



WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Pentagon 'cuts' are a fake!

Plan more weapons, less pay for GIs



The King legacy and today's anti-racist struggle —p. 4

By Robert Dabrow

JANUARY 11—After months of playing Mr. Tough Guy, stubbornly insisting over and over again that there will be "absolutely no reduction" in military spending, the Reagan administration has now announced a cut in the Pentagon bud-

get. If the President thinks, however, that this "gesture" will somehow rescue his plunging popularity among the people, who are fed up with his disastrous economic policies, he is sorely mistaken. And if he or his Pentagon henchman, Caspar Weinberger, thinks that this "cut" will fool anyone to believe that militarism is being pared down or the government is moving away from its reckless nuclear war policies, wrong again.

First, Weinberger's announced \$8 billion cut is only a reduction in the overall planned increase of the budget from last year. Once the budget is increased it will be the largest military budget ever—one-quarter of a trillion dollars. And Reagan's increase, even with this cut, will be the largest increase ever.

The administration admits that none of the terrifying weapons systems in this year's budget will be affected by this cosmetic cut—not the MX, not the cruise missiles, not the satellites designed to fight a war in space, not the production of nerve gas and chemical weapons, not the thousands and thousands of nuclear warheads.

All these systems, which have provoked millions of people into the

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JOB CRISIS!

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What to do —p. 7**

**35,000 in Chicago
line up for 2,800 jobs
—p. 3**

**Unemployment
behind Ossining prison
rebellion —p. 11**



Some of the tens of thousands in Chicago who spent hours in the freezing cold last week in the hope of getting one of 2,800 temporary city jobs.

Chicago court endorses starvation level assistance grants

By Nancy Kohn
CHICAGO, Dec. 30—In the state of Illinois, General Assistance (GA) recipients are expected to live on \$144 a month. The inadequacy of this grant level was the subject of a lawsuit filed by the Legal Assistance Foundation against the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA). Before a packed courtroom, heated arguments were heard this week by Judge George Higgins who today callously denied the relief requested by the plaintiffs.

According to Geraldine Ware, GA recipient and All-Peoples Congress activist, "The judge must have had a heart of cement not to let these witnesses convince him that it's impossible to live on \$144."

Testimony at the hearings presented a grim picture of the lives of Chicago's GA recipients. Six different witnesses testified as to the virtual impossibility of finding apartments to rent for under \$144. Sister Pat Crowley, the director of the Howard Community Center, which tries to place people in inexpensive housing said that recently many people in their community had resorted to getting arrested to have some shelter.

Elaine Haig of the Pacific Garden Mission testified that they are the largest mission in Chicago with bed space for 150 men but had slept an average of

over 200 a night in 1982, putting them on the floor wherever they could squeeze them in.

The director of the homeless division of the Eighth Day Center for Justice recently conducted a survey of single-room occupancy hotels and found 90% charging above \$144 and the ones below basically providing a chicken wire coop with a shared bathroom.

Les Brown of Travelers Aid testified that increasingly they find people living in abandoned buildings because they can't afford rent. He described the case of a man who paid a transient hotel \$40 a month to use the address to collect benefits but lived in an abandoned car until he was recently attacked and paralyzed.

Catch 22 for recipients

Gerald Malady, a caseworker-supervisor with the IDPA, was subpoenaed and testified that the IDPA makes the recipients bring in their rent receipts and utility bills. If their expenses exceed the grant (\$144) they must verify the source of additional income which is then deducted from their next GA check. If recipients have sold some of their food stamps to help pay their bills, the IDPA policy is to cancel their stamps.

Of the recipients who testified, all with long work records, none could subsist solely on the \$144. An economist and expert on

poverty standards who testified explained that, according to the Consumer Price Index which measures the inflation rate, \$144 in 1972 would be \$334 today. She said that the Bureau of Labor Statistics low budget level is twice that of the GA grant level even including food stamps and the federal energy low income assistance program. She also testified that there is a one-to-two year waiting list for Chicago Housing Authority apartments.

Two doctors from Cook County Hospital also testified explaining the direct correlation between sickness rate, early death and income. Illinois has the third highest infant mortality in the country. This has been linked to malnutrition and low income.

The state's only witness was the chief of the bureau of the budget for public assistance. He revealed that \$13.4 million in monies appropriated went unspent in fiscal 1982. Clearly the state is not interested in alleviating the suffering in this state.

Judge Higgins said he based his ruling denying an increase on his belief that "the State General Assembly has the sole authority with relation to apportionment of funds and this was not within the province of this court." Many in the courtroom asked why he had bothered to hear the case in the first place and pledged to take the struggle into the streets.

Chicago APC to protest Jan. 19 Reagan visit

By Jeff Sorel
CHICAGO, Jan. 6—Momentum is building here for a demonstration against President Ronald Reagan when he visits this city on January 19.

Reagan will be attending a fund-raising reception and dinner for Sen. Charles Percy's 1984 re-election campaign.

While the Republican fat cats are winning and dining in the Conrad Hilton hotel, a much more representative section of this city's population will be outside picketing and chanting, protesting Reagan's program of cutbacks, unemployment, racism, and war.

The demonstration was initiated

ed by the All-Peoples Congress (APC) and is being supported by dozens of community and progressive organizations around the city, including the Southeast Concerned Welfare Recipients Organization, the Maria Saucedo Committee, the November 29th Coalition, Crusaders for Justice, CISPEs, the Iranian Students Association, USAII, New World Resource Center, and many others. The Illinois Coalition Against Reagan Economics (ICARE) is also building for the demonstration.

Two planning meetings for the demonstration were held this week, and mass distributions at unemployment and welfare offices, shopping areas, and work-

places have begun. Organizing is also taking place at the University of Illinois and Northwestern University, and outreach to other campuses is planned.

According to Cedric Givens, an APC organizer, "We want this demonstration to express the deep anger felt by the impoverished millions in this area toward the millionaires Reagan represents. By the time he leaves he'll know he was not welcome here."

The demonstration will gather on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 5 p.m., at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Michigan and Balbo. For more information call the APC at 312-427-8038.

REAGAN RACISM

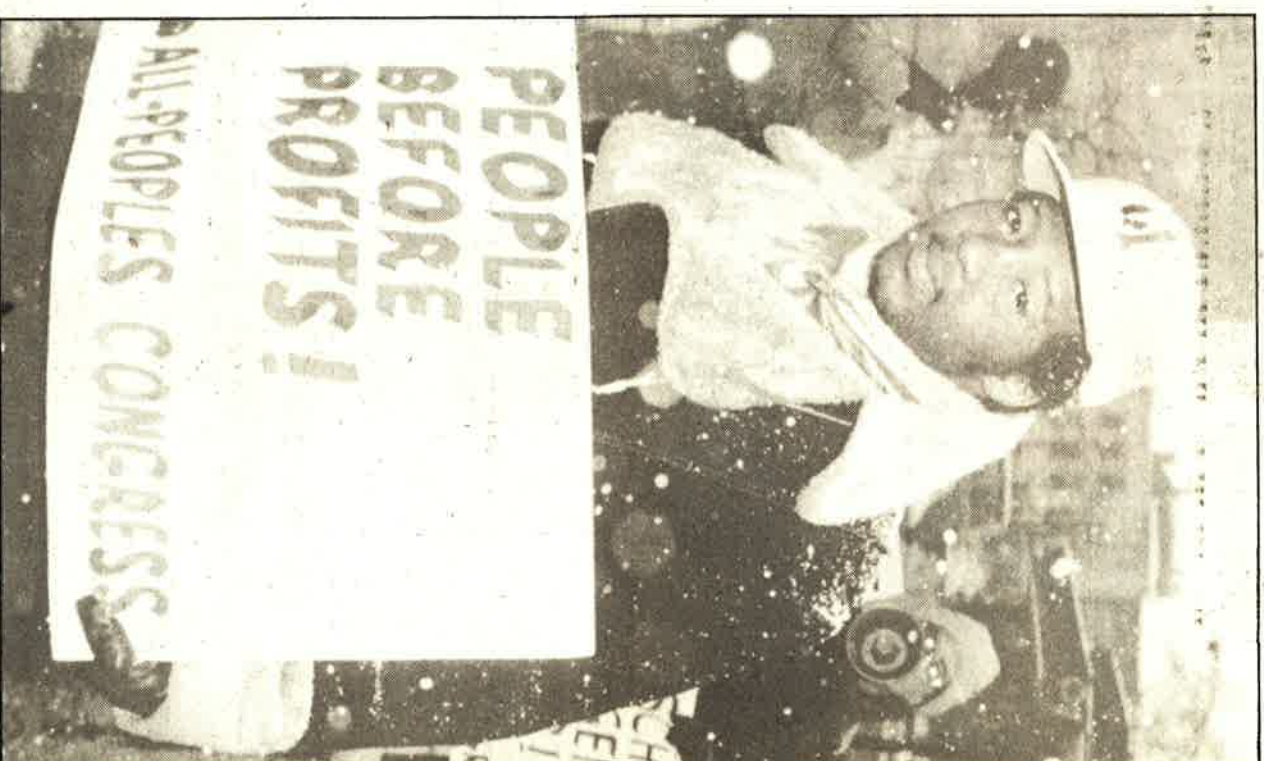
This week is Martin Luther King's birthday. The Reagan administration has taken note of the occasion by delivering one of the biggest legal assaults on the 1964 Civil Rights Law, which King fought for, since the infamous Bakke Decision five years ago. (Page 4.)

PHONY PENTAGON CUT

Weinberger's announced \$8 billion cut of the new military budget is a fraud. None of the Pentagon's terrifying weapons systems will be touched. The only thing that will be cut is pay increases for GIs. (Page 1.)

LOAN TO CHILE

Working people know how hard it is to get a loan these days. But for the Reagan administration, a friend in need is a friend indeed. So, it has okayed a \$900 million loan to the fascist regime of Chile. (Page 9.)



Chicago All-Peoples Congress demonstration last winter against heat shutoffs. Next week the APC will protest Reagan's visit to Chicago.

WW photo: BILL HACKWELL

Economic crisis condemns two to death

By Susan Rotgard
JANUARY 10—An unemployed couple were found dead in their car in Chicago last week. The New York Times, reporting this tragedy on its obituary page says that, according to police, the death was "apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning." But the desperate economic situation would appear to be a more likely cause of these two needless deaths.

Anne and Norman Peters, both in their 50s, were living in their station wagon after having been evicted three weeks before. It seems they were turned out of their South Side home and into the cold winter streets because

they were unable to pay back taxes. And they were unable to make these payments because they were both out of work. Norman Peters, a machinery mover, had stopped by his union of 26 years to pay his dues and see if there was any work only days before. Ken Lester, business agent for the Machinery Movers Local 136 said, "He didn't say anything about being out on the street. He was looking for work."

Discovered next to their bodies were eviction papers, unemployment records, a receipt from an apartment search service, luggage and a shopping bag with some clothes.

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STEEL FIGHTBACK (1)
"The time for action is now! Bethlehem Steel can't be allowed to just pull up and pull out any time they feel like it, leaving thousands of unemployed behind." This was the theme of a news conference in Buffalo, N.Y., last Tuesday to announce a region-wide struggle against the announced steel shutdown and layoffs in Western New York. (Centerfold.)

STEEL FIGHTBACK (2)

What can be done in the face of the impending catastrophe which the giant multi-national corporations are preparing against the working class and the oppressed people? Sam Marcy's analysis of the struggle against the steel shutdowns offers a militant program of action. (Centerfold.)

REAGAN RACISM
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JERSEY HOSPITAL
Activists are mounting a statewide struggle to save the Jersey City Medical Center, which is claiming itself "bankrupt" in order to shut its doors to the thousands of New Jersey residents who use its facilities. The All-Peoples Congress has charged that the bankruptcy proceedings are an "illegal scheme." (Page 5.)

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Poor holiday sales point to more layoffs

Retail trade has largest drop in number working

By Bill Del Vecchio

JANUARY 11—Retailers had hoped that the Christmas selling seasons would pull them out of their long slump, or at least forestall new inventory cutbacks and layoffs.

But the sales results so far for Christmas '82 look about as sad as the dried-up Christmas trees currently piled up alongside garbage cans from coast to coast. Many analysts are calling it the worst selling season since the recession of 1974. Since retail businesses traditionally count on November and December sales to make up 50% of their yearly income, the poor sales of the past two months mean certain stock cutbacks, layoffs, and store closings in the coming period.

