

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

WORKERS WORLD

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NO JOBS

FOR

VETS

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POVERTY. It's not a word that government statistics bureaus like to use. But poverty is a huge fact of life in "wealthy" America today. While President Nixon is ruthlessly freezing wages and cutting back on already meagre welfare allowances, the government Census Bureau has had to admit that in the last year 1.2 million more people were added to the millions of those who are poverty-stricken in this country. Buried in the back pages of the New York Times on November 14, a government report revealed that in 1970 the number of people living below the poverty level reached 23.5 million, an increase of 1.2 million over 1969. (Thirty percent of these poor people, it was revealed, are Black and 9 percent are Latin, proportions much higher than their number in the total population.) The federal government classifies as "poverty-stricken" (or "low-income" as they prefer to euphemistically call it) a family of four with an annual income of \$3,968. Considering the fact that government figures themselves say that a family of four needs at least \$10,000 per year to live in relative comfort, the number of really poor people is actually much higher than the government figure of 23.5 million. This significant increase in the number of poor is part of the general crisis of the U.S. economy. President Nixon's answer to rising unemployment and runaway inflation has been to crackdown on the workers' wages while leaving the bosses' profits untouched. This is Nixon's idea of a program for "prosperity." A prosperity for the bankers and corporation owners at the expense of the workers — and with it, poverty in the midst of great wealth. (For more on the wage freeze and the price thaw, see articles on page 2.)

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No freeze for prices

by BOB McCUBBIN

Did someone say there was a price freeze? Maybe they should clue the businessmen in on it. Hardly bothering to cover their tracks, they've been raising prices like mad ever since the freeze began. While no worker's paycheck has gotten any bigger for three months now, there seem to be a thousand and one reasons why the cost of products and services has been allowed to climb.

Many services and products, it is said, are individualized and thus not subject to standardized pricing. Thus any increase in price only reflects the different production costs, according to Big Business. Then there are those price lists that every merchant is supposed to have available showing what his merchandise sold for in August. The few that

do have these lists seem to have them custom-made each week...to fit the new price increases. And, supposing some of the price lists are accurate, who has the time to go around checking the 6,000 to 8,000 items in the average supermarket? The few consumer organizations that have spot-checked have found wide-scale price increases.

Then there was the 6 percent increase for aluminum fabricated products in September. It was termed "legal" under the provisions of one of many loopholes created for the benefit of Big Business. Another flagrant example is the price of several varieties of fish, specifically included by the freeze. These fish prices were found to be up 25 percent. And most farm produce is not even included in the so-called freeze.

The thing that stands out about all of Nixon's economic juggling is the confusion it sows. This isn't an accident. It is a smokescreen being used to cover the continuing attempt by Big Business to rob the working people of their hard-won wages. The Phase II Price Commission has set a limit of 2.57 percent on price increases for the coming year. When compared with the 5.5 percent yearly wage increase limit adopted by the Pay Board it would almost

seem like the workers were coming out ahead. Nixon has no such thing in mind. Unlike the wage limitation (an increase most workers will never even see), the price limitation okayed by the Price Commission is gravy for the corporations. It is a bonus over and above the widespread price increases occurring daily under cover of the complicated formulas, the commissions and boards, and the rulings and counter-rulings.

The important thing for workers to remember about all this is not all the complicated mechanisms and rulings designed mostly to deceive them.

What they need to know is that Nixon's every move is for the benefit of the capitalist bosses and that the best way to fight Phase II is to challenge the bosses' greed for profits which pushes prices up and wages down.

"Public" Pay Board members bloc with companies against labor

by CHRIS ROBINS

While Phase I of Nixon's new economic plan was supposed to be voluntary (the bosses voluntarily kept wages down and voluntarily continued to raise prices), this is not the case with Phase II.

Among the boards that Nixon has now created to enforce his edicts is one called the Pay Board. Just as during the earlier phase, the cards are still stacked against the workers.

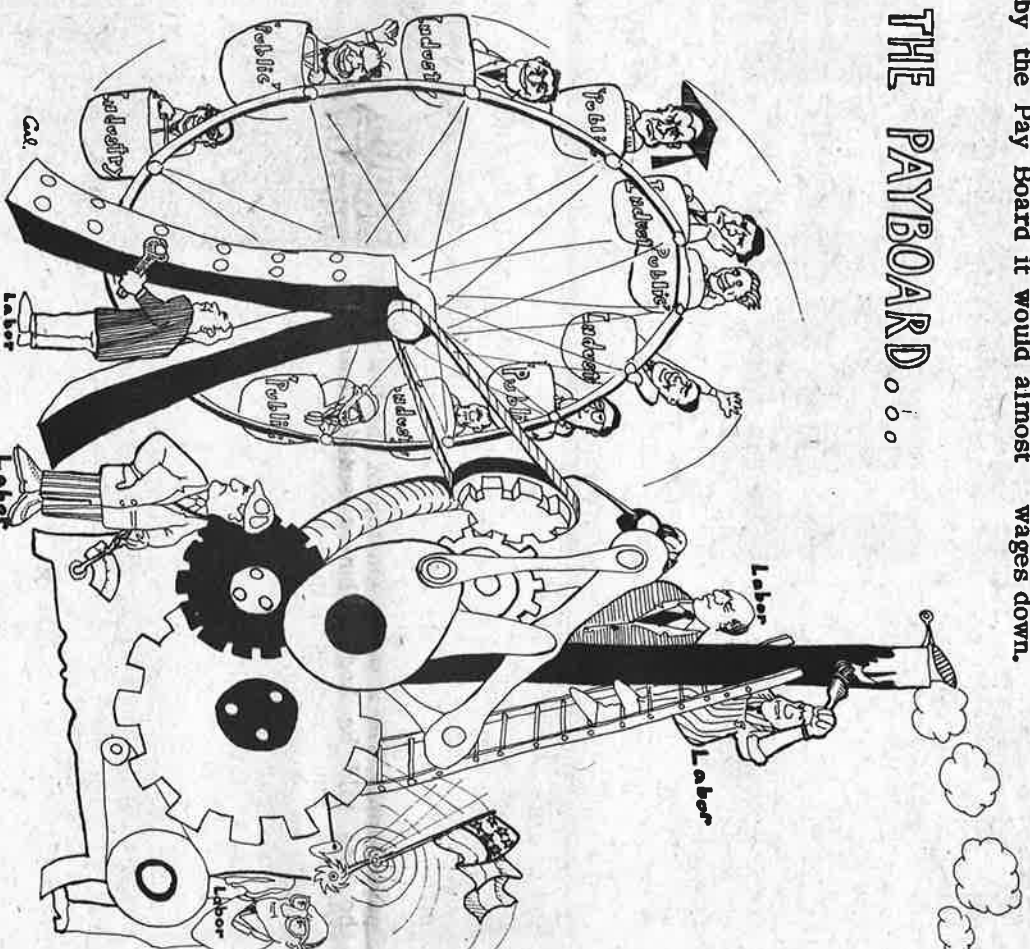
The Pay Board has fifteen members, all appointed by Nixon. There are five top labor bureaucrats who, on some occasions at least, still represent the interests of working people. Then there are five representatives of Big Business. The role of these men is to fight tooth and nail against any concessions to the workers.

Finally, there are the five so-called "public" members. Now Nixon would like everyone to believe that these men have no special bias toward either labor or management and that they will decide each issue fairly, keeping in mind the interests of the country as a whole. What a joke! All five have close connections with the Republican Party. Several sit on the board of directors of major corporations. One is a judge who has been handing out anti-labor injunctions for years. They're all safely in the pocket of Big Business.

Their first action proves, if any proof was needed, who the "public" members will be representing. In a solid front with the business members, they proposed on November 3 that no wage settlements in the coming period should amount to more than 5.5 percent and that wage increases lost during the Phase I freeze would not be recoverable after November 13 when the freeze is

technically supposed to end.

It may be that in their continuing attempt to deceive the public, the "public" members may have some minor "disagreements" with the business members. But nothing substantive hinders the conspiracy they have against the economic well-being of working people. If the five labor representatives were really serving the interests of the workers they would pull out of the Pay Board, exposing it for the business-serving gimmick that it is.



TAKING WHO FOR A RIDE?

... WHO'S

PRESS RELEASE
MOVEMENT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE
Mission Central Vito Marcantonio
106 East 14th Street
New York, N.Y.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS SEIZE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF CLARIDAD

Only two weeks prior to the Eighth Congress of the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence, agents of the Secret Service of the United States illegally broke into the editorial office of Claridad, the organization's weekly newspaper, on the morning of November 9, 1971. The members of the editorial staff who were in the office at the time were held incom-

municado for more than two hours, while the agents searched the place and opened drawers from desks and files taking out several documents. The repressive agents also xeroxed all the subscribers' files and the photo files of the newspaper and left the place without presenting charges to anybody.

The illegal entry was perpetrated by agents of the United States Treasury Department, who claimed that we had counterfeited dollar bills. The truth is that we had printed some leaflets that simulated dollar bills as part of the propaganda for the Eighth National Congress. As far as we know this method of propaganda has been used in the United States before and nobody has been prosecuted for it.

In denouncing to the world the open repressive actions of the yankee

imperialist government, the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence wants to make clear that these acts are intended to interrupt the organization of our Eighth National Congress that is scheduled to begin on November 19, 1971 and which will set the basis for the transformation of the Movement into the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

The United States authorities used the leaflets with the simulated dollar bill as an excuse to intimidate our supporters and prevent their coming to the Congress by the thousands. However, the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence is very sure of the support it has in the Puerto Rican masses and is ready to show the repressive agents that nothing will stop us in our everyday task of organizing the Puerto Rican people for the revolution.

U.S. agents raid MPI offices

Corporate circus stirs vet anger

ASU demands: "We want jobs!"

NEW YORK, Nov. 12--They were veterans: young, willing to work, unemployed--and angry. They had been promised skills in the army and jobs when they got out, but later found it was all lies. So when 60 corporations, with much publicity and fanfare, opened a "job fair" in the 69th Infantry Armory here yesterday, promising 7,000 jobs, and the 3,000 vets who came found just another big lie, anger turned to rage.

"There's no jobs here," shouted one enraged veteran, still wearing his green army fatigue jacket. "It's all a fraud!" There was a chorus of agreement from the huge crowd of frustrated GIs, and Mayor John Lindsay, who had given the corporations his blessings, began to twitch nervously between popping flashbubs. Then he slipped out, anxious to avoid the furious veterans. Anticipating that the job fair would in fact be a job hoax, the American Servicemen's Union organized to be at the fair in force to give voice to the grievances of the unemployed vets. The ASU is a rank-and-file union of some 11,000 active duty GIs and veterans. Over the protests of the fair organizers, but with the support and sympathy of the veterans, the ASU quickly set up a grievance table in the Armory which became a rallying point for the outraged and frustrated ex-GIs.

Tom Soto, a Vietnam veteran and an organizer for the ASU, began to speak on a microphone inside the Armory. "How many of you got jobs?" he asked the crowd. No one gave an affirmative reply. "None of us!" yelled one vet. Just then another veteran pushed toward the mike. "I did! I did!" he shouted, and explained how he had just been given a job as a messenger paying only \$76 a week. On top of the low pay, he was told he had to buy a suit for the job. "Where am I supposed to get the money for a suit?" he exclaimed.

Soto then asked every vet there to make out a survey form being handed out by the ASU. "We want to know just how many of those jobs they promised actually came through." The results of the survey were appalling--even worse than the ASU had feared. Of 1,200 vets queried, only five had been promised jobs, and even those were not guaranteed. In fact, two of those five vets returned later jobless.

ASU BARGAINS FOR VETS

As the fury of the vets mounted, the corporation representatives sank lower and lower in their seats behind the booths, frightened of this new militancy in veterans unified around the American Servicemen's Union. It was a strong militancy that was led by Black and Puerto Rican vets, and cut across all race barriers, unifying white and Black in the common veteran struggle for jobs.

Acting as a bargaining agent for the veterans, the Union had sought to protect the employment rights of the veterans. When the job fair was first announced, the ASU immediately contacted the State Department of Labor demanding to know what corporations would be there, who owned them, whether any had been convicted of price-fixing or racial discrimination, what jobs were available, what the pay was, what determined qualification for the job, and whether any training programs were offered. They demanded that the jobs be posted so that everyone could see what jobs were really available, and denounced the corporations' demand that GIs bring their DD214 forms for inspection by business representatives.

(The DD214 form, given to GIs at their discharge, explains under what conditions, "honorable" or "less than honorable," a veteran was separated from the Armed Forces. The DD214, many GIs feel, is tantamount to a life-long blacklist against dissenters against the Vietnam war and the Armed Forces.)

The ASU, therefore, demanded that the job fair should not be a "modern-day slave auction," providing giant monopolies with a cheap labor pool. GIs should not be subjected to inspection by the corporations like they were at a slave auction. Instead, the corporations should be subject to inspection by GIs. "It is not the GIs who must prove themselves to a corpora-

tion," insisted Soto, "but the corporation which must prove its right to exist." The corporations, Soto explained, have committed innumerable crimes in their search for profits, everything from promoting war and oppressing people overseas to exploiting workers at home and destroying the environment. It is big business, not the GI, who is on trial.

