



WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Food stamp cuts to feed Pentagon

New federal budget ignores depression-level unemployment



Today or 50 years ago? Pictured above are jobless lined up on Jan. 7, 1931, outside a New York City registration center.

Lackawanna, NY

What to do about Bethlehem Steel havoc —pp. 6-7

by Sam Marcy

Detroit

All-Peoples Congress fights for food

—p. 12



Environment

Endangered by bosses' greed —p. 9

Cuba:

Socialist planning makes a difference —p. 5

By Joyce Chediae
JANUARY 5—Last week, thousands of steel workers at Bethlehem Steel heard they are getting pink slips. A half-a-million workers apply for unemployment benefits every week. In Detroit alone, 400,000 are underfed and malnourished.

What is the Reagan administration's answer to hunger, joblessness and malnutrition? More cuts in food programs, that's what!

And meanwhile, the White House also made it clear yesterday that it is going full steam ahead with an unbelievable \$1.6 trillion military budget for the next five years. And every dollar cut from food programs and social services is being redirected with unholy haste for more bombs and missiles!

In a truly astounding show of cold indifference to the plight of the poor, Reagan administration officials announced yesterday that another \$1.4 billion would be cut from food programs. The cuts are in the 1984 budget to be presented to Congress at the end of the month. They include new slashes in food stamps and school breakfasts for poor children.

These programs have already been cut to the bone. In the last round of budget cuts, a million people were thrown off the food stamp rolls, and 20 million receive less, according to Robert Greenstein, from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. And 80% of those whose benefits were cut were households whose annual income fell below \$7,760 for a family of three.

In addition, about 750,000 poor children are no longer eligible for free school lunches, and 30% has already been cut from the child care food programs.

Right now, the average food stamp allotment is down to a lousy 47¢ a meal. How much more can be cut? With depression-level unemployment and more layoffs every day, more families are in need. What will they do?

While Congress has put up some verbal opposition to the cutbacks in social services and the military buildup, when push came to shove, both the Democrats and the Republicans have rubber stamped every major aspect of the Reagan program.

"This new round of cuts in food programs is an attempt by Reagan and the millionaires in Congress to starve the people into submission," said Gavielle Gemma, national coordinator of the Food is a Right Campaign of the All-Peoples Congress (APC).

The APC has filed a suit in federal court demanding that the federal government release all stored food to the hungry, and that there be no cuts in food stamps and other federal food programs (see page 12). While centered in



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Jersey public hospital declares 'bankruptcy'

Illegal scheme aimed at cutting health care for poor

By L. Volpe
JERSEY CITY, N.J., Jan. 3—The people of this city are facing a threat that would gut the most extensive public health care system in the state. In a move that some legal experts describe as blatantly illegal, the Jersey City Medical Center has filed for bankruptcy.

At a secret meeting over the Christmas holidays, hospital management, Mayor Gerald McCann, state officials, bankers, and the corporate suppliers for the hospital came up with bankruptcy as the road to making drastic cuts. The hospital filed for "voluntary" bankruptcy in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Newark, N.J., on Dec. 29.

In the bankruptcy proceedings, the administration agreed to repay all its creditors while laying off 450 workers (some 29% of the workforce), eliminating 22 outpatient clinics providing specialized services, and closing several floors of the hospital. And the threat remains that the whole hospital may be shut down.

The hospital has been funded by the city and county since its founding and by larger subsidies from the state government for the past several years. Because of the extortionate and inhuman "profits before people" approach of the health care industry, because of the tremendous political graft and mismanagement, and because of the refusal of the city and state government to provide adequate funding, the Medical Center has been in \$10 million debt for over a year.

1,300 of the 1,800 hospital workers. The cuts in health care not only disproportionately victimize the oppressed communities, but the layoffs have hit Black and Latin workers first.

On The Picketline

Teachers threatened for striking.

In Pennsylvania, the longest school strike in the state's history, which began on Sept. 27, continues despite heavy fines and the threat of jail. The 75 teachers in the Washington County school district, 42 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, say they will not go back to work until they have a contract. The school board refuses to negotiate with the union. Gerald Cowen, president of the teachers union, said, "The board wants to strip the contract. It wants to break the union and strip the contract. That's basically it." On Nov. 29, the school board got Judge Samuel Rodgers to order the teachers back to work. The teachers have defied this strike-breaking ruling, and now the judge has ordered fines of one day's pay for each day the strike continues. In addition, the judge has ordered the jailing of union president Cowen if the teachers continue to stand by their right to strike.

NYC haters strike.

Hat makers struck 55 shops in New York City on Jan. 3. The 1,000 strikers are members of Local 24-42 of the Headwear and Allied Workers Joint Board. John Hudson, head of the local, said the workers are demanding a 20% wage increase over three years.

LACKAWANNA SHUTDOWN

The governor of New York has the legal power to block Bethlehem's shutdown of the giant Lackawanna plant, Sam Marcy shows. But rather than take action to block this criminal corporation from crippling the economy of Western New York, the newly elected Governor Mario Cuomo has so far only used the classic capitalist politicians' tactics of stalling and passing the buck. (Pages 6-7.)

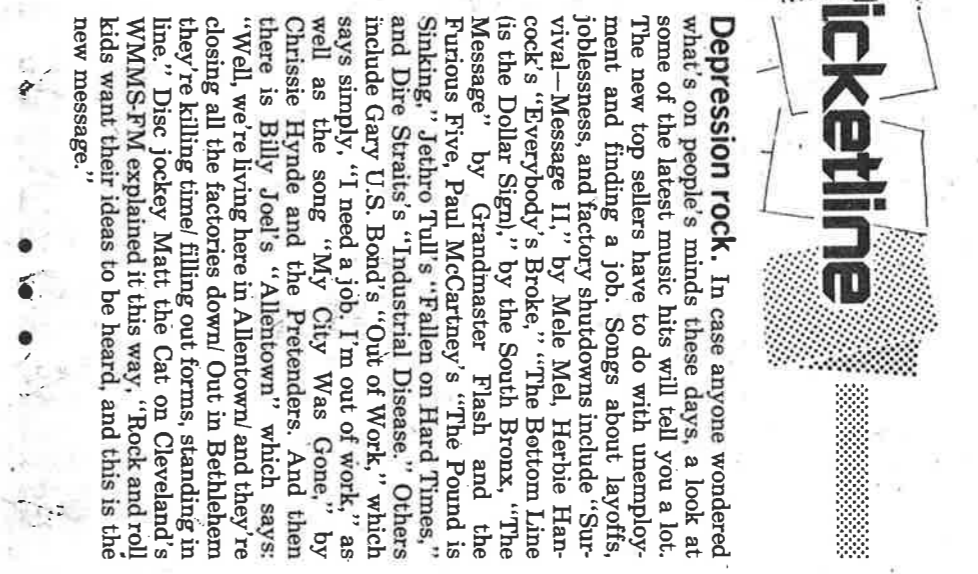
MIAMI REBELLION

The rebellions in Miami last week over a murder by police and in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 27 over the attempt by the KKK to demonstrate show a new mood among Black workers, particularly the youth, who are fed up with racism, joblessness, poverty, and police brutality. (Page 3.)



Depression rock.

In case anyone wondered what's on people's minds these days, a look at some of the latest music hits will tell you a lot. The new top sellers have to do with unemployment and finding a job. Songs about layoffs, joblessness, and factory shutdowns include "Survival—Message II," by Mele Mel, Herbie Hancock's "Everybody's Broke," "The Bottom Line (is the Dollar Sign)," by the South Bronx, "The Message" by Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, Paul McCartney's "The Pound is Sinking," Jethro Tull's "Fallen on Hard Times," and Dire Straits's "Industrial Disease." Others include Gary U.S. Bond's "Out of Work," which says simply, "I need a job. I'm out of work," as well as the song "My City Was Gone," by Chrissie Hynde and the Pretenders. And then there is Billy Joel's "Allentown" which says: "Well, we're living here in Allentown and they're closing all the factories down/ Out in Bethlehem they're killing time/ filling out forms, standing in line." Disc jockey Matt the Cat on Cleveland's WMMMS-FM explained it this way, "Rock and roll kids want their ideas to be heard, and this is the new message."



CUBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

While factories shut down and the conditions of life deteriorate in the U.S., a first-hand account of life in Cuba shows that socialist planning is bringing steady economic advances to the people there. (Page 5.)

WATT'S LAND GIVEAWAY

Reagan's Interior Secretary is continuing the policy of rape and ruin of the millions of acres of unspoiled wilderness which is supposedly under the protection of the federal government. Over 800,000 acres of such land was just taken out of consideration for protection as wilderness areas. (Page 9.)

Reaganism in N.J.

Forcing the closing of Medical Center fits right in with the plans of Mayor McCann, the banks, the real-estate interests, and the Reagan-supported governor, Thomas Kean.

McCann, who headed Democrats for Reagan, said in his campaign that his goal was to drive the poor out of Jersey City. And the city has just received a generous \$40 million loan from the Reagan administration, not to save vitally needed services, but to build luxury housing on the waterfront.

The Medical Center is the only public hospital in this city of 250,000. It has provided health care, regardless of ability to pay, for almost 50 years. The hospital treats some 16,000 in-patients yearly, while the clinics serve over 73,000. All clinic care will now be handled by four "generalized" clinics.

The bankruptcy declaration came only days before the Jan. 1 expiration of contracts with AFSCME Local 2254 and the United Nurses Organization, which together represent over

GAY RIGHTS BILL

The Gay Rights Bill is once again before the bigot-dominated New York City Council. A united struggle by all progressive and working class forces is needed to save this bill from another defeat. (Page 11.)

CORRECTION

Sam Marcy's article "Princes and marble palaces" in last week's issue (Workers World, Dec. 31, 1982) should have read: "According to the book 'Foundations of Christianity' by Karl Kautsky (who at the time was still considered a Marxist), Roman bankers in the time of the caesars were getting 48%, 75%, and even 100% interest on their loans to the rulers of conquered colonies."

Union left out of talks

Management never invited the union to its secret meetings with city and state officials last weekend. And they have announced they intend to go to court to get an order waiving the mandatory 45-day period of notice of layoff required by Civil Service, claiming that the bankruptcy procedures supercede legal contracts with the unions. Of course, no such procedures are being planned against the banks and utilities, which management says it will pay in full.

While private corporations have used bankruptcy proceedings to avoid their responsibilities to the workers and the community (Manville Corp., for example, filed for voluntary bankruptcy to avoid its responsibility for knowingly killing workers through its asbestos production), such an action by a public service is unheard of. In fact, some legal experts assert it is blatantly illegal. Mayor McCann, while fully participating with the secret conspiracy that seems headed towards eliminating the hospital, provides a "humane" cover for the cuts, saying they are "necessary" to "save" the hospital.

McCann's attempt to cover it up shows his concern that the people of Jersey City know the importance of the Medical Center, and his fear they'll be aroused to fight to keep it.

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Miami rebellion shows new fightback mood

Joblessness, racism prompt uprising

By Joyce Chediac
 JANUARY 5—For three days last week, young Black unemployed workers in the Miami oppressed community of Overtown battled racist cops. This heroic rebellion, sparked by the murder in cold blood of a Black youth in a game arcade, was an uprising against unemployment and racism as well as against police brutality.

It comes soon after a rebellion by Black youth in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 27. This rebellion was also provoked by the cops, who protected the terrorist Ku Klux Klan, which attempted to stage a pro-racist march in the nation's capital. Then, the cops turned on anti-Klan demonstrators, who had stopped the Klan from marching.

These two uprisings indicate a new mood, especially among young Black unemployed workers. Acting as a vanguard for the entire working class, these teenagers have made it clear that they will not resign themselves to being thrown on the scrap heap of chronic joblessness, of living in that shabby world on the borderlines of survival. They will fight back.

When the smoke cleared in Miami last week, two youth lay dead—murdered by the cops. More than 26 were injured as the police rampaged through the community. Yet it was 43 community residents who were arrested and charged with "burglary" and "looting."

Corporations are the looters
 But if the truth is to be known, it is the Black community itself that is the victim of looting on an unprecedented scale. Looters have stolen their wages, their very jobs. And the looters—the giant corporations, the city, state, and federal governments—are the ones who have unleashed the killer cops.

Miami is a boom town—a giant vacation center with luxury hotels, apartments and condominiums. Yet Black people, who make up 17% of Miami's population, do not see any of this money. They live in shanties or run-down housing projects in places like Overtown or near-by Liberty City, the site of a rebellion which rocked the whole country in May, 1980.

And the closest that most oppressed people get to the hotels and the fine condominiums is to carry the luggage or do the cleaning.