Showing that most retailers had actually expected the worst, the December unemployment figures show that the retail trade

had the largest drop in the number of people working, with 65,000 fewer people working this Christmas season than the same time last year.

Unemployment overall remains stuck at 10.8%, the highest rate since the end of the Great Depression of the 1930s. The number of so-called "discouraged workers," people the Bureau of Labor Statistics know are unemployed but are not counted in the overall figure because the Bureau decided they had given up looking for work, increased sharply to 1.8 million during December.

Those with jobs earn less

Besides the jobless who are struggling to survive and can hardly afford to splurge on presents, workers lucky enough to still have their jobs also had to cut back on their purchases dur-

ing the holidays because of the impact of the crisis. Workers still working earned 1.5% less on the average this year than last because of cuts in the number of hours worked. When the estimated 4.6% annual inflation is added in, the loss of purchasing power is even greater.

So even with desperate, after-Christmas sales and sharp price cutting, aisles of goods remained unsold simply because people are too poor to buy them.

It is only under the capitalist system that warehouses can be filled to overflowing with new clothes while children are left without adequate winter clothing, supermarket shelves packed with food while millions go hungry, tank farms filled till they explode with heating oil while millions are freezing because they can't afford their heating bills.

The drive for profit is strangling the U.S. economy. Working people can no longer allow big business and their politicians to place profit above fulfilling the basic human needs of the majority of the people. A job, food, shelter, education, all these things are far more important than the year-end profit tallies of the Fortune 500.



Chicago job applicants, on line for many hours in the freezing cold, warm themselves by a fire set in a trash can.

35,000 stand in Chicago cold to say: 'I need a job'

By Cedric Givens
and Bill Hackwell

CHICAGO, Jan. 6—At 11 p.m. there were 100 people. At 3 a.m. there were a thousand people. And when the doors finally swung open at the Columbus Park field house at 9 a.m. today there were 5,000 cold and angry people who had waited in rain and sub-freezing temperatures, hoping to get one of the 2,800 newly-created temporary jobs. Many had brought bedrolls, and fires could be seen in trash cans started with Park District picnic tables.

This scene was being repeated all over the city in park field houses and in Chicago Housing Authority developments.

According to city officials, up to 35,000 unemployed people had applied, and it appeared from these reporters that there were many more.

The new jobs, which are to be in street maintenance and sanitation, appeared suddenly last week from the offices of Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne. The jobs,

sions of the generals and admirals won't be reduced. The thousand-and-one parasitic perks for the colonels and captains won't be touched. Only the workers in the military—the GIs, airmen, and sailors—are to bear the brunt of the crisis.

Cuts, of course, need to be made. But it should be the brass that's cut. It should be the extortionate war profits of the giant military-industrial corporations. It should be the deadly weapons systems that threaten the globe. These should not only be cut, but done away with altogether!

The soldiers have every right to organize against this phony and false "cut" of the military budget, which is aimed against them. And they should be supported by anti-war fighters and workers everywhere.

Reagan's gas decontrol to turn off heat for many

By John Catalinotto

JANUARY 10—The Reagan White House plans another big giveaway to the rich corporations: this one can deprive millions of people of needed heat.

Plans to remove government controls on the price of natural gas were made public today in a briefing paper prepared by Reagan's chief energy advisors.

Natural gas prices have already more than doubled since 1978, when some deregulation was allowed. If controls are lifted, prices are expected to go even higher. Many more families will be unable to afford to heat their homes. This will surely result in deaths from the cold.

Reagan's economists make the phony claim that gas prices might go down if free enterprise can sell gas on a "free market." But production of gas is in the hands of a few monopolies. Prices will rise to whatever these corporate giants choose.

Natural gas prices have already risen from \$2.63 per thousand and cubic feet in 1978, to \$6.17 this winter, to an expected \$6.60 by the end of 1983. This means that those who paid a monthly gas bill of \$100 in 1978 will pay \$250 for the same gas next winter.

Reagan's "experts" apparently believe this price jump is still too small to satisfy the endless

More people without heat

Higher fuel bills, coupled with growing unemployment and social service cutbacks, have already led to more people going without heat altogether. Last month there were 25,000 homes without heat or electricity in Ohio; more than 9,300 homes in the Detroit area had no gas; and in just the west end of Louisville, Ky., gas to 1,500 homes had been disconnected.

"I got behind on my rent," said an unemployed welder. "I didn't have food in my house. I was behind on my gas, and I tried to pay a little on each one, but the money just wasn't there anymore...."

This statement is all too typical of what millions are going through. But the money-hungry energy magnates and their cronies in the White House don't care. They are searching for ways to make it even harder for these millions to pay their gas bills.

—Weinberger's phony arms cuts

Continued from page 1
streets in protest from New York City to London to Bonn, will move full steam ahead.
What will be cut is pay increases for GIs!

Workers in uniform to get wage cut

Most of these GIs are young workers who, faced with staggering rates of unemployment, enlisted to escape the economic crisis. Many were lured into the military by hard-sell campaigns that promised them "jobs," "learn a skill," "see the world," etc., etc. Once inside, however, they learn that these Madison Avenue promises are empty and that the only "skill" the Pentagon teaches is how to kill and destroy.

Ironically, just last week the

which have a duration of only ten weeks and end one week after the Democratic primary at the end of February, are a transparent political maneuver on behalf of the mayor to fake a show of concern for the tens of thousands who are unemployed here. It is no coincidence that Byrne is facing a Black candidate in Harold Washington in these primaries, and that those applying for the jobs were overwhelmingly Black. The Black community, however, knows through experience just how racist the Byrne administration is, and has been.

When asked if this job program would get his vote in February, Robert Dziwak, unemployed for two years, said: "When you see her at the end of this line, then she'll get my vote."

Many are asking why, if she could come up with the money now, she wasn't able to find the funds for a serious jobs program before? "She should have started this years ago," said Elijah Pates, at the Gage Park field house. "This won't do anything.

It won't last. Here I am a veteran, and I can't get a job." Although the neediest were supposed to get the jobs, nowhere on the application did it ask such important questions as how many dependents you have, how long you've been out of work, and those processing the applications could give no answers as to just how the jobs were to be given out. Many speculated that it was just more political maneuvering on behalf of the Byrne administration.

The only thing that this woefully inadequate jobs program shows is the desperation that the unemployed are feeling and gives a glimpse of the depression-level unemployment in this city.

One man, who had waited in line most of the night, best expressed the sentiments of the rest when he said: "I wouldn't put it past her that there ain't no jobs at all. I'm one that took some time out to stand in a cold line. I don't know a precinct captain, I'm just here hoping. I need a job."



Chicago police harass long lines of unemployed workers waiting to apply for temporary jobs.

The King legacy and today's anti-racist struggle

By Larry Holmes

JANUARY 11—This week millions of people throughout the world commemorate Martin Luther King Jr., on the occasion of his birthday.

The Reaganite courts, in complicity with the Justice Department, have taken note of King's birthday as well by delivering what is perhaps the biggest legal attack on the 1964 Civil Rights Law that King fought for since the Supreme Court's infamous Bakke Decision five years ago.

After decades of protest and years of lawsuits against Chicago's racist school board's refusal to desegregate the city's public schools through busing, last week a federal judge upheld the school board's racism as "constitutional."

Under the direction of Reagan, scores of top echelon Justice Department officials intervened in the case to insure the blow to busing and mandatory desegregation laws.

The NAACP, which initiated lawsuits against the school board along with other groups in Chicago's Black community, was barred from final arguments in the case due to strong objection by the Justice Department. Federal Judge Milton L. Shadur ruled that the NAACP's arguments were not necessary because the Justice Department is capable of representing the interests of the public including the minority community.

Reagan using civil rights division to destroy civil rights

The Justice Department fully intends to use the Chicago ruling as a precedent to overturn school desegregation plans across the country.

In the past, civil rights advocates have complained that the civil rights division of the Justice Department was underfunded, understaffed and relegated to low priority. Under Reagan, however, the civil rights division has been elevated to top priority with more lawyers and money than any other division. Only now the so-called "civil rights" unit has been forged into the principal weapon in Reagan's war on anti-racist laws and affirmative ac-

tion programs from coast to coast.

In the last three weeks alone, the Justice Department has intervened in local courts in support of a group of racist firefighters seeking to overturn an affirmative action order in Boston's fire department, and has actually initiated legal action to overturn an affirmative action program in the New Orleans Police Department.

Chicago: most segregated major Northeast city

The local impact of the Chicago ruling is no less significant than its national implications. Of the major cities in the Northeast, Chicago is the most segregated. After World War II more Black families migrated from the rural South to Chicago than to any other Northern city, including New York, seeking jobs in the steel mills. Forced segregation in housing and schools in Chicago is as rigid and visible as anywhere in Mississippi. Twenty years ago 96% of the public school system was segregated. Officials say 83% of the city's public schools are segregated today.

The Chicago school board's notorious history of resistance to any change in their apartheid-like education system rivals the militancy of their bigoted counterparts on Boston's School Board. A few years ago, the School Board chose to shut down the schools rather than acquiesce to a desegregation plan. The board defied community protests and a threat to withdraw funds by the federal government for violating the law. The School Board doesn't have to worry about charges of violating the law anymore.

King fought Nazis.

Chicago political machine

Ironically, King himself wrote a chapter in the struggle to rout racism in Chicago. In 1965 King met with Chicago civil rights leaders to plan a campaign against discrimination in public schools and housing. He rented an apartment in the Black community in Chicago's South Side which he held for the better part of a year.

Today, Dr. King's hope of an economic bill of rights, a guarantee for jobs for those able to work and a guaranteed income for all who are unable to work, lays torn in shreds on the dusty floors of Congress. Now, the skyrocketing unemployment, the Reagan administration's cuts in social services, education, and Social Security, combined with the attacks on affirmative action, encourage the ugliest racism and anti-Semitism.

This continuing struggle to honor Dr. King's memory and continue the fight against racism has taken many forms. These include a national campaign headed by singer Stevie Wonder and others, to make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday. This year there will be a number of activities nationwide commemorating King's birthday.

January 15 action

In New York City, the Black United Front has called a poor people's march on City Hall to demand more sensitivity to the needs of the poor of the city. The demonstrators will gather at 11



Continuing the legacy of King. In 1981, two thousand anti-racists protested an announced Nazi rally in Buffalo, N. Y. on Martin Luther King's birthday. Only two Nazis showed up and were protected by hundreds of cops.

In addition to his outspoken opposition to the Viet Nam war, King's interest in Chicago was one of the mounting reasons that led the ruling class to conclude that he had gone too far.

Some of the more moderate civil rights leaders hoped that King's stay in Chicago would cool the city's frustrated Black youth in the wake of the Watts Rebellion a year earlier which foreshadowed uprisings against an intolerable existence in Detroit and Newark. However, the presence of the popular Black leader had the opposite effect. Northern politicians who gave lip service to King's crusade against Jim Crow in the South did not want him arousing the Black masses in their own cities.

In July 1966, after addressing a crowd of 45,000 people in Soldier's Field, King led a march through the city to the steps of City Hall, where he posted a list of demands on the office door of powerful machine boss Mayor

a.m. in Brooklyn at the House of the Lord Church at 415 Atlantic Ave. and march through the downtown business and municipal sections of Brooklyn, moving across the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall in Manhattan.

In Oakland, Calif., a city coalition of labor organizations and unemployed people will assemble at 10 a.m. at Moswood Park at the corner of Broadway and MacArthur Blvd. and proceed to City Hall for a rally at 1 p.m. Rep. Ronald V. Dellums will be the keynote speaker.

The Oakland march, whose supporters include the International Molders and Allied Workers Union, the Alameda County Central Labor Council, and Leo Robinson, Vice President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, is calling attention to the unemployed and to the needs of people suffering from the economic recession.

In Los Angeles, marchers are assembling at the Los Angeles Sports Arena for a mile-long march along Santa Barbara Ave. to Western Ave., where a ceremony will take place renaming Santa Barbara Ave. to Martin Luther King Blvd.

Daley.

Mayor Daley, also a national force in the Democratic Party, was enraged by the protests led by King in "his" streets. Daley decided that unlike Bull Connor, he would restrain his police and leave King to the local fascist thugs. King's marches against housing discrimination in all-white neighborhoods were pelted with bricks by uniformed Nazis. On Sept. 4, 1966 a large mob of Klans attacked King's march with baseball bats and sticks in Cicero, a white suburb of Chicago.

If nothing else, King's work in Chicago graphically showed the world that racism flourished north of Mississippi, and can be found in its most ugly and violent form in Chicago.

