

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

WORKERS WORLD

Vol. 13, No. 2

January 29, 1971

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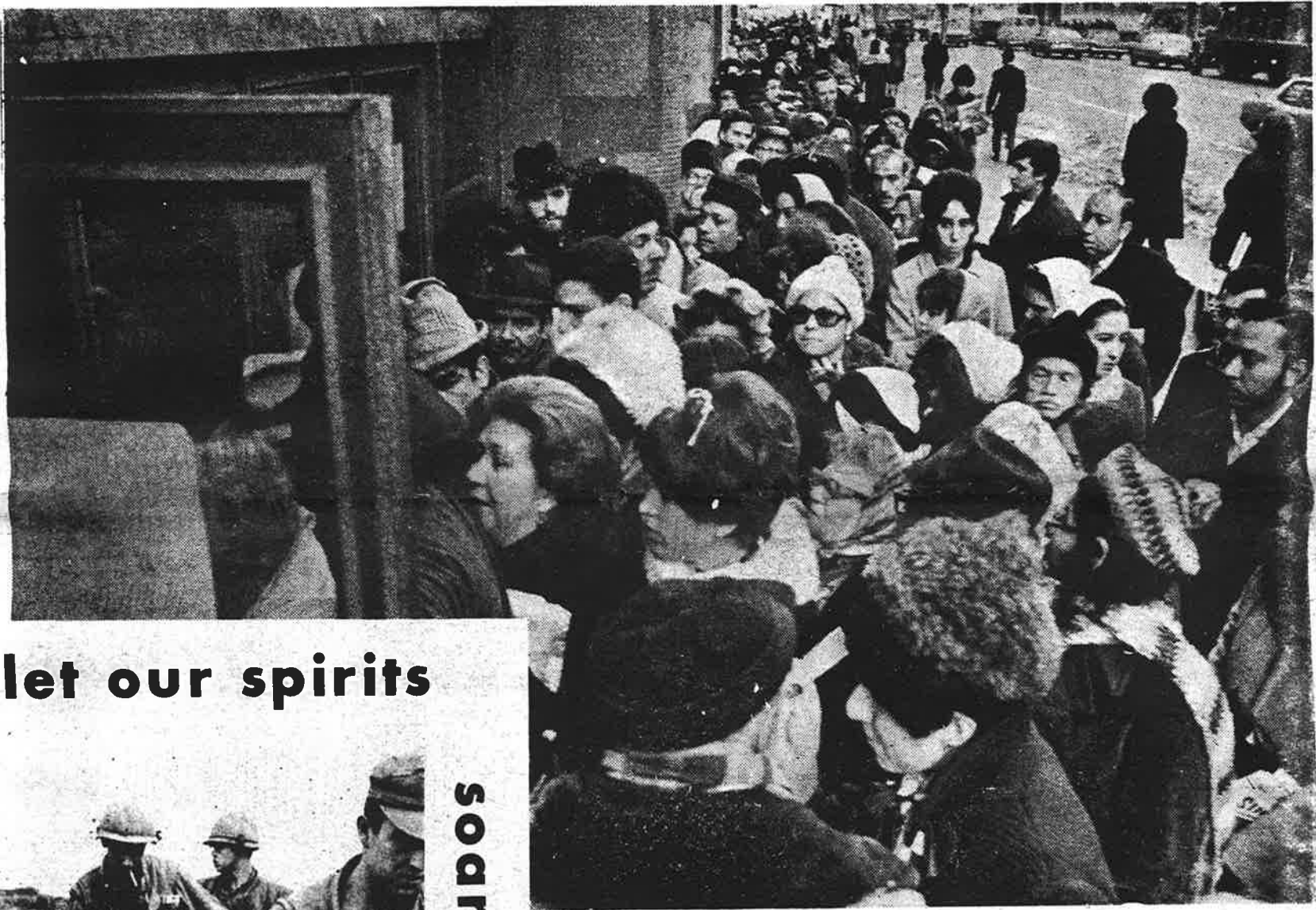
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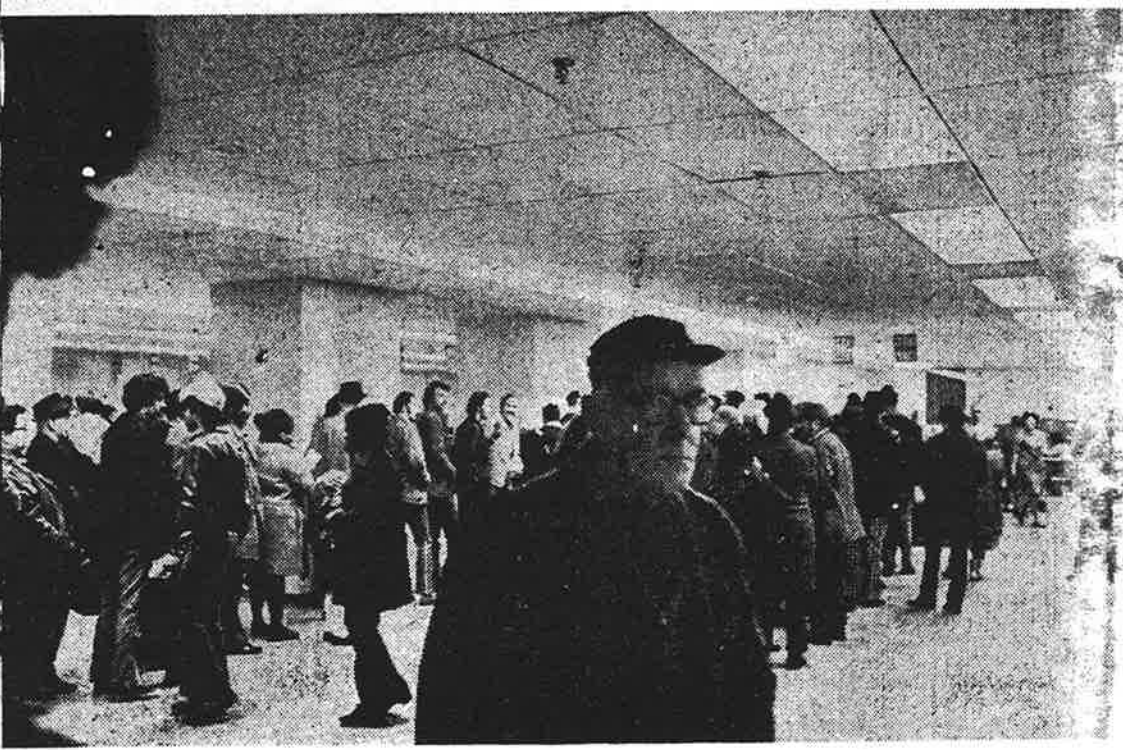
State of the Union: more war, unemployment, poverty



"...let our spirits

SOAR

again"—Tricky Dick



"Power to the people!"

The new (more demagogic) Nixon

by Naomi Cohen

President Nixon's State of the Union Message on January 22 was more significant for what he did not say than for what he did say. Because listening to his performance that night might have given anyone unfamiliar with this country the impression that there is no war, no great poverty and no racism in the USA. What could be farther from the truth!

Nixon is trying hard to forget two fundamental facts of life: first, he wants to pretend that the war in Vietnam (now spreading to all of Indochina) is over; he would also like to forget that there are millions of poor people and unemployed workers in this country, particularly among the oppressed Black people.

What Nixon did do was make a lot of noise about some so-called revolutionary changes in government (like shifting around a lot of bureaucrats). He called for a "New American Revolution" (peaceful, of course) and has even gone so far as to adopt the slogan of young militants and Black liberation fighters — "power to the people!"

This kind of nauseating demagoguery is probably what we're all in for from now until the 1972 elections — the same old practice packaged in new rhetoric.

Is this peacetime?

For example, Nixon said that he aims to achieve "full prosperity in peacetime" for the first time since 1957. To do this he proposed to fight unemployment by spending more in the budget. This will supposedly stimulate the creation of more jobs. In this period, which he lyingsly calls the transition "from a wartime economy to a peacetime economy," he claims there is less unemployment than in any peacetime year of the sixties.

At the very moment when the U.S. government is murderously escalating the war in Southeast Asia to include bombing of North Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, Nixon tells us we are turning toward a "peacetime" economy. In the same breath he has to admit one of the basic characteristics of modern capitalism — that is, that unemployment is high during periods of peace. This is because the war industries make up such a vast and profitable part of the economy that many big businessmen look upon peace as a disaster; when peace strikes them, profits go down and workers get laid off.

Another "great goal" Nixon set in his speech was passage of his highly touted welfare reform

program. "Let us generously help those who are not able to help themselves," he preached. "But let us stop helping those who are able to help themselves but refuse to do so." The last line is thrown in to show all his reactionary cronies that Richard M. Nixon, too, is opposed to "welfare chiselers," as they like to call the poor, or "lazy people living off the taxpayers' money."

In fact, Nixon's whole program of work incentives could turn out to be nothing but an excuse to throw the poor off welfare or force them to work for slave wages. The vast majority of welfare recipients are mothers and their children. They hardly enjoy the poverty and degradation which the welfare system imposes. But these women cannot work if they are not provided with adequate daycare facilities for their children. Any meaningful welfare reform would have to include a vast expansion of daycare facilities for millions of children across the country — a step that the chiseling Nixon Administration is not willing to make.

Nothing relevant to Black people

The most glaring omission of the State of the Union Message was its total disregard for the plight of the 25 million Black people in this country. Nixon merely mentioned them twice in a cursory manner and failed to address himself to any of their problems. Knowing in advance that this would be the case, all 12 Black Representatives in Congress notified Nixon that they would boycott his speech.

These Representatives have been trying since last year to meet with him to no avail. Nixon didn't even feel compelled to meet with these few relatively tame representatives of the Black people — that's how utterly removed his racist administration is from the people!

The Black Representatives wrote to the President, "In view of the fact that the opinions of Black Americans have not been heard or considered by you, as they relate to the 'State of the Union' for Blacks, we only conclude that your views on the state of Black affairs cannot possibly be accurate, relative or germane."

Nixon's grand revenue-sharing scheme — which he built up as a bold, "historic concept" — cannot be described as anything less than a monumental swindle. Even a commentator for the New York Times wrote that it could easily be characterized, not as a revolution, but a "counterrevolution" in government.

This program marks the total abandonment of the



Student Life/LNS

programs set up over the past decade which, even if in only a token way, were to address themselves to the problems of education for the poor, job training, housing, breaking down racist discrimination, etc. Not that the poverty programs or those of the "great society" ever really helped the poor in any massive way. But the Nixon administration doesn't even feel constrained to keep up the pretense.

The old states' rights cry

For Black people in particular this "revenue sharing" cannot help but bring back memories of the Civil War battlecry of the slavemasters for states' rights. For when Nixon says turn the power over to the people, he is really saying: let each state government decide what to do with the people's taxes; take the heat off the federal government; in that way every racist Wallace can stand in the schoolhouse door; every local politician can get his hooks in the pie for more graft; it means forget all this bothersome stuff about fair housing for minorities, job training, etc.; just pay some more cops to beat heads.

Revenue sharing is a narrow, bigot's dream. So that was the State of the Union. Nixon admitted that the people are "fed up with government at all levels" so he shuffled the cards around slightly to give us the impression that at least something was being done to give us more of a say in our own lives. But it was a cheap, election-year trick that few workers or oppressed people will be fooled by — especially since in action this government has shown itself to be their irreconcilable enemy.

Ohio court rejects Dostal-Mallory appeals

CLEVELAND, Jan. 26 — The Appellate Court of Ohio has just turned down the appeal of Ted Dostal and 20 Black defendants including Mae Mallory, on a contempt of court conviction they suffered here last year.

They had been sentenced to varying terms of cruel and unusual punishment by the one-man, judge-made law of the Cleveland Court. The terms were as much as one year for Mae Mallory, the Black liberation fighter, and six months for Ted Dostal, a militant steelworker long active in the anti-racist and anti-war movements.

The group had sought to get the county Prosecutor to investigate the police brutalities and atrocities that occurred in the rebellion of July 23, 1968. (The group is called the July 23 Defense Committee.)

It was attempting also to get justice for Ahmed Evans, who was railroaded to the electric chair (although so far not executed, due to the pressure of the people) on the frameup charge that he had shot and killed a white policeman in the Black community on that date.

The 21 defendants had "sat in" at the halls approaching the Prosecutor's office in an attempt to speak to him, and the next day they were served with an injunction as they gathered on the

courthouse steps.

For refusing to disband they were arrested — some very brutally — and were immediately judged guilty of contempt of court. They were railroaded to prison the same day where they remained over a week before getting sufficient bail money to contest the outrageous ruling.

Fittingly enough, Judge McMonigal, who sent them to jail, was the same one who sentenced Ahmed Evans to the electric chair. In silencing the 21 he was also attempting to silence all protest against his own totalitarian sentencing of Ahmed Evans.

This high-handed "judicial" action has now been ratified by the supposedly sober and impartial three-judge Appellate Court.

The committee is making every effort to amass the needed support to carry the appeal higher, as well as to arouse the public to real action for justice. Plans are being made to appeal in State Supreme Court, but funds are urgently needed for attorneys' fees and other court costs.

Please send contributions to:
July 23 Defense Committee
Box 2404, E. Cleveland, Ohio 44112



Ted Dostal

Workers World

Vol. 13, No. 2

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46 West 21st Street
New York, N.Y. 10010
Telephone: (212) 255-0352
Published bi-weekly

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U.S. butchers are behind these butchers!



U CAMBODGE

Why hasn't this picture appeared in the U.S. press?

The photographer, Dieter Ludwig, was working for the Associated Press and the United Press International when he snapped these gruesome photos in Cambodia. But it took Le Nouvel Observateur, a popular left-liberal magazine in France, to publish Ludwig's story and pictures.

The photographer was near the town of Mien, a village about 120 kilometers from Phnompenh. It was November 23rd, and American B-57s and Phantom F-4s had bombed the area for days, leaving the village in rubble. A patrol had just come back with three dead bodies and a wounded prisoner, and just as the commander was inviting the AP-UPI photographer to take a picture of his troops "tending" to the prisoner, another group of soldiers appeared carrying the severed heads pictured here.

Who turned these Cambodian youth into butchers? Before the U.S. invasion last May, Cambodia was remarkably serene and peaceful. But then thousands of U.S. soldiers poured into Cambodia, bringing death and destruction, making murder a virtue and "body count" a measure of success. The government that was organizing the enslavement of Cambodia was murdering its own students at Kent State for protesting this atrocity.

Now U.S. troops are back in Cambodia. Laird had to admit it after reporters spotted Americans in civvies at the Phnompenh airport. Despite all Nixon's rhetoric about peace, the truth is that the most vicious kind of warfare is still being waged against the Indo-Chinese people.

