

*Black and white, unite and fight for a*

# WORKERS WORLD

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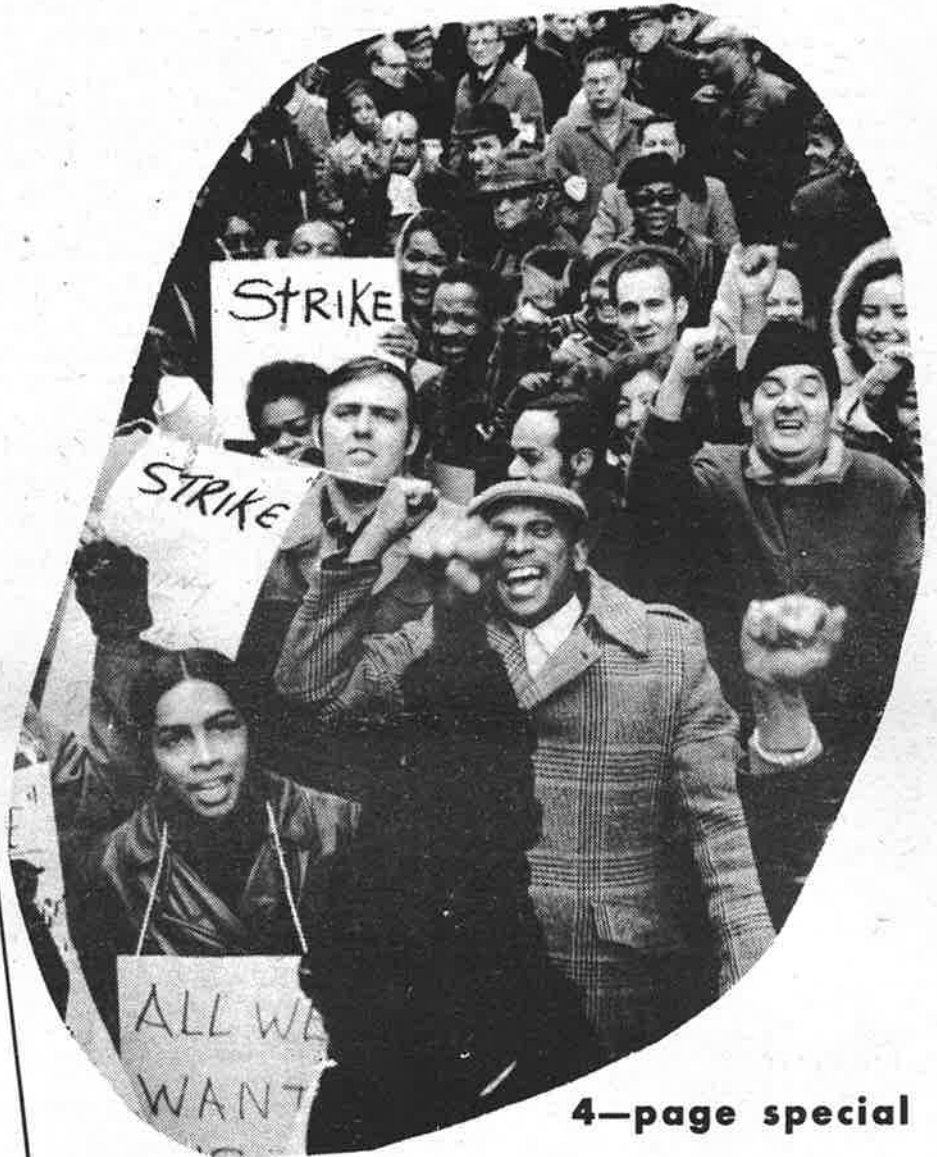
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## Free Bobby Seale!

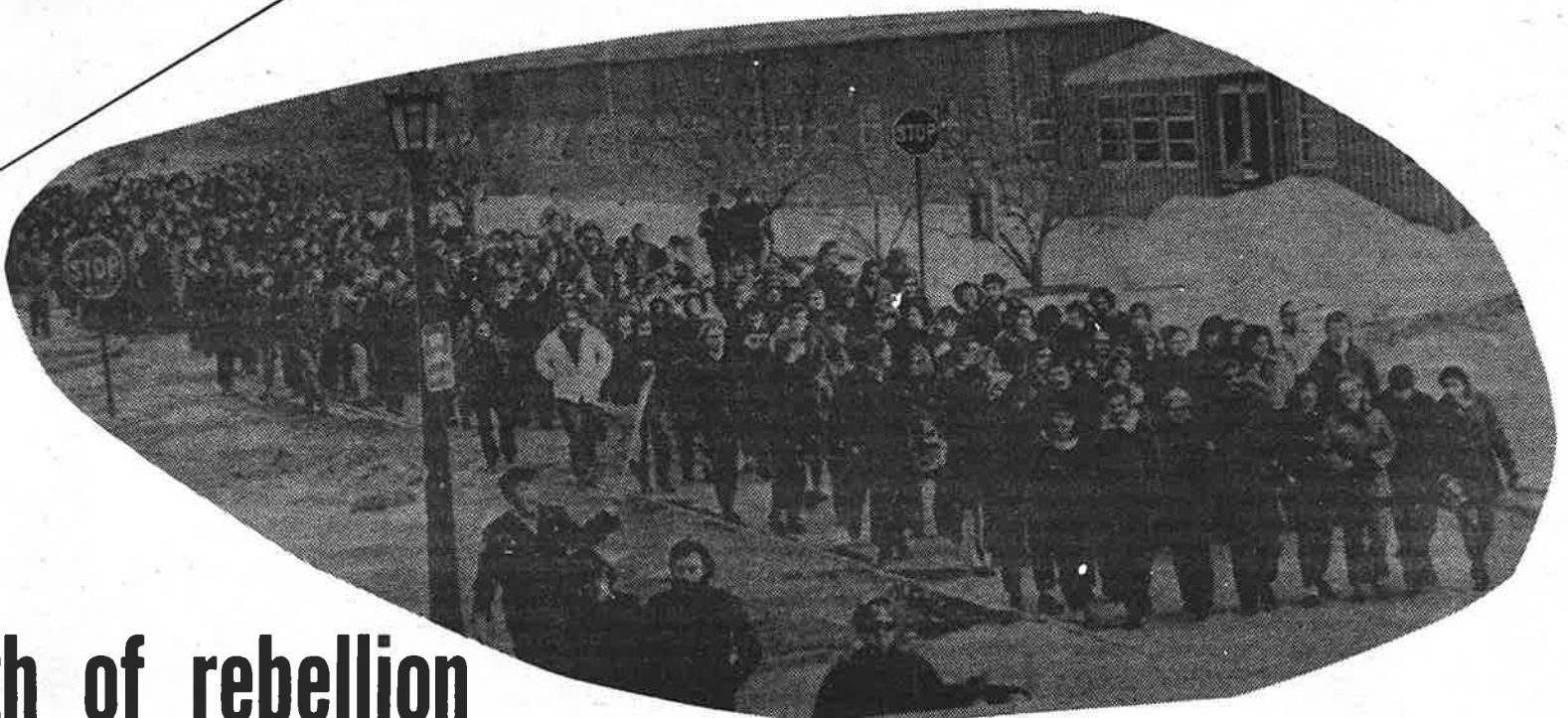
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## The significance of the postal strike



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## Buffalo University



4—page special

## A month of rebellion



## New York Panther case

# Writing fascism into law

By EMILY TARASOV

Even if each of the 11 Panther 21 defendants still imprisoned could raise the \$100,000 ransom for bail, Judge Murtagh has proclaimed that he will never release them until they promise to "behave" in his court. He has also threatened to bar the defendants from the courtroom entirely if they become "unruly" again.

The use of illegally high bail to hold Black liberation fighters in preventive detention is becoming a favorite ruling class tactic. In fact, on March 23, the Supreme Court unanimously denied, without comment, a motion by the Panther 21 for reduction of bail. The Supreme Court's denial effectively sentences the Panthers to indefinite imprisonment and torture unless they agree to forgo all their constitutional rights and "behave" in Murtagh's court. To agree to Murtagh's edict, the Panthers would have to accept the racist and reactionary judicial system of the ruling class and peacefully acquiesce in their own lynching. Murtagh's illegal suspension of the trial is a ground-breaking precedent on the part of the ruling class to blatantly deprive the defendants of any defense before the trial even begins.

### Murtagh to bar defendants from trial

In the likelihood that the liberal bourgeoisie is not ready to accept such an open police state measure as indefinite imprisonment, Murtagh has prepared another avenue by which he can carry out the ruling class' vicious attack on the Black Panther Party — the physical barring of the defendants from the courtroom. This became a more present

threat when, on March 23, D.A. Hogan petitioned Murtagh to re-open the trial with the defendants viewing the proceedings from a closed circuit TV outside the courtroom. Such a move is clearly unconstitutional according to the 6th amendment's guarantee of a defendant's right "to be confronted by the witnesses against them." It also prejudices the jury (if they have not already been prejudiced), and deprives the defendants of "close-at-hand contact" with their lawyers, as required by law.

### Black people have never had "constitutional" rights

The history of the struggle of Black people for their liberation in this country and the recent vicious repression of the Black Panther Party is proof that the ruling class will eagerly dispense with the constitution when the oppressed threaten to revolt against the capitalist system. For example, most of the Panther 21 defendants were kidnapped from their homes in pre-dawn, gestapo-style raids on April 2, 1969, and were never shown arrest warrants. They were denied a fair trial from the moment D.A. Hogan went on TV to give out information on the indictment in a inflammatory and provocative manner, deliberately designed to incite the people against the Panthers. They were denied permission to see their lawyers, held on unconstitutionally high bail, thrown into solitary confinement and finally denied even their right to a trial.

As opposition to the racism and oppression lying at the foundation of the "American System of Justice" has increased, the government has been revamping the legal system,

piecemeal, by smashing down all the safeguards and legal barriers protecting the accused. Laws such as the "no knock," "stop and frisk," "no sock" (which makes it a crime to resist an illegal arrest) and preventive detention are all inseparably tied to the fascist state.

### Nixon, Mitchell & Co. want new legal system

The recent rulings of Murtagh, his indefinite recess of the Panther 21 trial and Judge Hoffman's racist and vicious decisions in the Conspiracy trial in Chicago, mark a gigantic leap over all traditional restraints upon the capitalist government and their courts.

To be sure, Nixon and Mitchell and their lackies like Murtagh and Hoffman do not expect to win on every issue at this time — what they want is to get the people used to the idea of a new legal system, a fascist oriented legal system.

It is not by accident that Nixon and Mitchell chose the two most political trials of the year as test cases — the Conspiracy and the Panther 21. The government is desperately trying to smash the Black liberation struggle and the increasingly militant anti-war and anti-imperialist movement in this country. But at every stage the defendants, in particular Bobby Seale and the Panther 21, have turned the tables and exposed the racist ruling class. By refusing to take part in an illegal trial, they are forcing the ruling class to tear away the facade of the American System of Justice and to show that it is the ruling class and their courts who are in contempt of the working class and the oppressed.

## Cleveland YAWF activist convicted

In a Cleveland court room posted with a "special order" warning against visible support for the defendant, YAWF activist Betsy Davis was convicted Friday, March 20, of a disorderly conduct charge arising from her arrest during anti-war protests at the Davis Cup Tennis Tournament last September 20.

This case, which would in many areas be only one among many nuisance cases daily brought against the movement in the U.S. courts, was a central one to the white radical movement in Cleveland, Ohio, because it was such a blatant frame-up and because the ruling class chose to make so much of it.

Betsy was arrested on the second day of demonstrations called by weatherman SDS at the tennis matches where Nixon was expected to appear. She was arrested a full two hours before the protests began — while walking in the area after protesting the fact that she and other passers-by were being photographed by three unidentified men.

Originally charged only with disorderly conduct, her charges were upped two months later to assault and battery. Pressure brought by a defense committee organized in her behalf and legal steps by attorney Walter Haffner, succeeded in getting this double fabrication dropped.

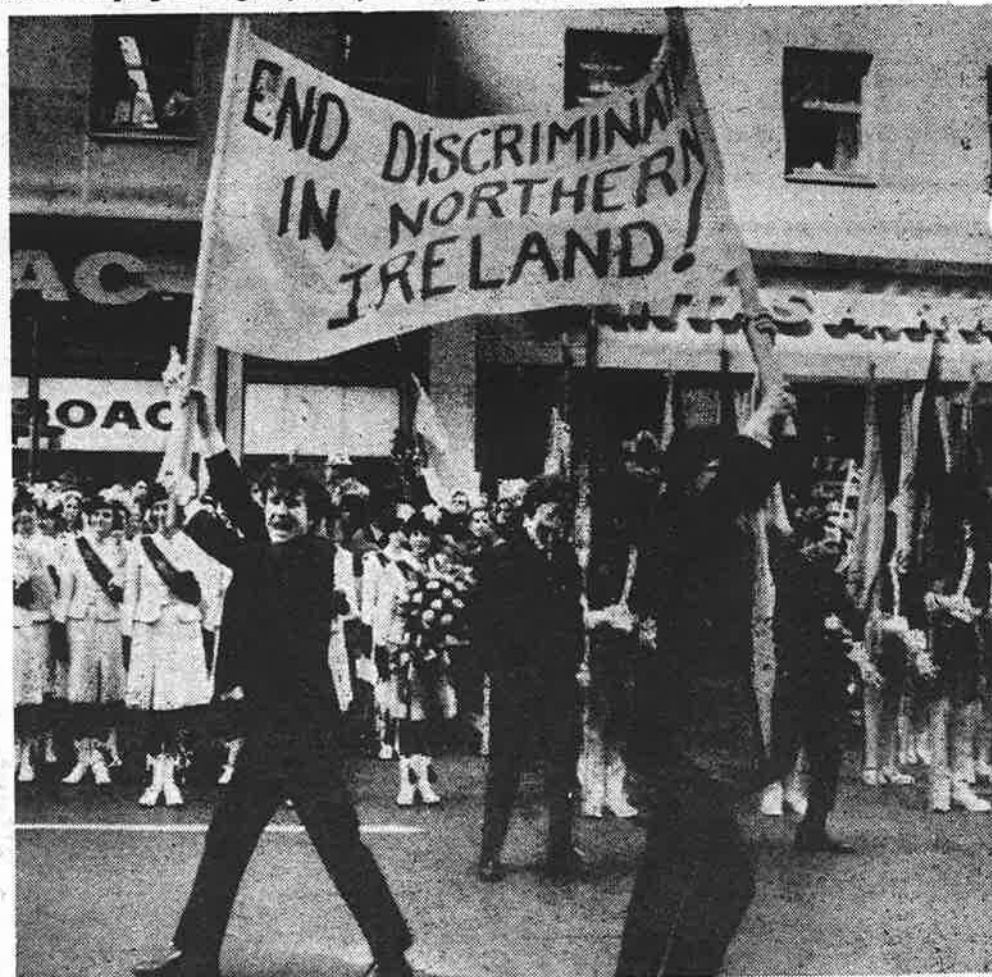
The defense committee organized a strong delegation of supporters, num-

bering nearly 30, for the trial, which lasted two days. Davis faces a maximum of 6 months in prison and a \$500 fine. Sentencing is set for March 31.

