



WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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CHICAGO STORY

The police and media joined forces to give the old racist Democratic machine a victory in Chicago. But the struggle for progressive Black and Latino political representation continues. **3**

KOREAN AIRLINES

Only the military dictatorship in south Korea can benefit from the KAL Flight 858 tragedy, charge progressive Young Koreans. **4**

NEW YORK RACISM

New York continues to be plagued by a racist onslaught, from a transit cop scandal to the Howard Beach trial to a KKK kidnapping and rape of a young cheerleader. Anti-racist solidarity is what's needed. **3**



WM PHOTO: D. GROSHONG

NOTOXIC WASTES!

"You don't see them putting toxic waste incinerators in Beverly Hills. They think because we are poor and our skin color is not white, they can dump on us. But they are wrong." **10**

CIA attacks on Nicaragua puncture Reagan's peace image

By Deirdre Griswold

The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry on Dec. 6 released figures showing there had been "a substantial increase" in overflights by planes supporting and supplying the contra forces in the month from Nov. 5 to Dec. 5.

It identified 21 of the 82 incursions as flights by U.S. Air Force planes carrying out missions of "radio electronic exploration and photography."

This stepped-up U.S. aggression against Nicaragua was confirmed the following day when a private plane piloted by a North American, James Jordan Denby, was forced down over Nicaraguan territory.

Denby is an associate of John Hull, a North American with a large ranch in Costa Rica widely reported to be used as a training base for the U.S.-supported contras. Both men are believed to be connected to the CIA.

Thus, the secret and unpopular dirty war against Nicaragua is being intensified even as administration strategists carry out a major

effort to change Reagan's image from that of a bellicose, aggressive warmaker who has bankrupted the economy with massive Pentagon spending to that of a sweet and reasonable peacemaker.

While this administration and the corporate media have yet to acknowledge the depth of anti-Reagan feeling here and around the world, their dismay over recent poll results cannot be hidden.

Just before the arrival of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR for the summit meeting, a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll showed that more people in the U.S. held an unfavorable opinion of Reagan (35%) than of Gorbachev (20%)!

After so many years of relentless and hysterical anti-communism coming from the White House, this poll must have shocked the administration.

Workers World has pointed out in previous issues that the super-rich ruling class in the U.S., which a few years ago was so enthusiastic

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HAITI STRIKE

Haitian workers organize a general strike "to mobilize to throw out the criminals." U.S. military aid keeps the regime in power. **9**



WM PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

FRESNO GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

When arsonists burned down the Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance booth in Fresno, Calif., students and community members rallied to their support. **7**

Pentagon boondoggles get more from Congress than childcare does

By Lillian Stein

If members of Congress were really intent on defending the future of our society, their very first priority would be the well-being and security of our children. Current proposals on funding for child care by both Democratic and Republican senators don't begin to solve the desperate need of millions of families.

Last January the AFSCME magazine, Public Employee, reported on the severity of the crisis in child care. Out of 24 million children under age 13 with working parents only 6 million have slots in licensed child care facilities. "By 1990, over 30 million infants and children will need child care," reported AFSCME.

This child care crisis exposes the anti-social character of the U.S. government. South Africa and the U.S. are the only industrial countries in the world that don't have a national policy on child care.

Since 1966 the number of working women has increased more than 92%. An unrelenting decline in real income along with widespread layoffs and cutbacks are forcing growing numbers of mothers to take jobs outside their homes. Also, the number of households headed by single women has grown from 28% to 31% of all U.S. families in the past eight years.

Women on the average make 52% of what men make. Even women employed in full-time, year-round jobs make only 65% of what men make (Scientific American, May 1987). Most new jobs are in the service industry at a low pay rate. Families lucky enough to find decent child care often can't afford it. Fortune magazine (February 1987) estimates that child care work-

ers themselves average only \$8,000-a year.

To figure out what this means for children who lack basic social services and daycare is to think of a future without hope. Almost one-quarter of all children in the U.S. live under the poverty level. Nearly one-half (46.5%) of Black children and 39% of Latino children live in poverty.

The Physicians Task Force on Hunger estimates that at least 500,000 children are suffering from malnutrition. Every day there are reports in the press on the fearful consequences for mothers who are forced to leave their children alone.

The Reagan administration cutbacks have been an expression of their right-wing opposition to child care. Although the Democrats could have fought these cuts, they collaborated instead.

Now it's election year and the halls of Congress are starting to echo with issues that most people consider top priority. All of a sudden there are voices on Capitol Hill which declare public funding for child care a necessity.

The Democrats are proposing a bill with funds amounting to \$2.5 billion dollars a year. This amount is approximately equal to the cost of one nuclear aircraft carrier or two Trident submarines. This is the best they can come up with and they are already speculating on a compromise which will grossly lower the funds. Just imagine how the military-industrial complex would kick if the Pentagon budget was limited to \$2.5 billion dollars a year.

The Republican bill, introduced by right-winger Orrin Hatch, is for \$875 million to be spread out over the next three years. This pittance is supposed

to show a new recognition that there should be a federal role in child care. Already the Democrats have agreed that it represents a figure to compromise with.

All organizations of working and poor people such as trade unions, women's organizations and grass-

Boston homeless in battle against MIT greed

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Cambridge, Mass.

The greed and callousness of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the nation's largest Star Wars research institutions, has been nakedly exposed by a small group of homeless people, students and community activists. Battle lines have been drawn over a 27-acre site located in the heart of Cambridge and the community is standing its ground.

MIT plans to build "University Park" there—a \$250 million high tech research and development project which includes a luxury hotel and expensive shops. But on Oct. 17 at a "Tent City" rally organized by the Simplex Steering Committee to demand affordable housing, 20 homeless people and supporters decided not to move from the site. They want the land used for low-income housing and are demanding that MIT give back three gutted houses it took illegally so they can be rehabilitated for homeless people.

The Simplex Steering Committee, which has been fighting against MIT's expansion for 13 years, gets its

roots community organizations are demanding funds for child care. The Democratic and Republican Parties have no intentions of fulfilling this demand. Only a working class party, independent of the bosses and their politicians will fight for free quality child care.

name from the Simplex Wire & Cable factory once located on the Tent City site. MIT bought and demolished this factory.

MIT has grabbed over 50 acres of land in this multinational, working class community, depriving the area of desperately needed affordable housing and jobs. The university has demolished all the residential property it has bought and all the industries and businesses except one.

Three houses from which MIT forcibly evicted the tenants in 1977 still stand vacant although this is in clear violation of the law which states that no property owner can keep a rent-controlled apartment vacant for more than 120 days without good cause. MIT wants to bulldoze the buildings but Tent City activists are demanding that they be used for the homeless and be taken by the city through eminent domain.

Simplex Steering Committee is fighting to have 450 new housing units built on the site. To date MIT has refused to negotiate.

MIT's response came 33 days later when on Nov. 23 at 6:30 a.m., MIT police

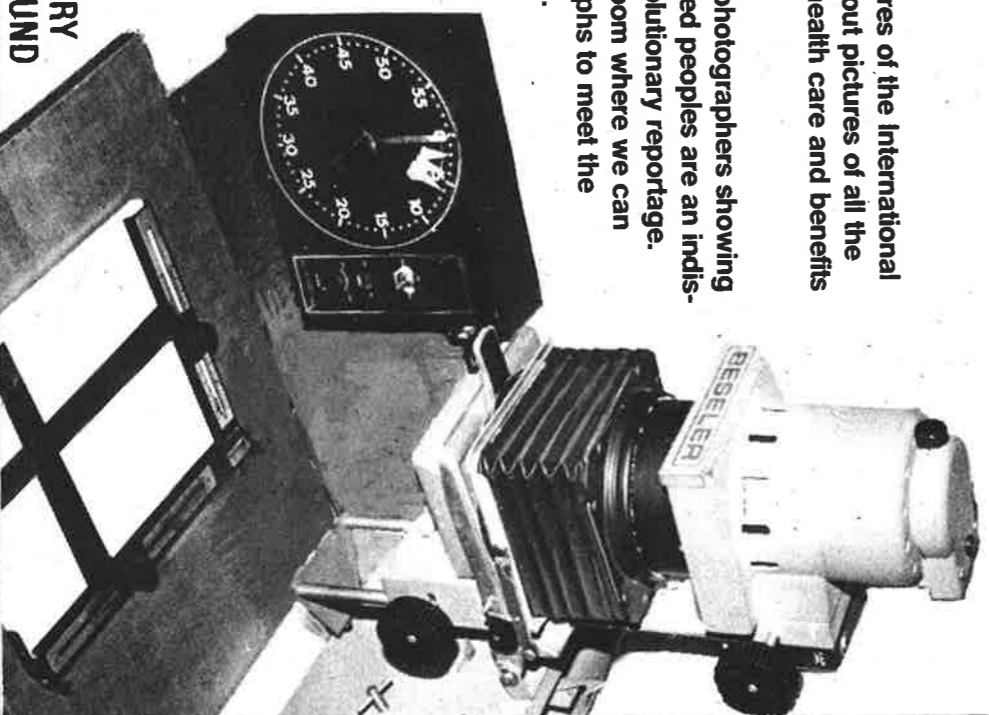
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A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words

Did your local newspaper print pictures of the International Paper strike in Jay, Maine? What about pictures of all the demonstrations demanding decent health care and benefits for people with AIDS?

Pictures taken by WORKERS WORLD photographers showing the struggle of working and oppressed peoples are an indispensable part of our on-the-spot revolutionary reportage. That's why we have to have a darkroom where we can develop and print our own photographs to meet the paper's needs on a moment's notice.

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Chicago after Washington — the struggle continues

By P. Kimball
Chicago

December 8 — The mass action which took place at Chicago's City Hall on the night of Dec. 1-2, had great significance. On that day, 5,000 rallied to support one Black candidate for mayor (Timothy Evans) over another (Eugene Sawyer). But it was really much more than that.

This struggle is a continuation of the long battle to gain political representation by the oppressed communities. Chicago is a city with a huge Black and Latino population which was held in the grip of a reactionary white Democratic Party political machine until the election of Harold Washington as mayor in 1983. Washington's death in office on Nov. 25 immediately led to a struggle over his successor, and the machine-dominated City Council chose Sawyer. That's why thousands surrounded City Hall during the vote.

The oppressed communities in Chicago believed that the gains they had made during five years of arduous political struggle were in danger, and they were not willing to sit back and watch it happen on television.

They went down to City Hall to save the situation themselves.

And they very nearly succeeded. They came within an inch of compelling Sawyer to pull out of the deal, at least to the extent of postponing the meeting. Delaying the meeting even a day would have allowed more forces to be brought into play, and the outcome might have been quite different.

That is why the ruling-class media have been filled for the last week with unusually venomous slanders of the thousands who protested that night. They have been called "thugs" and "anarchists"; their action has been called "mob rule."

Actually, the Dec. 1 protest was exceptionally nonviolent, considering how deep and how justified was the anger of the people at the deal, orchestrated by Alderperson Ed Burke, to put Sawyer forward as against Evans.

With literally a day's notice, 5,000 came to City Hall. For every one who came, 20 others would have if there had been time to prepare and more time to explain the possibilities of victory.

The action again proved that the struggle against racism does not divide race against race. On the con-

trary, it lets communities unite in genuine solidarity. All nationalities — Black, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Greek, Polish, Arab, Asian and others — were represented in the protest. Eleven Black, four white, and (significantly) all four of the Latino members of the City Council voted against the deal, and their speeches were cheered with equal fervor by the crowd.

Role of the police

Why were the protesters not successful? The simple answer is: because of the police. They prevented the people from entering or reentering City Hall during the most critical hours of the crisis, while the Sawyer forces were wavering.

The police forced everyone to wait outside in freezing cold and admitted them only after the deal was reestablished. Furthermore, the police pressured the protesters to limit their expressions of anger and outrage. Without the police, 29 alderpersons could never have outvoted 5,000 representatives of the oppressed.

Now Burke grumbles for publication that the police did not use their clubs on the crowd, as in the "good old days" of Boss Daley. But the Chicago Tribune, more clear-sighted, hailed the police as the "real heroes" of the night. The force of the police is always directed against the people in situations like this.

Role of the media

The role of the media in trying to divide and mislead was blatant. There are a hundred examples, but particularly repellent was the action of the Chicago Sun Times.

Racist malignancy grows in New York City area

Howard Beach, transit cops, KKK attack upstate

By Monica Moorehead
New York

December 8 — The image of New York City and the surrounding area as a symbol of "liberalism" has all but disappeared as racism continues to polarize this city of 8 million or more people. There are a number of developments that attest to this fact.

The Howard Beach trial of four racist youth, accused of brutally attacking three Black men, resulting in the death of 23-year-old Michael Griffith last Dec. 19, is scheduled to go to the jury in the coming days. The response of the Black, Latin and Asian communities to the verdict should be of particular interest to the whole progressive movement.

In the meantime, the struggle of the Latin and Black communities to have more representation on the School Board continues. Just a few weeks ago, 700 people, the majority Latin, protested on the steps of City Hall to demand a larger voice on this body. A similar protest is to take place in Brooklyn on Dec. 10 by the Black community.

Together, close to 75% of the New York City public school population is Latin and Black. Therefore, the school board, including the school chancellor, should reflect the student population and their needs. The current seven-member school board is composed of six whites and one Black person. As of today, Mayor Koch was forced to name a Latina to fill a school board vacancy as a result of the mass community pressure put on the racist city administration.

The transit cops scandal continues to read like a Watergate-type conspir-

ists for Jarrett's remarks.

On Saturday, Nov. 28, alderpersons Evans and Sawyer along with many other dignitaries appeared on the podium at Operation PUSH with Rev. Jesse Jackson, who had cut short a trip to the Middle East. The Sun Times cropped everyone but Jackson and Evans out of the photo, and ran it on the front page with a headline calling Jackson a "kingmaker." This picture was used by some "liberal" politicians as an excuse for not supporting Evans because he would be "Jackson's man."