About 18,000 people live in Overtown. Less than half of the residents have jobs. And the situation for oppressed people is getting even worse.

Liberty City is a case in point. The rebellion there two years ago followed the acquittal of four racist cops charged in the beating death of Arthur McDuffie, a Black man.

After that rebellion, the federal government put \$47 million into Liberty City. The community itself was never allowed to decide where the money should go. It went mainly to small businesses, and to put up a few park benches. But this money was not used to solve the massive unemployment, to repair decaying housing.

David Dey's, a Black man who is part of the Chamber of Commerce's "revitalization effort" admits, "whatever federal funds came down here made no impact whatsoever." And the Reagan administration's budget cuts have only imposed more suffering.

Today, unemployment for Black youth in Liberty City is 70%! The majority of families living here earn under \$10,000 a year, less than half the median family income for Dade County. (Wall Street Journal, Dec. 30)

Police brutality is still the order of the day. And the increased racism nationwide, encouraged by the Reagan administration's attacks on the gains of the civil rights movement, has emboldened the vilest groups.

On Sunday, the Ku Klux Klan, which according to Miami residents does not have a base in this city, passed out its hate literature in the affluent South Dade area charging that Dade County cops were too easy on oppressed youth! These robbed terrorists were confronted by Black people.

The city administration, caring more about the King Orange parade on Friday night and the Orange Bowl on Saturday than the murder of innocent youth by cops, held Overtown under restrictions and police occupation until Sunday.

Heavily armed cops were on every corner, indiscriminately lobbing tear gas into the community. "Police cars, each containing four riot-gearred officers with weapons protruding from open doors, sped from one end of the ghetto to another." (The Dispatch of Hudson/Bergen Counties, Dec. 30)

And while the two cops who murdered Neville Johnson and Anthony McKenzie, another Black youth, have been re-assigned to administrative duty pending a local and federal investigation, no move has been made to indict them on criminal charges.

These cops both have records or brutality towards Miami's oppressed. Curtis Reeves, who killed 17-year-old Anthony McKenzie Tuesday night, had 24 citizen's complaints filed against him in 10 years!

In eight episodes, his superiors issued written reprimands against him. (New York Daily News, Dec. 31) He was involved in two other shootings, later classified by the police force as "justified." Yet, not only is he still on the force, but he was defended by police spokesman Raymond Lang, who called Reeves a "good officer" on Dec. 29.

And Louis Alvarez, who moved down Neville Johnson while he was playing Pacman in an arcade, had five citizen's complaints filed against him last

Continued on page 8

Trick to lower jobless rate is no aid to unemployed

By Bill Del Vecchio
 JANUARY 2—Having failed miserably to stop the rise of unemployment, Reagan has resorted to a shameless trick to artificially lower unemployment statistics.

Starting this month Reagan's Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced it will count the roughly 1.7 million people serving inside the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard as workers with jobs.

The sole purpose of this change is to bring about a sudden drop in the politically embarrassing 10.8% unemployment. Analysts say that by counting the enlisted people the unemployment rate would be lowered from 10.8% to 10.6% with one stroke of a pen. This change will not affect the December figures, which will be released on Jan. 7, but will be used to distort and lower the figures for January and the rest of the year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics already has many tricks to hide the real extent of unemployment. Only workers considered to be actively searching for work are classified as unemployed, while millions of people who the Bureau know are unemployed are left out of the overall unemployment tally because they are classified as "discouraged workers." Evidently attitude, and not the lack of a job, is the thing that counts to Reagan's bureaucrats.

The Bureau magically arrives at its monthly figures by doing a highly suspicious "household survey," in which it claims to phone 60,000 households and question them about the employment status of everyone living there.

Do they phone families in devastated inner-city Detroit or do they call its affluent suburb Grosse Pointe, do they survey N.Y.'s poverty-stricken South



Miami's Liberty City rebellion in 1980 raised demands for federal help. Now the Black community there is more impoverished than before.

Trick to lower jobless rate is no aid to unemployed

dictatorial officer elite. But Reagan implies no change in the treatment of GIs by this policy change; his only aim is to bring down the unemployment rate through trickery so he can claim that Reaganomics is finally working and the recovery has started.

It's too late, though, for Reagan to restore his credibility with the millions upon millions of people who are suffering because of the economic crisis. They are learning the hard way that Reaganomics is a complete disaster, and that both the Democrats and Republicans offer no solutions to the employment emergency.

Chicago APC to protest Reagan visit January 19

By Jeff Sorel
 CHICAGO, Dec. 28—The All-Peoples Congress today announced a major demonstration to greet President Ronald Reagan when he comes to Chicago January 19 for a Republican fundraiser.

Reagan will be coming to a city devastated by the economic fallout from his administration's program. Unemployment is at the highest level in 44 years. Mortgages are being foreclosed on over 100 homes a week. An estimated 25,000 persons have no place to live, and tens of thousands more live on the brink of homelessness. Gas rates rose another 8% this week, certain to multiply the over 10,000 Chicago households already without heat.

"We need jobs, food, and social programs—not MX missiles," stated APC spokesperson Cedric Givens. "We expect thousands of people to come out and express their anger on the 19th." Givens announced a mass leafletting campaign to reach all the city's unemployment and welfare offices with word of the demonstration.

"Reagan symbolizes all that's wrong with this country," continued Givens, "from racism and poverty to cutbacks and militarism. It will take mass action to throw him and his program off our backs."

The demonstration will gather at 5 p.m. at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Michigan and Balbo. For more information call the Chicago APC at (312) 427-8038.

APC sends solidarity message to Miami

THE FOLLOWING are excerpts from a statement written by Monica Moorehead, a national coordinator of the All-Peoples Congress anti-Klan rally at McPherson Square in Washington on Nov. 27. This statement concerning racist murders and the rebellion that followed in Miami, Florida, was distributed to major media nationwide.

The All-Peoples Congress salutes the heroism of the Overtown community in Miami for their determination and courage to fight back against the racist occupation of their community by white policemen. We condemn the senseless murders of two Black men, Neville Johnson and Anthony McKenzie, plus the scores of injured residents spurred by the criminal provocation of the Miami police.

Therefore, we demand the immediate, unconditional release of the 43 people arrested during this justified rebellion against poverty and police brutality.

Unemployment for Black youth in Miami and around the country is 50%. According to Charlotte Gallogly, former head of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act in Miami, \$450 million funded this direly needed employment program from 1978-1981, of which 60% of the monies financed programs for the Black community.

The 1983 budget has dwindled to \$20 million and in 1984, funds could be completely wiped out. Unfortunately, the 1983 Pentagon budget of \$233 billion is the prime beneficiary of the catastrophic unemployment and plant closings, cuts in social services, housing, medical care, etc., which continues to take its deadly toll on millions of poor and working people. . . . We demand money for jobs, housing and human needs, not for racist police and war.

Reagan resumes military aid to Guatemalan butchers

Junta massacred 5,000 Indians in 5 months

By Jaime Veve
JANUARY 3—Citing alleged human rights improvement, the Reagan administration has proposed approval of \$4 million worth of spare parts for U.S.-made helicopters to the Guatemalan military regime.

Today's New York Times and Washington Post both noted that this would effectively end the freeze on direct U.S. military aid to Guatemala.

The Reagan military aid plan comes within a month of President Reagan's five-day trip through South and Central America, aimed at bolstering the rightwing regimes of the area. Reagan met with, among others, Guatemalan General Rios Montt.

Upon returning to Washington, Reagan announced that the U.S. "would do what it can to support President Rios Montt's progressive efforts." Washington's latest plans signal a further increase in U.S. backing for the genocidal war being conducted by the Montt regime against the Guatemalan peasants and workers.

Spare parts for scorched earth

U.S. spare parts for U.S.-made helicopters will enable the Guatemalan generals to pursue their scorched earth counter-insurgency campaign. The campaign bears striking similarities to the CIA-Pentagon "Operation Phoenix" utilized in Viet Nam in which over 20,000 Vietnamese peasants were killed.

Under Rios Montt, embraced by Reagan as a man "totally dedicated to democracy," the military killed over 5,000 Guate-



Liberation fighters in Guatemala have been battling the brutal U.S. puppet Rios Montt. Photo: COMPANERO

malan Indians since July. At least 200,000 have been forced to flee their homes.

International human rights organizations like Amnesty International and the Americas Watch Committee have documented systematic massacres of Indian villages. Facilitating the brutal counter-insurgency effort is the U.S.-supplied helicopters which sweep down on remote Indian villages with machine gun fire and troops.

General Rios Montt, who took over in a coup last March, is no stranger in the history of the Guatemalan military's draconian rule. He was the Army Chief of Staff during the presidency of Colonel Arana Osorio from 1970 to 1974. During that period over 15,000 people were killed by the military.

This fact, as well as the U.S.

U.S. refuses to pay share of U.N. treaty

By Carl Glenn
JANUARY 3—Last Thursday, December 30, President Ronald Reagan defied international law by declaring his refusal to pay the U.S. share of the costs of the UN agency that wrote the Law of the Sea treaty.

The Law of the Sea was designed to regulate the exploitation of the seabed. The Reagan administration opposed any restriction on U.S.-owned monopolies plundering the minerals under the sea.

Claiming to be acting in defense of "free" enterprise, Reagan threatened the peoples of the world with three distinct dangers.

First, there is the danger to the environment posed by the reckless and greedy private exploitation of the seabed's mineral wealth that its unregulated mining would surely bring. The example of capitalist development of North America—creating dust-bowls, mine cave-ins, and floods—is enough proof of this.

At practically the same moment that Reagan made his announcement, an official government report pointed to more than 400 toxic dumps right on U.S. territory—and these were only the "most dangerous" ones.

Second, by refusing to sign this treaty, which was signed by 119 countries including the Soviet Union on the first day that it was issued by the special UN commission, Reagan hurled a challenge at the rest of the world's nations. By arrogantly denouncing a law accepted by the overwhelming majority of the world community, Reagan is staking claim

to the wealth on the oceans' floor for the private gains of U.S. corporations.

Reagan counts on U.S. military supremacy at sea, along with U.S. industrial might, to guarantee to U.S. corporations first crack at the seabed's resources.

Sabotaging UN

Finally, to undermine and ultimately destroy the UN has long been the dream of the most reactionary wing of the U.S. ruling class. By refusing to pay the U.S. quota, Reagan has taken a clear step in this direction.

In the early days of UN history, the U.S. thoroughly dominated the world organization. Washington could even get UN backing for the aggressive intervention in Korea in 1950 and the Congo in 1960. At that time only the most entrenched ruling class reactionaries and isolationists here attacked the UN.

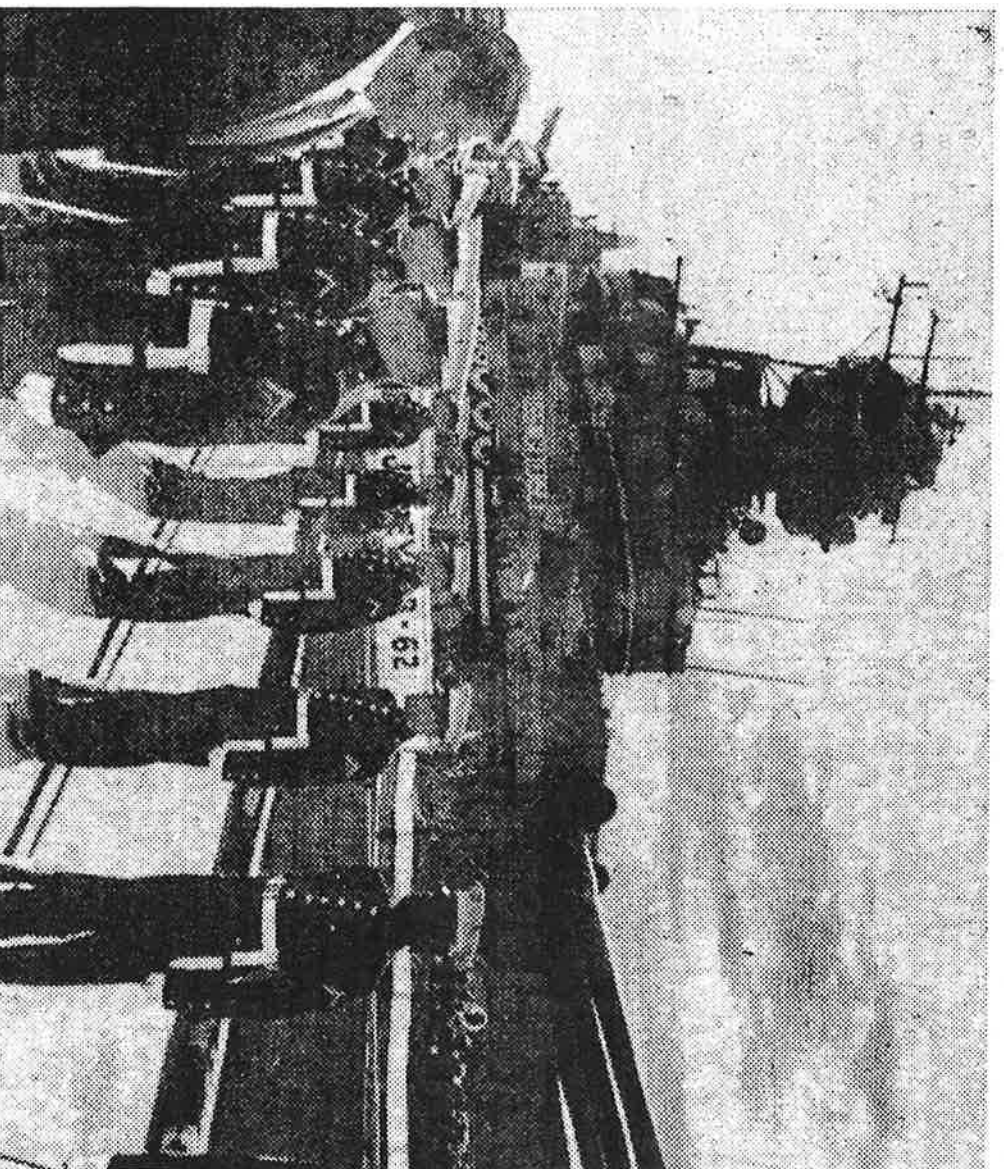
Lately, with Washington unable to use the UN as a tool for the Pentagon and Wall Street, ruling class antagonism to the world body has grown. The Reagan administration reflects this attitude, and refusal to pay the quota is the first concrete step to sabotage the UN.