During the two days of protest last year, 25 people were arrested. To date, only Davis' case has come to trial. Her conviction was right in line with the repressive actions taken against the youth of Cleveland last September. Police attacked picket lines, harrassed and intimidated anyone and everyone in the area and brutally beat many protestors, including junior high school students, in an effort to prevent the demonstrations from even taking place.

The conviction on a minor charge which in most cases would have been dismissed after the demonstration had been superceded by other events, is an attempt to make an example of Davis and to intimidate Cleveland youth and students from taking further steps in the anti-war and anti-racist struggle, as was the judge's fascist-like proclamation against "gestures, banners and demonstrations" in support of the defendant.

This was exactly the point of Betsy Davis' powerful statement to the court: Her conviction is an attack on the whole movement, part of the hopeless attempt by the Nixon administration to stem the growing resistance and rebellion across the U.S.



Defying disbarment by official ruling class managers of St. Patrick's Day Parade, Irish militants carrying the banners of the National Association for Irish Justice. Several participants were arrested.

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Commentary

# They must not be allowed to murder Bobby Seale

The movement must regard the Government charges of murder against Bobby Seale as nothing less than a declaration of intent by the ruling class to kill the Chairman of the Black Panther Party. The anti-war movement, all progressives and revolutionaries must consider the indictment against Seale as a murder plan, pure and simple, in the same way as if the movement had overheard in advance the Chicago Police and the officials of the Justice Department planning the assassination of Fred Hampton.

The execution or long term imprisonment of the Party Chairman would represent for the Nixon Administration the symbolic culmination of the campaign against the Panthers. Given the bloody trial of repression left by the Nixon-Mitchell-Agnew forces, a trail of dead, wounded and imprisoned Panther Party members from Los Angeles to Chicago to New York, the New Haven frame-up must be taken in deadly earnest.

## Case built by stool pigeon

The Government claims that Panther member Alex Rackley was murdered by the New Haven 14 on orders from Bobby Seale after Rackley was allegedly found to be a police agent working with the Government in the Panther 21 case in New York. Rackley was killed on May 19, 1969. Bobby Seale had been in New Haven to make a speech at Yale University just before that and the Government case relies heavily on that fact.

The case against Seale is based upon the statement of a police stool pigeon, George Sams, whom the Panthers indicate is the one who actually shot Rackley. The police have further built their case by psychological torture and terrorization of the New Haven Panther defendants, by continually drumming into them the threat of the electric chair and by keeping them isolated from their comrades, their people and the entire outside world.

One defendant, Warren Kimbro, has succumbed to the pressure and pleaded guilty to the non-capital offense of second degree murder but not until he was illegally grilled and worked upon by the police, (including his brother who is a cop in Florida) without the knowledge of his lawyer.

## Anti-Panther division

### of Justice Department

The case against the New Haven 14 and the charges against Seale were

concocted in the midst of a national campaign of frame-ups and armed raids against the Panther Party organized by the special anti-Panther division of the Justice Department, created for this purpose by Nixon and Mitchell soon after they took over the reins in Washington. These racist hangmen organized the jailing of the entire New York Panther leadership, wild shooting attacks on the headquarters of the Chicago Panthers and attacks on the West Coast chapters almost simultaneously with the New Haven case. The case is one significant battle in an all out war well planned in advance which has nothing whatever to do with legality or concern for one murdered Panther. (The Nixon Administration has been murdering Panthers left and right).

## Murder engineered by government

The case appears to be quite complicated in detail and the capitalist press is full of stories of intrigue. But the case is only complicated in detail because it is the result of a complex undercover plot by the Government calculated to give some semblance of legality to its ruthless war of extermination against the forces of Black liberation and the Black Panther Party.

## New Haven chapter was thriving

The reason for the attack upon the New Haven chapter in particular was that it was growing at a rapid pace under the inspiring leadership of Erica Huggins (whose husband, John, was murdered by police stooges in Los Angeles along with Bunchy Carter). The New Haven chapter was healthy and thriving in the Black community as a result of numerous programs to serve the people, including a Free Breakfast for Children program. The dynamic growth of the New Haven chapter came in the aftermath of a mighty, spontaneous rebellion which smashed the myth of the "model city" of "liberal" New Haven. The New Haven rebellion, which shocked the ruling class, was only the central event in a series of uprisings beginning in 1967, all of which were crushed by force and violence by the racist ruling class of Connecticut.

The Panthers were making great strides in organizing the community and that is the reason for the attack on the New Haven 14, that is the reason that they are sitting in prison on trumped-up charges of murder, conspiracy, etc., and the charges against Bobby Seale are just a case of one

frame-up piled on top of another. The truth, as the Panthers, Nixon and the Connecticut authorities know, is that the Government engineered the murder of Rackley just as it engineered the murder of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, among others. If the ruling class could hide its hand in those cases which were put under scrutiny by the whole world, they could and did certainly hide their hand in New Haven.

## Extradition and kidnapping

The capitalist state is lawlessly and relentlessly prosecuting this outrageous case. First, Connecticut authorities charged Bobby Seale with a capital offense purely on the word of a police stool pigeon. Then the Federal Government actually kidnapped him, that is arrested him without any warrant on a fugitive charge. The California authorities then overthrew all standards for withholding extradition, by sending him back to face trial in a capital case where there is clear intent by the state involved to persecute him for his role as a leader of the Black Panther Party.

Many things are at stake in New

Haven. Among them are whether or not the Government can go on endlessly persecuting and crucifying the Black Panther Party and its leaders without the movement joining with the Black people to draw the line—that is by freeing Bobby Seale from his would-be executioners; whether or not the anti-war movement, the revolutionary and progressive movement, can put an end to the situation in which a Black person who chooses a course of struggling for the liberation of his or her people in the United States must virtually sign his own death warrant. This situation must end.

The militant response to the Conspiracy trial has demonstrated that there are sufficient revolutionary forces in this country right now to carry on a struggle on a scale that can seriously challenge the Government's offensive against the Panthers and free the defendants. The murder charges against Bobby Seale should serve as an alarm and as the signal to mobilize the masses in a militant counter-offensive to free Bobby Seale, to free the New Haven defendants, to free the Panther 21, and ultimately to free all political prisoners.



Black youth holds picture of Chairman Bobby Seale

# FREE THE PANTHER 21 APRIL 4 MASS MARCH Central Park Mall - 72nd St.

## Speakers:

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William Kunstler  
Abbie Hoffman

12 Noon

Committee to Defend the Panther 21  
The Conspiracy  
December 4th Movement  
Youth Against War & Fascism  
Newsreel and others,





Iris Benitez, Lt. of Information, YLO

## YLO answers Garelik

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

The office of the Young Lords Organization, a storefront on Madison Avenue in the heart of El Barrio, the Spanish-speaking area of East Harlem, buzzes like a beehive with activity. There is no indication that the recent attempt by ex-top cop Sanford Garelik to link the YLO with the bombings of imperialist establishments has scared anyone away.

Beneath posters of Pedro Albizu Campos, the beloved hero of the Puerto Rican independence movement, and Martin Gonzales Sostre, proprietor of Buffalo's Afro-Asian Bookshop now serving 41 years in a New York State jail, the young militants continue to do the work that has brought them to the forefront of the Puerto Rican struggle in several U.S. cities. But in the crowded, decaying blocks of tenements that surround the YLO office are sure signs that the ruling class is worried about the revolutionary implications of the YLO.

### 24-hour police guard

Police cars cruise the area continually. There is a 24-hour police guard posted at the First Spanish Methodist Church—which was liberated by the YLO for several weeks in December and used as a community

center providing free health care, a free breakfast program for children, and classes in the real history of the Puerto Rican people.

Just minutes before WORKERS WORLD attended a press conference at the YLO office, a dozen squad cars from the local precinct had screamed into the adjacent block, supposedly to help in an arrest of two drug suspects.

"This has been going on almost daily since Garelik made his statement," explained Iris Benitez, Lieutenant of Education. The former head of the Special Services, or Red Squad, who left his job as top cop last fall to be a running mate of "liberal" Mayor Lindsay, had tried to link the YLO with the recent bombings and called it an "armed terrorist group."

"We think they are preparing for busts against the Young Lords this summer," Miss Benitez explained. Meanwhile, the police are obviously trying to provoke an incident with the young politicals. The "mod-squad"—police in plainclothes who pretend to be from the neighborhood—have been trying to connect with junkies on the street right in the area of the Lords office and then call in the whole precinct to make an arrest. The tension

## Young Lords' statement on bombings

This statement by the Young Lords Organization is being circulated throughout the Barrio in leaflet form. It is the YLO's answer to charges by ex-Deputy Inspector Garelik linking the YLO to the recent bombings of big corporations.

Thursday, March 12, City Council President, Sanford Garelik told newsmen that the Young Lords Organization is one of the groups responsible for all the bombings that have taken place in New York City in the past few days. This is a lie, and an insult to us as Puerto Ricans. This "man" is trying to tell El Barrio that an open political party like ours, that feeds children, tests people for lead poisoning and tuberculosis, and gives out free clothing, this racist wants us to believe that we, the Young Lords, bombed these buildings. As every one of us in the Barrio knows, every cop in the country watches the Lords and our office. How did we get away from these cops long

enough to plant the bombs? Lindsay, Garelik and crew will have to lie better than that.

Since this gang that Lindsay's in (Nixon's the president) is scared of the bombings (sooner or later, they feel guilty that they will be next), they have named us wildly. Their next move will be to use the bombings to arrest us this summer for some kind of conspiracy.

As Puerto Ricans, we must stand strong in the face of these lies. We have been told nothing but lies by this country since we were made illegal citizens in 1917. Just as the Sisters and Brothers are fighting death in Puerto Rico today, we must also unite and fight certain death here in the monster's belly. America is afraid and in its panic will wipe out everything it fears most—beginning with Puerto Ricans.

**Liberate Puerto Rico Now!**  
All Power to Those Who Deserve It—  
And We Deserve It!

in the neighborhood is very high, and people pour into the streets each time this happens.

There has been no increase in police raids in other areas of El Barrio, the Lords say, and as usual, the arrests around the Lords office are only of "small fry." The higher-ups in the drug traffic are not being touched.

### Dumped garbage on Fifth Ave.

The Young Lords first shook up the local rulers when they organized a neighborhood action against the filthy conditions in El Barrio. A brigade of young workers took bushels of garbage from the littered sidewalks and empty lots and threw them in the middle of Fifth Avenue. The Sanitation Department, which hadn't been able to clean up the neighborhoods the people have to live in, was moved in fast when the garbage became an obstacle to "traffic."

This simple but very militant action alerted the bosses to a new mood of fight in the community. When it was followed up by the occupation of the church, an act that revealed a depth of support from the people, the ruling class was alerted to the revolutionary potential of this young organization.

They have linked the YLO with "terrorism" in a deliberate attempt to intimidate the movement, but the Young Lords have responded by refusing to be frightened by the implied threat of Garelik's statement, circu-



Sanford Garelik, just a cop out of uniform  
lating a leaflet (see box) to the community.

When asked by another reporter if she thought that the bombings of recent weeks had been the work of "police provocateurs," Miss Benitez replied that she thought they were the result of "a whole bunch of people being pissed-off" at the injustice and violence of the racist ruling class. But, she said, whenever it happens, they're going to try and tie the YLO in it, which is ridiculous because the organization is constantly under police surveillance.

She also added that she thought the bomb killing of Ralph Featherstone and William Payne of SNCC was "definitely a police plot."

## Fort Dix MPs attack Young Lords at Rodriguez trial

In an open act of racist repression, the Army ordered Military Police at Fort Dix, N.J. on March 9 to round up and arrest a group of Young Lords who had come to the base to support a brother, Carlos Rodriguez, on trial for AWOL and assault. The unprovoked attack on the 13 Puerto Rican militants came just after Rodriguez's court-martial was adjourned for the day.

Rodriguez was the last of the Fort Dix 38, a group of GIs framed up on charges of arson and riot after a rebellion in the stockade there June 5, 1969. He was given the stiffest sentence of all of the defendants, 4 years at hard labor after a clearly racist court-martial. On March 9, Rodriguez, who is a member of the American Servicemen's Union, went on trial again on charges of AWOL and assault—another phony charge growing out of his courageous refusal to turn state's evidence against the other GIs accused after the rebellion.

### MPs attack YLO delegation

The Young Lords Organization, a group of Puerto Rican revolutionaries, heard about Rodriguez's court-martial and sent 18 men and women to Dix as a show of solidarity. Several carloads of supporters, including those from the YLO and members of the American Service-

men's Union, went to the court-martial March 9.

That afternoon, as 13 of the YLO supporters stood in front of the General Court-Martial Building waiting to leave, a group of about 70 MPs marched up in formation, brought up an MP bus and surrounded everyone, ordering them to get into the bus. The Young Lords refused and a 30-minute pitched battle ensued. The Young Lords defiantly fought back against the MPs clubs, and helmets flew as some of the cops took a beating.

Meanwhile, ASU Chairman Andy Stapp saw what was happening from a snack bar just across from the Court-Martial Building. He ran over and joined the fight. Five women from the YLO were dragged off to MP cars as the battle continued. (An ASU representative told this reporter later that the Army brass had cunningly relieved all Black and Puerto Rican MPs from duty before this racist attack was ordered.)

It took the MPs fully 15 minutes to get all 14 fighting men into the bus. And once they were on the bus, the Young Lords and Stapp fought for about 15 minutes more before the MPs could even get in the bus themselves.

### Bar notices refused

The prisoners were driven to the MP station on base and taken out in groups of twos

and threes with eight MPs surrounding each group. Once in the station, the men were further harassed during a brutal search. Everyone was photographed and served bar notices, which means that if a person returns to the base, he is subject to six months in prison and a \$500 fine. The Young Lords and Stapp all refused to accept the illegal papers. They were then driven off the base by MPs.

In addition to the vicious racist character of the attack, in which every Puerto Rican in sight was rounded up without cause, the assault was also a clear indication that the Army was trying to prevent any militant supporters from attending Carlos Rodriguez's court-martial. The strong solidarity shown by the YLO delegation to Fort Dix was too much for the racist brass to bear.

