get my hands on in months.)

Exactly why have I written? There is a letter which I have no doubts about you receiving. It is a follow up letter from my "keepers." A letter which wrongly outlines me as a vicious, unfeeling predator of unsuspecting citizens. A letter that strongly encourages if not threatens everyone I write to not to write back.

In this Aug. 6 issue of *Workers World*, there was also a letter to the editors from a Sharen Keim of Tucson, Ariz., that spoke of her outrage of FBI censorship of a letter she wrote to the Soviet embassy for a pen pal.

Ms. Keim's letter sparked my interest and opened my eyes to something in common she and I share. Where Ms. Keim was harassed in her efforts to find pen pals outside our country, I am being harassed in trying to find pen pals in this country.

Anyone and everyone I write to, edi-

tors, newspapers, etc., are sent the same arbitrary letter I've mentioned you will (or have) received.

The real facts are: my pro-capitalist keepers despise me for my political views as well as for the depth of my education, i.e., I am not one who just sits in their zoo in contentment.

So, yes, I need support and to find friends or pen pals, to form friendships with *Workers World* readers who are not afraid to write to me and will not let such letters from my keepers spoil those bonds of unity and closeness as friends we might build and enjoy.

Editor, I do indeed need friends and support in my struggle. I hope you will print my letter in *Workers World*. Any and all who will, please write and show your support. I hope to find friends who share the same political views.

Len-Howell Culbertson
EF-103360
G.S.P.
Reidsville, Ga. 30499

Editor's note: Included with Mr. Culbertson's letter was a cover letter from Lanson Newsome, Warden of the Georgia State Prison, warning us about corresponding with him.

The warden correctly noted that he could not prohibit correspondence with Culbertson. He then makes a number of unsubstantiated accusations against Culbertson.

Anyone wishing to write Culbertson can address mail to the above address.

The crash

I have always enjoyed Sam Marcy's economic analyses and articles in *Workers World*. In these times people will be looking for economic answers, and explanations of how the economy really works will be very helpful to people at this time. Thank you for telling us the truth about how a capitalist economy works.

Joe Baumhaft
Oklahoma City

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Red October 1917

Not a palace coup but a concentrated mass revolution

By John Castellino

On Jan. 22, 1917, the leader of the Russian revolutionary working-class party known as the Bolsheviks gave a speech on the 1905 Russian Revolution to youth in Switzerland, where he was living in exile.

The bloody slaughter called World War I was raging around Switzerland. The workers' movements in Germany, France, Britain, Austria-Hungary and Russia itself had been silenced by the war. Still this leader, who used the name Lenin for his revolutionary work, was optimistic about the eventual future of this movement.

"We must not be deceived by the present grave-like stillness in Europe. Europe is pregnant with revolution," he said. But even this optimistic leader was uncertain of the timetable for this outbreak of struggle. He added for the youth, "We of the older generation may not live to see the decisive battles of this coming revolution."

Lenin was a particularly astute political leader. But on the question of the timetable, even he was surprised. Within six weeks the people of Russia had overthrown the absolute monarchy headed by the Czar.

Eight months later the Russian workers and peasants brought in a new political system that was to change the political face of the world. Lenin was then named to head up the new order that a mere 11 months before he declared unlikely he would live to see.

November 7 marks the 70th anniversary of the insurrection that for the first time in history established an oppressed and exploited class as the rulers of a vast national state. This event, along with the 1949 Chinese Revolution, marked the 20th Century as the beginning of the liberation of humanity from class exploitation.

For the rich, for the bankers and businessmen, the landlords of feudal estates and the slumlords of the industrial cities, this revolution was immediately and ever after recognized as their deadly enemy. From the moment this revolution raised its head in Russia it was attacked, invaded, embargoed and sabotaged by the rich ruling classes of the entire world.

It also was immediately and ever after slandered in the media owned by the above fat cats and by politicians, historians and academics in their pay. Two of the major distortions about that revolutionary period which will be answered here are still appearing in the big-business media each anniversary.

Those are the lie that the government overthrown on Nov. 7, 1917, was an honest, democratic government, and that the great popular insurrection which overthrew it was some sort of secret conspiracy or palace coup.

This insurrection is called the October Revolution because under the Julian calendar used until January 1918 in Russia, it occurred on Oct. 25, 1917. The calendar used in Europe and the Western Hemisphere was the Gregorian calendar, which was 13 days ahead. For the same reason the revolution that overthrew the Czar, which began on International Women's Day on March 8, is called the February Revolution.

The Provisional Government

The February Revolution is the one celebrated by the world bourgeoisie. They celebrate it because even though this revolution was a mass, popular uprising of the poorest and most oppressed, the forces that made up the new government were anything but.

It was the women workers of St. Petersburg (later called Petrograd, now

Leningrad) who started this revolution. It was the working class of this most-industrialized area of Russia who were its active force, facing and fighting the police in the streets. And it was the peasants who made up the bulk of the long-suffering soldiers who risked all by deserting the army and joining the battle against the hated Czar.

Yet when it came time to take over the reins of the government, bankers, industrialists, lawyers and bourgeois politicians were on the spot. They had never confronted the Czar. They rushed, however, to form the Provisional Government, anxious to gobble up the spoils of the battle.

Though this government had a democratic face, it operated behind the backs of the mass of the people. It did this because its links to the bourgeoisie at home and to the imperialists in Europe led it to consistently oppose the interests and wishes of the peasants and workers.