CAMBODIA

Guerrillas answer U.S. escalation with stunning offensive

by Ellen Pierce

Cambodian guerrillas destroyed virtually all of the air force of the U.S.-controlled Lon Nol government in a daring raid on the Phnompenh airport January 22. A shipyard near downtown Phnompenh was also set afire by guerrilla rockets in the attack and dumps of ammunition and napalm, stockpiled by the imperialists for use against the Cambodian and Vietnamese people, were blown up.

According to American newsmen, only 10 guerrillas carried out the devastating attack on the airport, running from plane to plane planting explosives. Among the aircraft destroyed was the jet that had flown Premier Lon Nol back from a trip to Saigon just seven hours earlier and several South Vietnamese planes and helicopters.

The guerrillas are always referred to by U.S. officials and the bourgeois media as "North Vietnamese." But the Cambodian people have been part of the struggle for liberation in Indochina since the days of French colonial rule and have their own fighting forces, the Khmer National Liberation Armed Forces, as well as a government in exile and in the liberated areas (which by now constitute most of the Cambodian countryside). In fact, the struggle of the Cambodian people against the U.S. puppet, Lon Nol, has been so successful that he is now being referred to as "The Mayor of Phnompenh."

Massive U.S. air raids

This offensive by the guerrillas came just days after an ominous new expansion of the war in Indochina by the U.S. Under the pretext of "safeguarding" the snail's-pace, partial withdrawal of troops from South Vietnam, the government has been actually

stepping up the war with renewed bombings of North Vietnam—so-called "protective reaction"—and increased air support to puppet forces in Cambodia and Laos.

Since the Cambodian army is no more capable of combatting its revolutionary opponents than the Saigon army can defeat the NLF, the U.S. has been forced to step in to keep the Lon Nol regime from crumbling altogether. B-52 raids and other air and artillery strikes against Cambodia have been going on both clandestinely and openly for years.

Their targets were supposed "North Vietnamese sanctuaries." Then last May, Nixon ordered troops into Cambodia to "clean out" the "sanctuaries." A nation-wide upheaval against this move made the U.S. pull back somewhat, and promises that "when we come out (of Cambodia) our logistical support and air support will also come out." But the war is now being quietly intensified with the introduction of American planes and helicopters into actual combat and combat-support roles in Cambodia.

The tip-off to this new move came on January 14 when Defense Secretary Laird reportedly denied a request by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to allow U.S. aircraft to transport Saigon or Phnompenh troops and supplies inside Cambodia.

Laird sabre-rattling again

Sure enough, less than a week later the Pentagon announced that it intended to use the "full range" of American air power in Cambodia to "interdict" enemy troops and supplies which might "ultimately" threaten U.S. troops in Vietnam. Two helicopter carriers, the Iwo Jima and the Cleveland, have been supplying some of the aircraft used to ferry ammunition and troops—as well as carrying out strafing missions—for the battles around Route 4.

(Route 4, the highway linking Phnompenh to Cambodia's port city of Kompong Som, has been cut by the guerrillas since November. With massive U.S. air power behind them, the Lon Nol-Ky troops claimed to retake Route 4 on January 22. But with Phnompenh itself being hit by the guerrillas, control of Route 4 by the government may be very temporary.)

Pentagon spokesmen, in announcing this new interpretation of "interdiction," again denied that U.S. advisers or troops would be used on the ground, but would not say whether "technicians" had been sent to Cambodia or explain the increasing "personnel" at the American mission in Phnompenh.

Of course Senate "doves" are bitterly crying that they weren't told about the new escalation and that the U.S. air raids violate "the spirit" of recent legislation restricting the use of U.S. combat troops in Cambodia. But the law they passed deliberately left unhindered the U.S. ability to intervene all over Indochina with massive air power.

Despite all the U.S. military power, however, the Cambodian and Vietnamese liberation fighters have now answered with a brilliant offensive. And it is clear that no law on the books can restrain the U.S. rulers from launching mad adventures in an effort to salvage something for imperialism in Southeast Asia.

Puerto Rican Socialists on trial

Leaders of the Puerto Rican Socialist League currently face sentences of up to life imprisonment in four separate trials concocted by U.S. imperialist officials determined to crush the Puerto Rican liberation struggle.

Eleven members of the revolutionary organization, including its Secretary General, Juan Antonio Corretjer, went on trial January 12 in Ponce for "criminal conspiracy" and more than 150 alleged violations of the U.S. colonialists' weapons laws. Two of these defendants also face current charges in the Aquadilla court.

In December, Jose Marciano, a member of the League's Central Committee, was sentenced to a one-year prison term, which is being appealed. The jury acquitted Marciano of resisting his October 2, 1969 arrest at the University of Puerto Rico. When it then declared itself unable to reach a ver-

dict on a second allegation that he had been carrying a loaded weapon, the judge took over and convicted Marciano of owning a gun.

Government officials have shown in other proceedings that they are determined to override any jury that sets a League member free. On December 11, a Bayamon jury found Consuelo Lee de Corretjer, the League's Secretary of Education, not guilty of carrying a loaded weapon, and the judge again pronounced a conviction for owning a gun.

Juan Antonio Corretjer still faces a possible life sentence in another Bayamon case in which the frameup charges were so flimsy that the court felt constrained to accept defense motions that threw the case out. The judge, however, declared an immediate recess and after consultation with the prosecuting attorneys held the case over for a government appeal to re-open the trial.

Should workers support police strikes?

An answer
to
George Morris

by Sam Marcy

Are strikes by the police to be regarded approximately the same way as strikes by ordinary workers? A reading of the treatment accorded to the New York police strike by the Daily World (the paper of the CP which professes to be Marxist-Leninist) clearly conveys this impression. A column by George Morris, the Daily World's labor analyst, waxes eloquent about the cops' strike and says "it is in the spirit of rebellion we see everywhere today as in unions against the long entrenched bureaucracy." He further says that the cops are "beginning to see themselves as in much the same position as other city employees and workers." Finally, he admonishes his readers that "fire should not be blunderbussed against all on the police force."

You see, the way to look at it is that there are good cops and bad cops, just like there are good capitalists and bad ones. We must assume then, that there are good storm troopers and bad ones, if we use the logic of George Morris. In this way Morris substitutes bourgeois morality for Marxist analysis of class antagonisms and contradictions between class groupings.

The cops' strike is not an isolated phenomenon. There is one in progress right now in Milwaukee. Earlier there were strikes or stoppages in Detroit and Youngstown, Ohio. Strike preparations are underway in perhaps a dozen other cities throughout the country. It is therefore necessary and in the vital interests of the working class to restate the fundamental position of revolutionary Marxism on this crucial question. Should strikes of cops be treated on an equal level with workers' strikes?

Emphatically, no! A striking worker and a striking policeman may on the surface appear to have the same

immediate aims — to get higher pay and better conditions for themselves. But this is to take an extremely narrow and superficial view of their apparently similar situations. The truth, however, is that there is objectively speaking not a shred of class identity between workers and the police. The fundamental interests of the workers are diametrically opposed to that of the police and are absolutely irreconcilable with them.

Producers or parasites?

A worker is, above all, a producer. The policeman is a parasite who lives off what the worker produces. No truer word could be said! All the material wealth which is now in the possession of the capitalist class was produced by the workers. When a worker goes out on strike he is merely trying to retrieve a portion of the wealth which his labor power produced. The worker gets back in the form of wages only a portion of what he produces. The rest is what the capitalist class retains in the form of profit (really the unpaid labor of the workers).

The gross national income in the U.S. last year reached the astronomical sum of one trillion dollars. It was all produced by workers — Black, Brown, white men and women and even children. The struggles of all the workers, insofar as their immediate demands are concerned, are merely to retrieve a larger portion of this wealth which they produced for the bosses and which the bosses keep for themselves.

Contribute nothing to social wealth

What have the cops contributed to the production of this unprecedented amount of wealth? Nothing at all. In fact, their principal function

is to guard the wealth for the capitalists, protect their monopolist profits from the demands of the workers. Even as the New York cops were out on strike, their emergency crews were busily clubbing the heads of striking telephone workers. That's the very essence of a cop — to crack the heads of strikers and practice the most inhuman brutality against the Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano communities.

A cop is a mercenary hired by the capitalist class through their agent (the city government) to keep the mass of the workers and the oppressed in complete subjection. They utilize all the force and violence at their disposal whenever the masses rise up in rebellion against the unendurable conditions imposed by the master class.

The police are the most parasitic social grouping in society. When they work — if that's what it can possibly be called — their labor is directed against the workers and oppressed. Graft, corruption, intimate collaboration with all sorts of underworld figures and enterprises such as gambling, narcotics and a thousand and one other shady businesses — that's what the cops are really engaged in.

They are utterly inseparable from crime and corruption itself. One could not exist without the other. Both are nourished and supported by the nature of the capitalist system itself. To put the police on a par with the workers is to erase the difference between the persecutors and their victims.

Such incidental operations of the police as traffic control and other related useful functions for society are deliberately tacked on by the government to police control when they in reality should be separate and independent activities of workers apart from the parasitic regular police functions.

What about German

"Social Democrat" cops?

The police in every capitalist country are trained in the spirit of civil war against the workers and the popular masses in general. This is so even in the rare cases, like pre-war Austria and Germany, where substantial sections of the police considered themselves "socialists" or "social democrats" because a large section of the populations of these countries were either socialists or communists.

However, at the critical moment when Hitler made ready to seize power by a fascist coup, the police unanimously and cheerfully lined up with him and opened up a civil war against the workers of Austria. In Germany proper, they joined the storm troopers. They played a prime role in Hitler's attempt to ferret out every militant worker and every progressive person and haul them off to the concentration camps. These same police systematically carried out the torture of hundreds of thousands of socialists and communists, not to speak of the unbelievable atrocities against the Jews.

In this country, who does not know that the Klan and the John Birch Society are the most intimate collaborators with the police, and in some cities actually control the police?

Who does not know that almost all the strike-breaking agencies in the country work hand in glove with the police? Both are in the service of the

Milwaukee YAWF demonstrates

"No support for strikebreakers"

MILWAUKEE, January 20 — Today, as hundreds of Milwaukee's worst scum, the cops, marched around City Hall demanding more pay for strike-breaking and for occupying the Black community, a militant counter-demonstration called by Youth Against War & Fascism confronted them.

The demonstrators carried banners reading "No Support For Strikebreakers — Cops Scab On Unions" and "Arm the People, Disarm the Pigs," and flags calling for the freedom of the Panther prisoners known as the Milwaukee 3, two of whom are serving a 30-year sentence on a frameup charge of attempted murder. (The third is underground.) The protestors also called for freedom for Angela Davis.

This counter-demonstration was the product of agitation by YAWF against the pay increase demanded by the pigs and the whole question of whether the Police Patrolmen's Protective Association is a real workers' union. A leaflet put out by YAWF for mass distribution entitled "Police Rule While Pigs Strike" stated the pigs' "...sole purpose is to protect private property, not the few things that the people own, but the great property of the bosses.... The pigs want more money. What for? They want combat pay for going into the Black community."

The leaflet went on to describe some of the vicious pig attacks on striking workers in the past year in Milwaukee. "The pigs are the biggest strikebreakers of them all — they have no right even to call themselves workers."

The leaflet relates the experience of the Montreal police strike. "For 16 short hours the people were free of the repressiveness of the local pigs, who not only were protecting the rich, but were acting as the agents of English domination over the Quebecois workers of Montreal. The result was a major redistribution of the capitalists' wealth in the form of 19 major 'holdups' including 10 banks."

Thus a police strike for "combat" pay is totally reactionary. That is why some bourgeois politicians approach it either with support or with cries of "we can't pay it." The example of Lindsay attempting to fine the pigs in the recent New York police "job action" is merely the reaction of one wing of the ruling class trying to prevent a Praetorian Guard from forming.

If the cops today were to stop brutalizing the Black community; if they were to stop breaking workers' strikes, if they were to stop being armed agents of the racist ruling class — in short, if they were to stop acting like cops — then perhaps the workers and the oppressed would view a police strike differently. But let's not hold our breath. --by S. Arthur

The Resurgence of the Class Struggle in the U.S. & the Crisis of U.S. Imperialism

An analysis by SAM MARCY
Chairman of Workers World Party

New Yorker Hotel
Downstairs

January 29th
8:00 pm

34th St. & 8th Ave. NYC

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industrialists as soon as the workers make an independent move of their own.

Army of occupation in oppressed communities

In the Black and Brown communities the police play the role of a foreign occupation army and practice a form of cruelty and brutality which differs only in degree from the U.S. occupation army in Vietnam and Cambodia. As a token of the high esteem and affection in which these communities hold the police, they have coined the word "pig" as synonym for cop and this word has passed into the universal language of the oppressed.

It is utterly false to compare the rebellion of the cops with that of the workers and oppressed people, as does Daily World columnist George Morris. Only one who has renounced Marxism would do that.

The police strikes, if they can be called that, are in the nature of pro-slavery rebellions whose ultimate effect is to strengthen the capitalist state against the masses everywhere. A victory for the cops means extra privileges for these parasites. This will embolden them and encourage them in the use of violence in future struggles against the workers. Every cent paid to the police comes out of the hides of the workers. Every cent they get is at the expense of welfare, housing, schools and other facilities that are needed by the people. And the police are now the biggest item in New York City's budget!

Unlike workers, when police go out on strike they are not trying to retrieve money withheld from them for useful work done in behalf of society. Their services are solely and exclusively in the interests of one class of society only—the ruling class. Clarity on this point is absolutely indispensable. If the police find themselves in a controversy with the ruling class over the amount of money they should get as mercenaries, the workers should treat this as an internal struggle in the camp of the enemy, and not confuse it with a struggle of their own class.



But that's exactly what George Morris does! His article is an affront to every worker who has ever felt the brunt of a police club.

The Boston police strike of 1919

Of course, there are exceptional cases where police strikers, in a struggle with the capitalist state, have no alternative but to turn for support to the workers. These cases are rare indeed, such as the Boston police strike of 1919, which Calvin Coolidge, then Governor of Massachusetts, broke. In such cases it is the duty of the workers' leaders to adroitly intervene in the struggle.

In doing so, they must make clear that their intervention is not motivated by any class solidarity with the police (who on the morrow of their victory will again proceed to club the heads of striking workers) but out of motives of working class expedience—that is, to help the police undermine the capitalist state structure. The longer a police strike lasts, the more it undermines capitalist law and order. In that task, a revolutionary worker should help, while helping even more to build workers' self-defense groups.

The various parasitic elements which constitute the capitalist state are always in conflict with each other on how to divide among themselves the juiciest portions of the city, state and federal treasuries. Like thieves, they are invariably at each others' throats, each seeking a greater share of the loot. These parasitic elements comprise the police, detectives, prison officials, executioners, various state and local antisubversive squads, and the judicial bureaucracies. These are not to be compared to firemen, sanitation workers, or other workers who have been co-opted by the government into the capitalist state apparatus so as to keep their wages in check. These workers perform useful tasks and will continue to do so even in the highest form of socialist

society. Morris deliberately confuses the issue when he compares police to workers.