When Sun Times columnist Vernon Jarrett, who is Black, defied his editors in a speech Nov. 30 denouncing the Sawyer deal, racist leader Ed Vrdolyak used the broadcast media to orchestrate a campaign of phone calls demanding that Jarrett be fired. The Sun Times took the extraordinary step of printing a front-page editorial which in essence apologized to the rac-



Protest at Chicago City Hall. It was really more than just that.

acy as it gets uglier and uglier. It was revealed two weeks ago that at least four transit police were accused of making countless false arrests of mostly Black and Latin people in order to gain rewards and promotions. The inquiry has now been expanded to include five more transit cops who made false sexual abuse arrests. The nine officers together made 224 arrests within a 16-month period.

The question arises why are these allegations coming out now. The answer is that this scandal serves a purpose; the police commissioner and other city officials are using the scandal as an excuse to justify their plans to merge the transit police department with the regular police force. Once again, a coverup is being brought to the public's attention not out of concern for the victims but rather to serve the interests of the ruling class and its state apparatus and, in this case, the police.

KKK rape

One of the most savage incidents of racist violence took place in the isolated upstate community of Wappinger Falls, about 50 miles north of New York City. A 15-year-old Black woman, Tawana Brawley, was abducted by several KKK members posing as cops and sexually assaulted for four days. Ms. Brawley, understandably in a state of shock, was found on Nov. 28 wrapped in a urine and feces stained piece of plastic with racist epithets written on her body.

According to the Dec. 5 edition of the N.Y. Amsterdam News, while her parents had reported to the police authorities that Tawana was missing for four days, next to nothing was done to try

to find her. Also, according to Black attorney Alton Maddox who is representing the Brawley family, Tawana was "kicked out" of St. Francis Hospital without being examined for sexual abuse.

The Black community inside and outside Wappinger Falls is angered by this latest blatant incident and has organized some mass actions to demand justice for Tawana Brawley.

This latest development seems to also be tied to an incident that occurred in the Orange County jail, where white guards dressed in KKK regalia hosed down some Black prisoners. Ms. Brawley, on the day of her abduction, happened to be visiting a prisoner at the same facility. The New York Times, the voice of bourgeois liberalism, has not mentioned one word regarding either of these racist incidents.

Need unity against racism

It is clear that while many Third World, poor and working people are facing an even deeper onslaught of joblessness, homelessness, low wages and budget cuts especially in light of the intractable economic woes of Wall Street, that it is racism that remains the major barrier to be torn down in order to forge unity among all the oppressed and workers.

In fact, more and more forces are coming together with the realization that fighting racism no matter what form it takes is key to building solidarity against a common enemy — the racist politicians, police, bosses and landlords. And there is no more appropriate place to begin this anti-racist process than right here in New York City.

— Boston

Continued from page 2

lice tore down the structures and arrested ten homeless people and their supporters, some of whom suffered injuries as a result of brutal treatment. "They told us we had 4 minutes to leave. They had a canine unit. I was heading towards my tent. . . . Then they jumped me and threw me down. They held me up by my handcuffs," said Steve Fernandez, a Tent City activist and former MIT student.

'Fight will not stop'

MIT callously offered the homeless people a few days shelter in a motel, which was refused. A few weeks earlier Tent City activists had pressured the Cambridge City Council to direct MIT not to evict homeless people until a mutually acceptable agreement was reached.

Since MIT's eviction of the homeless, several rallies and a sit-in have been organized. "Until every homeless person is housed from Tent City, this fight will not stop," said Kim Fitzgerald, a homeless Tent City resident.

South Korean dictatorship attempts desperate coverup

Blames socialist north for downing of KAL flight

By Sue Bailey
Washington

On Nov. 28 a Korean Air Lines passenger plane (KAL 858) disappeared while flying over Burma on its way to south Korea. While KAL 858 has not been located, it's presumed to be somewhere in the jungle near the Burma-Thailand border or, according to another unconfirmed report, in the Andaman Sea off southwestern Burma.

Meanwhile, in the absence of any factual information on the cause of the crash the south Korean government has launched a propaganda campaign blaming it on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, also known as north Korea).

South Korean president Chun Doo Hwan on Dec. 2 charged, "It is a plain fact that north Korea has intensified its provocative moves to obstruct the Seoul Olympics and the upcoming presidential election." The south Korean government has gone so far as to claim that the jet was destroyed by a time bomb. The accusations are made without having found the plane and without an investigation. The DPRK has categorically denied such charges.

Insofar as the DPRK has vehemently denied any involvement in the downing of the plane, and its south

Korean accusers have failed to produce a shred of evidence linking north Korea to the destruction, what accounts for the growing hysterical campaign that blames the DPRK?

Dec. 16 elections

The answer may lie in the dynamics of the highly charged election campaign being waged today in south Korea. The elections are the result of a massive people's struggle that has rocked the U.S.-backed military dictatorship that has ruled the southern half of the Korean peninsula. The upcoming Dec. 16 elections are the first to be held in 16 years.

In recent weeks, ruling party candidate Roh Tae Woo has been confronted by angry south Koreans pelting him with eggs, tomatoes and rocks as he campaigns in cities that have felt the brunt of the military government of which he has been a part. At the same time, reports indicated that opposition candidates Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam were attracting larger and larger crowds. A recent demonstration in Seoul drew over 1 million people in support of Kim Dae Jung.

Uppermost in the calculations of the south Korean military (which supports Roh) and the Pentagon (the U.S. still has 40,000 troops occupying south Korea) is how to discredit and diffuse

the growing movement behind the opposition candidates. This was the political situation that existed in south Korea at the time of the disappearance of KAL 858.

Two months ago, Roh promised the Korean people that he would open the way for dialogue with north Korea (reunification of the two Koreas has been a central demand of the people's movement) and bring about democracy in south Korea. Now he seeks to whip up a hysteria among the supporters of the opposition candidates by showing that there is supposedly an enemy that looms larger than the fascist government that he represents — the government of north Korea.

Due to a less-than-dynamic election campaign that has generated increased pressure from the military, Roh has used the KAL allegations as a basis to move away from his earlier promises of dialogue with the north. According to a Washington Post article of Dec. 4, Roh says the KAL incident shows "the north Korean threat and the danger of candidates who do not recognize the threat." Roh now stresses in his campaign that only he can stand up to the "communist north."

It is no wonder that opposition candidates have charged that Roh Tae Woo is using the KAL tragedy for political gain. Opposition candidate Kim Dae Jung, who is the strongest advocate of opening dialogue with the north, has said that the voters in south Korea are too politically aware to allow the hysteria over the KAL incident to affect their vote.

Young Koreans: 'South Korean gov't responsible'

Representatives of the Young Koreans United (YKU) here in the U.S.

ANC on founding of Umkhonto We Sizwe

Following is a statement from the African National Congress Observer Mission to the UN:

Dec. 16 marks the 26th anniversary of the founding of Umkhonto We Sizwe, the People's Army of South Africa. Dec. 16, 1961, marked a turning point in our long march to freedom.

The relentless struggle of the people was being met with ever-increasing violence and repression by the racist state. The time had arrived when we needed to reinforce our mass political action with the blows of an armed struggle; thus was born Umkhonto We Sizwe.

Born of the people, combatants of Umkhonto We Sizwe pledged themselves to complement the actions of the African National Congress by means of organized violence. These past 26 years are a proud record of a risen people making their own history with their own blood, sweat and tears as they live out their commitment.

From these small beginnings Umkhonto We Sizwe has emerged today as a guarantor of our people's future and indispensable fighting arm of our people, born out of the heavy responsibility that history had thrust upon our people. We had sought, by every nonviolent means at our disposal, to realize the liberation of our people.

Our people were mobilized as never before to challenge white minority rule, but the rulers of racist South Africa paid no heed to our demands. They drowned our efforts in blood and brutality. The Sharpeville massacre epitomized this reality. The formation of Umkhonto We Sizwe was our people's answer to this historic challenge. "The time comes in the life of

On Nov. 29, Turkey held its first "civilian-run" parliamentary elections since the U.S.-backed military coup of Sept. 12, 1981.

The elections were widely hailed in the U.S. news media and by the Reagan administration as marking a "return to democracy." For the workers and peasants of Turkey, however, they were a charade.

The lack of democratic rights for Turkey's working class was highlighted two weeks before the elections by the arrest of the leaders of Turkey's two largest left parties. Haydar Kutlu, general secretary of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP), and Nihat Sargin, general secretary of the Workers Party of Turkey (TIP), were seized at Ankara airport as they attempted to return from exile accompanied by a large group of members of the European Parliament.

Among the charges against them are "advocating the domination of the working class over other social classes," "advocating fundamental changes in the economic system," and supporting self-determination for Turkey's super-oppressed Kurdish minority.

Like all left parties in Turkey, the TKP and TIP are illegal. The two parties recently announced plans to merge to form the United Communist Party of Turkey.

Tens of thousands imprisoned

Kutlu and Sargin are among tens of thousands of leftists, trade unionists and Kurdish activists who have been jailed for political "crimes" since the U.S.-backed 1981 coup. In October 1986, Amnesty International reported that 48,000 people had been unfairly sentenced to death or imprisonment for "political offenses" since 1981, many in mass trials. Tens of thousands more are awaiting trial. Helsinki Watch recently reported the widespread and frequent use of torture by the Turkish police to obtain "confessions."

have raised suspicions about the south Korean government's version of the KAL disappearance. One representative pointed out that "among Korean progressives there's a general consensus that the south Korean government is responsible for the KAL incident.

"This is not the first time that such incidents have been created by the current regime when they have been in a politically difficult situation such as the upcoming election. And of course the south Korean military is not acting alone, it has the approval and assistance of the U.S. and Japan.

The south Korean dictatorship is using the KAL incident to sow divisions in the people's movement through an anti-communist campaign in order to stop it from toppling the military regime."

Another representative of the YKU pointed out that "only Roh can benefit from making this tragedy into a campaign against the north. At a time that relations between the north and the south are beginning to thaw, why would the north commit such an outrage?"

What is the motive for north Korea? Doesn't every prosecution attorney in a murder case have to establish a motive in order to convict an accused? If south Korea is so convinced that the DPRK sabotaged KAL 858, why has the evidence not been made public? No motive, no evidence.

It was not too long ago, that another Korean airliner was involved in a tragedy, KAL 007. After an initial hysteria was unleashed against the Soviet Union for downing the airliner, evidence was uncovered that confirmed the Soviet's charge that the airliner had been a U.S. spy plane assisted by the south Korean intelligence agency.

any nation when there remains only two choices: submit or fight" and South African's rulers had left us with no alternative but to "hit back by all means within our power in defense of our people, our future and our freedom," says the Manifesto of Umkhonto We Sizwe.

In observing that road the combatants of Umkhonto We Sizwe were forced by brutal repression to take, knowing that once they took that road there would be no going back; a road that necessitated total dedication, self-sacrifice and a determination that knew no surrender; a road along which the commitment not to submit but to fight would have to be transformed into the uncompromising warrior pledge — victory or death.

The African National Congress invites all supporters of our just struggle to celebrate that spirit on: Wednesday, Dec. 16 at Harriet Tubman High School (P.S. 154), 250 W. 127 St., between Lenox and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. at 6:30 p.m.

We will also be celebrating the unconditional release of our leader, Govan Mbeki, after spending 23 years in racist South Africa's prison. We will be remembering his colleagues and comrades, our leaders whom he left behind — Nelson Mandela and others. We will be remembering patriots and heroes who are currently on death row and those detained without trial for their opposition to apartheid.

We will also be celebrating the end of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the African National Congress, the vanguard of the fighting people of South Africa. We need your support in our common struggle against racism, colonialism and apartheid.

Humpty-Dumpty comes to Wall Street

By David Perez

"All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put the market together again." This jingle has now replaced "Tis the season to be jolly" on Wall Street.

It is surely playing in the hearts and minds of the bankers, the high rollers of finance capital, and the ruling class as a whole as the stock market continues to fall after constantly trying to get back up on its legs.

The Dec. 3 news that the market plunged 72 points and is now at about the same level as on Oct. 19, the day of the historic 508 point plunge, which wiped out half a trillion dollars in stock values, has once again shown just how shaky U.S. capitalism really is.

Simply put, the economy has not rebounded nor is it expected to.

Record bank closings, low profits

A development that shows the severity of the crisis is that nine banks were closed by the U.S. government on Thursday, Dec. 3. This is the highest number of bank closings in one day in U.S. history and brings to 173 the number of closings for just this year.

The banks affected were eventually merged with bigger banks. They are located in Nebraska, Iowa, Kentucky and Louisiana. Layoffs are sure to accompany this move.

Nor are just the smaller savings and loan banks in trouble. A new report by federal regulators says that U.S. bank profits as a whole are now at their lowest level since the Great Depression (Wall Street Journal, Dec. 8). The Third World debt crisis and the had energy-related loans to the crisis-ridden Southwest are blamed.

The Reagan administration and the apologists for capitalism have attempted to suggest that even with the stock market crash the U.S. economy is still sound. In fact, they have tried to make it seem that the market and the basic workings of the capitalist economy are two separate entities — that one is not necessarily dependent on the other.

But according to the Dec. 4 Wall Street Journal, this latest downturn had a very direct relationship on the economy. On Dec. 3, it was announced that consumer spending — which combines retail spending (clothes, appliances, toys, etc.) with auto sales — went down in November. This shows, as one "financial analyst" quoted in the Journal says, "a slowing down of the economy." This news triggered the most recent market drop. It points out just how integrated the market is with the health of capitalism.

For weeks the ruling class has pushed the line that the value of the dollar had to decline in order to make the U.S. economy more productive. But the dollar has now fallen considerably in relation to other international currencies, yet the market has gone down anyway. Yes, times are rough for finance capital.

In total the dollar continues to fall in value. (Meaning, basically that it's worth less and buys less.) This has strengthened U.S. exports but has created a crisis among the imperialist allies like Japan, West Germany and Britain, which now have more trouble selling their exports.

How to strengthen its economy and still maintain a friendly relationship with its allies — which it desperately needs to keep its military alliance against the socialist countries and the national liberation movements — is one of the many insoluble contradictions of the U.S.

It has become obvious that the rulers and financial barons are trying to shift the weight of the crisis onto the

backs of the workers and oppressed through more cutbacks and layoffs. In New York City, the racist Koch administration has announced more cuts and layoffs on top of its hiring freeze.