Nazis call Buffalo

rally on King's birthday

The hooded murderers who unsuccessfully tried to march in Washington, D.C. in November have fond memories of what happened in Cicero. It was their hope that Reagan's efforts to set back Black and all oppressed people half a century or more in this country would be accompanied by a racist movement of the size and scope of the Klan 60 years ago.

Reagan's electoral sweep two years ago coincided with a spree of racist murders in Buffalo, N.Y. The local Nazis hailed the massacre of Black men on the street. Encouraged by the "Reagan revolution," the Nazis concluded that a city devastated by unemployment, with a terrorized Black community, was ripe for a Nazi rally. The Nazis announced plans to rally in front of Buffalo's City Hall on Jan. 15, King's birthday. Black officials appealed to Buffalo's Mayor Griffith to take action to stop the Nazis. But the mayor, a right-winger with a well-deserved reputation in the Black community as a bigot, brushed aside appeals, claiming that "the Nazis had rights like everybody else."

The Buffalo branch of Workers World Party responded to this threat by organizing the Martin Luther King Day Rally Committee, which called for a counter demonstration in front of City Hall to protest against the Nazis.

Progressives fight

major, Nazis

The anti-Nazi rally rapidly gained wide support and momen-

tum. Mayor Griffith, alarmed by the arousing effect the anti-racist protest appeared to be having on Buffalo's Black community, announced ten days before King's birthday that he was banning both the Nazi rally and the anti-Nazi rally "in the interest of order and public safety."

Everyone knew the mayor's ban was really directed at the Martin Luther King Day rally. The mayor called a secret meeting of most of the city's few Black officials at City Hall where he threatened and coerced them into renouncing their support for the Martin Luther King Day rally. He informed them that for the first time in all his years as mayor and as a public official that he had decided to hold an "official" commemoration of King several blocks away from City Hall on Jan. 15 which they should all be a part of.

The mayor called in the press and his intelligence police and directed them to launch a red-baiting and violence-baiting campaign against the rally committee, which they did. Every group that had endorsed the rally was called by the papers and informed that communists were behind the rally and that a bloodbath such as the one in Greensboro, N.C. in 1979 was being planned. Groups were sternly advised to renounce their support for the rally and join with the mayor. TV stations carried advertisements appealing to the people to stay away from City Hall. The mayor issued a statement that anyone near City Hall on Jan. 15 would be arrested on sight.

Anti-racist protest

a huge success

Rally organizers were deeply concerned about the turn of events. Nevertheless, it was felt that backing down would give comfort to the Nazis and embolden both the mayor and the Reagan administration which had been following the situation very closely, curious to see if the mayor could get away with such an outrageous and undemocratic act as banning an anti-racist rally.

The Martin Luther King Committee decided to fight the mayor, and go through with the rally as scheduled. Activists turned the battle for free speech in Buffalo into a national cause. Trade unionists, lawyers, activists and groups from more than 35 states

Continued on page 11

Actions to honor memory of slain civil rights leader

By Louise Covington

JANUARY 15 is the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., key leader of the civil rights movement.

This movement was born in 1955. That year, Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her bus seat to a white man and was charged with the violation of the city segregation code of Birmingham, Ala. With the backing of Dr. King, a citywide protest ensued and the freedom rides were but a short distance away. Freedom riders, Black and white women, men and children, took long bus rides to the South to fight segregation. The civil rights movement swept the whole country. It won the important Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Of the many speeches Dr. King made, perhaps his last speech before his assassination on April 3, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn., is the one closest to the way things are today. His "promised land" speech of a people's hope foresees victory, but also tells of the need to continue struggling. Dr. King said, "I have seen the promised land of victory in this fight for equality and justice, but I may not go with you."

Consumers robbed by big banks

Rates on personal loans remain sky high

By Sharon Shelton
JANUARY 10—If you've had to take out a bank loan lately to pay your bills or finance a car, you've been ripped off.

This is the finding of none other than the Wall Street Journal (Jan. 5), which candidly speaks for big business, in an article admitting that the banks are grossly overcharging consumers for loans.

Big banks like Chase Manhattan and Bank of America are pulling off what amounts to highway robbery by pocketing the difference between the 9% they pay for money and the up to 20% they are charging individual borrowers, leaving a "spread" of around 10%. While traditionally the spread was 4-5%, enough to cover service costs and return hefty profits, bankers are now

saying they have no plans to lower rates for consumers.

The finance capitalists prefer making their loans to businesses, which enjoy rates averaging 11%. With direct tie-ins between the banks and Big Oil, the military-industrial complex, and the largest industrial monopolies, this cozy financial arrangement should be no surprise.

The bankers save their highest

rates for credit cards, the most popular form of consumer credit. Interest rates on credit card loans have shot up to 18% or 20% over the last two years from 12%.

"You'll never see 10% and 12% fixed-rate (consumer) loans again," Charles Schenck, head of Manufacturers Hanover Trust's personal loan unit, flatly stated during an interview with the New York Daily News (Jan. 4).

Showing that the greed of the big banks knows no bounds, George Salem, a banking analyst for Prudential-Bache Securities, Inc., told the News that the banks are now eyeing floating rates on consumer loans.

Floating rates are the bankers' dream, since rates can be raised at any time to the banks' own advantage. Borrowers never really know how much a loan is going to cost them.

The usurious practices of the banks affect all poor and working people, even those who have not had to directly take out a loan. Big business borrowers, for example, routinely pass along their

credit costs to the people, including these costs in rents, food prices, and other commodities.

What's more, over \$60 billion of tax monies go to the banks each year for interest payments on the national debt. And the banks aren't passive lenders, but use their position to dictate how the government is run.

This was graphically clear during the New York City crisis of 1975, when the banks set up their own steering committee, the hated Big Mac, to force layoffs, close daycare centers, schools, and hospitals, and make other cutbacks affecting the poor and working people of the city.

The banks are using their power to squeeze the people dry in the most parasitic way at a time when the suffering of workers and poor people is greatest due to the current economic crisis. But there is one thing that is far more powerful than the combined money of the biggest banks and that is the strength of the million-fold working class in struggle.

Farmers force banks to renegotiate mortgage

By Shelley Ettinger

JANUARY 7—More than fifty farmers in London, Ohio, held an all-day protest today to prevent mortgage foreclosure by a private credit agency on a 150-acre farm owned by Doug Dailey. The ten-hour demonstration, organized by the Family Farm Movement, ended when the Production Credit Association was forced to agree to renegotiate the mortgage rather than foreclose.

Dailey's farm used to cover 2,000 acres. In recent years, hard times had forced him to sell all but the remaining 150 acres. Now behind in his mortgage payments for this last piece of farmland, Dailey faced the prospect of an auction of his farm by the Credit Association profiteers.

Small farmers like Doug Dailey are being driven off the land by high interest rates on mort-

In the wake of the giant gas tank explosion Friday in Port Newark, just a few hundred yards across the river from Jersey City, it is impossible to imagine adequate health care without the Medical Center.

Northeastern New Jersey is a toxic time bomb, a very highly industrialized area with many chemical and petro-chemical operations surrounding residential areas. If the explosion had been on a summer day the smoke which blackened the sky would've hung closer to the ground and caused hundreds of cases of acute respiratory problems. As it was, several victims of the blast were treated at the Medical Center.

The APC declares that health care is a right. But like the right to organize a union or the rights of oppressed people, it must be fought for. The APC has issued a call for a "movement of all those who live and work here, and join with those who work in the hospital." It will take that united movement to win this struggle at the Medical Center.

All-Peoples Congress fights hospital's 'bankruptcy' hoax

By L. Volpe

JERSEY CITY, Jan. 10—The "voluntary" bankruptcy by the Jersey City Medical Center Board of Managers is being challenged by the Jersey City All-Peoples Congress. The APC has charged that the bankruptcy proceedings are an "illegal scheme by the creditors and politicians to rob the hospital treasury."

The APC has called for an organizing meeting this Thursday evening and plans a press conference for Friday at noon on the steps of City Hall to denounce the bankruptcy, cutbacks, layoffs and threatened closing of the hospital as a conspiracy "to push poor and working people out of Jersey City."

After secret meetings on Christmas weekend between the Board and Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann, state officials, bankers and the hospital's corporate suppliers, the Board declared the bankruptcy, claiming \$10 million debt, a fourth quarter in-patient census of some 400 beds (down 20% from the usual over 500 plus in-patients), and a very low reimbursement rate from the state for treating indigent patients (those unable to pay).

The hospital is in debt because of several reasons: city and state officials have refused to provide adequate funding; the outrageous costs for medical supplies and equipment and tremendous political graft and corruption. The in-patient census fluctuates. There were 16,000 in-patients

and 73,000 clinic patients in 1982. The reimbursement rate is being re-negotiated with the state.

City's only public hospital

The bankruptcy of the only public hospital in the city has resulted in the layoff of 226 workers (200 more layoffs are possible soon), the closing of 3 patient floors and the threatened closing of the 22 specialized clinics.

The bankruptcy court has ordered this public hospital to reorganize its operations to the extent that it would have to be self-sufficient (i.e. not to receive city or state funds) or cease operations.

Mayor McCann, a Democrat who supports Reagan and is the chief proponent of gentrification in Jersey City, has called the cuts "necessary" to save the hospital while also stating that the "hospital will have to get out of unprofitable areas." This is a not-so-disguised wording for eliminating the almost 50 year tradition of providing a full health care system for residents, regardless of ability to pay. Indeed, it is no secret that health care is in more demand in times of economic crisis because of increases in malnutrition and stress, for example.

Oppressed communities, workers are hardest hit

The cuts in services will undoubtedly affect the oppressed

Striking teachers get wide support

CALIFORNIA, Pa., Jan. 6—Seventy-six teachers have taken on the school board here with such grit and determination that they have won the support of several major industrial unions, representing mine workers, steel workers, auto workers, and electrical workers.

California Area Education Association President Gerald Cowen spent the night in jail rather than ask the membership to knuckle under to Judge Samuel Roger's back-to-work order. At right, more than 2,000 supporters and union members hold a demonstration on Jan. 4 in front of Washington County jail, where Cowen was incarcerated.

The teachers, with solid local and union backing, have taken on the school board and the courts despite the serious economic situation—or perhaps because of it—and have defied the bosses' overall anti-labor offensive.

The teachers, on strike now for 67 days, are fighting for job security, a real wage increase (they now make less than \$6.00/hour) and fringe benefits.



Reindustrialization

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By Sam Marcy
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SAM MARCY
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Plants shut down. Banks and corporations fold. Millions are laid off as the industrial Midwest becomes a wasteland. All over the capitalist world, a crisis is deepening that threatens to lead to war.

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APC announces fightback program

Special to Workers World

BUFFALO, January 6—In response to the devastating announcement of the shutdown of Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna facility, the All-Peoples Congress (APC) held a press conference here today to lay out a militant program of fightback.

Vera Brown, national APC Board member and president of the Scatter Site Tenants' Association, and Kevin Po-Chedley, local APC organizer, said the APC would mount a community-wide campaign to exert pressure for emergency measures to meet the crisis.

Noting that a plant closing at Bethlehem will "affect everyone in this community," Po-Chedley pointed out that the APC is demanding that the Governor issue an Emergency Executive Order to: (1) Keep the plant open; (2) Freeze the layoffs; (3) Stop any plant machinery from being removed; (4) Release all surplus food stored in warehouses across the state; (5) Freeze utility rates; (6) Declare a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures.

"Bethlehem or any company cannot be allowed to just pull up and pull out any time they feel like it, leaving thousands of unemployed behind," Po-Chedley stressed.

"The time for action is now! Not after the studies are done, but before the plant closes. Before Bethlehem closes, before

they sneak their equipment out, before the workers are thrown on unemployment, before entire families are destroyed, before the entire community is devastated, we will take action!"

Gas hike opposed

Brown said the APC was especially outraged that National Fuel Gas officials had announced a rate increase just after the shutdown of Bethlehem Steel was announced.

She said that stopping the hike is "within the Governor's emergency powers to stop a disaster. He can and must do it."

Brown warned that "the utility company and the Public Service Commission will feel the organized anger of the people in this community as they've never felt it before," and said that the APC will "leaflet, picket, demonstrate, sit-in, or anything else necessary to stop this rate increase."

The APC campaign to force the Governor to keep the plant open as well as the simultaneous campaign to stop the rate increase were given broad expression through a number of radio stations, the three local TV stations, and the one remaining newspaper.

Today's press conference was attended and given strong support by many local APC members and activists.