Will there be cops when classes are gone?

One way for a Marxist to judge whether a specific social group in the present capitalist state setup is parasitic or really performs socially necessary and useful work is to ask whether such groupings would be needed in a socialist system after the abolition of all class rule. Clearly police will not be needed. With the abolition and disappearance of all vestiges of class privilege, the need for a coercive special force, even a workers militia, becomes superfluous.

However, men and women who work to make a more sanitary social environment and make it free from all sorts of hazards such as fire, will of course be needed. If even in a socialist society the need for a coercive force such as police continually diminishes as the socialist system develops to a higher and higher form, then all the less do we need police in a capitalist society. Here its fundamental function is to suppress the working class and in particular use the most brutal violence against Black, Chicano and Puerto Rican people.

It is to be noted that the current wave of police insurgency comes after a considerable period when they have been engaged in actual civil war against the Black, Brown and Puerto Rican communities. The ruling class has felt itself more and more indebted to the police precisely because of this. Having been highly flattered for their brutal role in the recent period, the police are now demanding extra privileges and remuneration for their storm trooper role in those communities and on the college campuses as well as in the recent strike struggles throughout the whole country.

The police have also become more vociferous in denouncing so-called lenient judges and demanding that the government take the "handcuffs off the police." This cry is nothing but a fascist demand for the right to unrestricted use of force and violence against the civil population. It is in this context that we must view the police strikes as well as the

general historical role that they play in the class struggle.

Paris Commune dispelled cops — and crime

That the working class needs no capitalist police to secure and defend them was never more clearly demonstrated than in the first great proletarian revolution more than a hundred years ago—during the Paris Commune. Scarcely had the Paris Commune been established (the first truly working class government had just begun to survey the tasks ahead of it) when the world had its first vision since the dawn of class society of what would happen to the entire capitalist police establishment on the day of the proletarian revolution.

"No more corpses at the morgue, no nocturnal burglaries, scarcely any robberies," says Karl Marx about the Paris Commune in his celebrated book, "The Civil War in France."

"In fact, for the first time since the days of February 1848," he remarks, "the streets of Paris were safe and without police of any kind."

Is there a capitalist government anywhere in the world that can make such a boast even for one day? Is there any large city anywhere in the capitalist world which is free even for a single day of any crime and could do without any police of any kind as was the case with the Paris Commune? Merely to ask the question is to answer it. To put an end to crime it is first of all necessary to put an end to the thoroughly criminal rule of the bourgeoisie. It is their very existence which breeds not only crime and corruption but virulent racism, imperialist war and genocide.

To infuse the working class with a revolutionary attitude toward the police is at the same time ideological preparation for the overthrow of the capitalist class.

Only the bosses were scared

by Mike Kane

When you read the bosses' press during the cops' strike, you were led to believe that all the people in New York City had barricaded themselves behind locked doors, afraid to go out. That they were trembling and praying for an early return of the cops' "protection."

In the shop where I work none of this "fear" existed among the workers.

There were both remarks for and against, during the strike, such as: "They're getting a raw deal" and "Who needs them?" But no one spoke of impending doom.

Where I work, there are over 1,000 of us in the Union. Women and men. Black, white and Spanish-speaking. Young and old. Since the cops' strike ended there have been some good discussions, mostly in the cafeteria.

One started when Al, a white worker in his 30's, said: "I support them all the way. They have a lousy job." He also said they have "the right to strike."

Bill, an older white worker, said: "I think everyone has the right to strike. But remember how the cops beat our heads and escorted scabs through our picket lines during our strike." Al got very quiet. Later in the day he said, "If those guys want my support, they got to do what every union member is supposed to do—no strike-breaking."

Dianne, a young Black woman (also a Karate expert), said: "I've always felt safer with a known mugger than with a cop around."

Linda, a young white woman from a predominantly Italian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn, said: "In the neighborhood where I live most of the dope-pushers are cops. The drug addicts are more worried about this strike than anyone else."

Mary is a young white woman with strong Union feelings. She said, "The newspapers really went into a lot of detail explaining parity and other labor contract language. They never bother with such detail when other people go on strike."

Paul, a Black worker, said he "felt safer with the pigs off the streets." He continued, "As long as they are out in the suburbs looking at TV, they aren't in my neighborhood beating heads." (The day after the strike ended, the pigs were beating heads of Black and white students at a Staten Island high school.)

The bosses for the most part were very quiet. The law-and-order slogan was an embarrassment. They merely expressed a wish that the police would get back to "work" as soon as possible. "Work," of course, meaning occupying Black and Puerto Rican communities, brutally repressing women and student demonstrators and smashing strikes.

The "fear" that the millionaire press spoke of was their own, the fear that the important "work" cops do, protecting their property, will stop. The "crisis" was a crisis for the bosses, not for my Brothers and Sisters.

The Teheran Talks

Imperialists over the oil barrel

by P. Meisner

What's behind the current oil crisis talks being held in Teheran, Iran, between Western oil companies and the oil-producing countries?

They uncover some hard facts for imperialism: the Arab-Israeli War of June 1967 backfired for Western imperialism, not only because it sparked the rebirth of the Palestinian liberation movement, but because it set off a chain reaction of political and economic developments throughout the Arab world that have for the first time threatened the sacred Mideast oil profits of the Western oil monopolies.

The June War made clear to all of the Arab governments that the Israeli state would be Washington and Wall Street's police arm in the Middle East to crush any resistance to U.S. imperialist exploitation. In fact, the June War was the direct result of the CIA-Israeli attempt at overthrowing the new progressive regime in Syria.

Thus, the new anti-imperialist militancy not only grew among the Arab masses but also within several of the more progressive Arab governments, such as Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, and Libya. The most significant political turn of events took place in Libya when in September 1969 a nationalist military coup overthrew the imperialist-puppet monarchy of King Idris. With Libya being a major oil-producing country, the new regime in Tripoli began an attack on the Western oil monopolies, just after having thrown out the Pentagon from the huge Wheelus Air Force base in Libya.

By 1969 Libya was the world's fourth largest exporter of petroleum, making Europe 31% dependent on Libyan crude oil. Last September, the Libyan government broke through a "united front" resistance of Western oil companies, all U.S. except for

Royal Dutch Shell, and obtained significant concessions in additional tax revenues from oil profits. This initial breakthrough by the Libyan regime has inspired other governments such as Algeria and even Iran, where a pro-U.S. monarchy still rules, to demand greater concessions from the Western oil monopolies.

The crisis came early this month when oil company representatives were obviously not willing to negotiate increases in tax and royalty payments to the Middle Eastern oil-producing countries. The Teheran talks broke off on January 12 with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Libya, Algeria, Venezuela, and Indonesia) threatening an interruption in oil production.

The Nixon Administration responded to the oil crisis by sending Under Secretary of State John N. Irwin (who was also sent to Peru by the State Department in 1969 to try and keep Standard Oil of New Jersey from being expropriated) on a mission to Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, the most pro-U.S. regimes in the Middle East. The real purpose of the mission was revealed in a London dispatch of the January 18 New York Times:

"Oil men here expect Mr. Irwin to urge the more conservative oil producers of the Persian Gulf to bring the Libyans into line. The companies' objective is to escape being whipsawed from one country to another."

That the oil crisis is the most serious ever faced by the imperialist oil giants is evident from the fact that for the first time all 12 of the U.S. oil corporations plus four European companies (British, French, Dutch, and Belgian) combined into a "common front" to fight the demands of the oil-producing countries. Such a union is a clear violation of U.S. anti-trust laws, but the Nixon Administration is looking the other way, especially when you consider that it is the U.S. oil monopolies who really run the Nixon Administration, and not the other way around. The Financial Times of London also revealed that a secret meeting took place in New York between the eight largest oil companies in the world (five of them U.S.) to pledge "common resistance to the Middle Eastern and North African demands."

With the Algerians in the forefront of the assault on Western oil profits, the French imperialists were forced to sacrifice their limited independence from U.S. imperialism and join up with the imperialist "common front."

Although the U.S. is virtually self-sufficient in oil and imports only 3% of its oil from the Mideast, there are great stakes for Wall Street to keep tax and royalty payments as low as possible to the Middle Eastern nations. First of all, higher taxes and royalties are passed on by the oil companies in higher prices to oil consumers. And if the low price advantage of Mideast oil begins to disappear, oil-consuming countries (mostly Europe and Japan) might turn to other sources for oil rather than complete dependence on U.S.-dominated oil production within the Middle East.

One possible development would be for the European powers and Japan to expand joint oil-producing operations with the Middle Eastern nations themselves, independent of the U.S. monopolies. Another possibility would be the purchase of oil from the Soviet Union. All of these alternatives would break the stranglehold on Mideast oil by U.S. monopolies — a potentially devastating economic crisis for Wall Street, since Mideast oil is the most profitable foreign industry for U.S. corporations.

In the past, Washington was always able to foil any individual threat to U.S. oil production in any Mideast country by countering with its own threats to increase production in another area of the Mideast. During the June War, when almost all Arab nations cut off oil production, the U.S. turned to Iran for more oil production. Washington was also talking of shifting some oil production to the new reserves discovered in Alaska and the Arctic.

But now even the reactionary Shah of Iran is screaming highway robbery at the oil companies and threatening action if the oil barons don't come through with some concessions. This is the same Shah who has kept Iran as a virtual oil colony of Wall Street for the last 18 years. But the Arab revolution has taken its measure, even in non-Arab Iran, and forced the Shah to some extent to resist the imperialist oil robbery. And all of the phony talk of developing new sources of oil by the U.S. could never fool the Middle Eastern nations, since it is a known fact that 80% of the non-Socialist world's oil reserves are in the Middle East.

The theft of oil profits by Western imperialist monopolies from the Middle Eastern countries can be simply illustrated by the fact that a gallon of gasoline in Britain costs 74¢, but only 3¢ of that goes for tax and royalty payments to the oil-producing nations!

This is how one Iranian member of Parliament sees the oil crisis:

"The systematic looting of oil-producing countries by Western monopolies has created an explosive situation."

Another Iranian government official charged that there was collusion between the oil companies and some of the reactionary Arab governments (which he left unnamed, but was obviously referring to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) during the current oil talks. He stated:

"This action is a glaring example of imperialistic monopolization of the people of the producing countries and their natural wealth."

The Algerian publication, *Revolution Africaine*, also said that "the oil companies' reaction to the organization's (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) demands was part of American strategy of global domination."

Only revolutionary mass pressure from the Arab peoples and the people of Iran could have pushed the Mideast governments this far to resist the plunder of the gang of thieves that call themselves oil companies. And even Washington's garrison state of Israel will not save Wall Street's oil empire in the Middle East.

An answer to the Times

Zionism, anti-Semitism and imperialism

January 15, 1971

The New York Times
Sunday Magazine Section
229 West 43rd St.
Editor

New York Times Sunday Magazine
To the editor:

Mr. Lipset's article, "Socialism of Fools," in which he attempts to show anti-Semitism in the politics of the Left, begins by making a distinction between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. But he pays only lip service to that distinction and instead proceeds to present examples of the Left's anti-Zionism, couched in his own assertions of anti-Semitic motives.

He implies, for instance, that a slogan of left-wing German students calling for revolution in the Near East and the crushing of Zionism is a replay of Nazi students' fascist demonstrations in the 1930's. Since when did the Nazis call for the revolution of an oppressed people, or oppose Zionism because it repressed that revolution?

Mr. Lipset implies that a Leftist student attack on the Rothschild bank was an act of anti-Semitism. On the contrary, it was an act of solidarity with the Palestinian people who were ousted from their homeland for the sake of a Zionist state. The Rothschild bank, far from being a symbol of Judaism, is very definitely a symbol of the class character of Zionism, a symbol of Zion-

ism as protector of French, British, and U.S. investments in the Mideast. As such, the French student demonstration goes right to the heart of the oppression of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Lipset's arguments, however, gradually develop into an attack that shows the true character of his argument. His linking of anti-Semitism with the rising militancy of the Black people is a case of cowardly opportunism. His general attack on the Left was only a shield under which to characterize as anti-Semitic the very valid anti-Zionism of the Black Panther Party, in particular. The previous distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, between political opposition and race hatred, is drowned in the flood of his own desire to degrade the Black liberation struggle.

Indeed, the Black people are deeply conscious of the fact that the very government and financial forces bolstering Israel are the same ones that are oppressing them. If Mr. Lipset can pick out statements whose choice of words make them appear to be anti-Semitic, it has been the Zionists who for twenty-five years have insisted that every Jew is a Zionist and every Zionist a Jew, have identified Jewish culture so closely with Zionism that every attack on one is automatically an attack on the other.

Anyone who looks at the issue objectively understands why it is that the



This picture of a Youth Against War & Fascism demonstration appeared in the New York Times Magazine with the article "Socialism of Fools" attacking the left for "anti-Semitism."

Black people solidarize themselves with the struggle of the Palestinians. The same U.S. government that seeks to crush the liberation movement of the Palestinians openly seeks to destroy the Black Panther Party and every militant organization of Black people. The same guns that shoot down Black people in the streets of Los Angeles, New York, and Augusta shoot down Arabs in Jordan, Syria, and the Gaza Strip. And the same bayonets that hold off Black people from the control of their own communities hold off the Palestinian people from reclaiming their homeland.

The issue is crystal clear. Why should Mr. Lipset seek to confuse it? He confuses it and tries to portray the Black liberation movement as being

anti-Semitic in order to turn Jewish sentiment against the Black people. He is raising a phony threat that would rally support for Zionism on the backs of another people. And in turn, his branding the Black struggle with anti-Semitism is intended to intimidate the Black people and to keep them from supporting the Palestinian cause. It is a brand that the Black people do not seek.

What Mr. Lipset portrays is not a so-called "Socialism of Fools" but the hypocrisy of an apologist for imperialism.

Richard Frumess
for Youth Against War
& Fascism

Two-week wildcat at Bell Telephone; solidarity extends state-wide

by a telephone worker

NEW YORK, January 24—At the time of this writing, the unprecedented week-long wildcat (which this newspaper reported on two weeks ago) against the New York Telephone Company by nearly 50,000 plant workers throughout the state has become the unprecedented two-week-long wildcat against the Bell system.

Continuing the strike action, on Monday, January 18, a demonstration was called by Local 1101 at the Commodore Hotel. This is where the several hundred out-of-state workers are being put up by New York Telephone. The dispute has centered on these out-of-state workers because the company chose to keep them here, giving them preferential treatment over Local 1101 workers in the distribution of overtime. Also, by bringing in these "imports," as they are called, the company is giving itself a pretext for limiting the opportunities for promotion among the 20,000 plant workers represented by 1101.

About 500 workers picketed the Commodore, right on 42nd Street near Grand Central Station. The major demands of this demonstration are summed up by the two popular chants — "Ma Bell, go to hell!" and "Ma Bell, send 'em back!" The demonstrators, after picketing at the hotel for a while, marched to the East 37th Street Telephone Company central office.