These cutbacks will affect many crucial needs of the people from money for AIDS to anti-drug treatment to more libraries, and much more. There has already been a whole series of layoffs that will affect thousands in the securities and other financial industries. (See related article on this page.)

The common reason given for these developments is that "the future is bleak." In fact, this reporter has never seen such "bleakness" which appears

in practically every article in the financial pages of the big business newspapers and magazines. Throughout these articles are phrases like "profit outlooks have faded," "prospects are gloomy," "uncertainty and fear reign," "October 19, the day the music died," etc.

What all this highlights is the absolute anarchy of capitalist production. At the bottom of the crisis is capitalist over-production.

This is not a mysterious phrase. It means that this economic system goes into a tailspin when too much is produced — meaning too much to be sold for a profit. This overproduction, or

glut, is inevitable and has been occurring regularly and periodically for about 150 years. It leads to high unemployment, increasing poverty and oftentimes to war. It is a savage waste of human potential and resources and is an attack on our very lives.

As Workers World Party presidential candidate Larry Holmes told this paper, "The whole problem is capitalism. The stock market crash and this recent dive back down shows that they cannot control their own system no matter how hard they try. We must fortify our struggle for socialism as the only real solution and this we must do boldly and imaginatively."

Big layoffs hit NYC financial giants

By a laid-off EF Hutton worker
New York

The 19,000 workers at EF Hutton, one of Wall Street's brokerage kingpins, found out last week that management had sold the store to rival Shearson Lehman Brothers and, as a result of the takeover, as many as 9,000 jobs could be eliminated.

The workers found out about the takeover the same way millions of other people in this city did — they read about it in the newspapers.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 1, EF Hutton President Robert Rittereris got on the intercom to announce the \$1 billion takeover deal and to reassure everyone that "preserving jobs was and is my number one priority."

By Thursday, however, the "swat teams" had arrived. These were the stone-faced men in grey pin-striped suits. They carried clipboards and took copious notes as they went from department to department interviewing supervisors.

They were the ones who would make the recommendations to the new management of what divisions to cut, which people were "superfluous" and where to "trim the fat."

Unlike earlier layoffs that were announced on Wall Street before Oct. 19 and which were aimed at middle management, the new round of pink slips will go to the so-called back-end workers, that is, the people who do the real work at the company.

There will undoubtedly be brokers and traders with six-digit salaries who will get canned, but the great majority will be those who earn between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a year. They are the ones who sort the mail, run the copy machines, type the memos, prepare the food, clean the halls and answer the phones.

While the vice presidents and upper management were busy rewriting their resumes and running to interviews at prestigious executive search firms, these workers were kept in the dark. They were finally told about EF Hutton's plans a bare few weeks before the holidays. And now they face the new year with insecurity and fear.

Workers to pay for bosses' crisis

The causes of last October's stock market collapse can be laid at the feet of corporate America's rapacious greed and hyper-speculative mania for super-profits. Certainly the workers are not responsible. Yet it is they who are now being made to suffer and who will lose their jobs as a result of the new retrenchment and restructuring on Wall Street.

What is happening at EF Hutton is the latest and most dramatic fallout of the October crash. On Friday, Kidder Peabody, a top securities firm recently taken over by General Electric, announced it would be laying off 1,000 employees, or 14% of its workforce. I.F. Rothschild has just said that it

will eliminate 700 jobs, or 40% of its staff.

Chase Manhattan, Citibank and Chemical are planning to slash 4,000 jobs next year. Already, six major financial firms have announced cutback plans. Since Oct. 19, some 3,000 Wall Street jobs have been eliminated.

Nor do these cuts merely affect Wall Street alone. The so-called finance industry is a key and central component of the economy of the New York metropolitan area. Every job lost on Wall Street will be matched by at least one in other industries, according to the Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates.

This big business think-tank makes some staggering predictions about the state of the New York economy in the coming period. They say that in the next two years 25,000 jobs will be lost in the securities industry and 35,000 jobs in other industries.

While the official unemployment rate came down last month for the country as a whole, in New York City unemployment jumped up by eight-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.8% to 6.6%, a huge increase for just one month.

For many years the service sector has been touted as the new dynamic sector of the economy that was able to insulate itself from the woes of manufacturing and industry. Economists pointed to the impressive growth rates

Continued on page 11

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Holiday (All Year Round) Cards

Graphics include: Free Nelson Mandela A Tribute to South African Women Umkhonto we Sizwe Ho Chi Minh Harriet Tubman Sojourner Truth Che Guevara Native Women Stonewall Means Fight Back A Better World's in Birth (With New Year's Greeting) Red Star with gold trim Tribute to Workers, Worldwide. Each Card is 4"x5." Mark your selection (70¢ each); comes with envelope. Gift selection of ten \$6.

Kaffiya Palestinian shawl black on white. \$12 Palestinian scarf black on white, edged in colors of Palestinian flag. 4' long. \$12

Portrait of Lenin lapel pin \$3.50

Freedom Charter of the African National Congress 22"x34" multicolored. \$8.

Albizu Campos Portrait silkscreened on beige fabric with maroon ink, stretched on a 13"x14" wooden frame. \$10.

MANDELA! and other Songs of Struggle. By the All-Peoples Singers: Sahu Barron, Naomi Cohen, Marjii Crackle, Pam Parker, Phil Wilayto. Tape includes: Mandela, No Pasaran, Abril Siempre Abril, Song of Big Mountain, Nazareen-Maryam, Harriet Tubman, Homel Solidarity, Masters of War, Deporeet, He Said No, The Cry is Freedom Tape. \$6.

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Grey			

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Auto workers tell Chrysler: 'Meet your promise'

Will company scrap Jefferson Avenue plant?

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

December 4 — This week, United Auto Workers (UAW) union Vice President Marc Stepp warned that the UAW would resort to political arm twisting and possibly a boycott of Chrysler products should the Number 3 automaker renege on its promise to build a new Jefferson Avenue Assembly plant in Detroit.

"When it comes arm twisting time, it won't just be workers at Chrysler Jefferson," Stepp said, noting that city and civic leaders would be outraged if Chrysler abandoned the project.

Stepp's threats come in the face of persistent rumors that the rebuilding of the Jefferson Avenue plant would be scrapped. These rumors were given more fuel at a press conference attended by Chrysler's two top officials, Lee Iacocca and Gerald Greenwald.

Greenwald stated, "Maybe we're looking at a short pause (in the building of the plant)... After what went on on Wall Street Oct. 19, we'll need some flexibility."

Iacocca, when asked if the Jefferson project is proceeding on schedule, said, "We're reviewing all the plans now for all the plants and seeing what the next years hold... I think we've got to look at some of these plants.

Why IP won't budge

By Phil Wilayto

On Dec. 2, representatives of the International Paper Co. (IP) and the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) met in Washington, D.C., at the request of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. After a four-hour session, IP's position remained the same: it refuses to negotiate on a national level to end three strikes in Jay, Maine, Lock Haven, Pa., Mobile, Ala., and DePere, Wis.

IP is the largest paper products company in the world. Its 1986 profits totaled \$305 million, more than double what it made the year before, enough to give its top executives 38% raises and its president a salary of over \$1 million a year.

Meanwhile, the four locals on strike or locked out are only insisting on keeping their jobs, offering to extend their old contracts with no increase in wages or benefits.

So why is IP demanding deep wage cuts, work rule changes and job eliminations?

Big profits, but not big enough

The demand for paper products in the U.S. today is so great that companies like Weyerhaeuser, another huge paper company, are operating at full capacity, three shifts a day. Yet, even though Weyerhaeuser is making record profits, it's not building new mills or expanding its present facilities.

Why not? Because it's not making enough profits to satisfy its stockholders.

Across the country, return on the assets of U.S. corporations, what they call their "profit margins," is an average of 4.2%, down from 8% in the mid-1960s. That's just not high enough for the big capitalists, especially after the stock market crash of Oct. 19. According to banking economists, investors are now looking for a profit margin of 10%. So, instead of looking to expand their plants, let alone raise wages, the big paper companies like Weyerhaeuser and IP are looking for ways to cut costs as much

We've got too much with (buying American Motors Corp.) and something's got to give a little bit."

Aaron Taylor, president of UAW Local 7 which represents 4,200 hourly workers at the Jefferson Avenue plant, said he had been told by company officials that supplier plants had been eliminated from the project. Even if the new assembly plant is built, 1,200 to 1,700 current workers are slated to lose their jobs. The existing Jefferson plant will close in 1989.

Forced from homes

Chrysler's hedging on its plans for rebuilding Jefferson Assembly must have come as quite a shock to the 670 households and 50 businesses who have already been removed from their community to make way for the new facility. Many of these families were seniors who were forced out of their lifelong homes to make way for a plant that may never be built.

The city of Detroit is channeling \$194.7 million in federal, state and city money to the Jefferson project, including \$40.3 million to acquire land and \$11 million to relocate residents. At the time this money was appropriated and people were told they would have to move, Chrysler failed to mention that it was in the midst of negotiations to buy American Motors.

as possible and thereby increase profits. That means attacking the unions.

People vs. profits

So it's not the workers and their families that IP cares about. No, it's not even making paper. IP's only real concern is to make profits so big that the fat cats up on Wall Street will want to invest more money so IP can expand and make more profits.

What does IP care that a paperworker in Mobile or DePere, in Lock Haven or Jay, has spent his or her life in a paper mill, risking life and limb, giving up holidays and Sundays with the family, helping to make IP the corporate giant that it is today?

What does IP care that the schools in many poor communities can't afford paper so the kids can learn to spell and write and draw? All IP cares about is profits, and the workers be damned.

With their unity and courage and the support of the whole labor movement, the paperworkers and their union can win this fight against IP. But sooner or later the contradictions between people and profits will become so obvious that paperworkers will have to ask, "What do we need million-dollar executives and bankers and stockholders for? What do we need profit margins for? We're the ones who built the plants and make them run — let's run them ourselves and make paper for people, not profits!"

Send support to strikers

As the battle against IP comes into the holiday season, the four locals on strike or locked out are in special need of support. If you can make a donation of money, food or presents for the children, it would be much appreciated. Send resolutions of support, donations or requests for speakers to:

UPIU Local 14, P.O. Box 272, Jay, Maine 04239 (207) 897-5423; Local 1787, P.O. Box 773, Lock Haven, Pa. 17745 (717) 748-2097; Local 6288, 342 Main St., DePere, Wis. 54115 (414) 337-6501; Local 265, 1105 N. Wilson Ave., Pritchard, Ala. 36610 (205) 457-0265.

Chrysler's acquisition of AMC resulted in excess plant capacity. This overcapacity is being heightened by projections of a recession in light of the stock market crash. Chrysler has cut production plans from 1.65 to 1.35 million cars a year.

Jefferson Assembly is Chrysler's last remaining assembly plant within the city limits of Detroit. From 1979 to 1982, Chrysler shut down seven plants, idling close to 30,000 workers in Detroit. These shutdowns were the single most important factor in de-

stroying the economic base of this predominantly Black city.

The racist character of Chrysler's moves cannot be questioned. By shutting its Detroit facilities, Chrysler changed the composition of the workforce at its assembly plants from 70% Black to 70% white in a period of three years. The community is certainly ready to take on this racist corporate giant, to demand that Jefferson Assembly stay open, and to fight for the return of the tens of thousands of jobs that were stolen from the city of Detroit.

On the picket line

Buffalo Nurses United win.

After walking picket lines for three months in a strike that developed into a struggle for their jobs, Nurses United, Communications Workers Local 1168 at Buffalo, N.Y.'s DeGraff Memorial Hospital won a major victory in November. The victory included a guarantee that all strikers would get their jobs back, the big issue in the walkout after the hospital hired scabs in August and said that less than a third of the 300 strikers would ever work at DeGraff again; it also included wage and benefit gains. The key element that brought about a victory was the support and solidarity the strikers won, both in the region and nationally, with fellow unionists joining nurses at rallies and on picket lines, including demonstrations at the homes of the hospital bosses.

A major "Jobs With Justice" rally scheduled to boost the strike turned into a victory celebration on Nov. 15, with union officials including Gene Uphaw of the NFL Players Association, Lynn Williams of the Steel Workers and Morton Bahr of the Communications Workers saluting the nurses. The day before, Jesse Jackson, who had been scheduled to speak at the rally, arrived early telling strikers, "I've come to support you, to get your jobs back." Jackson joined Nurses United representatives at the bargaining table and threw his weight behind their demands; this display of unity proved too much for DeGraff, and by the end of the day the nurses had a contract and their jobs.

Missouri shoe struggle.

A bitter strike by 450 mostly women shoe workers in Aurora and Carthage, Mo., is in its ninth month and the workers are appealing for support from the labor movement. The strike, the first ever against Juvenile Shoe Corp. by the small local of the Clothing and Textile Workers (ACTWU), began on April 1

after the company demanded enormous concessions including huge pay cuts, fewer holidays and revamped work schedules. The effects of the sweeping takebacks would have been lowering the workers' already-low wages to unlivable levels.

As Mary Manor, a worker with ten years' seniority who must support two children, explains, "After ten years at Juvenile, I was making \$6.50 an hour. I remember the company officials coming around and telling us that we would be like one big happy family. Then they told me they were going to cut me back to a minimum wage rate." Manor said that she has had to send her oldest son to live with relatives because she can't support him anymore: "Juvenile Shoe's greed has torn our whole world apart."

ACTWU has initiated a national support campaign for the Juvenile Shoe strikers, including a boycott on the following brand names: Lazy Bones, Foot Thrills, Sandpipers, G.P.O., Clinic, Hitch Hikers, Dude Ranch, Cradle Stepper and Happy Steppers.

Boston hotel workers.

After a union mobilization won the support of local women's groups and threatened to disrupt the bourgeois ambience at Boston's fancy Copley Plaza Hotel, the bosses backed off from their attempt to institute a racist, sexist, demeaning rule that chambermaids scrub floors on their hands and knees. The rule, posted on signs in the hotel on Nov. 10, ordered the workers, who are mostly Black and Latina women, many of them older women who have worked at the hotel for many years, to turn in their mops and instead to "please help yourself to as many clean rags as you like for hand washing floors."