After the incident, Andy Stapp stated in an ASU press release, "The sentence of Carlos Rodriguez to four years' hard labor and a bad conduct discharge arising out of the June 5, 1969 rebellion against brutal stockade conditions and the banning of the Young Lords, a Puerto Rican organization supporting their oppressed brothers who are shang-hailed in the U.S. imperialist army reaffirms the racist character of the brass and the Rodriguez conviction. We must step up our resistance to their oppression and today's action at Fort Dix is a beginning."





Brenda Harris



Harold Bell



Verlina Brewer



Ronald Satchell



Deborah Johnson



Blair Anderson

# People's trial convicts killers of Fred Hampton

CHICAGO — On March 8, following the final session of a weekend-long Emergency Conference to Defend the Right of the Black Panther Party to Exist, a People's Inquest was held by the Black Panther Party. The purpose of this Inquest was to present the true and horrifying facts surrounding the December 4 assassinations of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark to a jury comprised of volunteers, predominantly from the Black community. The recent whitewash Gerber Inquest held by the City chose a jury which excluded any representative from the poor Black and oppressed communities.

Bobby Rush, a Panther leader here, began the meeting by explaining that the need for a People's Inquest grew out of the response of the people to the so-called "justifiable homicide" verdict of the Gerber Inquest. Rush further explained that the ruling class would not be represented on the People's Jury. He then asked the 12 members of the jury to stand and state their names and organizations or occupations. All of the jurors were involved in some kind of activity to aid the oppressed communities, from a volunteer nurse in the Black Panther Party Free Health Clinic to activity in defense of political prisoners. After the jurors presented their credentials, Bobby Rush announced that Dr. Charles Hurst (president of Malcolm X Junior College) would act as Judge and Jewel Cook (BPP Field Secretary) would act as Prosecutor.

## Cops ignore people's subpoenas

Dr. Hurst began by stating that People's subpoenas had been issued to all the cops who were the engineers of the so-called "shoot-out," including State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan (chief architect of the police raid) and Assistant State's Attorney

Richard S. Jalovec. Since none of these men appeared they were all declared to be in contempt of the people.

Jewel Cook opened his case by explaining that since none of the subpoenaed cops appeared, he would have to show the film of the earlier publicized police version of the "shoot-out" in order to elucidate the glaring contradictions in the police story. After this film, Mr. Cook called each of the BPP members who survived the attempted pig massacre to tell the people what had occurred. Bobby Rush asked each witness to raise their right hand — make a fist and swear to the people that they will tell the truth, acknowledging that the people deserved to hear the truth.

The first witness was Brenda Harris, 18 years old. She described how she had been asleep in a bedroom with three other people (also asleep) when she awoke to gun blasts at the front door. Brenda and the others in this room barely had enough time to fall to the floor before rounds of automatic weapon fire burst through the wall and sprayed the entire room. The pigs asked them to surrender but before they could reply, the rapid-firing was resumed. Brenda was shot in the right leg and left hand along with the other three people who were badly wounded. She further described how they were all ordered to stand up and walk (in spite of serious wounds) out of the room. The pigs then proceeded to brutalize and abuse them. When Brenda asked if she could examine the critically wounded, fearing they might bleed to death, she was told, "You motherfuckers should all be dead — you don't deserve to live."

The second witness was Ronald "Doc" Satchell, Minister of Medicine. Doc was in the same room as Brenda Harris and his story confirmed all that she had said. Doc (19) was shot critically five times in the abdomen and left leg and he was also forced to stand and walk out of the bedroom. The pigs viciously brutalized him to the point of handcuffing him. The others were eventually taken out to the ambulance in stretchers but Doc was forced to walk out of the apartment and then he was thrown into a paddy wagon.

## Black woman crippled

The third witness was Verlina Brewer. Verlina (19) also told of wanton and ruthless brutality on the part of the pigs. Verlina was shot in the left leg and thigh. The pigs further tormented her by allowing her to fall off the stretcher. When Verlina was finally put in the ambulance these pigs shut the door on her wounded leg. She was taken out of the hospital and thrown into jail where she was denied any medical attention, even her crutches. Verlina remained in isolation for about four days before she was allowed to see her lawyer. As a result of her wounds, Verlina Brewer has lost the use of her left leg and she will have to wear a brace for the rest of her life.

The fourth witness was Blair Anderson (18). Blair described the same bloody attack. He was shot in the

groin and beaten by the pigs. He was further taunted by these assassins when they told him that Verlina and the others were dead.

Harold Bell (23) was the fifth witness. Harold was asleep in a different bedroom in the front of the apartment. He described how upon hearing shotgun blasts his first thought was to "awaken the Chairman." By the time he got to Fred Hampton's room, pigs were entering from the rear. He alerted Deborah Johnson but was unable to awaken Chairman Fred. The pigs immediately began concentrating fire in this bedroom. Miraculously Harold was not shot; however, he confirmed the vicious pig brutality inflicted on all those in the house.

The sixth witness was Deborah Johnson (19). She was 9 months pregnant at the time of this attack. Deborah described how she tried to awaken Fred Hampton but she was unable to rouse him. She attempted to cover his body but apparently well-aimed police bullets hit Fred almost immediately. The pigs punched Deborah in the stomach several times and they even refused to allow her to put on street clothing (she was wearing a sleeping gown). These assassins took her right to the jail where they told her she was a "special State's Attorney's prisoner," and after holding her in isolation for several days they eventually charged her with one count of attempted murder and two counts of aggravated battery. While Deborah was kept in jail she was given no medical attention.

## Guilty on all charges

A seventh witness, Louis Truelock (39) was unable to be present to testify. All of the witnesses said that there were no guns or other weapons in the apartment. Prosecutor Jewel Cook then showed the audience of about 1,000 and the jury slides of various walls in the apartment indicating many bullet holes, all directed in. A slide of the front door also showed bullet holes facing into the apartment.

At this point Dr. Hurst submitted his charge in writing to the jury and the 12 jurors left the room to deliberate. Jewel Cook then addressed the audience. He explained that this kind of atrocity occurs all the time in the Black community but that this time it was a case of "political assassination." He admonished the whites in the audience by declaring that "when Bobby was shackled you did nothing, when Fred was first murdered you did nothing — now white people must become involved."

Approximately five minutes later the jury returned with a verdict. The Foreman, Attorney Flo Kennedy of New York, began by reading excerpts from the charge, which noted that there were several charges. The pigs were being charged with not only pre-meditated murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, but with genocide of Black people. One by one each member of the jury stood up and said, "Guilty on all charges" and "Off the Pig!"

(Continued from page 13)

## —International Women's Day

### "No reforms will be enough"

The rally continued with Bev Grant singing songs of women's liberation which she had composed herself. Randy Rappaport, a member of Bread & Roses, a Boston Women's Liberation group, spoke about women's oppression, ending her talk by saying, "We understand that no reforms will be enough .... We will not be satisfied with a few crumbs. We want everything. Power to all people. Power to women." The condition of women in Cuba after the revolution was dealt with by Carol Strickler, who had just returned from Cuba on the Venceremos Brigade. Mary Pinotti of Women's Liberation in New York also spoke to the problems of women.

The rally ended on a rousing note with a speech by Maryann Weissman, National Coordinator of Youth Against War & Fascism. She had just been released from the Women's House of Detention a few days

before. Maryann was sentenced to 30 days there because she had stood up in court during the hearings for the New York Panther 21 and denounced Judge Murtagh as a racist.

In the Women's House she was able to see Joan Bird briefly and movingly described her feelings about seeing this Black revolutionary woman who has been there for so long and faces many more years of imprisonment. Maryann talked about the many Black and Puerto Rican women in jail who are triply oppressed — "oppressed because they're women, oppressed because they are part of the working class, and oppressed because they are Black or Puerto Rican.... That's why, after these hours of understanding, of exchanging with you, we must put the kind of solidarity into action that will eventually mean the freedom of women, the freedom of the oppressed."

On this note, the women and men at the rally marched to the Women's House of Detention to protest the cruel imprisonment of the women there.



# The Cambodian coup and the Indochina revolution

By FRED GOLDSTEIN

It was inevitable that Washington would sooner or later try a coup d'etat in Cambodia. It was equally inevitable that by attempting to install a right wing military dictatorship in Phnompenh, the U.S. military would make it an urgent necessity for the Cambodian people to take up the struggle against the U.S. imperialists together with their brothers in the NLF and Pathet Lao. Thus Washington has taken another step to forge a mighty instrument of its own destruction -- the united liberation struggle of Indochina.

It must be recalled that when Ho Chi Minh founded the Communist Party in 1930 it was called the Indochinese Communist Party. This was a recognition of the fact that whatever national and tribal differences existed among the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the people of Indochina were basically one people whose fate was deeply and immediately interconnected by geography, by history and, most of all, by a common struggle against the French imperialists.

Furthermore, Ho and his collaborators felt that this situation was such that the struggles of the peoples could be coordinated and directed within the framework of a single party which would guide the way to revolution embracing all of Indochina. In fact, one of the principle points of the founding manifesto of the Party demands independence for all Indochina.

## 40 yrs. of solidarity

Four decades have passed since the Indochinese revolution was declared to be on the order of the day. These have been four decades of uninterrupted imperialist war and untold cruelties have been visited upon the Indochinese people by a succession of colonial powers. The revolution has advanced, been thrown back, been temporarily isolated, fragmented, contained and advanced again. Despite all the hardships of imperialist aggression, the forces of liberation have steadily extended their domain and the course of the struggle has produced forty years of revolutionary solidarity and collaboration among the Indochinese people.

Although the Vietnamese were the dominant force in the defeat of the French, the struggle was carried out on all fronts by a united front of the Vietminh, the Pathet Lao and the Khmer (Cambodian) Resistance Movement.

Max Lerner the bomb expert or...

## The case of a "humanist liberal"

Recent bombings (in the United States, not Vietnam) have got liberals like James Wechsler and Max Lerner so upset that they've been flying their liberalism like a flag of distress for days on end. They had the most excruciating difficulty in not saying "I told you so" in so many words, when discussing the deaths in the bombed house on West 11th Street in New York.

It all proves, according to them, that "extremism" of the Left is just as bad as extremism of the Right and any rebels fighting for a better world are a vicious and unworthy lot anyway.

Max Lerner, for example, said all this for the thousandth time on March 16 and then threw in the following flourish to end his column:

"The Women's Liberation Movement asks the girls to 'overcome their hangups about violence' and holds up as models 'the women who can carry

When the French were finally defeated, one of the principle demands of the Vietnamese in the preliminaries to the Geneva Conference of 1954 was the recognition and seating of the Pathet Lao and Cambodian liberation movements, both of which held liberated territory. The battle over this point was so heated that the conference almost did not get off the ground because of the dispute. The final decision not to admit the two delegations was due to the obduracy of the imperialists.

In the period of revolutionary consolidation and imperialist double crosses which followed the Geneva Convention, Cambodia occupied an anomalous position. While the U.S. imperialists were tearing up the agreements by setting up the Diem puppet dictatorship in Saigon and the Royal Lao-tian government in Vientiane, the Democratic Republic was established as a dictatorship of the proletariat and the Pathet Lao took firm control of the northern provinces by carrying out an agrarian revolution.

## Neither revolution nor imperialism

Cambodia was neither swept by revolution nor taken over by imperialism. This was due to Prince Sihanouk who took measures to reform the feudal monarchy and to build support among the masses.

In 1955 he abdicated his throne and instituted political reform by introducing parliamentarism while retaining the traditional ruling classes whose domination was restrained. Having broken with monarchical tradition, he took the office of Prime Minister.

His first act was to break away from the French Union. He also won over the masses by adopting a friendly attitude toward the DRV and by taking economic aid from the socialist camp (as well as from the imperialists) and by recognizing the People's Republic of China. Having taken up the position of the enemy of domestic reaction among the elements of his own class, Sihanouk built a strong base among the Cambodian people who were surrounded by three imperialist puppets in Saigon, Vientiane and Bangkok.

As the inheritors of the French empire in Southeast Asia, the U.S. imperialists always regarded Sihanouk as a political and diplomatic thorn in their side, a thorn very difficult to dislodge. But once Washington

launched its invasion of Vietnam, it became a military matter of strategic importance to either force Sihanouk to cooperate with the U.S. high command or overthrow him.

It was impossible for the U.S. to attack Vietnam without, in the long run, attacking Laos and Cambodia too. The U.S. could not invade without reforgering the ties of revolutionary cooperation in guerrilla warfare among all the people of Indochina on an even firmer and more widespread basis than during the war against the French.

The fact that supplies and troops move up and down the Ho Chi Minh trail, that is, through all the countries of Indochina, after years of devastating saturation bombing, is a tribute to the solidarity of the people and a testimony to the broad character of the struggle. The bombing of Laos and the bombing of the Cambodian border was an unsuccessful attempt by the U.S. to break up the common front of the Vietnamese, the Laotian and the Cambodian peoples.

## Coup a military move

In order to attack one nation in Indochina the U.S. must attack them all because as long as there is territory not under the control of imperialist forces, the Liberation Army or the Pathet Lao will always be sure of a safe base of supply, of friendly intelligence, of a staging ground for attack, etc., etc. Indochina is one and this has always been the case. Prince Sihanouk may have had a policy of neutrality but the Cambodian masses are fervently pro-NLF.

The U.S. overthrow of Sihanouk was dictated by the military needs of their counterrevolutionary war. Its object was to instantly transform the Cambodian army into a detachment of the U.S. forces and outflank the NLF and their Cambodian supporters.

The military character of the Cam-

bodian coup shows how treacherous the U.S. imperialists are; how stubbornly they refuse to reconcile themselves to getting out; how cunningly they are using the period of so-called "phased withdrawal" as a period of feverish maneuver; how desperately they are trying to create an event or a situation which will turn the situation in their favor militarily. The Cambodian coup shows beyond doubt that the militarists are still seeking victory through a wider war.

But it is one thing for the U.S. to install a junta of reactionaries and another thing to keep it in existence. This clique of outmoded feudalists, long ago discredited, has a program of domestic reaction and hostility to the DRV and PRG. They rule by terror and the U.S. capitalist press is already comparing them with the fascist butchers in Indonesia. They have carried out joint military operations with the traitors in Saigon under the supervision of a U.S. helicopter command.

By turning their guns on the NLF, these Cambodian puppets have thrown in their lot with Thieu and Ky, Phouma and Bon Oum, and all the other hated puppets of U.S. imperialism. Thus they have trampled upon the feelings of the Cambodian masses. But the important point is that they now belong to Washington and the Pentagon is going to have to keep them alive and thereby expand its war of counterrevolution to include all of Indochina.

By this new adventure the banker-generals have turned their guns upon the only people in Indochina not actively engaged in a war of national liberation against U.S. imperialism. By so doing, Washington has made such a war a matter of immediate necessity for the Cambodian people and has given a great new momentum to the unfinished Indochinese revolution which is now bound to be consummated 40 years after it was declared as a goal by its founders.

