



Political deal to cripple Social Security

Republicans, Democrats conspire to steal from elderly

Eyewitnesses tell of police massacre in Memphis —p. 12



Rally in Oakland, Calif., on Jan. 15. See page 12.

WW photo: ANNE SEEMAN

Detroit, Buffalo rallies for jobs and food

—centerfold

Sam Marcy: What to do, part 2

U.S., Honduras plan war games on Nicaragua border —p. 9

By Sharon Shelton

JANUARY 18—On Saturday, a committee of Republican and Democratic congressmen announced they have come up with a plan to “do something” about Social Security.

They did not, however, call for a direly needed increase in benefits for the millions of elderly workers who are desperately struggling for survival as the economy worsens.

Instead, the National Commission on Social Security Reform, a group appointed by Reagan in the fall of 1981 after his initial attempt to gut benefits failed, voted 12-3 to hike Social Security withholding taxes by \$40 billion while “delaying” a cost-of-living increase, a cutback which would throw millions of recipients below the poverty line.

Bipartisan conspiracy

Widely hailed in the big business press as an example of “bipartisan cooperation,” the plan is really an example of a bipartisan conspiracy to rob retired workers of their rightful benefits.

Yet to be voted on by both houses of Congress, the plan represents a compromise between Democrats, who wanted to get the money by imposing higher income taxes, and Republicans who wanted to cut benefits outright.

By agreeing to this rotten compromise, which includes for the first time imposing an

Continued on page 4



WW photo: LALLAN STEIN

Tenth anniversary of legalized abortion to be marked

Women to protest attacks on reproductive rights



WW photo. PADDY COLLIGAN

Abortion rights were won and extended by actions like the one above. New struggles will be needed to defend these rights.

By Susan Groenevelt

TEN YEARS AGO on January 22, 1973, after women petitioned, rallied, and demonstrated from coast to coast, the Supreme Court legalized women's right to abortion in its landmark Roe v. Wade decision. Today, instead of marking the anniversary with gala celebrations, reproductive rights activists are continuing to struggle against a barrage of anti-abortion attacks.

Federal restrictions, state laws, city ordinances, constitutional amendments, and court orders, all spearheaded by a small reactionary minority, are aimed at rendering Roe v. Wade null and void. The most serious and possibly far-reaching will be the Supreme Court ruling due this spring on the legality of the Missouri, Virginia, and Akron, Ohio, restrictions. If the court rules in their favor, it will be declaring "open season" for anti-abortionists. Each state and city will then be able to make its own regulations, in effect returning abortion to its pre-1973 status.

The anti-abortion offensive began in 1977 when the Hyde Amendment refused federal Medicaid funding for abortion (although the federal govern-

ment continues to pay 90% for sterilization). Poor women, most often Native, Asian, Latin, and Black, are being forced to beg, borrow, or steal to pay for the procedure or risk their lives with home remedies or at the hands of back-alley abortionists. The first victim of the Hyde Amendment was Rosie Jimenez, a young Chicana working mother only six months short of a degree in education. She is proof of how this law discriminates against Third World women, making the call for "safe, legal, accessible abortions for all women" an absolute demand.

Reagan cuts women's rights by executive dictate

What anti-abortion legislation Reagan has not been able to get through Congress, he is trying to institute by administrative dictate. Last fall, regulations were drawn up requiring that all facilities receiving federal funds provide clearly differentiated services for abortions. Hospitals and clinics will have to spend millions of dollars to comply or risk forfeiting the sorely needed funds or, worse yet, close down. Many may simply elect to stop providing abortions.

In a related measure, Secretary Schweiker's parting shot is a so-called "sexual law," designed to curb teenage sexuality by requiring parental notification when women under 18 receive prescription birth control at federally funded facilities.

Ruling class targets women

All these attacks on abortion rights are part and parcel of a general anti-woman, anti-poor, anti-everybody-except-the-rich campaign. The ruling class needs scapegoats for the unemployment crisis it created, so they are trying to blame it on "too many women in the workforce," at the same time they have defeated the ERA and are closing down childcare centers.

But women are fighting back and using this 10th anniversary to organize for all the rights needed to guarantee them reproductive freedom: the means to raise healthy children, such as jobs, full social services, equality, sex education and birth control; living openly as lesbians; as well as no forced sterilization and free, safe, legal, accessible abortions. Over 70 organizations in the Reproductive Rights National Network are planning events—from rallies in Seattle and Boston to counter-pickets in Cleveland and Iowa City. In New York a city-wide coalition is organizing a two-part motorcade that will carry the message of reproductive rights from the Bronx and Brooklyn to Manhattan, where a follow-up event will be held at Casa de Las Americas. For more information call the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse at (212) 964-1350.



Malcolm X

February is Black History Month

Watch for special coverage in Workers World

In This Issue...

SOCIAL SECURITY

The widely hailed "bipartisan effort" to "do something" about Social Security is in reality a bipartisan conspiracy to rob retired workers of their rightful benefits. The plan proposed by the National Commission on Social Security Reform represents a rotten compromise between Democrats and Republicans. (Page 1.)



MASSACRE IN MEMPHIS

The media claimed it was an effort to save a policeman from "crazed religious zealots." But the cop shoot-out in Memphis last week was a racist massacre of seven Black people. Workers World spoke with a well-known Black community activist in Memphis who was at the scene during most of the police siege. (Page 12.)

WHAT TO DO

In part 2 of his feature series, Sam Marcy recounts the experience of a small plant facing imminent closing to show why workers have a property right to their jobs. Not only do workers have every legal right to defend that property right, but Marcy shows what can actually be done, in the face of the current catastrophic economic conditions, to turn around the vicious plant shutdown-unemployment cycle. (Page 7.)

FIGHT FOR FOOD

Waving banners and flags with pictures of people storming the warehouses where food is kept, hundreds of community activists picketed Detroit's old federal building last week. They were demanding that the government release all the food kept in Department of Agriculture and supermarket warehouses to feed the hungry. (Page 6.)



CENTRAL AMERICA

In a further threat against Nicaragua, the Pentagon and the Honduran military will hold joint military maneuvers near the Nicaraguan border next month. There is growing concern that these maneuvers may be the forerunner of a U.S.-promoted invasion. (Page 9.)



SAVING JC HOSPITAL

Community activists have launched a major struggle to save Jersey City Medical Center from being shut down. The hospital is declaring itself "bankrupt." The All-Peoples Congress, calling this "illegal," has intervened in the courts and on the streets to "Stop the layoffs, keep the hospital open!" (Page 4.)

ALSO...

Legalized abortion anniversary.....	2
Rostow ouster.....	3
GIs as workers.....	3
Pentagon plots first strike.....	3
Steel bosses force givebacks.....	3
Attack rights for disabled.....	4
Rizzo unleashed in Philly race.....	4
Flight Buffalo shutdown.....	5
DPRK president notes growth.....	6
Santana tribute in DC.....	8
Actions on Central America struggles.....	9
Lunumba anniversary marked.....	9
Rochester WW forum.....	10
Reagan's food plan.....	10
Workes World—25 years.....	10
Plan Turkey protest.....	11
Two hospitals.....	11
Israeli repression.....	11
Political Prisoners.....	11
Main Luther King Day.....	12

Editorials

Textiles and imperialism.....	8
Liberals bring no relief.....	8

WORKERS WORLD

Vol. 25, No. 3/Jan. 21, 1983
Closing news date: Jan. 19, 1983

Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lillian Stern; Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediac, Robert Dobrow, Sharon Shelton, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Bill Del Vecchio, Gin T. Loy, Carmen Roundtree, Andy Stapp, Jaime Yave; Prison Page: Diane Feinberg; Technical Staff: Phil Allen, Sharon Ayling, Janet Berries, Jean Brown, Louise Covington, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Veronica Golos, Kim Katz, Dee Knight, Donna Lazarus, Charlotte Manheimer, Emily Rose Ritholz, David Rodgers, Katy Rosen, Susan Rotgard, Joseph Rondondo, B. Sex, Beth Semmer, Steve Shultz; Darkroom Staff: G. Dunkel, Fabian, Carmen Roundtree; Cartoonists: Bernadette Cozart, Bill Haislip, Tom Shannon

Workers World (ISSN 0043-809X) published by World View Publishers, Inc. 46 W. 21 St., N.Y. 10010. Editorial office: (212) 675-2555. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Published weekly except for first week in September.

Subscriptions: One year, \$10.00; 6 months, \$6.00. Please address requests for bundles to World View Publishers. Make checks payable to World View Publishers.

Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.

Rostow firing part of move to right

Administration pushes ahead with war buildup

By Joyce Chediac

JANUARY 18—The Reagan administration has made another move to the right with the firing this week of Eugene Rostow, head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Who is Eugene Rostow? Certainly not a liberal. Rostow, a conservative Democrat, was a superhawk during the Viet Nam war. He was one of the most outspoken advocates of U.S. military intervention in the Dominican Republic during the Johnson administration. Anti-Soviet to the core, Rostow is a founder of the Committee on the Present Danger, an ultra-right group which advocates U.S. military superiority.

With this background, it certainly raised a few eyebrows when Rostow was fired by Reagan because he believed Washington's position in disarmament talks with the Soviet Union was too hard.

In his resignation statement, Rostow said that the U.S. negotiation position lacks "flexibility." This is a code-word for calling for a softer line. But even this extreme right-winger was too moderate for Reagan!

Vance, Haig, and Rostow

The firing of Rostow is a continuation of a rightwing trend seen in the last few administrations. Under Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who represented a more moderate and less confrontational faction of the bourgeoisie, was ousted. Zbigniew Brzezinski, a hard-line, anti-Soviet spokesperson for the Pentagon, took over foreign policy matters. Next, when Ronald Reagan appointed Gen. Alexander Haig as Secretary of State, this was seen as a giant leap to the right. But even Haig was out-

led. Haig's replacement by George Shultz, and now the firing of long-time hawk Eugene Rostow, has only accentuated this shift.

Shultz may be more soft-spoken, but this just makes him a low-profile practitioner of Reaganism in foreign affairs. For example, though Shultz has now been placed in overall charge of arms control, he has made it quite clear that in this area Ronald Reagan is "the boss."

Rostow is to be replaced by Kenneth Adelman, a protégé of U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jean Kirkpatrick. Adelman, who has spent much of his time at the United Nations accusing the Soviet Union of germ warfare, is a more integral part of the "new right" than Rostow. But more important, Adelman was "the candidate of the Pentagon," according to columnist Joseph Kraft in today's Washington Post.

Split on foreign policy

The firing of Rostow reveals a deep split on foreign policy concerning the Soviet Union. It also shows the increasing role of the Pentagon in civilian government—now in the area of arms control.

Rostow has been accused by the Reaganites of deviating from the Reagan administration's proposal for intermediate missile talks, the so-called "zero option." Stories have appeared in the national press of a disarmament session this past July when U.S. negotiator Paul Nitze, under the direction of Rostow, negotiated an "informal agreement" with the Soviet negotiator that was softer than the "zero option." Though these stories are difficult to verify, and in fact, speaking from West Germany today,

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko denied that any arms accord had been reached in July, one thing has been made clear. The Pentagon is the force that has insisted on sticking to the "zero option" (New York Times, Jan. 17). This proposal has been ruled completely unacceptable by the Soviet Union because it gives the Pentagon a distinct military advantage.

What is "zero option"?

Washington wants the Soviet Union to dismantle all of its SS-20, SS-4 and SS-5 missiles in Soviet Europe and Asia, even those not aimed at Europe. In return, the U.S. will not deploy any cruise or Pershing II missiles in Europe at the end of the year. Washington is trying to place an equal sign between these two moves, but the Soviets point out that "zero option" doesn't take into account U.S. missiles deployed at sea, or missiles aimed at the Soviet Union from France or Britain.

Since Rostow's firing, Reagan has made it clear that he will not bend from the "zero option" proposal. Unless this ultimatum is accepted, the Pentagon plans to deploy new nuclear warheads in Europe at the end of the year, tremendously increasing the war danger.

This raises the question of whether the Reagan administration is interested in talks at all, or is merely stalling for time in order to deploy these missiles, which have a striking distance of less than 10 minutes from the Soviet Union.