APC gears for action in Buffalo

BUFFALO, Jan. 10—"If Bethlehem Steel closes the Lackawanna plant, it will be a disaster for every poor and working person in this area," All-Peoples Congress National Board member Vera Brown told Workers World. "But unlike a flood or blizzard which are natural disasters, Bethlehem's closing is an economic disaster and it can be stopped before it happens."

Mrs. Brown told WW that the Buffalo chapter of the APC is already gearing its members for action. The APC will have an open membership meeting on Saturday, Jan. 15th at 1p.m. at the Shoreline Church, 200 Niagara St. The fight to stop the Bethlehem Steel plant from closing will be the major topic.

"We will also be taking action

against National Fuel Gas," Mrs. Brown explained, "because this greedy corporation wants to raise their rates again just because they'll be losing Bethlehem as a customer. The ink isn't even dry on the last rate hike. We say enough is enough!" The APC plans a rally and a motorcade against National Fuel on Saturday, Jan. 29. "We will picket, sit-in, do whatever is necessary to stop another increase," Mrs. Brown told WW.

"The Buffalo APC welcomes anyone interested or concerned to attend the Jan. 15 meeting," she said. A slide show of the Detroit campaign to win the release of the surplus food will also be shown. Call (716) 881-1525 for more information.

'People excited by demands to halt closing'

By Mallory Merrill and Bill Covington

BUFFALO, Jan 8—"In a crucial time like this, you need to take action." This is what APC organizer Sarah Edwards said about the new leaflet put out by the Buffalo All-Peoples Congress. The leaflet calls for a fightback to stop the shutdown of the Bethlehem steel plant in Lackawanna.

Sarah is a senior citizen and an organizer living in Buffalo's predominantly Black Commodore Perry housing project.

The Buffalo APC, along with APC chapters across the state, is demanding that New York Governor Mario Cuomo issue an emergency executive order to put the freeze on layoffs, stop the removal of the plant machinery,

and keep the plant open while using the steel to rebuild the deteriorating highways, hospitals and housing.

Already, several thousand of the APC leaflets have hit the streets of western New York. Workers World asked APC organizer Kevin Po-Chedley how people were responding to the leaflet. "The question most often asked is: 'Can something really be done?' or 'Do you really think we can do it?'"

"This skepticism has been created by the big business-controlled media which has been drumming into the workers' heads that nothing can be done to stop the plant from closing. But we're finding that the people become interested and excited when they see how realistic the APC demands are."



Vera Brown, member of the All-Peoples Congress national board, speaking at Jan. 6 news conference to protest steel plant closing.

WW photo: MALLORY MERRILL

On The Picketline

Resistance in steel. With steel negotiations scheduled to begin on Feb. 2 for the contract which expires on Aug. 1, the United Steel Workers union Wage Policy Committee is meeting on Jan. 10. To prepare for this meeting, where union president Lloyd McBride is expected to once again push the companies' demands for deep concessions, local union officials and rank and file members have prepared a petition to the Wage Policy Committee demanding that the negotiations be used "to bring our laid off members back to work and stop plant closures." The petition has been unanimously endorsed by the local presidents in District 15 in the Pittsburgh area, by some 300 elected officials in District 31 covering the Chicago and Gary, Ind., area, and by local leaders in Minnesota's District 33.

This important statement of rank and file resistance declares that the workers "are opposed to massive concessions." It urges an end to the companies forcing one local to make "concessions in order to match concessions made by other locals," and clearly opposes any attempt to eliminate coordinated bargaining with the eight "big steel" corporations. Ron Weisen, President of USWA Local 1397 at Homestead, Pa., and an active opponent of concessions, told Workers World that the steel local presidents had initiated the petition campaign because, "Concessions don't guarantee jobs. And what the rank and file is interested in, whether working or laid-off, is jobs."

The steel bosses have been pushing concessions without even a hint of job protection over the past year. At Wheeling-Pittsburgh, the eighth largest steel maker, a heavy concession package was forced on the membership last month under the threat of a total shutdown unless it was accepted. The other steel bosses are hoping to get the same

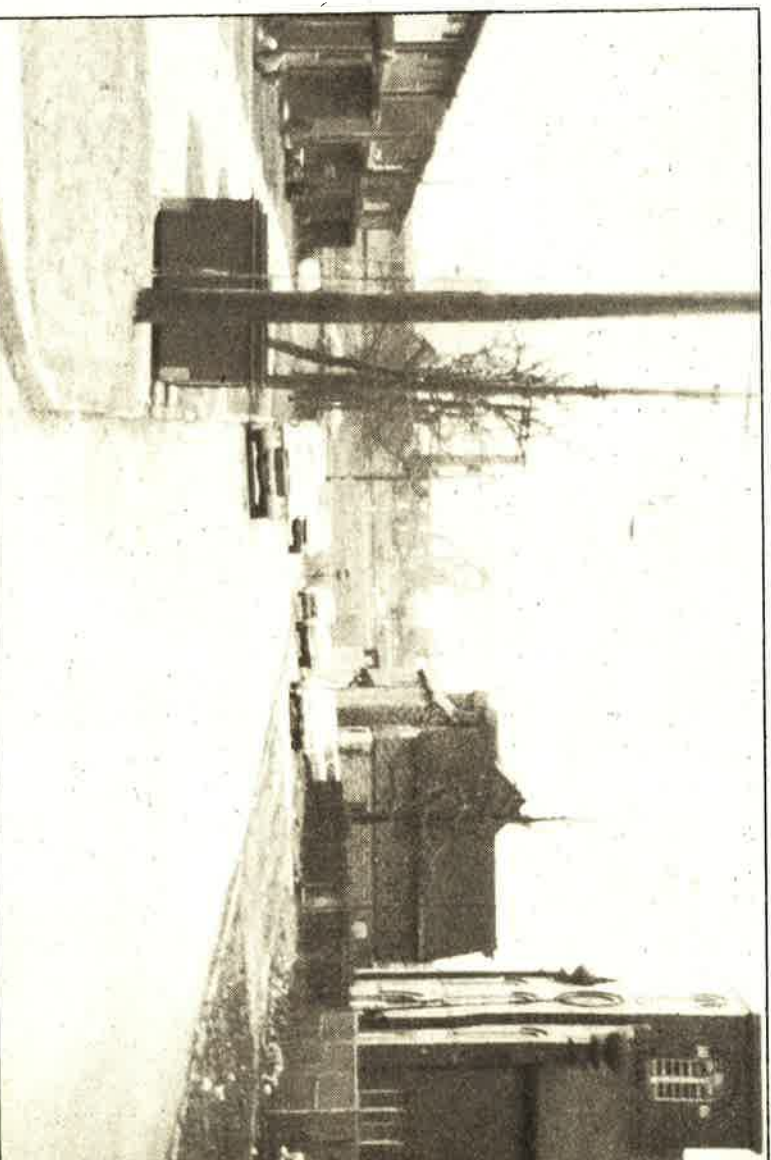
deal. As Business Week says, they hope it will have a big "impact on labor negotiations with the Big Eight steel companies." But it is to stop such concessions before they are even put on the table that prompted these local steel union presidents to mount this resistance campaign.

• • •

Rochester devastation. The city of Rochester, N. Y., has been rocked by the announcement of a series of layoffs that will have a devastating effect on a city. For the first time since anyone can remember, the Eastman-Kodak company is laying off 1,100 workers indefinitely. Those affected are the lowest paid workers who will have the greatest difficulty finding a job in the city which Kodak dominates.

Kodak employs almost 60,000 in a city and county with a population of about 500,000. In addition to the layoffs, Kodak is also attempting to force an early retirement on thousands of workers. Kodak's cutbacks will have reverberations throughout the area since this anti-union corporation, one of the biggest non-union companies in the U.S., subcontracts to thousands of specialized shops which will now be forced to cutback or even shut down.

Other layoffs have also hit the city, including big layoffs at Xerox and Rochester Products, a manufacturer of parts for GM. Farrels, a manufacturer of automotive machinery, has announced it will shut its doors permanently. It had once employed 1,000 workers. Gleason Works announced deep layoffs forced by the reactionary boycott of trade with the USSR imposed by the Carter and Reagan administrations. The list goes on. It is a devastation that, like in many other cities in the U.S., can be stopped only by a militant and united fightback.



Lackawanna, N. Y. Living in the shadow of the Bethlehem steel mill.

WW photo: MALLORY MERRILL

What to do

In the face of impending catastrophe

"If Congress doesn't act soon to help the unemployed, American workers might feel the need to resort to direct action," declared Lane Kirkland, President of the AFL-CIO on Dec. 5. He added, "If all else fails and people come to the conclusion that the only way they can get people's attention is to create turmoil in the streets, then I guess perhaps we have to go out and organize some turmoil in the streets, if that's what it takes to convince people."

Just how do we do this? Where do we start?

- Stop concessions to the bosses
- Stop waiting for the 1984 elections
- Stop big business and the bankers from abusing and abandoning industry in search of lush profits
- Exercise our legal right to stop layoffs and plant shutdowns, which come under "man-made disasters," requiring government emergency measures
- The Democrats and Republicans criminally refuse to implement these laws—but the workers can do it themselves
- Seize and occupy the plants under the legal authority of the workers' property right to their jobs

By Sam Marcy
 JANUARY 7—There is no question that, on the basis of current trends, the degenerative processes of capitalist accumulation are leading in the direction of an economic catastrophe.

The question that has finally come to the surface is whether the working class can intervene independently as a class into the political process and begin taking destiny into its own hands. There are some straws in the wind, fragile to be sure, which point in that direction.

On Dec. 5, Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, made what is certainly an extraordinary statement coming from the head of the organized trade union movement in the U.S. He said, "If Congress doesn't act soon to help the unemployed, American workers might feel the need to resort to direct action."

'Turmoil in the streets'

Furthermore, he said, "If all else fails and people come to the conclusion that the only way they can get people's attention is to create turmoil in the streets, then I guess perhaps we have to go out and organize some turmoil in the streets, if that's what it takes to convince people."

He went on to say, "Every time you see a couple of jobs advertised, you see a line forming of hundreds or thousands of people competing for those jobs."

In Chicago yesterday, some 34,000 people (according to ABC News Nightline) showed up in bitter cold weather, some waiting all day and all night, for no more than 3,000 jobs that would provide only a few weeks of work. Only heads of families were requested to apply for the jobs. It was a measure of the desperate situation of the more than 14 million totally unemployed. Counting those on part-time who need full-time work would make it 20 million all told.

Lane Kirkland's remarks got scant attention in the capitalist press or the electronic media. And small wonder. The bosses always deplore "fiery rhetoric" which has the possibility of "inciting" and stimulating the workers to take direct mass action.

The bosses always want to hear words of "moderation" rather than "class hatred," since their object is that the workers

conciate to and accommodate themselves to the needs of the exploiters, that is, the bosses themselves.

They also fear that such talk may not constitute the conventional empty threats. This time Kirkland has said something which is very timely and corresponds to what millions of workers are already instinctively groping toward. It only remains to properly formulate an appropriate tactical and strategic perspective.

What have leaders done?

But what has been the history of the official labor leadership with regard to actions of the type presumably contemplated in Kirkland's statement?

After the election of Reagan and his almost immediate anti-labor offensive directed against government employees, including the PATCO workers, the union leaders were forced to overhaul their traditional shunning of mass action.