On November 9, the Department of Labor had telegraphed the national office of the American Servicemen's Union requesting a meeting to negotiate the union's demands.

At Department headquarters in Manhattan the next day, ASU representatives Tom Soto, Mitch Smith, John Diaz, Bob Dorsey, Billy Shepard (all veterans themselves), and Sue Steinman (representing the interests of women veterans), met with Department officials Edward Kahn, William G. Peg, Thomas Reed, and Henry Williams. At the meeting, State officials assured the ASU representatives that they had 4,000 jobs available for veterans, but refused to post the jobs for GI inspection, claiming it was against the law to do so. When the ASU asked if the job fair intended to ban companies that practiced racial discrimination, Department officials again refused. "If we did that," admitted Edward Kahn, "we couldn't let any of them in."

FEW JOBS AVAILABLE

The jobs, however, were never posted. During a tour of the fair given the ASU before the fair



Tom Soto, right, of the ASU ordered arrested by corporation chief Gross, with cigar.

opened, questioning revealed that the Department had actually only a handful of jobs, mostly for college graduates, few and far between among veterans.

After inspecting the booths of such leading warmakers as Chase Manhattan and First National City banks, Western Electric, GE, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Du Pont, and PepsiCo, ASU representatives went outside to report on job openings to the crowd of waiting veterans. As the fair progressed it became painfully obvious that few jobs were actually being offered.

One woman veteran explained that the corporations didn't care about women. "They don't even have a table here for us," she said bitterly. "They act like we don't even exist!" Over and over came the same angry complaints from the veterans. "They're giving us the runaround," said one Black veteran to the crowd that had gathered around the ASU grievance table. Another: "After I got shot at in Nam and didn't get the training they promised because I was forced to fight, now back home no one will hire me!" Among veterans, Blacks and Puerto Ricans suffer the highest rate of unemployment (the government admits to 14.7 percent), twice as high as white

veterans. It was not surprising, then, that most of the unemployed vets at the fair were Black or Puerto Rican. Significantly, one of the demands of the American Servicemen's Union was that Blacks and Third World veterans be given priority in hiring as they suffer the most from unemployment.

VETS TURN BACK POLICE

At the grievance table the ASU had set up to represent the vets, this and other demands made on the corporations running the fair were announced on a microphone. The ASU table had become the rallying point for the angry veterans, who were using the ASU to vocalize their complaints. Corporation officials, however, felt that their control over the fair was slipping into the hands of the vets. Ralph Gross, head of the sponsoring Commerce and Industry Association of New York, decided to call in police, turning the fair into, as one vet put it, "something resembling a concentration camp." A busload of helmeted Tactical Patrol Force, whose reputation for viciousness is infamous throughout New York, marched on the huge crowd of veterans with clubs and guns, trying to break up the ASU grievance table and prevent union representatives from speaking to the veterans.

Crowds of ex-GIs, however, surrounded the ASU table and militantly confronted the police. "You can't intimidate us," said one veteran. "We're not afraid of your guns. We've been to Vietnam. We know how to fight you!" At

that point, a police sergeant put his hand on a Black veteran, but his arm was quickly brushed aside. The crowd of vets surged forward toward the police line, which began to waver in fear and finally was forced out of the Armory. This time it was the police who were intimidated--by GI power.

Today, squads of police were on hand again as State officials prevented anyone who was wearing a button of the American Servicemen's Union from entering the Armory. Again the GIs defended the union by demanding "Let them in!" Tom Soto and Charles Mock of the ASU did manage to slip in unnoticed, and demanded a booth to set up a grievance table to make sure the veterans were getting jobs. When the corporate officials refused, the union members began using an unused booth. Then the chief corporate official, Ralph Gross, had Soto arrested and ejected. But the "job fair" had backfired on the corporations. The growing militancy of unemployed veterans had turned the publicity around, against big business, exposing the fair as a farce. "GIs need jobs," said John Diaz, a Vietnam veteran with the ASU, "and the American Servicemen's Union intends to keep fighting for them."

editorial

What the anti-war struggle needs

The Nixon Administration told the American people last Friday that U.S. troops will never be completely pulled out of Vietnam unless a settlement on U.S. terms is made. Not only will more American GIs die in a losing cause, but tens of thousands of Vietnamese will also be murdered as the Pentagon steps up aerial bombardment of both North and South Vietnam. In fact, a Cornell University study has just revealed that the Nixon government dropped more tonnage of bombs over Indochina in its first three years in office than did the Johnson Administration in its last three years.

With these two not-so-surprising revelations the American anti-war movement could easily be thrown into a period of great demoralization. Already this year the turnouts at the mass anti-war parades and rallies have been on a much lower scale than those of three or four years ago. Too many young people have been led by the "official" anti-war organizations to believe that periodic mass demonstrations in themselves would end the war in Vietnam. But Nixon outwitted those anti-war "leaders" by reducing U.S. troop strength in South Vietnam and yet expanding the war into Laos and Cambodia.

What it all shows is the bankruptcy of the "single issue" approach of the National Peace Action Coalition (NPAC), so strongly supported by the reformist Socialist Workers Party (SWP). What the SWP has been after, of course, is a quick-kill and get-rich recruiting device for themselves, but they are not concerned about where this "single issue" movement might end up during a less popular "anti-war" period. To recruit larger numbers of more moderate elements, the SWP has been willing to let the more militant anti-war youth be led into a blind alley of demoralization. The opportunists in NPAC and the SWP failed and also feared to organize a movement based on exposing the political system behind the imperialist war drive in Southeast Asia. In fear of "losing" support they refused to explain to the anti-war movement that the U.S. war machine which commits genocide daily in Indochina was also responsible for the genocide of 10,000 Palestinians in Jordan and the massacre of prison inmates in Attica.

WORKERS' ROAD TO ANTI-WAR STRUGGLE

They have also abandoned the one class that has the potential of completely crippling the war machine itself--the working class. In their desire to unite with the bourgeois critics of the war, the reformists have discarded a class analysis of imperialism. "Don't bring in any other issues but the war," they cry. "We must have the broadest coalition possible." What narrow-minded opportunism!

The disaster of the wage freeze is not a separate issue. What else has generated the crisis in the U.S. economy but the destruction of billions of dollars of goods in warfare? And what question brings a hatred of imperialist militarism home more intimately to all American workers, young and old, Black, Brown and white, women and men?

By refusing to attack the capitalist system that is responsible for war, these moderate coalitions and their so-called "Marxist" organizers have not "broadened" the anti-war movement. Instead, there is currently a demoralization that shows up in numbers and in spirit. The movement has not been prepared for a long struggle, nor does it have confidence that the leadership is prepared either. When the analysis of a McGovern or a Vance Hartke is substituted for a class analysis of imperialism, then the result is inevitably a decline of the mass movement, a return to electoral sidetracks, a deepening cynicism that finds its expression in irrational movements of all kinds.

A truly revolutionary anti-imperialist and anti-war movement can harden itself against periods of demoralization by striking clearly at the system that perpetrates imperialist war. Such a movement cannot be trapped into just hoping and praying for an end to the war in Indochina after every peace march. The imperialist enemy must be fought on all fronts, not only by an "anti-war movement," but by a movement of the American working class together with the oppressed nations at home. And that movement must unite into a single revolutionary striking force which will ultimately crush the imperialist system which breeds all wars and oppression.

Rochester

PSC meeting commemorates Auburn rebellion

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Nov. 3.—Just one year after the heroic rebellion by the 1700 prisoners of Auburn concentration camp, over 100 people from the Black, Puerto Rican, and white communities attended a community meeting here today to support the struggle of all prisoners. The meeting gave particular emphasis to the case of six Black revolutionary inmates at Auburn who were singled out for heavy punishment and indictments.

The speakers at the meeting, which was sponsored by the Rochester Prisoners Solidarity Committee, were Hassan Sharief El Shabazz, one of the Auburn 6; Betty Barkley, sister of an Attica inmate murdered during the rebellion; Tom Soto, a member of the national office of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee who was in Attica during the rebellion by request of the prisoners; and Kathy Kramer of the Rochester Prisoners Solidarity Committee. The crowd was very receptive to the speakers who said that prisons are indeed concentration camps for the oppressed Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and Native American colonies within this country and for poor working people in general.

Last year, the inmates at Auburn Prison rose up, seized the major buildings in that institution, took 35 guards hostage, and presented a list of demands to the state and prison officials. The list included such demands as better clothing, food, and visiting privileges; decent pay for decent work; and amnesty from any reprisals against those prisoners who participated in the rebellion.

Seven hours after the rebellion began, the prison officials agreed to the demands set forth by the inmates and the hostages were released unharmed.

As an expression of their "sincere" intentions to reform the prison system, prison officials placed over 250 men in punitive segregation

the day following the rebellion, and they were kept in isolation for four to nine months. The Auburn 6 have been continually denied their constitutional rights, they have been viciously beaten in the courtroom as well as in their cells, and they have been teargassed while locked up for as long as 17 straight hours. Although Nixon, Rockefeller, and the whole propertied class have tried to silence the Auburn 6, they have been met with a fight from the outset. For a year now the Prisoners Solidarity Committee has been resolute in its support of these men, and the Rochester Prisoners Solidarity Committee will help to organize the struggle in the future.

The size and the spirit of the meeting here were a clear indication that the revolutionary movement is advancing; it is growing both in a heightened understanding of who the real enemy is and in the willingness of the people to actively engage themselves in militant struggle.

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ww meets with delegation from Dhofar

A people's war raging on Arabian Gulf

Dhofar is a remote region in Southern Oman on the Arabian Gulf. For over one hundred years the people of Dhofar, like the people all over the Arabian Gulf region, have been severely oppressed by British colonialist rule. Leaving the people to live in poverty, British imperialism, and more recently U.S. imperialism, has plundered the area of its vast oil wealth. But at the same time that imperialism has wrenched the people of the Arabian Gulf into its orbit, it has aroused the hatred of the oppressed, who are organizing a mass resistance movement.

Recently WORKERS WORLD had the privilege of meeting with a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf while they were in this country on a mission to the UN. The PFLOAG has its base in Dhofar, liberated territory in southern Oman, where they are carrying on revolutionary warfare against British imperialism and at the same time building a people's government on liberated soil.

Much of what they told us is information that has been effectively kept out of all the bourgeois news media in this country.

by NAOMI COHEN

During the heated debate on China's admission to the UN last month, a good deal of attention was centered on the votes of three tiny so-called countries which had just been admitted to the UN — the Sultanate of Oman (with a population of 600,000), and the Amirates of Bahrain and Qatar (combined population of 230,000). U.S. representatives were hard at work strong-arming these three new "members" to vote for its phony "two Chinas" proposal in the General Assembly. And for a while, the capitalist press here was predicting that the votes of these "countries" might just decide which way the debate went.

What the press was not saying, however, was that at almost the very same time, a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf (PFLOAG) was in New York City to protest the admission of Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar to the UN. They were here to show that these states were mere creations of British imperialism, and granted a false independence to divide the oppressed people of the Arabian Gulf and suppress their struggle for liberation.

The PFLOAG, which began the resistance movement against British occupation in June of 1965, now controls 90 percent of Dhofar Region in southern Oman (almost one-third of the country) and has called on all the oppressed people in the Arabian Gulf to unite to throw out the British who rule behind the bribed sultans and sheikhs. Faced with a revolutionary upsurge by

Patrol unit of the People's Liberation Army of Dhofar area, one of many fighting for the liberation of their homeland.