This was especially so on the question of the war, which had already killed or maimed five and one-half million peasants in the Czar's army. Russia was linked to Britain and France by secret treaties which promised Czarist Russia and now bourgeois Russia a warm-water port on the Dardanelles, access to Persia, and other spoils of war.

In other words, the Provisional Government wanted to keep these treaties with British and French imperialism at the expense of nearby colonial nations and the blood of the Russian workers and peasants. They kept the treaties secret and asked the army to fight to defend a "free Russia." Soon the soldiers began deciding with their feet that they had had enough.

Another vital question to the peasants was that of land. Now that the Czar of the landlords had been defeated, it was time to rid the country of these oppressors once and for all and distribute their land to those who worked it. Tied to private property, the bourgeois Provisional Government continued to hold off making any land decree. Soon the peasants began, on their own, to take the land.



The armed workers of Petrograd demand: "All power to the soviets!"

In the cities the workers demanded an end to the superexploitation carried on during the war and demanded enough to eat. But the bosses and their government wanted to keep their profits scale that had raised their profits 900% during the war years. Soon strikes for the 8-hour-day brought more and more workers to the ranks of the most revolutionary party, the Bolsheviks.

The Soviets

While the capitalist politicians flocked to the Provisional Government, the oppressed classes created their own representative bodies that began to serve as a counter-government. These councils of soldiers, workers and peasants added a new word to the international vocabulary: soviet, the Russian word for council.

These soviets had been first born in the 1905 Revolution Lenin had spoken of to the Swiss youth. As soon as the Czar was overthrown in 1917, the workers immediately began to reestablish the soviets again. In them were no direct representatives of the ruling classes.

While Lenin might have been surprised by the sudden onset of the revolution, he had no problem whatsoever adjusting to the new, vastly improved situation. Within a month of his arrival he had oriented his party toward a new goal: overthrowing the capitalist government and establishing a government of workers and peasants.

There were some difficult times for the Bolsheviks through the summer of 1917. After a huge outpouring of workers unsuccessfully challenged the government, some of their leaders were jailed and Lenin himself was in hiding, with his life in danger. Yet by mid-October, the situation had turned, and a majority of the working class in the major industrial centers had come over to support the Bolsheviks.

The change in the situation was hurried by two big events. A big war offensive ordered by the Provisional Government completely collapsed with much suffering for the troops. Then in September a section of the mil-

itary attempted a counterrevolution, which melted away as the workers of Petrograd, led by the Bolsheviks, mobilized to fight it.

Bolsheviks gain majority

In elections to the soviets in October, the Bolsheviks won majorities in the Petrograd city and region, in the Moscow city and region, and in other industrial centers of the country. There was little doubt that the most active section of the population were backing the call raised by the Bolsheviks, "All power to the soviets!"

By this slogan was meant that these representative bodies of the oppressed classes should take the reins of the new state in their hands. And they should use that power to end Russia's role in World War I and divide the land among the peasants.

A national congress of soviets was set for Nov. 7. It would be a perfect time for this body to deliberate about taking the state power. But as the Bolshevik leaders explained, to wait for that time to begin deliberating would allow the Provisional Government to surround the congress with reactionary troops. It was more prudent to move first.

Armed workers known as Red Guards and revolutionary sailors moved on the night of Nov. 6-7 under the orders of the Military Revolutionary Committee. This group had been set up two weeks before by the Petrograd Soviet to defend that city from a possible German attack. These forces seized post and telegraph offices, electric works, railroad stations and the state bank.

Signaled by a shot from the Battleship Aurora, anchored nearby in the Neva river, thousands of sailors and Red Guards stormed the Winter Palace. As the discussion got underway at the Congress of Soviets on Nov. 7, word came that the Provisional Government had fallen.

Declaration

A declaration from the Military Revolutionary Committee was distributed to the population.

"To the Citizens of Russia!

"The Provisional Government is deposed. The State Power has passed into the hands of the organ of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, the Military Revolutionary Committee, which stands at the head of the Petrograd proletariat and garrison.

"The cause for which the people were fighting: immediate proposal of a democratic peace, abolition of landlord property-rights over the land, labor control over production, creation of a Soviet Government — that cause is securely achieved.

"Long live the revolution of workers, soldiers and peasants!"

New York Times off the mark

In the days following the successful insurrection, the coverage of Russian events in the New York Times was filled with predictions that the new government would only last days. As can be seen from this year's celebration, this was the wishful thinking of a doomed class, and not a small error in timing.

The decrees of this new government were debated in every barracks of the Petrograd garrison, in the trenches at the front, at every union local hall, in every village, in every battleship of the Russian fleet. The move by the Bolsheviks, far from being a palace coup, was ratified not just by a vote but by the sacrifice of a people that would show the whole world that a new society without an exploiting class was on the order of the day.

The next phase of the crisis

Continued from page 7

particular article is coming on the market, nor how much of it will be wanted. No one knows whether his individual product will meet an actual demand, whether he will be able to make good his cost of production or even to sell his commodity at all."

The deep-going causes of crises arise from the contradictory nature of the capitalist system, which enshrines private ownership of the means of production and yet has developed these same productive forces to the point where they have far outgrown private ownership and are really social in character.

Bourgeois economists try to explain away this contradiction by resorting to mystical expositions on the monetary phase of the capitalist crisis or on interest rate swings. Some blame it all on unscrupulous speculators, high rollers, common thieves in high places and, more recently, on the existence of the yuppies. But they shy away entirely from the deep causes, concentrating on the symptoms of the malady rather than explaining the nature of the disease.