About 50 workers marched right into the central office. Management was so terrified they could only cower in the corners, with their mouths hanging open in fright. The workers marched around the giant frame room, and one bold worker jumped up on a table and addressed the supervisors who had taken over our jobs: "We're just letting you live for a while longer. Pretty soon, you better watch out!"

Although Friday, January 22, the president of the CWA (Communications Workers of America), Joe Beirne, and the president of New York Telephone, Ellinghaus, were meeting to discuss some kind of settlement, this strike has aroused so many workers that no ordinary "settlement" could mean very much. Thursday, on the picket line, an older white worker told me — "I don't care if I have to sell my house; I'm not going back until we win."

On Wednesday, there was another picket line at the Commodore. About 200 workers from 1101 marched and chanted their defiance despite the court injunction and the astronomical fines (by now over \$1.5 million), which are, by the way, payable to the company. This demonstration dispersed to regroup later downtown at the U.S. Federal Court

Building where the contempt proceedings were to be resumed that afternoon under the direction of Federal Judge Cannella. Shortly after the workers headed for court, about 300 workers from Local 1106 in Westchester arrived on the scene.

These workers had chartered buses and come down to demonstrate in solidarity with New York City telephone workers. Only a few months earlier, this Westchester local had wildcatted and sat in, occupying a garage to prevent telephone trucks from going out. At that time the bureaucrats from both 1106 and 1101 were afraid of the strike spreading. Now, under the overwhelming impulse of mass pressure, they are being forced to charter buses to strengthen in practice the solidarity of the striking workers.

Workers see court in action

Downtown, at the Federal Court Building, a group of striking women representing Local 1150, AT&T long-lines operators, joined our picket line. When the contempt proceedings were about to begin, about 100 workers decided they would like to go inside and

BULLETIN Strikers betrayed

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 — What the telephone company couldn't do, Joe Beirne did. What the courts and the cops couldn't do, the head of the CWA (Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO), Beirne, accomplished with deadly precision.

He capitulated to New York Telephone and imposed a lousy deal on the 23 striking locals and their 38,000 workers throughout New York.

The Beirne-Ellinghaus (President of New York Telephone) deal provided for a return to work on January 25 with the issue to be arbitrated. The arbitrator's "decision" is supposed to be reached by the end of this week.

In the meantime, the Local 1101 staff has had to be laid off, this means a virtual closing of the union office, because the company has seized the union treasury in partial payment for the fines it had the court impose. At the same time, the company has embarked on a policy of intense harassment and reprisals against the returning workers.

The possibility of another walkout is being widely discussed by the workers. The situation remains explosive.

see what it was all about. On the whole, these workers had few illusions about Judge Cannella, but after sitting in court a while, they had still fewer.

(Continued on page 13)



Columbia Presbyterian Hospital

33 Black and Puerto Rican workers fired by racist hospital admin.

by Emily Hanlon

For many years the Medical Center at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City has succeeded, through its infamous tactics of union busting, in keeping its workers unorganized. Columbia Presbyterian is one of a handful of the 81 hospitals in New York City that is unorganized.

In particular, the low paid Black and Puerto Rican workers in the service jobs, such as dietary, kitchen and maintenance, have felt the brunt of the dictatorial powers of the hospital bosses. The workers have absolutely no job security, and, among other things, no sick leave. However, on Saturday January 9, a group of 33 Black and Puerto Rican workers made it clear that they would no longer be intimidated by the hospital's repressive policies.

The dietary unit, which is almost all Black and Puerto Rican workers with white supervisors, had been harassed for a long time. At one point these workers had been told to work in separate areas—the Black workers in one and the Puerto Ricans in another. They had refused and stood strong; but the harassment continued. Later, they were

arbitrarily ordered not to wear colored undershirts.

On the issue of the shirts, the workers again refused to comply and a leader was summarily fired Saturday, supposedly for "other reasons." When a fellow worker asked the supervisor why the man was fired, he was suspended for five days for "asking too many questions." These two workers had worked at the hospital for over five years each.

Others go out in solidarity

Responding to these outrageous suspensions, 31 other workers, women and men, said they would walk off the job if the two were not reinstated. All but a few of the 31 had also worked at the hospital for five years or more. The next day, Sunday, a few workers received telegrams informing them that they were laid off. When the workers arrived at work the next morning, police and hospital guards holding pictures of the 33 were stationed at the doors of the hospital. The cops refused the workers entry and told them they were fired. When the workers, then asked to file a grievance, they were told that they could no longer file because they were no longer employees!

On Monday morning, January 11, after being refused entry to their jobs, the workers went to 1199 of the Hospital Workers Union for help, and began leafletting the other workers and asking for support. Things began to move as different community groups, and the Presbyterian Hospital Coalition Against War & Racism (YAWF) went to the hospital to help leaflet the first shift of workers and all workers were leafletted through noon.

At the request of a worker at the Medical Center, on Friday morning at 6 a.m., a delegation from Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) went to the hospital to help leaflet the first shift of workers and all workers were leafletted through noon.

The noon demonstration soon grew to over 60 militant demonstrators including the 33, representatives from Health Revolutionary Unity Movement (HRUM), Puerto Rican youth organizations, I Wor Kuen, Youth Against War & Fascism, white workers from the Medical School and some members of

the community. The 33 have a great deal of support from the other hospital workers, however, because of the repressive stranglehold of the hospital administration, the many workers who felt solidarity with their brothers and sisters were afraid to join the picket line.

"Stop racist firings"

The demonstrators were militant as they chanted, "Free the 33! We need job security!" while blocking the driveway to the hospital. The demonstrators refused to leave the immediate vicinity of the hospital. Two banners made the issue clear: "Stop Racist Firing! Rehire the 33" read a YAWF banner. The other demanded, "All Out Against Columbia Presbyterian Racism! Rehire the 33."

Later that afternoon these banners flanked the speaker's platform of the Audubon Ballroom—over 400 workers, mostly Black and Puerto Rican, came in solidarity with the 33. Following the rally, there was a kick-off meeting for the signing of 1199 union cards.

They have been condemned to a living death. Impenetrable walls stand between them and human society. Guards carrying murder weapons patrol the heights lest even a whisper of what goes on might escape.

Their letters are censored, held up, even rejected. They are told they have no right to be represented by counsel. They are subjected to humiliating and degrading strip searches, confined to segregation without being told the charges, deprived of the smallest amenities without which prison life cannot be endured.

But the 80 prisoners now being held in "punitive segregation" at New York State's Auburn Correctional Facility are continuing to demand their rights, continuing to fight back against the daily and growing harassment, continuing to call out for help in fighting the Nazi-like prison authorities.

Even though the very authorities that control their lives down to the last crumb of bread are reading over their shoulders every line they write, these courageous prisoners are continuing to send out letters to Youth Against War & Fascism telling about just a few of the terrible conditions they face. The worst ones they can't write about—they know the letters will then be stopped altogether.

One prisoner—his struggle name is Kusan 5%—recently wrote: "To put my situation on paper is impossible because things keep building up each and every day, leaving nothing to my imagination. This is something that I have never even heard of, and now I'm being subjected to it on a full scale.

"Sir, please get in contact with my mother. She hasn't heard from me since November, and that letter I sent to her didn't have any 'Prison news at all,' that's why they let it out, all the rest were halted. Pressure is being applied daily, abuses are growing greater by the day. We have been waging a heavy battle against the officials, and assistance is needed extremely bad...."

Auburn has 1700 men behind bars. Now 80 of them are being held in solitary confinement—which means a restricted diet, no commissary privileges, curtailed correspondence and being locked up in a "strip cell" all day. They and nearly two hundred others are being investigated for allegedly participating in a rebellion in the prison last November 4.

All but two of the men who are being treated in this way are Black and Spanish-speaking. The rebellion erupted in the first place because of reprisals against Black prisoners who had refused to work on Black Unity Day. When fourteen brothers were put in confinement because of the work stoppage, this was the last straw. The entire prison population rose up, seized the major buildings and held 35 hostages for seven hours.

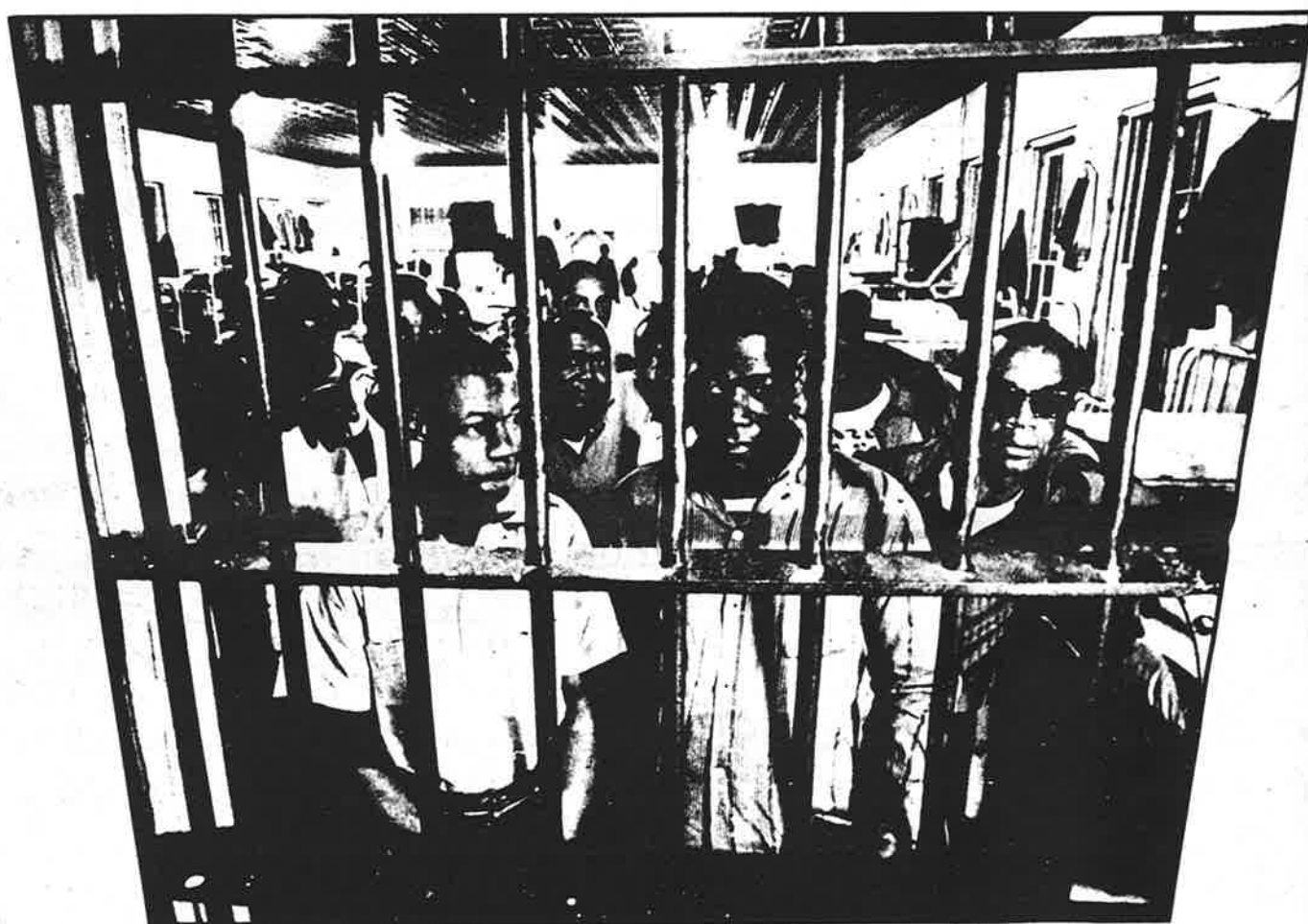
The demands, in addition to freeing the fourteen, were: better clothing, protection from reprisals by the guards, revision of the rules on letter writing, additional Black social programs, a more competent psychiatric staff, lower commissary prices, higher spending privileges, more Parole Board hearings, better food and a more extensive law library.

The superintendent, who is looking for scapegoats, had to admit that the rebellion was started by at least "400 militants." However, the authorities have now indicted six men for "robbery"—supposedly the keys to the cellblock were stolen during the rebellion.

When the hostages were released, it was with the commitment from the prison authorities that there would be no reprisals against the prisoners, and that they would look into the grievances of the men. Now that these concentration camp guards once again feel they have an upper hand, however, they are making conditions even worse and trying to

From behind the walls of Auburn...

Prisoners cry out for Justice!



Cordon of cops surrounds Auburn Prison during the December, 1970 rebellion.

break the most courageous.

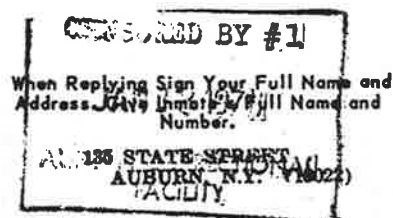
On December 20, about half the men in lock-up staged a peaceful protest against the continued segregation, and were teargassed and maced by the guards. Three were severely beaten.

Youth Against War & Fascism has retained counsel for the men who have written out. Attorney Jeff Glen of New York City has already supplied the men with legal information they had requested, and their names have been added to a group of prisoners filing suit against the prison system on the basis of the *Sostre vs. Rockefeller* case. (Martin Sostre, a Black political prisoner, won a precedent-setting case before Judge Constance Baker Motley in which he sued the State of New York for illegally keeping him in solitary confinement for thirteen months.)

Of course, prisoners have been petitioning the penal authorities for years trying to get some improvement in the inhuman conditions. What makes these suits and complaints different, however, is that today the authorities know that they can have an uprising on their hands if they behave too arrogantly. What is more, the oppressed themselves know that it is not the law in itself, no matter how fair and just it may sound, that will solve their oppression.

The ruling class has had noble sounding laws on the books for years: in this country, ever since they wrote "all men are created equal" while keeping the Black people in chains and women in household servitude. Many of the laws seem to ensure the rights of the poor and oppressed, but they are negated by other laws which hold private property sacred—

Y.A.W.F.
 Name.....
 Street & No. 58 W. 25 St.
 City New York, State N.Y.



Letters to
 Youth Against War & Fascism
 from Auburn prisoners

Sir:

Date 1/6/71

I have received your name from fellow inmates who have been put in the same situation that I am included in. You have been advised of the incident which took place on November 4, 1970. But there also was a peaceful, non-violent demonstration which took place on December 20, 1970. This demonstration led from GRIEVANCES which the inmates voiced to the Auburn Prison Administration. The rights guaranteed in the United State Constitution ARE denied a selected few, who the Warden HARRY FRITZ saw as A threat to his "Good Faith Policy".