## New Pamphlet:

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## AN INTERVIEW WITH KIM IL SUNG

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hundreds of murders of Blacks in the 1964-67 rebellions on the open violence of his — Lerner's — paymasters.

In relation to Sihanouk, who never bombed any Black churches or shot any people in Detroit, the humanist writer gloats to his readers: "The new nationalist feeling (i.e., pro-CIA feeling) in Cambodia may blast Sihanouk and his whole regime skyhigh and change the whole political face of Asia."

"Blasting," it seems, is O.K. in Cambodia when "our" side does it. But an American woman is very unwomanly to carry anything more explosive than a garter underneath her dress, at least if she opposes the humanism of Max Lerner. In the meantime 750-pound bombs in lots of 17 to each plane in thousands and thousands of bombing missions in Vietnam are quite all right for "at least a few more years."

If all this is "humanist liberalism," give us proletarian class struggle and world revolution.

And if the Women's Liberation Movement gets to Lerner before the armed proletariat puts his prostituted pen safely out of business, they don't have to make any apologies or have any defensiveness as far as we are concerned.

Southeast Asia which would leave the U.S. as a presence to be reckoned with, at least for a few more years."

To carry on the Vietnam war "at least a few more years" with mass murder, which includes the mass bombing of babies from the air as well as shooting small numbers from twenty feet away, and of course the killing, crippling and mutilating of hundreds of thousands of people, including Americans from the age of 18 to 26 — this is all okay with the "humanist liberal."

It's guerrilla warfare in the United States which seems to bother him. It's violence in the United States which gets his humanism foaming at the mouth.

And even this needs to be qualified. We don't seem to recall his being so upset at the U.S. police murdering 41 Black people in protests the week after the assassination of Martin Luther King. And he never condemned the use of U.S. troops in Chicago and Detroit during the uprisings nor blamed the

bombs under their dresses'... If all this is 'radicalizing,' give me the humanist liberal, with no apologies and no defensiveness either about his humanism or his frame of limits."

The "humanist liberal" Lerner then wrote a column just two days later entitled "Sihanouk as Virtuoso," which practically called for the CIA to get rid of the Cambodian leader for being too anti-American (without actually mentioning the CIA of course). Only the column didn't actually get published until several hours after the CIA had already finished off the job, and this left some doubt in the reader's mind whether the CIA had not in fact tipped Lerner off too late for him to cover himself properly.

But in the course of the ugly, chauvinist counter-revolutionary article, Lerner casually says:

"Sihanouk couldn't and didn't foresee Nixon's strange neither-stay-nor-go policy mixture on American forces in



# An Appeal on Behalf of the Postal Workers

The following is an appeal prepared for distribution among the general public by Workers World Party

Is the New York and national postal strike illegal, as Nixon, Congress and the pathetic excuse for a labor leader, James Rademacher say it is? No—absolutely No! It is not only just and necessary by every human standard, but it is also in accordance with the U.S. Constitution, that is the highest written law of the land, and in keeping with all the best traditions of U.S. history.

One or another U.S. Congress did pass some kind of law saying that federal employees must not strike and provided penalties against them in the event they should strike. But this law is unconstitutional.

The U.S. Constitution starts right out saying it is intended to "promote the general welfare." It doesn't say, "except for the welfare of government workers." These workers too are supposed to come under the protection of the Constitution.

Any law or excuse for a law against this strike violates one of the most vital parts of the Constitution, the part that our ancestors fought a terrible Civil War to write into the Constitution. That part is in the 13th Amendment. And it says that no person shall have to work involuntarily—to submit to "involuntary servitude."

It doesn't say no persons "except striking mailmen." It says no persons at all.

The great Declaration of Independence, that our more remote ancestors gave their lives to ratify, says that "all men are created equal." It doesn't say "except for letter carriers and other postal employees."

It says that people have "certain inalienable rights." And it doesn't say "except for the right to strike."

Congress was originally created by the American Revolution and re-created by the Civil War, and even in its present degeneration, gets its legal powers from the documents that came out of those events.

Any law Congress makes against the right to strike is therefore explicitly as well as implicitly illegal. It is unconstitutional, against both the letter and the spirit of the fundamental law from which Congress gets its law-making power.

## Can a government employee sign away his own rights?

It is said that most governmental employees sign a contract when they begin work to the effect that they will not strike.

Such an agreement was known in the fighting labor movement of the past as a "yellow dog contract" and after long fighting and litigation was finally outlawed by the Supreme Court. Now it is illegally continued in government jobs and it still is in reality what it always was—a yellow dog contract.

Conventional, every-day civil law had really outlawed such an agreement when it long ago provided that a person cannot sign a contract substantially "against his own interest"—that is, he cannot sign a contract which commits him to illegally lose something, for example to give away a house for nothing in return or to commit an illegal act, or to sign himself into slavery or semi-slavery.

All such contracts are illegal and are against the public interest as well as the interests of the individual. Clearly any so-called contract with the government which commits the signed to give up an inalienable right, commits him to do an illegal thing which is also against his own fundamental interest. Such a contract is obviously null and void from the moment it is signed.

## Legal or not — is it right to strike against government?

"Well, it's all right to strike against private companies," someone might say, "but isn't there something really wrong about striking against your own government?"

That's a good question.

But the real question you have to answer first is this: is it really your own government?

Look at Nixon himself—a member of one of the plush law firms in the country, representing the biggest corporations (his firm just got a \$200,000 contract for managing the financing of the proposed \$2.5 billion Washington subway. And this was just peanuts, a tiny piece of graft compared to the daily corporate robbing of the public presided over by Richard Nixon.)

All of his cabinet are in tight with big business and most of them are big businessmen themselves. New York Senator Javits for instance, who first suggested using U.S. troops against the strikers, is a multimillionaire with connections to both the Morgan and Rockefeller banks. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, the super-hawk in over-all charge of U.S. troops, has as his "assistant" one David Packard who has a fortune of \$300 million and a predilection for right wing anti-labor and racist causes. Post-

master General Blount, the corporations' big straw-boss and overseer of the postal workers, is an Alabama businessman, also a multimillionaire, a former president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which represents most of the corporations in the country. Scratch the rest of the Cabinet and the rest of the Senate too, and you find about the same anti-labor, multimillionaire characters, most of them racists or "moderate" racists, and there's not a single union leader, much less a working person in the whole lot.

With all the big corporations directly represented by their executives and their lawyers in the government, it should be clear that the postal workers are striking against all the corporations in striking against their government paymasters, who refuse to pay them a decent wage.

If it is right to strike against a single corporation which is exploiting you, it is that much more right to strike against a hundred or five hundred big corporations who are using the power of government to do so.

The Nixon administration merely acts as a sort of super board of directors for these corporations rather than as the instrument of the people.

The right to strike against these huge corporations—one at a time—has already been won. But when these corporations mask themselves—when they hide behind the flag, band together and disguise themselves as the "government" this tends to confuse the people who work for them and create the idea that the combined corporations are sacred when they wave the flag and a corporation lawyer represents them in the White House.

It is really the right to strike which is sacred. And giving up that sacred right is to go back on all the heroes who died in the Revolution and the Civil War and the scores of labor struggles, big and little, peaceful and bloody.

## Nixon's formula for strikebreaking

Nixon, his multi-million dollar Cabinet, the corporation-owned Congressmen and the rest of the big business establishment are not only acting totally in violation of the Constitution by talking about "no right to strike against the government," but they are downright hypocrites.

Only the other day, they were talking about handing over the whole postal service to a private corporation! And they still are. Just like a slaveowner would sell his plantation like a lord would hand over a bunch of serfs to another lord when the fortunes of war went the wrong way, the postal workers are going to be shuffled into another place, into another slot and be given another boss without even a by-your-leave. (But of course "governmental" or "private," they work for the same big corporations.)

Not a single postal worker was asked his opinion about this. No poll of the clerks or carriers or sorters was ever taken. The strike, on the other hand, was called by democratic vote of the huge majority. The government was not interested in that kind of democracy for the postal workers. That's why it conspired, mostly behind people's backs, to get this new system going (and they'll spring an increase to ten cents an ounce on the whole public without a vote, too, when the private corporation gets the contract!).

But the point is that Nixon was all set to make the Post Office a non-governmental institution. Why is he getting into such a lather about postal workers "striking against the government?" Very simple! Because he figures that's his best formula for strikebreaking.

## Strikers winning so Nixon sends troops!

The postal workers were winning. The working people of the country were behind them. So Nixon said they were "striking against the government"—as though they were striking against the People, and he sent the troops. He never asked a single working person in the country whether he wanted the troops to be sent. He never took a democratic vote on it. He only consulted his big corporation friends in the government and on Wall Street, the big companies that get the big postal subsidies, the companies that can send newspapers and books through the mail for less than a quarter of what you pay for mailing a letter.

Sending the troops was unconstitutional, too. The President has no power to send troops against the very people for whose "general welfare" the Constitution was supposed to be written. That's why he did not consult the people, because he did it for the corporations' welfare, not for theirs.

Today when generals retire they become top officers in war contract industries. And at the same time, big bankers often go to Washington and get

generals' uniforms and medals overnight. The troops who are sent to try to break the strike are ordinary workingmen. Maybe some of them are themselves postal workers or their sons and relatives. The last thing they want to do is break a strike of working people. But they are unjustly held guilty of mutiny and all sorts of things if they do not.

Who, besides the anti-labor corporations and the anti-labor President, are responsible for this terrible thing? The banker-generals, that's who!

The generals and other officers, who are nothing but corporation men in uniform, are the only soldiers who have an interest in breaking the strike. The rank-and-file soldiers and guardsmen act as strikebreakers only because these officers cloak themselves in the authority of the "government," wave the flag—most important—have the power to punish the soldiers with extreme penalties.

But such punishment is just as illegal and unconstitutional as the strikebreaking action itself is. There is plenty of resentment and potential rebellion among the troops.

## Fishing to trouble the waters

The strike is being won against the will of the "top leaders" of the Union as well as against the corporation. So while Nixon attacks the strikers with threats of violence and bayonets, the "leader" of the strikers attacks his own membership in another way. By baiting them.

If you've ever gone fishing, you know what bait is. Some bait is very humble—like worms. Some is very fancy—like expensive artificial water flies. But all bait is intended to divert the fish from their normal way of life and hook them.

So Rademacher is baiting the strikers with cries of "SDS"! He claims that some SDS members worked as mail sorters and maybe a couple as letter carriers last summer—so presto, a nationwide mail strike, and forty-year old union members hang Rademacher in effigy. Only "outside agitators" could have persuaded these men to treat this twenty-four carat fink with such indignity.

The rank-and-file who have experienced Rademacher's do-nothing leadership for too many years have a different opinion. The techniques of the witchhunt, and the Joseph McCarthy smear weapon have lost their effectiveness.

## The war against the postal workers and the war against Vietnam

The postal workers' legal strike is closely connected to the government's illegal war in Vietnam. It is directly because of that illegal, unconstitutional and genocidal war that the government no longer wants to provide for the welfare of the people at home as the Constitution enjoins it to do. It is because of the war that government workers' raises have lagged behind (while the corporations' stooges in Congress and the Administration get big slush funds, legally and illegally.)

Nixon's action in sending troops against the striking postal workers is just as illegal as sending troops against the workers of Vietnam, who are in essence striking against landlordism, corruption and Nixonism in their own country.

The attitude the working class should take in this struggle should be the same as it would take in any strike by any workers against any company: the right to strike is sacred; down with strikebreaking; the boss is the enemy, especially when he is the boss for all the bosses — Nixon and the government of capitalists in Washington — full support for the postal workers all the way!

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# Where were the labor "leaders"?

Where were all the big leaders of labor when a hundred thousand postal workers laid their jobs and their freedom on the line to fight for a living wage and Nixon sent the troops to scab on them?

Where was George Meany, president of the 20 million organized workers who could have saved the postal strike and stopped the troops from scabbing? Where was the great labor leader who is so tough when it comes to telling somebody else to fight the NLF over in Vietnam, or when it comes to thundering against Communists in Venezuela?

Meany can talk all day in an AFL-CIO convention about how U.S. foreign policy is not tough enough.

Why didn't he talk up during the postal workers' strike and show how tough he was?

This \$100,000 a year slob didn't even say "well done!" to the fighting postal workers before the troops came in, and he was nowhere to be found after they came in.

And if everybody knew Meany was a friend of the bosses anyway, what about Walter Reuther, that "revolutionary redhead" as he used to be affectionately called?—the progressive, ahead-of-his-time labor leader, who exposed Meany as a company-minded bureaucrat and quit him only a year ago or so.

## Reuther, Abel silent

Where was Reuther? Didn't he know about the postal strike? Where was his big talk, when even talk might

still have done a lot of good? Even a hint that 1,300,000 auto and aircraft workers might drop their tools to support the strike, would have made Nixon stall some more before sending the troops. And if it didn't, an actual auto strike could have stopped Nixon cold.

But Reuther wasn't talking. The revolutionary redhead wasn't so revolutionary. In fact, he wasn't even as militant as a plain ordinary honest striking worker. He was a fink, like the other leaders.

I. W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers spoke up for helping the workers of other countries—which of course should be done. He made a big speech at the convention of Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO in Washington. This was after the mail strike had already begun and had Washington buzzing with rumors and speculation about what the government would do or what the rest of labor might do.

## What about workers here?

Abel gave this great speech about the trend of the "world-wide runaway shop"—that is, the threat to U.S. labor of imported goods made by low-paid foreign labor.

Let's organize the Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese workers, he said with all the fiery oratory a union leader can get up when everybody knows he doesn't really mean it. And he indicated that the steel union might actually contribute funds to the striking workers of those countries.

Great.



James Rademacher

But if Abel is really for international solidarity, why couldn't he be for solidarity right here at home? Even militant words in defense of the mail workers would inspire striking workers abroad and real action—strike action of 400,000 basic steel workers and nearly a million forge, foundry and fabrication workers.

## Leaders turn their backs

And Teddy Gleason, the longshore workers' leader. He never hesitates to call a wild-cat strike—when it's a strike against unloading a Soviet ship, or against taking the cargo from a vessel whose owners dared to carry goods to Haiphong.

Teddy is acting against State Department policy in doing this and supporting the extreme right wing reactionaries, who are also labor haters. And it doesn't bother him at all when he is told that his union is "striking against the government."

But when the letter carriers, who get just about half the pay of a longshoreman, go on strike, Teddy Gleason, the great wild-cat leader is neither seen nor heard from.

All the so-called leaders turned their backs or mumbled good wishes under their breaths. Not a single one did what they were supposed to do and what the membership expected them to do—especially when the troops moved in. They folded up.