The great irony is that the mining industry, like every other industry, is in a deep slump in which mines are now being closed. Moreover, the treaty itself provides for a ten year period of unrestricted exploitation by the U.S. of the world's oceans, before its provisions for the fair distribution of these resources—which obviously belong to all of the world's peoples—go into effect.

role in supporting succeeding military dictatorships since the CIA overthrow of the Arbenz government in 1954, is no secret in the halls of Congress.

Nevertheless, not one congressman has voiced open opposition to the latest Reagan-Pentagon plan. When the military chips are down, Congress reveals its true nature as nothing

but an animated talk shop. Whatever anti-intervention measures have emanated from the marble halls of Washington in the past have only weakly reflected mass popular sentiment in the U.S. against arms spending and against U.S. intervention. Despite the current mass sentiment against arms for the fascists, the congressional liber-



Reagan blesses recommissioned battleship New Jersey as keeper of "peace." Ship will be armed to the teeth with nuclear missiles, rockets, and heavy guns to use against oppressed nations.

New Pentagon battleship to target oppressed Nations

By Veronica Golos
JANUARY 2—On Tuesday, Dec. 28, as President Reagan recommissioned the battleship USS New Jersey, he said, "Providing an adequate defense is not cheap. The price of peace is always high." When Reagan talks of a "peacekeeper," he means an MX nuclear missile, and by the "price of peace" he means the planned \$1.6 trillion war buildup. Just fixing up the New Jersey will cost \$236 million.

And the ship's weapons show it has nothing to do with peace. The battleship is to carry two types of cruise missiles—32 Tomahawks and 16 Harpoon missiles. Tomahawks can carry nuclear weapons with a range of

1,500 miles in seeking out land targets.

Both types of missiles cruise at low altitudes undetectable by radar, at 700 miles an hour. The ship will carry surface to surface missiles and a closed-in weapons system of computerized radar-guided Gatling guns that fire 4,000 rounds a minute.

Nor are these weapons for defense. They are designed for first strike capability, to be used to initiate war. They are aggressive bombardment weapons for use against oppressed countries.

The weapons are described by a senior naval official as having "heavy firepower for marine landings, with a fan of gunfire of 26 miles." (New York Times, Dec. 29).

Where would this and other ships like them be used? The same official admitted that they would be present in the "Persian Gulf, Caribbean, Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean as a major force necessary to back American foreign policy."

And what is American foreign policy but to protect the property and profits of the giant multinational U.S.-based companies wherever oppressed people struggle to gain freedom from these corporation's rule.

But the last time that the USS New Jersey was used was in Viet Nam. And with all the advanced weapon systems of that period, the U.S. war machine was unable to stop the people of Viet Nam from liberating their country.

Cuba: Socialist planning makes a difference

By Sara Flounders

JANUARY 3—The closing of the massive Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna, N. Y., permanently laying off thousands of workers, once again graphically demonstrates the power of a handful of bankers and stockholders to secretly make the life and death decisions which will affect the future of an entire region. Based on their own personal profit, they decide who will work, who will eat, and who will be able to pay the rent or mortgage.

It also raises a fundamental question for all workers—Is there no other way?

Does all industrial development mean a ravished environment, polluted air and water, and chemical dumps? Does it mean housing and schoolyards coated with the grime and the poison of smokestacks in good times when the plants are in operation, then the silence of demoralizing unemployment during shutdowns?

Is this an unavoidable fact of life in modern industrial society? Or is this a cancerous symptom of the anarchy and the chaos of capitalist production—production for profit?

On a visit to Cuba just two months ago this reporter was able to compare the difference socialist planning and construction can make, by comparing a new industrial area of Cuba—Cienfuegos Province—to the industrial havoc of northern New Jersey, the South Side of Chicago, Detroit, and Lakawanna. In these U.S. cities the housing runs right up to the belching smokestacks and the factory gates of the large steel, auto, and chemical plants.

Socialist planning

What was most impressive in Cienfuegos Province was that an entire new industrial area was being planned and constructed, not only for the industries but for the workers and their future needs. Schools, hospitals, clinics, day-care centers, theaters, recreation areas, and roads were all being planned in advance as the industries were being built.

In less than ten years in Cienfuegos province a nitrogen fertilizer plant, oil refinery, petrochemical complex, a large cement plant and thermo-electric power plant have all been constructed.

There is now a large new fully-mechanized port, a bulk sugar

terminal and wheat and corn elevators. In addition there are numerous factories and plants making such things as hydraulic components, cardboard, prefabricated housing and ice cream. Citrus, sugar and fish processing plants are also operating.

Zones and 'Green Lungs'

These many new industries are grouped into industrial zones. The position of every plant depends on its environmental impact.

Any plant that emits pollutants, such as the petrochemical complex, are in the third zone, the furthest from all residential areas.

All three zones are surrounded by what are called "Green Lungs," large stands of trees to help maintain the environmental balance and to clear the air. There are strict health and safety standards on the job and regular required medical check-ups.

Housing is in a separate area with schools, shopping, and day-care all grouped around it. Even in this new housing, rent, as in the rest of Cuba, can by law be no more than 6% of income. Schools and all health and hospital care are totally free and very available.

No unemployment in Cuba

But the most remarkable difference for workers, in comparing planned socialist production for people's needs to capitalist production for profit, is that in Cuba there is no unemployment.

When compared not only to the 13 million unemployed workers in the U.S. but the chronic unemployment of up to 25% for Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and all the other Caribbean and Latin neighbors of Cuba this one fact is all the more outstanding.

Twenty-four years ago Cuba was in the same stranglehold to the U.S. corporations as the other countries of Latin America. Unemployment was 25%, one-third of the population was illiterate, health care for poor and working people, especially in the countryside, was non-existent.

At that time, a revolutionary struggle broke the grip of U.S. banks and corporations. The social system was changed, and production was no longer for the profit of a few but planned for the needs of society as a whole. This

is what made the difference.

Isn't this stranglehold of the banks the problem in Lackawanna today? Don't the people need steel? Don't steelworkers need jobs? Don't the people need housing, bridges, schools and hospitals? What the people don't need are the bankers who close the plants when they can't make a large enough profit—whether the material is needed or not.

Because Cuba has demonstrated that they can rebuild and run society without the bankers, they have received the unrelenting fury of the Pentagon, through sabotage, blockade and invasion. Because Cuba has demonstrated that they can meet the needs of their own workers for jobs, housing and education, they deserve the support of every worker fighting for a better life here.

Israeli racism sparks rebellion by Sephardic Jews

By Michael Bar-Am

*"Airplane come down to us
Fly us off to Lebanon
We will fight for Sharon
And return in a coffin."*

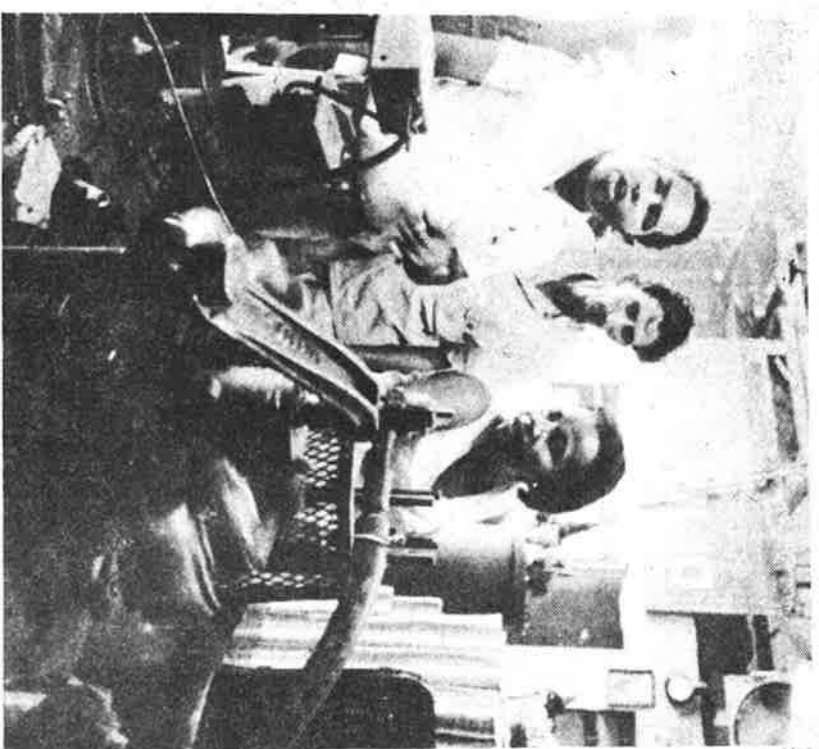
JANUARY 3—Sung by Israeli soldiers to the tune of a Hebrew nursery rhyme, these words were recorded last week by an Israeli journalist in Lebanon who slipped away from his official military escort.

It was broadcast on Israeli television and is another indication of the morale problems, the stresses and strains, the tensions and the growing instability of the U.S.-backed Israeli garrison state and its supporters.

Like GIs in Viet Nam a decade ago, Israeli soldiers find themselves bogged down in Lebanon in a war with no end in sight and casualties on the rise as a result of the Lebanese/Palestinian resistance.

Recently three senior paratroop officers were killed near Lake Karoun and two reservists were killed in Sidon. Soon after their funerals the Israeli Press Council issued a ban on photographs of military funerals that "focus on the grief of the families." (New York Times, Dec. 27).

Last month the 30th Zionist Congress, which was held in Jerusalem and attended by hundreds of delegates from all over the world, ended in a brawl and was described by the Dec. 17



Because socialist revolution replaced the profit motive with nationwide planning, Cuba's workers have no fears of unemployment.

Jerusalem Post as "an unmitigated disaster." Last week over 200,000 public employees went on strike for higher wages.

Sephardic rebellion

The most serious disturbance which the Israeli authorities have faced recently, and which has long-term implications, was the rebellion on Dec. 23 by Sephardic Jews in the Kfar Shalem neighborhood of Tel Aviv. As in the last week's rebellion of the Black community of Overtown in Miami, the police murder of a local resident resulted in a spontaneous uprising fueled by years of oppression and discrimination.

Sephardim are non-Western Jews and most came to Israel from North African and Middle Eastern countries. The residents of Kfar Shalem are from Yemen, Iran and Iraq.

Most of those in leading positions in Israeli society are Jews of European origin, known as Ashkenazi. Both Sephardim and Ashkenazi were lured to Israel under the false promise of the Zionist leaders and their U.S. backers that Israel would be a secure homeland for Jews.

Far from being a secure homeland, the Israeli state has trapped Jews into serving as a Middle East police force directed against the Arab people in the interest of imperialism, especially of Washington. U.S. policy makers promoted the creation of

Protest to target South Africa Jan. 22

The South African Military Refugee Aid Fund (SAMRAF) is organizing a demonstration to take place at African Airways offices, 49 St. and 5 Ave., at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22.