Today, in West Germany, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko accused the United States of "striving to establish military superiority" over Moscow and blocking progress at Geneva talks with proposals "designed to kill an agreement rather than achieve one."

It should be noted that whether an agreement is reached at Geneva or not, Washington is moving full steam ahead with a horrifying \$1.6 trillion military buildup over the next five years, aimed at the Soviet Union, all the socialist countries, and the liber-

ation struggles of oppressed people around the world.

Economic crisis spurs faction fight

The firing of Rostow has revealed an intensification of the faction fight within the inner circles of the ruling class due to the profound depth of the economic crisis. As the struggle in the bourgeoisie has intensified, the Pentagon enters more and more into political decision-making on behalf of the entire capitalist establishment.

But the very economic crisis which pushes U.S. finance capital in the direction of military adventures also creates the objective conditions for a mass struggle against the war makers and the budget cutters. Workers in Europe have come out in the streets in the millions to say "no" to U.S. missiles on their soil. And the recent rebellions of Black youth against racism and unemployment in Miami and Washington, D.C., point to new struggles on the homefront which can stay the hand of the war makers.



London demonstration targets U.S.-Nato plans to install first-strike cruise missiles.

GIs entitled to rights as workers

By Andy Stapp

RECENTLY the Reagan administration decided to count members of the Armed Forces as workers in future employment statistics.

Now this is a very interesting concept. What if these soldiers, airforce personnel, sailors, and marines take Reagan seriously and say, "All right, if we're workers now, we would like the rights that other workers are supposed to have. For instance, we would like the right to stop this ridiculous saluting and stirring of our bosses, the officers. In addition, we would like to abolish this rigged system of courts-martial, where the enlisted defendant is always found guilty by a jury of officers, usually for disobeying an order from one of these officers' friends."

"Also, every other worker is allowed to leave and get another job, but if we do that you jail us in brig and stockades. We certainly want this right if you try to send us to some kind of Viet Nam-type war without our permission...."

The American Servicemen's Union

There was a time, in fact, when thousands of members of the Armed Services raised just such demands. Between 1968 and 1973 large numbers joined the American Servicemen's Union, stating that they wanted the same rights as others, including the right to be against the war in Viet Nam.

A typical example of the gov-

ernment's response is contained in an order issued on March 24, 1969 to all commanders from Headquarters, First United States Army at Fort Meade, Md.

It read: "Subject: American Servicemen's Union. Commanders will not recognize any organization that purports to be a collective bargaining unit representing members of the Army. Many actions associated with collective bargaining tactics are inconsistent with the requirements of military discipline. Military status is not the equivalent of a civilian employer-employee relationship. Acts in furtherance of a union which do not conform to the requirements of discipline and good order may be prevented or prohibited by command authority."

How clearly they put it: "Military status is not the equivalent of a civilian employer-employee relationship." And if anybody says it is and tries to win basic rights for themselves, look them up!

Has the Pentagon had a change of heart? Do the generals and admirals now consider the rank-and-file as workers in uniform, and not just cannon fodder to be bullied, terrorized and driven into combat by fear of their officers? Can these new found "workers" form a union?

Or is Reagan just messing around with the charts to prove that a million additional "jobs" were suddenly created last month, all at his own personal initiative no less.

Document shows Pentagon plots first-strike nuke war

By John Catalinotto

JANUARY 18—The Pentagon is planning a first-strike nuclear attack on the Soviet Union, according to a Defense Department document leaked to the U.S. media this week.

The document also calls for speeding up the arms race to "drain the Soviet economy" for development of space-war weapons to attack Soviet satellites and to continue a nuclear war, and for breaking arms control treaties if necessary.

Carrying out these plans is expected to cost \$1.556 trillion over the next five years. This is roughly enough money to give every unemployed worker a living wage for the same period.

But the money is to be used to allow the U.S. to escalate a conventional war into a "winnable" nuclear conflict that will leave billions dead. And the war the document foresees could even start with a revolution against the hated monarchy in Saudi Arabia.

The 136-page document outlining these plans was given to the UPI news agency. When asked for verification, Pentagon

spokesman Henry Catto said, "The document speaks for itself. We regret people leak this kind of thing."

A story based on this release was given front-page headlines in the Detroit Free Press, the New York Post, and in large-circulation newspapers in other regions of the country; it was also broadcast on National Public Radio.

By the day following the release, however, no stories on the subject had been published in the big-business media more closely connected with those in power, that is, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post.

Reagan's plan

The plans outlined by the document, far from being a way-out "contingency plan," were strikingly similar to those being proposed and carried out by the Reagan administration. Only the Pentagon more blatantly spelled out the aggressive intent of those policies, whereas Reagan has tried to cover up his aims with talk about peace.

In the document, it's not as

"bargaining chips" that the MX, the Pershing II, and the Cruise missiles can be seen. Instead, they are part of the policy stating that "plans for the first use and possible follow up, on uses of theater nuclear forces should be developed."

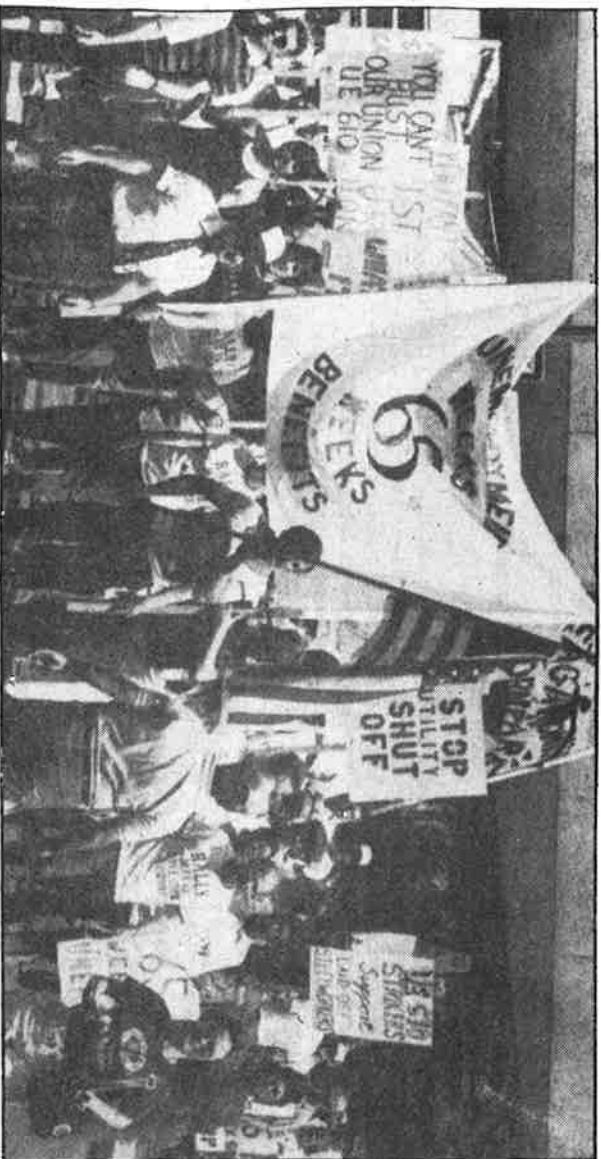
Those who wrote the document also count on "major economic difficulties" confronting the USSR by the mid-eighties, and urge the U.S. to open "new areas of major military" competition "to force the USSR to spend more on weapons." Any Reaganite would agree with that strategy.

The document also shows the space shuttle in its true light: "The Dept. of Defense will vigorously pursue technology and systems development to allow the launch and operation of space systems both to provide responsive support and to project force in and from space as needed."

It is no surprise that the mass of the people in Western Europe and in the U.S.—not to mention the Soviet leadership—more and more believe the U.S. is the source of the war threat. This Pentagon document confirms that belief.

Steel bosses try to use hard times to force givebacks

Rank-and-file workers favor militant fightback



Jobless steelworkers march in Pittsburgh last year.

Schools, courts deny equal education for disabled

By Diane Feinberg
NEW YORK, Jan. 9—Ten-year-old Amy Rowley is deaf. Her classmates take for granted their ability to learn by listening to the teachers. It is much harder for Amy.

Day in and day out Amy Rowley sits in a fifth grade classroom in Furnace Woods Elementary School and concentrates on a teacher's lips moving up and down a quarter of an inch. She must study the tongue, throat and teeth as well. When the teacher turns to write on the blackboard, Amy can't see what is being said. She can't see questions her classmates ask who sit behind her. It is not easy.

Tests revealed that 41% of the time Amy could not understand. She wanted to understand all the time.

Her native language is a signed language called American Sign Language (ASL) which expressively uses the hands, face and the whole body. She and her parents who are also deaf wanted her to have a sign language interpreter.

This simple request has once again been denied by the Hendrick Hudson school district. The January issue of *The Silent News*, a widely read newspaper serving the national deaf community, reported the results of a school board hearing. Amy can't have an interpreter! This decision was based on a recent Supreme Court decision that disabled people are not entitled to an equal education. The test case was filed by Amy's parents.

The right to a sign language interpreter is hardly an unreasonable request. ASL is the fourth most commonly used language in the United States. It is the language of some 12 to 13 million deaf people in the U.S. and many millions of other severely hearing impaired people.

To get an insight into Amy's frustration merely turn down the volume of a television program and try to make sense of the dialogue. It is so difficult that last spring thousands of deaf people took to the streets in more than half a dozen states to demand closed captioning for TV shows and news.

The visual cues of spoken English fly by. Some 60% of the sounds are so similar: mad and pad, mat and pet and bet. Nearly 40% of the language is invisible on the lips. Frustration mounts because of the speed with which hearing people speak their native

language, had light, distance, mistaches and mumbling.

Lip reading is a grueling task for deaf people who lost their hearing after learning English and speech, let alone children born deaf who have never heard a spoken language.

In 1979 the Rowleys began their suit against the school and district. They argued that the inaccessibility to learning denied her an equal opportunity that other students have. Together with lawyer Michael Chatoft who is also deaf, they took the case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Last June the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the family, overturning two favorable lower court decisions.

The Supreme Court decision went beyond the scope of one deaf student. The judges dealt a body blow to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

—Social Security

Continued from page 1
income tax on benefits of recipients with outside incomes of over \$20,000, the Democrats are throwing the tax-burdened middle class right into the arms of Commission member Sen. William Armstrong (R-Col.) and other ultra-rightists who have seized upon the issue to make themselves look good.

The ultra-right is all for cutbacks against the people, but see this as a chance to generate popular support for their own reactionary programs—and the Democrats have gone right along with it.

This is just another case of the Democrats, who like to portray themselves as "champions of the people," betraying the people's interests and enacting legislation on behalf of the big corporations, the true masters of both the Republican and the Democratic Parties.

Provisions of the scheme

Some of the major provisions of the scheme include:

1.) Increase the withholding tax on workers' paychecks from 6.7% now to 7% next Jan. 1 and to 7.51% in 1988.

2.) Delay cost-of-living increases currently scheduled for July 1 to Jan. 1, 1984. For the average single retired worker re-

The highest court in the land ruled that disabled children are only guaranteed the right to "an education," but not the best, maximum education. The court spelled it out in no uncertain terms: that disabled children are not entitled to an equal education!

How could this happen?

Like the legislative and executive branches of the government, the courts represent the interests of the super-wealthy who call the shots. At a time of economic crisis, when the rich say cut back on social services, the courts are their willing instrument. The Supreme Court has proven it is neither impartial nor fair.

Certainly Amy is more than entitled to a sign language interpreter. But it will take a struggle of all who are held in such disregard in this profit hungry social system to guarantee that right.

ceiving \$420 a month, this would mean about \$20 a month less for each recipient for six months in the first year than under current law.

This is a hidden form of cutback the politicians have already used on welfare recipients and on food stamp recipients, who went two years without a cost-of-living increase while food prices went skyhigh.

3.) Make half of Social Security benefits subject to federal income taxes for those with incomes of \$20,000 and for couples earning a combined \$25,000. This would open the door to taxing all benefits, something the Reagan administration would dearly love to do.