What will they do when their own unions are attacked?

The same thing.

And something should be done with them. Something drastic, like firing them.

The ranks are a hundred times more militant than the present leaders are, as the letter carriers have proved. And the ranks deserve a leadership that can do on the political level what the rank-and-file does so wonderfully on the plant and street level.

That is—fight.



I.W. Abel (left), head of the Steelworkers Union, shaking hands with Secretary of Labor Shultz while George Meany looks on. Both these so-called "leaders," were conspicuously silent at the hour of need during the postal workers struggle. Meany even told the men to go back to work.

## YAWF Leaflet on postal strike

# Support the postal workers

Below is the text of a leaflet distributed by Youth Against War & Fascism in cities across the country.

Those corrupt politicians in the U.S. Congress got a 41 per cent raise last year—a raise of \$300 a week, that is. But postal workers got a 4 per cent wage increase, which came to about \$6 a week for letter carriers. The cost of living went up 5.9 per cent last year according to the government's own statistics. But postal workers got just 4 per cent—and they had to wait until July to get it, while Congress made sure to get their own 41 per cent the previous January!

## \$100,000 for the Big Boss!

The commander-in-chief of all government workers is none other than the President. And Richard Nixon got a neat raise the minute he stepped across the White House doorstep. Congress gave him exactly \$100,000 more a year than the previous President got. And with all that money, if he stops working for a week any time he feels like it, the newspapers all say he needs a rest. But if the overworked, underpaid postal workers stop for a single day, the same papers all scream that the world is coming to an end.

## Postal Workers on Welfare!

Over 7 per cent of the New York letter carriers have to get supplemental welfare for their families. Consider what this means. It means the pay is inhuman and the city has

to subsidize the U.S. government on account of it.

## Get it from Big Business

Not only did the fat cats in Congress have the time to stuff their own pockets with the taxpayers' money, but they also had plenty of time to vote \$50 billion in plush war contracts to the profiteering military corporations. They can find billions to enrich giant war corporations, to feed the military machine, and to conquer Vietnam for Big Business, but they can't find the money to pay a decent wage for the postal workers. What a pack of lies!

They can find the money in a minute if they want to (or if they are forced to) by taking some of those billions which are now being handed over to General Dynamics, Boeing, AT & T, General Motors and all the rest of the Pentagon's pet companies that are raking in profits from the war.

## The "Public Interest"

The big newspapers tell you the P.O. strike is illegal. What nerve! They don't tell you how their papers are carried through the mails at a quarter of the price you pay to mail a letter. The spread their anti-labor propaganda at your expense and they tell you the P.O. is losing

money and the workers can't have a decent raise!

Every strike you ever heard about is "against the public interest"—according to the bosses and the newspapers they advertise in. Why don't they pay decent wages, if they're so worried about the "public interest"? Aren't workers a part of the public? Why do they refuse to budge on a wage demand during a strike, if their hearts are bleeding so much for the rest of the public when some of their workers are on the bricks?

Did you ever notice how the bosses are all for the union, just so long as the union doesn't strike? The postal union has never had a strike in its 70 years of existence. And the U.S. postal workers have never had a real stoppage since 1789. And the minute they do, they're suddenly unpatriotic, criminal, and worst of all, "against the public interest."

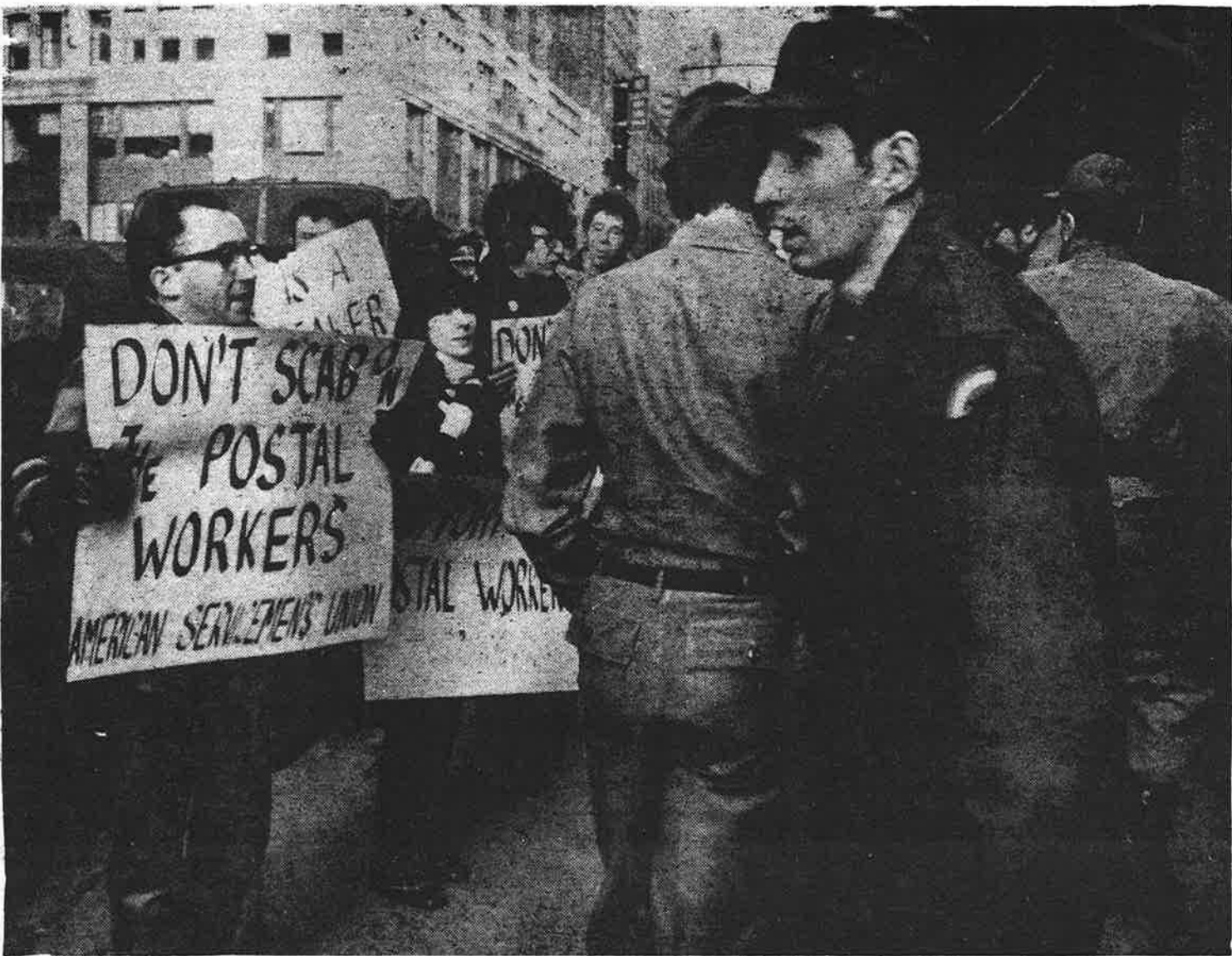
It's about time the "public"—that is, all of the other workers—woke up and told the millionaires, the billionaires, and their thieving politician-servants in Washington that the postal workers' strike is a hundred times more in the "public interest" than all the powerful interests who are criticizing the strike, put together.

SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY WITH YOUR FELLOW WORKERS.  
SUPPORT THE MAIL CARRIERS ALL THE WAY!

Labor Division  
Youth Against War & Fascism  
58 West 25th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10010

CH-2-0225  
675-2520





## It's OUR Strike too, You Guys; DON'T SCAB ON THE POSTAL WORKERS!

Your union, The American Servicemen's Union says ---  
RESIST NIXON'S STRIKEBREAKING ORDER AGAINST  
OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE POSTAL UNION.

Within minutes of Nixon's police-state order that troops would be used against the strikers, the Pentagon Brass ordered 1,000 troops from Fort Dix and 15,000 National Guard troops to be used to break the strike of New York mailmen who are trying to get a living wage.

For years the postal workers have been working for a wage that forces them to work a second job or to go on welfare to support their families.

### THEY'VE WAITED!

They waited while Congressmen voted themselves a 41% increase from \$30,000 to \$42,000.

They waited while Nixon got a 100% increase from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

### THEY GOT NOTHING!

FINALLY, New York Postal workers went on strike. Nixon's answer is to send in troops to crush the strike.

## Don't Do It!

SCREW UP THE WORK ----

GO TO THE LATRINE AND DISAPPEAR ----

or...

JUST TELL THEM TO GO TO HELL, THAT YOU WON'T BE A SCAB AGAINST YOUR OWN UNION BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

CALL US:

The American Servicemen's Union  
156 Fifth Avenue, Room 538  
New York, N.Y. 10010

Phone: 675-6780



## About this picture

This picture appeared in various capitalist newspapers including the New York Times, Washington Post, New York Daily News, New York Post. This is testimony to the significance which the ruling class attaches to development of class solidarity between workers in civilian life and workers trapped in the army and to the existence of an organization, the American Servicemen's Union, capable of forging the militant ties which will keep GIs from being used as strike breakers. Lower left leaflet handed out to troops at armories throughout New York City. Numerous reports indicate that troops found ways to screw things up in the P.O.

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## LETTER TO UNION BROTHERS

Below is the text of an open letter written by the American Servicemen's Union to the postal workers and distributed among them at the outset of the strike.

The American Servicemen's Union, representing Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine enlisted men at over two hundred bases and fifty ships around the world, raises our clenched fist in solidarity with the Postal workers in their just strike.

What is illegal about fighting for decent wages and working conditions for you and your families? What is unjust about walking off your jobs in protest over a pitiful few dollars increase that has been buried in Congressional committees since last October 1969? Congress acted in mere minutes to raise their own salaries and Nixon's by tens of thousands of dollars each year.

Winston M. Blount, Nixon's racist Postmaster General and wealthy businessman from Alabama, is threatening to use GI's to move the tons of mail.

The American Servicemen's Union is instructing its membership to resist this strikebreaking order. Point #6 of the ASU 10 point program states loud and clear, "NO TROOPS TO BE USED AGAINST WORKERS ON STRIKE."

The American Servicemen's Union will do all in its power to have the GI's honor this pledge to your just strike and we hope our effort will be of some assistance in your final victory.

For the ASU

Bob Lemay  
National Executive Director



# The significance of the postal strike

By SAM MARCY

Whatever the final results of the negotiations between the postal workers unions and the Nixon Administration now in progress in Washington, one thing can be said with absolute certainty. The tidal wave of mass insurgency that shook the capitalist establishment like a veritable social earthquake cannot be erased by any type of maneuvering between the top hierarchy of the labor leadership, their Congressional cohorts and the Nixon Administration.

Long, long after the specific gains of the hard-pressed postal workers have become dim in the memory of the public and have been eaten away by the ravages of inflation, what will be remembered is the truly monumental character of the struggle that the workers launched. It is the fact of the struggle itself that is of the greatest significance. From the struggle the workers gained for the first time a sense of strength and power which surpasses anything that even their best well-wishers could have anticipated before the strike began.

The strike has several features which are tremendously important, not only for the working class as a whole, but for the vanguard elements of the revolutionary movement as well.

## Nature of the capitalist state

Every significant strike is an embryo revolution. By this Marxists have not meant that every strike, ipso facto, raises the question of state power or raises the possibility of the seizure of state power. What is meant by this is that every great struggle brings into play all the fundamental class forces of capitalist society and reveals in miniature form the close and intimate relationships that exist between the capitalist state and its master, the ruling class, as well as the more concealed relationship of the labor bureaucracy to both the capitalist state and the working class.

Even more illuminating is the revelation of the state in its naked form as organized terror and violence. The state as "the body of armed men," the classic and imperatively accurate definition of the state given by Engels, has again been confirmed, if indeed it still need be, by the use of the army against the postal workers.

The most striking feature of the postal workers' struggle was the element of surprise. It caught the ruling class and its minions flat-footed at a time when the Nixon Administration was harassed by a hundred and one domestic and foreign problems of which the postal workers was the last on the agenda. The element of surprise in any class struggle is always an invaluable asset, but in this particular struggle it was exceptionally favorable to the workers because the ruling class was unable to make effective use of all the ponderous governmental machinery at its disposal. The best they could do was to use the army solely as an instrument of fear and intimidation and even this they found to be difficult.

## Nixon feared to provoke

### French-type rebellion

The Nixon Administration was quick to pass the word down that the soldiers would be unarmed. The use of armed soldiers (which would have meant a bloody reckoning with the workers), although contemplated by the Nixon Administration, was abandoned precisely because the government feared that this would enlarge the scale of the struggle and turn it into an unprecedented general struggle of a deeper and more profound character with acute political implications—struggles of the type that took place in France in 1968.

The only capitalist newspaperman to reveal this aspect of the Nixon Administration's strategy was the syndicated columnist Victor Riesel, who, in a telecast on March 23, specifically mentioned the French experience as an element that entered into the making of the strategy developed by Nixon, Blount, Shultz and Co.

## Irresistible convulsion:

### unprecedented unity

One thing that must have been absolutely clear to Washington was that this struggle was in the nature of a spontaneous uprising and that the leaders who had called the strike were merely responding to an irresistible convulsion, the dimensions of which could be of incalculable proportions. The elemental drive of the masses of workers, the fact that they themselves were doing it, their enthusiasm, their confidence and determination, was so apparent that only those totally blind would fail to see it.

The struggle united both Black and white, young and old, skilled and unskilled in one of the most remarkable displays of unity in many years and this in spite of a variety of different unions and the complete absence, at least for the duration

of the strike, of jurisdictional disputes which the boss press so loves to play on.

In the space of a few short days the workers got a lesson in the nature of the top hierarchy of the labor leadership that would have taken years of formal agitation and propaganda to teach. In times of great struggle, Marx said, the workers learn in a few days what it would take many years to learn during other times. The hanging in effigy of Rademacher was the most eloquent testimony to the swift change in the mass psychology of the workers, in their evaluation of the labor bureaucracy. This act alone proves that the struggle alone is the greatest educator and explains why the labor bureaucracy fears a real struggle and tries to avoid struggle as it would the plague.

The attitude of the postal workers toward the top official leadership did not, however, become anarchistic in character. On the contrary, what became evident to all who observed and heard the workers on the picket lines, was that they assumed an attitude of "wait until we get the opportunity to get rid of them." Rather than identifying the labor bureaucrats with the unions, the workers more than ever, and in some cases for the first time, saw the union as their own instrument and their "leaders" as an imposition upon them.

Coming at a time when the official trade union



movement has reached its lowest ebb in prestige, the thoughtful attitude taken by the postal workers in relation to the labor bureaucracy is an exceptionally favorable omen for all of the workers.