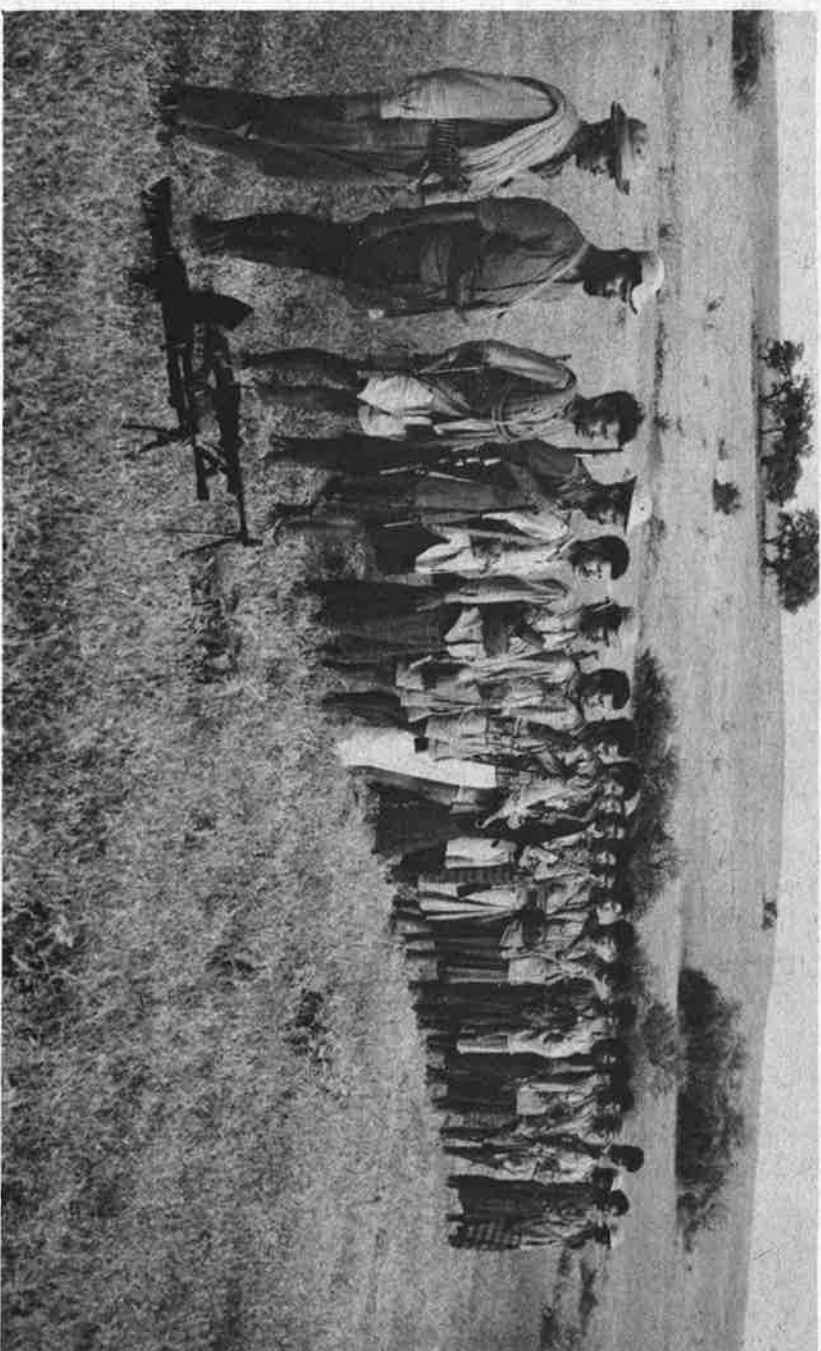
the people, the British have claimed to grant independence to several of its colonies there while in fact retaining effective economic, political, and military control of the region. (A British officer is the commander of the Qatar army.)

PFLOAG PROTESTS' ADMISSION OF PUPPETS

These fake independent states, wrote the PFLOAG in a memorandum to UN Secretary General U Thant, "are imposed on our people with the force of arms and do not stand on legal grounds qualifying them to secure such recognition."

Commenting on their mission here the Popular Front delegates told us, "In spite of the stated aims of the UN, it has accepted the fictitious independence of Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. We believe that the fate of the Gulf will not be determined in the UN. What will decide that will be a people's war."

In speaking at length with the delegation from the PFLOAG, we learned that on June 9, 1965, the people of Dhofar organized a popular armed uprising under the leadership of the Popular Front. Guerrilla warfare continued between 1965 and September of 1968 when the Second Congress of the Popular Front decided to extend their strategy to include a struggle for the freedom and unity of all of the Gulf region in a people's



Heinua Photo.

war. A People's Liberation Army and militia units were formed, along with committees to develop agriculture and tackle the many problems of the impoverished people.

The Popular Front has transformed the ownership of the land in the liberated areas from the old tribal relations to public ownership. And, we were told, it has been experimenting with setting up agricultural communes. They have founded schools, set up health services, developed irrigation, built roads, and established lines of communication. All of these things were unknown to the region before liberation. (In the British-controlled part of Oman, there are only two schools and 75 percent of the people are illiterate.)

BRITISH BOMB LIBERATED TERRITORY

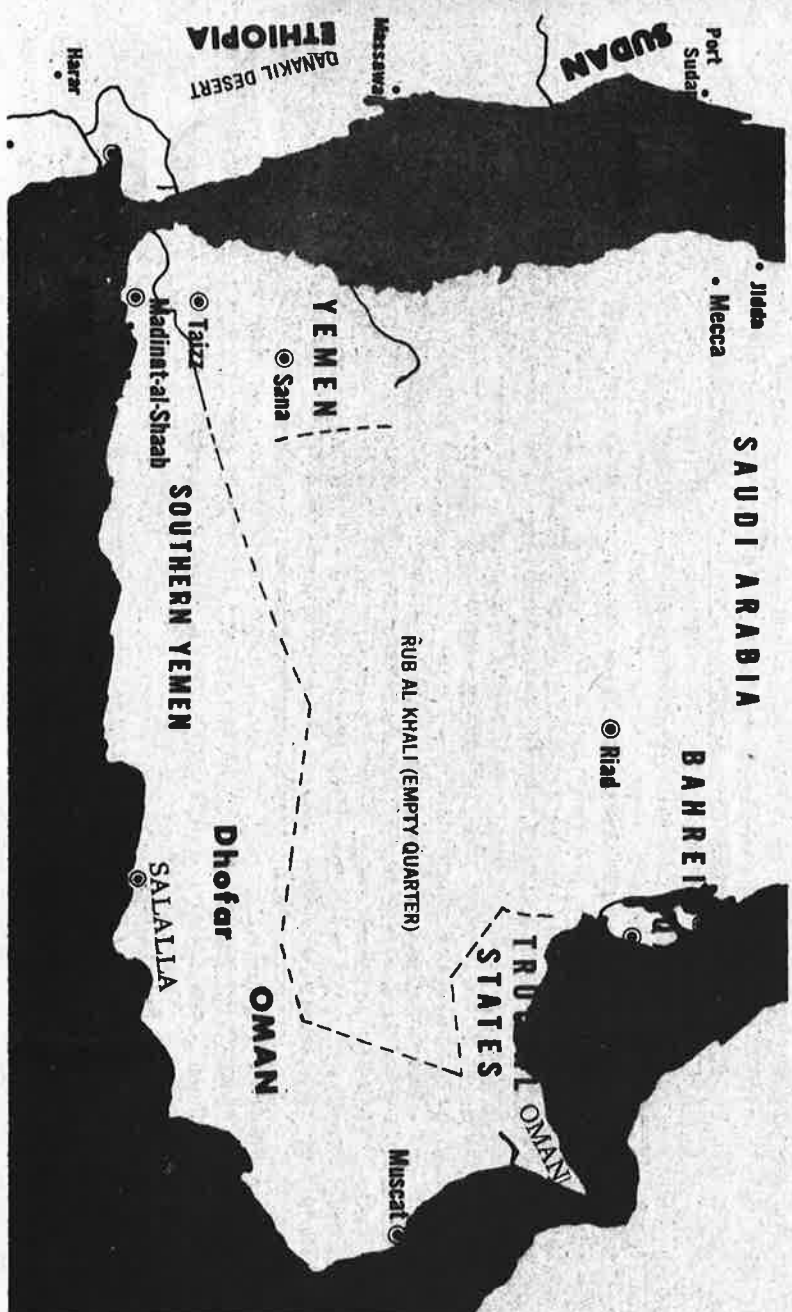
In an attempt to destroy the great strides forward made by the revolutionary forces in Dhofar, the British have struck back with widespread aerial bombing of the liberated territory. The Popular Front representatives told us that the British had adopted a policy of burning villages and agricultural products. "It is a policy of genocide in the liberated areas and arbitrary arrest for all the people in the Gulf region."

"Because the Gulf is basically an oil lake, important for the capitalist system of production," they said, "the task of the revolution is more complicated. Nevertheless, the foundation of the revolution is very strong and cannot be destroyed."

Although the British have occupied the Arabian Gulf for well over 100 years, the PFLOAG sees U.S. imperialism, too, as a prime enemy. Both the U.S. and Britain maintain widespread military bases in the region to watch over their vast oil investments. And the U.S. hopes to replace the British oil companies and military as the British are forced to withdraw. In June of 1971, at their Congress in Rakhyout, the PFLOAG declared, "Since Britain announced its planned withdrawal from some provinces in the northern part of the Gulf, the number of American warships in the Gulf harbors has increased at a time in which military help from the United States to the reactionary states of Iran and Saudi Arabia has considerably increased and American bases on the Arabian Peninsula and Iran were reinforced." (U.S. oil companies now operating in the Gulf area include Standard Oil of New Jersey, Standard of California, Gulf, Texaco, and Aramco.)

ROLE OF WORKERS AND WOMEN

We were interested in knowing what role the working class is playing in the struggle in the Gulf. We were told that the oil companies had



(Continued on page 14)

John Lombardo writes . . .

An open letter to the Black United Front of Cairo

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Black United Front,

The attempts by the state to railroad the "Champaign 7" into prison are ended. Because of the political battle that was waged around the case, the court was forced to grant such major concessions that we may as well not have been brought to trial at all. The outcome was an almost total victory for those who are militantly fighting against the exploitation, racism, and genocide carried out by the wealthy ruling class of this country.

As you well know, the state has a great deal of power at its disposal, and its use of the mass media is one of its more powerful instruments. When we demonstrated against Ogilvie last March 20th, when we militantly protested his fascist policies towards the heroic Black people of your city, the state used its secret police to attack us and its mass media to make us look like the criminals instead of the victims. The pattern was familiar to us. Didn't the state do the same thing in order to crush your struggle? Didn't the local ruling class of Cairo, with the blessings of Governor Ogilvie, use police and racist vigilantes to brutally attack your people because you were carrying out a successful economic boycott to oppose the deplorable conditions you are forced to live under? And then didn't the state use the mass media to whip up a racist hysteria and say that you, along with Black Panthers and P Stone Nation members, were carrying out guerrilla raids against the police? Weren't you being made to look like the criminals instead of the victims?

We defended ourselves against the police attack on our demonstration, because we believe that it is the right of the oppressed to defend themselves. And following your example, we refused to allow the state to frame us up and make us look as if we were in the wrong. We waged a political battle around the trial, and throughout we never lost sight of the fact that behind it all was the issue of racism and oppression in Cairo in particular and Black America in general. We were able to raise consciousness about your struggle continually, and we were getting a response....

Up until the first day of jury selection, the state had never once given us any other indication than that they were going to hang us. But the first day of jury selection was punctuated by a fairly large demonstration outside and a very thorough process of political selection by our lawyer inside. By late afternoon of that first day only two jurors had been selected, and many

had disqualified themselves. The state knew, and so did we, that it wasn't going to be easy to hang us. The most they could get was a jury that would compromise the verdict, which meant that some of us would go free. What the state didn't know was how much our support could build throughout a trial that threatened to last more than a week. It was on that first day of jury selection that they approached us, through our lawyer, with a "deal." Because we are able to analyze things from a class point of view, from the point of view of the oppressed, we have no illusions about the courts. We know that judges and state's attorneys are thoroughly corrupt, that they operate from political and class motives, and that their laws and procedures are mere cover-ups to fool the oppressed. We knew probably more about the correlation of forces involved than they did, and thus we were able to deal with their "offers" from a point of strength. That first offer, which required us to plead to felonies and get reduced sentences, was flatly rejected by us. We knew that a compromise verdict would get some of us big time, but we also knew that they didn't want even a compromise verdict....

(YAWF rejected several of the DA's proposals, making the following counter-proposals:)

On the next morning we gave them our answer: A small jail sentence for Sharon Sindelar, no probation for anyone, small fines for the others, and no court costs (they were up to \$8,000 by then). By early afternoon we had their answer: they agreed to everything, except they wanted me to do sixty days instead of thirty.



Champaign YAWF demonstrating at Illinois state capitol to protest fascist occupation of Cairo, Ill.

by BEN OLIVER

Cop who framed Sostre and Robinson

Exposed as a crook

BUFFALO—What are people supposed to do about the drug problem in America? What are they supposed to do when their children are being slowly murdered by the smack pusher? They're supposed to call a cop, at least that's what the television and the newspapers tell us.

But what happens when it's the cops who are protecting the pushers, or, in many cases, when the cop is the pusher? A few years ago, not many people would have believed it about "our men in blue." The recent Knapp Commission hearings in New York City open the lid on the sewer of police corruption, however. As an article in the last Workers World pointed out, cops are really "scum in blue who promote and abet, on a daily basis, narcotics traffic, gambling and other rackets."

Crooked cops are not confined to New York City, though. The case of Sgt. Alvin Cristmacher in Buffalo matches any of the stories about the crooked cops to come out of the Knapp Commission.

Two smack pushers facing char-

ges in Buffalo got their case dismissed recently because the evidence disappeared. The evidence, \$150,000 worth of heroin, had been checked out of the Police Lab by Cristmacher and hasn't been seen since. The result: Cristmacher, from the Narcotics "Control" Squad, is \$150,000 richer. Since then, Cristmacher has been admitted to a hospital for treatment of "hypertension" (scared is a more appropriate word) and conveniently can't be questioned.

Crooked cops are common these days but Cristmacher's case is a special one. In 1967-68, he engineered and was instrumental in the arrest, frameup, and jailing of Martin Sostre, and Geraldine Robinson. Sostre and Robinson ran the Afro-Asian Bookshop in Buffalo, which became a center for information and revolutionary literature during the 1967 rebellion of the Black community. Because of their unyielding devotion and militancy, the ruling class hatched a plan to close down the bookstore and remove Sostre and Robinson from the community. Cristmacher set things up with the stoolie, gave the informer the dope Sostre was supposed to have had, led the raid on Sostre's bookshop, and

the final offer....

The state started out trying to frame us on very serious charges which would have guaranteed prison sentences, crippled our organization, and thoroughly demoralized the Movement, but ended up having to settle for a mild slap on the wrist, an increase in membership of our organization, and throwing their hangman's frame-up on the garbage heap!