The outraged workers responded by organizing, contacting the National Organization for Women and other women's groups and planning a meeting to confront management. While management stood by its racist policy to force the workers onto their knees — Alan Tremain, president of the hotel told the press, "A maid is a maid, and that's just what she has to do" — the response of the workers and their supporters proved too much. Finally, on Dec. 3, the hotel backed off. Though they took great pains to emphasize that their change of heart was motivated only by a desire "to provide the cleanest accommodations possible," the real story is that the Copley Plaza workers stood up to the bosses' vile attack and forced them to their knees.



PHOTO: ACTWU

Shoe strikers in Missouri.

Shelley Etinger

Actions challenge Koch's cuts of AIDS funds in NYC

By Shelley Ethinger
New York

The AIDS struggle is heating up here in the city with 30% of the national total of diagnosed AIDS cases.

Last Tuesday, Nov. 30, 300-400 people staged an angry demonstration sponsored by the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACTUP) to demand that the city release a promised \$4 million for AIDS-related programs. The event started at the city Health Department, where demonstrators staged a "Die-In" in which some laid down on the sidewalk while others outlined their bodies in chalk and crayons. Messages were then written inside the silhouettes targeting Mayor Ed Koch for responsibility for the deaths of many people with AIDS.

Next came a march to City Hall, where police tried to block protesters from holding a scheduled press conference and rally. After a tense confrontation, the cops were forced to back down and the rally took place. The very angry, militant mood was reflected as many of the politicians who tried to speak were heckled and drowned out by chants of "Bullshit! Bullshit." Instead, ACTUP representative David Robinson was cheered as he said, "We're tired of waiting, we're tired of dying! We demand money for AIDS now."

The rally closed with another Die-In and the results were dramatic and moving, as the sidewalks in front of City Hall were filled with body outlines bearing messages like, "Koch, we charge you with genocide," and "Craig, 1966-1987, killed by government inaction."

Gov't ignores crisis

AIDS activists are particularly enraged that the Koch administration is refusing to release \$4 million pledged for the 1988 municipal budget, money budgeted to fund three AIDS Assessment Centers in the oppressed communities. AIDS prevention education, counseling to people with AIDS, and medical care for women with AIDS.

According to ACTUP, "despite original reports from the Office of Management and Budget of a \$32 million surplus . . . the mayor is now exploiting the stock market crash as an excuse to disregard public health, and he is ignoring his promise to release the

Boston picket defends gay civil rights bill

By Brian Shea
Boston

On Nov. 24 and 25, three hundred lesbians, gay men and their supporters picketed outside the Massachusetts State House in response to homophobic attacks on the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill pending in the state legislature and on AIDS education.

Demonstrations were organized by a task force which came out of the Oct. 11 national demonstration for lesbian and gay rights and which was to organize direct actions locally.

This same group organized a demonstration the previous week against the Pilot, newspaper of the Catholic archdiocese, which had denounced the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill.

The civil rights bill that is pending in the state legislature has been under attack by right-wing forces inside the state senate, principally William Bulger and Thomas McGee. These right-wing bigots want to audit and control the manner in which the AIDS Action Committee utilizes the meager funds that have been allotted to it by the state.

funds."

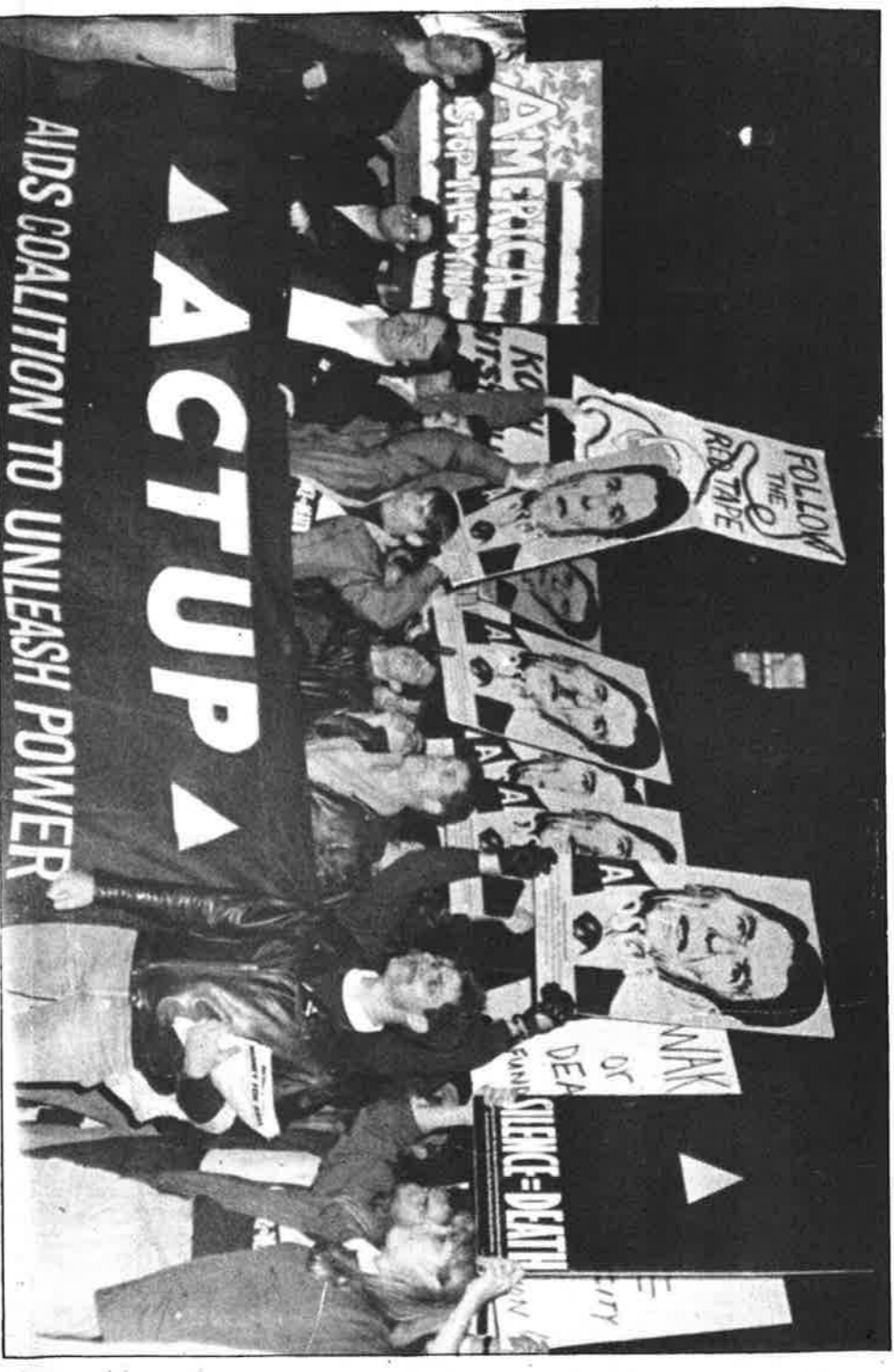
While the city is holding back urgently needed funding to help stem the AIDS crisis, it is taking steps — to curtail civil liberties and attack oppressed people. Lesbian and gay activists expressed outrage at new measures proposed by City Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph, measures that many see as "unleashing the sex police" while doing nothing to actually end the epidemic or provide care for those who are ill.

In late November, Joseph an-

nounced his support for a series of steps that include mandatory HIV-antibody testing for prostitutes and prisoners and an expansion of the official definition of "high-risk" sexual activities. This would pave the way for stepping up repression and intrusions into the private sexual relations of selected groups of people, most likely including gay men, Third World people, prostitutes, prisoners and IV drug users.

Among the likely effects of the new guidelines would be a further rise in racist police violence, violent raids on gay bars and clubs — in Los Angeles, police are currently engaged in a wave of such raids under the guise of closing down places where AIDS is supposedly transmitted — along with intensified scapegoating of prostitutes.

AIDS groups are calling for public hearings by the NYS Public Health Council's Codes Committee, the body that would promulgate any new rules, so that people with AIDS and those under attack can demand funding for education, prevention and treatment instead of further repression.



AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACTUP) protest in New York City. "We're tired of waiting!" WW PHOTO: CARMEN ROUNDREE

Students rally in support of Fresno Gay and Lesbian Alliance after arson attack

By Lady Wolf Walker
Fresno, Calif.

The Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) of California State University-Fresno suffered the loss of its booth in the Steven Biko Free Speech area by arsonists in the early hours of Nov. 30.

The booth, meant as a gathering place for gays, lesbians and their friends, also served as an outreach to the campus community to promote understanding and tolerance of all minorities, especially gays and lesbians. In addition, it was a distribution point for information on AIDS, the only booth on campus with such literature.

A rally protesting the violence brought a hundred people into the Free Speech Area on Dec. 2. Many speakers from diverse and wide-ranging cultures spoke in support of the GLSA.

Many in the crowd were supportive while others heckled the speakers with obscenities or "Christian condemnation" of the gays and lesbians and their guests. A minister from a local church spoke out against this "judgment of God's children, gay or straight."

The GLSA and supporting speakers tried to carry the message to the crowd that this wasn't just an attack on the GLSA but an attack on everyone's civil rights. Many people in the crowd came forward with donations to help rebuild a new booth and sign a petition against the violent act.

One member, who had been anonymous outside the group, stood in front

of the large crowd and announced that he was gay and proud of it. He announced he wouldn't have said that a week before but this week he was damned angry and wanted to show his support and commitment with the group.

The group asks that support be shown against this oppression and violence. The message is that this violence will not be accepted on our campus and in our city against any minority!

The booth was rebuilt Dec. 5 with

love and dedication and it will be rebuilt as many times as it takes. Please write in support of the Gay and Lesbian Support Association. The members and their supporters are going to start wearing pink triangle buttons or lavender bandanas around the wrist or leg. The group cannot be frightened away and will struggle on against oppression.

Write to: Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance, California State University-Fresno, Shaw and Maples Aves., Fresno, Calif. 93740.

Homophobic ruling by Boston City Council overturned

By Frank Neisser
Boston

The lesbian and gay community won a victory here on Nov. 18 when Federal Judge Ria Zobel ordered the Boston City Council to immediately reinstate two aides to openly gay City Councilor David Scodras. The aides, Gary Dotterman and French Wall, are long-standing and respected activists in the Boston lesbian and gay community. Most recently, Dotterman was one of four New England delegates on the National Steering Committee of the October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

They had been fired on Sept. 30 by a blatantly homophobic 9 to 2 vote of the City Council, purportedly for their

support for the Committee for Civil Liberties and Sexual Freedom, a group working to protect the rights of all parties in cases where sexual relations with a minor are alleged. The move was forced by neofascist City Councilors Dapper O'Neill and James Kelly (leader of the racist "South Boston Information Center" which led attacks on Black school children during the desegregation of Boston's schools in the 1970s).

The firings, which constituted gross violations of the right to free speech and put the City Council in the position of denying that all defendants have the right to a fair trial, were unprecedented. Other City Council aides have been kept on in spite of criminal involvements and association with groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.



EDITORIALS

Defend the PLO!

It is bad enough that the daily media virtually never report the international news from the point of view of the national liberation struggles. Now Washington appears determined to deny oppressed peoples what voice they may have in this country, no matter how small.

In September, the State Department closed the PLO Information Office in Washington, D.C., and on Dec. 2, a federal court denied a suit filed by the ACLU on the Information Office's behalf.

Why? The PLO office was perfectly legal and, in fact, nobody associated with it had violated any law. Its "crime" was that it made available written material on the Palestine Liberation Organization and on the situation of the Palestinian people.

What ever happened to freedom of speech? What ever happened to the right of the people of this country to know? These basic constitutional guarantees don't seem to apply to a national liberation struggle whose light Washington is determined to extinguish.

Adding insult to injury, the U.S. Congress has chimed in. On Dec. 4, a House-Senate con-

ference committee decided to place a rider to the State Department authorization bill calling for the closing of the PLO office in New York City. If this bill is passed, it will stand in flagrant violation of international law, as the PLO's office in New York City is for its mission to the United Nations.

This is not the only liberation movement feeling the heat here. The African National Congress and the South West Africa Peoples Organization are also under attack from those who would severely limit their activity in this country.

Many would characterize this as a "law and order" administration. Yet, the truth of the matter is that, when it suits its needs, Washington is the most flagrant of lawbreakers, even by its own standards.

Dioxin conspiracy

Just outside St. Louis, Mo., is a place where a town used to be. Its name was Times Beach.

Now there is nothing. In 1983, Times Beach had to be evacuated, all its homes abandoned, forever.

The whole place had become poisoned by a substance known as dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals ever created.

Before Times Beach there was Love Canal, in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Here, too, people were forced to flee and never return. The Hooker Chemical Company had polluted the canal with dioxin.

And before the Love Canal scandal, there

was Agent Orange, the defoliant used by the Pentagon in Vietnam. Agent Orange contained dioxin.

Countless Vietnamese and U.S. military personnel are still suffering from the cancers and other diseases they contracted from the exposure.

It is no wonder that scientists are appalled by the Environmental Protection Agency's study that lowers the estimated cancer risk from this killer pollutant.

The new "findings" declare that dioxin levels could go up 16 times higher than the former guidelines permitted and still be "safe."

The U.S. chemical industry is naturally hailing this as "a very courageous thing to do." They're the ones who stand to benefit financially.

They make the pesticides and paper products which are contaminated with this deadly substance. Dioxin has been found in coffee filters and baby diapers.

It is no accident that this downgrading of the dangers posed by dioxin comes at a time when so many veterans are suing the big chemical companies for the dioxin-related illnesses they suffer from their time in Vietnam. Hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars could be at stake.

The unscientific methods used by the EPA in the dioxin study can also be applied to asbestos as well, giving the industry there a big break in another major lawsuit.

The fake dioxin findings tell us a lot more about the workings of capitalism than they do about safe pollution levels. They reveal, with stark clarity, which comes first in the contest between public health and corporate profits.

Letters

Orlando protest

On Nov. 14, a group of demonstrators gathered outside the Republican State Convention in Orlando, Fla. The largest contingent was from Orlando Peaceworks, whose primary concerns are to put a stop to contra funding and Star Wars. Others included members of the American Civil Liberties Union, the United Auto Workers union, gay activists and teachers. Some passersby joined in to express their discontent with the present administration.

