

Nationwide prison rebellions see centerfold

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

WORKERS WORLD

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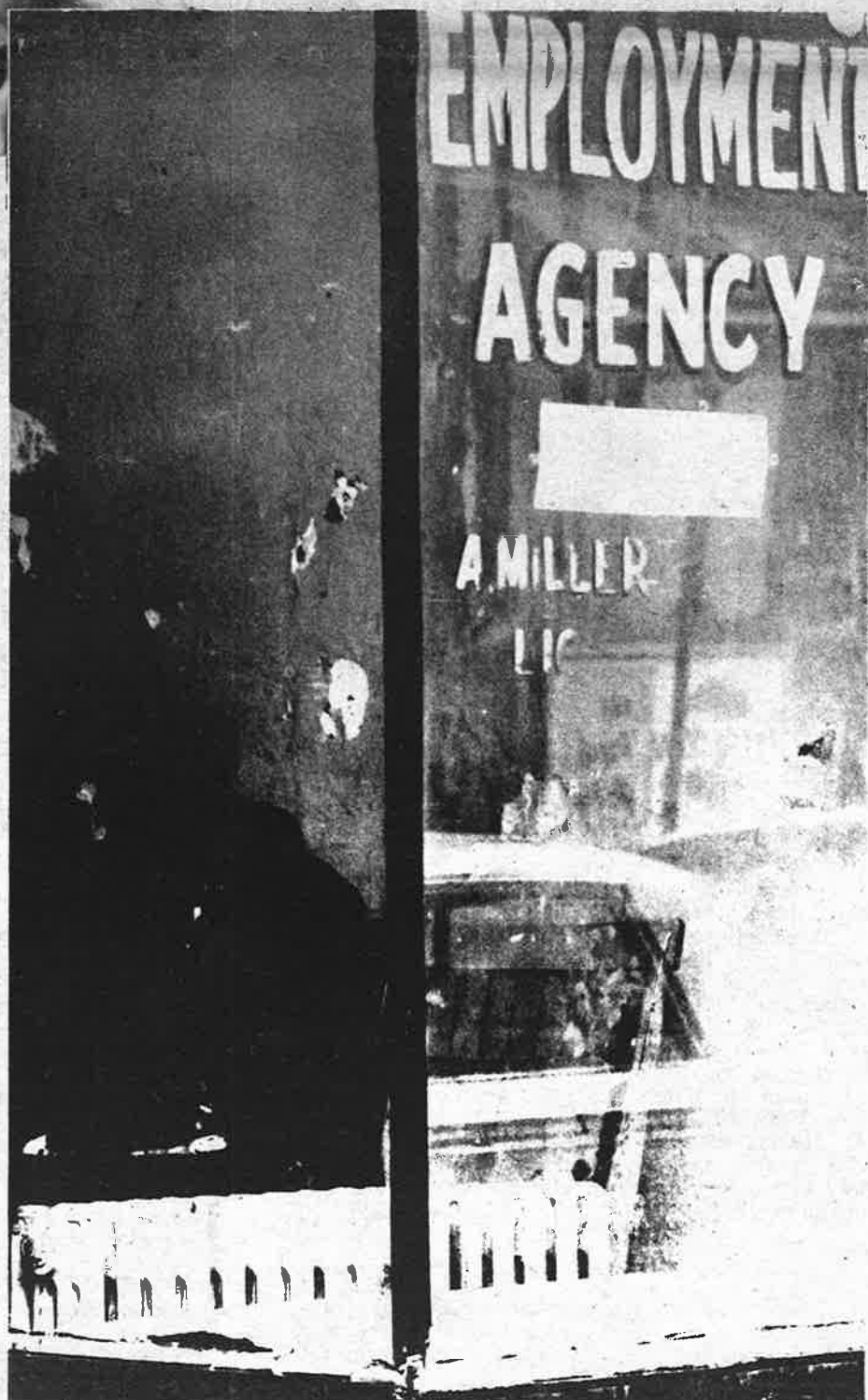
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**War and
unemployment:
the crisis
deepens**



Cartoon from Labor Today



People's China, Vietnamese, warn of expanded war

The U.S. adventure into Laos has brought the crisis in Indochina to a new stage. It poses an ever greater threat to the Peoples Republic of China, and completely punctures Nixon's promises to end the war through "Vietnamization." Both China and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam have issued statements that indicate how seriously they regard the invasion, and tell of their determination to work in solidarity with all the Indochinese peoples struggling against imperialist domination.