YAWF is calling for a demonstration and a press conference the day we go to jail, and before the week is up we will be doing mass leafleting in order to convince people to go to Chicago with us on November 9th to "greet" Nixon, Agnew, and Ogilvie at their \$500-a-plate Republican dinner. Our Champaign contingent will again raise the issue of Cairo, Illinois.

The right-wing editors of the local papers here want everyone to think that with the end of the trial of the Seven, YAWF is through with politics. They are hoping that this is so. They have a surprise in store. We know that a victory was gained, and we are stronger and more determined because of it. But most important of all, we want you of the Cairo United Front to know what happened, and to know that we in YAWF are still committed to struggling until all troops are out of Cairo, until justice for the Black community of Cairo is won, and until all of the oppressed, Black, Third World, and white, are free.

Yours until victory,

John Lombardo
Youth Against War & Fascism

testified against Sostre and Robinson during their frameup trials.

The jury in both cases was asked to give more credence to Cristmacher because he was a "respectable" cop and "prominent" member of the community. Sostre and Robinson were disregarded because they were Black and poor and advocates of the liberation of the Black people. Since then, the informer, Arto Williams, has reversed his testimony, admitting it was false. In spite of these new revelations, Martin Sostre is still in prison serving a 41-year sentence, and Geraldine Robinson was just released on parole after spending two years in jail. The press here, which played up their cases, labeling Sostre as a dangerous militant and drug pusher, has remained silent.

Sgt. Cristmacher may be fired so that the city can make a big show of how "fair" they are, but his most serious crimes have not even come to light. The city is willing to admit that they caught one crooked cop in the act of stealing, but they won't admit that they were partners in crime with him in engineering the racist frameup of Geraldine Robinson and Martin Sostre.

Farmworkers organizing against Coca-Cola plantations

Reprinted from the Center for United Labor Action Newsletter of November 8. The address of CULA is 167 West 21st Street, New York 10010.

CULA: We have heard recently about an organizing drive on citrus farms owned by the Coca-Cola Co. Could you tell us something about this?

JOSE GOMEZ: Coca-Cola is one of many corporations that have taken over agriculture. It's one of the largest citrus growers in America. They control 20 per cent of the frozen orange juice produced here. Minute Maid, Snowcrop and Hi-C are all Coca-Cola products. They have about 4,000 farmworkers working in their citrus groves in Florida. Last year NBC carried a special on migrant workers and in this special they especially pointed out the oppressive conditions the farmworkers exist under on the Coca-Cola owned citrus groves. Later Coca-Cola was asked to testify before a Senate hearing on migrant workers. After these terrible conditions were exposed, they made some token improvements to keep public opinion from turning against them.

CULA: Could you tell us about some of the conditions that farmworkers are forced to work and live under, particularly in the citrus farms of the Coca-Cola Co.?

JOSE GOMEZ: The conditions the workers are forced to labor under are atrocious. The pay is below minimum wage. Even though Coca-Cola has recently raised it due to the expose, the workers are of course dissatisfied. The housing is deplorable and is unfit for human beings. The farmers themselves consider it unfit for their chickens.

The farmworkers have none of the benefits other workers often take for granted. There is

no medical coverage, no disability, no retirement benefits, no unemployment compensation, no guaranteed Social Security benefits. Child labor laws do not apply to farmworkers' children and there are no maximum hours a person may work. People are often forced to work 12 hours a day under hazardous conditions.

CULA: Could you tell us of some of these safety hazards?

JOSE GOMEZ: The primary danger is exposure to pesticides. The departments of labor, health and agriculture have figures on the numbers of deaths to livestock due to pesticide poisoning but they have no figures on the number of farmworker deaths. If you ask them how many farmworkers die each year of pesticide poisoning, they won't tell you! We estimate it to be about 1,000 per year.

We have conducted tests on groups of farmworkers who seem to suffer the same symptoms, and we found that up to 85 per cent of all the workers on a particular farm showed some dangerous degree of pesticide poisoning. The symptoms are always the same: vomiting, nausea, fading vision, weakness, listlessness, and eventually death.

The farmworkers don't realize what it is. Everybody has it. They think it's normal. They aren't told which pesticides are used. Many are very dangerous. Parathion is fatal. One drop of it on your skin will kill you. This is what they spray on the crops while you are working. It's the largest corporations that are the most guilty, like Coca-Cola, T.E.P.P. and DDT are banned from being used by government laws. But there are many loopholes which the companies slip through. In our contracts we ban the use of pesticides—both in our interests and in the interests of the consumer.

CULA: How is the organizing drive going down there?

Amchitka test - nuclear blackmail

by M. MARGOLIES

The U.S. has exploded the biggest atomic bomb yet in its underground series. It was 250 times more powerful than the air-dropped one that decimated the Hiroshima population 26 years ago. It took place on Amchitka Island in the Aleutian chain in the north Pacific.

Demonstrations and protests especially swept Canada and Japan. Six thousand Canadians marched onto the bridge linking Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, Canada; three thousand walked across the Blue Water Bridge between Lake Huron and Sarnia, Ontario; twenty-five hundred blocked traffic for about one hour on the Rainbow Bridge between Niagara Falls, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, New York; one thousand and convention delegates to the Ontario Federation of Labor demonstrated for twenty minutes at the U.S. Consulate. One Canadian protest telegram was signed by 177,000 people.

In the U.S. especially, however, the leadership of the protest was in the hands of liberals and so-called "radicals" who protested the test purely on the basis of ecological damage. (Television viewers in New York saw David Livingstone, president of District 65, tell the Nov. 6 rally that the test would definitely cause floods, earthquakes, tidal waves, etc. This media coverage, given after the

test failed to immediately produce such results, was designed to regain some credibility for the ruling class).

The problem with this approach is that it focuses the struggle against the test on unnecessary and incalculable predictions while avoiding a fight on the main issue. Of course it is part of the madness of finance capital that it will risk ecological disaster to strengthen its machinery of war. There is nothing wrong with bringing this point out. But even if none of these disasters were to take place, the tests should still be opposed tooth and nail because they are part of U.S. imperialism's nuclear blackmail against the socialist countries and Third World people.

Suppose the AEC were to perfect a "clean" bomb, and found a locale for the tests where no harm could be done. Would this make the tests OK? If you follow the logic of the liberal opponents to the Amchitka test, the U.S. government could get off the hook by developing an ecologically acceptable nuclear arsenal.

But the napalming of the Indochinese people would still go on; U.S. imperialism would still back up its global empire with military hegemony, "clean" or not... and millions of oppressed would still go hungry, live in misery, and die prematurely.

JOSE GOMEZ: The organizing drive is going well and is moving faster than we expected. The easiest thing to do now would be to strike. But we have to time it right and bring the workers down there together to have a unified assault. If we spread ourselves thin we are in trouble. We are spreading throughout all the states now. We have to be very careful. We will get help from the consumers.

CULA: What are the bosses doing to stop the organizing drive?

JOSE GOMEZ: We have been quiet about organizing down South. Coca-Cola found out when the bank in the local town recognized that an account being opened was in the name of one of our organizers. The company has found out and this is the first test. We would expect them to use anything they can, as they have done before, including court injunctions, importation of strikebreakers—scabs—and terror. They have a company town and they use the local police and the judges. They bring in scabs very easily: they fly them in. Once they come, then they let them have the NLRB elections they say we can't have, and the results are the union "loses."

CULA: How would you characterize these conditions?

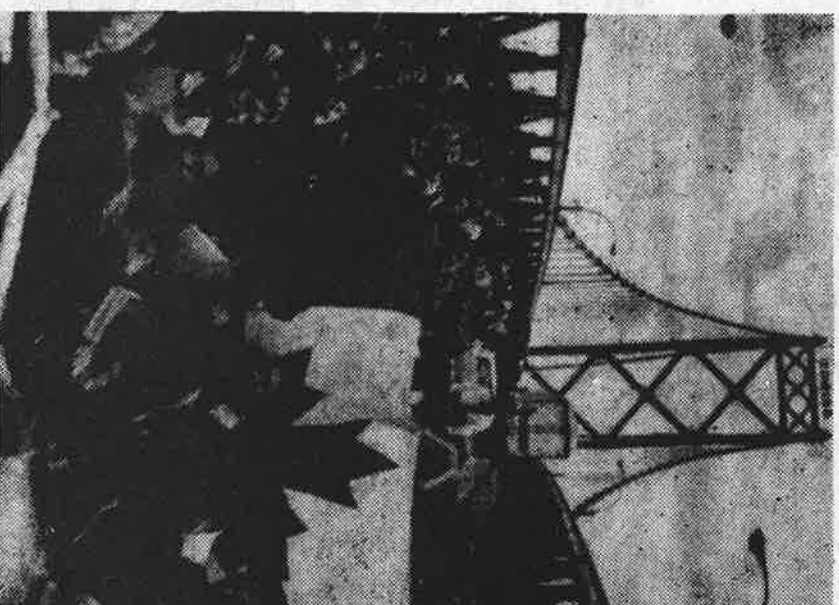
JOSE GOMEZ: We would call them plantations.

CULA: We know that Coca-Cola is around the world. Do they have such plantations around the world?

JOSE GOMEZ: We aren't sure about their international ties. Agribusiness Accountability Project could supply us with the information on the corporation and their ties. They are the ones that discovered that Bud Antle lettuce was owned by Dow Chemical.

But it's not just Coke, Purex, United Fruit, Standard Oil, Bank of America, and Tenneco, which is the largest grape grower in the world, are all international agribusiness conglomerates.

CULA: What future actions do you have planned? JOSE GOMEZ: Things will go one step at a time and we are prepared to go full steam ahead. It's up to the corporation to declare war. We are prepared to boycott, we are prepared to strike.



WINDSOR, ONTARIO—3,000 Canadians protesting Amchitka test, halt traffic on the Ambassador Bridge between Canada and Detroit.

The Amchitka bomb was exploded as part of a conscious policy by the U.S. ruling class to strengthen its hold on the world's oppressed through terror. The U.S. imperialists found it particularly urgent to do it now—when their influence and power are declining. In addition, the test provided a basis for the development of new weapons and the expansion of the war machine— to be used against the world's masses.

Nevertheless, no fear campaign can change the desperate conditions of the world's peoples nor stop the class struggle. The revolutionary needs of the oppressed and exploited are far greater than the effects of nuclear blackmail.

Is this freedom?

A choice between starvation and sterilization

by BARBARA KOWALSKI

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is a small town in the Tennessee hills. Its 30,000 inhabitants know few comforts. Few can afford the luxury of electricity or a telephone. Spindle-legged children gaze from the porches of their weathered homes with lack-lustre eyes. Oak Ridge has problems, economic problems.

The government's solution: sterilization, for both men and women. The Office of Economic Opportunity is treating this economic problem in an economical way. Instead of investing in a meaningful program to end the poverty, the agency is putting \$240,000 in vasectomies and tubal ligations, operations performed for sterilization. (It will be "voluntary" sterilization, the federal agency hastens to add.)

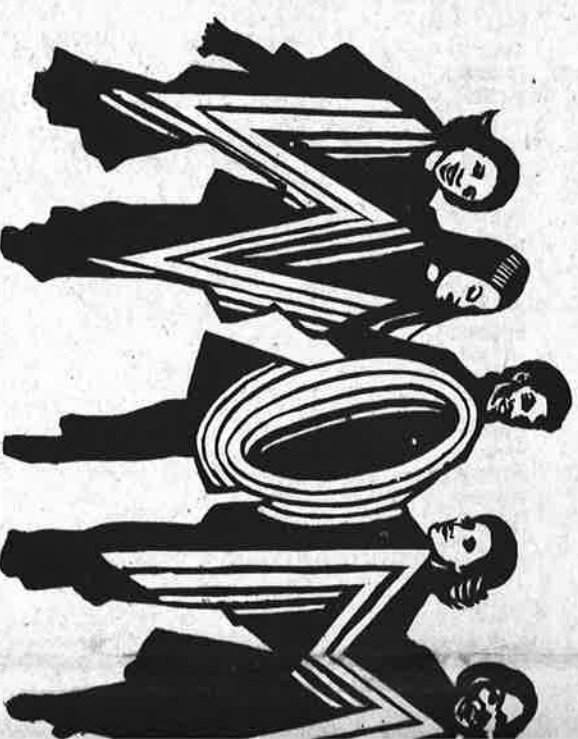
Sterilization, abortion, and all methods of birth control must be made available to all people, who desire them. But these rights are meaningless unless those same people can provide the children they might want to have with the necessities of food, housing, and education. Only when those requirements are met can there be a choice. But when having a child is regarded as "another mouth to feed," what choice is involved?

involved?

Members of the Planned Parenthood Association, which is carrying out the federal program in Oak Ridge, spoke with amazement of the negative reaction "in certain Black communities where sterilization is regarded as genocide." But how can oppressed and poor people view it otherwise? Their children are called "surplus population." Mechanization of industry and farming instead of lightening the load for all workers, just throws millions out of work, and they are told, "Don't bring more poor people into the world." But the growing class of nonproducers who live an affluent life on interest, rents, coupon clipping, and other ways of dodging work are never told to limit their families.