4.) Bring federal workers into the program. This has been opposed by the postal union and other federal employees' unions, who know it is nothing more than an excuse to cut back their own retirement plans which are better.

Unemployment behind

the shortfall

While the big business media campaign that "Social Security is going broke" is a hoax aimed at creating the climate to cut back this vital program, there is a shortfall in the Social Security

By Bill Del Vecchio
JANUARY 18—The United Steel Workers union (USW) is currently facing the greatest challenge since its founding over 40 years ago. At the present time, 166,000 USW members are on indefinite layoff with many exhausting their unemployment insurance, and shutdowns of major plants such as the planned closing of the Bethlehem plants in Lackawanna, N.Y., are turning the steel towns of the Northeast and Midwest to ghost towns.

Not satisfied with the suffering they have already caused, the greedy owners of the giant steel monopolies are trying to use these hard times as a weapon to force the union to passively accept huge wage cuts and other givebacks in exchange for a vague promise that this might prevent further layoffs.

These giveback demands have set off a struggle within the union. On one side is union president Lloyd McBride, who says that the union has no choice but surrender to the demands of the steel monopolies as the only hope of easing the crisis in the industry.

On the other side is the majority of the rank-and-file and local union leaders who are representing the rank-and-file view. They say that concessions didn't stop any layoffs and plant closings in the past, and that the only way to defend the union members' interest in this tough time is to stand firm and reject the givebacks.

Concessions stopped twice

Twice this year McBride has been rebuffed on granting concessions as a result of strong rank-and-file opposition—first in July and then again on Nov. 19 when Basic Steel Industry Conference, a large body of USW leaders which ratifies contracts, defeated McBride by a 231-141 vote. This blocked the steel companies' demand to reopen the current contract which expires Aug. 1.

This was a major blow to McBride and others in the top leadership of the U.S. labor movement who advocate a policy of cooperation with the very corporations which are bleeding working people dry. This is especially true in light of the defensive position fund. This shortfall, however, is not the fault of the workers who have been paying into the fund all along and deserve their rightful benefits.

The reason the fund is low is the current economic crisis of the profit system, which has left so many millions unemployed and therefore not paying in. The so-called bankruptcy of the Social Security system reflects the general bankruptcy of the capitalist system.

The ruling class is trying hard to make it seem as though Social Security is a cause of the enormous deficit in the federal budget. Yet the program was originally added to the budget during the Viet Nam war years as a trick to

the entire labor movement is as a result of the crisis and the heavy restraints that have always been placed on rank-and-file opposition within the USW.

To stack the deck in his favor this time, McBride has virtually declared war on his own union in recent weeks. He has cut the membership of the Basic Steel Industry Conference in half, purposely eliminating local leaders who voted no in November. He has begun negotiations months early and vowed to settle a pro-concession contract by March 1. Local presidents are being pressured by the McBride staff to say how much they're willing to give up beforehand.

GM boss threatens steel workers

To increase the pressure to accept the givebacks, McBride has joined forces with the General Motors chairman, Roger B. Smith. Smith announced that if steel workers didn't give in to the companies' demands and sign the contract by March, GM would take its 1984 steel order to Japanese or other foreign producers, a move that would cause new drastic cutbacks. This obvious attempt at intimidation by GM is being utilized to the maximum by McBride, who declared that the contract must be settled and a strike avoided by March 1 to save the GM orders.

If the new agreement is anything like the one presented in November (a \$2.25 per hour wage cut with no job guarantees and no help for the unemployed), McBride will undoubtedly face the same opposition no matter how he maneuvers. The major concessions the USW gave the steel companies in the last basic agreement and the many smaller agreements fashioned after it were only used to recoup the stockholders' depressed profits rather than modernize the aging plants.

McBride's campaign against the majority, no-concession sentiment of the ranks is weakening the union rather than defending it, as he feebly claims. Although these are undeniably difficult times to put up a fight, the rank-and-file in steel, auto, and many other industries are increasingly expressing the view that fighting back is the only real alternative.

make military expenditures look smaller. At present, Social Security isn't even financed by federal income tax monies, but by workers themselves and their bosses. In reality, it is the \$214 billion military budget that is gobbling up tax monies and creating the deficit—something all the hype about Social Security "going broke" is designed to hide.

If the politicians truly want to "do something" about Social Security, they could enact meaningful programs to put the 20 million jobless back to work. They could cut back the gargantuan military budget, which ends up in the pockets of the war profiteers, and use the money to increase Social Security to livable levels.

People need steel Steelworkers need jobs

NEW!

From the

All Peoples Congress

"The steel plants are shutting down. By the end of 1981, there were 287,000, fewer steel workers.

"Can these hundreds of thousands of steel workers ever get back to work?"

"The All-Peoples Congress says they can!"

This popular pamphlet tells how the steel workers can get their jobs back, and at the same time all of us would greatly benefit with more jobs, schools, hospitals, and better social services.

50c (add 50c postage)

Order from APC
19 W. 21 St., 7th Fl.
New York, NY 10010

APC leads struggle against hospital 'bankruptcy'

Represents community in court hearings



Hospital workers join Jersey City APC activists to plan fight against illegal bankruptcy of Jersey City Medical Center.
WW photo: EMILY BETSCH

Rizzo unleashed in Philadelphia race

By Carmen Roundtree
JANUARY 18—In the fourth largest city in the country, Philadelphia, a Black city, the ruling class is attempting to unleash (once again) a real foaming-at-the-mouth racist, Frank Rizzo. He announced last week that he will be running for mayor of that Black city.

Under the Democratic Party ticket, Rizzo will be running against a Black opponent, W. Wilson Goode, the only other announced Democratic candidate. Rizzo's speech as he announced his candidacy should leave little to the imagination of those in Philadelphia who lived through Rizzo's reign of terror for three decades.

Rizzo started out as a cop, quickly clubbing his way up the ladder of success, through beating, killing, and terrorizing Black and other oppressed people, for which he was awarded the title of Police Commissioner in 1964. Rizzo stood for "law and order"—the question was whose law and whose order.

"Simple," Rizzo said. "There are the good guys and the bad guys." His analysis of society was quite simplistic, but backward, because he placed the bosses, bankers, and big businesses in the category of "good guys" and the "bad guys" were Black, Latin, unemployed, and other oppressed people.

Big business in Philadelphia was pleased that at last they had found a "real, political cop" who saw things their way. And Rizzo believed that he alone had been

ordained "to save Philly." He spent hours touring the oppressed communities, calling in his goon squad (the Philadelphia police department), and terrorizing the Black and Latin people.

In one month alone, over 107 Black people were arrested. In July 1967, a "limited emergency" was declared which banned groups of more than twelve people from gathering in public, and carried a two-year sentence.

It was geared to prevent Philadelphia from becoming "part of the tragic pattern developing throughout the nation." Rizzo claimed, "The proclamation is the first of its kind in the entire country. This gives us tremendous power. We can tell people gathering in the street to move on. If they don't move, we can arrest them without gathering a lot of evidence because a refusal to move on will be the offense."

Rizzo was quite successful in turning Philadelphia into a real police state. Rizzo ran with the mafia-ruled courts, and spent \$5,000 a day spying on progressive organizations.

In August 1970, Rizzo led 250 sharpshooters, FBI agents, and storm troopers in a raid against three Black Panther Party Headquarters. In the North Philadelphia headquarters, the police kicked in the door and fired without warning, just missing a young child. The Panthers retaliated in self-defense, and a 20-minute gun battle ensued.

Once the Panthers were in po-

lice custody, Rizzo ordered them stripped in the streets and boasted, "Imagine the big Black Panthers with their pants down." He justified the raids as retaliation for the shooting of police (which he later admitted the Panthers had nothing to do with), and as a terror tactic to stop the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention which was to open in the city. Rizzo was unable to stop the convention which the Panthers had initiated.

Every year or two continuously, under the guise of democracy, poor and working people in this country are subjected to multimillion dollar rhetoric, posters, bumper stickers, and campaign promises that never come to pass. Whether it's a Republican or Democrat running for president, governor, or mayor, working and poor people have been promised everything for their vote and given less than nothing after it's over.

The unleashing of racists from Rizzo to the KKK and Nazi party in the Black and Latin communities, however, has not kept poor people from rebelling against their oppressors. While big business, the banks, and the landlords have a continuous stream of racists to unleash upon poor and working people in an attempt to hold onto what they have beaten, raped, maimed, and killed Black, Native and other oppressed people out of the wealth rightfully belongs to those who have made it and who have been denied that right for too long.

By L. Volpe

JERSEY CITY, Jan. 18—The conspiratorial plans of the hospital management, the mayor, state officials, bankers, and corporate creditors to lay off workers, cut services and ultimately close Jersey City Medical Center, the only city hospital in Hudson County, have been set back by actions of the All-Peoples Congress (APC) and AFSCME Local 2254, which represents about half the 1800 employees there.

The APC initiated the community struggle to help save the hospital and its services by holding a press conference and militant, multi-national picketline of some 75 hospital workers and community representatives at City Hall on Friday. The APC denounced the "voluntary" bankruptcy by the hospital management as illegal.

Speaking for the APC, Rachel Duell called on the governor "to use his power under the revised municipal code to slay the proceedings and recall all those that have been laid off under bankruptcy and restore all services cut."

Duell also called for "a commission of the workers and the community to investigate and hold public hearings to find those responsible for the disastrous financial plight of the hospital." APC activist Lester Robinson called on the governor to find subsidies to run the hospital at full capacity throughout the investigation.

At the same time, dozens of hospital workers militantly chanted, "Stop the layoffs, keep the hospital open!" A statement from Rada Bacon, president of AFSCME Local 2254, explained that most of the 90,000 patients treated yearly at the hospital would not be able to afford to go to private hospitals and called on the community to join with the workers in the struggle to force city and state officials to provide proper funding for the hospital.

Rank-and-file speaks

Many rank-and-file workers look the microphone to tell of their personal plight and to denounce management's claim of fiscal necessity for bankruptcy, massive layoffs, and drastic cuts in services. They exposed the racist nature of the layoffs and cuts, and eloquently described the outrageous and even criminal mismanagement of the hospital over the past several years.

After an hour-long combined press conference and picketline that attracted both local and national media, a group of militant workers led a three-block march to the APC office and held a street meeting. Afterwards, about 40 workers and community activists met for two hours to plan a demonstration for this coming Friday at the hospital.

The demonstration will demand that the governor stay the

illegal bankruptcy, recall all the fired workers, restore the cuts in services, and fund the hospital at full capacity while a commission of workers and community representatives investigates who is responsible for the financial crisis of the institution. As this meeting was going on, the hospital administration was evicting 46 chronically ill patients, most elderly, from the hospital because they were unable to pay. Earlier, management had argued that the number of patients in the hospital was dropping, necessitating the need for closing three patient floors!

On Monday, in a bankruptcy court hearing that was requested by management to waive a Civil Service law requiring 45 days notice before layoff, the APC entered into the proceedings as an official party of interest representing the community. The APC argued that no layoffs or cuts could occur before an impact study was conducted on the effects of cuts in services or the closing of a public institution would have on the community it serves.

It is clear to all, including those who are conspiring to close the hospital in order to turn it into condominiums and reopen a smaller private hospital, that the closing of the Medical Center would be devastating, especially for the Black, Latin, Arab, and other oppressed peoples in the community.

At the same hearing, the AFSCME lawyers challenged the bankruptcy as illegal because the hospital is a city institution. The lawyer cited the example of the impossibility of a city declaring it's police department or any other arm of the city government bankrupt, an example previously put forward by the APC. The APC and the union will participate in a court hearing tomorrow which will decide the legality of bankruptcy. The two court hearings to date have been packed by the union members and the concerned community members in the APC.

Building for Jan. 21 rally

In the midst of this important and significant legal struggle, the APC office is very busy building for the Jan. 21 rally at the hospital. Last night, APC and AFSCME officials, along with other hospital workers and community activists, met to plan out the mobilizing campaign for Friday's rally. Over ten thousand leaflets have gone out around the city the past few days in housing projects, churches, supermarkets, laundromats, and even city buses. The AFSCME Stewards Council met today and look responsible to mobilize the 900 local members and to reach deep into the community. APC organizers are planning sound cars, mass distributions and poster paste-ups the next few days along with fund raising events for the long struggle ahead.