The "Conditions" which I am subjected to 24-hours a day ARE inhumane. The need of your legal assistance is needed very urgently. Because the Auburn Prison Administration is beginning a surprise "Disciplinary Court" to set the foundation to railroad inmates behind the walls of Auburn Prison. A visit from one of your lawyers personally is needed AS soon AS possible. Because the so-called "Good Faith Policy" of Warden HARRY FRITZ has been nothing but Promises.

When Replying Sign Your Full Name and Address. Give Inmate's Full Name and Number.

135 STATE STREET
 AUBURN, N.Y. 13022

Date January 5, 1971
 AUBURN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

This is another of the numerous requests you have probably already received, pertaining to the abuses and denials of certain guaranteed rights under the U.S. Constitution - notably the I, V, VI, VIII, IX, and XIV Amendments - and fundamental Human Rights.

My request, though it is the same as the others, and purpose is to stress the immediate need for your legal assistance. It is imperative that you come immediately upon receipt of my letter.

The prevailing atmosphere of ultra-repression, imposed on this penal 'colony' since November 4, 1970, under the guise of a 'state of emergency' by the Superintendent Harry ('Adolph') Fritz, is both a cruel, harsh reality behind these awesome iron-curtains and a deceptive cloak to conceal from the outside world the uncivilized acts of insane, punitive mal-treatments.

Presently, I am confined in 'primitive' segregation: A segregated area designated by the penal bureaucracy for mostly Black inmates, and euphemistically termed as the so-called special housing unit, or 'idle' (non-working) companies, on the prison records.

and most important, the laws are administered by the state, which carries out the interests of the bosses by force of arms if necessary.

The prisoners, who live surrounded by the armed might of the state, are thoroughly hip to this, and know that they must fight if they are to get even a slight improvement in their conditions through the court.

The brave people being held in Auburn prison are in the vanguard of this rising consciousness of struggle that is smoldering in the class dungeons of America. No pretense is made by their tormentors that they are living in a just society - the standard line fed workers every day.

Instead, the guards and officials let them know in every little way that they are at their mercy - one man wrote that his slice of stale bread was placed on the edge of the tray attached to his door in such a way that when he opened the little window to get his food, it would fall onto the floor outside the cell.

Thus do these sadists remind the oppressed who fall into their clutches that they control every second of their lives.

The prisoners of class warfare at Auburn have asked for help. We must first of all let all our brothers and sisters who are fighting the same enemy, inside or outside the ruling class prisons, know of their plight. They must not be choked off because no one knows of their heroic resistance!

FREE THE AUBURN BROTHERS! FREE ALL CLASS PRISONERS!

BUFFALO

ROTC trial to open

BUFFALO— During the great upsurge in the anti-war movement in 1969-70, ROTC installations were driven off campus after campus all over the country. Anti-war students attacked this institution of imperialist war in a heroic and militant offensive, finally making it impossible for the Pentagon to recruit officers on many campuses.

The State University at Buffalo also had its ROTC and the students there dealt a stunning blow to this hated institution. On October 15, 1969 at the time of the Moratorium, UB students destroyed the offices of ROTC in a spontaneous demonstration against the war machine.

Now the government is on the offensive, trying to crush these acts of militant resistance and make the youth disavow one of the best chapters in the anti-war movement's history. Buffalo is no exception.

On February 4, 13 anti-war activists are going on trial here for allegedly being part of the anti-ROTC action.

One of the defendants, Dan Bentivogli, has been a prime target for the pro-fascist Buffalo authorities for a long time. Dan is chairman of Buffalo Youth Against War & Fascism and faces possibly 90 years in prison for his participation in the student rebellion last spring that erupted over the murder of students at Jackson and Kent State. Dan has been a leading activist in many anti-war and anti-racist actions in Buffalo and for this reason he has been viciously persecuted by the police and city officials who have been trying, unsuccessfully, to drive YAWF from the city for years.

In the ROTC case Dan faces felony charges of riot, criminal tampering, criminal mischief and burglary. The sentences for these charges could add up to over 20 years. He is currently out of jail on bail of \$20,000.

The upcoming ROTC trial centers around the events of October 15, 1969, when 5,000 people demonstrated in downtown Buffalo against the U.S. war in Vietnam. Then about 250 students spontaneously marched to the UB campus and vented their rage over the murderous war in Indochina by heading for the ROTC offices at the college and ransacking the headquarters of the military machine on campus.

(It is the ROTC programs on college campuses across the country which train military officers to send young GIs off to kill and be killed in the interests of U.S. big business and the Pentagon.)

Defense attorneys for the 13 going on trial, including Bill Myers (who has defended many political prisoners in Buffalo), handed in a "bill of particulars" of 253 questions to the court. The "bill of particulars" seeks to find out what kind of evidence the prosecution has to build its case. So far, the defendants only know that the indictment vaguely refers to persons who destroyed the UB ROTC offices without giving the places or times.

Judge Hefron ruled that the prosecution would only have to answer seven of the 253 questions. This means that the so-called "evidence" in the prosecution's case is still very unclear. Nevertheless, the frameup trial is going ahead.

At a time when President Nixon is talking as if the war in Indochina were already over, political trials of young



militants who are resisting that all-too-real imperialist war of aggression are going on. The government thinks that it can lull the people to sleep with talk of "Vietnamization" and "de-escalation." But there has been no de-escalation either in Vietnam or in

this country of the repression against the youth who have righteously rebelled against the war.

The trial of the "ROTC 19" has to be an act of resistance to this continued repression. Support the ROTC 19! Be at Erie County Court, February 4.

Homosexuals protest job discrimination

NEW YORK, Jan. 25— While the Board of Education was holding hearings here today on the lack of representation of minority groups in the teaching profession, about 60 gay teachers and their supporters picketed outside to raise the issue of fair employment practices for homosexuals.

The demonstrators outside of the Board of Ed building at 110 Livingston Street in Brooklyn chanted "Support the Clingen-Burden Fair Employment Bill" (a bill before the City Council that would bar discrimination in employment against persons because of sexual preferences) and "fair employment for gay teachers."

The demonstration was sponsored

by the Gay Activists Alliance in conjunction with other homosexual groups in the city as part of a whole campaign to protest the vicious job discrimination which homosexuals suffer.

A representative of the GAA pointed out about the protest at the Board of Education that the Board has systematically denied homosexuals teaching licenses. Knowing this, homosexuals are forced to lie about themselves in order to get jobs.

The constant indignity and degradation which this hiding has forced on homosexuals has caused an increasing amount of rage among gay people, who are now demanding that this form of discrimination be ended.

Death in the mines causing explosion in the ranks

by Jerry Zilg

"But this disaster was not unexpected, I think we can almost expect one of these a year."

—Dr. Elburt Osborn, Director, Bureau of Mines, January 1971—

In the steep white mountains of Kentucky, near the small coal town of Wooten, workers spent the New Year digging with shovels and picks in a heavy snowfall, mining not for coal, but for the bodies of 38 fellow miners.

The recent disaster at Finley Coal Company's No. 9 mine, the worst in Kentucky's history, was the result of an explosion of coal dust in the underground mine touched off by illegal high-explosive dynamite. Opened only last March, the mine had already been the scene of tragedy by August when an explosion seriously injured two miners, partially blinding one for life.

On November 9, another miner was crushed to death by a defective coal cart that hadn't been serviced by the company. Within ten days of that accident, inspectors from the U.S. Bureau of Mines cited 34 safety violations, including electrical spark hazards and a high density of coal dust in the mine.

The Government responded according to its class allegiance. It ignored the miners' safety and allowed owners Charles and Stanley Finley to continue operations until December 22, the deadline for a clean-up of hazards. Under special orders from President Nixon's new appointee, Dr. Elburt Osborn, the Federal Bureau then ordered its

inspectors to postpone enforcement of all safety regulations until January 1, 1971.

The December 22 deadline passed by without any inspection, and mining continued under the safety violations. Eight days after the deadline, and exactly one year to the day since the Coal Mine Safety and Health Act was passed by Congress, 38 miners were trapped in the exploding mine and killed.

Right after the Wooten explosion, the governor of Kentucky, fearful that the miners' militancy might be stirred by the needless murders, made a desperate midnight phone call to the President of the United States. Richard Nixon was awakened from his sleep by a request to come to Kentucky to publicly console the miners' widows and show governmental concern. That's how fearful the authorities are of miner protests! But Nixon also had some private fears, and, aware of the Government's responsibility for the deaths, was not too eager to personally walk among the workers. He refused.

The Labor Department, however, had thought the trip was a good idea. It would have helped dispel the image of neglect created by the White House and its Bureau of Mines. Nixon had failed to even comment on mine safety since the Mine Act had been passed a year before. In fact, he had made effective enforcement of the Act an impossibility by firing John O'Leary, the Director of the Bureau of Mines, the very month the Act was passed by Congress. Seven long months passed before Nixon appointed Osborn as new director. Meanwhile, 204

miners were killed. Although the law stipulates fines up to \$10,000, not one penny in fines has been levied since the law was passed.

Workers forced law's passage

The Mine Safety Act was no act of humanitarian concern by Congress. One hundred years of mine disasters and thousands of miners' deaths had passed unnoticed until miner militancy forced Congress and other Washington representatives of big business interests to act—especially in 1968, when 311 miners were killed, including 78 in the explosion at Consolidation Coal Company's No. 9 mine at Farmington, West Virginia.

The average age of a miner is fifty, and most replacements will be tough young workers more prone to fight the bosses. *Fortune* magazine, the national voice of the capitalist class, frankly admitted their fear of the rising militancy of young workers in its January 1971 issues: "There are responsible men in the industry who know that a new pattern of labor relations must be established if the coal industry is to prosper. It is a matter of paramount concern to the operators that over the next ten years about one-half the labor force will have to be replaced, and these young miners are not going to tolerate hazardous mining conditions. Nor will they buckle under a union that acts dictatorially to impose the will of its leader. Unless decent men from both sides can settle these prob-

(Continued on page 13)



The dynamic poverty of the U.S. working class

by V. Copeland

Every worker in the United States, without exception, is poor. Compared to somebody else or something else, every worker, employed or unemployed, is deprived—and millions are living in misery and desperation.

How, in the richest country in the world, can such a thing be so?

First and foremost, the U.S. workers are the poorest workers in the world in relation to the mountains of wealth amassed from their labor—past and present—by the plutocratic ruling class.

Second, the workers are poorest in contrast to what they had yesterday (if they are unemployed, or if they are working at the same wages while inflation drives up their cost of living)—or in contrast to what they expect tomorrow from a system that literally promises them the moon and gives them a stone.

Third, they are poorest in contrast to each other—divided and thrown against one another, not only by race, sex, and nationality, but by piece-work wages, false differentiation of skills, uneven rewards for difficult labor and constant re-shuffling of incomes by the uneven pressure of their own better or worse organized strength and the sudden furies of recession, depression and/or automation in the ever expanding and contracting capitalist economy.

Every one of these factors is eventually reflected in the workers' minds—now faintly, now sharply and violently, although hardly ever fully articulated or understood, and much more reflected in sudden action than in long cogitated thought.

Dynamic degeneration

The poverty of the U.S. workers is more dynamic because the U.S. capitalist system, more dynamic in its rise, is also more dynamic in its degeneration than the capitalist system of any other country, not to mention earlier social systems which were static indeed in comparison.

Degeneration, of course, is not usually thought of as "dynamic," but that is only because the degeneration of previous empires—unblessed by capitalism—took long centuries to consummate, whereas modern capitalism degenerates by expansion, contraction and explosion—all compressed into decades, and on occasion into far shorter periods.

The old systems did not rouse their own slaves to revolt against themselves with nearly the efficiency and thoroughness of the modern capitalists. They could not call into existence the strikes, general strikes, proletarian revolutions and colonial uprisings with anything like the power and frequency that modern capitalist imperialism can do.

This was largely because those systems could not organize the slaves into such powerful battalions under one roof. (General Motors alone has 340,000 slaves under its corporate roof today, for instance.) And it was also largely because those systems could not arouse the expectations of their slaves, whereas the slaves of modern capitalism can see before their eyes the enormous production they are responsible for.

And if the modern slaves cannot see the full potential of their labor, unleashed from the restraining chains of the capitalist wage slave system, they can at least see the goods they feel they themselves are supposed to possess as part of the "American Way of Life." And when they are in danger of definitively losing these goods, their anger is aroused over some "small" loss like no slaves of the past—even those infinitely more oppressed, who were so often unable to fight for life itself.

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A PICTURE OF THE WORKING CLASS FAMILY  
FROM THE 1970 CENSUS FIGURES