We were "blessed" with being at the exit door when the Pat Robertson conventioners departed. Many of the Robertson people had snide comments to make like "Take your rubles home boys," and "Go to Russia." Those remarks were made in response to our signs "Books, not bombs" and "Fight AIDS, not wars."

John Norton
Orlando, Fla.

Let them pay their own

The U.S.-managed media just cannot bring itself to speak the unspeakable as it fulminates about "cuts" in all sorts of useful programs but not a word about those sacred cows who are the root cause of our budget deficit.

Those sacred cows included the bloodthirsty Pentagon, the malignant swindle of religion, that cesspit of Un-American activities, the CIA, not to mention the enormous Black Hole at the intersection of Wall Street and Las Vegas Boulevard.

The U.S. media calls "gamblers" "investors." Sure, I "invest" every time I put a buck in a slot machine. And I "gamble" every time I put a thousand in the stock or the futures markets.

Talk about "special interests"! The obscene obsession for the acquisition of millions piled upon millions by America's ruling oligarchy should be eliminated. Nobody needs the kind of money the owners of America's omninational conglomerates and their

over-rewarded CEOs squeeze out of consumers.

It is past time that our Bible Belt billionaires, 57 varieties of millionaires, oilionaires and sundry and assorted oligarchies pay their own. It is way past time for these money freaks to pay for the war machine that those rich flag-wrapped, spread-eagled, pseudo-patriots so fervently advocate.

Our managed media's hypocrisy, jingoism, and deliberate evasion of fiscal responsibility. This outlook is frenetically pushed by the "New Right" and the Reagan administration on behalf of their super-rich mentors.

Julio Achates
Tamazula, Xalisco, Mexico

Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send correspondence to: Workers World, Letters to the Editor, GPO Box 948, New York, N.Y. 10016.

PC alert!

Workers World needs IBM-compatible personal computers. Before we introduced the Spanish page, we were already stretched too far. It was like squeezing an elephant into a telephone booth. Now it's worse. The Spanish page staff needs its own computer. If you have a PC and could donate it to Workers World, call Gary at (212) 206-8222.

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— CIA attacks

Continued from page 1
for Reagan and his vast military expansion, is now reeling from the stock market crash.

The fortunes of many huge corporations and banks are hanging in the balance. A retreat from the "spend trillions now, pay later" course is needed to try and calm the financial markets.

We have already seen the new Secretary of Defense, Frank Carlucci, talk about cutting \$33 billion from next year's Pentagon budget (which still leaves defense the biggest budget item, of course).

Now the administration, with the complicity of the media, has embarked on a campaign to depict a relatively modest agreement between the U.S. and the USSR limiting medium- and short-range missiles as a historic breakthrough that will change the international situation.

The Democratic "opposition" have been so timid in their criticism of Reagan's unpopular foreign policy that now they can't even claim the president was forced to adopt their pro-

gram. This leaves the Republicans free to don the mantle of "peace candidates" in an election year.

The missile treaty, it should be noted, represents a much longer step by the USSR than by the U.S. The Soviet Union, which has rough parity with the U.S., will destroy 1,752 of its intermediate-range missiles, containing approximately 3,000 warheads, while the U.S. is giving up only 859 missiles and warheads. The treaty has no effect on long-range strategic weapons.

According to the Center for Defense Information, the U.S. will still have 4,000 theater nuclear weapons in Europe, as well as submarines carrying cruise missiles and nuclear aircraft carriers in the surrounding waters. The other nuclear imperialist powers, France and Britain, are not affected by the treaty.

How many nuclear weapons will be left around the world? Plenty. Last February the Pentagon admitted in testimony before a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee that it controlled 23,400 nuclear warheads. The reduction of 859 warheads under the treaty is a step in the right direction and will hopefully lead to future cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, but it is certainly no guarantee of anything.

The Reagan administration continues to insist on going ahead with its Star Wars project (which if developed would be a violation of the 1972 ABM treaty), although it's a mystery where the money will come from for this high-tech plan to project war into outer space.

When the dust settles and the summit euphoria starts to fade, we'll still be fighting a reactionary, big business government that is ravaging the living standards of working people, that puts guns and tanks ahead of schools and hospitals, that subverts and attacks liberation struggles throughout the Third World, that pollutes the environment and endangers the world.

But the system is cracking and its representatives are more afraid of the people than ever, as the present peace posturing by the Reaganites demonstrates.

General strike in Haiti demands end to military rule

By Neville Edwards

December 8 — A general strike called by the major labor unions and leading Haitian presidential candidates managed to shut down most of the capital city of Port-au-Prince Dec. 7. The strike was called to protest the regime-led violence which canceled the election on Nov. 29.

Organizers of the strike called for the resignation of the ruling junta led by Gen. Henri Namphy. The strike organizers also demanded the reinstatement of the civilian electoral council, which was dismantled by the junta. According to reports, most of the business in and around the capital city was closed.

In a television statement, the Autonomous Confederation of Haitian Workers, the most militant of the labor organizations, urged the masses "to mobilize to throw out the criminals" and candidates who sympathized with the junta. The Association of Public Transport Drivers and the Association of Public Employees joined in the strike.

Reports are that unlike the days before the election hundreds of soldiers and police could be seen on patrol. This was not to protect the people against any violence but rather an act of intimidation to force the people not to participate in the strike.

However, the masses are so opposed to the junta that they are ready to struggle for as long as it takes to defeat the U.S.-imposed military regime. Some organizers urged that the strike be continued for a second day.

Massacre by the military

Shortly after the election was forcibly stopped, a total of 46 youths who had been seized by government troops were murdered by the military at Fort Dimanche, a military prison. A 19-year-old woman who was in the prison managed to escape and explained the brutal murder of the youths to a U.S. journalist.

All the young men and women were picked up by the military in Carrefour Feuille in Port-au-Prince. These youths were a part of the neighborhood defense group known as the vigilance committees who provided the community protection from the roving gangs of Tontons Macoute. The Macoutes are the death squad arm of the military.

Of the 48 people picked up, only two managed to escape. The remaining 46 were shot and bayoneted to death. To date the junta has denied any knowledge of the murders, though eyewitnesses have revealed the full story.

Role of U.S.

Since the overthrow of Jean-Claude Duvalier 22 months ago, Washington has steadily supplied the junta with military supplies and advisers to train the Haitian military and police in the use of these weapons. It is this military aid that has allowed the junta and Tontons Macoute to murder the people and set back the aspirations of the Haitian masses.

It is the intention of the U.S. government to continue the brutal U.S. imperialist domination of Haiti. Haiti's vast and cheap labor force and the closeness of Haiti to Cuba are at the center of the U.S. designs. To set back the revolutionary intent of the Haitian people is to hold back the inevitable uprising in the Dominican Republic and other oppressed countries in the region.

It is the duty of the workers, oppressed and progressive people in the U.S. to demand that the U.S. keep its hands off Haiti. It is only the Haitian

workers and peasants who should decide the future of that country. As the Haitian people say, "Haiti Yes, junta no. U.S. out of Haiti!"

On Sat., Dec. 19, the Haitian community around the New York City area, along with other communities and progressive organizations, will hold a protest to condemn the U.S. support for the Haitian junta. At 1:00 p.m. the demonstration will start at Nostrand Avenue in Brooklyn and march along Eastern Parkway to the Grand Army Plaza where a militant rally will be held. The Haitian community is calling on everyone to attend this important event.

Haiti — a legacy of U.S.-imposed poverty

By Paddy Colligan
and G. Dunkel

It would be hard to exaggerate the depth of poverty and misery in Haiti, which has deepened since President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier was forced out 22 months ago by a mass, nationwide insurrection.

The military, political and economic aid that the United States gave to Duvalier's hand-picked successors, the National Government Council (CNG), was vital in preventing the insurrection from growing into a successful revolution and enabled the CNG to maintain the old order or "Duvallierism without Duvalier" as Haitians put it.

According to a U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) report "... the U.S. has significant security interests in Haiti which shares the Windward Passage to the Caribbean sea and the Panama Canal with Cuba. ... In recent years, almost 50% of all imports into Haiti have been of U.S. origin (estimated at \$267 million in 1986) and more than half of Haiti's exports are to the United States." The "attractiveness" of Haiti's cheap labor and "untapped resources" have not been lost either on Washington or U.S. business interests.

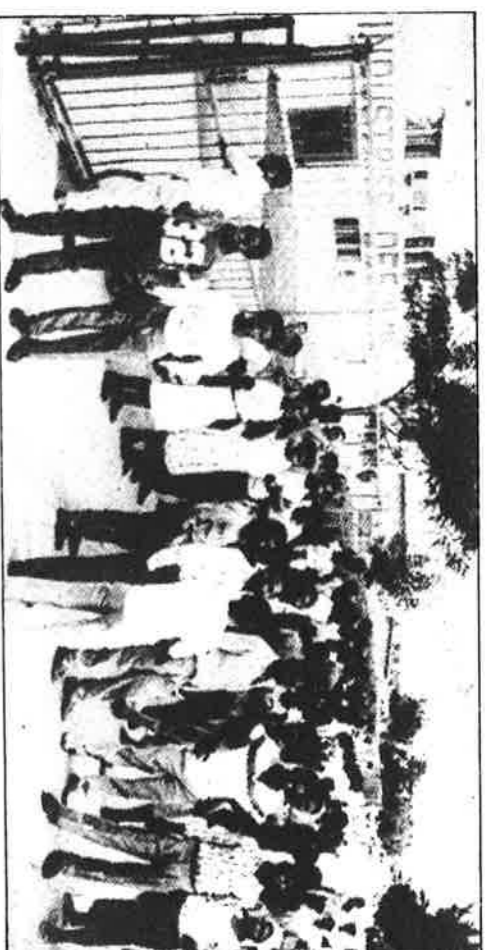
U.S. runs the military

The U.S. approved of the Haitian regime getting rid of Duvalier — it doubled its economic aid to \$100 million a year, very high for a country of 6 million people. Even before Duvalier left, based on the State Department certifying that his regime was "making progress on civil rights," in January 1986 the U.S. Congress granted Haiti \$4 million in military aid, which had been withheld since the 1980s.

This aid came in time for the army to use it against the massive, bloody demonstrations in February and March that finally pushed Duvalier out. Military aid for 1987 was \$1.7 million, most of which was spent before the U.S. suspended it at the beginning of December.

A team of eleven officers left immediately in January 1986 to begin training the Leopard Battalion, originally set up by a U.S. military mission in 1971 when J.C. Duvalier came to power. This team grew to 160 trainers in 1987. The U.S. also has Coast Guard cutters stationed off the northwest coast of Haiti in the Windward Passage, which mainly concentrate on stopping boat migration to the U.S.

The Leopard Battalion has been used to replace the Tontons Macoute where these thugs have been forced to disband under popular pressure, especially in Port-au-Prince and Gonaves. They supplied the soldiers that patrolled Port-au-Prince the day the elections were attacked and canceled. One indication of their attitude: in March of 1986, they killed five civilians, and



Striking Haitians outside factory in Port-au-Prince on Dec. 7.



WW PHOTO: SUE BAILEY

Haitians demonstrate outside Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 7 to condemn reign of terror in their country.

wounded 20 others in Martissant because bus passengers protested their bus driver being arrested for passing a Leopard jeep.

The CNG made no attempt to disarm or disband the Tontons Macoute, Duvalier's private army. Other than two show trials, they made no attempt to prosecute or expose those who were responsible for the injustices committed under the Duvaliers, especially because they would have been exposing themselves.

They attempted to ban the most militant Haitian union, the Autonomous Confederation of Haitian Workers (CATH), arrested its leaders and did nothing when 12,000 workers were fired by mainly American companies for union or political activity. (This figure is from the Americas Watch, "Duvallierism Since Duvalier," p. 65.)

In late June, they attempted to gain control of the Election Committee, which constitutionally was supposed to be independent of the government, and only backed down under massive, militant popular pressure. But the army "fired point-blank at demonstrators" at night, soldiers raided the restive slums, leaving behind a trail of bodies," according to Michael Massing in the New York Review of Books.

The army stood by and did nothing when over a thousand peasants trying to regain stolen lands were hunted down and killed around Jean-Ravel. Throughout Haiti, hundreds if not thousands more peasants were killed trying to regain their lands stolen under Duvalier.

All this violence and terror didn't sway the U.S. support for the CNG because the U.S. ruling class knows it needs the most brutal, determined and well-paid thugs in its vast array of fascists to control the seething anger and hunger of the people of Haiti.

The official urban minimum wage is \$3 a day, but only about 20% of Haitian workers, and not even all government employees, get that much. According to a World Bank study, 90% of the population earned less than

\$190 in 1985.

The going wage in rural areas, which contain 70% to 80% of Haiti's people, is \$1.45 a day for 10 to 12 hours of hard, manual labor. Along with these incredibly low wages, goes high unemployment — about 50%.

These low wages drive almost all Haitians below the "absolute poverty limit." U.S. AID, which has no reason to exaggerate, estimates that the average Haitian gets 20% fewer calories than the United Nations standards require and 30% less protein. In rural areas, the percentages climb to 40% for calories and 50% for protein. One-third of Haitian children suffer from malnutrition, one-tenth from severe undernutrition. Through CARE and other relief agencies, AID controls a large part of the food supply in Haiti, giving the U.S. a powerful weapon of control.

What fuels the enormous anger among the people of Haiti and their insurrection against Duvallierism is the flamboyant wealth of a tiny sector: one-half of one percent of all the people in Haiti get 46% of the national income. Seven thousand families have incomes over \$50,000 a year and 3,000 families, all located in the capital Port-au-Prince, have incomes over \$100,000 a year.

Despite the desperate misery that was deepening when the CNG took over, Leslie Delatour, the new finance minister who was former World Bank and AID employee, followed the AID plan "to shift production of food for local consumption to the production of export crops."

It was an austerity plan, slashing government expenditures and employment, closing a vegetable oil plant and a sugar refinery, which cost hundreds of workers their jobs and thousands of peasants their markets. Delatour also cut tariffs and eliminated import quotas, which made it less expensive for wealthy Haitians to buy their favorite imported luxuries, but drove many small businesses and artisans into bankruptcy.