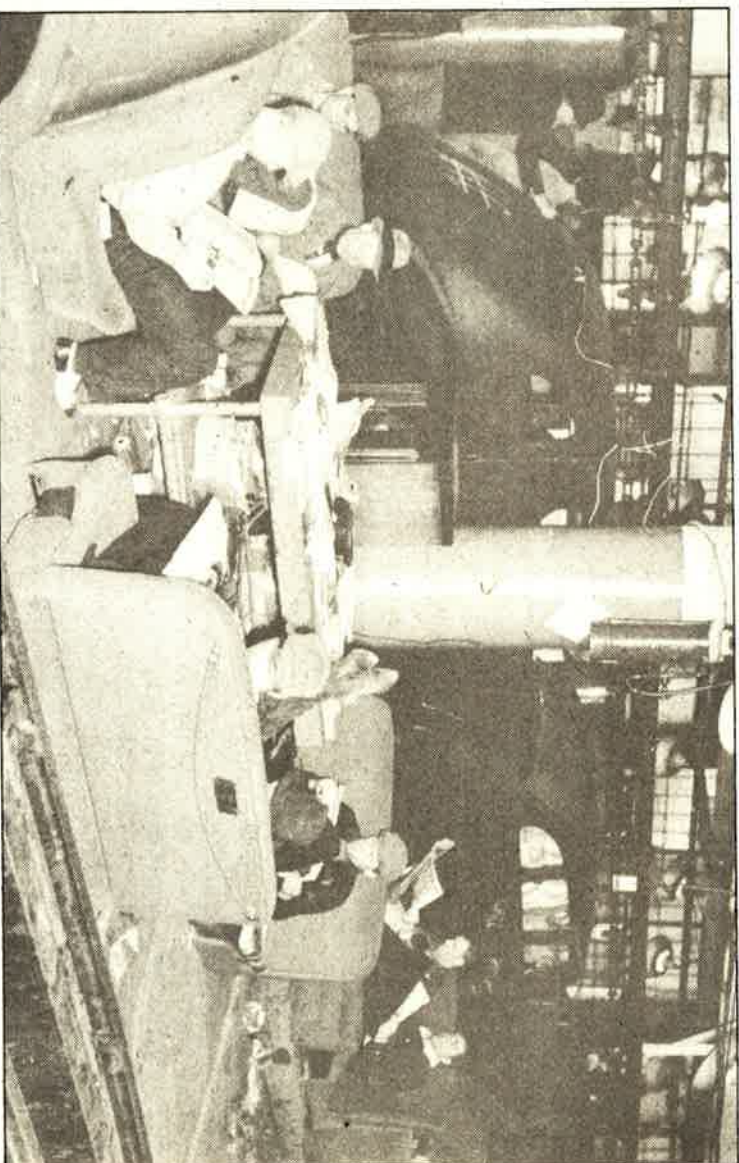
A good beginning was made with the splendid Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington on Sept. 19, 1981. It astonished the ruling class and gave heart to the hundreds of thousands who marched and even the millions who viewed on TV this tremendous manifestation of energy and determination.

The march was a real cross-section of the workers and the oppressed. It had many different layers of workers, including skilled and unskilled, Black and Latin, women, the disabled, veterans groups, gay men and lesbians.

It was a tremendous outpouring that got worldwide attention. It was not supposed to be an end in itself, but the beginning of a counter-offensive against the Reaganites and the ruling class whom they serve.

Instead of that, however, the labor bureaucracy then sat back in their swivel chairs and congratulated themselves on being able to mobilize such a huge section of the workers and stopped there.

In their minds, the purpose of the demonstration had been to show Congress and the Reagan administration that they could wield power. That was all that was necessary, as far as they were concerned. In reality, they were pleading with the Congress



The great sit-down strike at General Motors in the 1930s. This bold action by the workers was so powerful that it even prompted Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor to affirm that the workers have a property right to their jobs. If it could be done then, it can be done now. and orienting the rank and file to vote in the 1982 elections.

In the meantime, they have continued their line of steady and consistent capitulation on all fronts without any real fight-back.

Lane Kirkland and his colleagues in organized labor have collaborated with the ruling class in a whole series of givebacks, takeaways, layoffs, and cuts in vital services, while avoiding any action whatever that could truly help reverse the catastrophic situation of the mass of the unemployed, the working class, and the oppressed people as a whole.

Strategy for fightback?

Now the new Congress is in session and there are four million more unemployed than at the time of the Solidarity Day march. But the combined forces of the labor bureaucracy, which still commands the loyalty of many, many millions of organized as well as unorganized workers, employed and unemployed, have absolutely no strategic or tactical plan for fighting back at all. Their entire perspective is geared wholly and exclusively to the electoral front and the next election.

They are back to merely pleading with the government and relying on some Congressional action in the light of the election of 16 new liberal Democrats, most of whom were financially supported by the AFL-CIO. Other than that they are offering absolutely nothing that a worker, employed or unemployed, can look forward to from the point of view of halting the continued offensive of the ruling class, which is planning further layoffs and cutbacks.

There are those among the old and experienced labor leaders used to dealing with the bosses for many years who know that threats such as Kirkland made are frequently only for the popular consumption of the workers and are not to be taken seriously because at the same time private assurances are given that nothing like that is contemplated.

Yet Kirkland is the head of a mighty multi-million-fold organization of the most viable section of society—the workers, employed and unemployed. And when he refers to the possibility of a "resort to direct action" and bolsters it with the warning that "perhaps we have to go out and organize some turmoil in the

streets," it has considerable social and political significance for the working class.

Just how do we do all this? Where do we start?

A program of action

Lacking anything specific from Kirkland, as of now anyway, we propose the following:

First, so far as the employed workers go, stop the line of giving in, and giving in, and giving in. So far as the millions of unemployed, are concerned, waiting, waiting, waiting anymore can only result in further demoralization. This is what the bosses want most, a weakened, divided, discouraged, and disintegrated million-fold pool of individuals without perspective and without hope.

If there is to be any kind of action, let alone direct action or "turmoil in the streets," as he puts it, it must be organized. We must start somewhere.

The first thing to realize is that of the whole liberal establishment of the government, from Speaker of the House "Tip" O'Neill all the way down to the new congressmen and women, and including some new liberal Democratic governors and so on, will do nothing unless there is some real action on a mass scale.

The ideological outlook of the working class in regard to the current capitalist crisis must be reshaped. This may be hard, but it is absolutely indispensable. Tricks and gimmicks, political ploys, and mere denunciation of the Reaganites will not do it.

Through the mass media, the ruling class has widely established the false notion that nothing can be done about the capitalist crisis except through them, their government, their Presidents, their Congress, their governors, and so on. This is the favorite line of the liberal wing of the ruling class, the liberal politicians, and labor as well. They forget or never knew that almost all the significant progressive legislation in the last half century took place as a result of tremendous, spontaneous social upheavals.

These came first and only later was remedial legislative action taken. Only in a few cases did some of the capitalist-leaders anticipate the social upheavals and class conflicts and, as a measure of "riot insurance," began to institute remedial proceedings to alleviate the conditions of the workers. But even then it re-

quired further mass action to implement them.

Merely waiting with folded arms and preparing for the next election would again entail waiting, waiting two more years of unendurable suffering and the further deterioration of the living standards of the mass of people as a whole. And even if the workers should wait until 1984 and a liberal President is elected, it is unlikely that the capitalist crisis will have diminished and absorbed the millions of unemployed.

Unity in struggle against racism

Furthermore, there is an imperative need in the struggle for the unity of the working class. This can be achieved by directing attention in the most urgent manner by the most extraordinary and exceptional methods to the struggle against blatant racism which has raised its ugly head again in a most vicious way under the Reaganite regime.

With unemployment so much higher for the oppressed, that is Black, Latin, Asian, and Native workers, and higher for women among both the oppressed and white workers, it gives the bosses a weapon for divide and rule. Only a most determined and energetic struggle against racism can bring about the needed solidarity of the workers and oppressed against the ruinous policies of high finance and big business and their interlocking interests with the military-industrial complex.

Nature of capitalist crisis

All the projections made by the capitalist economists, whether liberal or conservative, say that the crisis will only exhaust itself through a lengthy process of capitalist recovery (assuming there will be one), and that in the meantime the capitalist government, no matter which party is in power, can only help a little.

That's because the economy is experiencing not only a so-called normal capitalist cyclical crisis, but a general crisis of the system as a whole. That explains the deep pessimism of the ruling class, a pessimism they try to saturate the working class with.

The normal capitalist cyclical crisis used to go something like this: first a bust, which developed from the previous boom, then a period of decline and stagnation, followed by a recovery and the development of a

Continued on page 10

EDITORIAL

Killing the 'patient'

SINCE SCIENTIFIC evidence now confirms that human beings evolved over some 3 or 4 million years of life in cooperative societies, where mutual help was necessary for survival, it's safe to assume that qualities like compassion, cooperation, and concern for others are deeply ingrained in our species. No wonder, then, that in this greedy, cutthroat capitalist world the vicious practices that enhance the private accumulation of wealth must be disguised behind "humanitarian" labels.

Take the odious practice of usury, for example, which has made paupers of half the world's people. Because of the staggering debt burden to institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (both U.S.-dominated), every child born in Colombia today, according to the president of that country, comes into the world owing \$300.

Yet to hear the bankers tell it, all they want to do is "help out" the poorer countries. Every new escalation in the debt cycle is explained as a generous gift to enable "less fortunate" (read exploited) countries to achieve "development."

In the last year, with the worldwide capitalist crisis depressing markets for their exports, an unprecedented number of debtor countries have been unable to pay even the interest, let alone the principal itself. This has led to new loan agreements at even higher rates, which means fatter profits to the bankers in the long run, while easing some of the more immediate payments. The idea is that there will be an economic recovery soon. But what if the crisis continues, as it appears certain to do?

Furthermore, the bankers almost invariably demand austerity programs before granting new loans, thereby shrinking the worldwide market for goods. And they extort ever more favorable terms for investment, accelerating the abandonment and ruin of industry here at home by the runaway multinationals.

This is so clearly a prescription for disaster that one wonders how these vicious usurers expect it to go on forever. But to think they can be rational about their own system is to forget how overwhelming are the immediate stakes. Like King Midas, they cannot control their desire to turn everything to gold right now, even if they choke on it. Or, to use a more modern analogy, they are so enamored with the success of the operation that they can't admit it's killing the patient.

And so these incredibly powerful men who make earthshaking decisions from their paneled offices on Wall Street are now clucking in satisfaction over their latest "success". It seems that, in the process of rescheduling some \$30 billion due this year from three Latin American countries (Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil), they collected a cool \$300 million in "fees"—a nice little commission, paid immediately, which amounts to an added usurious penalty on top of the debt payments being stretched out.

The one country they couldn't get to pay either the fee or a higher interest rate was Nicaragua. Was it because the Sandinists told the bankers that otherwise they'd be forced to repudiate the debt altogether?

That is, after all, the one sure way out of the debt trap.

CIA reports

FOR THE second time in as many weeks, the CIA has released a report on the Soviet economy which debunks many of the falsehoods which the U.S. government and most of the media have been saying for years about that country.

According to their study, the CIA does "not consider an economic collapse even a remote possibility" for the USSR. "The ability of the Soviet economy to remain viable in the absence of imports is much greater than most, possibly all industrial countries," it continues, adding that "the Soviet Union remains basically self-sufficient with respect to food."

In an editorial on Jan. 5, the New York Times, which is hardly a friend of the USSR, admitted the same. "Over 30 years," the Times noted, Soviet "industrial production has increased seven times, farm output has doubled, and the gross national product has quadrupled. Per capita consumption," the newspaper added, "has tripled."

"Presidential advisers suggest that the Soviets could be forced to their knees by a combination of Western economic pressure and defense buildup. That notion has now been punctured," it concludes, citing the above mentioned statistics from the recently published CIA reports.

Now why would the CIA release this information and why did the Times give it such a big display?

Is all this a back-handed justification for Reagan's arms buildup, a twisted argument that says that since the Soviets can't be "forced to their knees" by peaceful means, the Pentagon's "military option" is the only way to deal with Moscow?

Whatever the Times and the CIA have up their sleeves, they have revealed that the USSR, with a socialist planned economy, is growing more stable and prosperous, while the capitalist countries are sliding into the deepest recession since the 1930s.



Soviet satellite issue whipped up to cover Pentagon space war plans

By Bob McCubbin

JANUARY 9—Since Thursday the big business media of the U.S. have been subjecting the U.S. population to an intensification of their standard level of anti-Soviet hype in the form of nearly hysterical "news" stories about the "impending crash" of a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite.

The official Soviet press agency Tass has stated, however, that the satellite in question has been broken up by command from the ground and is expected to burn up upon re-entering the earth's atmosphere. But, if, in fact, the Soviet estimation turns out to be incorrect, it will not be the first time that satellite parts have survived re-entry. Nor will it likely be the most dangerous such incident.

In 1978 pieces of a Soviet nuclear-powered satellite came down in an uninhabited region in northern Canada. There were no injuries or loss of life but the anti-Soviet hullabaloo raised by the U.S. imperialist press at the time was clearly geared to the increasingly confrontational and mili-

taristic stance of the Carter administration in its relations with the Soviet Union.

Media ignores U.S. space accidents

Three other accidents involving U.S. nuclear satellites have, however, been conveniently ignored by the big business media here even though all of them involved plutonium, an intensely radioactive element that is one of the most dangerous substances known.

When an Apollo mission was aborted in April 1970, a plutonium power pack sank to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean and has never been found. The possibility that, at some point, this plutonium will begin poisoning the world's oceans is cause for the deepest concern. In another unpublicized incident, in May 1968, a U.S. weather satellite containing plutonium failed to achieve orbit and plunged into the Santa Barbara Channel off California where it was recovered.