| Hshld. Income                                       | No. hshlds. | % of hshlds. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Under \$1,000                                       | 2,016,000   | 3.2%         |
| \$1,000-1,999                                       | 4,289,000   | 6.8          |
| 2,000-2,999                                         | 3,895,000   | 6.2          |
| 3,000-3,999                                         | 3,886,000   | 6.2          |
| 4,000-4,999                                         | 3,603,000   | 5.7          |
| 5,000-5,999                                         | 3,795,000   | 6.0          |
| 6,000-6,999                                         | 4,011,000   | 6.4          |
| 7,000-7,999                                         | 4,298,000   | 6.8          |
| 8,000-8,999                                         | 8,106,000   | 12.9         |
| 10,000-14,999                                       | 14,524,000  | 23.1         |
|                                                     |             | 83.3%        |
| 15,000-24,999                                       | 8,425,000   | 13.4         |
| 25,000-49,999                                       | 1,760,000   | 2.8          |
| 50,000 (and up<br>into the hundreds<br>of millions) | 251,000     | 0.4          |

~~~~~

The upper 83.3 per cent of the accompanying table may be taken as the rough economic statistics of the working class as a whole. The better-off professionals, small and big capitalists, richer farmers, etc., just about fill the higher categories in the top one-sixth of the country's households.

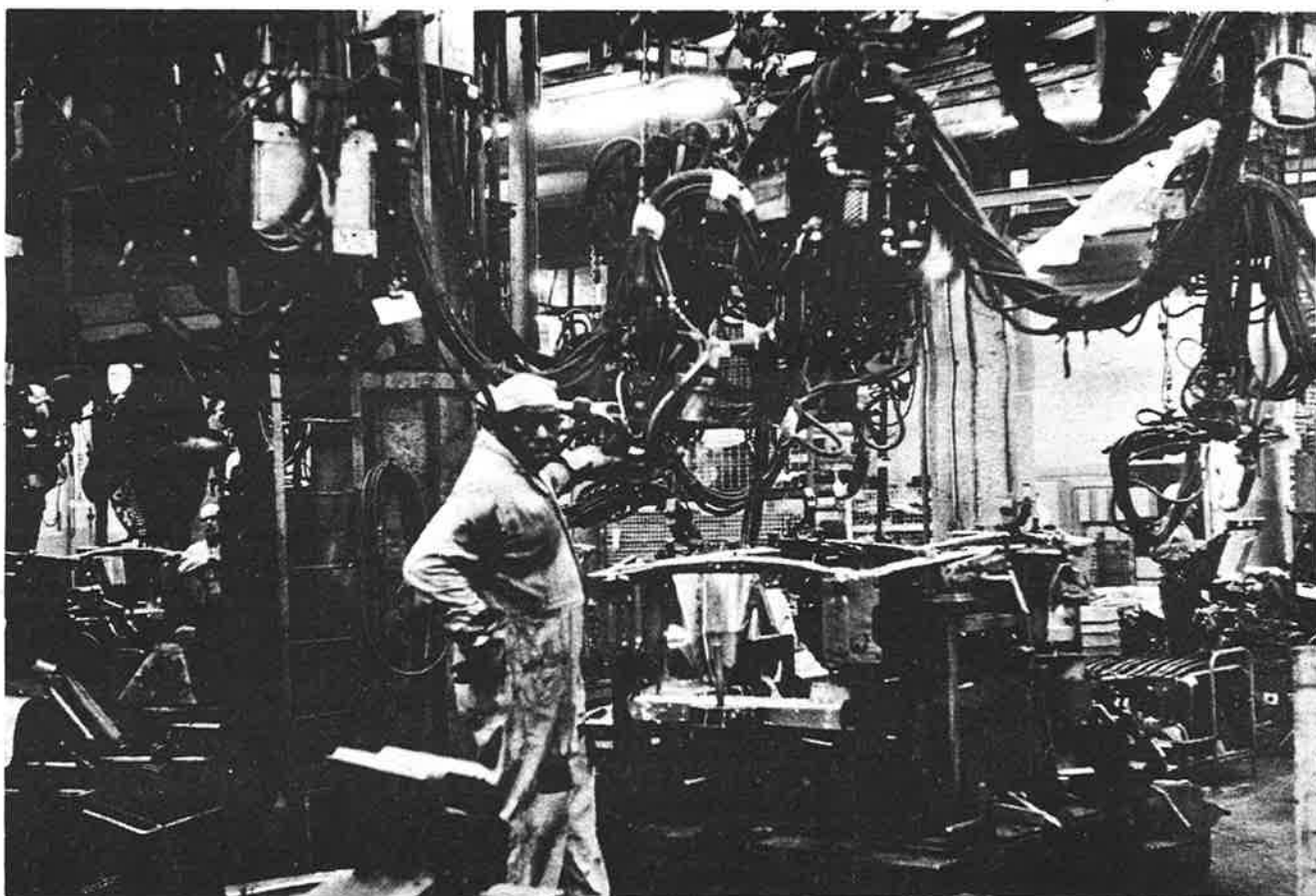
And of course that tiny group at the end comprises the capitalist class itself—the real ruling class.

A number of small business people are concealed in the upper brackets of the working class. But there are also many lower-paid professionals who are on the edge of the working class and can easily join in its struggles, identifying sometimes with the very poorest, both out of idealism and out of newly acquired class consciousness.

Absolute poverty

The first thing that strikes the eye in this table is not the relative poverty, but the absolute poverty of the lowest category.

There are a great deal more people on the \$0 to \$5,000 group than there are in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 group. This alone is a most crushing refutation of



With all the modern technology and production techniques, American workers, Black and white, are still the most exploited of the world's workers when you consider the mountains of wealth amassed by the capitalist bosses.

the theories of "people's capitalism" and the "affluent society."

Obviously in a country where according to its own reactionary government, a family of four needs \$12,000 a year to live "moderately," the families with incomes less than \$5,000 are living in dire poverty. And they are 28.1 per cent of all households, or one-third of the working class families.

This one-third are automatically dissatisfied with their lot, since everybody they see around them is better off than they and without any sound, rational reason that convinces them that this situation has to be.

All too often this group is weak and less able to fight for higher income in ordinary conventional ways. But they are capable of great explosions nonetheless. The Black rebellions, which bring the dynamism of national liberation to the class struggle, come mainly from this group. But there are many more of the group yet to be heard from, and there can be utterly no doubt that they will be heard.

The households with an income of \$6,000 a year (less than a gross of \$120 a week) are also living in abject poverty, especially if there are any children.

Those getting between \$6,000 and \$8,000 may rightly be called the "Middle America" of the working class. They have one-third of the country's households below them and about the same amount of households above them—within the group that can be remotely considered working class.

Now those who make up Middle America of the working class are not the fat, complacent little stockholders. (If they buy their company's stock out of their paychecks, they have to turn it in and sell it at every household crisis.) These are not the people who argue about the mountains or the seashore when they finally go on a vacation.

These are not the Middle America of the columnists and the writers of sweetly deodorized magazine stories. These are the Silent Majority—the real Silent Majority, which includes the poorest—who are silent because they are choked and strangled by the octopus of capital.

But are not the highest-paid slaves—the \$10,000 to \$15,000 group, assuming they are all workers—content with their lot? Are they not a triple-plated bastion against rebellion, a solid protection for the capitalist upper crust so many of them dream of imitating?

Not at all. They are already showing signs of extreme dissatisfaction. True, they are the ones who have fallen most heavily for the bosses' propaganda, the TV ads and the installment sales talks. But that's just the point.

They are more committed to the so-called American standard of living than anybody else and in some ways less able to live up to their own desires than anybody else. When their actual living standard is even slightly reduced, due to inflation, slowdown of the economy, unemployment, etc., they can become the most dissatisfied of all.

The multiple job family

And they are not necessarily twice as well off materially as a family getting half as much money. Their income usually derives from two or more in

the family working. (There are now 20 million married women with jobs outside the home.) The extra expenses and the emotional strains of this relationship cannot be stated in statistical terms.

But these, too, enter into and add to the dynamism of poverty in the working class.

Furthermore, in a country where \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year scientists and executives can be thrown onto the \$75 a week unemployment lines, any and every category in the whole table of working class groups shown—that is, 83.3 per cent of all families in the country—can be uprooted from even the most conservative rut by the sudden winds of capitalist instability.

The inevitable struggle

In spite of the chauvinism of so many of the U.S. workers toward their sisters and brothers in the U.S. colonies, they too must and will challenge the wealth and power of their own U.S. masters, who incidentally are the masters of the super-oppressed colonies, too. Thus the U.S. workers will help—knowingly or not—break the chains of the super-oppressed and super-poor at home and abroad.

The possibilities of their doing this are in the long run greater, far greater than they seem, because of the dynamic poverty they undergo and because of the class power that is theirs.

LNS Photo/DRUM

On the organizing front

Detroit

New arrests raise NCCF frameups to 27

DETROIT, Jan. 26 — Eleven members of the Detroit National Committee to Combat Fascism have been falsely charged with kidnapping and torture in a new government frameup of the Black Panther Party. This brings to 27 the number of Detroit NCCF members framed in the last three months. Their real "crime" is their dedication to the welfare of the Black community and their work in the struggle for Black liberation.

This courtroom lynching must not be allowed to continue. We of Detroit

Youth Against War & Fascism demand that the Detroit NCCF members, all 27, be freed immediately and allowed to return to their communities. We call upon all those who oppose this racist attack on the Black community to demonstrate their support of these political prisoners.

We are calling a demonstration outside the Wayne County Jail, tomorrow, Wednesday January 27, at 5:00 p.m. Free All Political Prisoners!

Detroit Youth Against War & Fascism

Milwaukee

Hit hard hat head

MILWAUKEE, January 16 — Despite cold weather and snow, 25 people demonstrated tonight in front of Milwaukee's Sheraton-Schroeder Hotel against Peter Brennan, the President of the New York Building Trades Council. The action was called by Milwaukee Youth Against War & Fascism to protest Brennan's organizing of last May's "hard hat" attacks upon anti-war youth who were demonstrating mass opposition to Nixon's Southeast Asia policies and the murder of students at Kent State and Jackson State.

Brennan, who was speaking at a retirement dinner, has clearly showed himself to be a stooge of the bosses. Shortly after the attack on anti-war demonstrators, he went to present the biggest enemy of the working class in

this country, Nixon, with a hard hat, and put himself in opposition to all progressive forces in this country, not to speak of the interests of all working people.

The demonstrators today carried a number of signs denouncing Brennan, denouncing the ruling class murder of trade unionist Yablonski (of the United Mine Workers Union) and calling for freedom for Jimmy Hoffa and the Black Panther political prisoners. There were spirited chants of "Brennan is the tool of the bosses' rule," and "Hard hat, hard head, bosses' stooges end up dead." A number of members of the Union Action Committee, which puts out the Union Activist in Milwaukee, were present at the demonstration.

— Jim Miller, Milwaukee YAWF

New York

Celebrate anniversary of Palestine armed struggle

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 — A celebration in honor of the sixth anniversary of the Palestinian armed struggle was held at Columbia University's Earl Hall here, tonight. The meeting marked an important success in the efforts of its sponsor, the Progressive Arab Students group, to mobilize the Arab community in revolutionary support to the Palestine movement.

The auditorium, brightly decorated with posters and banners showing guerilla fighters, held a standing-room only audience of 350 to 400 people, mostly from the Arab and Palestinian community of New York. Large delegations from the Iranian Student Assn., Ethiopian Student Union, and Youth Against War & Fascism were present, as well as Nigerian, Pan-African and other Tricontinental student groups.

Statements of international solidarity with the Palestinian revolution were presented by representatives of the Pakistani, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Pan-African, and Iranian Student organizations and of the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation, Black Panther Party, Columbia SDS and So-

cialist Workers Party.

With the exception of the SDS and SWP speakers, who talked chiefly about the activities of their organizations (the SDS representative spoke at length about an SDS factional dispute), the statements were extremely militant and focused on U.S. imperialism. They were warmly received by the audience, which welcomed Zayd Shakur of the Black Panther Party with a standing ovation and "Power to the people."

An extensive analysis of the events in Jordan was given in Arabic by a member of the Progressive Arab Students.

Middle Eastern food was then served buffet style and entertainment followed. Iranian students sang songs from the student movement, and one performed ballads of Kurdish liberation. The Ethiopians sang "Land to the Tiller" and "Join with the Masses and Fight." Palestinian songs and the Palestinian national dance, the debka, were offered by the Arab students, and then everybody joined in as chairs were cleared away. The evening concluded with the singing of the Internationale in many different languages.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 22 — A rally has been called here for tomorrow at noon by Los de la Raza to protest the attempted murder by police of a Latino youth. Jose Rios was one of the defendants in the Los Siete de la Raza case in which seven Latin young men were framed up for killing a cop. The frameup was so clearly a lie and the youths got so much support that they were acquitted of the charges.

The racist police, however, are still bent on murdering Los Siete. On January 15, Jose Rios was attacked by a San Francisco cop in the latest attempt on the lives of Los Siete defendants. Rios suffered a broken jaw, a possible skull fracture, severe damage of the throat, injured ribs and had his teeth knocked loose. He had to undergo surgery at San Francisco General Hospital.

Ever since the acquittal of Los Siete the police have been systematically bursting into Mission residences (the Mission district is the oppressed community of Latin people in this city) with-

ASU

GI union knocks

Pentagon scab lettuce

The American Servicemen's Union gives its whole-hearted support to our brothers and sisters of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee who are struggling to organize lettuce workers in the Southwest. This struggle is just like the struggle to organize the grape workers over the past six years.

In the present struggle, as in the past one, the UFWOC is running up against the U.S. government. The government supports the growers in their oppression and exploitation of the workers. Just recently Cesar Chavez, president of the UFWOC, was jailed for contempt of court when he defied a Federal Court injunction against picketing the growers.

The main company that the UFWOC is striking against and boycotting is Bud Antle, Inc., a subsidiary of Dow Chemical, the napalm manufacturer

that has murdered and maimed hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people.

In the grape boycott the U.S. military bought millions of pounds of scab grapes; they have also contracted for millions of pounds of scab lettuce. And they expect service men and women to eat this scab product!

The American Servicemen's Union is instructing its members and organizers to begin a campaign of support of the UFWOC. We of the ASU encourage GIs to use every means available to them to stop the use of scab lettuce in the military.

POWER TO THE UFWOC!

For the ASU,

Bob Lemay
National Executive
Director

San Francisco

New attacks on la Raza

out warrants, waving guns and brutalizing the people. People in the streets are thrown up against walls, frisked and questioned for phony ID checks and "suspicion of burglary."

Two of Los Siete were arrested again just a month ago on trumped up narcotics charges. Another brother, Chris Torres, was murdered only a week ago in the City Prison by the police. And it is only a year since 18-year-old Vincent Gutierrez was killed in the back of a paddy wagon.

In the call for the rally tomorrow, Los de la Raza stated, "We, the people of the Mission, feel it is the right and duty of the people to protect themselves and to turn their hatred and frustrations into creative energy. We must organize ourselves to survive. We must combat this harassment and police brutality for these are not isolated cases, but the pattern of police oppression throughout all our communities. Who will be next?"

Unidos Venceremos! (United we will win!)

The January, 1971 issue of the Newsletter published by the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation is out. Send to:

CSMEL

P.O. Box 948

N.Y. 10027

10¢ per copy.

Free Angela and ALL liberation fighters!



NEW YORK, Jan. 25 — The director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers announced at a press conference here today that a panel of 12 Black law professors from 11 colleges "will provide advice and counsel" to the defense of Angela Davis, Howard Moore, Angela Davis' attorney and the head of the newly formed panel told the press that the formation of this panel represented "a new awakening in the Black professional community."

"These professors are saying no, never again will a Black scholar be persecuted by the ordeal of a criminal trial, and the Black academic community not speak out."

The move by several prominent Black law professors to work on the defense of Angela Davis is certainly a sign of the widespread support her case has aroused all over the country. It can only be welcomed by all who are interested in the struggle against repression in this country.

However, as Angela Davis herself has said, she is but one of many Black liberation fighters being hounded and framed up because of their dedication to the cause of Black freedom. In a letter she wrote from the Women's House of Detention while in New York City, she included herself in a long list of Black political prisoners, like Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins, who are similarly

being framed up because of their struggle for Black liberation.

Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins and many other Panther political prisoners are facing death sentences, as is Angela Davis, on phony charges of kidnapping and murder. Careful examination of the publicity given the Davis case by the CP, however, makes it very clear that they are utilizing her case to diminish the significance of other revolutionary Black liberation leaders who are in jail. This certainly does not serve the struggle against government repression.

For instance, the case of Ruchell Magee is being almost totally ignored by the CP press. In separating the Davis case from those of the other Black political prisoners, they are dividing the progressive and revolutionary forces in this country for the sole purpose of ingratiating themselves with the liberal bourgeoisie.

While it is gratifying to see the great deal of support which is being rallied for Angela, it is also important to remember all the other political prisoners who need and deserve the same kind of devotion and solidarity.

Free Angela Davis!
Free Ruchell Magee!
Free Bobby Seale!
Free ALL Political Prisoners!

ANGELA DAVIS BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

Manhattan Center, 34th Street & Eighth Avenue

February 2, 1971 7 p.m.

Further information and tickets are available from the New York Committee to Free Angela Davis, 29 W. 15 Street, New York, N.Y. 10011 Telephone 929-2010