## "Measure of their strength"

The postal workers did not display the naive belief that they would be able, by themselves and in spite of their top leaders, to make the Nixon Administration capitulate openly and on all their demands. They instinctively knew that in the face of the collusion of Rademacher and his lieutenants and practically the entire hierarchy of the AFL-CIO with the Government, they alone could not win all that they wanted to win. But they could and did get "the measure of their strength."

What is meant by this phrase which is often used, not only in strike struggles, but in other struggles of the working class as well? It means that after examining the objective relationship of forces between the workers and their class enemy, and taking into consideration the available weapons which the workers have at their disposal in combatting the class enemy at a particular moment, and after measuring the totality of all the forces of the workers

as against what their enemy can muster at that same particular moment, a decision is made to ratify at the negotiating table what has been won on the picket line.

Of course, many a gain which has been won by hard battles on the picket line has been lost at the negotiation table. And this may yet be the case in the postal workers' strike, particularly in a situation where there is so much room for treachery. Not only do the leaders of the union have to keep their word to the workers, but the Nixon Administration and the Congress have to abide by the behind-the-scenes promises which they made to the labor bureaucracy in order to enable them to get the workers to go back.

## Trade union militancy and political class consciousness

The postal workers' strike has special significance because it of necessity is directed against the capitalist state—but only in its capacity as an employer. Viewed in this light the strike reveals the enormous disparity between trade union militancy and political class consciousness. No revolutionary Marxist who works for the proletarian revolution can fail to give the closest study to this phenomenon.

In such western imperialist countries as France, Germany, Italy and to a lesser extent Spain, which have a long tradition of revolutionary class struggle against the bourgeoisie, trade union militancy is to a large extent also merged with political class consciousness. To a large degree this is explained not only by the higher level of the class struggle in these countries, but also by the fact that Marxist parties developed first and then built the unions. It is otherwise in the Anglo-Saxon countries such as Britain and the United States where trade unions grew up first and political parties of the working class developed later.

However, from a broader historical perspective, the disparity between the political class consciousness of the American worker and their West European brothers, particularly in the Latin countries, is due to the highly privileged position occupied by U.S. imperialism which has been able to bribe the upper echelons of the labor aristocracy in this country.

## The labor aristocracy and the

### decline of the empire

The postal workers strike comes at a critical juncture in the historical evolution of U.S. imperialism. The empire of finance capital with its citadel in Washington is crumbling. With each blow delivered by the oppressed peoples of Vietnam, of all Asia, Africa and Latin America, the privileges of the labor aristocracy in America not only are imperiled, but are destined to vanish. The imperialist colossus which has mercilessly levelled towns and villages abroad is now levelling the standard of living here at home as one of the consequences of its adventurist foreign policy.

The inability of the Nixon Administration to grant a meagre, paltry 12 per cent increase to a section of Government employees other than by evoking one of the most massive strikes in the country, sounds the death knell of the social system.

## Marxist-Leninist Party:

### indispensible element of victory

It sometimes takes a long, long time for the economic facts of life to reflect themselves in the political consciousness of the masses. The Vietnam war which is now almost 10 years old has wrought havoc with a capitalist economy which was already in decline at the end of the Korean war. Its artificial stimulation by gargantuan military projects such as the ABM and related military installations has merely introduced one more explosive element into an anarchic and chaotic situation.

All the more necessary is it for the vanguard of the revolutionary movement to help accelerate the political consciousness of the working class, the only class destined, by the nature of its class position in society, to overthrow the rotting system of imperialist rule.

Trade union consciousness is one of the oldest and most elementary forms of class consciousness. It can develop and has developed over the centuries more or less spontaneously. It can be a vehicle for either class collaboration or class struggle precisely because it is merely an elementary form of consciousness. Political class consciousness on the other hand requires the knowledge of precise Marxist-Leninist theory, knowledge of the laws that govern the class struggle, the reciprocal relationship between the antagonistic classes in society and the social institutions that are based upon them.

The great merit of the postal workers strike is that it was effectuated with a mere elementary trade union consciousness in the environment of a totally bourgeois ideology. Imagine what could be accomplished with such a truly great struggle, with such a massive upsurge of enthusiasm, unity and solidarity if it was accompanied by equally great political class consciousness. And yet this is the indispensable element needed, not only for ultimate victory, but even to safeguard the modest gains that have been won as of now.

All this underlines the need for building a genuine revolutionary workers party, a party based upon the fundamental conceptions of Marx and Lenin.

March 25, 1970



Rap Brown, Panther 21, Martin Sostre...

# WHITE JURIES AND BLACK DEFENDANTS

By V. COPELAND

Early in March the New York Panther 21 released a remarkable document to the public (see Workers World, March 7, 1970) which gave the historical background and theoretical justification for their refusal to submit to a white racist judge's definition of good conduct or to his threats to hold them in "contempt."

The statement demanded, among other things, a Black court and a Black jury for the Panthers and, by implication, all other Black defendants, too.

But imperialist "justice" is so far from yielding on this point that only two weeks after the statement was issued, a Jersey City court was getting ready to line up another all-white jury in the case of three Black Panthers accused of machine-gunning a police station.

(The 1967 Black uprising in nearby Newark began when taxi driver John Smith was mercilessly beaten in a police station. Police were just exonerated of any wrongdoing in Smith's case during the past week.)

As of March 13 there had been 189 prospective jurors rejected in the Jersey City trial--including all the Black ones. There were 13 potential jurors left--all white, from which to pick the jury of 12. There was one remaining panel from which to choose if more than one of the 13 was excused. There were 19 on this panel--and the panel was all white. Needless to say, a number of Blacks among the 189 were automatically excused by peremptory challenges.

In recent years there have been few integrated juries, even for show purposes, and these are mostly in the North. But in political cases and cases arising from Black militancy or Black uprisings the juries tend to be as completely lily-white as ever.

The sensational events around the Rap Brown trial in Bel Air, Maryland have temporarily overshadowed the fact that there will inevitably be an all-white jury there too, if the trial goes on as the ruling-class has scheduled.

## Racist change of venue

Had the trial been held in Cambridge where Brown was arrested and his alleged "crime" was committed, there would most likely have been several Afro-Americans on the jury, because the Black population is so large there. (This was by no means guaranteed, but it would have been difficult for the prosecution to keep all Blacks out.)

Accordingly, the prosecution demanded--and got--a "change of venue" from Cambridge to 95 per

cent white Bel Air. It was in much Blacker Cambridge that the fed-up ghetto residents started to burn down some of the town in the summer of 1967, and Rap Brown is accused of responsibility for it because he made a militant speech there just before the event.

Circuit Judge C. Burnham Mace upheld the prosecutor's contention that there could not be "an orderly and impartial trial" in Cambridge.

According to the U.S. Constitution every person has a right to be tried in the area where his alleged crime was committed. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on January 12 that Brown's rights had not been violated by moving his trial to practically all-white Bel Air. (Bel Air is not only white, but so far-out conservative that the local movie house does not admit boys with long hair.)

The whole idea of "change of venue" originally arose in order to protect the defendant, that is, in general to protect the oppressed. But here it was granted only to insure a hanging jury and thus, in effect, to lynch the oppressed.

## Detroit murderers go free

There was a slight variation of the same essential procedure in the case of the white cops who shot three Black youths in cold blood in the Algiers Motel during the Detroit uprising of 1967.

Last June, one of these cops, Ronald August, was tried in the all-white town of Mason, Michigan, eighty miles from Detroit, where, his lawyers pleaded, he could not get a fair trial. (Detroit is nearly half Black.) The all-white jury in Mason found him not guilty.

Last month August and two buddies who hadn't even stood trial for the murder because of technicalities which freed them, were tried for conspiracy by the federal government. The maximum penalty for the federal violation would have been ten years. An all-white jury, this time in Flint, Michigan, again found "not guilty."

Black Martin Sostre was tried after an uprising in Buffalo, New York, ostensibly for the alleged crime of selling drugs in the Black neighborhood, but actually for being a "leading figure" (the police chief's phrase) in the Black rebellion. He was found guilty by an all-white jury, after being indicted by an all-white grand jury which in turn had been chosen from an all-white panel of 49, and he was given a sentence of 30 to 41 years.

There are over 100,000 Black people in Buffalo out of a total population of 500,000.

Sostre, knowing the kind of jury he would get after a Black uprising, however, had asked for a change of venue to some area where the whites might be less hysterical. He was denied this by the white supremacist judge.

## Black court for black people

The Constitutional guarantee of a jury of one's peers is trampled upon every day of the week and has been for the past hundred years where the oppressed nations in the United States are concerned. But the fact is that Black people should be entitled not only to an all-Black jury, but to Black judges and Black court officials, and be tried in the Black community, as Martin Sostre advocated in an important article last year.

The imperialist countries used to openly exercise the "right of extraterritoriality" over the colonies (and still do so over some of them!). If a Chinese in China committed a crime against an American or an American against a Chinese, the trial in each case



Martin Sostre

would be held in an American court on Chinese soil--before the revolution of 1949. This was also true in Panama, Puerto Rico, etc. It was even true in Japan until 1899.

The white oppressor nation still exercises this imperialist "right of extraterritoriality" over the oppressed nations inside the United States. The racist cops of Detroit were not really entitled to a jury of their peers at all, because they had committed a crime against an oppressed people. And that people should have had the right to try them and punish them.

Martin Sostre, who was innocent of the outrageous drug charge in any case, was taken out of his community and his nation by the oppressors and railroaded in an enemy's court. He should have been tried in the Black people's own court.

But as the Panther 21 statement so eloquently says it, the ruling class does not even live up to its own laws, or observe its own Constitution where Black people are concerned. Nearly every Black prisoner in the country is thus wrongly imprisoned, even by the one-sided standards of the racist ruling class of the oppressor nation.

## Martin Sostre in Court

50¢

Edited by Bob McCubbin

This pamphlet contains Martin Sostre's testimony at his trial as well as his comments to the courtroom spectators. Sostre's highly political exposure of his frame-up is available, along with his Letters from Prison, from the Martin Sostre Defense Committee, P.O. Box 382, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205



RAP BROWN

# Demonstrate against repression in Santo Domingo

The Dominican dictator, Joaquin Balaguer, is pushing ahead his reelection for four more years. The people, on the other hand, are resolutely opposed to such a scheme. In order that the people should stop their opposition to Balaguer's re-election, the dictatorial regime has launched a most vicious campaign of terrorism against the workers, students, peasants, intellectuals, and also, of course, against the revolutionary organizations. This terrorist campaign, only shows the government's impotence to deal with people's desires for national liberation and popular democracy. Our organization, the United Front for Dominican Liberation (FULD), has been denouncing the Balaguer dictatorship since its establishment. Once again, we accuse it of having committed barbarous acts of repression against the people of our country. Thus, on the 14th of this month, 4 persons were executed in the city of Barahona. Among the killed, were a father and his son. Also assassinated were two young students, Freddy Maria Ventura, from the Capital, and Stalin Garcia Munos, from the town of La Vega.

Confronted with this situation, our organization is planning to picket the Dominican Consulate on Friday, April 3rd, starting at 4:00 P.M., to denounce the Balaguerista dictatorship, and to show the solidarity of the Dominicans living in New York with their brothers in Santo Domingo.

We call on the American revolutionaries to show their support for the Dominican revolutionary movement and to join in the picket.

REVOLUTIONARIES OF THE WORLD, LET'S FIGHT UNITED!

LONG LIVE REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALISM!

DATE: April 3, 1970

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

PLACE: IN FRONT OF THE DOMINICAN CONSULATE  
(6th Avenue — Bet. 49 St. & 50 St.)

For your support write to:

P.O. Box 149  
Franklyn D. Roosevelt Sta.,  
New York, New York





A day of struggle in New York City

Militant demonstration marks International Women's Day

By NAOMI COHEN

NEW YORK — "The time has come for all of us to recreate our past at the same time that we are creating the present and the future. The history that we've been taught has been sexist history; the history has been racist history, and we've been taught elitist ruling class history.... The facts that would impress us as women, as Black people, as workers, were conveniently withheld.... Now women, Blacks, and workers are learning that consciousness is a historical element which enables people to change the course of society, to transform the social relations of production, to make revolution."

The speaker was Vickie Pollard, a staff member of a women's liberation magazine, "Women: A Journal of Liberation." The occasion was March 7, the first International Women's Day rally in this country in many years. In this city and around the country, women took this day to revive the revolutionary traditions of a day that is truly for women in struggle.

1,000 rally in New York City

The day was marked here by over 1,000 women and male supporters with a rally in Union Square and a militant march to New York's Bastille—the Women's House of Detention. The action was organized by the Women's Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism and included representatives from many women's organizations. So that women with children could attend, men from YAWF staffed a child care center at a nearby church during the rally.

When the rally ended, women poured out of Union Square Park and began a spirited march to the in-

famous Women's House of Detention. They carried banners demanding equal pay for equal work, free and legal abortions, no job discrimination and freedom for Geraldine Robinson, a Black mother of five from Buffalo who was framed up along with Martin Sostre for running a revolutionary bookstore in the Black community there. Marching along the crowded streets, the women chanted, "Women, let's unite and fight," "Out of the house, out of the jails, out from under, women unite," and "Free our sisters, free ourselves. Free Joan Bird, free Erica Huggins."

Speaking with jailed sisters

The march grew as it went, so that when it reached the prison, the demonstrators completely circled the building. Women prisoners waved and shouted out of the windows, "Free us," "Power to the people," and "We want food." The demonstrators stopped at the back of the prison where they could hear the women best and shouted up to their imprisoned sisters. "Hey, hey, ho, ho, The House of D has got to go," was picked up by the crowd. "Free Joan Bird," was raised again and again to demand freedom for the Panther woman now imprisoned there for almost a year on \$100,000 ransom as a result of the frame-up of the New York Panther 21.

The cops were ominously moving in, harassing the demonstrators, but no one was moving. The women stood with fists raised and shouted up to the prisoners. It was finally suggested that the demonstrators demand their right to see the prison authorities with a list of demands. As the women marched on the front of the prison, police moved in to block their way.

The women refused to give way and stood at the entrance of the prison chanting, "Free our sisters, free ourselves." A handful of cops were nervously backed up against the prison wall, confronted by an angry crowd of determined women.

Finally, a squad of cops charged the demonstrators, pushing them away from the prison. Clubs

started swinging and the people were brutally man-handled. In the process, three women and three male supporters were arrested. The three women are Sharon Martin, a leader in YAWF and Rita Freed and Pam Myers, long-time activists in Youth Against War & Fascism and well known to New York's secret police. Three men, Mike Friedman, Steve Cagan and Jamie Fryer were also arrested.