SAMRAF, an organization of exiled South Africans of European descent and their American supporters, stated in a press release publicizing this action that, "The recent South African invasion of Lesotho is a further example of South Africa's aggressive military tactics and an indication of their continuing violations of international boundaries. The increasing numbers of men refusing to do their compulsory military service can be attributed to increased Black resistance as well as the work of exiled South African war resisters in support of the liberation struggles in southern Africa."



held at this location since South African Airways is a government-owned body which serves the South African military by transporting troops to the combat zone in Namibia.

For further information, call (212) 638-0417

Pope appoints Nazi criminal to Vatican bank board

By Andy Stapp

DECEMBER 28—The scandal-plagued Vatican Bank was hit with more bad publicity yesterday when it was revealed that Pope John Paul II had appointed to its board a notorious criminal from Hitler's Germany.

This key Vatican advisor, Herman J. Abs, 81, was only recently brought into the inner circle of the Vatican Bank by Papal order. But his previous history is well known.

Abs was the chairman of the Deutsche Bank from 1940 to 1945 during World War II. The Deutsche Bank, commonly called "the Nazis' bank," was the largest financial institution in Hitler's empire.

Today's New York Times not only reports that the Pope's choice for the Vatican board position "served the Nazis as one of the key banking figures in the Third Reich," but also cites evidence that he "participated in dealings of I.G. Farben when it was building a slave labor rubber plant at Auschwitz."

I.G. Farben, whose directors were among the leading businessmen of Nazi Germany, deliberately chose Auschwitz, a death camp where 4 million people were murdered, as a suitable place for profitable operations. One-fifth of Poland's population, including almost all Polish Jews, was slaughtered by Hitler during the very period Abs was the head of

the Nazi bank. Many of them died at Auschwitz, which was located in Poland. The information about Abs' involvement in these atrocities has been a matter of public record, contained in no less than a 1946 U.S. Army report.

All this, of course, is well known to Pope John Paul II. One might well ask, then, who is the true friend of the Polish people? John Paul II, who decided to give Hitler's top financial wizard a central role at the Vatican bank? Or the anti-fascist government in Warsaw, many of whose leaders fought during the war to liberate their nation from capitalist gangsters like Herman Abs?

The rebellion of Kfar Shalem has given new evidence that the Israeli garrison state is unsuitable as a homeland for Jewish people, as well as being an oppressor of the Palestinian Arab population.

Buffalo All-Peoples Congress prepares fightback strategy

WHAT TO DO ABOUT

JANUARY 4—Even while the devastating news of Bethlehem Steel's impending closing of its Lackawanna plant was still reverberating in workers' ears, the Buffalo All-Peoples Congress swung into high gear.

In the little more than a week since the bombshell was dropped by big business, APC organizers have been busy talking, meeting, planning, writing and distributing a leaflet outlining a fightback strategy.

On Thursday, Jan. 6, the Buffalo APC will hold a news conference at 11 a.m. at the downtown Statler Hotel. At that time, the APC will announce its

campaign to force the Governor to keep the plant open as well as a simultaneous campaign to stop the gas rate increase—National Fuel Gas had announced it would apply for this increase as a result of the Bethlehem flight.

The New York City Pacifica listener supported radio station WBAI has already carried a taped interview with Buffalo APC organizer Dan Bentivogli.

If the crook bosses think they can just take the money and run, they're in for a big surprise!

For more information, contact the Buffalo APC at (716) 881-1525.

Farmers battle cops: 'No sale!'



SPRINGFIELD, COLO., Jan 4—"No sale! No sale!" With these words, over 200 angry farmers stormed the steps of a courthouse here today in an attempt to block the bankruptcy sale of the farm of Jerry Wright (pictured above right). After a pitched battle with cops, the farmers were driven back by teargas, and the farm was sold to its sole bidder, the Federal Land Bank.

With the total farm debt at \$200 billion, the economic crisis in agriculture is falling heaviest on small farmers, who do not enjoy special credit arrangements and other advantages accorded the

huge agribusiness firms, which are tied in with the largest U.S. banks and monopoly corporations. To fight the increasing number of foreclosures, the small farmers, who account for only 3% of agricultural production, have been staging militant protests such as today's and in many cases have successfully blocked foreclosures.

Wright made it clear the struggle over his farm was far from over when he told reporters following the sale: "I'm not planning on leaving the land. I will not evacuate the land. They're going to have to evict me."

Protests force sheriff to stop foreclosures

Pittsburgh unemployed demand moratorium to save their homes

By Gary Wilson
JANUARY 4—Foreclosures can be stopped. And it was the unemployed steel workers in the Pittsburgh area that showed it can be done.

With some 50,000 steel workers currently unemployed in the Pittsburgh area, the hope of finding a job is pretty slim. The tens of thousands who cannot find a job manage to get by as best they can.

Most own homes and the bills continue to mount up. The banks, the giant supermarkets, the big department stores—none of them want to hear about your difficulties, they only want your money, or else.

But now the bills are mounting up and there is no money coming in—medical bills, utility bills, food bills, and those hefty monthly mortgage payments.

But the bankers and the real estate speculators and the rest could care less why the bills aren't paid. They just take what they can, and leave you to rot. No wonder estimates of the homeless during this depression are ready run as high as three million.

A foreclosure is a hateful thing. They don't take you to court and say, "These people were caught trying to steal a house over on Pleasant St." No, they don't accuse you of any such thing.

They just foreclose the mortgage, turn it over to the county sheriff, and the house is sold at an auction to some big real estate

speculator, and everything you've put years into is gone.

Workers demand moratorium

But in Pittsburgh, this injustice met a stiff resistance. Over the past year, rallies of thousands of unemployed steel workers have demanded a moratorium on foreclosures.

For the last three months, the Mon Valley Unemployed Committee has held militant protests at the monthly sheriff's sale of foreclosed homes. They had some small successes, stopping one or two foreclosures. But they persisted in their demand for a full moratorium.

The Mon Valley Unemployed Committee said, "It is criminal to watch the vultures here at the sheriff's sale feeding on the sufferings of those who are unable to maintain payments on their homes through no fault of their own, due to unemployment, disability, or fixed income."

And their actions got noticed. Business Week (Dec. 20) described one of their demonstrations as "a small army of unemployed workers and their families."

But at each step, they were told a moratorium is impossible. It's against the law; the bankers have to be "protected"; somebody has to pay.

Then in December, the Pittsburgh City Council, feeling the heat of the rising anger, passed a resolution timidly asking if the mortgage holders wouldn't play nice and accept a moratorium on foreclosures of the unemployed

By Sam Marcy
JANUARY 2—Nowhere in the world is the fine art of passing the buck developed to such perfection as it is among capitalist politicians in the U.S.

Ask any city council member anywhere in the U.S. to do something to allay this or that grievance and he or she will tell you that the real authority is with the city council or the mayor. And if you should consult the mayor or the head of the city council, they will almost invariably point to the governor or the state legislature.

The governor in particular will always point to the President and to Congress. Each has learned how to deftly pass the buck.

Reagan has put a new twist on this. In his inaugural speech he said that the federal structure rests upon the relationship of the states to the federal government. Only those few rights which are specifically spelled out in the Constitution and its amendments are the responsibility of the federal government.

All the other rights, as it says in the Constitution, are reserved for the states.

This is the Reaganite way of passing the buck back to the states, which then pass it on all the way down to the lowest level of local government.

Division of authority

The truth of the matter, of course, is that the broadest legal authority rests with the federal government. But the individual states do have jurisdiction over the territory, persons, and property located therein.

In reality, whenever a state wishes to exercise broad political, social, and economic authority, it can always do so.

The huge multinational cor-

porations, especially Big Oil and the military-industrial complex, know how to manipulate state legislatures and governors. And they know how to set a state up against the federal government

in order to get the largest amount of profit through utilizing a state instrumentality, especially a small one. If the state has oil, gas, or other valuable assets, the multinationals can practically dictate the terms of their exploitation of these resources, and the very nature of the taxes to which they will obligate themselves.

They will do this all the more readily when the capitalist federal government in office makes it difficult or inappropriate to put across the greatest swindles, looting of treasures, vandalism of the environment, and just plain robbery of the wealth of a particular geographical area of the country.

If there is one art that the military-industrial complex, the banks, and Big Oil have learned, it is how to juggle the various arms of the capitalist government and set one up against the other.

Right-wing use of 'states' rights'

Not infrequently they hide behind so-called states' rights, especially in periods of blatant racist reaction and anti-labor offensives. "States' rights" is used to deny the rights of Black, Latin, and Native people and to reinforce the grip of the bosses over the workers through so-called right-to-work laws.

For decades on end, the federal government, through both Republican and Democratic administrations, claimed it had no right to interfere in lynchings, until an anti-lynching law was passed by Congress.

This should be remembered



Mon Valley Unemployed Committee actions like the picket shown above forced sheriff to stop foreclosures on home mortgages.

until the economy recovers.

And the nice mortgage holders (really big bankers) spit in the face of the workers. Foreclosures continued, rising to new heights: up almost 400% since 1978.

But the protests continued, and the anger swelled. A worried steel union bureaucrat, Walter Bachowski, director of District 20, warned, "If we don't start doing something for these people,

there's going to be a revolution." (That's what he told the Associated Press wire service on Jan. 3.)

Well, when they need to, the authorities can find a law to meet just the bankers'. Even a small-time politician can wield a little power when the heat gets unbearable.

When the January sheriff's auction opened up this week, Al-

legheny County Sheriff Eugene Coon had a surprise announcement. He stopped the sale of 42 homes of unemployed workers "while County Judge Nicholas Papadakos tries to organize a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures."

So it turns out the power is there to stop foreclosures, they will find it. But you have to fight like hell for your right to it.

JUST BETHLEHEM STEEL HAVOC

Workers' message to Gov. Cuomo

whenever the federal government pleads lack of power.

It should also be remembered how quickly the federal government sends out the army and FBI to crush rebellions against racism, or uses the army for strike-breaking purposes. None of this is delegated in the Constitution, of course.

But the same is done by the various states whenever it comes to utilizing their authority against the workers and in the interests of the bankers and bosses. There the authority delegated by law is ample and abundant.

The attempt of the ruling class to hide its plutocratic nature and conceal its greedy hands in the looting of the wealth created by the workers and oppressed people is what lies behind the so-called division of powers among the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court.

Different branches, same ruling class

The existence of so-called equal branches of the capitalist state apparatus makes it easy for the ruling class to blame one or another branch of the capitalist government when it needs a scapegoat. But in reality the three branches are merely different arms of the ruling class which can juggle them, especially in times of crisis, to conceal its sordid interest and control.

The craftiness of the capitalist politicians in learning how to pass the buck rests precisely on the need of the ruling class for a complex division of authority whenever it comes to granting benefits to the masses. This enables them to restrict the masses while having a super-abundant means of repressing them whenever that is necessary. Most U.S. cities are in the

hands of Democratic Party capitalist politicians, and so are 34 of the governors of the 50 states of the union.

You wouldn't know it, however, unless someone asks these state legislatures to do something about unemployment, cutbacks, and severe erosion of vital services.

Cuomo speech

It was therefore somewhat of a novelty to hear the inaugural speech made by the new governor of New York State, Mario Cuomo. His speech was filled with a profusion of generous promises to the poor, the unemployed, the disabled, the elderly, the sick, and so on and so forth. And he said he would carry out the promises made during his campaign against one of the most reactionary candidates ever put up by the Republican party anywhere.

It was a classic confrontation between conservatism and liberalism, said the New York Times in its Sunday editorial before the election. And bourgeois liberalism won the day.

Mario Cuomo, now governor, says he will carry out the "great liberal tradition" of New York State in leading the country, but that he also is not going to pass the buck to the Reagan administration. He's not going to scapegoat Reagan, to use Cuomo's own words, but naturally will not let him off the hook either.

What about Buffalo?

All this sounds fine. But any steelworker in Lackawanna, N.Y., listening to this grand Rooseveltian speech must have been waiting, waiting to hear even a word about the catastrophe which the Bethlehem

Steel Company had just leveled on the entire region. The company announced on Dec. 27 that it was shutting down its giant Lackawanna plant, a plant that has been fundamental to the economic viability of the whole state of New York.

But Cuomo said not a word. Not a word! Only glittering generalities and an abundance of superlatives describing what needs to be done in the light of the ravaging economic crisis.

Here is the number one problem in New York State—huge layoffs, a giant dismantling and ultimate destruction of the economic base of Western New York—staring Gov. Cuomo straight in the face. Didn't he know about it?