On The Picketline

Union victory at Del Rey. The ILGWU won a Dec. 22 election at the 120-worker Del Rey Tortellera Co., a Chicago manufacturer of baked goods and tortillas. The fight between the company and the workers, the overwhelming majority of whom are Mexicans making minimum wage with no benefits, has been and continues to be ugly, reports ILGWU Midwest Region director Lou Montenegro. The company fired 30 workers for wanting to join the union. And then, on Dec. 9, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) moved in to act as a union-buster. In the first raid in Del Rey's 15 years of business, 18 workers were arrested by the INS. "The

ILGWU paid the bond of the detained workers, obtaining their release, a first in the Chicago area," said Rudy Lozano, the union's Midwest organizing director. These workers are still fighting to recover their jobs. In the meantime, the company is challenging the election in the NLRB.

Workers disrupt awards. Chanting, "We want our jobs back!" a group of American University maintenance workers disrupted an award ceremony outside the Organization of American States building filled with what the

Washington Post describes as "the cream of Washington's social and political society." American University fired 94 union workers, members of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 25, and told them that they would be replaced by a non-union cleaning contractor. The protest was held at the OAS building because the awards inside were from William Moss, a Dallas oil magnate, who was giving \$180,000 in scholarships to American University. The ruling rich didn't want to have to look at the angry workers who lost their jobs, so they had the local police declare the OAS building an embassy for the evening. This decision came after the protesting workers had tied up

limousine traffic for a while. Under the order, the police insisted that the workers had to be at least 500 feet away from the building. That's what Washington's elite think of the Constitutional right to free speech—if you don't want to hear it, shut down the pickets. While dozens of top Reagan administration officials were inside hobnobbing with the fur coat-and-diamonds crowd, union representative Ron Richardson said, "Moss is in there walking around in his black tie and 94 families are without a paycheck because of him. He was hired to raise money for the school. And now he's using that money to hire expensive management law firms to handle the litigation."

Angry Detroiters rally: 'Release the food!'

By Diane Ellis

DETROIT, Jan. 17—"We've got the right, we've come to fight!" shouted angry demonstrators picketing Detroit's Old Federal Building today. They were outraged at the postponement until Jan. 31 of a scheduled hearing of the All-Peoples Congress lawsuit to get food released from Department of Agriculture and supermarket warehouses into peoples' homes.

"It's bitterly cold out here today, but it's a lot colder in the man's heart that was supposed to hear our case today," commented Durk Barton of the APC, referring to Federal Judge Ralph Guy.

The 250 working-class and oppressed people who turned out for today's protest waved banners and flags with pictures of people storming the warehouses where food is kept.

After marching to an indoor rally following the picket line, Bill Roundtree, a national board member of the APC, told how the judge postponed the hearing because his "court calendar was too busy." Roundtree said, "Over 1.5 million people in Michigan are hungry and malnourished today. What could be more pressing?"

"We're tired of being told to wait till the 'recession' blows over and all the politicians' promises," Gov. Blanchard, who was elected because he was anti-Reagan just announced layoffs and cuts in education. We don't accept promises any more. We are here to talk about solutions." Gov. Blanchard has the power under the Michigan State Constitution to declare the state a disaster area and issue an executive order opening the warehouses, federal and private, halt evictions, layoffs, foreclosures, and heal shutdowns.

Power in the people

"Article 1, section 1 of the Constitution states, 'The political power is inherent in the people.' When the government doesn't do what, we, the people, want it to do, we have to force them to do it. If we had thousands of people at one of those warehouses wouldn't the food be released? We have the legal authority to re-

lease that food—we paid for it with our tax dollars!"

Gertrude Cook, an APC Northeast community organizer said, "We want our people out of the soup lines. We want them to go to certain places, get food, and bring it back home and cook it for their children. We don't want our people standing like cattle going to the slaughter!"

Gail Graham added, "Ralph Guy is in Reagan's corner, saying 'Let them eat cheese.' We don't want cheese—we're not rats! We're going to get that food released!"

Benedette Cozart, APC organizer and a welfare recipient, brought people to their feet when she said, "They've never given us anything. Our grandparents and parents fought for unemployment insurance, social security, civil rights and unions. Now they're taking away everything. We've taken it easy long enough, it's time to go out on the streets again."

The solution is easy!

Debbie Johnson, chair of today's rally, invited all who wanted to speak and tell their story, but that the theme of the meeting is the people can do it, and to talk about how it could be done. She said, "The solution is easy, open the warehouses. And if the government won't do it, the people will."

"Despite the poverty of most of the speakers today, the big business media could not write a story about this rally saying how quiet and depressed all those laid-off and jobless are." Each and every speaker, many who had never before given a speech in their life, urged the necessity to organize, organize, organize.

The speakers included representatives of the disabled who are currently struggling to maintain their rights through Resolution 504 before the Detroit City Council: Rev. Mozie Lee Stroh-Smith, mother of the recently murdered Attica Brother Shango; and Trinidad Sanchez of the Team for Justice who said, "We don't need more police, more guns, to stop crime, more prisons—we need jobs!" Senior

Continued on page 11



Detroit APC rally applauds call to open the warehouses and distribute surplus food.

WW photo: DAVID SOLE

Agriculture Movement supports APC's 'Food for People' suit

By Carla Johnson

DETROIT, Jan. 17—Across the country, small farmers fighting the foreclosures of their lands are also calling for the release of food the government is buying up and holding in warehouses.

According to Bill Roundtree of the Detroit office of the All-Peoples Congress, several groups of farmers in Colorado, Michigan, and Ohio that the APC has contacted are in support of the APC lawsuit aimed at forcing the Reagan administration to release the food.

Roundtree told Workers World that the small family farmers are being squeezed out of business by the monopoly in farming held by giant agribusinesses. "These are the same agribusinesses that the government props up by buying their crops and storing them in warehouses." Roundtree explained, "Poor people in the cities who can't afford to eat, and small farmers in the rural areas who are

being thrown off their lands are discovering that we have a common enemy—the agribusinesses and the federal government."

Agriculture Movement supports APC lawsuit

In a statement of support for the APC lawsuit, Neal Rogers, president of the American Agriculture Movement in Michigan, called on the judge presiding in the case to take immediate action to order the federal government to release the food. "If there isn't immediate action," he said, "then we, the people, will have to take action." Rogers pointed out that "tons and tons of food are sitting in warehouses rotting away" while "thousands of people are starving to death."

"It's time that we, the people, stood up and corrected the situation," Rogers said, "since our government won't do it."

fuel gas rates may have to be increased to compensate for the loss of the large amounts of gas currently supplied to the huge steel facility.

The APC is planning a demonstration at the local office of National Fuel Gas this Wednesday, Jan. 19, at the same time the state Public (dis)Service Commission plans to hold a "by invitation only" hearing on another rate hike. The APC hopes to dramatize the community's sentiment of "No more rate hikes—stop the shut-offs!"

Keep Bethlehem Steel open

Dan Bentivogli, a local APC organizer, spoke on the planned closing of the local Bethlehem Steel plant, the impact on the area and the APC's proposal to keep the plant open. He said that Bethlehem Steel, which has economically raped the Western New York area over the years, has no right to take away the livelihoods of 10,000 local workers. The giant steelmaker's plans are another example of Ronald Reagan's national policy of "take from the needy to give to the greedy," he said.

With a local unemployment rate over 15.3%, the proposed plan to shut down the local Bethlehem facility is nothing short of criminal. Bentivogli stated. It

Plan fight against shutdowns in Buffalo

By J. Marguardt

BUFFALO, Jan. 15—The Buffalo All-Peoples Congress met today to discuss plans to fight the announced closing of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in neighboring Lackawanna.

Vera Brown, local APC leader and member of the APC National Board, spoke in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, stating that Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday (the day of the APC meeting) should be declared a national holiday, she said. "If Dr. King were alive today, he'd be fighting to keep Bethlehem Steel open, too."

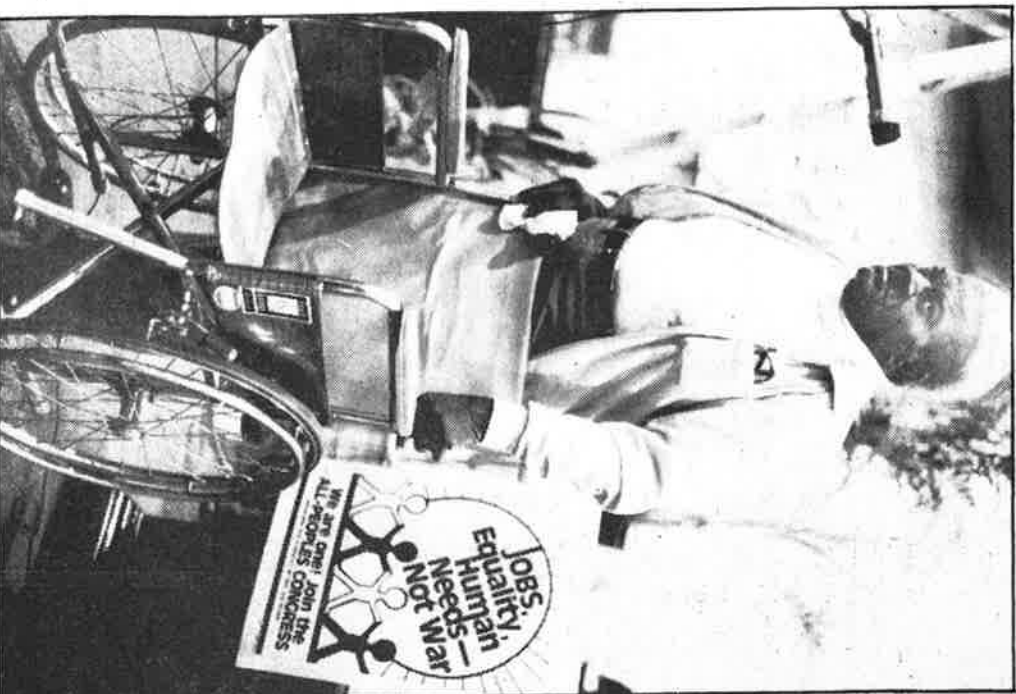
Brown also detailed the reasons the Buffalo APC is fighting the rate increases of the local natural gas utility, National Fuel Gas. Right after Bethlehem Steel announced plans to close the Lackawanna plant, National Fuel Gas stated the

will result in an over-all lowering of the standard of living for the entire area, as sales and property taxes are increased to replace the loss of the substantial Bethlehem tax base. Other plants will close up and move out of town rather than pay higher taxes, thousands more will be unemployed, social services will be cut, and food and utility prices will rise.

The Bethlehem Steel issue is indeed a community issue. Like the farmers nationwide militantly fighting the weekly foreclosures of family farms, and the Mon Valley Unemployed Committee's struggle against home foreclosures in the unemployment-ravaged Pittsburgh steel area, the Buffalo APC is initiating a campaign to demand that Governor Cuomo use his authority to prevent Bethlehem Steel from closing.

The steel corporation's decision was made without consultation with the community and Bentivogli showed that New York State law does indeed give legal authority to the Governor to intervene in such an emergency situation.

Bentivogli urged the people present to join in the petitioning to "Keep Bethlehem Steel Open." But, he added, "We have no illusions that millions of sig-



Speaker at Buffalo APC meeting.

WW photo: SUSAN ROTGARD

What to do

Part 2: The experience of Plant B

By Sam Marcy

JANUARY 17—This is a true story of a relatively small plant in the heart of one of the key industrial areas of the U.S. The area is being systematically devastated by layoffs, cutbacks, and an impending shutdown of a truly basic industrial facility which is central to the region's economic viability.

Because of the delicacy of the matter, and the possibility of an imminent closing of this small plant, which we shall call Plant B, friends of ours have asked that we write about it in general terms only. Specific details of course can and will be verified and made public in order to draw the experience necessary in the struggle against the epidemic of plant closings.

Highway robbery

This plant is organized by one of the largest and most powerful international unions and is currently under a contract that covers the workers. As has become a habit with most of the international unions, they are responding to the economic catastrophe being leveled at the workers very much in the same way as the passengers and drivers in a stagecoach being accosted by highway robbers.