-Death in the mines

(Continued from page 10)

lems, anarchy lies ahead."

Workers rising up against the capitalist order anywhere means "anarchy" to the ruling class of bankers and industrialists. Meanwhile, "order" means one out of every 12 miners was either killed or seriously injured in 1970; "order" means that thousands more were seriously disabled by black lung disease; "order" means that over 200 miners are killed every year from gas explosions, roof falls and electrical fires; "order" means 15,000 deaths and over one million workers maimed every year under the capitalist system in the United States.

Fearful of a rank-and-file movement they could not control, the Government introduced the watered-down version of the Mine Safety Act. Politicians felt that some kind of reform was necessary to kill the miners' militancy.

The UMW contract expires in October and the giant corporations want to avoid costly strikes, perhaps even rank-and-file wildcats and seizures.

Profits come before lives

The coal business is booming under the re-surging demand by utilities and foreign buyers. Coal prices are up by 50 per cent since last year and capital investment expansion is expected to double capacity by 1980. As the Assistant Secretary of the Interior explained, coal is "the cornerstone of our energy philosophy for the coming generations."

But a rank-and-file movement of miners that demands enforcement of the new Mine Safety Act threatens this future of enormous profits for the company owners and the ruling class. The law provides compensation for black lung disease, the plague of underground mines under capitalism. Until January 1, 1972, the Federal Government will pick up the tab through taxes on the working class throughout the nation. After that date, however, the companies must pay the cost. Already, 229,000 miners and widows have applied, with 60,000 claims already granted with compensations from \$114 to \$280 a month.

The new law also provides that no mine should contain more than two milligrams of coal dust per cubic meter. Seventy-five per cent of Kentucky's mines already fail to meet this medical standard. Miners are inhaling eighteen times that acceptable amount. If the law were to be enforced by 1972, 40 per cent of the nation's underground mines would be closed.

Not that the owners couldn't afford the costs. Most of the coal companies have been taken over by such corporate giants as Morgan's U.S. Steel and Rockefeller's Standard Oil (Ohio). These powerful capitalists are among the masters of the Federal Government, and have made sure that their Washington pawns do not enforce the Mining Act, despite the danger to miners' lives.

The mine owners are particularly upset by the fact that the old UMW bureaucrats are no longer able to keep down the rank and file. *Fortune* magazine spoke for the monopolists' fear of workers' militancy when they wrote, "The old hands in the business are convinced that the miners are an

anarchistic lot by nature, and would be given to irresponsible actions without strong, even dictatorial leadership."

While the ruling class of bankers and industrialists and their Federal Government maneuver, a strong challenge to the basic rules of their whole murderous game is being raised by the workers themselves. Strong young arms of a new generation of workers are taking up the picks and shovels in the mines, a generation of workers that is militant and growing more alert to its needs as a class. In the coalfields, where the heritage of past militancy is perhaps strongest among the American workers, the trembling of the bosses is louder than the trembling of earth.

-Phone strike

(Continued from page 7)

While we were still outside picketing the court building, the workers were carrying signs and chanting "Cannella works for Ma Bell" and "Cannella is a scab." Inside, with the courtroom packed with this very attentive and concerned group of workers, the judge tried his best to appear impartial and in his words "to be on everybody's side."

But Cannella couldn't keep the effort up for long. The judge began to argue the position of the company against the union representatives, and finally, to impose another series of fines, starting off with \$100,000. If these workers were willing to defy the court for over a week before, now, after seeing the capitalist court system in operation, they had more reason than ever to remain steadfast.

Although this struggle is focused on the issue of fair distribution of overtime, that is merely the form that the fundamental issue of capitalist exploitation has taken. Some students of history might remember the volcanic struggle of American workers for the 8-hour day and wonder what has motivated so many rank-and-file workers to stay out so long to be able to work 12 hours a day and weekends, too.

The answer, of course, is very simple. Telephone workers, like all other workers, cannot afford to live on their regular straight-time wages. And even with the overtime pay, workers cannot catch up with the cost-of-living.

Not only is the company trying to break the union's ability to protect the workers' overtime; AT&T is trying to show the workers that their union cannot guarantee their rights to promotion. Every telephone worker must know that with a new contract to be agreed upon in a few months, the

company is trying to break our organization and our ability to resist a company-dictated, slave-labor arrangement.

Rank-and-file revolt

The basic impulse for this wildcat has been the rank-and-file pressure. This rank-and-file pressure is the workers' response to deteriorating conditions, increased harassment and lower living standards—all of which are the company's responsibility. It has been the large number of Black workers in Local 1101 who have felt, because they have been made to bear the heaviest burden by the company, that their lives are at stake. The Black and Puerto Rican workers suffer an exploitation made much harsher by racist discrimination. These workers, consequently, have provided an extra measure of militancy and struggle.

And it is in solidarity with their Black and Puerto Rican brothers and sisters that the white workers are learning to advance their struggle against the common enemy. The telephone workers have begun to seriously confront the problem of organizing their Black sisters, who as operators, are in a separate company union and more oppressed. This wildcat has also raised the level of solidarity between telephone workers in different locals, throughout the state. By forcing the international union to endorse the strike, a move as unexpected as the strike itself, the striking New York telephone workers have raised the question of nationwide solidarity in a new context.

The telephone workers are just beginning to feel their strength. They are awakening to their own vast power and to the fact that they need no longer submit. This wildcat, whatever its final outcome, has taught a great many of us many lessons. The steadfastness and the solidarity of the workers has given us a chance to reappraise our possibilities for the future. The significance of this strike does not lie in any new answers, but in the new questions which 50,000 telephone workers are now asking.

Food enough for everyone --if the system's right

by M. Margolies

Every night, as one charity advertisement puts it, millions of Americans go to bed hungry. One senator has admitted that 12 million Americans "... continue to suffer from hunger and malnutrition and the illness that follows in their wake."

Children with bowed legs and swollen bellies can be seen in many of the communities of poor workers and oppressed peoples in the U.S. Things are far worse in the colonial countries. In India, in the morning, bodies of the poor are collected from the sidewalks. Hunger and malnutrition stalk the world—or at least the capitalist world.

In one four-state U.S. government study in 1969, 12,000 persons were checked. One-third of the children involved showed anemia; some suffered from retarded physical growth, rickets and goiter; 92 per cent of children in one pre-school program had a dangerous vitamin deficiency that will probably lead to blindness for many of them.

Another limited 1969 investigation opened the past five-years' records at Indian Hospital in Tuba City, Texas: There had been 27 cases of calorie starvation and 17 cases of extreme protein deficiency among Navajo children—15 had died.

And yet, Lord Boyd-Orr, "one of the world's leading food and population experts, according to the N.Y. Times, recently wrote an article for that paper entitled, "Food Enough for Everyone." In it he pointed out that present technical achievements could easily provide food to support three or four times the present world population. In fact, he said, "The only practical limit to food production is the efforts governments devote to it."

For years, capitalist propagandists

have predicted a future of famine and warfare over food supplies because of "overpopulation." And indeed there are some major food crises in the world today. But in his article, Boyd-Orr said, "I have been in Russia and China sev-

eral times, taking a special interest in agriculture and the state of nutrition. I never saw a case of obvious malnutrition" (our emphasis). These two countries can now be regarded as self-sufficient in food and likely exporters."

In the U.S. during the 1930's, crops were burned and food was destroyed in order to keep prices high. Today, wealthy farmers are paid not to grow crops. In addition, huge amounts of surplus U.S. wheat rot in storage silos while people throughout the world hunger for bread. Lord Boyd-Orr's remarks are an open admission of the superiority of the socialist system.

Despite bureaucratic mismanagement in the Soviet Union, the planned

socialist economy has allowed the large-scale production, without recession or depression, of food for use (not for profit). For example, total grain production rose 50 per cent during the years 1960 to 1968. And now the Soviet Union is exporting wheat.

Boyd-Orr said, "If a permanent World Food Council, including representatives from food-deficit countries, could be set up to deal with the world food problem...our civilization need not be threatened by a world food shortage." But his capitalist "civilization" will always be threatened by hunger. However, a socialist "World Food Council," made up of representatives of a world of socialist countries, will end hunger forever.



Hsinhua photo

In China, food is grown for people, not for profit. Picture shows part of the 1969 Chinese bumper crop.

Does the USSR need a stock market? or does the U.S. need a 5-year plan?

by Edward James

There it stood, in bold, black type, the headline of an ad flaunting the capitalists' capacity for self-deception: "If the Russians had a stock market, they might make one of their five-year plans work."

Of course, the concept of a stock market and a five-year plan coexisting within the same economy is absurd in the first place. A stock market reflects the anarchy of the private property system of investment under capitalism while national economic planning reflects the coordinated system of socialist property relations existing in the Soviet Union today. And despite some mismanagement of the economy by the Soviet bureaucracy, the planned economy is still dominant in that country.

Besides, who are the capitalists to talk. They can't even make their system run well for one year. Inflation, unemployment, economic crises and imperialist war—that's what capitalism gives you!

The stock market (or capitalist economy) allows a handful of individual property owners, competing among themselves for profits, to determine where capital will be invested, what products will be produced, and who will consume them.

This anarchistic method of determining what will be produced and how it will be distributed is quite the opposite of socialist economic planning, which seeks to employ all the resources of an economy in a rational, co-ordinated pursuit of objectives which are in the interest of the working people, rather than in the interests of a few billionaire property owners.

Aside from this rather major detail, from the point of view of E. F. Hutton & Co., which placed the ad, the statement does make some sense.

It all depends on how you judge whether an economic system is "working" properly. And that

in turn depends on who you are, because capitalism and socialism are two totally opposite systems, each serving totally opposite classes of people living in separate worlds.

Who's the market for?

The stock market has worked very well for the elite, that's for sure. But suppose you're one of the millions who belong to the other world, the world of the oppressed and working people. Probably you've never even seen a dividend check (unless you work for a bank). For you, the economy doesn't work so well. Money is invested in all the areas of the economy where it doesn't help you in the least.

Construction of luxury housing and plush office buildings booms, while the severe shortage of livable, low-rent housing grows more acute daily. Billions are poured into advertising and fancy packaging of products that are deliberately designed to wear out quickly. Stocks of companies in the drug, hospital equipment or nursing home fields are quite popular with investors, so money flows into those industries. But because profit, and not human need is what attracts money into those industries, human suffering is exploited rather than eased by this investment.

Suppose you're one of the millions who work for a living. Then you know what the relentless drive for profits means. You know about the speedups; you know about the unhealthy, unsafe working conditions that kill 10,000 workers every year and maim a quarter million more; you know how you have to fight for every lousy cent you get from the boss. You know how inflation, unemployment and tax increases hurt poor people more than anybody else.

Of course, the owners of E. F. Hutton or any big company would love to see the Soviet Union have a stock market. They would love to be able to buy

up the Soviet factories and so be able to appropriate profits out of the labor of one hundred million Soviet workers.

No black lung under socialism

But there is no stock market in the Soviet Union and one is not likely to appear unless socialism were destroyed (which is really what the E. F. Hutton ad is hinting at). The production process is not ruled by the iron grip of profit. Therefore, job-related diseases like black lung have been virtually eliminated—there is no profitability in keeping unsafe mines open. All workers have free, modern medical care. The subways are free, and medical teams constantly patrol them to care for sick people. Women workers get paid maternity leaves of four months, and have a broad range of jobs. Free, well-run child care facilities make it possible for women to work who would be considered "surplus labor" here. Workers and their families are entitled to four or five weeks of vacation at resorts with 90 per cent of the resort cost paid for by their trade union.

The Soviet Union is not a perfect socialist society. It is a degenerated workers' state where a privileged and conservative bureaucracy rules today. Nevertheless they rule over a socialist economy. There is a basic difference with the world E. F. Hutton envisions.

So E. F. Hutton had better dream some other dream, because the Soviet workers would never accept being exploited the way American workers are. In fact, it would be more realistic for the owners of E. F. Hutton to have nightmares about the day when their stock market is smashed and dismantled; that will be the day when the American workers take all the factories and farms and other workplaces into the hands that labored so hard to build them.

by Deirdre Griswold
(former Secretary of the
Molina Defense Committee)

Every day, in thousands of courtrooms across the country, people are brought before the judge. The bailiff warns them, "Take your hands out of your pockets when you address the court!"

Maybe it's only for a traffic offense. Or maybe its for something more serious, something where their life hangs in the balance. A solemn occasion, and the judge at least is dressed for it—black robes, a serious and impartial expression on his face, years of law compressed into his judicial mind. This is law and order in action, and the fate of literally millions of people—most of them poor, so many Black and Spanish-speaking—rests on the decisions made by the judges.

* * * *

I remember a trial in the early sixties. A young Cuban named Francisco Molina, a worker with one arm who had lost the other one in a toy factory in Queens, was on trial for murder. At least that was the charge—a child had been accidentally killed by a stray bullet during a fight—but the papers and the politicians and even most of the people knew what the case was really about. The fight had been between Cubans for and against the Revolution, and it took place while Fidel Castro was in New York to address the United Nations. The papers called Molina "The Hook," and made up stories about him being an executioner for Castro (he hadn't even been in Cuba since he was a child). The U.S. Ambassador to the UN denounced Molina as "the head of a group of Castro followers intimidating anti-Castro people," and scornfully dubbed him "Pancho the Hook."

The strong dose of anti-imperialist medicine that Fidel Castro dispensed in his UN speech was overshadowed in the U.S. press by the Molina story.

Lincoln White of the State Department moaned that "This Venezuelan girl was the innocent victim of an aggressive attack by adherents of the Castro regime."

Within 24 hours, Molina had been arrested, tried and convicted by the powers that run this country in the interest of profits—like those giant sugar companies had lost in the Cuban Revolution. But there still remained a few technicalities, like hauling Molina up before a judge, going through the farce of a trial, etc.