But the most dangerous accident of all was undoubtedly the U.S. nuclear-powered satellite which plunged to earth in 1964 spreading plutonium throughout the atmosphere. This disaster received almost no publicity and yet, according to an article nine years later in *Nature* magazine (Feb. 16, 1978), it raised the level of atmospheric plutonium 300% above the level created by all previous atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. According to a recent article in *Science* magazine (Jan. 7, 1983), the possible health hazards of this accident have still "not been studied in depth."

So much for the "deep concern" of the U.S. government and capitalist media. Their real concern, as usual, is utilizing every opportunity to turn the attention of the masses away from their mounting problems of survival under the capitalist system and drum up a war fever against a socialist country on the other side of the globe which is in no way the enemy of working and oppressed people here.

Kampuchea celebrates four years of reconstruction

By Deirdre Griswold

JANUARY 8—This week the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea celebrated its fourth anniversary. On Jan. 7, 1979, a new socialist government was proclaimed in Phnom Penh under the leadership of Heng Samrin. Samrin was a former battalion commander who had fought with the Khmer Rouge during the war against U.S. imperialism and its reactionary Cambodian puppets, but who broke with the Pol Pot-Leng Sary leadership of the movement when, after the liberation of Kampuchea, they began to carry out a disastrously ultra-left internal policy and, in foreign relations, became pawns of the Chinese leadership in an anti-Viet Nam campaign that ended in outright war.

Since the ouster of the Pol Pot clique four years ago, Kampuchea has been pulled back

from famine and social disintegration. Despite a U.S.-China campaign to prevent international recognition and aid for Kampuchea, the country has once again become self-sufficient in food, schools and hospitals have reopened, and, except for a small area on the border with Thailand where the U.S. and China support counter-revolutionary bands, the people are rebuilding their country in peace once more.

Workers World Party, which initiated many militant struggles here against the war in Southeast Asia and strongly supports the socialist countries in their efforts to throw off U.S. imperialist domination and rebuild their economies to meet the needs of the mass of the people, sent the following message to President Heng Samrin: "Congratulations on the

fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea. With great effort and heroism Kampuchea is overcoming the terrible legacy of U.S. imperialism's brutal war and the ensuing chaos of the Pol Pot regime. Even today the predatory U.S. ruling class is promoting and arming renegades and counter-revolutionaries while blocking Kampuchea's rightful UN seat. American people say NO to another war in Southeast Asia. As unemployment here deepens and millions of workers suffer, we share a common struggle with you against imperialist militarism and for meeting people's needs of jobs, homes, food, and social services."

Sam Marcy
Chairman
Workers World Party
January 3, 1983

Non-Aligned hit U.S. war threat against Nicaragua

97 nations attend meeting in Managua

By Jaime Yeve
 JANUARY 11—A week-long ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned nations opened yesterday in Managua, capital of Nicaragua.

The primary focus at the meeting called to discuss Latin American and Caribbean problems is the escalating U.S. war threat against Nicaragua.

Drawing international attention to the openly admitted "secret" U.S.-backed counter-insurgency effort against Nicaragua, a draft declaration for the meeting calls for condemnation of United States support for anti-Sandinist groups in Honduras.

According to today's New York Times, the Reagan administration lobbied with "its friends" within the movement to soften the declaration. The Times noted that, while some of the wording may be modified, the aggressive U.S. policy would nevertheless be criticized.

In an Associated Press dispatch carried in the Jan. 10 Newark Star-Ledger, a U.S. diplomat complained that "we expect rough treatment." The Ledger added that the U.S.

would try to get their diplomats admitted as spectators to some of the sessions.

While other international items may be taken up by the movement comprised of 97 nations, discussion centering on the crisis in Central America has elicited the attention of Washington. International support for Nicaragua would mark a diplomatic setback for the U.S. government's unceasing campaign to isolate Nicaragua economically and diplomatically in the international community.

Reagan wants to hide aggression

The last thing the Reagan administration wants is to have the spotlight thrown on the menacing Pentagon military buildup in the region aimed at Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Salvadoran liberation struggle. Not that it has been a well-kept secret. For months, front page news items have appeared establishing unquestionably that the U.S. has embarked on a campaign to undermine and ultimately overthrow the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. Prominent among these re-

ports was Newsweek's front-page special of Nov. 8 on the CIA war against Nicaragua. In this feature article, Newsweek revealed that the individual directing the efforts of the remnants of former dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard, a storm-trooper outfit, was none other than U.S. Ambassador to Honduras John D. Negroponte.

CBS correspondent George Crile in a Dec. 2 op-ed in the New York Times further confirmed U.S. war efforts aimed at Nicaragua. "Honduras," Crile stated, "has become the front line in one of Washington's most ambitious attempts to bring down a foreign government since the Kennedy's unleashed the Central Intelligence Agency against Fidel Castro." Crile added that "this time, the target is the Sandinist government of Nicaragua."

The unprecedented dimensions of the Pentagon's buildup in Central America and the dan-

ger it raises of expanded U.S. military involvement accounts for the urgency of the Non-Aligned discussion occurring in Managua.

U.S. opposition to Pentagon intervention

In addition to international concern over the belligerent course set by the Reagan government, there is growing opposition in the U.S. Numerous public opinion polls have illustrated that a majority oppose any U.S. role in the area.

Fear of mass opposition at home and abroad reflected itself in a Congressional measure passed by the House and Senate last month, with a unanimous vote of 411-0 forbidding the U.S. from providing "military equipment, military training or advice, or other support for the purpose of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua or provoking military exchange between Nicaragua or

Honduras." Underlying this motion, which Reagan has sidestepped through numerous loopholes, is fear by a section of the ruling class that U.S. intervention will backfire.

Not only has Washington flouted this measure but has completely violated its own laws—the Neutrality Act and the War Powers Act. Nevertheless, to progressives at home concerned about the devastating economic effects of the war drive, the latest Congressional measure can provide an additional lever in the struggle to stay the hand of the Pentagon.

While attempting to circumvent congressional resolutions, Washington's concern over the Non-Aligned meeting signals their understanding that its convening at this moment is indicative of growing awareness that the real threat to the region emanates from the U.S., not Havana or Managua.

Washington rushes loan to fascist pals in Chile

By Jaime Yeve

JANUARY 10—Once again Washington plans to rescue a true friend in desperate need. The friend is the fascist regime of Chile. The aid will be through a projected \$900 million International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan.

As in the IMF's \$1 billion loan to South Africa in October, the emergency loan to the Pinochet government of Chile is not just an economic bailout but continued endorsement of a repressive military dictatorship.

Impetus for the loan is Chile's worst political and economic crisis since the overthrow of the Allende government in 1973. Chile's financial debt to the international banks has increased to \$19 billion. Contributing heavily to Chile's economic problems is the worldwide capitalist recession and the steepest economic decline in price for its main export, copper, in over 50 years.

Business failures have mushroomed to record levels last year and unemployment is officially reported at 25% but unofficially recognized as between 35 to 40%.

Resistance to repressive economic policies

Chile's worst economic crisis since the great depression has propelled renewed opposition to the junta's handling of the economy and repressive actions. Last month over 200 protesters were arrested in three different cities.

For "illicit association" human rights activists have been arrested and tortured. Some labor leaders have been assassinated while others like Manuel Cuevas, leader of Chile's National Labor Coordinating Committee, have been exiled from the country.

A United Nations report on human rights in Chile issued in December stated that "torture

Israeli Black Panthers, PLO hold news conference in NYC

By Bill Doares

NEW YORK, Jan. 7—"We are Arabs of the Jewish religion. For 2,000 years we have lived alongside our Muslim and Christian Arab brothers and sisters in peace and equality. Then we came to Israel where we became second-class citizens."

Speaking was Charles Biton, a Moroccan-born member of Israel's Knesset, elected on the ticket of the Israeli Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (IDFPE). Biton is also a leader of the Israeli Black Panther movement, which is part of IDFPE.

The occasion was a historic joint news conference held here today by the Israeli Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Speaking along with Biton was Nahim Giladi, an Iraqi-born Jewish journalist and officer of the Israeli labor federation, Histadrut, and Dr. Hatem Hussein, PLO deputy representative to the UN. Chaining was Valerie Van Isler of the November 29 Coalition, which organized the news conference. Dr. Hussein, who introduced

the two other speakers, declared, "As a Palestinian, it is an honor to work together with our Jewish brothers who are also fighting for peace and equality." He pointed out that the Palestine National Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of "Muslims, Christians, and Jews working together for a society where all can live free from war, militarism, and racism."

Biton and Giladi denounced the Israeli regime as the common oppressor of both the Palestinian people and Afro-Asian Jews, who make up at least 60% of Israel's Jewish population. They are subject to severe discrimination by Israel's mainly European ruling establishment.

Slums, high unemployment

According to Biton, Afro-Asian Jews make up only 4% of those entering college in Israel and only 2% of Israeli college graduates. While new settlers from Europe and the U.S. are often placed in luxury housing along the seashore, he said that Afro-Asian Jews who came in the 1950s still live in slums or in overcrowded "development towns."



Patrice Lumumba

Protests to honor African revolutionary

By David Rodgers

JANUARY 4—Twenty-two years ago on Jan. 17, the CIA assassinated Patrice Lumumba, the first popularly elected Prime Minister of the independent Republic of the Congo. On that date, the solidarity committee for the Congolese National Liberation Front (FLNC) has called demonstrations in support of the struggle of the Congolese people in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Austin, and Washington, D.C.

According to the support committee, "the greatest obstacle keeping the people from their independence is U.S. intervention through troops, weapons, and money, to prop up Mobutu." The FLNC has waged a war of national liberation to continue the fight of Lumumba against imperialism and for an independent Congo.

In 1961 the Congo, now known as Zaire, had emerged from colonial enslavement at the hands of Belgium. Lumumba had dedicated his life to struggling for the unity of all the peoples of the Congo into one movement with the stated objective of national independence.

Lumumba had the foresight to know and understand that the obstacles faced by the oppressed people in the Congo were parallel to those faced by all the peoples of Africa. He knew that an independent Congo, in order to survive and avoid the pitfalls of neo-colonialist dependence on their former masters—with the U.S. calling the shots in the background—would have to be anti-imperialist and internationalist in character.

A pan-African Congo was not what U.S. imperialism had in mind. Such an example would only inspire the feelings for liberation in the hearts of other Africans still enslaved in Zimbabwe (then called Rhodesia), South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and elsewhere.

That is why U.S. imperialism, through its international terrorist organization—the CIA—along with manipulation of the UN "peace-keeping" forces, carried out the assassination of Patrice Lumumba. Contrary to their demented scheme, Patrice Lumumba lives in the hearts of freedom loving and oppressed peoples everywhere.

For more information on the Jan. 17 demonstration, phone (212) 685-4774, or (212) 994-4061. The New York action will begin at 4 p.m. in front of the Zairian Mission to the UN at 767-3rd Avenue, at 48th Street.

—What to do in face of impending catastrophe

Continued from page 7

a new boom-bust cycle. These usually lasted a couple of years at most and recovery was well on the way usually by the second year. The current crisis is already three years old and is the most severe and profound one since the Great Depression of the 1930s. It is worldwide in character and has included since the 1970s two or three "small" crises.

It has been accompanied by worldwide inflation and lack of real growth of the economy. Regardless of the small ups and downs, the worldwide capitalist economy is experiencing both stagflation and continuing inflation.

In addition, the U.S. has two other crises on its hands. One is the so-called geopolitical crisis, the attempt by the U.S. and especially the Reagan administration to stretch its military powers in order to ensure world supremacy. This means untold billions of dollars for military expansion which in turn produces industrial and economic stagnation.

There is still another crisis for the U.S. in its worldwide struggle with the other capitalist countries. As a result of the Korean and Viet Nam wars which entailed such great military expenditures, the U.S. has to a large extent lost some of its competitive edge over the other capitalist countries, notably Japan and West Germany.

U.S. capitalism has absorbed all the ills of the capitalist world into its system as a result of its attempts to dominate most of the dependent, less developed, and underdeveloped parts of the world. In its effort to seek out every nook and corner of the world for super-profits, it has loaned to the underdeveloped, less developed, and dependent countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America almost a trillion dollars in a mad search for easy lush profits. This has meant the most astonishing neglect here at home: ruined cities, deteriorating industrial structures, pollution in the air and waters, and vandalizing the environment.