Of course he did. The news of the shutdown was on the wires on Dec. 27 and in all the newspapers of the country on Dec. 28. Even if the corporate heads of Bethlehem did not tell him anything until the last minute, he had ample time to prepare and announce his remedy to the situation.

According to the Dec. 28 edition of the New York Times, Cuomo was informed not later than Dec. 27 by Walter Williams, the president of Bethlehem, that "the decision was final."

Sets up study group

"Mr. Cuomo," said the Times, "has formed a study group to determine if anything can be done to reverse the decision and to see what aid the state can provide to the residents of Lackawanna."

In other words, Cuomo has already formed a study group and he is not going to take action to reverse Bethlehem's decision. This lets the Bethlehem Steel Corp. do what it wants while Cuomo waits till the study group

comes up with some recommendations, which of course are not binding on anybody.

And who did he consult with to set up this study group even before the announcement was made (which shows that he and others of the inner group who deal with the bankers and industrialists knew about the decision earlier)?

Thus we have it. First you let this brutal, cruel corporation do what it wants, and then you set up a study group. That's the new neo-Rooseveltian approach: Make a beautiful speech calculated to appeal to labor and progressives, to Black, Latin, and other oppressed peoples.

Then when the giant corporations level a blockbuster over the heads of the workers, don't say a word about it in your inaugural speech. Just secretly set up a study group, as if these politicians need to first study the situation to know what is going on or what has to be done.

No, Mario Cuomo has not made the Reaganites scapegoats on this. He merely pretends the problem doesn't really exist. Too complicated. We'll first study it and in the meantime let the corporation do what it wants. That's the old shell game.

Where the right-wingers use brutally frank language and do their dirtiest to cut the living standards while letting finance capital, the multinationals, and big business in general run roughshod over the living standards of the masses, the liberals use sugar-coated phrases to do the same thing.

The liberals are just that much more gentle, supportive, and sympathetic.

In Cuomo's "State of the State" message on Jan. 5, where he outlined his program for the coming year, Cuomo once again

had a chance to declare some plan of action which would stop the shutdown of the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna. It was impossible for him to continue ignoring the issue. He admitted the problem exists, but said nothing more. He had only his sympathies to offer the workers.)

What Cuomo could have done

What should he have done if he really meant all along what he said in his campaign and in his inaugural speech?

He should have announced right there and then that the giant Bethlehem Steel Corp., one of the world's largest and a significant element in the economy of the state, had decided to dismantle its facilities, thereby creating havoc in the state.

He could have said:

"I as governor of this state have therefore ordered the corporation to cease and desist from any layoffs, transfer of facilities, or dismantling of any portion of this huge plant.

"If the corporation fails to heed these words, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution of the State of New York, I will freeze any layoffs and freeze any bank accounts of the corporation.

"I further order the state attorney general to utilize the services of the legal department of the state to see that this order is carried out until such time as I have an opportunity to consult with representatives of the unions and the communities in the region for purposes of coming up with a solution to avoid such a step as has been taken by the corporation."

That's what Cuomo could and should have done. Instead, he passed the situation over.

Does he have the authority to

Continued on page 10

Lackawanna: portrait of a company town

'All Bethlehem's after is the biggest buck'

By Malory Merrill and Bill Covington

LACKAWANNA, Jan. 2.—This steel town sits on the southern boundary of Buffalo. The name Lackawanna is taken from the iron and steel mill started there in 1899. It is a company town and Bethlehem Steel is the company.

Some 20,000 people live in Lackawanna, over 10% Black and another 10% Arab and Hispanic. In its heyday, Bethlehem employed 22,000 workers, many of whom resided in Lackawanna. The school system, the roads, and most city services were funded in large part by money from Bethlehem.

Of course, Bethlehem never put in as much money as its owners took out.

Lackawanna's fortunes have been sinking since Bethlehem started draining jobs and resources from this area. The company demanded and received three major tax breaks in the last ten years.

The plant currently employs just 3,900 workers. Every nickel and every job Bethlehem takes from Lackawanna is money that must be made up by the overburdened workers and poor people here.

Cruel legacy of the super-rich

The Big Shots who own Bethlehem have finally gone public with their plans to abandon the plant and the city. Lackawanna is truly a devastated city with boarded up homes and stores, vacant buildings, pot-holed streets,

massive unemployment, and widespread deprivation. This is the cruel legacy of the super-rich company that once promised prosperity and now provides the opposite.

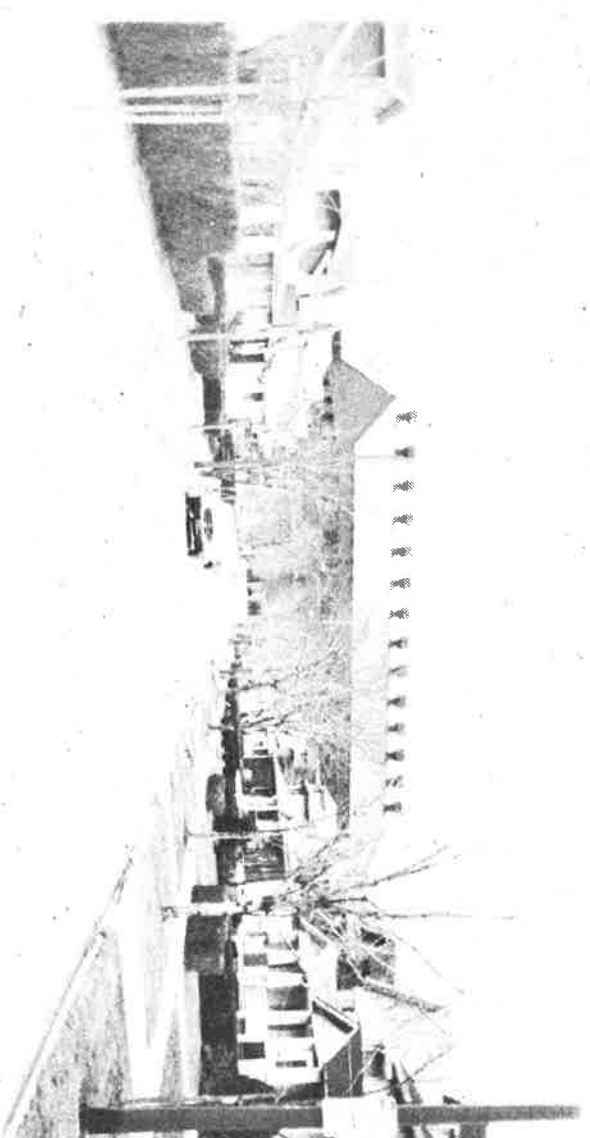
Ask almost anyone you meet here in Lackawanna and you get the idea that not too many people believe the steel giant's story about high taxes and imports being the main reasons for ending production by the end of 1983.

Many people feel that the writing was on the wall, what with the "phased in" layoffs over the last decade or more, and the profit-grabbing tax breaks the company has demanded and won. They expressed this feeling to us today in Lackawanna.

"The politicians and the company knew it was coming and refused to do anything about it," said Donna N. of Lackawanna's Abbott and Ridge Road neighborhood. "They have been stringing us along, keeping our hopes up. They should have given the city enough warning so we could at least plan what to do."

Prerogative law needed

She wasn't the only one who felt that this company should have been forced to keep the workers and the community informed of its plans. "If we had a prerogative law, it may have been a little different," said Tom Blake. He's a laid-off Bethlehem worker with 15 years seniority. Tom pointed out that the poli-



Like all streets in Lackawanna, the one above is in the shadow of the Bethlehem Steel mill. Steelworkers and residents mistrust the steel barons excuses for closing the mill.

ticians like right-winger Jack Kemp of nearby Hamburg, N.Y., bent over backwards to give the company special tax breaks after the company promised to hold the line on layoffs. "Then the company turned around and closes; the plant and the politicians act like nothing can be done."

Jerome Morris is a blast furnace worker who has been laid off for almost five years. "I know my job is gone forever now, and I'm damn mad." Jerome is one who doesn't fall for the company's line about "foreign imports." "We don't have any jobs here be-

cause companies like Bethlehem are building plants overseas where people are forced to work for pennies."

Foreign producers blameless

Abdel, who operates one of the last remaining grocery stores in Lackawanna's first ward, agrees "the American companies blame foreign producers for putting the American worker out of a job. But this isn't true because so many foreign companies are American owned."

Jerome Morris summed it up by saying, "All Bethlehem's

after is the biggest buck they can make. They don't give a damn what happens to Lackawanna."

His friend Brenda agreed, "They always cry poverty when they are cutting out the jobs, but I know they got the money."

In fact, Bethlehem Steel Corp. made \$211 million in profits last year. These profits were made by the working people and thousands of others like them. Now there is nothing to show for those years of labor but a gutted city, a bankrupt school system, and no future for young people. The workers and poor in Lackawanna deserve better.

WW Photo: MALLORY MERRILL

EDITORIAL

How they lie

ANYONE WHO'S seen the President at his last few news conferences knows that Mr. Reagan loves charts. There's an official-looking chart to prove that economic recovery is "just around the corner." He's got one to show us why Social Security and human services need to be axed. A diagram is always on hand to explain that military spending is really small potatoes. And, of course, there's a chart to prove that in the field of nuclear weapons, the Pentagon is a pussy cat and the Soviet Union is a ferocious tiger.

Recently, that great pillar of liberal thought which prides itself on its "independence" and "objectivity"—the New York Times—borrowed one of the Chief Executive's charts to prove their point in an article on U.S.-Soviet nuclear weapons. At the time of Soviet leader Andropov's Eurormissile proposal, the Times printed a "balance sheet" of U.S. and Soviet nuclear arms in Europe. Based on a chart supplied by the Department of Defense, the Times showed the USSR with a huge lead over the U.S. in nuclear missile strength in Europe.

A letter written to the Times this week notes, however, that the chart "was flawed in two important respects and misrepresented relative strengths."

First of all, the Times-Pentagon figures only deal with intermediate-range or "theater" missiles and omit any mention of short-range weapons. In this category, the U.S. leads the Soviet Union 6,000 to 1,000.

Secondly, in the field of long-range or "strategic" missiles, the Times-Reagan chart shows the USSR with a lead of 10,000 to 9,100. However, the letter writer to the Times notes that "no accounting was made of nuclear weapons aboard intercontinental bombers." In this area, the U.S. has a substantial lead. If these warheads were added to warheads cited by the Times-Pentagon, the totals would have amounted to 11,500 for the U.S. and 10,200 for the Soviet Union.

Once again, Mr. Reagan's figures are pure bunk.

For many years the Pentagon enjoyed first a nuclear monopoly and then a huge nuclear superiority over the rest of the world. During that time, Mr. Reagan states, the U.S. "kept the peace." His idea of peace is dropping the bomb on Japan, invading Korea, Viet Nam, Lebanon, and the Dominican Republic, and brazenly intervening against Chile, Iran, Indonesia, Cuba, Angola, Libya, El Salvador, and dozens of other oppressed and socialist countries.

Only recently has the Soviet Union gained a certain degree of nuclear parity with the U.S.—a fact of life that not only stays the hand of the Pentagon but infuriates to no end the militarists. Any and all lies will be churned out to "prove" that the Soviet Union is suddenly the "aggressor" in order to up the military budget and pour a never-ending supply of terrifying weaponry into their arsenal.

But their lust after the old days of imperialist omnipotence is not only reactionary, it's impossible.

Our 25th year

WITH THIS issue, Workers World newspaper enters its 25th year of publication. We invite our readers to look back with us in future issues as we reprint material from those historic early editions.

This quarter-century has been convulsed by imperialist wars and interventions, struggles for national liberation, and socialist revolutions. Rapid technological change has only sharpened the contradiction between the global interchange that today characterizes the productive process and the narrow, private, monopolistic ownership and control of the means of production in the capitalist countries.

Today more than ever before in this tumultuous period, the working class and oppressed need a way out of the system that is dragging them to economic ruin and war. They need a voice that can arouse the millions in a common struggle to intervene in the course of history; take command of all that their labor has produced, and reorganize life on a cooperative, socialist basis.

The real history of the world working class movement has largely been suppressed in this country. But the ideas and stratagems that came out of earlier struggles can be invaluable for the battles that are being shaped right now. For nearly a quarter of a century, Workers World has developed a consistent body of theory and analysis drawn both from living struggles and from these experiences of the past.

Over 100 million workers in this country are today facing the greatest challenge of their lives. And so is our paper, as an integral part of the struggles of workers and oppressed people. We will be doing all we can to be wherever there is resistance to the Reaganite offensive: to report to you the most significant features of the deepening class struggle; and to map a course of fightback that is conscious of what has been learned through bitter experience by previous generations and movements.