What fueled the hyperspeculation

As for these symptoms, it is necessary to explain the significance of

regulated banking, strengthened anti-trust laws and so on.

All this was received by many in the ruling class with extreme bitterness. They regarded it as against the free enterprise system, as being anti-capitalist in nature, but in reality it was devised to defend the system against excesses, to curb not only speculation but fraud so as to dampen any crash that might take place in the future.

1970s revolution in banking

With the impact of the high-tech revolution, banking itself has changed, as we said earlier. "The economic currents that began in the 1970s," says the authoritative *Money Encyclopedia*, "permanently altered our money practices and ushered in a financial service industry which continues to evolve on an almost daily basis. Today banking is no longer a matter of depositing savings in a regular passbook account for safekeeping and a small yield and keeping a no-interest checking account to pay bills. In the 1980s it is the investment instruments giving the highest possible return . . . that more closely defines banking."

In fact, there has been a revolution in world banking.

to keep idle funds in checking accounts that by law pay no interest. In the seventies, banks couldn't pay interest on deposits that matured in less than 30 days. But not now. Banks are engaged in the sale of CDs, certificates of deposit. The companies that buy them have the option of selling them at any time to other investors. For the purposes of the companies, these are similar to short-term deposits on which interest would be earned.

Reaganites loosen restrictions on banks

The virtual revolution in banking did not automatically grow out of the economic and technological developments of the earlier epoch. Much of it has been helped by either new legislation, by administrative decisions or by the Reagan administration.

For instance, one of the ways the New Deal legislation hoped to limit the excesses of capitalist speculation was to separate the underwriters from the banks, so that only underwriters would distribute and sell securities and act as advisers to corporations. Today, however, they work as part and parcel of the banks.

A great deal was made of the fact that the Roosevelt administration

The hyperspeculation of the '80s is directly tied to the revolution in banking that has taken place. Banks today act as discount stock brokers, suppliers of credit cards and consultants in areas ranging from estate and tax planning to investing. They have become high-risk adventurers.

hyperspeculation, which enthralled the ruling class and brought them to dizzying heights of optimism in their system, only to dump them in the doldrums.

No really large-scale speculation in stocks, bonds and commodities can take place without the banks. They are key and central to all of it. It's the banks that supply the loans for the speculation, that take all kinds of stock, mortgages, or whatever as collateral for their loans.

The banks are the fundamental agent of the speculation, if we understand that we are talking today about a broader concept of banking than what prevailed early in this century. Even then, the banks as the depositories for the cash were not immune to loaning it out for speculation, although their opportunities (and losses) were somewhat restricted under pain of criminal prosecution.

The high speculation before the 1929 crash and the devastation of the economic collapse caused the Roosevelt administration to promote massive legislation of two types. One included the well-known social reforms of the New Deal, like unemployment insurance and social security, which were calculated to create a cushion, or as it is now called a safety net, to soften the effects of the economic debacle.

1930s legislation was supposed to prevent dangerous speculation

The other type of legislation enacted was meant to prevent such a collapse from occurring again. Such, for instance, was the law that set up the Securities and Exchange Commission as well as the statutory provisions that

that has been extracted from the workers, especially during the period of the capitalist recession of 1979-81. It was then driven even higher by the high-tech restructuring of industry at the expense of the workers.

Erosion of the U.S. dollar

A monetary crisis usually accompanies an economic crisis. They don't always go together, but certainly one of the features of this time is a monetary crisis, and it concerns the U.S. more than any other country at this historical juncture.

The U.S. dollar is considered a world currency reserve. What does that mean? It means that other countries, and especially their governments, have been obligated over the years to hold a certain amount of dollars as their reserves in the same proportion as they would gold. This special position in the world monetary situation arose from the favorable position the U.S. was in economically and financially after World War II.

While the economies of Europe and Japan were battered or ground down in the military struggle, the U.S. merely served as a supplier until near the end of the war, fortifying its military position with the atomic bomb. Its formidable economic strength in the postwar period was in sharp contrast to what prevailed in Europe, Asia and even Latin America and Africa.

Formidable though it was, however, it was not nearly strong enough to remain on the gold standard. The U.S. and the other imperialist countries had to abandon it after the 1929 crash, and have never gone back. Before that, gold backing to support paper currency had always been regarded as the key to stability in monetary affairs.

In the period immediately following the war, the dollar as a reserve currency for all of the other capitalist countries was unquestioned. And today, too, it is still a reserve currency in most of the capitalist world. Even socialist countries are obliged to hold dollar reserves, if for no other reason than to trade to the extent possible with the capitalist countries.

But the period when the stability of the dollar was unquestioned began to wither — for very material reasons. In the 1950s the U.S. gross national product constituted as much as 50% of the world's gross product. But since then the U.S. gross national product has been shrinking in relation to the rest of the world.

As late as the 1970s, it was estimated to be about 30%. Now, with so much switchover from manufacturing to service industries, with the introduction of high tech and the competition with its capitalist rivals, the U.S. gross national product in relation to the world as a whole has again significantly shrunk, if for no other reason than that the battered capitalist countries have recuperated and in some cases, like Japan, have exceeded the U.S. in a number of industrial and technological spheres.

Moreover, the U.S. has become a debtor nation as a result of its borrowing from other capitalist countries. This has been done through the sale of bonds and stock, which earlier fueled its recovery. But as the U.S. debt has kept mounting, the fears of its capitalist rivals have become more and more pronounced.