Frame up women and supporters

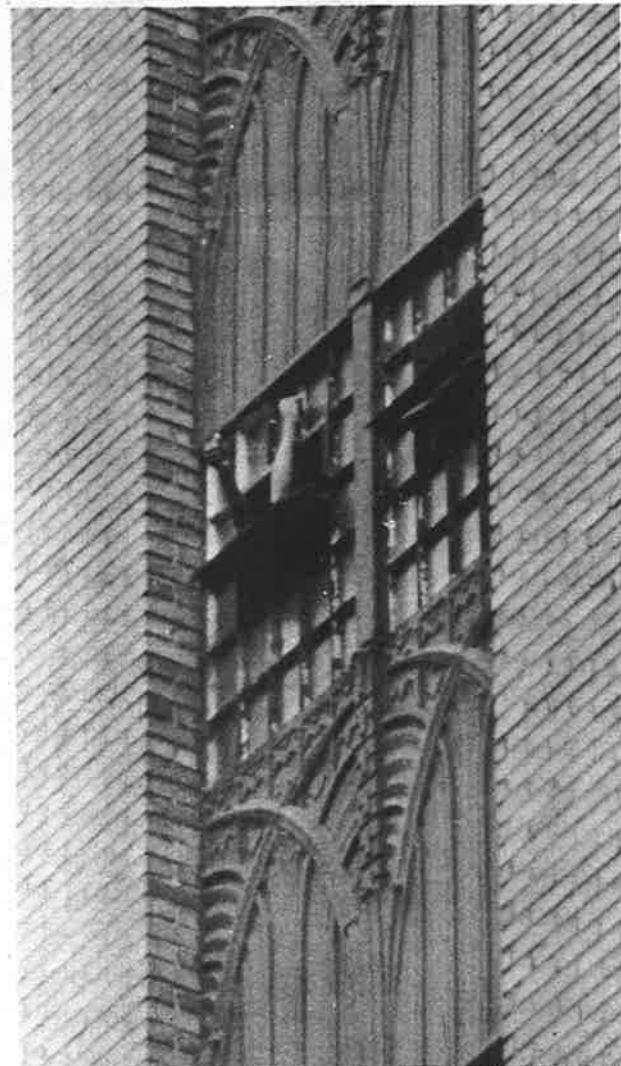
It took the cops two hours to decide to frame up the demonstrators on very heavy charges. Sharon Martin, Pam Meyers and Steve Cagan are being charged with felonious assault on a cop in addition to first-degree riot, also a felony. The defendants are also being charged with resisting arrest, harassment, obstruction of government administration and disorderly conduct.

The stiff charges make it clear that the Women's Liberation movement can now expect the same kind of repression that the government has brought down on the Black Liberation and anti-war movements. Women's Liberation is spoken of as a joke in the capitalist press, but the moment women begin to struggle in militant actions, the repression comes down.

Militant action blotted out

If you didn't read about the action in the bourgeois press it was only because the male supremacist capitalist media made a conscious effort to blot out a women's action that was militant, political, determined and revolutionary.

Vickie Pollard ended her talk by proclaiming, "We will never be enticed by the vote. Our experience of ten years of movement struggle has taught us that the electoral process is rigged. What we want are the keys to the ballot boxes, the keys to the factories and the keys to the banks. We want to share the power with Blacks, workers, students and Third World peoples to control every aspect of our lives as women and people."—And



WW PHOTOS/ED COLLINS

Black and white fists thrust out of prison window



Women shout up to prisoners at back of Women's House of Detention



AT THE RALLY: Sue Davis, YAWF Women's Caucus



Sandy Rappaport, Bread and Roses



Vickie Pollard, Women's Journal



Maryann Weissman, YAWF



## We mourn a revolutionary sister's death

Following is a message sent from the International Women's Day rally to the people of Puerto Rico struggling for liberation. The day before the rally, a young woman was shot to death on the University of Puerto Rico campus during a demonstration against ROTC there.

"We, women of many organizations who have come together to commemorate International Women's Day, join the revolutionary people of Puerto Rico in mourning the murder of Antonia Martinez by the lackeys of U.S. imperialism. Today's rally marks the founding of International Women's Day on March 8, 1908 and commemorates the heroic traditions of women who have struggled and died in the battle for liberation. The recent heroic attack on the ROTC building at your university is another inspiring example set by women and men both in the colony and in the mother country struggling for the liberation of all oppressed people. Que viva Antonia Martinez!"

that's not what the kept press wanted to hear from women.

Nevertheless, the women went on. Florynce Kennedy, a Black attorney presently working on a case to repeal New York's abortion laws spoke on the abortion struggle. Dr. June Finer of the Medical Committee on Human Rights also spoke on abortion and health care for women. Kathy Ellis of the New University Conference spoke on the revolutionary implications of the fight for day care. "The revolutionary potential of the women's movement is enormous," she said. "But to fulfill it, we have to begin to create different institutions which make it possible for people to see how the present ones deny us the freedom and the kind of life that we could have if we didn't live in a class society."

### Women's liberation our first task

Sue Davis of the YAWF Women's Caucus outlined the history of International Women's Day which was begun by women in the needletrades who demonstrated in 1908 for women's rights. "International Women's Day was seized in 1908 on these very streets of New York City as a day for women.... We're here to reclaim International Women's Day as our day." (Right on from the crowd.) She continued, "Women have always been told that their drive for emancipation would be the last task of the revolution. Many have assumed that we who were the first to be enslaved would be the last to be freed. Well, we think no such thoughts! Let us make the liberation of women our first task!"

The Women's Caucus of the Young Lords Organization sent a delegation of women to the rally. Iris Benitez, Lieutenant of Information of the YLO, began her talk by asking the crowd to show revolutionary respect for Sister Antonia Martinez who was murdered the day before in a struggle against ROTC at the University of Puerto Rico. Iris Benitez was clearly very disturbed by the fact that some women at the rally were not paying attention to the speakers and she chided them for not respecting each other and having so little discipline.

She said she considered herself first of all an oppressed person and a fighter for the oppressed — and that she happened to be a woman.

Her speech certainly should have had the effect of pointing up one of the all too obvious weaknesses of the present stage of development of the women's movement. That is, that it has not been able as yet, to draw to it in any sizeable numbers, the poorest and most oppressed women. This is certainly an important task. The women's movement must seriously address itself much more to the needs of these women who are doubly oppressed.

(Continued on page 5)



Deirdre Griswold, YAWF Women's Caucus, chairs rally at Union Square

## Police attack women's demonstration; six arrested on stiff frame-up charges

NEW YORK (LNS)—Demonstrators from the International Women's Day action packed night court March 7 to support the three women and three men arrested during a militant confrontation with the cops in front of the Women's House of Detention.

The arrests came after Deirdre Griswold, chairman of the rally, announced that the women intended to go into the prison to present a list of demands to the prison authorities. The demonstrators marched to the front of the Women's House and several women went up the steps of the prison with a banner reading "Sisters, Unite and Fight." The handful of cops at the prison entrance were taken by surprise, never before having been confronted by such a militant group of angry women chanting, "Free our sisters."

The arrests were politically motivated. Fritz Behr, one of the heads of the red squad now acting as chief goon for the "Special Events Squad," was on the scene pointing out the people to be arrested. Sharon Martin, a leader of YAWF, Rita Freed and Pam Meyers, both long-time activists in Youth Against War & Fascism are well known to the "red

squad." Rita Freed is also head of the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation (CSMEL). Three men, Mike Friedman, Steve Cagan and Jamie Fryer (from the High School Student Union), were also arrested.

All three women and Steve Cagan are being charged with felonious assault on a cop and with first degree riot, also a felony. Among the other frame-up charges slapped on the defendants are resisting arrest, harassment and obstruction of government administration.

Supporters filled the halls outside night court. At first the judge ordered that the court be closed. When friends and relatives were finally allowed in, the judge insisted that Attorney Bill Crain advise the courtroom audience that any disturbance would be dealt with as contempt of court. The judge was nervous at the strong show of solidarity in the courtroom.

Despite the dire warnings of the judge, when the release of the defendants was finally effected, the tense spectators burst into loud applause.



Kathy Ellis, New University Conference



Women on the march to Women's House of Detention



## YAWF statement on the bombings

## "As you sow, so shall you reap"

To the question of the bombings and what we think of them, Youth Against War & Fascism has but one reply to the ruling class of America. We say, as ye sow, so shall ye reap. You are the greatest perpetrators of violence in the world and the response you got was as inevitable as the rising sun.

To the tiny clique of billionaires who run this country, of which the bosses of Mobil Oil, Chase Manhattan, IBM, etc. are a part, we say that you have tried to destroy the Black Panther Party by a campaign of physical annihilation; that you have conducted a war of genocide against Vietnam; that you have conducted an outrageously fascist frame-up trial against the Chicago 8 and that you have thereby provoked retaliation against yourself.

We call attention to the fact that your police chiefs, your lynch mobs, your assassins murdered Ralph Featherstone just the other day; that you shot Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in cold blood; that you gunned down Malcolm X; that you assassinated Martin Luther King and you even killed the Kennedys; that your prisons are concentration camps filled with Huey Newton,

Bobby Seale, Martin Sostre and hundreds upon hundreds of other Black political prisoners; that you have indiscriminately shot down hundreds of Black people in the streets of Watts, Newark, Detroit and numerous other cities; that you have used tanks, machine guns, gas, bayonets and carbines against the poor, the hungry and the unemployed Black masses who revolted against your intolerable oppression; that you have bombed churches with children in them and lynched civil rights fighters; that you have defended white supremacy by every vile means from the cattle prod of Bull Connor to the ax handle of Lester Maddox.

To the bosses of General Motors, RCA, General Telephone and the rest of your ruling class cronies we say that you, your President and your generals have bombed and bombed and bombed the people of Vietnam; that you have committed countless massacres against women, children and babies of which My Lai was only a drop in the bucket; that you have dropped anti-personnel bombs upon, napalmed and bombed hospitals, schools, nurseries, villages without blinking an eyelash; that you have tried to poison and other-

wise destroy everything in Vietnam that lives upon the earth or in the water...

We say that you cannot carry out a policy of unbridled repression at home and genocidal aggression abroad without evoking a response. To want to strike back, to want to retaliate against you and to inflict some sort of punishment upon you in the most natural, irresistible and inevitable result of your barbarous outrages against the people.

How dare you corporate rulers, your paid press and your cops raise a hue and cry about the destruction of buildings when the soil of the five continents is soaked with the blood of your victims. From Indonesia to Greece, from Bolivia to the Congo to Mississippi your hired killers have murdered the oppressed people.

You have raped and pillaged the world in pursuit of profit. Your mansions, your art collections, your country clubs are all purchased with the labor and resources stolen from the masses by force and violence. Your vaults are filled with stolen loot which belongs to the people at home and abroad.

At home you tax the workers to pay for your adventures. You draft their sons to die for your empire. You steal their wages by raising taxes, prices and rents without restraint. Then you call out your cops and your courts when the workers resist. You have polluted the air and poisoned the earth and the water but you won't do a thing about it. You callously disregard the peoples' desire, trample upon their democratic rights, you tear up the constitution when it suits you, you close off all areas of legal dissent. You suck the blood of the people for whom you have the utmost contempt.

You, the ruling class, are a tiny minority, but, with your nerve gas, cobalt bombs, ABMs, MIRVs and your germ warfare, you are the greatest menace to the survival of mankind since the beginning of the human race. How long do you think you can go on committing crime after crime without evoking a response? The greatest purveyors of violence against the people are now screaming to high heaven about bombings — in order to cover your tracks. You are just a pack of murderers screaming "murder" in order to drum up a hysteria against the Black liberation struggle, the anti-war movement and the working class. But you will not succeed because the mass of the people will learn to recognize you for what you are.

The bombing of your buildings is only an inevitable expression of the hatred the world's people feel for you and the outcome of your own violent crimes. Whatever you got you brought upon yourselves.

We have full confidence that in the future, the masses of people in this country whom you have oppressed and exploited for so long will rise to the historic occasion, abolish your system of exploitation and replace it with a system based upon human need rather than profit and super-profit—a system where the working class and the oppressed will really hold power. The masses will make the socialist revolution and by that means put an end to the class violence of the bourgeoisie forever.

## A revolutionary reply to the Bank of America

This letter/release is being given to the world press in answer to a full-page advertisement taken out by the Bank of America in 66 newspapers containing a scurrilous attack on the Revolutionary Movement, after the fiery demise of their Isla Vista Branch Office in Santa Barbara. We are offering this letter to Underground and Bourgeois press alike. It was authored by a loose amalgam of radicals laced throughout the state of California in support of the Santa Barbara actions.

THE SANTA BARBARA SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
2729 Derby  
Berkeley, Calif.

### AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT TO THE BANK OF AMERICA

We are deeply disturbed by the wanton acts of aggression perpetrated on the peoples of S. E. Asia engaged in revolutionary struggles. These military interventions are not childish pranks, peaceful demonstrations, nor even non-violent disruptions designed to give symbolic meaning to imperialism. Rather, they are criminal acts of violent proportions directed against the people's democratic struggles. They are fascist gestures of the kind that lead to further violence, bloodshed, and repression. Nor are they isolated instances but rather a continuation of the calculated violence that has been emanating from your banks and financial institutions in the name of the state under the directions of the corporate few.

You compare us in the American Revolutionary Movement to the "brown shirts" of Nazi Germany. Let us forget, it was the brown shirts of Nazi Germany who came to power in order to repress the Revolutionary movement in pre-Nazi Germany. In whose interests then do you speak of "law and order?"

We accuse your bank, Chairman Lundborg and ex-chairman Peterson, in your plunder of "hungry new markets" and your affiliations with defense contractors like Litton & McDonnell Douglas, in your magnanimous aid to the CIA through the Asia Foundation, of raping the "underdeveloped world."

We accuse you of continuing the racist hegemony of American Imperialism over Asia, South America, and Africa. We accuse your bank, Director Di Giorgio, of being the largest parasitic landlord in the state of California, owning properties larger in area than the whole state of Delaware, and yet you fight against the minimum wage demands of migrant farmworkers and lobby for the continuation of the "bracero program." Not only do you oppose labor in your control of agribusiness in California, but you have consistently opposed the demands of workers through generous support of anti-labor legislation.

Your retail food outlets distribute food of declining quality, artificially grown, and of little nutritional value. We accuse you of destroying the world's ecological balance through your mining concerns, your manufacturing interests, and your petroleum companies like Union Oil (or have you forgotten the beaches of Santa Barbara?)

In whose interests is LAW AND ORDER when one of your directors, Harry S. Baker, sits on the board of the largest police weapons manufacturer in the world, Bangor Punta?

This is for the people of the world to decide: what is the burning of a bank compared to the founding of a bank? In whose interest is law and order when tyranny prevails?

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!