The robbers stop the stagecoach and demand ready cash or other valuables. When the drivers and passengers, feeling helpless, relieve themselves of whatever money and goods they have, the robbers, seeing how successful they have been, force the occupants out of the coach, take everything else, get on the wagon, and drive away leaving their victims helpless and abandoned.

The bosses of late have followed a somewhat similar strategy in dealing with the unions. First they insist upon a series of harsh economic and financial give-backs. Most of the unions have almost uniformly followed this pattern. After the employers have gotten as much as they possibly could, they then threaten and, in cases which suit them, close the plant and beat it. This is especially true with the

natures will necessarily move the governor to act." He said that the APC is prepared to picket, demonstrate, or do whatever is necessary to keep the plant open.

Chairperson Ron Minns, member of the local APC, opened the meeting by reading a unanimously-approved resolution opposing the county's plans to force public assistance recipients to shovel snow, jobs previously to

By Mallory Merrill and Susan Rotgard

LACKAWANNA, N.Y., Jan. 14—With only a few minutes to punch in, workers at the Donn Corp. stood outside to find out more about the All-Peoples Congress campaign to stop plant closings and layoffs. Many workers even punched in and came back outside, eager to share their own experiences and to find out details about the APC fightback program.

Just last month, workers employed by Donn Corp. (formerly Robin Industries and before that Flangekamp) had been notified that the plant will be closing sometime before April.

small ones. These got the scantiest attention in the press, although there are literally hundreds of them being closed throughout the length and breadth of the land.

Union leaders no help

It is a striking feature of the contemporary trade union movement in Europe and the United States that, especially in times of exceptional crisis, when the workers need to rely on the unions as their protective armor to defend their interests, it is precisely then that these traditional safeguards of the workers become, through the medium of the labor bureaucracy, a severe restraint and brake upon the workers.

This eventually has the effect of immobilizing if not paralyzing the will and determination of the workers to do something on their own.

So take the example of Plant B in this vast key industrial area. This plant is situated perhaps a stone's throw from a big industrial complex which is just about on the butcher's block to be dismantled itself.

The whole area is deeply affected by this ruinous development.

Several days ago it was announced by the Plant B company that it would close the plant altogether sometime this month. This is taking place even though the company had already, in the spirit of the highway robbers, been able to get from the union all the concessions it could possibly wring out of them, including taking away their pension rights and severance pay.

And now they are ready to ditch the whole thing.

Plant B, like many hundreds of small companies, is in reality owned by a multinational corporation which has several locations ranging from Seattle to the Great Lakes, all the way to Canada and other foreign countries. So it's not some struggling, poor little employer that is creating havoc but a multinational giant.

That's the first thing to notice. The second thing to notice is

held by unionized municipal employees.

Struggle in Rochester

Erskine Nero from the Rochester APC spoke on the planned lay-off of 1,100 employees at Kodak Corporation, Rochester's biggest employer. He said the Rochester APC, like Buffalo, is campaigning to stop utility shut-offs and plant layoffs. He explained that

Located in Lackawanna, it employs about 150 people and is a multinational corporation with plants in Ohio, Oklahoma, California, and Seattle, as well as Ontario, Canada. The firm was bought out last January.

In June, when the workers' contract expired, the workers hoped to protect their jobs as they could see the economic crisis closing in. They gave up their severance pay and pension benefits in exchange for a small raise in their paycheck, and signed a new contract in October. In December, they were given the devastating news that the

that the various union leaders in this region, as well as the politicians, have known for a long time of impending layoffs and plant closings.

Need for prenotification law

As long ago as 1956, this writer recommended to the union leaders in this particular region that they present to the city council and to the county board of supervisors a simple petition which would require the city and county to pass a law mandating all the employers in the area to give one year's notice before any layoffs or transfers of facilities which would result in layoffs.

The purpose of this prenotification law would be to give enough time for hearings, enough time to organize and devise strategies to prevent or at least substantially delay or mitigate the consequences of such plant closings.

There could be no possible legal objection or conflict with any existing law—state, city, or federal. All the new law would require was notice in sufficient time.

Thus, if Plant B were to announce its closing for tomorrow, it would be in violation of the law, which required that the company first give at least a year's notice.

This was discussed for quite some time, but it was never acted upon.

In some of the state legislatures across the country, such prenotification laws have been introduced. But they have always been bottled up and never seen the light of day.

So the simplest and most elementary legal protection has not been taken in this vast industrial area.

Company pressure on union leaders

Now that Plant B's management have announced that they will close the plant, the question arises what to do. As invariably happens in these cases, in a moment of crisis the strength of the international union is nowhere to be felt around Plant B. Nor are the international representatives, who make themselves easily available whenever it becomes necessary to dragoon the workers back to work on some minor

Rochester Gas and Electric is shutting off natural gas heat to families on public assistance because the Social Service Department currently owes the utility company a million dollars.

He said that if the APC has to initiate "sleep-ins" in the utility's offices, or the offices of a plant planning to lay-off the workforce, they will. And demanding the immediate distribution of

plant would be shut down permanently within a few months.

One worker who had been employed there for 13 years said that he thought the reason why the company was shutting down was because they were taking the work to another plant location which is not unionized.

A number of women workers at Donn have husbands who are getting laid off at nearby Bethlehem Steel at the same time, putting their families in a double economic disaster.

The mood of the workers was one of great interest in a fightback. They waited in groups for the opportunity to sign the "Keep Bethlehem Steel open"

better idea on how to stop the closing? We ourselves have gotten petitions to the governor and shown him sections of the state executive law where he has the authority to stop a disaster. And this is a disaster, to put it mildly.

He won't do it unless there is real pressure. And it does not look as though he will respond quickly, not as of now. Nor are any of the other politicians responding either.

What then do we do? We have offered, says XYZ, every form of political and legal intervention. But the company has conspired for weeks and months before making its plans public. And now they want to pull off a quickie.

Job right as strong as property right

There can be only one answer now. That is to remind the company, the governor, the state legislatures, the city council, and the board of supervisors that we workers have a property right to our jobs.

We stand on our constitutional right, guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, which says that no one can be deprived of property without due process of law.

Taking away our jobs and throwing us out on the street is depriving us of our property right to a job without due process of law, violating our most fundamental and elementary constitutional right under the Fourteenth Amendment.

We therefore have a right to be on the premises. We are calling on all our friends, families, fellow workers, and all the progressive-minded people in this great community to come out and help us save our jobs and plant.

It can be done. With energy, with determination, we can demonstrate that there is solidarity in the community among the workers, the unemployed, and all who are oppressed by the viciousness of this plague which has been dropped on us and for which the government offers us no defenses whatever.

We therefore have an inalienable right to defend our property right to our jobs.

government-stored "surplus food," he said. "I know where they can store it for free—in the hungry people's homes."

Lengthy discussion followed the prepared remarks, in which APC members, young and old, Black and white, and new friends, including laid-off (and one still employed) Bethlehem Steel workers, enthusiastically participated.

Workers seek solution to save jobs

petitions. Although the bosses were watching this from a window, the workers stayed anyway to get more information and express their solidarity with the Bethlehem workers by signing the petitions and getting APC leaflets. The bosses, as if to wish away the spirit of resistance, closed the curtains. However, the workers remained outside, determined to find out how they can get involved in the struggle to save jobs.

Although their own futures are uncertain, these workers reflect a growing awareness of the need to find new solutions to the deepening economic crisis and staggering unemployment.



APC national board member Vera Brown in Buffalo.

WW-photo: MALLORY MERRILL

EDITORIAL

U.S.-Sino relations: textiles & imperialism

A SERIOUS BREACH is developing in U.S. relations with the People's Republic of China which may have an even more serious effect on Sino-U.S. ties than Washington's insistence on selling fighter planes to Taiwan.

For some time, the U.S. and China have been negotiating an agreement on the import of Chinese textiles to the U.S. Last week, the fourth round of these talks, conducted in Beijing, collapsed. The Reagan administration then promptly imposed unilateral import quotas on 33 categories of Chinese goods.

China is the world's largest textile producer and the fourth largest exporter of textiles and clothing to the U.S.

At the same time, there is wide speculation in the capitalist press that when Secretary of State George Shultz visits China in early February, he will not accede to Chinese requests for more access to U.S. high technology. This has also been a key issue in U.S.-China relations.

On the surface, it would seem highly contradictory for the U.S. ruling class to sacrifice its "strategic" (i.e., anti-Soviet) relations with China for the sake of some relatively minor economic gain.

But it's no secret that the Reagan administration is a willing and pliant tool of corporate America—be it steel barons, bankers, oil tycoons, or textile magnates. The New York Times (Jan. 14) notes that "the domestic (U.S. textile) industry...lobbied hard to restrain growth of imports from China. 'We are pleased that our government negotiators have held firm,' said James H. Martin Jr., Chairman of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute."

Thus the U.S.-imposed import quotas may be another case of one small section of big business, the textile industry—oblivious to the overall strategic and global needs of their class as a whole—ramming a decision through the government and their lackeys in Washington for the sake of their immediate profit interests. Or, it may reflect a wider political consensus in Washington on U.S. policy toward China.

But whatever the motive, one thing is certain. The U.S. capitalist class still regards China as a socialist country. No matter how many concessions the Chinese leaders make to the U.S., no matter how shrill their anti-Soviet rhetoric, the bourgeoisie still looks on Beijing with suspicion and hostility. Their interest in any relationship between the two countries is ultimately for the purpose of sabotaging socialist construction, of making the country dependent on imperialism, of infringing on national sovereignty, and of opening up the country to the piratical multinational corporations in the same way that China was opened up to the Western exploiters a century ago.

Once again, it should be absolutely clear that for China, breaking its reactionary political relations with U.S. imperialism and realigning itself with the socialist community is not only in the interest of anti-imperialist solidarity, unity, and internationalism, but is also in the socialist, working-class interests of China itself.

The new liberal governors

THOSE VICTIMIZED BY Reagan's policies have found no relief in two key states where new governors were elected on anti-Reagan platforms. The new chief executives' early statements have shown once again that poor people and workers must look beyond electoral politics to get their needs answered.

Both the Michigan and New York governor contests pitted a reactionary Republican against a traditional liberal Democrat. With strong labor support, very active in New York, Cuomo beat the arch-Reaganite millionaire Lehrman, while Blanchard replaced the conservative Milliken in Michigan.

Have either of these so-called liberals put a halt to the social service cutbacks? Have either declared a state of emergency to aid the unemployed and the hungry? Have either announced a significant jobs program?

Not at all! Blanchard, running a state where 17.6% are unemployed, has announced budget cuts that will "probably eliminate entire state programs and cause employee layoffs." Cuomo plans to cut the workforce in all state agencies, including those already giving inadequate care; he also threatens to cut state payments for Medicaid. Only the New York prison system will be spared, and then only because of the rebellion at Sing Sing.

These two sterling examples of Democratic liberalism have taken only three weeks to prove that counting on them for relief from Reaganism is useless, that waiting for the 1984 elections will gain nothing, and that relying on elections will fail to bring the needed changes.

The only answer for the masses of people who face pay cuts now, who face welfare cuts now, who are unemployed now, who are homeless and hungry now, is to organize now for direct action to force those in office to meet their demands. Only by organizing the workers, the unemployed, those suffering from racism and sexism, independently of the Republican and Democratic office seekers, can a fight be waged that can win these demands.



LETTERS

been out of work for several months and felt I couldn't part with the money. Eventually I decided it was more important to have a clear understanding of what's going on today. Hope the next year will be better for both of us.

J. Green
Buffalo

Anti-KKK coverage

THE WW reporting on the Nov. 27 demonstration in Washington is very well done, direct and positive, low-key in the right places, 180 degrees from the sensationalism of the Big Media picture. WW pointed out, loud and clear, the "orderly, disciplined" aspect of the APC's participation (the first aid unit story was a masterpiece). Larry Holmes' report was excellent, strong, factual, justicioso. Sam Marcy was his usual informative, detailed historical back-up role.