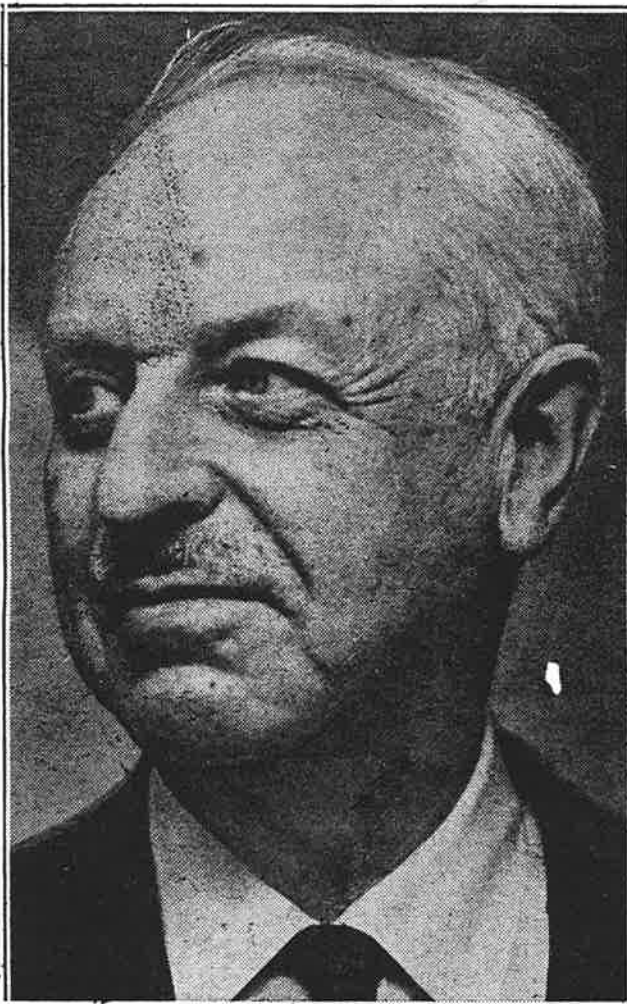
It was a beautiful example of ruling class justice, that trial. Witnesses admitted that they had been threatened and intimidated by the prosecution to change their testimony. The main prosecution witnesses were flown up to the trial by the CIA from Guatemala, where they were being trained for the forthcoming and ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. (Ten days after Molina's conviction for second-degree murder, one of the leading counter-revolutionary witnesses was captured in Cuba.)

The murder gun had disappeared, but the counter-revolutionaries admitted they had come to the restaurant where the fight took place armed with chains and knives. Molina was a habitual patron of the place; the gusanos had come up from Miami particularly to cause trouble while Castro was in New York.

But the most important event of the trial took place when Molina's attorney tried to question the Batista thugs on their military training. The District Attorney jumped to his feet and asked for a private audience with the judge. Only after much debate would he make his remarks for the record:

"More than and beyond being judges, district attorneys and defense lawyers, our capacity as United States citizens—and, I hope, patriotic United States citizens—require me to say this; and I shall, and feel strongly, that I should not be required to say anything further: that an agency of the Fed-

eral Government has requested me to convey to your honor that no questions be permitted of this or other witnesses with reference to activities, about which I know nothing of my own knowledge, but which contain certain activities in the Miami area....I think I can be no more specific."



Justice Mitchell Schweitzer

Portrait of the judge as a crook

The silver-haired judge listened intently. As the defense then pointed out, legal precedence required that if the prosecution could not permit the accused the right of cross-examination because of the interests of "national security," then the charges against him would have to be dropped. Would the judge do that?

The government got its cake and ate it too. The counter-revolutionary worms refused to answer the questions, the defense objected, and the trial went on. Such is the power of the CIA!

We now come to the heavy part in this piece—Judge Mitchell Schweitzer. It was Schweitzer who did his bit for Jack Frost Sugar and the other U.S. monopolies in railroading Molina to jail on a 20-year sentence. Schweitzer told the defendant and the public: "This has been a fair and just trial without international overtones." (It was Schweitzer's contention all along that it was not a political trial. Eventually, Molina was exchanged by the U.S. government for a leader of the Bay of Pigs invasion—a tacit admission that he had indeed been a political hostage.)

Schweitzer showed his loyalty to the profit system in his handling of the Molina case. He had been picked to do an important job with international significance, and he got just the results Washington wanted.

Is his name beginning to sound familiar? You may not remember him from the Molina case, but some more recent history will probably refresh your memory. Just a couple of weeks ago, Schweitzer made the front pages again. By now, he's a Supreme Court justice in New York State, no doubt with a promotion for his political service and loyalty. But unfortunately for him, a friend got caught in too much crooked wheeling and dealing, and the subsequent investigation led to Judge Mitchell Schweitzer.

When "influence peddler" Nathan Voloshen (as the papers call him) was exposed for using House Speaker McCormack's office for his own personal crooked deals, Judge Schweitzer flipped. For Voloshen and Schweitzer had enjoyed many a tete-a-tete working out deals of mutual interest. As witnesses were to tell a state investigation, Voloshen openly bragged that Schweitzer could "fix" anything for him, and used his relationship with the judge in getting "favors" from businessmen with legal problems.

And the judge, the same man who had presided so sternly over the trial of a young one-armed Cuban worker, was handsomely rewarded by Voloshen with cases of whiskey, theater tickets, dinner parties and even shrubbery to relandscape his house.

Schweitzer helped out a lot of his cronies. Like the British Ambassador who came in his Rolls Royce to discuss what to do about his son, who had been found with a girl dead from an overdose in his apartment.

Class justice is what the good judge meted out. Favors for his class and dungeons for the working class. Paroles to big shots in the Mob and life sentences to people who broke the law (and a lot who didn't) out of desperation and poverty. Now he's in trouble. Maybe another good judge or politician in his class will help bail him out. But he'll probably just retire—he's getting old now and he's got enough whiskey and shrubs to last him for a while.

He got caught doing something illegal, so he'll be put on ice. But he'll still have plenty of friends among the rich and the powerful. And why not? They're all a bunch of crooks. They live by the ethic of dog eat dog, rob the poor and give to the rich.

It'll take a whole lot more Jonathan Jacksons to dislodge this caste of black-robed hypocrites and murderers.

Pistol-packing judges fear peoples' justice

by Shirley Jolls

U.S. court officials all around the country recently admitted that many judges have taken to packing a gun under their somber and dignified robes.

Of course, that's just one more gun in the courtroom, in addition to the weapons of the cops and guards, but it does show that the wave of rebellion among the Black and other oppressed peoples has reached from the streets to the very officials, the judges, who have held life and death power over them for so long.

Ruling class spokesmen lament the "different public attitude," as exemplified by the disruption of frameup proceedings such as the New York Panther 21 Trial, Chicago Conspiracy and Seattle 8 trials, and the determined struggle to demonstrate the Black Panther Party's politics in the New York and New Haven cases. Judges can no longer expect automatic submission to the court system, but have to maintain their authority with open force.

The courts are in a mad scramble to

tighten security. Supporters at political trials have long been subjected to search, but at the hearings on Angela Davis' case they are now being frisked twice! Armed guards patrol hallways, and many times a courtroom is ringed by bailiffs assigned only to watch the spectators. The San Rafael court, scene of the current proceedings against Ruchell Magee and Angela Davis and of last August's heroic attempt to free a number of Black political prisoners, is located in a civic center which also houses the county library and public meetings rooms. Marin County officials have closed the library, ordered the meetings moved elsewhere, and appropriated \$300,000 to secure their judicial fortress.

Court officials admit that it was the events in San Rafael where one judge was killed, that scared the judges into carrying guns.

At that time, Workers World predicted that the revolutionary deed carried out by Jonathan Jackson and three Black prisoners, would destroy the inviolability of the racist courts. On August 20, we wrote:

"No court is safe anymore. Blind passivity

and fatal acceptance by its victims can no longer be taken for granted by the enemy. Every prison has become a veritable cadre school of the oppressed. The courts will have to become armed camps. The bourgeoisie will have to show the people its teeth in every 'hall of justice' across the country."

Now, a short six months later, that prediction has already come true. The U.S. courts have indeed become armed camps, in which even the judges cannot feel secure. It puts the lie to the rulers' hypocritical claim that their courtrooms are places where a fair hearing is given to all and justice dispensed, and demonstrates the real nature of the courts as another arena where violence is committed against the oppressed.

Miami Circuit Court Judge Popper, who doesn't feel safe anymore without his pistol, explained:

"I've probably given more death sentences than any other judge in Florida, and I don't want to end up like that poor fellow in San Rafael!"

Who are the real murderers?

Welfare child dies of starvation

New York Times, Monday, Jan. 18 — A 7-month-old Brooklyn baby boy was found dead, apparently from malnutrition, yesterday and three other children in the same family were treated at Kings County Hospital, where one was reported in critical condition. The unmarried mother of the four children, Joyce Bryant, 27 years old, was arrested at the Miller Avenue station on a charge of criminal neglect.

The police said that a sister of Miss Bryant, Mrs. Roberta Shaw, visited the Bryant apartment yesterday morning and found the infant, John Bryant, unconscious. Catherine Bryant, 1, and two boys, Kenneth, 4, and Lance, 3, were removed to Kings County Hospital after the infant was pronounced dead by an ambulance attendant.

Catherine was detained in critical

condition and the two boys, after treatment, were removed to a Manhattan children's shelter.

Miss Bryant, who was at the apartment when her sister arrived, left before the police were called but later surrendered at the Miller Avenue station. The police said the family was receiving welfare assistance.

Marie Farrar, Infanticide

Marie Farrar, born in April,
No marks, a minor, rachitic, both parents dead,
Allegedly, up to now without police record,
Committed infanticide, it is said,
As follows: in her second month, she says,
With the aid of a barmaid she did her best
To get rid of her child with two douches,
Allegedly painful but without success.
But you, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

She then paid out, she says, what was agreed
And continued to lace herself up tight.
She also drank liquor with pepper mixed in it
Which purged her but did not cure her plight.
Her body distressed her as she washed the dishes,
It was swollen now quite visibly.
She herself says, for she was still a child,
She prayed to Mary most earnestly.
But you, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

Her prayers, it seemed, helped her not at all.
She longed for help. Her trouble made her falter
And faint at early mass. Often drops of sweat
Broke out in anguish as she knelt at the altar.
Yet until her time had come upon her
She still kept secret her condition.
For no one believed such a thing had happened,
That she, so unenticing, had yielded to temptation.
But you, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn.
For man needs help from every creature born.

And on that day, she says, when it was dawn,
As she washed the stairs it seemed a nail
Was driven into her belly. She was wrung with pain.
But still she secretly endured her travail.
All day long while hanging out the laundry
She racked her brains till she got it through her head
She had to bear the child and her heart was heavy.
It was very late when she went up to bed.
But you, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

She was sent for again as soon as she lay down:
Snow had fallen and she had to go downstairs.
It went on till eleven. It was a long day.
Only at night did she have time to bear.
And so, she says, she gave birth to a son.
The son she bore was just like all the others.
She was unlike the others but for this
There is no reason to despise this mother.
You, too, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

Accordingly I will go on with the story
Of what happened to the son that came to be.
(She says she will hide nothing that befell)
So let it be a judgment upon both you and me.
She says she had scarcely gone to bed when she
Was overcome with sickness and she was alone,
Not knowing what would happen, yet she still
Contrived to stifle all her moans.
And you, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

With her last strength, she says, because
Her room had now grown icy cold, she then
Dragged herself to the latrine and there
Gave birth as best she could (not knowing when)
But toward morning. She says she was already
Quite distracted and could barely hold
The child for snow came into the latrine
And her fingers were half numb with cold.
You too, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

Between the latrine and her room, she says,
Not earlier, the child began to cry until
It drove her mad so that she says
She did not cease to beat it with her fists
Blindly for some time till it was still.
And then she took the body to her bed
And kept it with her there all through the night:
When morning came she hid it in the shed.
But you, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

Marie Farrar, born in April,
An unmarried mother, convicted, died in
The Meissen penitentiary,
She brings home to you all men's sin.
You who bear pleasantly between clean sheets
And give the name "blessed" to your womb's weight
Must not damn the weakness of the outcast,
For her sin was black but her pain was great.
Therefore, I beg you, check your wrath and scorn
For man needs help from every creature born.

by Bertold Brecht



Visit to the Hospital
by Kathe Kollwitz

by Larry Levy, M.D.

For the millions of people who cannot afford private doctors and hospitals, health care is a nightmare. The quality of care is so humiliating and degrading, so sloppy and inadequate, that it causes many to stop seeking it after awhile.

We've been given the image of the young and old dedicated doctors who selflessly serve all the ill, regardless of their economic situation, of color, of service administered with dedication and caring by the Kildares, Caseys, and Welbys. The truth is something quite different.

Let's follow a poor woman with a sick child, in her efforts to seek help. Her first problem is getting to the hospital. She lives in a ghetto where transportation is inadequate, where hospital facilities are a fraction of what is needed and where even if she could afford a taxi there are none cruising her neighborhood anyway. If she lives in a rural poverty area, there may not be medical services available for many miles.

Somehow she gets to the nearest "charity" hospital. After registering, she then waits, and waits, and waits. She may wait as long as three or four hours, maybe more. She will probably wait in a room that is bare except for the drunks on the floor and the 30 or 40 other people also waiting.

She is then hustled into a room where a doctor, probably not of her race, asks her what is wrong with her child. Often the patient and doctor can't communicate since the doctor doesn't speak her language. He "listens" for a minute or two, performs a cursory examination, mumbles something, abruptly hands her a prescription and turns his head away.

Five minutes after she is gone he will have forgotten her name and face. When the doctor leaves the hospital that day he remembers nothing of the people he has treated. To be fair, not all doctors in city hospitals are like that. Not all, just about 90 per cent. Most are in training, interns and residents, who are learning. They are practicing on poor people—euphemistically known as getting qualified, getting experience that they will then take to Park Avenue or some rich suburb—places which already have more doctors than they will ever need. Nowhere in their training will they be taught to care about the poor.

The woman makes her way home. She has spent the better part of the day, maybe 6 to 7 hours in all, for five minutes of "care." If her child doesn't get well in a day or two she'll have to go through that disgusting experience all over again. If she does go back, the chances of seeing the same doctor are virtually nil. Yet, it's either that or not go at all and take her chances that the exploiting local druggist will give her something that will work. There are no other possibilities.

The hospitalization of the poor is a different, though generally no better, experience. If the patient is young and has an acute or "interesting" disease, then care will probably be adequate. But, if he or she is old and debilitated and not so interesting, then the hospital wards may turn out to be only the place in which they die.

Wards in city hospitals are overcrowded, filthy, roach and rat infested, and were built 50 to 80 years ago to serve the needs of one-fourth as many patients as they hold today. They are always understaffed with nurses and other paramedical personnel. Aides and orderlies are abused and harassed by racist doctors. Their salaries are never enough.

The most common problem for the ward-patient is neglect. Some are left to lie in their own excrement, while invalid old people often are not turned frequently enough so that they develop massive bedsores which never heal.

Other patients are subjected to unnecessary operations done by inexperienced doctors seeking practice. Many women who have given birth and are just awakening from anesthesia are duped into agreeing to sterilization, only to find out hours later what really happened.

Doctors called at night to see patients on the ward frequently come too late or not at all. This happens in the "charity" hospitals, while in the private ones patients sleep on clean sheets, one or two to a room, receiving almost constant attention.

The poor, more than 30 million of them, don't have adequate nutrition, clothing, or shelter. They live cramped together in few rooms. It is they who get sick most often, and it is they who can never have a doctor come to their homes. It is the poor and oppressed who suffer the most. They are sick the most, and are able to afford adequate care the least.

This is a contradiction that can only be resolved by the destruction of capitalist society, based on profits and serving the rich, which perpetuates this madness.

Health care for the poor

Hours on line;
a few minutes
of "care"