Dr. Warren Hern, of the Family Planning Division of the Office of Economic Opportunity, commented in the New Republic, "one of the most important needs is freedom from the tyranny of their own biology." He neglected to mention the real tyranny that miners' families suffer under--the tyranny of the coal companies, who are part of the ruling class that robs them of a meaningful existence.

Not only in Tennessee, but around the nation



80 percent of the OEO's Community Action groups favor funds for sterilization. This reveals the effort of the ruling class to control the swelling numbers of those it oppresses. And it also reveals one of the principal contradictions confronting the ruling class in this age: it cannot live without the working class. As a New York City judge said in answer to those who demanded deportation of Blacks and Puerto Ricans, "Then who will do the dirty work in this city?" But it doesn't want to support the burgeoning number of workers who have been thrown out of employment by the technological advances of the capitalist system of production.

A century ago there were no laws against abortion, but when the ruling class began to need all the "hands" it could get, laws against limiting the size of working class families were quickly put into effect. The pulpit and the press sided with the needs of the capitalist class and obediently preached against "infanticide" and heaped praise on the mothers of many children. Now the picture has changed because the needs of the capitalist class have changed, and "motherhood" has lost its glamour.

There is a final irony in the tragic story of the impoverished families of Oak Ridge. This town, in 1945, became the site of the largest atomic plant producing uranium 235 for the U.S. nuclear arsenal. At the peak of the stock-piling craze, it used more electricity each day than New York City and more water than Washington, D.C. Billions of dollars were poured into this atomic complex, and the people of the surrounding towns were promised that the dangers they lived with would be compensated for by the economic growth of the region.

Today, the atomic plant is still in operation, the people of Oak Ridge are still impoverished, and the government can offer them nothing more promising than sterilization.



Kennedy - O

Obnoxious as it usually is to read about the goings-on of the jet set, a recent disclosure about the Jackie Kennedy - Aristotle Onassis marriage is of more interest than ordinary gossip column trivia.

According to Christian Kafarakis, the former chief steward of the Onassis yacht, the marriage contract between the billionaire Onassis and the former "First Lady" contained 170 clauses. It covers everything from intimate details on living arrangements (stipulating separate bedrooms in their various mansions and penthouses) to money matters,

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presence of Rockefeller— butcher of Attica and slavemaster of welfare mothers—as the promoter and opening speaker of this conference which was supposed to be concerned with women's rights.

Working class and oppressed women are in a life and death struggle with Rockefeller and his class. But the professional women, lawyers, educators, etc., just wanted "to get the feel of the seats of power," as the speaker from the Women's Unit of the governor's office put it. (The conference took place in the state capitol building, in the very room where the state assembly meets.)

Rockefeller himself never showed up. He conveniently found another commitment just when the protesters' plans were announced.

While listening to Betty Friedan, YAWF Women, who had been denied a spot on the agenda, found it necessary to speak from the floor in order to present the problems of working and oppressed women which had been completely ignored. A telephone operator declared that Friedan had no right to speak for Black, poor, or oppressed women. Housing, welfare, and daycare are the issues for most women, not lobbying for office. Poor, Black, or working women never get a chance to sit in the assembly and decide the issues affecting their lives. They can't even afford the bus fare to get there.

As she spoke, with the encouragement of a section of the crowd, Beth Rodriguez and Laurie Fierstein of YAWF Women went to the microphone.

The class divisions apparent in the audience were sharpened when some of the organizers called in the police to forcibly remove the

Albany conference confronted . . .

Women demand funds for welfare, daycare

by ELLEN CATALINOTTO and JOYCE LEVINE
- ALBANY, N.Y., Nov. 13—"I came to this conference because it is supposed to be for women. I am a mother of a 22-month-old baby; I am separated from my husband and self-supporting. But when I saw the agenda, there wasn't anything relevant to my needs. Lobbying techniques are not relevant to my needs. How to feed my baby, how to buy him new shoes, daycare—these are relevant to my needs."

This statement by Beth Rodriguez of Women of Youth Against War & Fascism brought the reality of the problems of working and poor women to a conference organized by Governor Rockefeller to co-opt the women's liberation movement.

A well-dressed woman yelled "get a nurse" as the solution to the problems of raising a child alone! And the aspiring female politicians groaned at the young mother's description of the hardship of buying new shoes for her baby, as if this only happened on soap-operas.

Militant women's groups from Albany, Troy, Rochester, Buffalo, and New York spearheaded by YAWF Women, had planned to protest the

- Onassis merger

with an emphasis on the latter. Lawyers for the two sides thrashed out the agreement just in time for the ceremony to be performed. The parties to the contract signed it in New York only three days before flying to Onassis' island to be married. The contract provides that at least \$600,000 a year will be spent for Mrs. Onassis' travel, pleasure, safety, and children in addition to providing for her "sumptuous manner of living." (This does not include any gifts, jewels, etc., that her husband may wish to give.) One hundred million dollars—\$100,000,000—will be inherited by Jackie when her husband dies, if they are still married.

In case these love-birds part, however, there are numerous provi-

tract sound—generous, to say the least. But looking a step further it is easy to see that this "generosity" is just one man's way of disposing of stolen goods—wealth plundered from thousands of working people in Greece and throughout the world.

Working people and poor people reach the altar without huge properties and monies to dispose of. Marriage, for better or for worse, not a merger, is their concern. Where thoughts of money come in, it is usually in a worrisome way: how to pay the debts, the payments for a car, furniture, a place to live.

But marriage in the ruling class is another matter. The business deals that are consummated when the daughter of one dynasty marries the son of another set the moral tone

for the cynical attitude so prevalent in bourgeois society. Marriage, or pairing, for love just isn't taken very seriously, despite all the romantic sugarcoating.

With the revelation about the contract, Jackie's goddess-like image—the product of millions of dollars worth of clothes, beauty parlor appointments, and public relations fare—is sure to suffer. At the time of her re-marriage it was rumored that all she saw in Onassis was money. The existence of this 170-clause contract tends to confirm the umors.

The only thing Jackie and Ari did not do to carry out perfectly the spirit of the agreement was hold the wedding in a bank.



On the organizing

Wilmington

"No dinner for rich while children starve!"

WILMINGTON, Nov. 9 — The Republican party planned to quietly hold a \$500-a-plate fund raising dinner here tonight to finance the re-election of the notoriously anti-labor, war-monger Richard M. Nixon. But these plans were marred when 200 poor and working people, from the Black community, the Center for United Labor Action, welfare mothers and children, Delaware Youth Against War & Fascism, and the Delaware Prisoners Solidarity Committee, held a militant demonstration in front of the Hotel duPont where the dinner was being held. Demonstrators carried banners reading: "\$500 Dinner for the Rich While Welfare Children Starve," "Freeze Profits not Wages," and "Stop the War Against Black America."

The demonstration was in response to the stepped-up attacks by the rich against the poor and working people, and particularly, in response to the announcement of Delaware's Governor Peterson that welfare checks for aid to dependent children will be cut back to levels that existed before August 15. That date should be a memorable one for most workers. It was on that day they learned that what had been won on the picket line and at the negotiating table was taken away with one swoop by presidential fiat — A WAGE FREEZE. What the present cut-backs in welfare amount to is a wage freeze for the poorest of the poor.

A mother with three dependent children could have received a maximum of \$172 in October to pay for such necessities as food, clothing, housing, education, and medical expenses. In November her check was reduced to \$152 and no one knows what further cuts are in store for the coming winter months. As one mother protesting the cuts exclaimed, "It is not a matter of whether we like or dislike welfare.... It is a matter of survival."

What the welfare cuts amount to is a racist attack against poor Black and Puerto Rican people; an attempt to freeze oppressed nationalities in to the bottom-most rung of this society. But what the rich bankers and industrialists are finding is that oppressed people are fighting against these attacks with all their strength.

As the demonstration continued, despite the 38-degree weather, the militancy of the picketers increased. Several speakers from the Black community, welfare mothers, and the Center for United Labor Action spoke militantly on the necessity to stop the welfare cuts, and the wage freeze, and end the system based on profit instead of human need.

The demonstrators were neither



Over 200 poor and working people joined Delaware Center for United Labor Action in picketing Du Pont feast for Nixon.

intimidated nor provoked by the presence of many city police, who formed a line between the demonstration and the Hotel duPont, to protect the rich, who ironically included HEW Secretary Richardson, winning and dining inside. At one point, enthusiasm was so great that the picket line took the form of a march and proceeded to march two blocks around the hotel giving notice to those inside — "Jail the Rich, Free the Poor."

Champaign

YAWF leaders

begin

jail sentences

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Nov. 4 — John Lombardo and Sharon Sindelar, leaders of Champaign Youth Against War & Fascism, entered the county jail here today to begin serving sentences of 60 and 14 days for charges stemming from a police attack on a YAWF demonstration last year. The demonstration, protesting police attacks on the Black community of Cairo, Illinois, had resulted in seven arrests.

About 40 supporters chanted "Hendrick's Jail Is a Concentration Camp" and "Free John and Sharon, Jail (Illinois Governor) Ogilvie" as the YAWF leaders disappeared behind the prison's walls. Before, both Lombardo and Sindelar had made public statements outside the prison pledging to continue their struggle and explaining the possibility of fighting the state and winning. (Originally facing some 30 years' imprisonment, the YAWF leaders, through resolute demonstrations and publi-

cizing of the case, had forced the state to reduce the charges to simple misdemeanors and fines for the other defendants.)

From inside the jail, Sharon Sindelar extended a clenched fist through the bars of her cell to the YAWF rally that was still going on outside. Barbara Dunn, one of the defendants of the "Champaign 7" trial, condemned Governor Ogilvie as the criminal for sending troops and armored cars to terrorize the Black community of Cairo, Illinois. Other speakers included Kathy Jones from the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and Cass Solomon from the Anti-Imperialist Women's Movement, who sharply criticized local news media for slandering the Champaign 7 during their trial.

Cleveland

Militants raise

imperialism at

Indochina protest

CLEVELAND, Nov. 6 — Over 1,000 persons demonstrated here today against the Indochina war and against repression in the United States. The march was sponsored and organized by the National Peace Action Coalition. As in the past, the leadership of the NPAC, which consists of the Socialist Workers Party in a bloc with the liberal bourgeoisie, attempted to restrain the actions of the left.

When the marchers began to assemble at Cleveland State University, an anti-imperialist contingent made up of collectives and revolutionary organizations from

all over Ohio, including Youth Against War & Fascism, began to take shape. The contingent carried NLF flags and anti-imperialist banners and raised militant chants. Hearing this and sensing our strength, a marshal captain (member of YSA) frantically ran around with his bullhorn asking for volunteers to be marshals "to help keep the march peaceful."

By the time the march began, the anti-imperialist contingent along with the Prisoners Solidarity Committee numbered about one-third of the total crowd. The front line of this contingent was led by women bearing the flags of the NLF, the Pathet Lao, the Khmer Rouge, North Vietnam, and China. Behind them were YAWF banners reading "Stop the War Against Indochina and Black America," "U.S. Oil Imperialists Out of the Mideast," and "Free Angela Davis and Russell Magee."

The chanting of the anti-imperialist contingent was loud and continuous. As the march neared the end, the anti-imperialist contingent went to the front near the speakers' platform in order that the bourgeois politicians scheduled to speak could hear us loud and clear.

During the rally, a group of about eight Nazis, members of the American Socialist White People's Party, tried to picket the gathering. They were dressed in brown shirts with swastikas, carrying signs saying, "White Power" and "Bomb Hanoi." Men and women from the anti-imperialist contingent, including a member from YAWF and two members of the newspaper Bread, Peace and Land (after breaking through the NPAC marshals), gave the Nazi scum what they deserved. One Nazi was hospitalized. The other cowards ran away like whipped pups. While all this was going on, the co-ordinator of the rally grabbed the microphone and summed up the SWP position on fighting the rightwing by say-

front

ing, "Please ignore the Nazis. They are not part of this rally!"

Later on, a representative from the McGovern for President Committee attempted to speak but was met with loud chanting—"Politicians Lie! GIs Die!" A spokesman from the governor's office after seeing this and hearing the U.S. called imperialist withdrew without speaking.

The march in Cleveland was similar to those across the country. Although the turnout of these marches was smaller than in the past, many new people who came were spirited and militant. After years of following the SWP leadership of popular front pacifism, people have become disillusioned. There was little struggle, and the class character of such a movement was clouded. More people are realizing now that a struggle against the war must also include militant struggles against the war against Black America, and against the boss on the home front, too.

ALAN ROTH — Cleveland YAWF

Cleveland

Maddox heckled off stage

CLEVELAND, Nov. 3—Lester Maddox, ex-governor of Georgia and arch-racist, was heckled off the stage at Case Western University here today, as he tried to deliver a diatribe of subtle but vicious racism to a crowd of some 700 people. "This was the worst rabble rousin' I've seen in all my travels across the United States," Maddox said, referring to Black students and members of Cleveland Youth Against War & Fascism who de-

nounced him as "a racist, fascist, and liar."

About twenty Black students prevented Maddox from speaking for several minutes by singing and heckling. Several of them were then singled out for personal attack when Maddox could no longer control the meeting. Each time he resumed speaking, however, the vicious racism and lies of the ex-governor became more obvious to the crowd of listeners.