All the capitalist economists know the real cause of the crisis and know that it cannot be solved in the traditional, normal way. They are therefore looking for a lengthy period of continuing deterioration. That demonstrates that the system as a whole is in crisis. The workers have to know this and have to understand it.

Workers must know:

A new strategy needed
What needs to be done first and foremost is to reshape the thinking and consciousness of the

working class and get them out of the straitjacket of viewing their plight in the way the capitalist economists and politicians want them to see it.

The worst mistake in a period of such profound general capitalist crisis is for the leaders to adapt themselves to the same old traditional trade union tactics and politics, which even in the best of times worked only partially successfully and only in periods of capitalist boom and stability.

To continue to utilize these same tactics now, when there is a crisis of the whole system, is to leave the workers powerless and at the mercy of the ruling class.

The movement of the workers must of iron necessity go beyond the old established form of thinking and action. If the ruling class cannot solve the problem, and they are saying that it cannot be done for years and years, then the workers can, as Lane Kirkland puts it, resort to fruitful direct action.

Yes, it can be done. It can and will be done because the masses will inevitably begin resistance as their plight becomes more and more intolerable and unendurable. Already they are disgusted to hear nothing but false promises from all sides as further cutbacks and layoffs continue their onward march.

The authority exists to do it

The way to at least initiate direct action is first of all to call to the attention of the masses that each of the governors of the 50 states, the mayors of each of the metropolitan centers of the U.S., and the Congress and the President all have the authority to stop by political action the course that the ruling class has imposed upon the people.

On the question of layoffs, each governor, each mayor, and the President, with or without Congress, has the authority to issue an executive order to halt any further layoffs and to stop the dismantling of any and all plants running away to other areas. They can declare an emergency and require the reopening of the plants and the rehiring of the millions.

For instance, in New York State there is a law which empowers the governor to take action, any action, to prevent or stop the suffering of the people as the result of a "natural or man-made disaster." Isn't New York State going through a man-made disaster, particularly since the threat by the Bethlehem Steel Corp. to close down its plant in the town of Lackawanna? This would mean the dismissal of 7,000 workers, and could affect

as many as 50,000 workers in the area.

The governor has the authority to stop it. This is what the law says:

"Whenever the governor, on his own initiative or pursuant to a request from one or more chief executives, finds that a disaster has occurred or may be imminent for which local governments are unable to respond adequately, he shall declare a disaster emergency by executive order." (McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York State Executive Law, Article 2B, Section 28.)

Legal right to cushion disaster

This broad power to issue an executive order during any disaster, thus allowing the governor to carry out extraordinary measures, is backed up by legislative authority which describes what is meant by a "disaster."

"The legislature hereby finds and declares that a wide variety of disasters, often caused or compounded by mankind's own acts, cause loss of life, property, and income, disrupt the normal function of government, communities and families, and cause great human suffering. The legislature further finds that it must provide for preparations to prevent, meet, defend against and recover from, dangers and problems arising from these emergencies with the least possible interference with the existing division of the powers of the government.

"The legislature finds that a joint effort, public and private, is needed to mobilize the resources of individuals, business, labor, agriculture, and government at every level—federal, state, and local—for effective organization and preparation for and meet natural and man-made disasters of all kinds.

"The legislature finds that the state must give leadership and direction to this important task of establishing an emergency disaster preparedness program for the protection of each person in the state." (Article 2B, Sections 20, emphasis ours.)

Each of the governors of the 50 states has substantially the same powers under the law. They are authorized to take emergency measures under their state constitutions and to requisition private property in the interest of the public good for purposes of alleviating a disaster. Certainly the President has such authority.

The federal and state governments have on one hundred and one occasions exercised their authority to seize whole industries—such as coal, steel, and transportation, especially the railroads—when they needed to forestall or break strikes in the interests of the bosses and

bankers.

The time has come for the workers to invoke this authority against the bankers and bosses who are ruining these industries.

The Full Employment Act of 1946 directs the U.S. government to take measures to create full employment, not unemployment, as the Reaganites and the ruling class are doing now.

Only mass action will make them do it

The next point to remember is that these governors, mayors, and the President and Congress will not do on their own what they legally and under the constitution of both the states and federal government have a duty to do. They will not do it on their own, if they have not done it now after months and years of economic decay, dislocation, and the suffering of the millions.

But once the masses become convinced that all this can be done but will not be done unless they take the initiative on their own: once they utilize the legal authority that exists by virtue of the laws which are on the books but which the capitalist politicians criminally neglect to put into operation, then direct action is both necessary and legal.

The workers have a property right to the trillion-dollar industrial, technological, commercial, and banking apparatus which they have created with their own hands and brains. This fabulous industrial, technological, and commercial apparatus is all here and is being abused for lush profits, not used for the people.

The workers therefore have a property right in this vast apparatus, as Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins of the Roosevelt administration said during the great General Motors sit-down strike.

The workers seized the plants because the conventional strike, so useful and correct for most situations, did not fit the conditions created by the great capitalist depression in the 1930s.

Strikes alone in the current capitalist crisis do not fully answer the question of unemployment, government cutbacks, and so on. Nor do they fully answer the question of plant closings, of the ghost towns that are multiplying.

Right to seize the plants

Depriving workers of their jobs is a violation of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which states that no person shall be deprived of "life, liberty, or property without due process of the law." The Constitution also supports such acts as are necessary to promote the common good and welfare of the people.

The masses have the right to seize the plants.

Organizing for such a development, inspiring the workers to do it, and demonstrating to them that they have the legal authority to do it even under the Constitution of the United States, is the most practical step to be taken.

Preparing the workers to intervene in the political process can't mean merely lobbying for legislation or demanding legal and political redress from the capitalist government. The masses themselves must be carefully but energetically and systematically encouraged to do it themselves.

Without the masses intervening, nothing will be accomplished except the ruinous process to which a militarist economy proceeds. "Turmoil in the streets" must

be translated to mean militant preparations resulting in the seizure and occupation of the plants. The initiatives must be well timed with the perspective of operating and managing the plants and free from dependence on capitalist politicians, industrialists, and bankers.

The initiative of the masses can and will assert itself through such measures. Such initiatives alone, if broadened and widened, will give confidence to the workers and transform their ideological and political consciousness in order to cope with the challenge of the ruling class anti-labor offensive which has wrought havoc in the country as a whole.

These broad initiatives will begin the process of planning production for the common good of the people, and stopping the continuing trend of the runaway industrialists, runaway bankers, and runaway landlords to rape, ruin, and run to all corners of the earth in search of super-profits, leaving the mass of the people in a totally disastrous situation.

Join us in the struggle

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

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

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Jobless crisis behind Ossining uprising

By Diane Feinberg

JANUARY 11—The tense standoff between prisoners at Sing Sing (Ossining Correctional Facility) and the armed might of the State of New York ended last night shortly after midnight. The prisoners agreed to release the 17 guards they were holding in exchange for media publication of their demands.

For 53 hours the 500 men inside Cellblock B battled hunger, fatigue, cold and fear to make their demands known. Meanwhile, the cellblock was ringed with hundreds of elite riot troops, armed to the teeth.

The demands of the prisoners were basic: an end to enforced idleness; wanted were job and educational programs and recreation.

Because they were awaiting transfer to other prisons, Sing Sing routinely denies transient prisoners rights won in other prisons designated for long-term imprisonment. Facilities for recreation, study, and employment were never built at Sing Sing. Yet, because of the staggering overcrowding in the state's jails, prisoners at Sing Sing wait sometimes eight months and more for their transfers. The rebellion in Sing Sing was an indication of the tremendous suffering in U.S. jails.

Newly-elected Gov. Mario Cuomo at first resisted the prisoners' simple and just demands on the grounds that to grant them would "unduly erode respect for the state's authority."

"I predicted it," said Walter Brooks, vice-president of the Ossining NAACP and coordinator of workshops for the prisoners' chapter of the NAACP of the rebellion. Prison officials have barred him from visiting. "The overcrowding and the brutalizing. You knew what was going to happen. That's why they were stopping people from coming in."

The wife of a prisoner explained that during her last visit her husband described the pounding tensions inside. "He said, 'Something is going to happen.

All of the guys have been saying that, that something was building up.'"

Robert Gangi, executive director of the Correctional Association of New York admitted, "Block is a dank, grim place. It is a substandard, dilapidated facility that was brought back into service because of the overcrowding problem." Gangi described the filthy water, roach, rat and mouse infestation, overheating, lack of visitation rights (especially at Christmas time), lack of programs and long, long waits for transfers. These conditions provoked the rebellion.

Warehouses for the poor

But behind the question of the jails is an even more important question: who is in them? It is Black youth and other super-oppressed and poor people who are being crammed into cells in glaringly disproportionate numbers to their representation in the general population. This is no accident. These are the very people hit hardest by the unemployment crisis.

At a time when many millions are unemployed, underemployed, even homeless, the Reaganite reactionaries cast their eyes towards the jails as a cheap way to warehouse the poor, often arrested for crimes of survival. Washington is cutting funds for social services, including prisoner programs, while increasing funds for repression.

According to the Department of Correction Services, in 1972 there were 12,444 in New York State jails; last year there were 28,413! This is a nationwide trend. *Severel weeks ago*, Warren Berger, one of the most reactionary justices on the Supreme Court, admitted that the jails were filled way beyond capacity. The prison population in the U.S. rose from 181,396 in 1973 to 341,592 in 1981, according to *Corrections* magazine.

It's not the stupendously wealthy upper crust who are in jail. It's the hundreds of thousands who are haunted by the fear of hunger, cold and want.

Divestiture ordered

By Phebe Eckfeldt
BOSTON, Jan. 4—Massachusetts has become the second

state in the nation (after Connecticut) to order divestiture of state investments in companies involved in apartheid South Africa.

In order to make this possible the Massachusetts Legislature overrode a veto by outgoing Governor Edward J. King. The legislation forces state pension funds to drop more than \$100 million in investments in American companies doing business in South Africa. The

divestiture bill affects, among others, Ford Motor Co., Xerox, the Bank of America.

As a result of hard work by over 100 labor, religious and community groups under the name MASSDIVERST, the Legislature was pressured to override the governor's racist and pro-big business veto for the first time in King's four year term. The Senate voted 23-5 and the House 134-2. Under the law, divestiture must be completed within three years and the funds invested in Massachusetts companies.

Abortion rights attacked

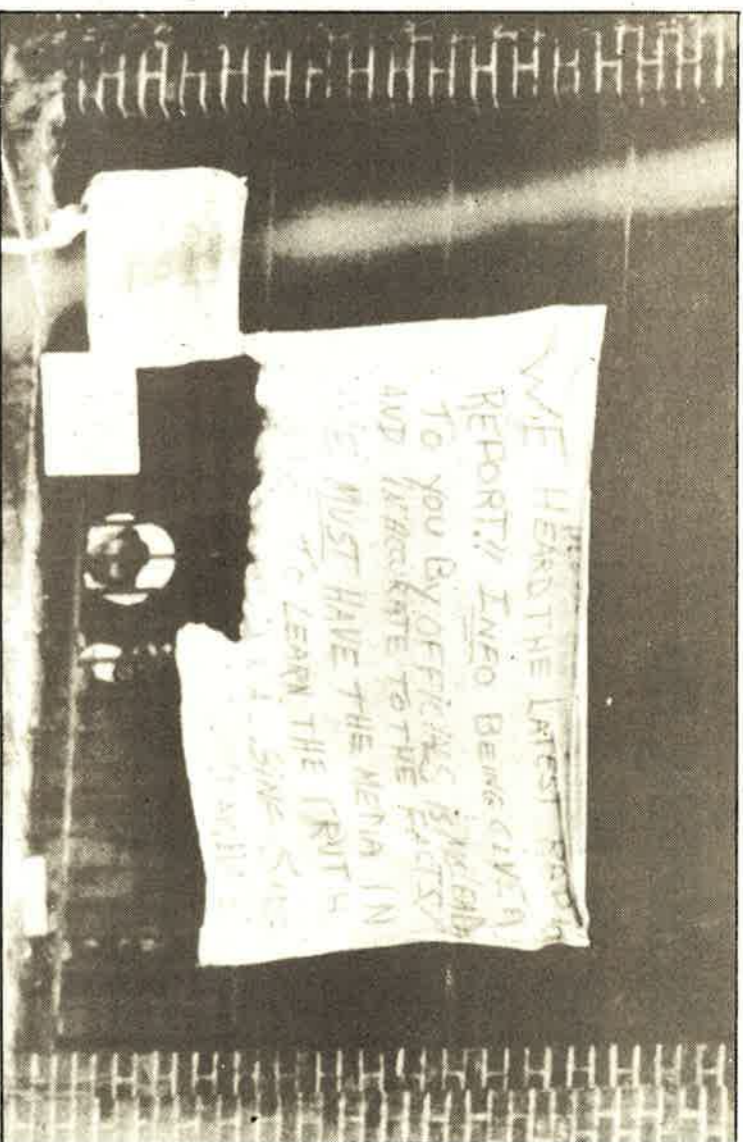
By Maria Stone

BOSTON, Jan. 7—In the last hours of the 1982-83 legislative session, a blow was struck against women's rights. A roll call vote of 113-56 in the state legislature passed a constitutional amendment which reads, "The General Court (state legislature) may regulate or prohibit private or public funding of abortion, or the provision of services for facilities therefore."