Worldwide fears of U.S. devaluation

What are these fears worldwide with respect to the U.S. as a world currency reserve? Take this example. Suppose you as a central banker for country X have in your treasury a reserve of \$100 million, which is a very, very tiny amount of dollars. If the U.S. devalues the dollar by 1/10th of 1 percent, you lose \$100,000!

Now, supposing you have a billion

Continued on page 11

broke up the securities industries by narrowing the field for underwriters, insurance companies and commercial banks. The law compelled them to make financial disclosures, to make their balance sheets more detailed so as to reveal more of their real situation. Also enacted were various bank regulations that gave more power to the regulators and inspectors. Brokerage houses were restricted from letting their customers play the market on a minimal amount of margin.

Most of this massive legislation calculated to restrict speculation, to force disclosure and to curb the excesses resulting from capitalist financial dealings has in one way or another under the Reagan administration been either abolished by statute or invalidated by administrative decisions of the agencies concerned. Particularly weakened are those divisions under the regulation of the Federal Trade Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other agencies which are the very ones supposed to act as guardians against speculation and fraud.

Moreover, the banks themselves have been given free rein to virtually disregard the previous protective legislation. While once banks could only operate in the states of their origin, they now have been given the green light to expand interstate and to lend to excess. By enlarging their field of operations, they have enlarged their risks as the lenders of capital.

While the banks themselves have been generating the hyperspeculation, we must repeat that speculation is not the cause of the crisis itself. It is the effect, in the first place, of the enormous accumulation of capital

Banks are no longer confined to a single state. They've stretched their offices across the nation. Banks are no longer limited to collecting deposits and making loans. Today they act as discount stock brokers, suppliers of credit cards, and as paid consultants in areas ranging from estate and tax planning to investing. They no longer conduct business according to banking hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Instead, they provide access around the clock through automated teller machines.

Citibank, for instance, began to diversify early in the 1980s. The purpose was to lessen its heavy dependence on international activities for its earnings, which at one point accounted for more than 80% of the company's net income. Over the years they have tried to dump these loans on other, weaker shoulders. It is truly a giant transnational corporation on which the sun never sets and precisely because of that it absorbs all the contradictions and weaknesses of the capitalist system.

The banks have become very high-risk adventurers. The retirement of Walter Wriston, the former head of Citicorp, was undoubtedly hastened because of his reputation as "an ultimate risk taker."

On June 21, 1984, the New York Times wrote: "Over the long term, the question remains whether Wriston's new world of banking will prove to be healthy, flexible and sinewy or whether it will repeat the experience of the 1920s, when extraordinary risk taking by banks and exotic financial techniques turned into the disaster of the Great Depression."

The bankers are no longer satisfied

Longest AIDS protest in country enters 3rd year

By J. Marquardt
San Francisco

October 27 — Local AIDS activists marked the second anniversary of the ARC-AIDS Vigil here tonight.

Despite pouring rain, about 50 people participated to show solidarity with the efforts of a group of people with AIDS, AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), and their supporters, who have maintained a constant vigil for two years, chained to the doors of the local federal Health and Human Services office building.

As they begin the third year of the longest protest of its kind in the country, they continue to demand: adequately fund AIDS research; expand benefits to include people with ARC; make drugs for treatment more available; and condemn AIDS-related discrimination.

Earlier in the day some of the same activists participated in protests called by AIDS Action Pledge at the offices of both U.S. senators from California. Republican Pete Wilson and Democrat Alan Cranston voted with the majority of rich, bigoted senators a week ago on the anti-gay Helms AIDS Education Amendment to the Labor Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill. As 30 people crammed into the waiting room of Cranston's office, several speakers from local AIDS activist and gay community organizations spoke out against the senator's support for the legislation. They correctly underscored, in addition to the obvious homophobia, the fact that the legislation will effectively cut off AIDS education to the Black, Asian, Latino and Native communities, too.

Ralph Payne, of Mobilization Against AIDS, said, "This is a geno-

cidal amendment. People will die as a result."

Kirk Douglass of the Tschinook Nation called it "a punitive action against health centers in minority communities." He said that American Indian and Alaska Native programs would now fear disseminating AIDS education materials.

Eileen Hansen, an organizer of the civil disobedience action at the U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 13 also denounced Sen. Cranston's vote in favor of AIDS discrimination against im-

migrants, saying, "What you do against immigrants you do against all of us."

Cranston, who has given lip service to the lesbian and gay community over the years when he needed their votes, is now showing his true homophobic and racist nature as he approaches retirement and no longer plans to seek reelection. If we ever needed a political movement which sincerely fights for the interests of all the people, both gay and straight, Black and white, now is that time.

Arizona people vote with their feet against racist gov

By Patricia Jackson

A grassroots coalition in Arizona has gathered more than 300,000 signatures for a recall of Gov. Ed Mechem.

"This may be the only governor in history to be simultaneously recalled and impeached," said Ed Buck, gay activist and initiator of the recall coalition.

The recall effort has pulled together members of the Black, Latino and gay communities, uniting them in a fight not only to recall Mechem, but to thoroughly expose racism, sexism and homophobia.

"On issues of race, issues of color, he has a blind spot that you could in fact push the Titanic through, turn it around and float it back out," declared Art Hamilton, Black minority leader in the Arizona House.

Mechem received national exposure last year by personally repealing the state's Martin Luther King holiday. People gave a resounding answer as hundreds of thousands marched in cities throughout the state.

In Tucson, a multinational gathering of 5,000 rallied and marched through the city in defiance of the governor's repeal. Among the marchers were activists who had helped organize the first Martin Luther King march in Tucson.