YAWF, which had picketed the entrances before the meeting, began demanding "Racist Maddox, get out of Cleveland," pointed out Maddox's hatred of Black people and organized labor. Maddox, they explained, claimed to oppose government control of "free enterprise," but wholeheartedly supported the government's wage freeze. Also, while lauding the increase in educational spending in Georgia, Maddox did not tell the audience its purpose: maintenance of a segregated school system.



Police attack demonstrators, including YAWF chapters from Chicago, Milwaukee, and Champaign protesting Nixon dinner.

Throughout Cleveland, Maddox's only supporters were those who saw the University as an "ivory tower" and ignored the role of the University in the repression of the Black Liberation struggle in Cleveland. The college newspaper, for example, attempted to justify allowing Maddox to speak by appealing for his right to "free speech." (Maddox was paid \$2,500 for his talk—so his appearance wasn't merely a matter of speech alone; this racist is actively raising money for his fascist cause everywhere he goes!)

None of the supporters of "free speech," however, dared to mention that it was the University that suppressed many reports of police brutality in the Black community. Nor did these defenders of racism's "right" to exist and be heard think it degrading to free speech to have the University used as a staging area for the National Guard in its attempts to repress the Black community during the 1968 rebellion in Glenville, Ohio.

Chicago YAWF, CULA picket dinner of parasites

CHICAGO, Nov. 12 -- On Saturday, November 6, Chicago YAWF and CULA joined approximately 5,000 other people in what was part of a nationwide protest against the war. YAWF and the Iranian Students Association formed an anti-imperialist contingent and were able to raise spirited chants in support of Black and Arab liberation, as well as the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people. They also carried many colorful Palestinian guerrilla flags and banners.

On Tuesday, November 9, Nixon, Agnew, and Governor Ogilvie joined

Chicago's wealthiest Republican parasites for a \$500-a-plate fund raising dinner. The Center for United Labor Action responded to this by distributing thousands of leaflets calling on working and poor people to protest the wage freeze, the Attica massacre, and the overall war against poor people in this country. About 2,500 people came to the Conrad Hilton Hotel to let these war criminals know that opposition to their policies is militant, vocal, and growing.

Delegations from Champaign and Milwaukee YAWF joined Chicago YAWF in this demonstration. Champaign YAWF brought a large delegation under the title of "Cairo contingent." They carried banners which demanded that Ogilvie get his fascist troops out of Cairo, Illinois, where the Black community has been heroically resisting economic strangulation and fascist repression.

CULA carried several banners which attacked Nixon's domestic war moves, such as the wage freeze. One banner, "White Racism Divides All Labor," appealed to progressive white workers to unite with their Black and Third World brothers and sisters.

The demonstrators were very representative of oppressed people in American society. There were Black and Third World people, women, Viet vets, youth, workers, and gay people. All were unified in their opposition to these enemies of the poor.

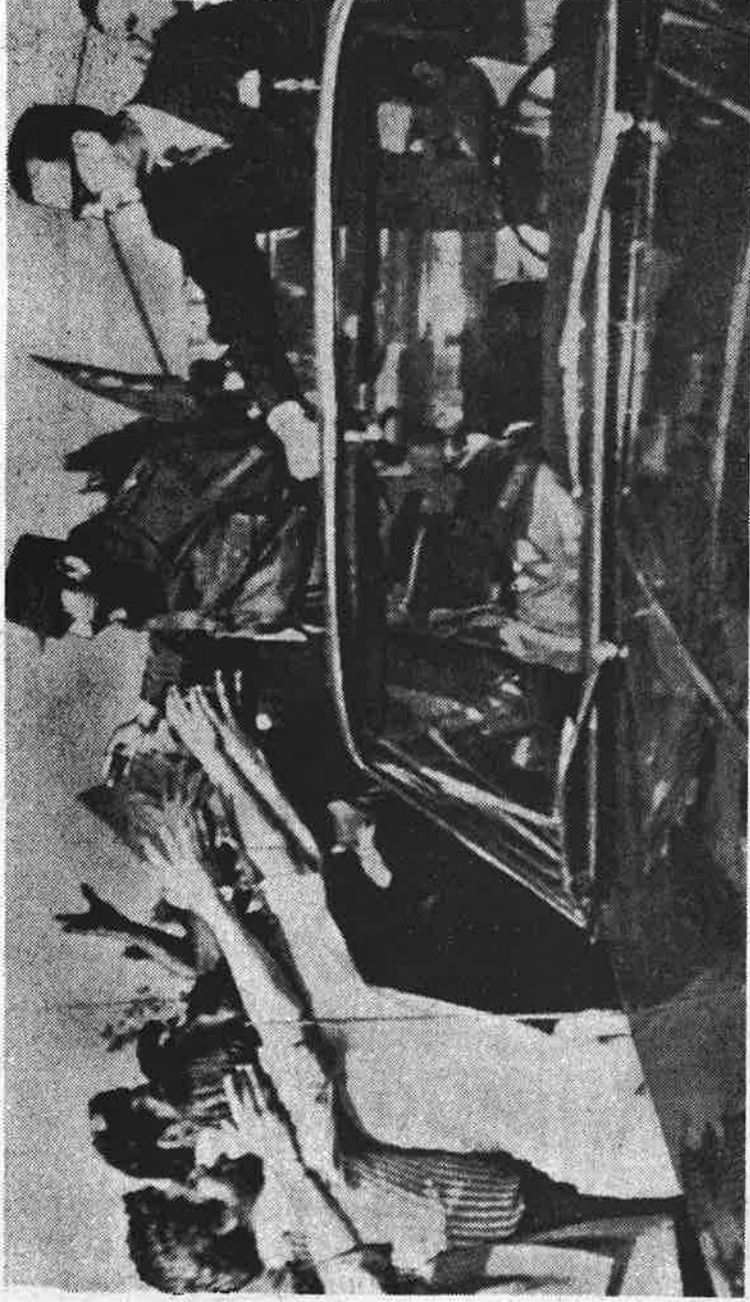
As police in riot gear formed a wall between the demonstrators and the main entrance of the Conrad Hilton, where expensively dressed men and women alighted from their limousines to attend this dinner, loud chants and eggs, bottles, and rocks flew from the crowd. While the cops did everything possible to insure the safety of a man who is responsible for the devastation of a whole country, the torture and murder of countless Vietnamese people, the Secret Police attacked and arrested five young demonstrators—for allegedly "throwing bottles."

BE IN THE STRUGGLE WITH YAWF

YOUTH AGAINST WAR & FASCISM is an anti-imperialist organization of militant youth, active since 1962 in every aspect of the struggle in the United States—from protesting against the war in Vietnam, to demonstrating in support of Black liberation, to walking picket lines in solidarity with striking workers.

MANY OF the activities YAWF is involved in are reflected on these *Organizing Front* pages. If you are interested in learning more about YAWF fill in this coupon and send it to YAWF, 58 W. 25 St., New York, N.Y.

NAME
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Castro cheered in Chile

The visit of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro to Chile this week was a heavy blow to the ten-year-old U.S. imperialist policy of isolating and blockading Cuba. The Cuban Revolution, now almost thirteen years old, still inspires the masses of Latin America towards the road of socialist revolution. Referring to Cuba's break with U.S. imperialism, Fidel Castro also told Chilean workers and students to have confidence in the "socialist camp to help Chile solve its problems."

On Friday, September 26, the Review Court action, instead of reintegrating the four into the prison population, resulted in the transfer of two of the isolated prisoners to Michigan City, Indiana's maximum security concentration camp, and the return of only one of the four to the general population. In the early afternoon on that day approximately 250 men gathered on the volleyball court to engage in another peaceful demonstration to press for positive action of their grievances.

RACIST BRUTALITY INTENSIFIES

Hack Captain Huckleby, wearing a white cowboy-type hat, arrived on the scene and was immediately engaged in dialogue by several inmates. As Huckleby broke off the talks with the prisoners and was leaving the volleyball court, he signaled to the tower guards to open fire by throwing his white hat to the ground. Huckleby, accompanied by six riot-equipped pigs, placed themselves along the grass facing the recreation area. Prisoners were ordered to line up and return to their housing locations. All but the demonstrators were permitted to do so. The demonstrators who attempted to join the line-up were ordered to sit down.

When the area was cleared of all men except the demonstrators, Huckleby ordered the prisoner-demonstrators to get to their feet. The Brothers refused, preferring to continue their peaceful protest. Huckleby then ordered a warning volley and told the men to leave. The Brothers remained seated. The Captain ordered a second volley, and again told the prisoners to leave the area. The prisoners courageously remained seated. One Brother said, "If they're going to shoot us, they'll have to shoot us in the back." Whereupon all but one of the men lay on the ground, some pulling their prison coats over their faces and heads. One young man stood alone, with his back to the firing squad, his hand raised in the clenched fist Black unity salute. Someone was heard to say: "That one is mine."

Huckleby again dropped his white hat—the signal to fire—and the standing hero, a youth of twenty, named Hutchison, fell wounded with five shots in his body. Round upon round was pumped into the prone demonstrators, by some estimates as many as 90 rounds, before the cease-fire order was given. When the massacre was over, 20-year-old James E. Durr lay dead from a bullet in the head.

Forty-six prisoners lay wounded, many critically, from shots on the head, on the back, through the chest, in the legs, feet, thighs, through the groin, in the side—in fact, some who tried to throw up their hands in the traditional gesture of surrender were shot through the hands by guards commenting, "You haven't had enough yet; go back and sit down."

Many of the injured had multiple wounds. Two of the most critically wounded were returned to Pendleton from the Robert Long Hospital in Indianapolis despite the inability of the prison infirmary to adequately treat serious cases. One of these men later died of his wounds. On the night of September 26, all the demonstrators who had not been shot, totaling 171 men, were placed in four-by-six-foot cells, with up to 17 men per cell, and tear gassed.

Facts revealed in Indiana prison shooting

by TOM TURNER and KARL KAMPOVSKY

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Indiana is a beautiful place in September. And Pendleton, Indiana, is a quiet little farming community surrounded by woodlands: that at this time of year are taking on the flaming colors of autumn. Pendleton is nestled between Indianapolis and Anderson, Indiana. Pendleton has two industries: first, it is the farming center for this area and, second, it is the home of the Pendleton Reformatory, a "minimum security" prison for young men ages fifteen to thirty.

Friday, September 26, 1969, was a warm, sunny day in all of Pendleton, except at the "Reformatory." For the prisoners it was to be a day of unspeakable horror. On September 23, a group of Black prisoners (the majority of the prison population is Black) had posted a letter listing ten grievances. The letter was sent to an Indianapolis resident with a request that he and representatives of the bourgeois news media be present to witness a peaceful demonstration to be staged by prisoners on Thursday, September 25, to dramatize their grievances. On that day the peaceful sitdown of 75 to 100 (the news media didn't come) resulted in a discussion with Assistant Superintendent Schroeder who promised a Review Court for four prisoners who had been in isolation since May of 1969. Superintendent Phend, as is his custom in such instances, refused the prisoners an audience.

With the exception of a 16-year-old Hispanic American—ALL OF THE MASSACRE AND GAS VICTIMS WERE BLACK.

GRAND JURY SAYS...GUARDS DID THEIR DUTY

After the murderous attack, the grand jury claimed that: "The guards were in the performance of their duties at the time of the incident. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to place criminal responsibility on any of the Reformatory personnel involved." Governor Edgar Whitcomb said in a letter issued before the Grand Jury investigation, "No employee of the Pendleton Reformatory will be suspended or released." Pig Whitcomb's prophecy came true—not a single one of these Nazi guards has been suspended; they still walk the parapets of Pendleton, even though a public cry of outrage arose from the Black community of Indianapolis.

In the weeks that followed the atrocities, no legal action by the state of Indiana was taken against the murderers. The outrage of the Black community, however, did force the federal government to charge seven of the guards, including Huckleby, with "violating the civil rights of prisoners."

Huckleby and other members of the execution squad are now standing trial in federal court here. The local press—a monopoly owned by Eugene C. Pulliam—so far has managed to bury all news of the massacre and the trial on the back pages of his reactionary news-rags. The Indianapolis Star and The Indianapolis News. But information has trickled out of these secret trials, via the local radio and TV stations. One prisoner named Popovitz refused to testify, but when ordered by the court to describe the massacre, said:

"It was like putting a bunch of dogs in a box and shooting into the box many times with a shotgun." Popovitz then refused to testify further (obviously afraid of reprisals from the murderous guards still on duty at Pendleton). Federal Judge S. Hugh Dillin at that point sentenced Popovitz to serve six months' additional time at the end of his time at Pendleton for contempt of court.

Previous to the beginning of the trials, five prisoners filed a federal injunctive suit. The inmates asked the court to restrain and enjoin Indiana correction officials and reformatory guards from committing possible acts of reprisal as a result of a damage suit brought by the prisoners following the September 1969 massacre. Judge S. Dillin expressed confidence in Indiana penal officials, and said, in dismissing the request for injunctive relief, "The fears articulated by the plaintiffs are prospective and do not afford any reasonable basis for granting the relief prayed for. The plaintiffs still incarcerated fail to allege any adverse acts on the part of the defendants.... Such allegations merely state apprehension, rather than facts. This court assumes public officials of the State of Indiana will carry out their duties in a legal manner and will not discriminate in any way against the plaintiffs for legal right to assert their claims for substantial relief in a court of law."