Statement of Provisional Revolutionary Government of Republic of South Vietnam

The U.S. imperialists are undertaking new and extremely serious military adventures on all battlefields in Indo-China, particularly in Laos, in the hope of making good their heavy setbacks in the war against the peoples of the Indo-Chinese countries.

In the past few days, under direct U.S. command and with intensive support of U.S. aircraft including B-52 strategic bombers, a very big force of U.S. and Saigon puppet troops, in co-ordination with the Vientiane puppet troops, chiefly Vang Pao's "special forces," and Thai mercenaries, has been conducting large-scale aggressive attacks against Laos.



Nguyen Thi Binh: Foreign Minister, Provisional Revolutionary Government of Vietnam.

In Cambodia, the U.S. imperialists have rushed the Saigon puppet troops backed by U.S. air forces to conduct a new campaign against the liberated areas in the northeastern part of the country. In south Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists have stepped up their plan of "special pacification," launched military operations in many places and a large-scale sweep involving tens of thousands of U.S.-puppet troops in Quang Tri Province, committing untold crimes against the south Vietnamese people. Meanwhile, they have repeatedly violated the air space and territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and bombed, strafed and spread poisonous chemicals on many places in its southern part. At present with the massing of troops next to the 17th Parallel, the U.S. imperialists are planning new war acts into the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

To cover up its crimes and to mislead and soothe public opinion, the Nixon administration has resorted to distortions and lies on the nature, aim, timing and

places of its operations and the scale of U.S. participation. But it can deceive nobody.

It is obvious that the U.S. imperialists are taking a new and extremely serious step of war escalation in Indo-China in furtherance of a long premeditated plan to realize their "Nixon doctrine" of using "Indo-Chinese to fight Indo-Chinese," "Asians to fight Asians." Reality has proved that U.S. President Nixon has betrayed his promise to bring an early end to the war made at his inauguration two years ago. Instead, he is prolonging, intensifying and expanding the war against the peoples of the three Indo-Chinese countries.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique have shown themselves more clearly to be an odious instrument of the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression. They have committed innumerable crimes against the south Vietnamese people, and now on order from their U.S. masters are pushing the puppet troops to commit crimes and to die for the U.S. imperialists in Cambodia and Laos.

The U.S. imperialists have grossly violated the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the three Indo-Chinese countries, trampled upon the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indo-China and sabotaged the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and all elementary principles of international law, creating an extremely dangerous situation in Indo-China, seriously jeopardizing peace in Southeast Asia and the world. This is an extremely insolent challenge to world opinion, including progressive opinion in the United States.

The more obstinately the Nixon administration intensifies and expands the war, the more disastrous setbacks it will sustain. Faithful to the Joint Declaration of the Indo-Chinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples, in the flush of their victorious and strong position, will tighten further their combat solidarity, persist in and step up their struggle to smash any scheme and military adventure of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, and to bring the just struggle of the peoples of the three Indo-Chinese countries to total victory.

The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam fully support the February 4 statement of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee, vehemently condemn and severely denounce the U.S. imperialists' and Saigon puppet troops' invasion of southern Laos and their intensification and expansion of war to the whole of Indo-China. The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences of their war escalation and expansion.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam earnestly calls on the governments and peoples of all peace-and-justice-loving countries in the world, all peace and democratic international organizations and the progressive people in the United States to stay in time the hands of the stubborn U.S. aggressors, and to intensify their support to the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples till total victory.

February 5, 1971
South Viet Nam

Statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China

On February 4, 1971, the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front issued a statement, strongly condemning U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok for their large-scale invasion of Laos and urgently calling on the army-men and people of the whole country to strengthen their unity with the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples and rise in battle so as to resolutely defeat the new military adventure of the U.S. aggressors and defend the sovereignty, independence and neutrality of their country. The Chinese Government and people express their firmest support to this solemn statement of the Laotian Patriotic Front.