The possibility of impeachment re-

sults from Mechem's failure to report a \$350,000 campaign loan from a big Phoenix developer. Perhaps the real grounds of impeachment should be Mechem's blatant racism or his statement that "homosexuality is not an acceptable lifestyle," and his call for the firing of all gay state workers.

Reluctant to follow the will of the people, the Republican and Democratic parties only recently joined the recall campaign when it was clear that it would be an overwhelming success.

Many corporation executives are now joining in the recall after losing over \$25 million from boycotts of the state. In protest of Mechem's racist repeal of Martin Luther King Day, many national organizations, including the National Basketball Association, canceled conventions to be held in Arizona.

Organizers say the recall initiative could be placed on the ballot in the state election next September, or through a special election before then. Whatever the outcome, the actions of the people of Arizona, like actions nationally against the Bork nomination and the Oct. 11 March on Washington of a half-million people for lesbian and gay rights, show the rising spirit of militant fight back. Black, Latino, Asian, Native people, young, older, gay and straight are joining together again to support one another in struggles against racism, sexism and anti-gay bigotry.

On the picket line

Justice for janitors. After a heroic organizing drive brought union contracts to thousands of janitors — mostly highly oppressed Latina women, many of them undocumented and facing great risks by taking part in the union campaign — in Denver last year, new drives have begun in six other cities. The effort, labeled "Justice For Janitors" by the Service Employees (SEIU), was launched at a recent Washington, D.C., convention, where hundreds of janitors signed on to fight for the union. The campaign in Washington, D.C., aims to organize some 6,000 oppressed workers, mostly Black and Latina women whose wages are so low — about \$100 per week take-home pay — that they qualify for food stamps and Medicaid. The union drive in D.C. will be combined with a publicity campaign to win public support for the workers, targeting the millionaire real estate developers who own the office buildings where the janitors work. At the same time, SEIU opened unionization battles for janitors in San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, along with Pittsburgh, where a struggle has already been raging for months.



NBC layoffs. Just two weeks after 2,800 broadcast workers at NBC ended their four-month-long strike, the network announced that it will slash bargaining unit jobs. Over 500 union workers, as well as 200 others, will be laid off, with most of the job loss in NBC's news departments. News staffers were among the most militant NABET strikers, and the strike itself was primarily a struggle for job security. All the big broadcast networks have engaged in major job cuts and "streamlining" over the last several years, with workers invariably bearing the brunt of these cost-cutting measures, and the unions are waging a difficult battle to save jobs and benefits. While the NBC strike did not succeed in saving these workers' jobs, it didn't cause this latest round of layoffs, either. The unremitting campaign by the big business media to blame the union is meant to divert attention from the real culprits: the profit-mad bosses.

Shelley Ettinger

Join us in the struggle

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

If you would like to know more about WWP, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

- Atlanta: P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga., 30301 (404) 662-6417.
- Baltimore: 424 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 (301) 889-9318
- Boston: 186 Lincoln St., Room 602, Boston, Mass. 02111 (617) 426-5626
- Buffalo: 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201 (716) 855-3055
- Chicago: P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680 (312) 489-3829
- Cleveland: 2012 West 25 St., Room 613, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 861-6154
- Detroit: 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, Mich. 48226 (313) 962-4979
- Hartford: P.O. Box 14411, Hartford, Conn. 06114
- Houston: P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052 (713) 524-4462
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- Seattle: 1017C East Pike, Seattle, Wash. 98122 (206) 322-6478
- Washington, D.C.: P.O. Box 43841, Washington, D.C. 20010 (202) 667-3957

The next phase of the crisis

Continued from page 10

dollars, which is also not an enormous amount by any means, even for one of the countries highly indebted to the U.S. A devaluation by that same 1/10th of 1% means losing \$1 million, which is a lot of money.

But there are those who hold many, many billions of dollars. For countries like Japan, England, West Germany or even Saudi Arabia, letting U.S. currency "fall," as they say, holds immeasurable consequences.

Hence, on the outbreak of the stock market crash, the Wall Street Journal and practically all the capitalist politicians, from Reagan on down, were urging a monetary conference of the Big Five (the U.S., Britain, West Germany, Japan and France) or the Big Seven (those five plus Italy and Canada) to get together and stabilize the dollar. They hoped this would help the falling stock market and prevent an economic debacle.

The U.S. ruling class has been desperately trying to reduce the value of the dollar so as to increase its exports and put a lid on imports. But if there's an economic collapse, particularly in those imperialist countries to which the U.S. wants to export, they will be unable to absorb U.S. exports. Moreover, they will become more insistent that unless the U.S. opens its markets to them, they won't be able to sustain their own economies, let alone try to help the U.S.

The prospects, then, are not just for a rerun of earlier economic collapses, but for one that could be on a profounder and deeper level even than 1929. Regardless of its dimensions, however, it will reopen the struggle of the working class and change the character of the entire international situation.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Sat., Nov. 7: Nov. 29 Committee for Palestine forum and cultural program. Hear Hassan Abdul Rahman, dir. of Washington, D.C., Palestine Information Office; Julie Mungai, one of LA 8; Nadia Habash, union rep at West Bank Bir Zeit Univ.; Yanira, Salvadoran victimized by death squads in LA. 6:30 p.m. at Altschul Aud. of Columbia U.'s Intl Affairs Bldg., W. 118 St. and Amsterdam Ave.