The judge forgot to add, "The oppressed have no rights that the oppressor is bound to respect."

FREE THE PRISONERS, JAIL THE GUARDS!!!

Oppressed nations victims of U.S. trade war

by P. MEISNER

The greatest victims of the Washington-Wall Street new economic trade war are not the European and Japanese imperialist powers, but the underdeveloped (more accurately, super-oppressed) nations. Their only hope (short of socialist revolution) to climb out of colonial poverty is to increase their share of world trade so as to be able to purchase the capital goods necessary for industrial development. But Nixon's 10 percent import tax surcharge, along with the 7 percent investment tax credit to U.S. corporations, have just about killed any chance for the super-oppressed colonial countries to increase their export trade and develop their economies.

While the devaluation of the dollar should greatly increase U.S. exports in the immediate future, a similar devaluation by colonial nations would be disastrous, since this would further increase already huge foreign debts (mostly to U.S. or U.S.-dominated banks). And U.S. imperialism has all along manipulated these foreign debts to keep them growing at a rate high enough to make it impossible for these poor countries to ever fully "repay" the U.S. banks.

U.S. BANKS KEEP THEM POOR

Wall Street's terms for this extortion is for the underdeveloped nations to keep buying U.S. goods at incredibly high prices, while selling to the U.S. at very low prices. It is no wonder then that the total Latin American foreign debt (excluding Cuba) reached \$14.4 billion in 1969, \$3 billion more than all of Latin America's export earnings (which still have to be reduced by the total import payments).

The foreign debts of all the colonial and oppressed nations, in fact, keep increasing while their trade positions keep getting worse. The underdeveloped countries' share of global trade was 21.3 percent in 1960 and went down to 17.6 percent in 1970. Meanwhile, their total foreign debts had risen to \$60 billion in 1969 and almost to \$68 billion by 1970.

Nevertheless, Wall Street's domination of world trade is seriously being challenged for the first time. The U.S. economic crisis is largely the result of the defeats on the battlefields of Vietnam and the accompanying enormous military spending which has put the U.S. in a deficit balance-of-payments position. In the

past, large U.S. trade surpluses were able to offset the entire dollar outflow abroad. However, the rosy picture has changed for the worse for U.S. imperialism. The tremendous inflation created by the U.S. imperialist war in Indochina has produced an overvalued dollar which is no longer welcome in Europe and Japan. And to top it all off, the U.S. may suffer the first trade deficit in its history by the end of 1971.

U.S. MAKES THE POOR PAY

The billionaire hawks in Wall Street and Washington responded to the crisis with devaluation of the dollar, the 10 percent import surcharge and the 7 percent tax credit—an all-out attack against their imperialist rivals, but much worse, a devastating blow to the underdeveloped countries. Heavily dependent on trade with the U.S., these countries are the hardest hit by the "protectionist" measures. The needs of U.S. corporations have distorted the development of their economies and have also forced them to keep their assets in dollars. Now, after having been made dependent on trade with the U.S. through the penetration of Yankee capital, they are being forced to pay for the fix the imperialists find themselves in.

Despite the enormous productive capacity within the U.S. itself, imperialism has become increasingly dependent on the super-profits squeezed from its foreign holdings. U.S. assets abroad totalled \$26.8 billion in 1960 and rose to \$60 billion by 1970, in Latin America, where the U.S. robbed \$1.6 billion in profits in 1969, \$1.3 billion was taken back to the U.S. Meanwhile, U.S. investments in Latin America rose from \$8.4 billion in 1960 to \$13.8 billion in 1969. Wall Street's colonial policy of "buy cheap and sell expensive" in the underdeveloped nations put Latin America into a \$2.8 billion trade deficit in 1970 alone.

The global system of imperialist plunder, whether by "foreign investments," "trade," or "loans," cannot survive much longer. The current economic crisis of Western capitalism can only bring more misery to the world's exploited classes and oppressed nations. Another social and economic system has already been judged by an overwhelming majority of humankind to be rational as well as humane. Socialist cooperation will replace capitalist anarchy.

Bethlehem lays off thousands of steelworkers

by ANNE HAWKINS

BUFFALO, N.Y.—A good way to meet the workers at Bethlehem Steel Corporation is to stand in front of the unemployment office in Buffalo, New York. Sooner or later you'll meet just about all of the 20,000 former workers at this plant.

The layoffs at Bethlehem—the nation's second largest steel producer—are well into the thousands now, and are increasing every week. Three weeks ago the company laid off 6,000 people, leaving a work force of 9,000. The company tries to fool the workers all the time with rumors of increased production; every now and then they "fake a pass" and call back a couple of hundred workers (who are only to be laid off the following month).

So now Bethlehem is attempting to function with maximum profits and a minimal work force. What's going on? Why are these 9,000 workers being asked to do jobs out of their classification so that the company can operate at low overhead? Why are these workers sent letters from the Bethlehem bosses telling them to work faster and harder to do 12 hours' worth of work in 8 hours?

GREED, THAT'S WHY!

News of the severe cutbacks at Bethlehem was no surprise; in this

past year alone, over 30 plants to have or are already planning to shut down completely. Bethlehem's bosses are really feeling the economic squeeze and in turn are making working people suffer because of their greed.

The reason why these plants are cutting back is, of course, to try to make more money: they are using automation (such as at Bethlehem's Burns Harbor, Michigan plant—newly automated), moving plants into non-union areas to pay the workers less, eliminating jobs, laying people off, and locking workers out. The truth is that the economy is so bad that the fat corporation owners are running scared—and taking their factories with them if they can.

Here in Buffalo they only have parts of the Bethlehem plant still operating. Reasons given by Bethlehem officials for the phase-out were "high property assessments, rigid pollution standards, and insufficient employee productivity." In a nutshell, this just means the Bethlehem bosses are going to try to squeeze more out of the workers and give them less, making working people and their families suffer!

Edmund Martin and Stewart Court, past and present chief executive officers of Bethlehem don't suffer at all...on the contrary, they also sit on the boards of directors of Morgan Guaranty Trust and Continental Bank, respectively.



Bethlehem Steel plant in Buffalo

Angry reaction from the militant steel rank-and-file is making it hard for the steel union leadership to hold down the workers' struggle. Union meetings have become a place of confrontation with the leadership for the militants who know that struggle is the only answer. Organizations here, like the Center for United Labor Action, are attempting to organize union mili-

tants to play an active role in this fight to save jobs—and the steelworkers here know how to fight. Each workers who is laid off or has his or her job eliminated or taken over by automation is at war with the ruling class of rich corporation owners. And there are more and more of these sisters and brothers who are willing to struggle every day.

The economic origins of the Supreme Court

Part III.

Revolution in the Court

by JERRY ZILG

"We shall reorganize the Court and thus reform its political sentiments and practices."

—Senator Seward, 1858.
"It (capital) is a new aristocracy—proud, imperious, dishonest, seeking only profit and exploitation of workers."

—W. H. Sylvius, National Labor Union, 1866

On March 3, 1858, an angry Senator Seward rose among nervous murmurs in the Senate Chamber and slowly began one of the most scathing speeches in the history of the U.S. Senate. Seward was about to cause a national sensation and hasten the beginning of the bloody Civil War.

"Before coming to office," Seward said, "he (President Buchanan) approached or was approached by the Supreme Court of the United States. The day of the inauguration came, the first one among all the celebrations of that great national pageant that was to be desecrated by a coalition between the executive and judicial departments, to undermine the national legislative and the liberties of the people. The President... arrived and took his seat on the portico. The Supreme Court attended him there in robes which yet exacted public reverence. The people (were) unaware of the import of the whisperings carried on between the President and the Chief Justice." The whisperings were about their conspiracy to deny Kansas statehood as a free state barring slave-owning.

Seward, of course, knew that this was not the first time that such an illegal collusion between a President and the Court had occurred. What was significant was that he felt compelled this time to reveal such a scandal. For the tensions between Northern capitalism, which he represented as a senator from New York, and Southern slave-

holders, which Buchanan and the Court represented, had by now become intolerable to both sides. By exposing secret letters about Kansas between Buchanan and Chief Justice Taney, the split in the ruling classes had grown to the point of war. In fact, Seward's revelations on the President's conspiracy with the Court, affirmed later by other correspondence, were actually an appeal to public outrage, particularly to outrage from wage labor in the North, and were a call to arms. Within two years that call was answered by whole labor unions volunteering as companies in the Union army.

The Supreme Court, obviously, was never the same. Chief Justice Taney's reputation was immediately destroyed, and with the commencing of armed conflict the power of the slaveholders over the Court was also destroyed. In 1860, the Court had a majority of slaveholders and Southern sympathizers. By 1865, six justices had been replaced by five who represented Northern capitalist interests, one vacancy remaining unfilled.

NORTHERN BANKERS TAKE OVER

When Taney died in 1864, Lincoln swiftly replaced him with Salmon P. Chase, director of Lafayette Bank. This appointment of a Northern banker was no accident. The Court was reflecting the change of controlling class interests inside the federal government. Lincoln's administration was now wholly financed by Northern banks like First National Bank, Lafayette Bank, J. B. Brown & Sons, and Delaware County Bank—but at a price. In fact, Lincoln taxed the people \$18-20 million a year to pay interest on bank loans taken by the government during the war. Lincoln never considered the obvious alternative—tax the wealth of the corporations and banks, not the people.

Under Lincoln's administration, Northern banks were given absolute control over the volume

—People's war in Dhofar

(Continued from page 5)

deliberately brought in foreign workers from Pakistan, Iran, India, and even the U.S. to work on the oil installations. These workers were given special privileges and higher pay to keep them divided from the Arab people and unsympathetic to the cause of national liberation. Nevertheless, the Popular Front has strong ties with the small indigenous proletariat that has developed.

We asked what role women are playing in the struggle. "Due to the backward situation in the Gulf, women are very exploited," they said. "However, they are oppressed in two ways, both by imperialism and also socially. Therefore, women have responded to the revolutionary struggle and they participate fully in it. Women now participate fully in combat." (There is an organiza-

tion of women within the Popular Front.)

The delegates from Dhofar stressed that their struggle is "indivisible with the total struggle of the Arab people and specifically with the Palestinian organizations. It is an indivisible part of the international struggle against imperialism."

Ten years ago the names of the mountains and plains of Vietnam were just as unfamiliar to the American people as those of Dhofar are today. But a people's war aimed at throwing out imperialism and building a socialist society has indelibly marked those places on the minds of the people. Dhofar, too, is such a battleground—a small place, but of great importance to the capitalist world's oil reserves, and therefore an important arena of struggle for all the world's oppressed.

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It was to no one's surprise, then, that Chase's Court declared the Legal Tender Act unconstitutional. This law had given the federal government sole control over issuing of money. This, the bankers felt, would never do. By nullifying the act, the Court upheld payment of debts in coin currency, which meant gold. This, in effect, gave control over the issuing of currency to the bankers who had busily hoarded gold throughout the war. Control of the treasury, the Court knew, meant control of the government.

(Next issue: Part IV—Railroading the people.)

Sports for profit, not fun

by GREG DANIELS

At the Pan-American amateur sports games earlier this year an American baseball player ripped down a Cuban flag and tried to tear it after his team had lost to the Cuban team. He was adequately dealt with by members of the Cuban team.

After the dust had settled, the manager of the American team complained "that sports has nothing to do with politics" and charged that the Cubans were "using sports to make political hay."