We are entering a much more speeded-up period of history when the fate of things to come will rest on the decisions and actions taken by those in the forefront of the struggle. Workers World's first 25 years have been a preparation for the right to participate in such a responsibility.



—Miami

Continued from page 3

year, including charges of excessive force, abusive treatment, and false arrest.

This is Miami's "good cops." Is it any wonder that Miami's youth took to the streets to say "enough"?

Now, Miami's Black youth have shown that they are tired of being statistics on the police blotter or the unemployment rolls. Nevell Johnson was a human being. He was 21 years old. He loved basketball, and they called him "Snake" because he was tall and thin. Johnson and McKenzie had every right to a job to go to school—every right to live.

What was Ronald Reagan's reaction to the rebellion that their murders provoked? From his vacation lounge chair in Palm

Springs, Reagan said arrogantly, "Well, whether they're taking place there (Miami) or in Washington or in any place, I don't think there's any room for that, for violence in the streets." But what about the decades, the centuries of violence against Black people? Is there room for that?

"No," say Overtown's youth. After Nevell Johnson was declared dead in Jackson Memorial Hospital Wednesday night, his uncle, Mr. Amos Thomas, explained:

"The family doesn't want any violence, but that's the only way to get any justice. We must make America know—if they keep killing us, what else can we do?"

As long as repression and racism persist, rebellion is not only justified, it is inevitable.



Miami officials' only answer to poverty: a SWAT team for repression.



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—Food stamps

Continued from page 1

Detroit, this suit has the potential to force the government to release food to the hungry nationwide.

Gemma explained that Reagan and the Congress have made it clear that the only way for hungry people to get food is to fight for it themselves. She said, "We guess that in Washington they figure hungry people cannot fight for their rights, and food and a job are rights. We guess they figure hungry people can't see across the street to the supermarket overflowing with food, or that we don't know our tax money is being stolen to give it away to the military profiteers and the banks.

"It's hard to go to meetings and organize when your children cry from hunger," she added. "But the Reagan administration leaves us no choice. If the government does not provide in this land of abundance for food for everyone's table, then the people will take it themselves."

What is responsible for famine and starvation throughout the world? Too many people—or too many capitalists? A carefully documented account which shows the role of the capitalist system in holding back food production and explains how only socialism can provide food for all.



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Reagan public lands policy: Rape, ruin and run

By Sharon Shelton

JANUARY 4—Rape, ruin, and run with the profits. This is the policy of the pro-big business Reagan administration, which has been scheming over the past two years to illegally sell publicly owned virgin lands to the oil and gas monopolies.

At a press conference last week, Interior Secretary James Watt, who is the front man for the corporations in their attempt to loot public lands, announced with much fanfare that he would not issue any oil and gas leases on designated wilderness areas through the rest of 1983.

Watt's announcement came, however, only a week after he utilized a Congressional holiday recess to order that as many as 805,000 public lands, previously under study as possible designated wilderness preserves, be dropped from consideration, thereby clearing the way for their exploitation by the oil and gas barons and the timber magnates.

The decision affects all areas under study for wilderness designation that encompass less than 5,000 acres, as well as other lands bordering existing preserves.

These lands, totalling 3.5 million acres by the Department of Interior's own estimates, include sites such as New Mexico's Bisti Badlands, a unique expanse of toadstool-shaped rocks, and its El Malpais ice caves, and Colorado's American Flats, a scenic 4,700 acre alpine area.

Watt's action is in blatant defiance of Congress, which recently passed legislation specifically

forbidding the issuance of oil and gas leases on designated wilderness lands. Facing a ban on oil and gas leases on wilderness lands, Watt just arrogantly turned around and reduced the lands being considered for inclusion as wilderness area.

Common property of the people

In its efforts to sneak through this outright ripoff of the people, the Interior Department refused to allow public hearings or set up a system for administrative appeal of the decision, something that even the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 28), the mouthpiece of big business, admitted was an "unusual procedural move."

In reality, these lands are not Watt's to sell. These virgin lands are public lands, the vestiges of common ownership. The government is merely the trustee of the public lands and has no right to sell even a single acre to the profit-hungry, polluting corporations.

All the land in the U.S., of course, was originally stolen by the U.S. government from Native people. Today Native people are waging a heroic struggle to protect tribal lands from the rape and ruin wrought by these same oil, gas, uranium, and timber monopolies.

Why Reagan wants to sell off the lands

With millions out of work and factories and small businesses closing their doors or curtailing operations, income to the federal government has dropped. After

having loudly promised to "balance the budget," the deficit is at an all-time high and the Reagan administration is hell-bent on selling off 744 million acres of public lands and property, more than one-third the land mass of the whole country, in hopes of bringing in a one-shot influx of money.

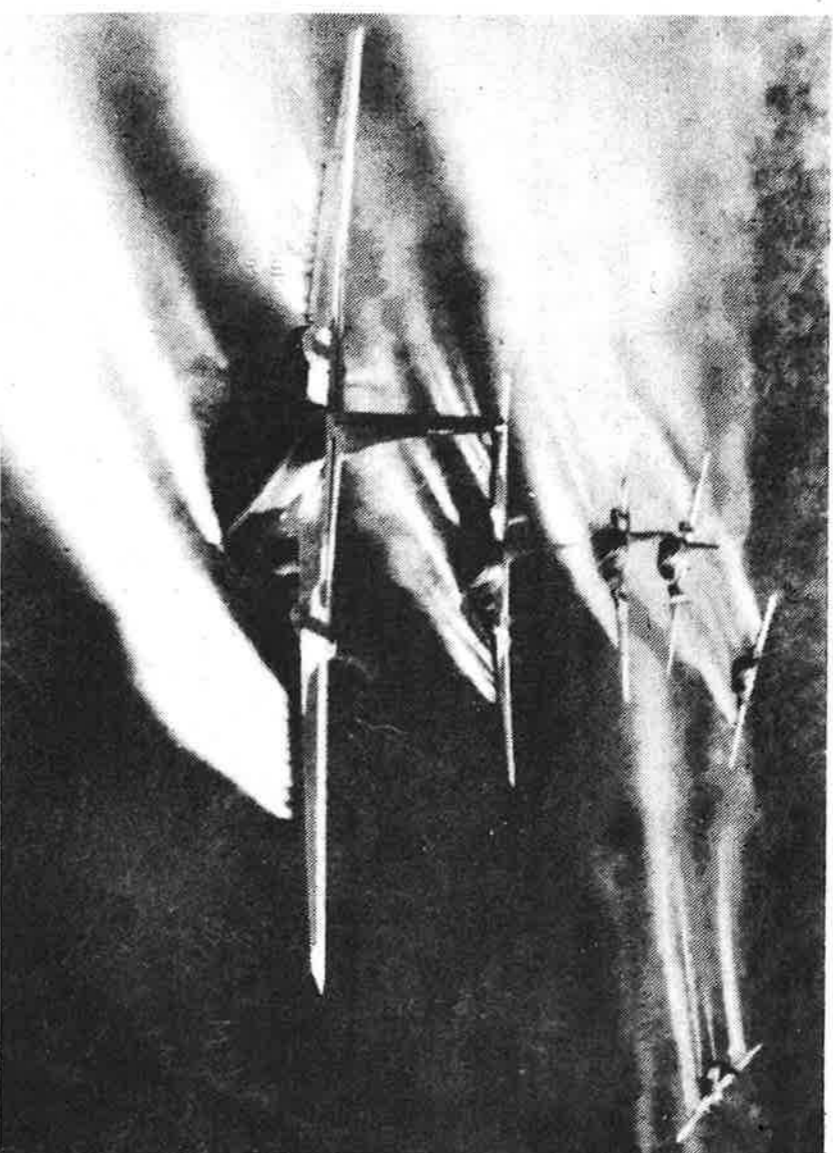
Egging on Reagan are the oil and gas monopolies. Although these companies are hurting from an overall oil glut worldwide and couldn't sell new oil and gas at the present time, they want to grab hold of legal title to

the public lands, both to list as an asset on their books for the moment and to have massive reserves to exploit in the future.

Like the cutbacks of social services, the phony "tax cut" which cut taxes only for the rich, and all of the other anti-people policies of the Reagan administration, this is just another instance in a more hidden form of the capitalist government conspiring with the corporations it serves to make poor and working people bear the burden of the capitalist crisis.

The real cause of the budget crisis is the stupendous Pentagon arms outlay, and just as the cruel and deep cutbacks of social services haven't closed the gap, neither will the administration's public lands swindle.

While some of the Democrats in Congress have loudly bemoaned Watt's actions, mostly over the bargain prices the land is being sold for, both Democrats and Republicans alike have gone along with Reagan in appropriating record billions to the Pentagon over the past two years.



U.S. planes sprayed toxic chemicals containing Dioxin over Vietnam, destroying the forests and poisoning hundreds of thousands of people. In the U.S. itself, corporate greed has led to dangers from the same chemicals.

How The Blob came to Wellston

By Bruce Bradshaw

JANUARY 2—"My heart sank. I had nowhere to turn," exclaimed Richard E. Devlin, the safety-service director of Wellston, Ohio.

Mr. Devlin had reason to be scared. For what is happening to this small Ohio town reads like one of those 1950s horror movie scenarios. In fact the whole thing is sort of a combination of "The Creature from the Black Lagoon," "The Attack of the Killer Tomatoes," and "The Blob."

In the case of Wellston, the blob is 400,000 gallons of pizza sludge, "a slushy organic mass, high in acid content which cannot be safely buried," in the words of today's New York Times.

This "acidic tide of pizza sludge," the paper continues, "threatens" to pour out of its "holding lagoon," and inundate the area with flour, tomato paste, vegetables, cheese, and pepperoni.

How did this bizarre menace come to Wellston?

It seems that in its wisdom, Jeno, Incorporated, part of a fast-food conglomerate, decided to move its pizza factory from Duluth, Minnesota, to Wellston, Ohio, to produce the product closer to its markets in the East and Midwest.

At first the people of Wellston were delighted, since one out of five workers there are jobless and Jeno offered to employ 1,000 people.

In true capitalist style, however, Jeno set up its 400,000-square foot plant in Wellston without making provision for the disposal of the vast mountain of garbage that is the inevitable byproduct of mass pizza production.

Such lack of planning, coupled with the contempt for the people of Wellston and their environment, is typical of the "free enterprise system." Jeno, in other words, gets a free ride while the people of Wellston must appeal to the state of Ohio for half-a-million dollars to pay the cost of cleaning up this mountain of disgusting waste.

Oil should belong to the people. But it doesn't.

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Corporate greed behind poisoning of Missouri towns

By Bob McCubbin

JANUARY 2—Times Beach, Missouri, is a small working class community on the banks of the Meramec River. The poisonous legacy of past decades of capitalist abuse of the environment is wreaking havoc here as it is in communities across the U.S.

Shortly before severe flooding in December, which caused heavy damage and forced most residents to evacuate, the Federal Center for Disease Control took a series of soil samples in the area.

As the flood waters began receding and people began returning to Times Beach to undertake cleanup operations at the beginning of the holiday season, Federal officials announced that there were dangerous concentrations of dioxin in area soil and said a complete and immediate re-evacuation of the town was necessary.

Most toxic poison known

Dioxin is one of the most toxic substances known. It is a byproduct in the manufacture of herbicides and other chemicals. The deadly substance was spread over Viet Nam during the genocidal U.S. campaign to make that country a U.S. colony.

The results were a horrifying increase in cancer and other diseases, deformed babies, still births, and whole areas of the country where the soil and water continue to threaten human health and life.

U.S. servicemen and women who came in contact with dioxin during the war live a nightmare of ongoing and incurable maladies. While many have died of cancer and other diseases, the U.S. Veterans Administration stubbornly refuses to admit that exposure to dioxin is the common thread in thousands of such cases.

In Times Beach, and officials fear, in at least 53 other sites in Missouri, dioxin-contaminated oil was spread over unpaved roads in 1971 to keep the dust down. The deadly poisonous oil was used because it was cheaper! The recent pre-flood testing, a decade after the spraying, found levels of dioxin in drainage ditches along the town's roads to be 100 times above the maximum permissible level.

More tests are now underway to check on the terrifying possibility that flood waters have lifted the poison out of the ditches and deposited it all over the town. The Red Cross isn't waiting for the results. It has ordered all of its workers out of the area.

Federal gov't blamed

At a mass meeting attended by over half the town's 2,000 residents last Tuesday, bourgeois politicians listened nervously as the audience charged that the federal government has known since 1974 that there was dioxin, and perhaps also PCBs (another deadly chemical), in the soil of Times Beach and has never, until now, lifted a finger to do anything about it.