Latino community in LA says no to toxic pollution

By John Collins
Los Angeles

Plans to build a giant toxic waste incinerator in a Los Angeles community suffered a major setback Dec. 1 as 800 angry residents, the majority being Latino, packed a public hearing on the proposal. They came to speak out against the incinerator and express their concern about the effects of toxic air emissions on their health and on the environment.

The planned incinerator would be in the City of Vernon, near the heart of the Los Angeles area. It is one of many being proposed around the country, and is being backed by big industries looking for new ways to make enormous profits and by the government regulatory agencies looking for a quick fix to the toxic waste crisis.

The government and California Thermal Treatment Services, the

company hoping to build and operate the plant, tried to have the permit quickly approved. As part of the mad rush to get the permit, the federal government even waived the requirement that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared, a decision that has infuriated neighbors and environmental activists.

"You don't see them putting toxic waste incinerators in Beverly Hills," exclaimed one local resident. "They think because we are poor and because our skin color is not white, that they can dump toxic waste on us. But they are wrong."

People came from neighboring areas including East Los Angeles, South Central Los Angeles and Commerce, which are working class and predominantly Third World communities. As hundreds waited for the doors to the hearing to be opened, an impromptu street rally began. In Spanish and

English, protesters blasted the incinerator plan and promised a fight. Community groups such as the Mothers of East Los Angeles and Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles mobilized their members in force, and brought with them militancy and determination.

Force gov't to provide

Spanish translation

When the hearing started, people in the audience stood and decorated the walls with banners. A government official ordered the crowd to remove the banners but no one moved, and the banners remained. The officials then tried to proceed, but the crowd demanded a Spanish translator. When this was refused, the crowd began yelling and the government was forced to back down.

A youth carrying a sign took the microphone to translate, to the cheers of

the crowd. The worried officials again tried to continue, with their voices shaking nervously.

Within minutes a fire marshal conferred with officials, who announced that everyone standing had to leave. The entire crowd rose to its feet, chanting "No! No!" The officials tried telling the crowd that some could testify tonight, and others next week, but the crowd responded by chanting, "One meeting, rent the Coliseum!" Hundreds of people then marched to the front of the City Council Chambers, chanting and holding signs.

Frightened officials quickly backed down again, canceled the meeting, and agreed to reschedule it at a later date in a much larger hall. A stunned and visibly shaken official from the Department of Health Services said of the large, vocal and very militant crowd, "I have never seen anything like this before in my life." The officials were escorted from the hall by police, to the jeers of onlookers.

Although a long fight still lies ahead, this protest placed a major roadblock in front of the project.



Protest in Los Angeles: "You don't see them putting toxic waste incinerators in Beverly Hills."

WW PHOTO: D. GROSSHONG

Cubans give their view on Marielito prisoners

By Deirdre Griswold

Eventually, there's a strong probability that some of the Cuban prisoners who staged uprisings in two U.S. prisons in November and held over 90 hostages will be sent back home. The Justice Department gave them promises of no reprisals and a review of their cases, but after that Washington will want to get rid of them.

Cuba and the U.S. signed an agreement this November normalizing emigration procedures. What this really means is that Cuba agreed to take back many of the Cubans in prisons here and the U.S. agreed not to incite Cubans to come to the U.S.

It is a recognition by Washington that it got much more than it bargained for in 1980 when the Carter administration carried out a big propaganda blitz inciting Cubans to leave and Fidel Castro, in return, opened the port of Mariel for the departure of whoever wanted to go while

hundreds of thousands of Cubans chanted "Good riddance!"

What will happen when these "Marielitos" go back to Cuba? From the way they have carried on, you'd think they faced a fate worse than death. They sure got plenty of sympathetic TV coverage, waving U.S. flags from the prison roofs and beating their breasts.

But in truth the biggest threat when they get back home is that they'll have to abandon the "American Dream" of getting rich quick at someone else's expense. Most of them won't be in prison long (unless they commit some new crime against the Cuban people) and will have to go to work like everybody else.

On Nov. 25, Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon, speaking for the Cuban government, defined Cuba's position toward the prisoners: "In view of the problems created in the prisons of the U.S. with prisoners who are to be re-

turned under the agreements on migration, the Government of Cuba wishes to declare and assure that it will not adopt any kind of repression against those who return to Cuba pursuant to the accords on migration; they will receive the same treatment as those who returned in 1985, the great majority of whom are free, have returned to their families and are enjoying full opportunities for employment.

"Consequently, they will be exonerated of any illegal acts they may have committed before leaving Cuba."

That is straightforward enough. It is also verifiable. Indeed, the New York Spanish-language daily *El Dia*/La Prensa visited some of the Marielitos who returned earlier and confirmed that they have not been ill-treated; many have been released and have gotten jobs.

Which is more than can be said for millions in this country.

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:

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Looking for something to give for the holidays?

By Andy Stapp

It started with the question, "What do you give to the man who has everything?"

The answer was either a Wittenauer watch or a gold-plated Papermate pen. It's hard to remember which.

While the name of the product that was being sold has faded with the passage of time, The Man Who Has Everything won't go away.

Who is this man, anyway, and if he really has everything, why should we poor slobs be trying to buy him a present?

Moreover, he's obviously an obnoxious character, hard to please and apt to sneer at the hapless gift-giver, "I've already got one of those. I have everything."

My Uncle Merwyn used to give me the same necktie every Christmas and I didn't complain and carry on like that! Come to think of it, how did this guy get Everything in the first place?

Maybe he's some rich slumlord or a war profiteer or he inherited Everything by poisoning his grandmother. So everybody is supposed to rush out and buy him a gift for that?

Workers World newspaper is in a

White House trashes flowers

By Jarmila Dokladolova
Washington

December 5—Two thousand people gathered at a rally to support the treaty eliminating intermediate range nuclear weapons at Lafayette Park across from the White House. The gathering was organized by local progressive groups.

After the rally participants formed a chain stretching from the White House to the Soviet Embassy. Delegates of children were sent with roses

as tokens of friendship to the White House and the Soviet Embassy. The receptions that the two delegations received were quite different. Those who went to the Embassy were invited inside for food. However, those who went to the White House never got past the gate. Their flowers were thrown into the trash for everyone to see.

At a time when the Reagan administration is trying hard to cover up its hostile, anti-Soviet face it obviously overlooked this detail. It shows its real attitude toward peace.

CALENDAR

DETROIT

Thurs., Dec. 10: Commemorate South Africa Hero's Day. Featured speaker, Mpile Mogudi, representative of ANC Women's League, 6:30 p.m. At Wayne State Univ. Student Center Hilberry Lounge B & C, call (313) 962-4070.

NEW YORK

Sat., Dec. 19: "The Cuban and Haitian Connection: What Cuba Has, Haiti Needs—A Socialist Revolution." Presentations on developments in Haiti and a tribute to the Cuban Revolution and the role of Che Guevara. Also Cuban films "Che" and "Chronicles of the Victory." Workers World Party Forum, 7:00 p.m. Donation. Open house after program, 146 West 25 St., 3rd fl., call (212) 255-0352 for information. (Holiday gifts and cards will be on sale.)

Thurs., Dec. 31: Celebrate the New Year. Dance to great party music of all kinds. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. (Delicious buffet included in price.) 9:00 p.m. until . . . At 146 W. 25 St., Manhattan, 3rd fl., call (212) 741-0633 for advance tickets and information.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Dec. 13: Workers World Party meeting on "Legacy of Che Guevara." Features two short films: "Che" and "Chronicles of the Victory." Presentation and discussion. \$2.50 requested. 7:00 p.m. At 2489 Mission, #30, call (415) 826-4828.

Sun., Dec. 20: Workers World Party meeting with report back on National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Talk and slide show. Also, presentation on the struggle in Haiti. 7:00 p.m. At 2489 Mission, #30, call (415) 826-4828. Free admission.

WASHINGTON

Sat., Dec. 12: Forum on U.S.-Soviet relations. Featured will be Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World newspaper. For information call (202) 667-3957.

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— Chicago

Continued from page 3

stated he will "rethink" his previous opposition to a lesbian and gay rights ordinance.

Finally, last week's events are a telling lesson about the nature of the Democratic Party. On paper, the racist scum as well as the progressive councilpersons are all "Democrats." In practice, they are in separate camps, and have been since the first Washington campaign. There are separate treasuries, separate organizations, separate political bases.

The national Democratic Party, furthermore, is in the camp of the racists. Not only do all the white Democratic presidential candidates support the Burke faction, but Ed Burke himself is a convention delegate for "liberal" Paul Simon.

— Layoffs

Continued from page 5

in the service area, such as the boom on Wall Street, at a time when the industrial heartland and the traditional manufacturing sectors were in decline.

But Oct. 19 has exploded that bourgeois myth. The crash revealed just how sick the capitalist economy really is. And the resulting layoffs show that it is impossible to have a healthy, thriving service economy when the productive base underneath is wracked with crisis.

Even in so-called boom times, the economy of this city has seen frightening levels of homelessness and poverty. But now the capitalist boom is quickly burning into a capitalist bust.

As the layoffs mount on Wall Street and their effect is felt throughout this city and the surrounding areas what will emerge with crystal clarity is the utter bankruptcy of the capitalist system in meeting any of the needs of the masses of people. The only conclusion that can be drawn is the imperative need for fightback.

different category from the man who has you-know-what. We have plenty of things, of course. Intelligent Marxist analysis, an absolute solidarity with our working class sisters and brothers all over the world and the guts to take on the lies of the rich.

But there is something that Workers World lacks, and that is a permanent home for the newspaper to be produced in every week. The lease is running out on our offices.

Over the years Workers World has become a revolutionary fortress in the journalistic sense. On the material level, however, we may soon be rendered homeless. And that's why we are asking you to remember us when you draw up your giving list for the holidays. We need to raise one million dollars. That's what buying a building for this newspaper will cost.

WWP annual dinner in Detroit hears history of anti-racist struggle

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

December 4—Tonight the Detroit branch of Workers World Party held its eighth annual dinner. The featured speaker was Vera Spruill, a founding member of Workers World from Buffalo, N.Y.

Ms. Spruill described what the experience in the party has meant for her as a Black woman. She joined the party in the 1950s as a young hotel worker, angry at racism. With the Mothers Alliance, a mass organization built by Workers World, she fought for and won the first Black representa-



WW PHOTO
Vera Spruill

Our problem is not lack of people with that kind of money. The problem in fact, is too many millionaires. And they all love capitalism. These people will not give to the Workers World Building Fund.

That proves that while they may be a bunch of venal, heartless exploiters, the rich are not completely stupid. Socialism is not for them.

Readers of Workers World are something else. That's why we are appealing to you. For every dollar you give to help us get a building, you receive something precious back. You get a voice for class justice, for the people of South Africa and Nicaragua.

You get a working class fighter that won't quit till it gives The Man Who Has Everything everything he deserves. (For details on giving, see the ad on page 2.)

tion on the Buffalo school board, for the integration of the workforce at Grant's, and defended Mae Mallory and Robert Williams, Black freedom fighters from Monroe, N.C.

This struggle for the rights of the workers and oppressed continued through the years. Ms. Spruill told how with Women United for Action she helped get so-called surplus food distributed to the poor in the 1970s. She described how the party was instrumental in building the first All-Peoples Congress in 1981, a genuine convention of the oppressed with representation from all over the globe.

Vera Spruill emphasized that the problem of racism is the oppression of a whole nation, and that Workers World Party defends the right to self-determination whether that means integration, federation or separation.

She explained how her experience in the party prepared her to be a leader in the working class struggle. Today she helps head up tenants' organizations in the Buffalo area. As a tenant leader she has been able to show what being a socialist means: "a fighter with a perspective." She added, "Our strength as organizers comes from our politics. We know all the politicians come from the same cloth of the capitalist system."

The dinner participants were also treated to the singing of Pam Parker of the All-Peoples Singers along with Suma Rios-Nance of Detroit.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 1987 Workers World struggle awards to Gertrude Cook and Ethel Bailey, two senior comrades who every day serve as an inspiration and example by their continued energy and activism.

Socialist dinner in Atlanta benefits WWP Building Fund

By Jimmy Raynor
Atlanta

December 4—"Socialist Answers to the Capitalist Crisis" was the theme at tonight's dinner benefiting the Workers World Thirtieth Anniversary Building Fund.

Vince Copeland, a founding member of Workers World Party, drew on a half century of experience as a worker and socialist to explain the differences between socialists and capitalists.

Copeland emphasized the need for socialists to understand the growing capitalist crisis. We've heard their lies before, he explained, describing the

newspapers he sold as a 10-year-old newsboy. "Socialism is the common sense solution to capitalist chaos," he said.

The program included music by Barbara Gordon and original poetry by Billy Hands Robinson. A report on the Atlanta Federal Pen uprising denounced the wave of anti-socialist hysteria in the national media.

The dinner was an opportunity for activists to materially contribute to the party's work. Special notice was given to guests from the African National Congress, Atlanta Welfare Rights Organization and the All-Peoples Congress.



HARTFORD/PUERTO RICO 15:

“El caso no puede ser separado de la lucha por la libertad.”

Artículo de Berta Joubert sobre la entrevista realizada por Elizabeth Toledo y Merrill Charles a Enrique Segarra Palmer y Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, presos políticos puertorriqueños.

En la madrugada del 30 de agosto de 1985, cientos de agentes del FBI, invadieron la isla de Puerto Rico en busca de activistas independentistas boricuas presuntamente ligados a un caso de hurto a la Wells Fargo, ocurrido en 1983, en la ciudad de Hartford, Conn.

Con esta excusa, y a punta de metralletas, los agentes allanaron cerca de 40 residencias, aterrizando indisciplinadamente a decenas de niños, mujeres y hombres puertorriqueños. Como resultado de esta violenta e ilegal redada en PR y otras más en Méjico y en algunas ciudades de los EEUU, dos mujeres y 13 hombres, todos ellos independentistas, y un ac-

tivista norteamericano, fueron arrestados.

Los que estaban en la isla fueron transportados por la fuerza, en aviones militares, a cárceles federales en los EEUU. La mayoría de ellos permaneció en prisión sin derecho a fianza más de un año, bajo la represiva ley de Detención Preventiva firmada por el presidente Reagan en 1984.