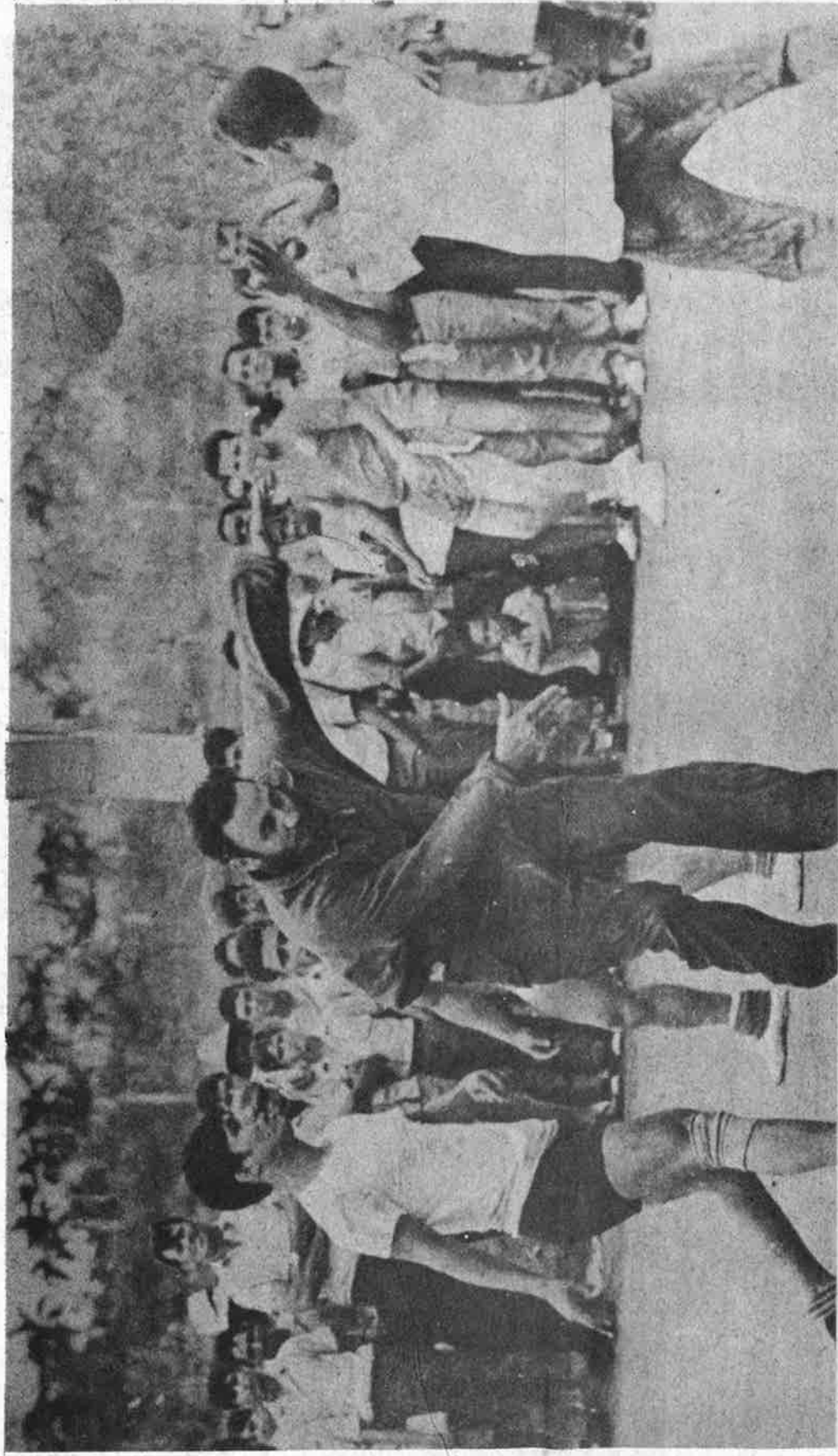
The American team's manager was simply playing a game of "Simon Says"; that is, he was parroting his big-money bosses, following and copying their techniques. How many times have we heard corporation bosses and their politicians say things like "pollution (or abortion or busing) has nothing to do with politics" or that we should "stop using these issues for political purposes"?

The reason for all these charades is to keep people from knowing just how much things like baseball, football, and other organized sports have to do with politics. Or, more correctly, just how much politics has to do with economics and, in the case of

The well-publicized large salaries of a select group of U.S. athletes is small potatoes in comparison to the mind-boggling profits raked in by the team owners and the networks. The Muhammed Ali-Joe Frazier fight is expected to gross at least \$30 million and the "Super-profit Bowl" is a guaranteed \$40- or \$50-million deal. Not bad for three hours' "work."

SPORTS MONOPOLIES

The laws of economics apply to sports also. At a time in history when the rich monopolies are getting richer and stronger and the poor are getting a lot poorer, organized sports are beginning to feel the pinch, too. The big corporations are moving in for the kill and are taking over a lot of franchises: CBS bought the New York Yankees; Lamar Hunt bought a team, as did the Ford family in Detroit. And these same businesses and families also own race horses, prize fighters (Joe Frazier is "owned" by a Philadelphia corporation that sells stock in him), hockey



In Cuba sports are for the people — not for profit. Fidel (middle) joins soccer match.

the United States, the super-rich corporations that own and run this country.

MONEY TALKS

The "sports boom" in America started right after World War II and has continued ever since. This was a time when war production gave the working people a few extra dollars to spend. It was also a time when the big corporations consolidated on a worldwide basis and got even bigger than most people could dream of. As they got bigger, they pumped millions of dollars into Madison Avenue to think of newer and more clever ways to take back the few extra dollars they were forced to pay the workers.

Television proved to be the answer. Television put organized sports into every home and, in doing so, made fabulous profits for the franchises involved, as well as for the networks. The National Football League entered its first deal with a single network in 1962 and got \$4,650,000 from CBS. The American Football League sprung up, so more rich people could get their fingers in the football pie. By the time the leagues merged (a very profitable merger), the price had zoomed to \$18,800,000. And now there are 26 teams and three major networks.

Commercials during the Super Bowl cost \$200,000 per minute and all home games are blacked out for 75 miles around a home town to insure the double profits of gate receipts and capacity viewing audience. It became routine for program directors to call timeouts for commercials during a game and the start of the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico was held up for one-half hour to make sure it hit the prime time. (The Games were also held up by three Black athletes who stunned the capitalist networks by raising clenched fists during the "Star Spangled Banner.")

teams, basketball teams, roller derby teams, and wrestlers.

Sports franchises are part of American conglomerates. "It's a business," said Howard Cosell. "It's sport to the fans only. Sheer greed dictated the National Basketball Association expansion, nothing else. Sheer greed."

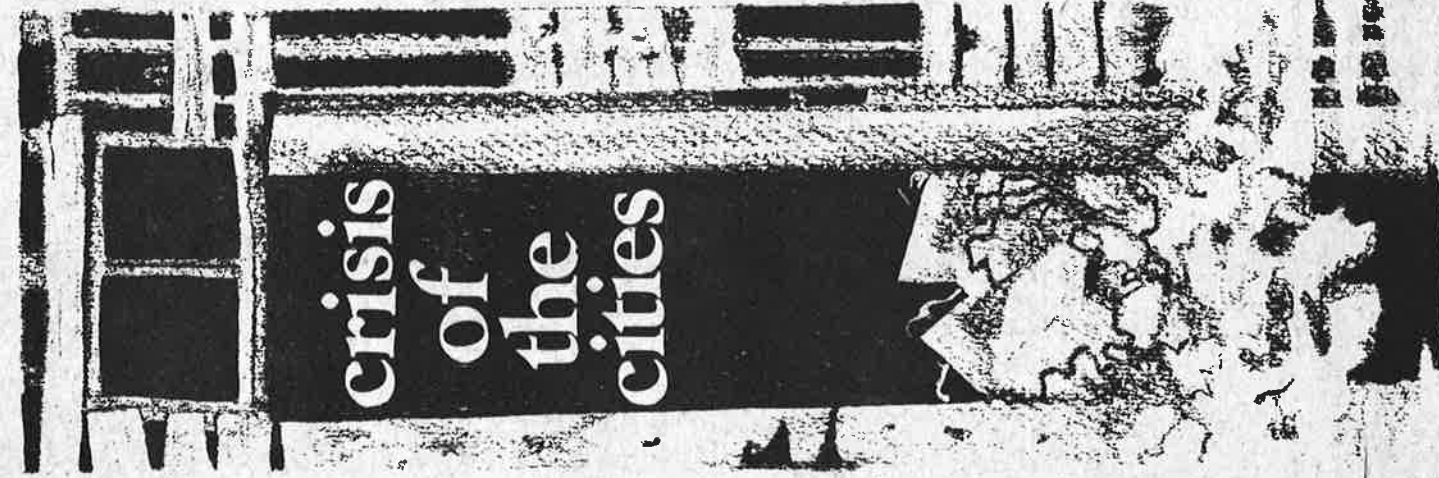
PEOPLE PAY

Like every other billion dollar business in America, organized sports squeezes its profits from the working people. What they can't steal from the workers through taxes, through the United Fund, or from just under-paying them, the bosses steal through sports.

It's hard to enjoy a game, any game, when you've shelled out \$5.00 to see it in, possibly, a \$90 million sports complex you've just paid to build. Sports-service, one of the world's biggest companies, gets a lot of income from charging \$.90 for a hamburger and \$1.00 for a beer in all of the stadiums that are under its monopoly control. Any worker who bowls in a Mickey Mantle bowling alley, buys a cola with O.J. Simpson's picture on it, or listens to Frank Gibson sell them a washing machine should know what organized sports in America are all about: a big hustle.

Professional sports in America are called "spectator sports"; that is, they're designed to keep the spectators, mostly workers, occupied so they can't see the money that's being robbed from them by corporate millionaire "sports boosters."

Athletics are necessary in any society, but they should be free to all people and free of the big business controls that only make them an addition to workers' oppression.



Part I.

From centers of wealth to whirlpools of poverty

for "townspeople," the "bourgeoisie." And so conscious were the capitalists that the city was their special turf that after the French Revolution the victorious bourgeoisie used the term "citizen" ("city-dweller") as communists today use the word "comrade."

Today, however, the city is a scrapheap, strewn haphazardly with machines that, old and broken years ago, belch out fumes of death as they sit on the rotting floors or move along filthy streets. Everything is in disrepair. The physical city is pathetic: the housing, the subways and buses, the power supply systems, the telephones, the roads, the sanitation systems are all on the verge of collapse. The services that once made the city seem humane in contrast to the more backward countryside — schools, health care, welfare systems, libraries — are a parody of what might be. The city's waterfront, sky, and streets are poisoned.

And worst of all is the dehumanization and alienation of the city's people. Writing of London in 1844, Frederick Engels noted that "the brutal indifference, the unfeeling isolation of each person in his private interest" — the fundamental principle of capitalism — was "nowhere so shamelessly barefaced, so self-conscious as just here in the crowding of the great city."

WHO'S KILLING THE CITIES?

Why has it happened? In the next twelve months, as politicians scurry for votes, there will be a revival of interest in the urban crisis in the ruling press and in government circles. Mayors will be photographed riding the subways or buses, and maybe an energetic politician will actually pick up a snowshovel or a broom to clean the city's streets. But none of what they deplore or the proposals they make to remedy the situation will really be new.

The decline and decay of American cities was first acknowledged way back in 1890. Since then every U.S. administration has promised some sort of relief to the cities. Roosevelt's National Resources Committee produced a report in 1937 on urban problems that led to the first public low-cost housing; the Housing Act of 1949 promised slum clearance; Eisenhower talked of "urban renewal" in 1954; 1965 saw the establishment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Johnson brought forth the Model Cities Act of 1966. Now Nixon isn't even promising much.

The net result of all this "city planning"

their money downtown faster in the morning.

This plan comes only a year after the city ripped through one of the few parks in the Black community to build an expressway extension for the same purpose. The Rapid Transit was also to be above-ground near a hospital, which urged its clientele to vote against the plan because of noise and pollution.

Despite the well-organized television, radio, and newspaper campaigns, the people have learned not to trust Rockefeller and his schemes to spend their money. Hiking the taxes after all of his solemn promises to the contrary was one step. His bloody massacre at Attica was another. This blatantly anti-people, pro-profit "Transportation for the Rich" Bill was the last straw.

The workers' disgust and hatred for Rocky and his rich pals have only shown themselves at the polls this time, but the workers are getting angrier every day. In the future, their fight against the bosses will be with more than ballots.

Workers reject Rocky's bonds

New York State's billionaire governor Nelson Rockefeller was given a good thumping by the voters in Buffalo when they, along with the rest of the state, overwhelmingly defeated his Transportation Bond Issue. Backed by every major corporation and politician, "Yes for Transportation, Inc." ran a well-financed and publicized propaganda campaign to fool the people into voting for the Bond Issue.

For the people of Buffalo, the Transportation Bond Bill meant only higher taxes and fewer benefits. The money was to be used to build a Rapid Transit System between downtown Buffalo and the suburbs. The catch, however, was that through downtown Buffalo (the business section) and the suburbs (wealthy residential) the Rapid Transit would be underground; but through the Black community it was to be above ground. This would have meant throwing Black people out of their homes (the bill didn't provide for new housing) and ripping up the community to get the businessmen and

is sickeningly obvious to any city-dweller. New York City moves from crisis to crisis; Chicago spends five times more on the police than on health and hospitals; federally financed "urban renewal" has torn down more low-cost housing than it has built. What is not so obvious is, how did this come about? Many theories are advanced. For hundreds of years, the owners of wealth and property have claimed that slums exist because poor people are immoral, ignorant, lazy, and attracted to dirt. The transformation of slums to ghettos with the preponderance of oppressed people at the poorest level of modern U.S. capitalist society has added the insidious element of racism to this nonsense.

Oppressors have always tried to blame the oppressed for being oppressed. But the truth is that slums exist because it is not profitable for the capitalist ruling class to make them otherwise. And for many sections of the capitalist class — landlords, owners of low-paying sweatshops, and industries that hire and lay off unskilled workers seasonally — it is very profitable to keep the slums just as they are. There are those who see in the decay of American cities an inevitable, organic process brought about by the complexity of modern technology and the expansion of population since the Industrial Revolution. They question whether cities as such will survive into the future, and there is the subliminal implication: will the poor who now make up such a large percentage of the big cities be allowed to survive?

It is the aim of this series of articles to show that there is nothing about the development of cities that is independent of social conditions and political life. Cities are made by people; their structure is determined consciously in the interests of those who own and control the wealth of society and its political apparatus. The tax structure (who pays what) and the budget (where the money goes) are manipulated to make sure that private industries and persons of wealth can hold on to the vast fortunes they have made at the workers' expense, and that they need not let go of any significant portion to pay for decent schools, recreation, health care, or housing for these same workers and their families.

If city "planning" and urban renewal have become a sick joke, it is not because the planning of graceful, dynamic cities is impossible, but because such planning can never take place while property is privately owned.

(Next — Housing)

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