Even now, with Federal officials strongly urging relocation for all area residents, the question of government assistance to a community of working people where few have the resources to simply pick up and leave, is being left up in the air.

Indicative of the half-hearted government "concern" was the response of one Federal official to a New York Times reporter's query. He was, he said, giving "top priority to the 800 Times Beach families among the region's flood victims in finding temporary housing. He said 25 mobile homes were on the way."

Workers World warned at the time of Love Canal four and a half years ago that improper disposal of toxic industrial wastes has been the standard operating procedure for U.S. industrial giants for decades for the simple reason that it's cheaper, it saves the company a few extra bucks. Since that time, literally thousands of life-threatening chemical dump sites have been discovered all across the U.S.

And now that the shortsighted, selfish, criminal polluting of the industrial bosses is being revealed to the light of day—who's going to make them pay for the lives they've destroyed? The land they've ruined? Will the U.S. big business government that's pampered them so long suddenly change its tune? Don't count on it. Rather, add murderous, widespread environmental poisoning to the long list of reasons why the capitalist system must be overthrown.

DPRK Mission under attack

Frameup of official is part of harassment campaign

By Bill Doares
NEW YORK, Dec. 27—The frame-up is a tactic that has been used time and time again by the U.S. government against forces fighting for social progress. Its victims have included labor leaders, anti-war activists and fighters for Black, Latin, Asian, and Native liberation.

Today in New York City, this tactic appears to be in use once again, this time against a diplomat of a socialist country. Its target is Mr. O Nam Chol, a third secretary of the UN Mission of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The charges against Mr. O must be seen as part of the hostility of the U.S. government to the DPRK, which has steadfastly refused to accept the 37-year U.S. military occupation of south Korea or to recognize the puppet regime the U.S. installed there. This hostility is behind the incident which began last September.

On Sept. 5, police surrounded the cars of several DPRK diplomats who were attending a function in New Rochelle, N.Y., and seized a member of the mission who came over to investigate.

When other diplomats present protested, they were told that the

police were seeking a suspect in an alleged sexual assault that had occurred earlier in the day. The only description offered of the suspect was that he was "an Asian."

'Not him,' says witness

When the alleged victim and three women said to be witnesses were brought to the scene by police, they all stated positively that none of those present had been involved in the incident. The police apologized and left.

No more was heard of the incident from the U.S. side until Sept. 28, when the DPRK Mission was informed by the legal counsel of the U.S. Mission to the UN that an arrest warrant had been issued against Mr. O Nam Chol. On the same day, police cars were posted outside the mission with the obvious intention of arresting Mr. O, should he step outside.

On Nov. 22, nearly two months later, the U.S. Mission issued a communique claiming that the same persons who had failed to identify any member of the mission in person on the day of the alleged incident had recognized him from visa photographs shown to them several weeks later.

Barons not only challenged the old Roosevelt regime but every administration since then, whether Republican or Democrat.

Arrogance of steel barons

These ruthless magnates are used to doing things on their own without prior consultation. Even with Presidents, when the steel barons make a weighty decision they issue a press release on it first and then inform the President after the fact. That's precisely what happened with President Kennedy in the famous steel price-rise case.

During the 1959 steel strike, the steel barons thought that Eisenhower would go out of his way to help them break the strike.

But Eisenhower flinched at this dangerous course. The steel barons dragged the strike out for months, but in the end Eisenhower refused to make what would have amounted to a turnaround in labor relations in the country. The steel barons suffered a significant defeat at the hands of the steel workers, who stood firm notwithstanding the steel union bureaucracy's lack of will to fight.

The steel barons felt that somehow or other they had to get compensation for the losses they suffered during the strike. So they waited until April 1962, and then suddenly announced huge price hikes, although at that time voluntary price controls were in effect.

First the steel barons decided to raise prices. They issued a press release about it which was carried in all the papers. Having done that, the head of U.S. Steel, Roger Blough, then asked for a conference with President Kennedy.

Blough graciously presented Kennedy with a mimeographed press release. He was about to leave when Kennedy told him to wait and asked that Arthur Goldberg, then Secretary of Labor, be called into the Oval Office.

Kennedy gave Goldberg the press release. After reading it,

Diplomat unable to leave Mission
Over the past three months, the harassment of the DPRK Mission has intensified, severely hampering its activities during the session of the General Assembly. Mr. O has been unable to step outside for three months.

The U.S. government has delayed issuing visas to DPRK diplomats so that replacement and additional staff have been prevented from joining the mission. Mission personnel here have been unable to leave the country.

At present, five newly appointed diplomats who are carrying a letter to the UN Secretary-General are being prevented from entering the country.

The U.S. State Department has also launched a campaign of threatening and inflammatory attacks against the DPRK Mission in the pages of this city's major newspapers, even claiming the "right" to close down the mission altogether.

In a statement to the UN Sixth Committee given on Dec. 9, Ambassador Han Si Hae of the DPRK charged that "These actions were invented by the United States in order to embarrass the Democratic Peoples

Goldberg, who had been general counsel for the steel union during the entire strike, said to Blough, "You mean first you raise the price and then you come to give the President a press release which all the wire services already have and which is already on the TV?"

The U.S. Steel Corp. chairman explained that he had personally brought the mimeographed press release to the President as "an act of courtesy."

Kennedy's limited price rollback

Kennedy decided to fight back—in a very limited way, of course. He ordered the FBI to impound the books of the steel corporation and set in motion the best army of bureaucrats to look them over.

A limited price rollback followed, after which the corporate steel barons learned to first let the President know what they were going to do before they announced it to the world.

After the limited steel price rollback Kennedy compensated them and all of big business with tax breaks.

It is possible that somewhat the same scenario was recently followed by Bethlehem Steel. The New York Times (Dec. 29) quotes Anthony Cafero, a counsellor from Lackawanna, on the unusual timing by the corporation of its announcement of the plant shutdowns. It came two days after Christmas, when everything was in a holiday mood: everywhere in the steel town Christmas lights were still shining brightly in windows and on trees.

How could the corporation be so heartless or cruel as to do that? Its cynicism and cruelty is endemic and well-known.

"What difference does it make," said councilman Cafero "when they (Bethlehem) announce it? It has the same effect whenever they say it."

Not exactly right, councilman. There is a difference. Not a very deep and profound one, but one which the corporation clearly understands on the basis of broad political experience.

Republic of Korea and to impede its diplomatic envoys to the United Nations in discharging their duties."

U.S. violates international law

He went on to point out that by failing to recognize the immunity of members of observer missions, the U.S. government is in violation of international law: "If each nation were able to imprison on criminal charges the diplomats of other states, then nations would be constantly fabricating crimes so that they could imprison the envoys of states with which they had political differences."

The past year has seen a great intensification of the struggle against U.S. occupation in south Korea itself. Defying savage government repression, student demonstrations have burned the U.S. cultural center in the city of Pusan three times. South Korean workers have also carried out a number of militant strikes against U.S. corporations.

The U.S. has refused to heed the sentiments of the south Korean people, has even increased the occupying troops to 39,200, and has stepped up harassment of the diplomats of the DPRK.

The timing had a reason

They announced it on Dec. 27, some three days before the governor legally and technically took office. In the interim, outgoing Governor Carey would not legally raise a finger against the layoffs because he no longer cared, although he was privy to the decision.

Technically, Cuomo could not do it because he was not yet in. The corporation shrewdly picked a time during the most difficult period of transition from one administration to another. They figured that both would be paralyzed. And indeed there was no strong will to respond to the contemptible act of these arrogant, quasi-fascist-minded steel barons.

These people are like the Thyssens and Krupps of pre-Hitler Germany who welcomed Hitler with open arms.

So we see that the president of Bethlehem Steel called up Cuomo and informed him that a decision had been made to create havoc on the Niagara Frontier and throughout Western New York in general. And the decision, as he says, is irrevocable.

We don't know whether the governor thanked him or who hung up the telephone first. Suffice it to say that Cuomo knew about all this beforehand.

Both Williams and board chairman Donald Trautlein each made tours of Lackawanna in both 1981 and 1982 to quiet rumors about plant closings. In fact, rumors have been flying long and high throughout Lackawanna that things would be getting worse and worse.

All these rumors were stimulated by the corporation to insure there wouldn't be any struggle and to infect the mass of the workers with the deepest pessimism. At the same time, they would keep the creditors at bay with assurances that there would be no shutdown.

Cuomo and all the others knew about the decision, including the steel workers' union bureaucracy. That they all preferred to keep it quiet in no way diminishes the arrogance of the corporation in dealing with the

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, gay and straight, 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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workers and the governor by issuing this contemptible press release in the middle of the holidays.

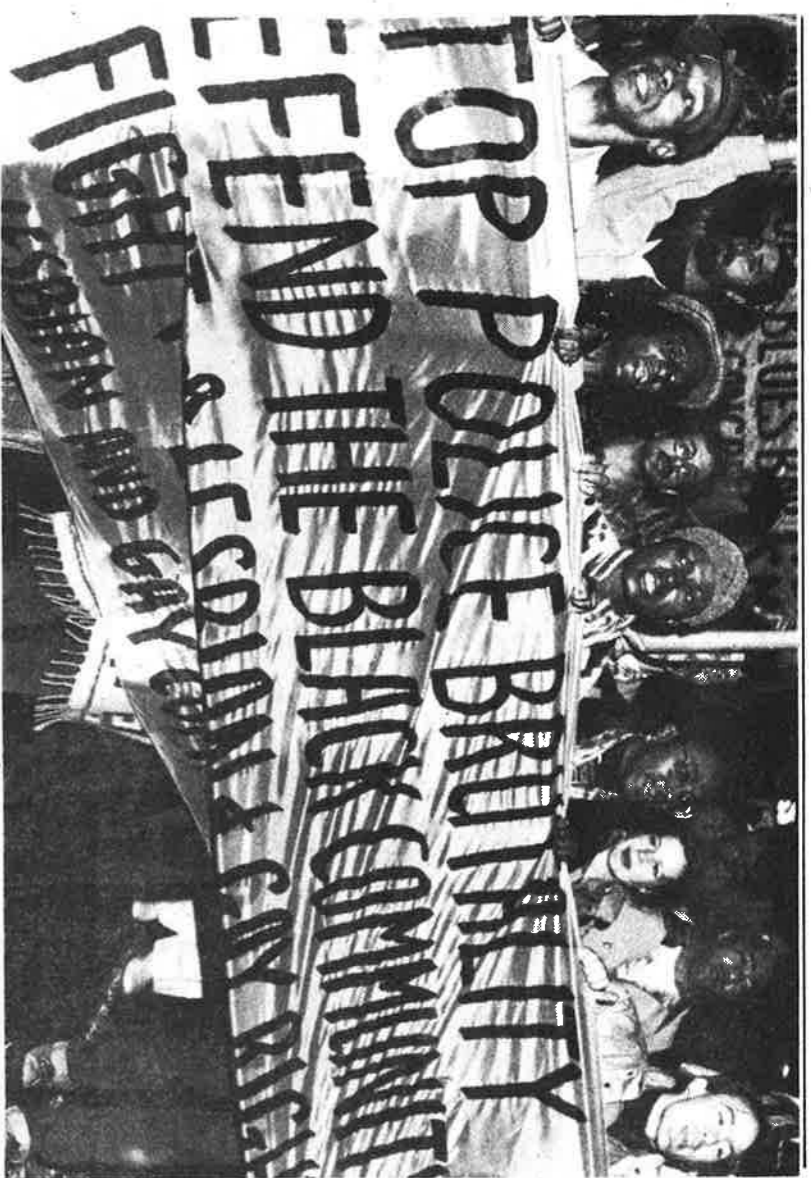
Workers' options

However, the workers have a broad range of options. The first is to explain in plain and unadorned English to the governor and all the legislators of the state, county, and city that the governor has the authority to stop this monstrous anti-labor attack. He can exercise his authority by virtue of the power he has under the constitution of the State of New York to prevent a calamity.

And he can freeze the situation of the corporation on all fronts. He can do this as a temporary emergency measure, pending a study by community groups, workers, and other organizations who represent those whose livelihood is at stake.

Sure, the corporations can go to court. Let them.

Let them be the ones to go to court. They have billions to fight legal battles. But if they touch the facility, try to move it, try to lay off or cut it down, the workers have the right to insist on their legal rights. The governor must be made to understand that...



WW Photo: G. DUNKEL
Demonstration last year against racist-sexist beatings by police in a Black gay bar, Blue's, helps build the solidarity which will be needed to win a Gay Rights law in New York City.

Working class unity needed to force thru gay rights bill

By Shelley Ettinger
NEW YORK, Dec. 14—A bill to extend civil rights to lesbians and gay men was introduced in City Council here today. The proposed law would prohibit discrimination based on sexual preference in employment, public accommodations, housing, and banking.