The immediate effect of the amendment could be to ban all public funding for abortions. At this time a poor woman can have publicly funded abortion only if

her health or life is in danger. Now, even this limited right is being threatened.

For this amendment to become part of the state constitution Massachusetts voters would have to approve it in the 1984 general election after another vote in the legislature. Also, for a total ban on abortion in the state, the U.S. Constitution would have to be changed. Already women's groups around the state are mobilizing against this amendment and to demand free, safe abortions for all women who want them and an end to sterilization abuse.



"We heard the latest radio report! Info being given to you by officials is misleading and inaccurate to the facts. We must have the media in here to learn the truth," reads this prisoner message during the rebellion at Ossining.

APC protests

prison conditions

The All-Peoples Congress sent the following telegram to New York State Governor Mario Cuomo protesting the treatment of prisoners in that state's jails:

State and prison officials are responsible for the cruel and unbearable conditions such as overcrowding at Ossining as well as all New York State prisons.

The prisoners at Ossining had no other recourse than to take some action in the hope that they might draw attention to their desperate plight.

The news blackout that you have imposed on the situation at Ossining is not only a violation of the law in that residents of this state have a right to know what conditions are like

in the institutions they finance, but is contrary to any sense of human dignity and justice.

The All-Peoples Congress demands that you:

Lift the news blackout at Ossining, let the prisoners speak to the media and their families; Veto the use of force, violence, and murder to crush the voices of prisoners who are pleading for help;

Take action to redress the subhuman conditions under which prisoners at Ossining and other NYS prisons are forced to exist; and Guarantee full and unconditional amnesty for all prisoners in cell block B.

Larry Holmes
All-Peoples Congress

—Martin Luther King

Continued from page 4

sent telegrams to the mayor and to Washington demanding that the ban be lifted. Thirty-six hours before the rally, the mayor gave in to overwhelming pressure and lifted the ban.

Two thousand people rallied against racism in front of Buffalo's City Hall on King's birthday in 1981, while two Nazis, escorted and protected by hundreds of

police, appeared briefly near City Hall before the cops chauffeured them to safety.

The Reaganites have discovered over the last two years that the country is not like Cicero in 1966.

Legacy of King

Even though the government and the ruling class have tried to co-opt, and shamelessly exploit

who is from the grain heartland in Kansas.

Ralston Purina provided two other agriculture secretaries. Earl Butz and Clifford both had their base in this corporation which is the largest feedlot producer for livestock.

The richest Senators in the U.S. come from families who amassed their wealth in the food industry. Senator H.J. Heinz from Pennsylvania and Senator John Danforth from Missouri both hold their multi-million dollar fortunes in agribusiness.

—Agribusiness

Continued from page 12
and distributing business.

Agribusiness plays role in U.S. government

Agribusiness is the biggest industry in the U.S. As such it holds considerable power in the government of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Block owns a farm worth \$10 million in Illinois where he raises hogs, corn and soybeans. Block opposes the food stamp program. His appointment was promoted by reactionary Senator R. Dole

the memory of King, they would be fools to believe that they have robbed oppressed people everywhere of the legacy of King and his times.

In the wake of Miami, the Ossining prison rebellion, 70% unemployment amongst Black youths, and Chicago's court ruling, King's memory is more likely to fan the flames of struggle.

The fire has already been lit.

It is not only through direct control of the government but through thousands of paid lobbyists in Washington, D.C. that agribusiness exerts its power in the government.

Its role in government is responsible for the policies which are devised to use food as a weapon both at home and abroad. Abundant surpluses rot in government warehouses. They are held in ransom not only to drive the prices up but to gain wider economic control over whole nations of people.

Belt tightening no answer to Mich. crisis

By Carla Johnson

DETROIT, Jan. 9—After almost a week of silence, Michigan's new governor, James Blanchard, has given the first indications of his administration's response to the state's economic crisis.

The Detroit *News* reported on January 7 that the governor's Financial Crisis Council, headed by Detroit Edison Chairman Walter J. McCarthy, Jr., is preparing a "budget-balancing" plan. It will reportedly include an income tax increase of 16% and budget cuts that will "probably eliminate entire state programs and cause employee layoffs."

After the 14-year reign of William Milliken as Michigan's governor, many people hoped that Blanchard, the first Democratic governor in two decades, would reorient the state's priorities away from the interests of big business.

Given the state's record-high 17.6% unemployment rate, caused by an epidemic in plant closings and the resulting enormous spread of poverty and suffering among the state's residents, Blanchard could have taken moves that his Republican predecessor refused to do. Under his powers as governor,

Blanchard could declare an economic state of emergency, and then, according to his constitutional responsibilities and authority, could order a halt to all evictions, foreclosures, utility shut-offs and plant closings.

He could demand from the federal government disaster relief aid, including the distribution of food to all who need it. He could declare a moratorium on all personal debts, and halt the state's millions of dollars worth of interest payments to the banks.

These are some of the steps, all legal and constitutionally-guarded, that a governor could take if he was truly concerned for the well-being of the majority of people he governed.

On the other hand, the governor could pull together the heads of some of the wealthiest corporations in the state, and form a blue-ribbon committee, which then proceeds to tell poor and working people how many more holes they have to put in their belts.

The governor who chooses such an option would seem to represent not the interests of the people, but the interests of the people with the majority of the money.

Workers need jobs, not GM's 'generosity'

DETROIT, Jan. 8—The fear of what hungry people will do to get the food they need to survive has crept into some of the plushest corporate boardrooms here.

Several Michigan companies have made highly publicized but relatively meaningless donations to "feed the hungry." The latest is the giant General Motors Corporation.

GM, of course, is in large part responsible for much of the

poverty now raging in many Michigan cities and around the country as well, since it has laid off well over 100,000 workers in the past couple of years.

But Robert Smith, chairman of GM, doesn't mention this fact in a Jan. 6 letter to all GM workers announcing the "GM Care and Share" program. The company is asking each worker to donate one can of food, which GM will then match with 50¢, or cash dona-

By Lallan Stein
JANUARY 10—The growth of hunger and malnutrition in relationship to the development of agricultural production is one of the most glaring contradictions in the U.S. today.

The use of technology in farming has vastly increased the yield of the harvest. For instance wheat and beef production has tripled in the past 60 years. In the 1850s one farmer could only produce enough for himself and three others. Today a farmworker produces sufficient food for 78 other people.

For the first time in history it is possible to produce food for everyone. Yet the amount of available food is determined by the policies of the Reagan Administration, under the dictation of the agribusiness conglomerates. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block gave an apt description of this aspect of Reagan's program when he spoke of "food as a weapon."

The fact is, the government pays subsidies to keep farm land idle to buy surplus crop and then even returns these for use as animal feed. The reason is to keep

'Release the food!'



By Jerry Goldberg

DETROIT, Jan. 8—Today four sound crews and over twenty APC organizers spread the word throughout Detroit—"Support the Lawsuit Against Reagan—Release the Food—Pack the Court-house January 17." Above, volunteers working in the APC office.

The APC has filed suit against the Reagan administration for the release of thousands of tons of food stored in federal government warehouses to the hungry people here.

Today's activities followed a spirited APC organizers meeting held Wednesday night, attended by 90 people. At that meeting, over 10,000 leaflets were taken and will be distributed by organizers all over the city.

APC coordinator Debbie Johnson reports that many new volunteers are coming into the office. Seven thousand leaflets were delivered to churches this week, she said, and APC representatives appeared before a meeting of Detroit AFSCME presidents and received a warm reception.

Johnson stated, "Despite efforts to deflect the struggle through 'sympathetic' talk from politicians and food distributors through the soup kitchens, all the indications that we're getting is that the mood of the people of Detroit is becoming more and more determined to fight back. These news stories only confirm to the hungry and unemployed that in fact the food is there. The message to Judge Ralph Guy on January 17 will certainly be—"If you refuse to order that the food be released, the people will get it released, one way or another."

WW photo: DAVE SOLE

tions that will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$2 million.

The maximum of \$4 million worth of food will be spread over 73 cities where GM has plants. If divided equally, this would mean \$57,000 worth of food for each city. In Detroit, that amount wouldn't even make a dent in the hunger crisis.

which GM has earmarked \$2 million, won't harm its profit margin either. In the first nine months of 1982, General Motors made \$817.7 million!

"I am asking each of you," Smith writes, "who are fortunate enough to be working now and who care about your less fortunate friends and neighbors to share your food with them."

This "generous" program, for

food prices high. There is also a considerable amount of price fixing that is sanctioned by the government.

Although society as a whole should benefit from the tremendous development in agriculture just the opposite is occurring. In recent months millions have lost their jobs, their homes and many farmers are losing their land as well.

Who is responsible for this? Agribusiness. Agribusiness is the small number of gigantic conglomerates who have monopolized control over all aspects of food and fiber production. The purpose is to exploit essential human needs for super-profits.

Now when the economy is in deep recession, they are still raking in record profits. During the third quarter of this year profits for agribusiness at a retail level jumped 47%. This is in relationship to profits for U.S. industry as a whole which fell 11%.

Agribusiness is as concentrated as it is huge. Combined assets of 50 of the biggest conglomerates grew from a 42% share in the food industry in the early sixties to 64% at the end of the seventies. It was estimated

that at their present rate of growth agribusiness will have 100% of the industry by the year 2000 (New York Times, Feb. 1, 1981).

At present these corporations own and/or control every aspect of food production from the farm to the consumer. They own land, the farm machinery, the fertilizer plants, seed production, processing and packaging plants and the supermarkets.

All of the thousands of small farms that still exist are under the thumb of these giants. They are tied to them through contract farming and the big cooperatives such as those in the dairy industry.

Small farms need to keep up with the technology in order to survive. To do this they become indebted to and are eventually bankrupted by the conglomerates who have access to all areas of the industry. It is expected that in Michigan 5% of the farmers will lose their land in 1983.

High food prices certainly don't help small farmers when the federal Farm Land Bank forecloses on farms and then turns them over to agribusiness.

Beatrice Foods, although not well known to the public, is the largest food producer. They netted \$300 million in profits last year. Beatrice markets about 9,000 different products and they own plants in 28 countries.

There are conglomerates that aren't centered in the food industry like Beatrice Foods but who are bigger. They are also involved in agribusiness. An example of this is IT&T.

The big oil companies are closely linked to agribusiness and not only through the production of fertilizers. Tenneco Inc. had sales of \$11 billion from oil, natural gas pipelines, shipbuilding and farm machinery last year. They also own a million acres of rangeland in California and Arizona.

Agribusiness has interlocking directorates with most of the largest banks and corporations. Most of the big banks are involved in the food industry. Bank of America, the largest in the world, owns the most farmland in California.

Some monopolies control whole sections of the food industry. Grain and cereal sales are dominated by four companies who get 90% of the sales.

Who are the agribusiness giants?

Cargill ranks number one in grain trading. The Cargill family owns 85% of the stock. Because all the stock is controlled by the family it has no visibility on Wall Street, nor is it ranked in Fortune or Forbes magazines. If it were it would rank 18 in sales among all U.S. companies.

This monster is headquartered in a 63-room replica of a French chateau, 12 miles from downtown Minneapolis. Here it serves as a nerve center for the world's grain market. More than a dozen traders sit at an electronic board watching the latest commodity price quotations. Around them teletype machines spew out data from Cargill offices in 38 countries. Their control over the market gives them enormous political clout.

The supermarket chains, although interlocked and controlled by the rest of agribusiness, are themselves a large power in the industry.

Safeway, Kroger, and A&P, the first, second and third largest supermarket chains, have a 15% share in the country's retail food market. They also own a large portion of all the food processing

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