M.R.
Austin, Texas

Headlines

PLEASE accept a minor criticism. Several issues past in a Workers World headline, you said "Use MX funds to provide jobs for the unemployed." This is probably not the exact wording, but the idea is there. When I showed it to a couple of workers

C.G.
Chicago

Out of work

ENCLOSED please find a check for ten dollars for a year's subscription. Like many others, I've

at the shop, the rightwinger said the war production will provide jobs, but that he is personally opposed to war. Think about your headlines.

Earl Plaster
Milwaukee

25,000 die of cold

HERE is a very important statistic. According to the U.S. government, 25,000 people die of the cold each year, largely elderly people in unheated homes who die of hypothermia. This figure was revealed in an article in the Seattle Times. The reason? Utility company greed.

Jim McMahan
Seattle

Articles welcome

THANKS for your good articles on the Bethlehem plant closings. As the organized sector of the working class is under a very organized attack (throughout its entire chain (mining, processing, shipping, steel production, and manufacturing) Workers World articles are very welcome.

B.F.
Boston

Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send all correspondence to: Workers World, P.O. Box 375, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

DPRK President notes growth in economy over last year

By Bill Doares

"WE ARE greeting a hope-filled new year, 1983, with a high sense of dignity and pride in having made 1982 the most glorious year in the history of our people's revolutionary struggle."

With these words, President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) opened his annual new year address, in which he described the great gains made by his country's socialist economy in 1982, a year which has seen the economy of every capitalist country gripped with stagnation and decay.

"Last year," he said, "our total industrial output grew by 16.8% as against 1981, and many industries, including the metallurgical industry, succeeded in increasing their production capacity through the reconstruction and expansion of their factories

and enterprises." This is a graphic contrast to the situation in the United States, where industrial output has been steadily declining for several years, especially in the steel industry where plants are not being renovated and expanded but shut down, like the giant Bethlehem facility in Lackawanna, N.Y. Plant utilization in the U.S. today is only 68% of capacity, the lowest in 40 years.

The DPRK is a country which was invaded and totally devastated by the U.S. military only 29 years ago in one of the bloodiest wars in history. Today, the southern half of Korea remains under U.S. military occupation and the people of the DPRK live in constant danger of a new U.S. invasion. The economic growth achieved in the DPRK under these difficult conditions is a stunning tribute to the superiority

of the socialist system and the planned economy under workers control. President Kim Il Sung praised the "creativity and revolutionary zeal of the working people... on all fronts of socialist construction" as having made possible a "revolutionary upswing in production." In the DPRK, as in all socialist countries, the workers know that increased productivity will benefit them and all of society, rather than merely increasing the profits of the bosses as it does in the United States. There is no unemployment in the DPRK.

In his speech, President Kim Il Sung also sent "militant new year greetings" to the south Korean people who are "determinedly fighting... the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists and the continued fascist repression by their stooges."

Pentagon, Honduran fascists to hold joint maneuvers

Non-Aligned hit U.S. threats to Central America

By Jaime Veve
JANUARY 18—Delegates to the week-long Ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned nations convening in Nicaragua issued a final communiqué on Saturday strongly rebuking growing U.S. threats to Central America and the Caribbean.

Further evidence of U.S. aggressive plans in the area came yesterday with an announcement by the Pentagon that on Feb. 1, the U.S. and Honduras will hold joint military maneuvers in an area of Honduras near the Nicaraguan border.

The revolutionary Nicaraguan government has raised concern that these exercises could be the forerunner of a U.S.-promoted invasion of Nicaragua.

In fact, U.S. military maneuvers in the Caribbean have occurred so frequently under the Reagan administration and are so massive in scope that it is impossible to tell in advance if one of these so-called "maneuvers" might not be an out-and-out invasion.

Next month's "maneuver" is of a large scope. The Pentagon

war" directed at Nicaragua.

The conference, specifically convened to evaluate the crisis in Central America, noted this in criticizing "threats and acts of aggression against Nicaragua, the financing of undercover activities, the use of U.S. territory and that of Nicaragua's neighbors for training of counter-revolutionary forces" for the purposes of toppling Nicaragua's government.

Also denounced was Britain's colonial aggression in the Malvinas islands, giving support to Argentine sovereignty.

Israel's expanding political and military presence in Central America was noted as serving as a cover for U.S. intervention in Latin America.

Additional issues raised in the communiqué included recognition of the FMLN and FDR, the liberation forces' fighting the hated Salvadoran military junta, and it expressed alarm over expanding U.S. threats on Cuba. Economic sanctions and pressures aimed against Nicaragua, Cuba, Grenada, Argentina, and,

recently, Surinam was also denounced.

Despite U.S. attempts to influence the outcome via "friends" among the pro-imperialist countries at the conference, Washington's unceasing anti-Sandinista campaign remained the prime topic of discussions.

Evidence of U.S. involvement

Further evidence of U.S. involvement was accentuated during the conference by an exhibition of U.S.-made weapons and military equipment captured from ex-Somoza forces attacking Nicaragua through bases in Honduras, along with testimony by

two captured Somocistas and a Honduran soldier who confirmed United States, Honduran, and Argentinian military instructors were advising the Somoza forces inside Honduras.

The ministerial meeting in Managua succeeded in drawing further attention to Washington's ominous military posture in Central America, a concern shared by growing numbers in this country. For the Reagan government, the convening of the Non-Aligned meeting marks a diplomatic setback to its attempts to isolate Nicaragua economically and politically in the international community.

Santana tribute held in D.C.

By Brian Becker

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 15—Friends and co-workers of Flory "Terry" Santana gathered here today to pay tribute to her lifetime dedication and commitment to the struggle for the liberation of oppressed people throughout Latin America.

Santana, a highly-respected Latin political activist, died on Dec. 4 when fire spread through her apartment in New York City. The circumstances surrounding Santana's untimely death were described as "very suspicious" by her associates in the progressive movement. Despite the fact that rags soaked in flammable liquids were found in her apartment, the police immediately declared her death was not homicide, while suggesting that she committed suicide.

Friends of Santana who had recent contact with her ruled out the suicide explanation as "completely impossible." Her friends also pointed out the unusual involvement of the FBI/NY Joint Task Force on Terrorism which arrived at her apartment "within minutes after the fire." This task force was created last year in order to probe the political activities of anti-imperialist and progressive organizations.

Helped expose assassins of Orlando Letelier

Today's memorial to Terry Santana included many stirring accounts of her long involvement as both a journalist and activist by her friends in the progressive movement.

Many present at today's memorial had worked with Santana for the past two years at EsInfo, a New York-based news service providing information on the struggle in El Salvador.

One of those giving testimony was Saul Landau, a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies and a former colleague of Orlando Letelier, the Chilean diplomat who served under Salvador Allende before a CIA-engineered coup toppled that government in September 1973. Letelier was assassinated in 1976 when his car was blown up in DuPont Circle in Washington, D.C.

Landau recounted, "In her capacity as an investigative journalist, Terry provided some of the key information linking Cuban counter-revolutionaries to DINA, the Chilean secret police. She also told me that she was receiving tremendous pressure and an increasing number of threats on her life for the work she was doing. Ultimately, she leads Terry provided were instrumental in the conviction of Letelier's assassins. Those convicted included anti-Castro Cubans, DINA agents, and CIA operative Michael Townley."

Also speaking at the memorial was a member of the People's Anti-War Mobilization who worked with Santana on the Veterans Brigade in New York City. He said, "Today we have taken time to remember Terry Santana, but the best memorial we can give her will be to build a mass movement in this country that can fight for the same ideals she lived and died for."

Activities slated in U.S. to focus on Salvadoran, Guatemalan struggles

By Carl Glenn

JANUARY 18—Organizations of Salvadorans and Guatemalans living in the U.S. are planning activities during the next two weeks to provide information about the real situation in those countries, to commemorate important events in the struggle for liberation, and to protest the increased U.S. aid to the genocidal regimes in power.

Casa El Salvador Farabundo Marti will mark the anniversary of two of the most important events in modern Salvadoran history on Sat., Jan. 22, at 6 p.m. at 40 E. 35 St. in New York City. On that date in 1932 the masses of Salvadoran workers and peasants, led by the Communist Party of Farabundo Marti, rose up in insurrection.

Lacking sufficient arms and national coordination, the revolution was crushed by the same military still in power today. Thirty thousand people, including virtually the entire indigenous population, were massacred.

On that same date, 48 years later, the people of El Salvador

celebrated the anniversary of the uprising and the unity of all the organizations that now form the revolutionary front, FDR-FMLN. Between 150,000 and 200,000 participated in the largest demonstration in the country's history.

This activity is especially timely as it coincides with the Reagan administration's approval of a huge new package of military aid for the bloody, but weakening, regime in El Salvador. An offensive begun in October by the FMLN is still battering the puppet government forces there.

Solidarity with struggle in Guatemala

On Jan. 29, the Solidarity Front with the People of Guatemala will also hold an anniversary celebration. They will be commemorating the second anniversary of the formation of the FP-31, the Popular Front of the 31st of January, at the Holy Name Church on Amsterdam Ave. between 96 St. and 97 St. in New York City starting at 7 p.m.

As in El Salvador, the Guatemalan freedom fighters forged

their united national revolutionary organization on a date of great importance. The year before, a group of indigenous peasants from the northern part of the country sought to protest the mass killings conducted by the right-wing government-sponsored death squads. With a group of students they went to the Spanish Embassy in the capital to ask the ambassador to appeal to the government on their behalf.

While they were inside, the army burned the embassy down, killing 23 peasants, five students, and embassy personnel. The one surviving peasant was later murdered in the hospital.

Blockade the State Department

In a related event, the Coalition in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) will be blockading the State Department in Washington, D.C., on Monday, Jan. 24. For more information, contact CISPES at (212) 242-1040. The organizations calling these three activities are all members of the Coalition for a Free Central America.

Lumumba anniversary marked by NYC protest

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, Jan. 17—Chanting "Up with the FLNC, up with the people, down with imperialism, down with Mobutu!", over 80 people gathered at 48th Street and 3rd Avenue (the Zairian Mission) to mark the 22nd anniversary of Patrice Lumumba, the first popularly elected Prime Minister of the Congo. The demonstration was called by the FLNC Solidarity Committee.

In 1960, the Congo became independent under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba. This movement inspired oppressed people throughout the world to struggle for national liberation and threatened imperialism. In 1961, Lumumba was assassinated with the aid of the CIA just as Malcolm X was assassinated several years later. Lumumba and Malcolm were contemporary revolutionary leaders.

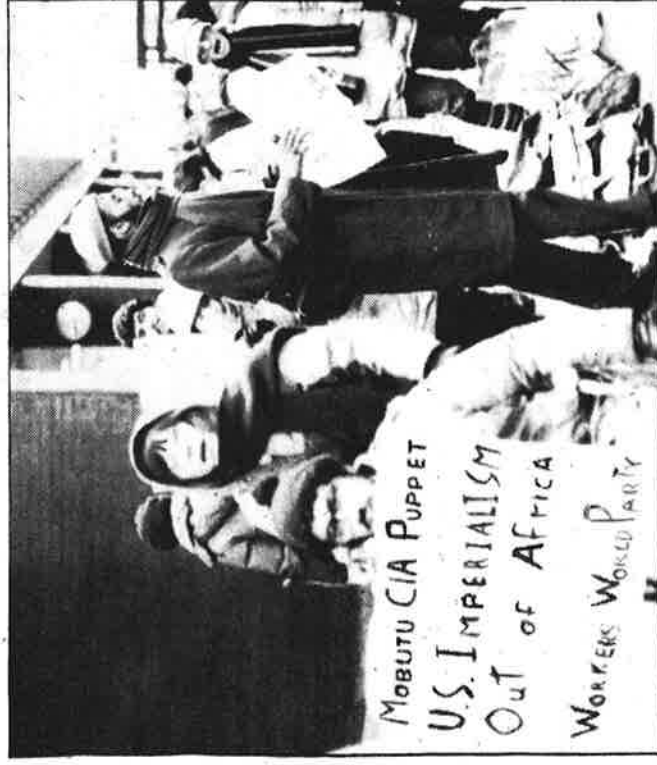
Serge Mukendi, a representative of the Congolese National Liberation Front (FLNC), stated that the demonstration was an international day of solidarity with the Congolese people to bring the issue of the plight of the Congolese people to the workers of the U.S. and call for support for the struggle, to expose the role that the U.S., Israel, France, Belgium and the NATO forces are playing in propping up their puppet Mobutu, president of

Zaire (the Congo), while they plunder the resources of the Congo.