Sat., Nov. 14: Socialist Conference. "The Stock Market Crash: Why Did it Happen?" A Marxist analysis by Sam Marcy. Also fightback program, with Larry Holmes and Gloria La Riva. Sponsored by Workers World Party. 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Mabel Dean Bacon Vocational High School, 127 E. 22 St., call (212) 255-0352.

EE.UU. Apoya al Apartheid

Por Victoria Guerrero

Por presión masiva, el pasado año el Congreso de los Estados Unidos aprobó una ley prohibiendo la importación de algunos productos de Sudáfrica. El presidente Reagan junto al Congreso ha rehusado actuar en forma drástica en contra del régimen sudafricano de Botha, pero aún así se vio forzado a firmar el acta de sanciones.

Mientras Reagan pide sanciones en contra de Nicaragua y otros países, el nos dice que las sanciones solamente dañarian al pueblo de Sudáfrica. Aquí tenemos a alguien quien está contento de financiar y ayudar a los contras en la destrucción de poblados y el asesinato de civiles, pero dentro de su retórica el dice estar preocupado por los trabajadores de Sudáfrica y la forma en que ellos sufrirían con las sanciones a este país. Dejando en claro las contradicciones existentes en su política internacional. ¿Cuándo fue que él se preocupó de los trabajadores y los pobres? Nosotros sabemos que él en realidad está tratando de encontrar un argumento para levantar las restricciones de intercambio en contra de sus amigos racistas de Sudáfrica. Si eso es verdad entonces el debe demandar que todas las sanciones contra Nicaragua y otros países sean levantadas.

La ley la cual provee las sanciones débiles en contra de Sudáfrica contiene una cláusula dirigida en contra del movimiento de liberación nacional, El Congreso Nacional Africano (CNA). Si alguna forma pudiera ser encontrada para destruir el CNA, el gobierno racista podrá entonces continuar rigiendo y explotando la población para beneficio de las corporaciones norteamericanas. Eso es lo que el dictador de Sudáfrica, Botha, está

tratando de hacer.

El Congreso Nacional Africano fue creado en 1912, que dirigió una larga y difícil batalla por la libertad. Ellos trataron de ganar los derechos civiles y libertades democráticas a través de campañas pacifistas. El CNA llevó a cabo asambleas populares, demostraciones y desobediencia civil para ganar un espacio político. El gobierno de Sudáfrica reprimió violentamente al CNA, encarcelando y golpeando a sus máximos dirigentes. Mientras la lucha se expandía la milicia fue usada para tirotear al pueblo que manifestaba en forma pacífica. El gobierno destruyó y quemó las villas cerca de la

ciudad, instituyó leyes aún más represivas, y encarceló a todos los dirigentes Negros.

El pueblo sudafricano, liderado por el CNA al ver que las protestas pacifistas no surtían efecto y presión en el gobierno de Botha, ya que este seguía reprimiendo llegando incluso a atacar a los escolares de Soweto, el CNA decidió que el único camino era el de la resistencia armada.

En los últimos tres años al lucha se ha ido acrecentando con la participación masiva del pueblo, ya que día a día los mineros, campesinos, estudiantes, mujeres y niños se enfrentan a las fuerzas represivas del gobierno

sudafricano. El gobierno de la Casa Blanca y las corporaciones transnacionales ven en estos momentos sus intereses en peligro ya que en triunfo popular les significaría la pérdida del control hegemónica de la región y por ende el control político y es por esto que Reagan aprueba unas sanciones en contra de Botha que solo quedarán en los papeles como una medida desesperada para detener el avance del pueblo y mostrar una cara no intervencionista y seudo democrática a la opinión internacional. Pero el pueblo sudafricano, con el apoyo de los otros pueblos oprimidos y sojuzgados por el imperialismo yanqui, vencerá.



Trabajadores de Sudáfrica en huelga.

La Guerra Sucia de la CIA

Por David Perez

Robert Woodward, autor del libro, "Velo: Las Guerras Secretas de la CIA, 1981-1987," revela en sus escritos una entrevista con el fallecido director de la CIA, William Casey. Entre sus declaraciones en aquella entrevista, Casey manifestó como la CIA participó en un atentado dinamitero en el Líbano matando a 80 personas y como los agentes de dicha organización torturaron a un hombre con toques eléctricos hasta causarle la muerte.

Las investigaciones congresionales de 1975 encontraron que la agencia estaba envuelta en asesinatos de líderes de movimientos populares y de Jefes de Estados. A pesar de esto, los senadores y congresistas que repudiaron estos actos calificándolos de crímenes inmorales continúan proveyendo fondos a la agencia. Este año el Congreso autorizó más de \$ 3 millones para la

agencia y esto no incluye los fondos secretos que bajo otros nombres recibe para completar su presupuesto de \$ 600 millones que le sirven para ejecutar sus operaciones clandestinas.

Cuando Barry Goldwater fue director del Comité de Inteligencia del Senado, la agencia conectó una red de microfones en sus oficinas. A pesar del temor que sienten algunos políticos hacia la CIA y del conocimiento de las acciones de ésta en contra de regímenes democráticos, y mientras que estos hablan de libertad y de democracia y dicen respetar las decisiones populares, cuando llega el momento de proteger los intereses de las grandes compañías y consorcios internacionales en contra de las justas demandas de los sindicatos y de los movimientos populares de los países del tercer mundo, estos políticos apoyan y subvencionan a la CIA.