Todavía, 2 años y 4 meses después de los primeros arrestos, quedan en prisión los compañeros Enrique Segarra Palmer y Filiberto Ojeda Ríos. Ellos son los prisioneros que más tiempo han permanecido encarcelados sin fianza en la historia de los EEUU.

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Para ilustrar este punto y demostrar los principales objetivos del gobierno de los EEUU a la época actual en PR, con la década del '50. Para aquel entonces, recién se habían constituido las Naciones Unidas y se ejercía una gran presión internacional contra el colonialismo. Por otro lado, EEUU adoptaba la política del Plan Marshall de reconstrucción de Europa y necesitaba para esto lograr ciertos cambios. Dice Ojeda: “Eso impulsó de una manera extraordinaria la maquinaria económica de los EEUU y tenía que producirse unos cambios del sistema de producción en PR, equipararlo, modernizarlo y ponerlo a tono con esas necesidades del sistema y del complejo industrial norteamericano en su política del Plan Marshall”. En la isla, esto se tradujo en un proceso de industrialización que terminó con la economía azucarera, en aquel entonces, el fundamental sostén económico del país.

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FOTOS: DOEL VAZQUEZ

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Actualmente, la presión internacional es nuevamente un factor sumamente importante. Se han aprobado ya numerosas resoluciones en las Naciones Unidas, llamando al gobierno de los EEUU a comenzar un proceso de auto-determinación para Puerto Rico. El ELA no pudo engañar a la comunidad internacional, la cual desde 1974 ha incrementado su apoyo para que se resolviera de una vez el caso de PR.

Por otro lado, las terribles condiciones en la isla han demostrado el rotundo fracaso del ELA: el desempleo real es de 30 a 40%, el 65% de la población depende de los “cheques de alimentos”, los contaminantes de las industrias norteamericanas han causado extensos daños al ambiente y a la salud del pueblo puertorriqueño; hay falta de viviendas adecuadas y numerosos problemas sociales inherentes al sistema colonial.

Otro factor análogo al '50, dice Ojeda, “es el desarrollo del movimiento revolucionario. No se puede dudar que en PR, el pueblo se está organizando de una manera contundente, sólida, para ejercer su derecho a luchar por la independencia”.

Debido a la presión internacional, el fracaso del ELA y a las fuerzas revolucionarias en la isla, el gobierno de los EEUU está nuevamente maniobrando para según ellos solucionar la problemática de PR. El cambio cosmético esta vez lo llamarán: República Asociada! Uno de los aspectos económicos de este “cambio” lo constituye la Iniciativa Cuenca del Caribe.

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BREVES LATINOAMERICANAS

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Solo la lucha nos hará libres! Venemos! Santiago Manque Millia

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Para lograr estos propósitos económicos y militares, comenta Segarra, “necesitan un PR pacificado” y por eso los arrestos. La isla juega un papel esencial en la política imperialista de los EEUU hacia Centro y Sur América. Desde bases militares en PR los EEUU han agredido a Santo Domingo y a Granada.

Dice Segarra: “No podemos olvidar que en nuestro caso, aparte de la cuestión de la Wells Fargo, fundamentalmente la acusación del gobierno contra nosotros es que somos miembros de la organización Los Macheteros. Y el gobierno de EEUU está muy consciente de los lazos de solidaridad que hay entre el movimiento independentista puertorriqueño y los movimientos liberadores de Centro y Sur América, en este sentido, el objetivo del gobierno al arrestarnos, es parte de la represión contra toda la región Centroamericana y del Caribe”.

Comentando sobre el impacto de sus arrestos, ambos compañeros coinciden, que a pesar de encontrarse presos y de que el caso está todavía en la etapa de vistas preliminares, ha sido más victorioso para la lucha por la independencia de PR, que para el gobierno norteamericano. Algunas de las razones para este triunfo son: 1. que se ha demostrado la naturaleza política del caso, 2. se ha expuesto el gobierno norteamericano violando sus propias leyes, 3. ha aumentado el conocimiento del caso en diferentes sectores progresistas de los EEUU, incluso en algunas instancias a través de la prensa burguesa, y 4. sobre todo ha unificado al pueblo puertorriqueño en la denuncia de este atropello imperialista.

Justicia para los 15!
Viva Puerto Rico libre!



WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



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CHICAGO STORY

The police and media joined forces to give the old racist Democratic machine a victory in Chicago. But the struggle for progressive Black and Latino political representation continues.

3

KOREAN AIRLINES

Only the military dictatorship in south Korea can benefit from the KAL Flight 858 tragedy, charge progressive Young Koreans.

4

NEW YORK RACISM

New York continues to be plagued by a racist onslaught, from a transit cop scandal to the Howard Beach trial to a KKK kidnapping and rape of a young cheerleader. Anti-racist solidarity is what's needed.

3



WM PHOTO: D. GROSSHONG

NO TOXIC WASTES!

"You don't see them putting toxic waste incinerators in Beverly Hills. They think because we are poor and our skin color is not white, they can dump on us. But they are wrong."

10

CIA attacks on Nicaragua puncture Reagan's peace image

By Deirdre Gtswold

The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry on Dec. 6 released figures showing there had been "a substantial increase" in overflights by planes supporting and supplying the contra forces in the month from Nov. 5 to Dec. 5.

It identified 21 of the 82 incursions as flights by U.S. Air Force planes carrying out missions of "radio electronic exploration and photography."

This stepped-up U.S. aggression against Nicaragua was confirmed the following day when a private plane piloted by a North American, James Jordan Denby, was forced down over Nicaraguan territory.

Denby is an associate of John Hull, a North American with a large ranch in Costa Rica widely reported to be used as a training base for the U.S.-supported contras. Both men are believed to be connected to the CIA.

Thus, the secret and unpopular dirty war against Nicaragua is being intensified even as administration strategists carry out a major

effort to change Reagan's image from that of a bellicose, aggressive warmaker who has bankrupted the economy with massive Pentagon spending to that of a sweet and reasonable peacemaker.

While this administration and the corporate media have yet to acknowledge the depth of anti-Reagan feeling here and around the world, their dismay over recent poll results cannot be hidden.

Just before the arrival of General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the USSR for the summit meeting, a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll showed that more people in the U.S. held an unfavorable opinion of Reagan (35%) than of Gorbachev (20%)!

After so many years of relentless and hysterical anti-communism coming from the White House, this poll must have shocked the administration.

Workers World has pointed out in previous issues that the super-rich ruling class in the U.S., which a few years ago was so enthusiastic

Continued on page 8

HAITI STRIKE

Haitian workers organize a general strike "to mobilize to throw out the criminals." U.S. military aid keeps the regime in power.

9



WM PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

FRESNO GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

When arsonists burned down the Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance booth in Fresno, Calif., students and community members rallied to their support.

7



HARTFORD/PUERTO RICO 15:

“El caso no puede ser separado de la lucha por la libertad.”

Artículo de Berta Joubert sobre la entrevista realizada por Elizabeth Toledo y Merrill Charles a Enrique Segarra Palmer y Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, presos políticos puertorriqueños.

En la madrugada del 30 de agosto de 1985, cientos de agentes del FBI, invadieron la isla de Puerto Rico en busca de activistas independentistas boricuas presuntamente ligados a un caso de hurto a la Wells Fargo, ocurrido en 1983, en la ciudad de Hartford, Conn.

Con esta excusa, y a punta de metralletas, los agentes allanaron cerca de 40 residencias, aterrorizando indisciplinadamente a decenas de niños, mujeres y hombres puertorriqueños. Como resultado de esta violenta e ilegal redada en PR y otras más en Méjico y en algunas ciudades de los EEUU, dos mujeres y 13 hombres, todos ellos independentistas, y un ac-

tivista norteamericano, fueron arrestados.

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Para ilustrar este punto y demostrar los principales objetivos del gobierno de los EEUU al hacer los arrestos, Ojeda compara la época actual en PR, con la década del '50. Para aquellos entonces, recién se habían constituido las Naciones Unidas y se ejercía una gran presión internacional contra el colonialismo. Por otro lado, EEUU adoptaba la política del Plan Marshall de reconstrucción de Europa y necesitaba para esto lograr ciertos cambios. Dice Ojeda: “Eso impulsó de una manera extraordinaria la maquinaria económica de los EEUU y tenía que producirse unos cambios del sistema de producción en PR, equipararlo, modernizarlo y ponerlo a tono con esas necesidades del sistema y del complejo industrial norteamericano en su política del Plan Marshall”. En la isla, esto se tradujo en un proceso de industrialización que terminó con la economía azucarera, en aquel entonces, el fundamental sostén económico del país.

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FOTOS: DOEL VAZQUEZ

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Solo la Lucha nos hará libres! Veneremosi
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Justicia para los 15!
Viva Puerto Rico libre!

Auto workers tell Chrysler: 'Meet your promise'

Will company scrap Jefferson Avenue plant?

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

December 4 — This week, United Auto Workers (UAW) union Vice President Marc Stepp warned that the UAW would resort to political arm twisting and possibly a boycott of Chrysler products should the Number 3 automaker renege on its promise to build a new Jefferson Avenue Assembly plant in Detroit.

"When it comes arm twisting time, it won't just be workers at Chrysler Jefferson," Stepp said, noting that city and civic leaders would be outraged if Chrysler abandoned the project.

Stepp's threats come in the face of persistent rumors that the rebuilding of the Jefferson Avenue plant would be scrapped. These rumors were given more fuel at a press conference attended by Chrysler's two top officials, Lee Iacocca and Gerald Greenwald.

Greenwald stated, "Maybe we're looking at a short pause (in the building of the plant)... After what went on on Wall Street Oct. 19, we'll need some flexibility."

Iacocca, when asked if the Jefferson project is proceeding on schedule, said, "We're reviewing all the plans now for all the plants and seeing what the next years hold... I think we've got to look at some of these plants.

We've got too much with (buying American Motors Corp.) and something's got to give a little bit."

Aaron Taylor, president of UAW Local 7 which represents 4,200 hourly workers at the Jefferson Avenue plant, said he had been told by company officials that supplier plants had been eliminated from the project. Even if the new assembly plant is built, 1,200 to 1,700 current workers are slated to lose their jobs. The existing Jefferson plant will close in 1989.

Forced from homes

Chrysler's hedging on its plans for rebuilding Jefferson Assembly must have come as quite a shock to the 670 households and 50 businesses who have already been removed from their community to make way for the new facility. Many of these families were seniors who were forced out of their lifelong homes to make way for a plant that may never be built.

The city of Detroit is channeling \$194.7 million in federal, state and city money to the Jefferson project, including \$40.3 million to acquire land and \$11 million to relocate residents. At the time this money was appropriated and people were told they would have to move, Chrysler failed to mention that it was in the midst of negotiations to buy American Motors.

Why IP won't budge

By Phil Wlajtyo

On Dec. 2, representatives of the International Paper Co. (IP) and the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) met in Washington, D.C., at the request of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. After a four-hour session, IP's position remained the same: it refuses to negotiate on a national level to end three strikes and a lock-out affecting 3,500 workers in Jay, Maine, Lock Haven, Pa., Mobile, Ala., and DePere, Wis.

IP is the largest paper products company in the world. Its 1986 profits totaled \$305 million, more than double what it made the year before, enough to give its top executives 38% raises and its president a salary of over \$1 million a year.

Meanwhile, the four locals on strike or locked out are only insisting on keeping their jobs, offering to extend their old contracts with no increase in wages or benefits.

So why is IP demanding deep wage cuts, work rule changes and job eliminations?

Big profits, but not big enough

The demand for paper products in the U.S. today is so great that companies like Weyerhaeuser, another huge paper company, are operating at full capacity, three shifts a day. Yet, even though Weyerhaeuser is making record profits, it's not building new mills or expanding its present facilities.

Why not? Because it's not making enough profits to satisfy its stockholders.

Across the country, return on the assets of U.S. corporations, what they call their "profit margins," is an average of 4.2%, down from 8% in the mid-1960s. That's just not high enough for the big capitalists, especially after the stock market crash of Oct. 19. According to banking economists, investors are now looking for a profit margin of 10%. So, instead of looking to expand their plants, let alone raise wages, the big paper companies like Weyerhaeuser and IP are looking for ways to cut costs as much

as possible and thereby increase profits. That means attacking the unions.

People vs. profits

So it's not the workers and their families that IP cares about. No, it's not even making paper. IP's only real concern is to make profits so big that the fat cats up on Wall Street will want to invest more money so IP can expand and make more profits.

What does IP care that a paperworker in Mobile or DePere, in Lock Haven or Jay, has spent his or her life in a paper mill, risking life and limb, giving up holidays and Sundays with the family, helping to make IP the corporate giant that it is today?

What does IP care that the schools in many poor communities can't afford paper so the kids can learn to spell and write and draw? All IP cares about is profits, and the workers be damned.

With their unity and courage and the support of the whole labor movement, the paperworkers and their union can win this fight against IP. But sooner or later the contradictions between people and profits will become so obvious that paperworkers will have to ask, "What do we need million-dollar executives and bankers and stockholders for? What do we need profit margins for? We're the ones who built the plants and make them run—let's run them ourselves and make paper for people, not profits!"

Send support to strikers

As the battle against IP comes into the holiday season, the four locals on strike or locked out are in special need of support. If you can make a donation of money, food or presents for the children, it would be much appreciated. Send resolutions of support, donations or requests for speakers to:

UPIU Local 14, P.O. Box 272, Jay, Maine 04239 (207) 897-5423; Local 1787, P.O. Box 773, Lock Haven, Pa. 17745 (717) 748-2097; Local 6288, 342 Main St., DePere, Wis. 54115 (414) 337-6501; Local 265, 1105 N. Wilson Ave., Pritchard, Ala. 36610 (205) 457-0265.

Chrysler's acquisition of AMC resulted in excess plant capacity. This overcapacity is being heightened by projections of a recession in light of the stock market crash. Chrysler has cut production plans from 1.65 to 1.35 million cars a year.

Jefferson Assembly is Chrysler's last remaining assembly plant within the city limits of Detroit. From 1979 to 1982, Chrysler shut down seven plants, idling close to 30,000 workers in Detroit. These shutdowns were the single most important factor in de-

Buffalo Nurses United win.