The local bill will be considered by committee and open to public testimony for at least two months. In order to be passed into legislation it must be voted out of the committee to the floor of the council. This move has been blocked in the past by anti-gay politicians.

The gay civil rights bill is very important progressive legislation, and has been the object of struggle by lesbian and gay people and supporters here for a decade.

The bill could provide a legal handle for struggling against some of the blatant aspects of lesbian/gay oppression—harassment by landlords and bosses, etc. As oppressed people, the lesbian and gay community here is determined to win its passage and to ensure its enforcement.

In New York City, where the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion ignited the modern mass movement of lesbians and gay men, it is still legal to discriminate against lesbians, gay men, transvestites, and transsexuals. With violent anti-gay attacks occurring with increasing frequency, establishing legal rights for lesbian and gay people is just one aspect of the struggle against lesbian and gay oppression.

The gay civil rights bill has been defeated five times in the last decade by the Democrats and Republicans on City Council. Each time, reactionary forces—police, right-wing religious groups, landlords, anti-woman and anti-gay zealots—have effectively united to defeat it. These are the same forces which promote racism and violence against Third World people, and they serve the interests of the big bus-

ness bosses by pushing lesbian and gay oppression.

But a much stronger unity can be built to defeat that oppression: the unity of lesbians and gay men with all poor, working, and oppressed people.

Amsterdam News backs gay rights bill

The lesbian/gay struggle was greatly strengthened last year when the Amsterdam News, an important Black newspaper, endorsed the gay civil rights bill and urged unity of oppressed people. This year, local activists report that there is an opportunity to build a united struggle to force passage of the bill.

Such unity can form the basis of a militant struggle for lesbian and gay rights, waged independently of the politicians who can't and won't grant gay rights voluntarily. This is key, not only to the passage of the local gay rights bill, but to the future of the lesbian and gay movement.

Militance has been a hallmark of the lesbian and gay struggle. On Christopher Street in New York in 1969, on the steps of City Hall in San Francisco in 1979, in the streets of Washington, D.C. and Chicago, lesbians and gay men have marched and battled against oppression.

In every other struggle for justice, too, lesbians and gay men have joined forces with all oppressed people. Strong, visible gay contingents are present at every march against racism and war.

In the last year, many lesbian and gay activists came out to support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and took part in the struggles against the Klan in D.C. on November 6 and 27. In Oroville, Calif., on Dec. 11, a large lesbian/gay contingent in that tremendous anti-racist march forged important ties among oppressed people.

These ties, which bind oppressed people together in struggle, will be the foundation of the

political prisoners

Tensions mount over racist Marion murder

The following excerpted letter was sent to *Workers World*.

PRISONS in the United States have historically reflected a shameful record of brutality and violence.

The situation at Marion Federal Penitentiary (Marion, Illinois) is a case in point, the example of another possible Attica or Sante Fe! There is an increasing amount of violence and racism being directed at Black prisoners.

On Sept. 26, another Black prisoner, Raymond Smith, was brutally murdered. The details of the killing follows the familiar pattern of previous killings, while racist prisoners capitalize from the neglect and subtle complicity of the guards who work here.

The same two white prisoners who murdered Raymond Smith are responsible for the murders of at least two other Black prisoners. Clearly, there is complicity with prison guards in order for these two prisoners to be permitted to remain together, manage to procure sophisticated weapons and tools to cut screens and kill each other, even after they (along with everyone else in the control unit) are supposed to be strip searched before

leaving their cells for a movement of any sort!

Prisoners of this kind, with the aid and assistance of guards, serve as mercenaries and instruments of the administration.

The remaining prisoners are in desperate need of outside support and protest by the general public with organizations in those communities.

Letters, telephone calls, or mass demonstrations should be directed to the prison officials at the Marion prison and top administrators within the Department of Justice, along with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Also, whenever possible, the media should be utilized to focus attention on the neglect and covert complicity of prison officials in these murders.

At Marion, since the strike that began in 1980, all prisoners remain on a lock-down status, making general accessibility to the outside world increasingly difficult. Such isolation could prove disastrous in crisis situations, such as exist now.

We are appealing to you to please take it upon yourselves to show concern and check this situation out. Let it be known that another Attica or Sante Fe will not be tolerated.

Concerned Prisoners

Legal aid strike ends with setback for management

By B. Sax
A Legal Aid lawyer

NEW YORK, Jan. 3—Legal Aid lawyers here agreed to a contract with the Legal Aid Society last week ending a ten-week strike by the lawyers.

The contract between the Society and the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (ALAA, District 65, UAW) represents a setback for management and the city, which used all possible means during the strike to break up the union and force a no-strike law on the lawyers.

Throughout the course of the strike, New York City Mayor Ed Koch and other city officials directly interfered in the bargaining between the union and the Legal Aid Society by threatening to break the city's contract with Le-

gal Aid and set up a public defender's office which would have subjected the lawyers to the reactionary Taylor Law forbidding strikes by public employees. Koch created a special commission to come up with plans to prohibit Legal Aid lawyers from striking and even drafted legislation to require the lawyers to accept binding arbitration of future disputes, though the city would be given the "right" to veto the arbitrator's decision.

This Reaganite strategy backfired and only strengthened the lawyers' resolve to stay out until a fair contract was negotiated.

After management's proposals regarding arbitration were thoroughly repudiated by the membership, they were forced to

Unemployment in D.C. grows with store closings

By Susan Lesser

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 30—In the first few weeks of the new year, at least 3,100 more people will be thrown out of work in the capital area, excluding any additional lay-offs from the federal government.

Two Maryland department stores, WOOLCO (owned by Woolworth's) and MEMCO (owned by Lucky stores of California), are closing their doors and laying off 1,000 and 2,000 employees respectively.

Additionally, MEMCO, which was in the midst of union contract negotiations with Local 400 of the United Food & Commercial Workers, will be bought by Bradlees. When Bradlees reopens the former MEMCO stores next summer, its management has no plans to offer MEMCO workers the first opportunity to be hired for jobs in its stores. This amounts to union busting.

In another union-busting ac-

tion, American University has fired close to 100 cleaning service employees. AU will "contract out" to a private firm which pays 33% less, has no retirement plan, and would not honor the seniority of the fired employees if they were to be hired back. Union Local 25 of the Hotel & Restaurant Workers was attempting to organize these workers at the time of their firing.

The overwhelming majority of these retail and service employees described above are Black, Latin, and women, many with families to support.

Federal workers too

Further, in a Congressional study released December 29 which covers a 3 month period ending in June of 1982, a total of 1,393 federal employees were RIF'd (reduction in force, or lay-off) nationwide. Close to 350 of those were in the Washington area.

More than half of those RIF's were women, even though women make up less than a third of the federal workforce, and more than a third of those laid off were Black and Latin, even though they make up less than a fifth of the federal workforce.

This study covers only a 3 month period of the Reagan government. It indicates the tremendous erosion of the gains that Black and Latin people and women made in the federal workplace. And private industry usually lags far behind the federal government, especially in the area of affirmative action programs.

The main areas of employment in the Washington area are the federal government, service industries, and retail sales. The depressed state of these areas was grossly evident before the pending lay-offs at WOOLCO, MEMCO, and American University.

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APC food campaign gathering steam

Massive distributions launched in Detroit

By Carla Johnson
DETROIT, Jan. 1—The All-Peoples Congress (APC) will build support for its federal lawsuit against President Reagan and the Department of Agriculture this week with a massive distribution campaign at food stamp, social service and unemployment centers.

In the past week, APC representatives have appeared on numerous area radio and TV talk shows urging people in this city to come to the courthouse on Jan. 17. The lawsuit, which demands that the Federal government immediately release food in both government and private warehouses, will be heard that day.

Hunger continues to be the number one story in this city. Emergency soup kitchens, donations of produce and meat from small farmers from several Michigan communities, and a hunger hotline phone number are among the measures that have been taken to try to feed the estimated 400,000 Detroiters who are underfed and malnourished.

"Unfortunately," Debbie Johnson of the All-Peoples Congress told Workers World, "They are all hand-aid solutions. These efforts, by a lot of well-meaning folks, are barely making a dent in the hunger crisis. And with the end of the holidays, we're already seeing the end of the donations."

Johnson pointed out that Detroit's Neighborhood Services Department, which coordinates the hunger hotline and distributes food baskets, has not received fresh or frozen meat or fresh produce since Christmas eve.

"They're getting 550 calls a day, and all they have to give peo-

ple are beans, rice and macaroni," Johnson said. "That doesn't make for a nutritionally balanced meal. And families are having to wait a whole week from the time they call for food and when they can pick it up. It's ridiculous."

Detroit, of course, is not the only Michigan city haunted by hunger. Just north of here, Pontiac, another auto-dominated town, has an official unemployment rate of 30%. The city set up an emergency food distribution center there a few weeks ago, and is now handing out food to thousands daily with contributions received primarily from small farmers.

Mich. Senators call for release of food

By Carla Johnson

DETROIT, Jan. 3—On December 30, the two U.S. Senators from Michigan, Don Riegle and Carl Levin, both called for the Reagan administration to release surplus food for Michigan's hungry people. They noted that the emergency food programs are unable to meet Michigan's growing hunger crisis.

In a letter to Secretary of Agriculture John Block, the Senators described Michigan's economic crisis as "unparalleled since the Depression" and said the food is critically needed to help people "fight for survival this winter."

A Riegle aide pointed out

that the government warehouses hold not just dairy products, but also oatmeal, cornmeal, whole wheat macaroni, flour, dried beans, dried fruit, meat and tuna fish.

Reached for comment at the Detroit APC office, Bill Roundtree told Workers World that the APC "welcomes the Senators' statement and urges them to follow up their words with action."

"Specifically, we call on them to support our federal lawsuit, aimed at releasing the food, by urging their entire constituencies to attend the Jan. 17 court hearing at the Old Federal Building, 231 W. Lafayette in downtown Detroit."

During three days last week in Pontiac, over 20,000 people sat in car lines for hours waiting to get bags of food containing produce and other staples. Meat was scarce.

"What we have here is a massive state of emergency," Johnson said, "and it is the federal government's responsibility to answer the crisis with action."

Reagan has access to billions of tons of food in both government and private warehouses. There's enough food in those warehouses to feed everyone in this country for years. We want that food released. This is the answer to the hunger crisis," Johnson concluded.

APC urges Mich. governor to declare state of emergency

Special to Workers World

DETROIT, Jan. 3—Today the All-Peoples Congress wired a telegram to the newly inaugurated Michigan governor, James Blanchard, urging him to declare a state of emergency. "As your first act as governor," the mailgram read, "the APC urges you to declare Michigan and Detroit a state of emergency and disaster area and to take all steps to secure federal relief for unemployed and starving people of Michigan."

The mailgram called on Blanchard to support the APC's federal lawsuit against President Reagan and the Department of Agriculture, which is going to court on January 17 in Detroit, and is seeking the release of all foods stored in government and supermarket warehouses.

After declaring the state of emergency, the mailgram pointed out, Blanchard "can then halt all evictions, foreclosures, utility shut-offs and cancel personal debts. You must move to end the suffering by calling upon the federal government to open all food warehouses immediately."

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Support is growing for Detroit All-Peoples Congress' 'Fight for Food' to feed the many in that industrial city facing hunger. WW Photo: DAVE SOLE

Hudson's closing leaves poor in Detroit with no place to shop

By Chris Fry

DETROIT, Jan. 2—Hudson's, the last major department store in downtown Detroit, will close later this month.

Fearing "bad publicity," Hudson's Company has not announced the exact date of its store closing to the press, but the store's workers have been told that January 15 will be their last day at the store.

The company did tell the press that all the workers have been offered "employment opportunities" at the company's other stores. But many workers told interviewers that they have yet to be notified of their new assignments.

The closing of the store, for decades a landmark of capitalist success in Detroit, has drawn journalists from across the country and around the world. Its collapse marks the glaring lack of investment by big business in the

city of Detroit, where for years they have reaped billions in profits.

The Hudson's closing will make it far more difficult for the Black community and poor people to purchase the range of necessary goods that a department store sells. Now they must go to the hard-to-reach suburban shopping malls.

The Hudson's Company claims that the closing is caused by a steady decline in sales. In fact, the company itself has undetermined the downtown store by opening 15 other stores in the suburbs. As a matter of fact, Hudson's opened the first suburban shopping mall in the 1950s!

For years Hudson's has reaped hundreds of millions in sales and profits from its huge downtown store, which was second in size only to Macy's in New York. Now, in return it offers to the beleaguered people of Detroit a hollow shell.



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