The Congo has been invaded four times since the death of Lumumba, and only the combined might of three imperialist forces—France, Belgium and the U.S.—could save Mobutu's army from the might of the FLNC military operation in 1978. In a country that leads the world in cobalt production, a country that is one of the leading copper, manganese, tin, and gold producers, and the world's largest source of industrial diamonds—all coveted by imperialism—one out of every two children die at the age of two from malnutrition and curable diseases, and the average life span is 32 years.

This is what the U.S. and its allies are maintaining in the Congo today. "Mothers have no other choice but to give birth on the sidewalks one day only to find themselves working on the farm the next day," stated Serge Mukendi.

The demonstration was very multinational and militant. There were signs linking the Palestinian struggle with the Congolese struggle, and as Mukendi stated, "Despite the forces of NATO, the revolutionary aspiration of the Congolese people will continue until imperialism and its puppet are kicked out of the Congo and a socialist society that will meet the needs of the people is established."



WW photo: NEVILLE EDWARDS

W 25

With this issue, we begin a feature series: "Workers World—25 years."

The articles reprinted below appeared in the Jan. 27, 1961, issue of *Workers World*. They deal with *Workers World Party's* active solidarity with the national liberation struggle in Puerto Rico and in the Congo in Africa (now Zaire).

United group marches for Puerto Rican freedom

SUPPORTERS of Workers World and the 21st of March Movement (for liberation of Puerto Rico) marched on Dec. 31 in a demonstration to free the imprisoned Puerto Rican Nationalist leader, Albizu Campos.

The demonstration was in support of a pacifist-led hunger strike in front of the hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where Albizu Campos was being "treated" under 24-hour prison guard.

Albizu Campos has been in prison seven years by order of the U.S. puppet-governor, Munoz Marin, without trial or sentence. In 1954, Marin "cancelled" a pardon he had granted Albizu five months earlier for his alleged part in the 1950 Puerto Rican independence uprising. Marin did this during the anti-Nationalist hysteria over the Puerto Ricans who fired shots in the U.S. Congress, hoping that this would bring liberation to their country.

There are 50 other Puerto Rican political prisoners being punished by the U.S. government for their belief in independence. The demonstration demanded freedom for all of these as well as freedom for Puerto Rico itself.

An interesting sidelight on the New York march was the participation of Rosa Collazo, a Nationalist who served five years in a U.S. imperialist prison, whose husband is still in prison for the same "crime" and whose daughter, Lydia, had joined the hunger strike in Puerto Rico some days before the New York march.

Rosa Collazo resumed her fight the moment she emerged from

her oppressor's jail. She has been on a dozen picket lines lately and still holds high the banner of her country's freedom.

Congo struggles making Wall St. alter plans for world conquest

THE independence victories in the Congo struggle last month were felt everywhere from the heart of Africa to the stock exchanges of Belgium and the glass-walled UN building in New York.

These victories not only brought near-revolution to Belgium itself, but carried dismay to the ruling class of the United States and shook its faith in its whole carefully-built-up "United Nations Organization" as an effective deterrent to world revolution.

As the New York Times cynically observed on Jan. 18:

"In the opinion of some high officials, events in the Congo have

inverted the adage. He who pays the fiddler calls the tune." The United States is paying a good part of the United Nations bill in the Congo, but forces hostile to the West are having more and more influence on what the UN does and does not do....

"United Nations operations as they affect the Congo should be subjected to a cold, hard reappraisal.... The Kennedy Administration.... must act quickly to redress a bad situation."

How bad is the situation for U.S. capitalism?

Lumumba is still in jail. But the forces acting in his name have made significant political and military gains. This in itself is a blow against imperialism. But the struggle is deepening and spreading still further. New layers of the Congolese people are involved. They have learned to mistrust the imperialist puppets, Kasavubu and Mobutu.

But that is not all. The stand taken by other African and Asian nations is even more foreboding for the U.S. capitalists, who had hoped to grab for themselves the major share of the spoils Belgium lost last year.

And they had hoped to carry

Rochester WWP forum on capitalist crisis

By Lydia Bayoneta

ROCHESTER, Jan. 8—Tonight's Workers World Forum drew over 55 people from the anti-war and progressive movements, and the Black community to hear Monica Moorehead, a leading member of Workers World Party.

The topic of tonight's forum was the economic crisis, its devastating effects on the masses of poor and working people, and the socialist alternative. Moorehead pointed out the necessity of getting involved in coalition work such as that done by the All-Peoples Congress to organize a fightback, but said that the recurring, ever-deepening crisis can only be solved by eliminating the entire system of capitalist production

which puts profits before human needs.

She pointed out that while Reagan "deplores" violence in Overtown, Miami, capitalism commits daily violence against poor and working people, both in this country and overseas. She also noted how the anarchy of capitalism hurts workers. Referring to the shutdown of the Bethlehem steel plant in nearby Lackawanna, N.Y., she pointed out the many needs for steel for housing, schools, hospitals, roads, etc. which the laid-off steelworkers could produce if there was planned production for human needs, not for profit.

Fighting racism

Charles Moore pointed out the prevalence of racism in the U.S. society past and present, and stressed the danger that it poses to the entire working class. He referred to the large publicity and government sanction given to organizations like the KKK and Nazis in attempts by the government and big media to lend legitimacy to these racist terrorists. Moore recounted the long record

of WWP against racism, including the anti-Klan demonstrations of November 6 and November 27, and the anti-Nazi struggle in Oroville, Calif. Moore characterized the U.S. ruling class and the Reagan administration as "junkies," compelled by their drive for profits to commit murder, genocide, and mass destruction.

Erskine Nero, an organizer for the Rochester Peoples Energy Committee, summed up the overriding message of the meeting—the necessity to struggle and to organize a fightback. "Without a struggle there can be no progress," said Nero, and urged people to join the upcoming activities of the P.E.C. against the local utility, Rochester Gas and Electric.

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

SPECIAL OFFER!

- TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION — TEN WEEKS \$2
 ONE YEAR \$10

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

- SEND INFORMATION ON WORKERS WORLD SUPPORTER PROGRAM

RETURN TO:
**WORKERS WORLD, 46 W. 21ST.
 NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010**

Join us in the struggle

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

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

Atlanta: 1257 Glenwood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30316 (404) 627-3093

Austin: P.O. Box 6504, Austin, TX 78762

Baltimore: 2112 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218 (301) 659-9818

Bay Area: 470 Castro St., Suite 207-3047, San Francisco, CA 94114 (415) 641-8569

Boston: 295 Huntington Ave., Room 212, Boston, MA 02115 (617) 247-1778

Buffalo: 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14201 (716) 855-3055

Chicago: 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 922-0326

Cleveland: 2012 West 25 St., Room 613, Cleveland, OH 44113 (216) 861-6154

Detroit: 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 962-4979

Houston: P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052 (713) 864-3754

Jackson: P.O. Box 8783, Jackson, MS 39204

Milwaukee: 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 224-0422

New York City: 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010 (212) 255-0352

Rochester: 898 Portland Ave., Rochester, NY 14621 (716) 342-5539

San Antonio: P.O. Box 1504, San Antonio, TX 78295

Seattle: P.O. Box 2514, Seattle, WA 98111 (206) 323-3612

Tucson: P.O. Box 42642, Tucson, AZ 85733 (602) 792-0728

Washington, D.C.: 3221 Mt. Pleasant Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20010 (202) 483-8740

Reagan gives 'surplus' to rich agribusinesses

By Gin T. Loy

JANUARY 17—This past Wednesday, President Reagan announced plans to release tons of surplus food, but not to the millions of people for whom hunger is a daily reality in this country. Instead, it will be given back to agribusiness from which it was purchased by the government in the first place.

Under the plan called "payment-in-kind," tons of rice, wheat, corn, and cotton stockpiled in government storage bins would be given back to big business farmers. They could then sell it or use it as feed for livestock. In turn, they must agree to plant less of these crops. In some cases, the plan calls for as much as a 50% decrease in production. This giveback is in addition to cash payments for not planting at all.

The plan, announced at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, also states that grain and cotton growers must reduce how much they plant by 20-30% to be eligible for loans, subsidies, and cash set-aside payments.

While food stamps, WIC, and

other desperately needed food assistance programs for the poor have been cut, subsidy for agribusiness is expected to be \$18 billion this year. Last year, it was a staggering \$12 billion.

All this is for one reason—to keep food prices high.

According to the Dept. of Agriculture, grain surplus has gone up 450% in the last 10 years. The last two years have shown record grain harvests. Milton Turner of the Postville Farmers Corp. said, "There's more corn around the country than anybody knows what to do with."

Of course, the poor and unemployed know what should be done—release it to the hungry and not to agribusiness.

Reagan's "payment-in-kind" program has the go-ahead without waiting for Congress to pass certain enabling legislation. The Secretary of Agriculture "believes" he's authorized to do it. What is certain, is that Reagan is authorized to release such food in case of national disaster, such as hunger and malnutrition have become, but won't. Instead, it's an outright giveaway to the largest U.S. industry.

D.C. protest to support Turkish unionists

U.S.-backed regime seeks death for DISK leaders

By Brian Becker

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 17—The U.S.-supported military dictatorship in Turkey, which is attempting to legally murder 62 trade union leaders, will be the target of a demonstration set for Feb. 5 at the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The central theme of the protest action will be "Save the 62 DISK trade union leaders" who are on trial and face the death

penalty before a military court. DISK was the second largest labor confederation in Turkey until it was outlawed following the Sept. 12, 1980, coup when the Turkish generals seized power.

The demonstration will also demand the release of all 50,000 political prisoners being held by the military regime, full rights for the national minorities of Turkey, and a cutoff of all U.S. military aid to the Turkish

government.

Since the generals took power 16 months ago, repression in Turkey has grown to monstrous proportions. Over 120,000 people have been arrested. Hundreds of these were "shot dead while trying to escape," according to police authorities. Torture against prisoners is widespread according to Amnesty International and other human rights organizations.

Repression continues on occupied West Bank

By Michael Bar-Am

NEW YORK, Jan. 10—U.S.-backed Israeli repression against the Palestinian people and their institutions continues throughout occupied Palestine. This policy aims to intimidate the Palestinian masses so that they will cease their heroic struggle against the occupation of their country and emigrate from Palestine.

Jan. 7 is the Day of the Palestinian Martyr, and the mass demonstrations which have taken place over the past four days in the West Bank is proof that the will of the masses has not been broken by the occupation. Demonstrations by students through the streets of Nablus and rallies at Al-Najah University openly defied the military authorities. Other activities took place in Ramallah, Al Bireh and Hebron.

The PLO news agency WAPA reported on Jan. 5 that hundreds of people from the West Bank have been arrested and are being

held in horse stables at the Parih Prison in Jenin. The prisoners include trade union members, students, teachers, writers, journalists and workers.

Bookshops and publishing houses in West Bank towns and villages have been attacked and "hundreds of books, publications, drawings and posters have been confiscated on the claim that the material is 'provocative.'" The West Bank has been occupied since June 1967.

In Nablus the Industrial Secondary School was closed for a week because the students had raised the Palestinian flag. Also, the Union of Printing Workers was closed down and two Nablus members were arrested after their office was raided.

In Gaza, also occupied since June 1967, the residence of the Palestinian Women's Union was attacked by Israeli soldiers and "a map of Palestine which has hung in the building since the establishment of the Union in

1964" was confiscated.

In occupied Jerusalem, two trade union leaders have had their six-month house arrest orders renewed for the third time. And large areas of land belonging to the villages of Um Al-Fahm, Tal, Assira and Bala have been seized recently by the Israeli government.

This repression would not be possible if it weren't for the \$7 million a day that Washington provides to the Israeli government. Most of this goes to the military to repress the Palestinians and other struggling Arab people. Meanwhile, Washington maintains control of the oil-rich Middle East.