El libro de Woodward revela como el fallecido presidente del Líbano Bashir Gemayel recibía por parte de la CIA dinero para que este continuara una política a favor de los intereses de las transnacionales y de la Casa Blanca. Gemayel murió en el año 1982 a consecuencia de un atentado dinamitero que lo hizo volar por los aires cuando se desplazaba en su automóvil.

De acuerdo al libro, Casey autorizó 12 operaciones separadas de seguridad e inteligencia para ayudar a mantener en el poder a Ferdinando Marcos, pero el autor no menciona el papel jugado por la CIA en el asesinato de Benigno Aquino cuando regresaba a las Filipinas. Ahora que Corazón Aquino ha encontrado apoyo en el gobierno en Washington no hay ninguna mención sobre dicho asesinato.

Otro de los hechos revelados ha sido la ayuda económica que ha recibido José Napoleón Duarte, presidente de

El Salvador por parte de la CIA para continuar la política de represión contra el pueblo salvadoreño.

Eugenia Charles, la presidenta de la isla de Dominica, recibió \$100,000 en pago por su discurso ante las Naciones Unidas en apoyo de la invasión de Grenada. Además, la CIA instaló microfones escondidos en los teléfonos de el presidente de Egipto, Mubarak a pesar de este ser un aliado directo del EE.UU.

Woodward dice que Casey, en su carrera de muerte, admitió que él ordenó que las ganancias de la venta de armas a Iran fueran desviadas hacia los contras. También, admitió que la CIA hizo todo lo posible para prevenir la elección justa y libre que el gobierno Sandinista organizó en el 1985.

El libro "Velo" revela una vez más lo que ha sido reiterado muchas veces: que la CIA es la versión moderna de "Asesinato Incorporado" internacional.

Suscríbese Ahora

No Compre Uvas

EE.UU. Apoya al Apartheid

Por Victoria Guerrero

Por presión masiva, el pasado año el Congreso de los Estados Unidos aprobó una ley prohibiendo la importación de algunos productos de Sudáfrica. El presidente Reagan junto al Congreso ha rehusado actuar en forma drástica en contra del régimen sudafricano de Botha, pero aún así se vio forzado a firmar el acta de sanciones.

Mientras Reagan pide sanciones en contra de Nicaragua y otros países, él nos dice que las sanciones solamente dañarian al pueblo de Sudáfrica. Aquí tenemos a alguien quien está contento de financiar y ayudar a los contras en la destrucción de poblados y el asesinato de civiles, pero dentro de su retórica él dice estar preocupado por los trabajadores de Sudáfrica y la forma en que ellos sufrirían con las sanciones a este país. Dejando en claro las contradicciones existentes en su política internacional. ¿Cuándo fue que él se preocupó de los trabajadores y los pobres? Nosotros sabemos que él en realidad está tratando de encontrar un argumento para levantar las restricciones de intercambio en contra de sus amigos racistas de Sudáfrica. Si eso es verdad entonces el debe demandar que todas las sanciones contra Nicaragua y otros países sean levantadas.

La ley la cual provee las sanciones débiles en contra de Sudáfrica contiene una clausula dirigida en contra del movimiento de liberación nacional, El Congreso Nacional Africano (CNA). Si alguna forma pudiera ser encontrada para destruir el CNA, el gobierno racista podrá entonces continuar rigiendo y explotando la población para beneficio de las corporaciones norteamericanas. Eso es lo que el dictador de Sudáfrica, Botha, está

tratando de hacer.

El Congreso Nacional Africano fue creado en 1912, que dirigió una larga y difícil batalla por la libertad. Ellos trataron de ganar los derechos civiles y libertades democráticas a través de campañas pacifistas. El CNA llevó a cabo asambleas populares, demostraciones y desobediencia civil para ganar un espacio político. El gobierno de Sudáfrica reprimió violentamente al CNA, encarcelando y golpeando a sus máximos dirigentes. Mientras la lucha se expandía la milicia fue usada para tirotear al pueblo que manifestaba en forma pacífica. El gobierno destruyó y quemó las villas cerca de la

ciudad, instituyó leyes aún más represivas, y encarceló a todos los dirigentes Negros.

El pueblo sudafricano, liderado por el CNA al ver que las protestas pacifistas no surtían efecto y presión en el gobierno de Botha, ya que este seguía reprimiendo llegando incluso a atacar a los escolares de Soweto, el CNA decidió que el único camino era el de la resistencia armada.

En los últimos tres años al lucha se ha ido acrecentando con la participación masiva del pueblo, ya que día a día los mineros, campesinos, estudiantes, mujeres y niños se enfrentan a las fuerzas represivas del gobierno

sudafricano. El gobierno de la Casa Blanca y las corporaciones transnacionales ven en estos momentos sus intereses en peligro ya que en triunfo popular les significaría la perdida del control hegemónica de la región y por ende el control político y es por esto que Reagan aprueba unas sanciones en contra de Botha que solo quedarán en los papeles como una medida desesperada para detener el avance del pueblo y mostrar una cara no intervencionista y pseudo democrática a la opinión internacional. Pero el pueblo sudafricano, con el apoyo de los otros pueblos oprimidos y sojuzgados por el imperialismo yanqui, vencerá.



Trabajadores de Sudáfrica en huelga.

La Guerra Sucia de la CIA

Por David Perez

Robert Woodward, autor del libro, "Velo: Las Guerras Secretas de la CIA, 1981-1987," revela en sus escritos una entrevista con el fallecido director de la CIA, William Casey. Entre sus declaraciones en aquella entrevista, Casey manifestó como la CIA participó en un atentado dinamitero en el Líbano matando a 80 personas y como los agentes de dicha organización torturaron a un hombre con toques eléctricos hasta causarle la muerte.