## Taking back stolen land

# From Alcatraz to Ellis Island



MPs carry Indian woman and child from Fort Lawton

When Europeans first came to the New World there were approximately 12 million Indians living in North America. Today, after centuries of genocide—genocide that was intensified in the last half of the 1800s with the westward expansion of the United States, genocide that is glorified in the movies and on television—there are only 600,000 Indians left in this country. Of all the tribes, only the Navajos, with a population of 125,000, are growing rather than decreasing in numbers.

Those Indians still alive have been robbed, impoverished and degraded by their "protectors" in the government and businesses that have grown rich from stealing what little land remains in Indian hands.

But a new spirit of resistance to the never-ending encroachments against their lands, their rights, their very existence as a people (many Indian children are taken away from their parents and reservations and sent to foster homes or institutions) has begun. It was symbolized when Indian parti-

cipants in the Poor People's Campaign beat on the doors of the Supreme Court and were not admitted. And it was crystallized when a group of Indians reclaimed Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay last November under the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, conveniently forgotten by the government, that allows Indians to occupy land not used by the government.

The occupation of Alcatraz has continued and grown, along with many other Indian struggles. In the Pacific Northwest, there have been fights over fishing rights (a fight for the Indians' very source of food) which the Indians want to re-assert while the Department of the Interior, backed up by the Justice Department, wants to turn them over to more lucrative businesses.

## Set up tepee on fort

On March 8, Indians attempted to take over Fort Lawton, Washington, to establish an Indian university and cultural center on the post, which is soon to be declared "surplus" by the Army. Over 150 men, women and children,

carrying food, sleeping bags and cooking utensils climbed over fences, scaled a bluff and put up a teepee before being stopped by military police. In a statement explaining the action, they reclaimed "this land for all Indian tribes." After being held at the Fort Lawton stockade where eight of the Indians were beaten by MPs, the group was escorted off the base and given letters barring them from returning under threat of a possible six-month prison sentence and \$500 fine.

It is ironic not only that the Indians have been barred from the land that was stolen from them, but that the entire Navajo nation was held captive on an Army fort. From 1863 to 1868, Fort Sumner, New Mexico was used as a prison for the Navajo nation, which then numbered only 7,000 people. The famous Kit Carson was responsible for this infamous captivity, during which all the livestock was taken away from the Navajos, although sheep-raising was one of the tribe's main occupations.

## Ellis Island next target

About a week later, a group of 30 Indians representing 14 different tribes attempted a takeover of abandoned Ellis Island in Upper New York Bay. There are 35 buildings on the island, including a hospital, dormitories and school-rooms that the Indians want to use for a center of American Indian studies, a museum, a vocational training center and perhaps a university.

The island was given to the National Park Service in 1957 after the federal government couldn't find a buyer. The Park Service doesn't know what to do with it either, but whether they will let the Indians have it back is doubtful, since one official commented that the Indians could face 10 years in prison if they tried to take the island. The group of Indians was not able to continue the take-over after the boat taking them from Jersey to the island broke down.

In explaining their action, a young Mohawk spoke of how the white settlers took the land away from the Indians. The Indians believed that the forests, rivers and land could not be bought or sold. "It was like saying to a white man, 'I'd like to buy four square feet of air from you.' The Indian couldn't understand that once he'd sold it, he couldn't breathe it anymore."

# Replay of genocide — South of the border

By P. MEISNER

The dramatic struggle of American Indians in the U.S. today serves as a reminder that no greater barbarity has ever been committed by U.S. imperialism than its 300-year old genocidal policy against "its" own native Indians. "Give us back our stolen land" is the slogan of Indian women picketing at Fort Lawton, near Seattle, and yet the imperialists in Washington and Wall Street still turn a deaf ear, denying American Indians their most elementary rights.

Much less known throughout the world is the incredible plight of South American Indians in the three big U.S. neo-colonies of Latin America—Argentina, Brazil and Chile. In the last few years, news of untold torture and persecution of Indians has come out of Brazil and Argentina, particularly where both of the regimes were installed under the guns of the Pentagon and the CIA.

In October, 1967, the New York Times reported that General Albuquerque Lima, at the time the Minister of Interior of the fascist Brazilian government, admitted that his own Indian Protection Service was committing atrocities against the very people it was supposed to help. A virtual extermination campaign was conducted by the agency to clear Indians out of various zones in Brazil for the benefit of large Brazilian landlords. (This "Protection Service" is perfectly analogous with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which

has consistently turned over Indian lands to big corporations to exploit the natural resources found there, leaving the Indians poverty stricken and unemployed.)

In March, 1968, the Brazilian Prosecutor General revealed that Indians were subject to intentional starvation, poisoning, contamination with disease germs, slaughter with firearms, bombs and other weapons, rape, forced labor, abuse of child labor and many forms of torture.

The Prosecutor General, Jader Figueiredo, was quoted by reporters at the time as saying:

"Tortures have been inflicted on Indians similar to those practiced by the Nazis at Treblinka and Dachau camps. Those responsible are the officials of the Protection Service."

It has also been estimated that the agency had caused more than \$10 million in damage to Indians' belongings.

In Argentina, Indians are the victims of extreme racial oppression at the hands of a European-dominated society and a pro-imperialist military government. One Cabinet minister in Buenos Aires was quoted by the New York Times in a private conversation:

"Argentina is far ahead of the rest of Latin America because of the superiority of its racial composition. We are Europeans, without any mixture of Indian or Negro blood."

In Chile, an official of the Chilean



Mataco Indians suffering from tuberculosis in North Argentina

government said:

"You Americans will have to get over the image of South America as the boy snoozing away under a big sombrero. We are not Indians or Mexicans."

In the north Argentine Chaco, Indian cattle and land are constantly being stolen by gauchos. Not one pure-blooded Indian has title to land and fewer than 100 of those of mixed blood have title. They live as squatters from day to day, hoping they will not be forced off government or private property. Sugar mills, canning factories, sawmills and other industries in the region commonly exploit the Indian, frequently paying him in chits, with which

he may buy overpriced goods at a company store.

A Swedish anthropologist, Lars Persson, stated in a November 29 radio interview that a policy of genocide prevailed regarding Indians in the Western Hemisphere:

"White civilization is bringing about the destruction of the social and cultural ambience of the indigenous peoples as well as their physical destruction."

What the bourgeois anthropologist left out of his observation, of course, is that the barbaric oppression of the American Indian, in both North and South America, can only continue to exist until the Colossus of the North, U.S. imperialism, is finally destroyed.



While they pretend to mourn Yablonsky

# Govt. union-busting: \$1.8 million UMW fine

By ELLEN PIERCE

If there were any doubts that the assassination of Joseph Yablonski of the United Mine Workers had the acquiescence and the participation of the government, they should be dispelled by the series of follow-up attacks launched against the union by the government on behalf of the mine owners since then. The grand jury "investigation" of the assassination being held in Cleveland, the Labor Department's overturning of the recent UMW elections for violations of the anti-labor Landrum-Griffin Act; the ouster of Mine Bureau chief O'Leary who is certain to be succeeded by a direct representative of the mine bosses; all these have been part of the government-mine owner war against the workers and the union and have nothing to do with "helping" the miners get rid of bureaucrats or corruption within the union.

## Bosses' big gun — the court

Now the ruling class has moved in one of its biggest weapons against the

workers — the courts.

In a decision that would be ominous for all organized labor even if it were not part of the planned dismemberment of the UMW, the Supreme Court on March 2 let stand the judgment of two lower courts that the United Mine Workers had "conspired" in violation of anti-trust laws to drive two non-union mines out of business. The union was forced to pay triple damages of more than \$1,800,000.

In what must be the understatement of the year, the New York Times commented on this decision that it was "believed certain to add to the political and legal difficulties of the mine workers union."

The damage suit against the union stems from charges by two small Tennessee coal mines that the industry-wide terms of the national bituminous coal wage agreement of 1958 and other settlements in the early 1960's, when John Lewis and Thomas Kennedy headed the UMW, were the result of an unwritten conspiracy between the union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association and the Consolidation



Chief hangman Burger

Coal Company. The purpose of this alleged conspiracy was to drive smaller companies out of business by forcing high wage and benefit settlements on all producers in the industry.

At least four more such suits against the union are now pending in state courts (Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky) or before the Supreme Court. The total damages for which the UMW is being sued exceed \$26 million, and the Supreme Court's March 2 precedent in awarding damages to the Tennessee mine operators is a strong indication that the other cases will also be decided against the union.

## Big bosses to benefit

This legal stranglehold on the union will ultimately benefit the big coal bosses rather than the small ones to whom the cash is being awarded right now. It is the giant coal companies, such as Consolidation Coal (controlled by the Mellon and Hanna families and one of the 200 American companies with the greatest assets) which stand to profit from the court's "legal" crucifixion of the union.

This use of anti-trust laws, not against the giant monopolies which control and exploit vast areas of the earth and its inhabitants, but against workers fighting to retain a fraction of the wealth they create, is not new in American labor history.

## Danbury hatters case

The infamous Danbury Hatters decision was handed down by a federal court in 1908. Under the supposedly "trust-busting" Sherman Anti-Trust Act, it found workers in Danbury, Connecticut guilty of fighting for a union shop. A fine of \$234,000 was ordered against the union, and the strike was broken.

Only the blind could hail the government's efforts to "cleanse" the UMW. How—why—would a ruling class which is the embodiment of corruption put an end to corruption in the union hierarchy? Just as the government witch-hunted militants out of the unions not merely because of its fanatic anti-communism but to paralyze the workers, so it is now carrying on a campaign for "honest elections" and "an end to corruption" only to render the workers helpless.

John D. Rockefeller 4th, Secretary of State in West Virginia, and more importantly, tied to mining interests in the nation's largest coal-producing state, has hopped on the bandwagon of government-led "reform." But when thousands of rank-and-file miners in his state held powerful wildcat strikes to force health and safety legislation from the bosses and their agents in the state capital, Rockefeller was nowhere to be found.

Naturally the owners and their government investigators hide under the cover of supposedly wanting to rid the union of elements whom the rank-and-file workers do distrust. But that is a job only the workers can do, and to tell them that the government will do this for them is to help destroy everything the workers have fought for.

felony of burglary and "cops a plea" to avoid doing over a year.) Most of them got three months for the same charge. Half the men were doing six months for possession (of narcotics).

Quite a few of the men, though, were there for two and even three years—and not for felonies! They would get bundles of class A misdemeanors — "running wild" (if you're Black, and have a record, you may easily get the full year maximum for a class A misdemeanor, and if you have several charges there's a good chance you'll have to do time for them consecutively, instead of concurrently, as is the case with most white prisoners). They call one-year sentences "bullets" on the rock, and a string of them "bullets running wild."

## Prisoners demand more "good time"

The latest struggle is in the form of a hunger strike and a refusal to leave the dorms for work details. The demand of the men is simple—restore the usual ten days good time per month, which was cut down to five a few years ago. This would mean that a six-month sentence could usually be served in four, instead of five, months. It would cut down the number of inmates substantially and make living conditions more bearable.

About three thousand men are incarcerated at the rock (to say nothing of the youth from the Adolescent Remand Shelter who are also on the rock and often have to do stretches of three or four years). You have to wait in line for a half hour for every meal. My dorm was so cramped that many of the double bunk beds were 18 inches apart! (One of the men told me to remember that when I got out, because he had heard of a health regulation about beds having to be at least 36 inches apart.) Two hundred and fifty men had to share four sets of sinks. Changes of clothes were issued once a week—and that means you had to wear the same underwear all week and wait in line every night to wash them.

So half the men are staying in their dorms, demanding less crowded conditions. They've been out several days, the last I heard, and that's something. The Daily News says that they can stock up on "candy, crackers and other snacks" from their commissary allowances. But most short-timers don't get a commissary allowance, and most of those that do spend most of it on cigarettes anyway. And you can only go to the commissary once a week, because the lines are so long.

The men may get part of their demands. But even if they don't, they've gotten together again and are learning to struggle, and many will take their lessons and experiences with them when they get out and put them to use in the revolutionary struggles that lie ahead of them.

Malcolm X, Eldridge Cleaver and Martin Sostre all became revolutionaries while they were in prison. Today's prisons are becoming a breeding ground for Black radicals. Who knows how many future Black revolutionaries are incarcerated today? And you can be sure that a good many of them will come out of the struggles at Rikers Island.

By MYRON JEFKA

The present hunger strike and work stoppage by the inmates at Rikers Island is but the latest in a long string of struggles against New York's most repressive penal institution. Furthermore, it is not just another struggle by prisoners against intolerable conditions, which is nothing new for those condemned by ruling class "justice." It is also part and parcel of the liberation struggle of the super-oppressed Black and Puerto Rican peoples.

On "the rock," about 60 per cent of the prisoners are Black, 25 per cent Puerto Rican and only 15 per cent white! The hacks (prison guards) are mostly Black, too. This isn't because the authorities wouldn't like to have it otherwise. It's because the men are so conscious of the super-oppression that they wouldn't tolerate the usual crap from the white hacks. They've stood up against racism in the past and are doing so now more than ever.

Many of the older, more racist white prisoners, who have been around for a while, can lament about the good old days, when they had the upper hand. But those days are gone. An example of the change that has taken place is a struggle that had just ended before I got there. Thursday night at ten o'clock is when Tom Jones is on TV, and dorms 14 and 15, which have 250 guys between them share only one TV. Now, the brothers don't like Tom Jones. They'd rather watch Soul on channel 13. Well, they got together and went on strike, and now Soul is on every TV on the rock. This isn't just a TV program—it's the only night the men can stay up late to watch TV, the only night when the lights aren't turned out by ten and it's the time when the inmates who are nationally conscious can feel their weakness, or their strength.

## Jail can't crush Black culture

By the time I got there, many of the brothers had shaved their heads and many wore Afro combs on a string around their necks. The overwhelming majority of the brothers were together. They dominated the cultural life of the dorm. There was no culture outside of them. They had all of the chess games, all of the card games, all of the jam sessions. But they also had almost all the political discussions and did almost all of the reading.

Among the Black prisoners, and also to a lesser extent among the Puerto Ricans, every section, every strata of their society was represented. Many were educated and intellectual. Many were workers. Many had families. Many were the type of people who would never be arrested if they were white, but had either been framed up or railroaded to prison.

Most of the men are supposed to be short-timers since the rock is allegedly for misdemeanors only. (Felonies are sent to state prisons.) I was convicted of criminal trespass and had to serve 15 days. About a quarter of the men in my dorm were there for criminal trespass. (That's what one is convicted of if he's busted for the

# Why they rebelled on Rikers Island

Myron Jefka is a member of Youth Against War & Fascism who spent 15 days on Rikers Island. He was the only one of over 40 Brooklyn College students who refused to cop a plea (plead guilty) in a mass arrest involving the principled issue of supporting self-determination for the Black students.