In the Negev region, occupied since 1948, 750 Palestinian Bedouin families are being thrown out of Tel Mahata to make room for the Nevalim air base whose construction is financed by the U.S. as per the Camp David Accords. Its cost is over a billion dollars.

A tale of two hospitals

By Veronica Golos

JANUARY 15—On the night of Dec. 22, 1972, U.S. B52's strafed Bach Mai hospital in Vietnam. They dropped over 100 bombs, reducing the hospital to rubble. Clinics, operating rooms, and the pharmacy were destroyed. Over forty people were killed. Yet, less than one month after the bombing, several consulting rooms resumed their work.

Now, ten years later, a monument stands outside Bach Mai. It is of a woman doctor holding her dead comrade. Flowers surround the statue. Bach Mai has been rebuilt. Departments for the elderly, internal medicine, surgery, and pregnant women have been enlarged. In addition, doctors have been trained and graduated at the facility. Many operations, beyond the capacity of the hospital in 1972, are now carried out daily, saving hundreds of patients.

Some \$5.6 billion of tax money of the people of New Jersey went to the Pentagon just this year, the same Pentagon which dropped the B52 bombs on Bach Mai hospital. How is it that Viet Nam builds hospitals while hospitals in the U.S. close down?

Viet Nam builds hospitals for people, not for profit. It is the profit system itself, the ruthless military-industrial complex, which robs us of our right to medical care. And it is the struggle of working people to take over these hospitals, as the example of the Vietnamese shows, which will restore them.

— 'Release the food!'

Continued from page 6

citizens were there, as well as laid-off and working auto workers, ministers, welfare rights organizers and a spokesman for the Palestinians, who expressed solidarity with the poor and working people in this country.

Thirteen-year-old Jerita Bell, speaking quietly and movingly, said "Drafting the young people into the army, spending all that money on defense, is not the answer. The youth are the future. What can we do if we kill off our future?"

James Gwynn, an auto worker for 33 years and North West Detroit organizer, told how the APC is growing every day. Each one of the meetings and demonstrations were large. The crowd cheered when he said, "we're not tired—the people will not starve in their homes, but should come out fighting. No one will do it for us, we must do it ourselves."

WELFARE

- ▶ why workers need it
- ▶ how billionaires get it

by Elizabeth Ross

\$1.50 (add 50¢ postage)

Order from World View Publishers
46 W. 21 St. NYC 10010

The Kurdish national minority population, numbering 9 million, has been subjected to intensified racist discrimination. Kurdish intellectuals, elected officials, and unionists have been imprisoned, tortured, and murdered for merely affirming that the "Kurds exist as a people."

U.S. supports martial law in Turkey

The fascist martial law regime has received the warm endorsement of the Reagan administration. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, in a well-publicized visit to Ankara, praised the ruling junta for bringing "needed" stability to the country.

To prove that U.S. support wasn't only "diplomatic," Reagan increased military aid to Turkey to \$815 million in 1983. This makes Turkey the third largest recipient of U.S. military aid. Additionally, 5,000 U.S. military personnel are in Turkey stationed at six major installations. Smaller U.S. and NATO bases litter the country.

At the end of November 1982, the U.S. and Turkey signed a

political prisoners

Alabama dungeons

even a monitoring committee.

It was in 1976, the last of Wallace's terms, that a court decision declared conditions in the state dungeons "barbaric" and a violation of the rights of prisoners not to be subjected to "cruel and unusual punishment."

Despite court ordered reforms, Judge Varner said, "Practically no jail within the state of Alabama meets the requirements" laid down in 1976.

Ron Settles

THE parents of a college football player who died in police custody will receive an out-of-court settlement of \$1 million. The \$62 million damage suit was filed by Helen and Donell Settles against the city and police department of Signal Hill, Calif.

The 21-year-old Ron Settles was arrested on a speeding violation in June 1981. Later he was discovered dead in a jail cell.

Richmond, Calif. cops sued

THE families of Johnny Roman and Michael Guillory are suing four racist cops in Richmond, Calif., charged with their murders. Roman was shot in bed in his mother's house. Police claimed he raised a shotgun. His family said he was unarmed. Guillory was also killed in his bedroom. Police claimed they responded to a call from his father that the son had a gun. His father stated he made no such call.

Virginia rebellion

DESPITE efforts by dungeon keepers across the country to keep the lid on the packed prisons, some 900 prisoners rose up in fury last week at the Virginia State Prison. The inmates were locked down tight in their cells indefinitely after the administration used tear gas to retake the medium/maximum security jail. From 20 to 40 prisoners were scapegoated as "ring leaders" and shipped off to other prisons. A spokesperson for the state summed up the current atmosphere inside in one word: tense.

Prisons are concentration camps for the poor!

Memphis cops massacre Black religious group

By Deirdre Griswold
JANUARY 18—Seven Black people, including two teenagers, and one white policeman died in a house under siege by the police in a Black section of Memphis last week. The press has universally portrayed what happened as the necessary actions of police to rescue a fellow officer from a crazed religious cult.

But Workers World has found out that the reality is closer to the vicious anti-Jewish pogroms in Europe 100 years ago, or the Gestapo raids in Nazi Germany, when armed men swooped down on the ghettos with overwhelming force, beat, murdered, and robbed the people there, and then spread stories that these "anti-Christians" were involved in ritualistic murders and strange practices. If one of the oppressors were killed or wounded in the encounter, then all the more could they whip up hysteria in the general population.

Workers World spoke this week to Brother Greene, a well-known Black community activist in

Memphis who was at the scene, as close as the police would allow anyone to come, during almost the whole of the siege. Greene has led several successful struggles in Memphis, including one to expose the dumping of toxic wastes next to a school in a Black neighborhood. He was a candidate last year for County Commissioner.

"The police would not allow any citizen to become involved in any way," said Greene. "In fact, the wife of Lindberg Sanders, whose house it was, was not allowed to communicate or negotiate with her husband."

According to press reports, the incident started on Tuesday night, Jan. 11, when three policemen went to the Sanders house and there was a struggle. One cop, Robert Hester, remained behind in the house while the others went for reinforcements.

Police occupy community

Immediately the Memphis Police Department cordoned off the whole area—some 10 city blocks—and refused to allow

anyone in or out. People in the adjacent housing were forced out of their homes.

"I would estimate there were 100 to 150 police on assignment at the site," says Greene. "But there were another 100 to 150 off-duty policemen on the scene. You see, the idea is that a policeman in this part of the country, particularly when there's conflict between Black and white, is a little bit higher than God."

This situation lasted for more than 24 hours. No one but the white police were allowed to be in communication with the seven Black people in the house. Their relatives, friends, neighbors, all were barred from speaking to them. There was no opportunity for those who knew them to try and work out a peaceful resolution to the stand-off.

Meanwhile, the police, were beefing up the Tactical force and preparing for an invasion.

It came at 3 a.m. on Thursday morning. "The police shot concussion bombs into the house," says Greene, "which make a tre-

mendously deafening noise. I was told by people Thursday morning that the concussion bombs shook them out of their beds a block away. Immediately behind the concussion bombs they threw an enormous amount of tear gas into the house and right after that the Tactical police entered.

"Within about two or three minutes they brought out the white policeman who, I've been told, was bleeding profusely. The story the police told was that he'd been dead for several hours. That was supposedly the reason why they went in. Obviously the only thing that mattered to them was the life of that one white police officer; the others didn't count."

"According to press reports here, all seven Black people were shot in the head. The policeman was not shot in the head. This indicates that the concussion bombs naturally caused an effect on their hearing, and the tear gas immobilized them. So when the police went in, they were simply sitting targets, and the police literally blew their brains out. People told me who went into the house on Thursday afternoon that parts of the people's skulls were lying on the floor."

Eyewitnesses contradict police

The story the police told was that officer Hester had been killed inside the house several hours before they launched their assault. But the eyewitness testimony about Hester being carried out bleeding profusely a few minutes after the Tactical squad went in contradicts that story. So does the fact that other witnesses on Thursday afternoon saw a great deal of blood on the porch of the house. The seven dead Black men had all been allowed to lie where they had been

slain for three or four hours; they would not have been bleeding when their bodies were finally taken away.

"After it was over, they would only allow white policemen to gather evidence in the house," says Greene. "There were no Black officials collecting evidence. There were Black policemen on the scene, but they were directing traffic almost a block from the house."

The city of Memphis is about 45% Black, nearly half the population. Just imagine if this incident had occurred the other way around, with an all-Black police force mounting a battle operation in a white neighborhood, killing seven residents, and then allowing only Black officials in to gather evidence on what had happened! Such a situation is absolutely inconceivable in the United States.

But this murderous raid in Memphis is only the latest in a long history of homicidal attacks on Black people by white police. In essence, Memphis is no different from the assault on the Muslim temple in New York City by the murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago, the shooting down of members of a Black church in Miracle Valley, Ariz., last October because of "uncollected parking tickets," or the murders in New Orleans aired on CBS's 60 Minutes program just this week.

In times of great struggle by the masses of people for jobs, food, and a decent life, the authorities allow their fascist police to create incidents like this to try and terrorize the most oppressed and separate them from the rest of the working class. All workers and progressive people must stand firm against this vicious racism and dare to speak out for justice and solidarity.



Oakland, Calif. rally honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WW photo: ANNE SEEMAN

Rallies across U.S. mark Martin Luther King Day

By Diane Feinberg
JANUARY 17—So deeply felt is the legacy of Martin Luther King that even arch-reactionary Ronald Reagan thought it the better part of wisdom to praise King publicly.

Of course, Reagan's interests are diametrically opposed to the movement for justice that King was so much a part of. A quick look at Reagan's track record proves that. With a flick of the Bic, Reagan could make King's birthday a national holiday. This has not happened.

But those who are victims of the official policies of Reagan and his racist cohorts have made Jan. 15 a national holiday, one that is recognized by progressive people all over the world. Despite the stubborn refusal by the federal government to recognize the day, many states across the country

have been forced to mark Jan. 15 as a holiday.

other cities.

In New York City, over 100 people marched from Brooklyn across the bridge to City Hall chanting, "We're fired up, won't take it no more!" in a protest organized by the Black United Front. The demonstrators defied a torrential rain and sleet storm. Commemorative activities were also held in Harlem.

But these are only the tip of the movement on a grass roots level to commemorate this people's holiday. Activities, meetings, and events of every kind were held in literally thousands of schools, colleges, churches, and neighborhood centers. The message was conveyed through every medium, that the commitment to the struggle against racism and for justice continues and is part of the living legacy of Martin Luther King.

Some 5,000 people marched in Los Angeles. Demonstrations were also organized in Atlanta, Cambridge, Dallas, Seattle, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and many

APC calls on UN to investigate massacre

Special to Workers World
THE following is from a statement from the All-Peoples Congress calling upon the United Nations to investigate the police murder of seven Black people in Memphis, Tenn.

JANUARY 17—The All-Peoples Congress, a national organization of community, labor, and civil rights groups, today called upon the United Nations to open an investigation of the killings of seven Black people in Memphis, Tenn., on Jan. 13. The seven people, including Lindberg Sanders, were all shot through the head after a small army of white police attacked and entered the home of Mr. Sanders. Mr. Sanders was the leader of a small Black religious group of which the six other victims were members.

The Reagan administration has assigned the FBI to help cover up the murder of the seven members of the Black religious group in Memphis. No one can have any faith in the U.S. government at any level to investigate rights, free of persecution.

the murders of Black people by its police officers or to protect the lives of Black or other working people.

Larry Holmes, the National Coordinator of the APC, said in a telegram to Javier Perez De Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations, "The police and government claim that the assault on Mr. Sanders' home was in response to alleged harm done to a police officer by Mr. Sanders. However, the government's claim has yet to be proven. All those familiar with Mr. Sanders have said that he and his religious order have always advocated and practiced non-violence."

Holmes further stated, "It is our fear that Mr. Sanders and his followers were the victims of racial and religious persecution at the hands of the U.S. government. We call upon you to open a UN investigation of this matter to determine whether the U.S. government has violated the UN Charter on upholding religious rights, free of persecution."