Las investigaciones congresionales de 1975 encontraron que la agencia estaba envuelta en asesinatos de líderes de movimientos populares y de Jefes de Estados. A pesar de esto, los senadores y congresistas que repudiaron estos actos calificándolos de crímenes inmorales continúan proveyendo fondos a la agencia. Este año el Congreso autorizó más de \$ 3 millones para la

agencia y esto no incluye los fondos secretos que bajo otros nombres recibe para completar su presupuesto de \$ 600 millones que le sirven para ejecutar sus operaciones clandestinas.

Cuando Barry Goldwater fue director del Comité de Inteligencia del Senado, la agencia conectó una red de microfones en sus oficinas. A pesar del temor que sienten algunos políticos hacia la CIA y del conocimiento de las acciones de ésta en contra de regímenes democráticos, y mientras que estos hablan de libertad y democracia y dicen respetar las decisiones populares, cuando llega el momento de proteger los intereses de las grandes compañías y consorcios internacionales en contra de las justas demandas de los sindicatos y de los movimientos populares de los países del tercer mundo, estos políticos apoyan y subvencionan a la CIA.

El libro de Woodward revela como el fallecido presidente del Líbano Bashir Gemayel recibía por parte de la CIA dinero para que este continuara una política a favor de los intereses de las transnacionales y de la Casa Blanca. Gemayel murió en el año 1982 a consecuencia de un atentado dinamitero que lo hizo volar por los aires cuando se desplazaba en su automóvil.

De acuerdo al libro, Casey autorizó 12 operaciones separadas de seguridad e inteligencia para ayudar a mantener en el poder a Ferdinando Marcos, pero el autor no menciona el papel jugado por la CIA en el asesinato de Benigno Aquino cuando regresaba a las Filipinas. Ahora que Corazón Aquino ha encontrado apoyo en el gobierno en Washington no hay ninguna mención sobre dicho asesinato.

Otro de los hechos revelados ha sido la ayuda económica que ha recibido José Napoleón Duarte, presidente de

El Salvador por parte de la CIA para continuar la política de represión contra el pueblo salvadoreño.

Eugenia Charles, la presidenta de la isla de Dominica, recibió \$100,000 en pago por su discurso ante las Naciones Unidas en apoyo de la invasión de Grenada. Además, la CIA instaló microfones escondidos en los teléfonos de el presidente de Egipto, Mubarak a pesar de este ser un aliado directo del EE.UU.

Woodward dice que Casey, en su campaña de muerte, admitió que él ordenó que las ganancias de la venta de armas a Iran fueran desviadas hacia los contras. También, admitió que la CIA hizo todo lo posible para prevenir la elección justa y libre que el gobierno Sandinista organizó en el 1985.

El libro "Velo" revela una vez más lo que ha sido reiterado muchas veces: que la CIA es la versión moderna de "Asesinato Incorporado" internacional.

Suscríbese Ahora

No Compre Uvas



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SOUTH AFRICA

Labor unions have become an integral part of the liberation struggle in South Africa. 4

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sam Marcy writes on the relation of the stock market to the capitalist economic cycle, and shows why the crash is only the beginning of the crisis. 6

SOCIALIST CONFERENCE

A timely conference in New York City on Nov. 14 will present a unique Marxist view on the crash on Wall Street. 5



RED OCTOBER

Nov. 7 marks the 70th anniversary of the revolution that established the first workers' state. Was this historic event in Russia just a secret coup, as some claim, or a genuine mass uprising? 9

Weinberger out—militarism still in

Growing anti-war sentiment forces change in style at Pentagon

By Joyce Chediac

Why is Caspar Weinberger leaving the Reagan administration? The reason has a lot to do with form and little to do with substance.

His exit is a reflection of a concern in the Reagan camp over the approaching elections, and the fact that cuts in the bloated defense budget are becoming increasingly popular.

There is a growing hostility among the mass of the people to the calls now being made by Reagan and the leaders of Congress to make further cuts in social programs while the Pentagon's budget continues to rise faster than the stock market is falling.

Despite the media's attempt to play it down, Jesse Jackson's call for cuts in military

spending is one reason for his growing popularity. People are tired of having huge chunks taken out of their paychecks to make military contractors rich while their own families, friends and neighbors are being put into the poorhouse.

Weinberger, more than any other official in the Reagan administration, is associated in the public eye with the \$1.5 trillion giveaway to the Pentagon. His name is firmly wedded to Star Wars and to Washington's aggression in the Persian/Arabian Gulf.

While the ruling class as a whole is firmly behind this gargantuan military buildup, when election time rolls around it likes its parties to look more peaceful in order to increase their popularity. Weinberger, who is well-known as a

hawk, is now seen as a liability for the Republicans and a potential focus of anti-war sentiments.

Some of the media have made reference to a dispute between Weinberger and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). But it is important to remember that the Defense Secretary is never 100% aligned with the Joint Chiefs, who have their own political agenda. The JCS may well want Weinberger to take the heat if events backfire for them in the Gulf.

This is not the first time that a Defense Secretary has been ousted in the mid-term period before elections. Under the Ford administration, James Schlesinger, who was also known as a hardliner, headed the war department. As the

Continued on page 6



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'U.S. OUT OF PERSIAN GULF, CENTRAL AMERICA!'

Marchers take message into streets around the country. 3