After walking picket lines for three months in a strike that developed into a struggle for their jobs, Nurses United, Communications Workers Local 1168 at Buffalo, N.Y.'s DeGraft Memorial Hospital won a major victory in November. The victory included a guarantee that all strikers would get their jobs back, the big issue in the walkout after the hospital hired scabs in August and said that less than a third of the 300 strikers would ever work at DeGraft again; it also included wage and benefit gains. The key element that brought about a victory was the support and solidarity the strikers won, both in the region and nationally, with fellow unionists joining nurses at rallies and on picket lines, including demonstrations at the homes of the hospital bosses.

A major "Jobs With Justice" rally scheduled to boost the strike turned into a victory celebration on Nov. 15, with union officials including Gene Uplshaw of the NFL Players Association, Lynn Williams of the Steel Workers and Morton Bahr of the Communications Workers saluting the nurses. The day before, Jesse Jackson, who had been scheduled to speak at the rally, arrived early telling strikers, "I've come to support you, to get your jobs back." Jackson joined Nurses United representatives at the bargaining table and threw his weight behind their demands; this display of unity proved too much for DeGraft, and by the end of the day the nurses had a contract and their jobs.

Missouri shoe struggle.

A bitter strike by 450 mostly women shoe workers in Aurora and Carhage, Mo., is in its ninth month and the workers are appealing for support from the labor movement. The strike, the first ever against Juvenile Shoe Corp. by the small local of the Clothing and Textile Workers (ACTWU), began on April 1

destroying the economic base of this predominantly Black city.

The racist character of Chrysler's moves cannot be questioned. By shutting its Detroit facilities, Chrysler changed the composition of the workforce at its assembly plants from 70% Black to 70% white in a period of three years. The community is certainly ready to take on this racist corporate giant, to demand that Jefferson Assembly stay open, and to fight for the return of the tens of thousands of jobs that were stolen from the city of Detroit.



after the company demanded enormous concessions including huge pay cuts, fewer holidays and revamped work schedules. The effects of the sweeping takebacks would have been lowering the workers' already-low wages to unlivable levels.

As Mary Manor, a worker with ten years' seniority who must support two children, explains, "After ten years at Juvenile, I was making \$6.50 an hour. I remember the company officials coming around and telling us that we would be like one big happy family. Then they told me they were going to cut me back to a minimum wage rate." Manor said that she has had to send her oldest son to live with relatives because she can't support him anymore: "Juvenile Shoe's greed has torn our whole world apart."

ACTWU has initiated a national support campaign for the Juvenile Shoe strikers, including a boycott on the following brand names: Lazy Bones, Foot Thrills, Sandpipers, G.P.O., Clinic, Hitch Hikers, Dude Ranch, Cradle Stepper and Happy Steppers.

Boston hotel workers. After a union mobilization won the support of local women's groups and threatened to disrupt the bourgeois ambience at Boston's fancy Copley Plaza Hotel, the bosses backed off from their attempt to institute a racist, sexist, demeaning rule that chambermaids scrub floors on their hands and knees. The rule, posted on signs in the hotel on Nov. 10, ordered the workers, who are mostly Black and Latina women, many of them older women who have worked at the hotel for many years, to turn in their mops and instead to "please help yourself to as many clean rags as you like for hand washing floors."

The outraged workers responded by organizing, contacting the National Organization for Women and other women's groups and planning a meeting to confront management. While management stood by its racist policy to force the workers onto their knees—Alan Tremain, president of the hotel told the press, "A maid is a maid, and that's just what she has to do"—the response of the workers and their supporters proved too much. Finally, on Dec. 3, the hotel backed off. Though they took great pains to emphasize that their change of heart was motivated only by a desire "to provide the cleanest accommodations possible," the real story is that the Copley Plaza workers stood up to the bosses' vile attack and forced them to their knees.

Shelley Ettinger



PHOTO: ACTWU

Shoe strikers in Missouri.

Actions challenge Koch's cuts of AIDS funds in NYC

By Shelley Ettinger
New York

The AIDS struggle is heating up here in the city with 30% of the national total of diagnosed AIDS cases.

Last Tuesday, Nov. 30, 300-400 people staged an angry demonstration sponsored by the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACTUP) to demand that the city release a promised \$4 million for AIDS-related programs. The event started at the city Health Department, where demonstrators staged a "Die-In" in which some laid down on the sidewalk while others outlined their bodies in chalk and crayons. Messages were then written inside the silhouettes targeting Mayor Ed Koch for responsibility for the deaths of many people with AIDS.

Next came a march to City Hall, where police tried to block protesters from holding a scheduled press conference and rally. After a tense confrontation, the cops were forced to back down and the rally took place. The very angry, militant mood was reflected as many of the politicians who tried to speak were heckled and drowned out by chants of "Bullshit! Bullshit." Instead, ACTUP representative David Robinson was cheered as he said, "We're tired of waiting, we're tired of dying! We demand money for AIDS now."

The rally closed with another Die-In, and the results were dramatic and moving, as the sidewalks in front of City Hall were filled with body outlines bearing messages like, "Koch, we charge you with genocide," and "Craig, 1966-1987, killed by government inaction."

Gov't ignores crisis

AIDS activists are particularly enraged that the Koch administration is refusing to release \$4 million pledged for the 1988 municipal budget, money budgeted to fund three AIDS Assessment Centers in the oppressed communities. AIDS prevention education, counseling to people with AIDS, and medical care for women with AIDS.

According to ACTUP, "despite original reports from the Office of Management and Budget of a \$32 million surplus . . . the mayor is now exploiting the stock market crash as an excuse to disregard public health, and he is ignoring his promise to release the

Boston picket defends gay civil rights bill

By Brian Shea
Boston

On Nov. 24 and 25, three hundred lesbians, gay men and their supporters picketed outside the Massachusetts State House in response to homophobic attacks on the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill pending in the state legislature and on AIDS education.

Demonstrations were organized by a task force which came out of the Oct. 11 national demonstration for lesbian and gay rights and which was to organize direct actions locally.

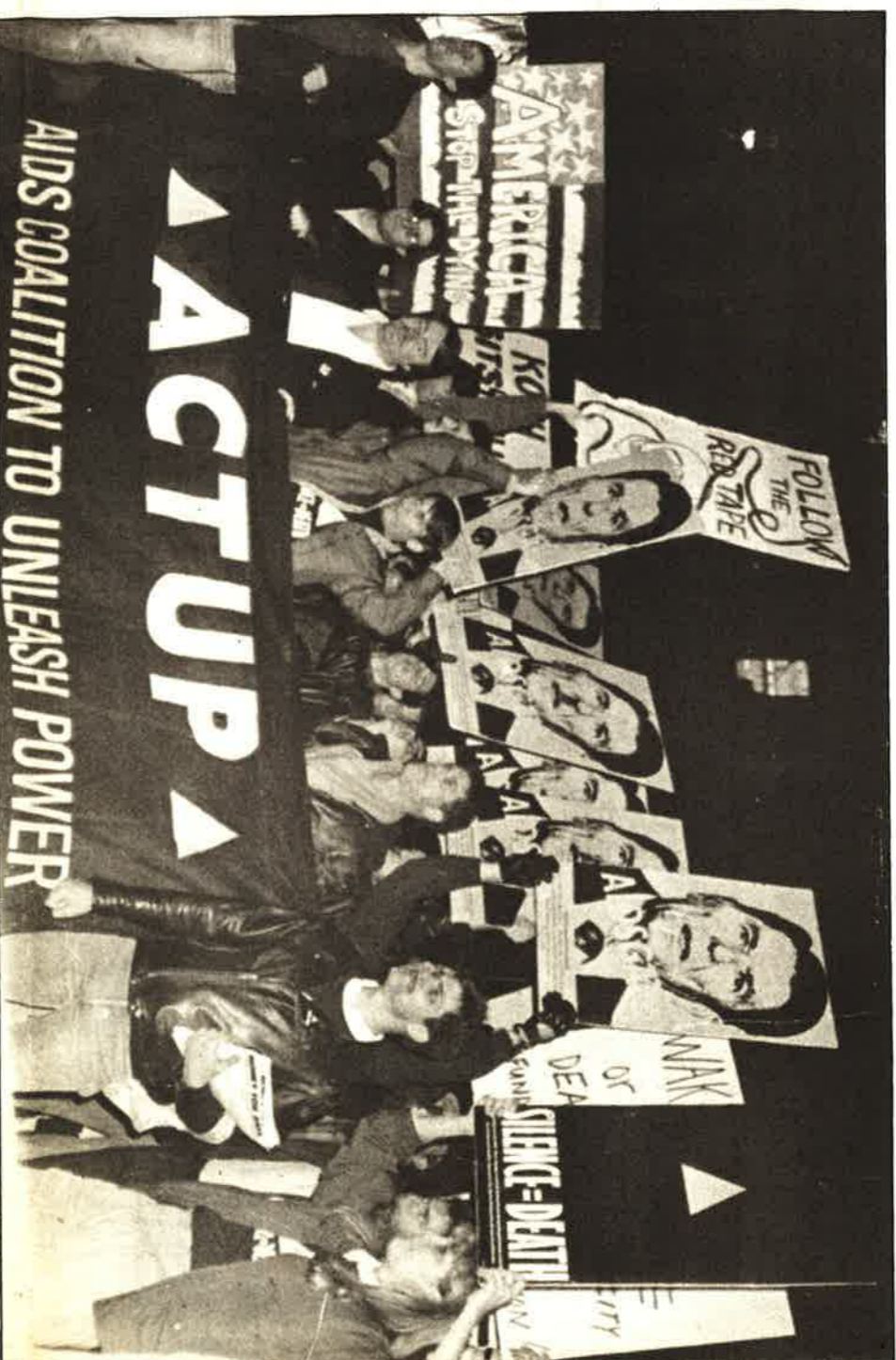
This same group organized a demonstration the previous week against the Pilot, newspaper of the Catholic archdiocese, which had denounced the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill.

The civil rights bill that is pending in the state legislature has been under attack by right-wing forces inside the state senate, principally William Bulger and Thomas McGee. These right-wing bigots want to audit and control the manner in which the AIDS Action Committee utilizes the meager funds that have been allotted to it by the state.

funds."

While the city is holding back urgently needed funding to help stem the AIDS crisis, it is taking steps — to curtail civil liberties and attack oppressed people. Lesbian and gay activists expressed outrage at new measures proposed by City Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph, measures that many see as "unleashing the sex police" while doing nothing to actually end the epidemic or provide care for those who are ill.

In late November, Joseph an-



AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACTUP) protest in New York City. "We're tired of waiting!"

WW PHOTO: CARMEN ROUNDTREE

Students rally in support of Fresno Gay and Lesbian Alliance after arson attack

By Lady Wolf Walker
Fresno, Calif.

The Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) of California State University-Fresno suffered the loss of its booth in the Steven Biko Free Speech area by arsonists in the early hours of Nov. 30.

The booth, meant as a gathering place for gays, lesbians and their friends, also served as an outreach to the campus community to promote understanding and tolerance of all minorities, especially gays and lesbians. In addition, it was a distribution point for information on AIDS, the only booth on campus with such literature.

A rally protesting the violence brought a hundred people into the Free Speech Area on Dec. 2. Many speakers from diverse and wide-ranging cultures spoke in support of the GLSA.

Many in the crowd were supportive while others heckled the speakers with obscenities or "Christian condemnation" of the gays and lesbians and their guests. A minister from a local church spoke out against this "judgment of God's children, gay or straight."

The GLSA and supporting speakers tried to carry the message to the crowd that this wasn't just an attack on the GLSA but an attack on everyone's civil rights. Many people in the crowd came forward with donations to help rebuild a new booth and sign a petition against the violent act.

One member, who had been anonymous outside the group, stood in front

of his support for a series of steps that include mandatory HIV antibody testing for prostitutes and prisoners and an expansion of the official definition of "high-risk" sexual activities. This would pave the way for stepping up repression and intrusions into the private sexual relations of selected groups of people, most likely including gay men, Third World people, prostitutes, prisoners and IV drug users.

Among the likely effects of the new guidelines would be a further rise in racist police violence, violent raids on

gay bars and clubs — in Los Angeles, police are currently engaged in a wave of such raids under the guise of closing down places where AIDS is supposedly transmitted — along with intensified scapegoating of prostitutes.

AIDS groups are calling for public hearings by the NYS Public Health Council's Codes Committee, the body that would promulgate any new rules, so that people with AIDS and those under attack can demand funding for education, prevention and treatment instead of further repression.

of the large crowd and announced that he was gay and proud of it. He announced he wouldn't have said that a week before but this week he was damned angry and wanted to show his support and commitment with the group.

The group asks that support be shown against this oppression and violence. The message is that this violence will not be accepted on our campus and in our city against any minority!

The booth was rebuilt Dec. 5 with

love and dedication and it will be rebuilt as many times as it takes. Please

write in support of the Gay and Lesbian Support Association. The members and their supporters are going to start wearing pink triangle buttons or lavender bandanas around the wrist or leg. The group cannot be frightened away and will struggle on against oppression.

Write to: Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance, California State University-Fresno, Shaw and Maples Aves., Fresno, Calif. 93740.

Homophobic ruling by Boston City Council overturned

By Frank Neisser
Boston

The lesbian and gay community won a victory here on Nov. 18 when Federal Judge Ria Zobel ordered the Boston City Council to immediately reinstate two aides to openly gay City Councilor David Scondras. The aides, Gary Dotterman and French Wall, are long-standing and respected activists in the Boston lesbian and gay community. Most recently, Dotterman was one of four New England delegates on the National Steering Committee of the October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

They had been fired on Sept. 30 by a blatantly homophobic 9 to 2 vote of the City Council, purportedly for their

support for the Committee for Civil Liberties and Sexual Freedom, a group working to protect the rights of all parties in cases where sexual relations with a minor are alleged. The move was forced by neofascist City Councilors Dapper O'Neill and James Kelly (leader of the racist "South Boston Information Center" which led attacks on Black school children during the desegregation of Boston's schools in the 1970s).

The firings, which constituted gross violations of the right to free speech and put the City Council in the position of denying that all defendants have the right to a fair trial, were unprecedented. Other City Council aides have been kept on in spite of criminal involvements and association with groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.