Chairman Mao Tse-tung with Lin Biao

In disregard of the strong opposition of the three peoples of Indo-China and the people of the whole world, U.S. imperialism, which is aggressive by nature, is pushing forward at an accelerated tempo its plan of expanding the war of aggression in Indo-China. A few days ago, the Nixon government was still evasive and was trying to cover up its criminal scheme. Now, throwing off its disguise and baring its ferocious features, it has flagrantly invaded Laos. The U.S. aggressors and their lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok have dispatched armed forces in the tens of thousands to launch large-scale attacks on the southern areas of Laos from the air and on the ground. At the same time, the U.S. aggressors have sent large numbers of additional Saigon puppet troops to invade the eastern areas of Cambodia and are wildly plotting to launch a sudden attack on north Viet Nam. Such rabid acts on the part of the Nixon government can only arouse the Laotian people and the other peoples of Indo-China to even more resolute resistance and hasten its thorough defeat.

The large-scale invasion of Laos by U.S. imperialism is a grave provocation not only against the three peoples of Indo-China but against the Chinese people and the people of the whole world as well. Laos is a close neighbour of China. The Chinese and Laotian peoples are intimate brothers. The Chinese Government and people have long been resolved to make all-out efforts in giving support and assistance to the peoples of Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia to "defeat the U.S. aggressors and all their running dogs!"

Today Vietnam,

TOMORROW KOREA?

an interview with

Kim Il Sung

President of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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WORLD VIEW PUBLISHERS
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U.S. getting Vietnam offshore oil for a song

by P. Meisner

"Look for the motive" is the standard advice of fictional detectives investigating a murder. But when mass murder in real life is involved, when the crime is a genocidal war, mustn't uncovering the motive be that much more important?

The motive behind U.S. aggression in Indochina was stated as long ago as 1953 when Eisenhower told a Governors' conference about the tin, tungsten, rubber and other vital materials in that part of the world. But now U.S. entrepreneurs are drooling over another commodity that should yield them even greater profits—oil.

Within the last year, a potentially huge source of petroleum has been under intensive exploration by 10 U.S. oil companies off the coast of South Vietnam. British, Dutch, Japanese and U.S. companies are also exploring the coasts of Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia for crude oil. The U.S.-puppet regime in South Vietnam has already granted drilling rights to the oil monopolies.

Back in March 1970, Fortune magazine, a highly influential Wall Street publication, wrote extensively on the oil exploration taking place off the Southeast Asian coastlines. Fortune

pointed out:

"Major companies are eager to diversify their sources of petroleum because of political uncertainties in the Middle East, the world's major source of crude today. Moreover, Southeast Asian oil is extremely low in sulphur content and thus is increasingly favored in the pollution-conscious markets of the U.S. and Japan."

The lust of U.S. capital for Vietnamese oil has been intensified by the recent Teheran agreements between the imperialist oil barons and the oil-producing countries. By banding together and striking at a time when imperialism is overextended, trying to crush people's wars all over the world, the Third World countries have been able to get a larger percentage of the profits than before.

The agreement signed at Teheran gives the oil producers about 70% of the profits. By comparison, South Vietnam will only get 50% at the most from its recent contracts with the U.S. Thus does imperialism reward its puppets! Contractual robbery like this makes the U.S. willing to fight even harder to hold onto its colony—down to the last Vietnamese man, woman and child.

The oil settlement reached in Teheran, Iran, will have repercussions that

go far beyond the concessions granted by the Western oil monopolies to the Persian Gulf petroleum-producing countries. The first to understand this, of course, was Wall Street.

While the U.S. and European oil corporations concluded their negotiations with the Persian Gulf countries in more or less diplomatic fashion, the New York Times' editorial board wasted no time in expressing the U.S. oil companies' bitterness towards those countries and, in fact, towards all neo-colonial countries. In an editorial published on February 16, entitled "Surrender in Teheran," the Times stated:

"The surrender of the Western oil companies in Teheran to the demands of the Persian Gulf petroleum-producing nations is a dramatic demonstration of the power that an effective cartel of raw materials producers can exert upon the highly industrialized nations of Western Europe and Japan—and upon the international corporations which have previously held the whip hand in the world oil market.

"Its significance goes far beyond the additional billions of dollars that affected oil consumers will have to pay in the years ahead. Inevitably, it will encourage producers of other major raw materials to try to organize simi-

lar cartels as a means of winning comparable price increases for their products."

Thus, what gravely disturbed Wall Street was not so much the immediate demands won by the oil-producing countries, but the economic power used against the Western imperialist powers to recover some control over their own natural resources.

The editors of the Times also had the arrogance to blame the oil-producing countries for the increased prices the oil monopolies will pass on to the oil-consuming nations. But these imperialist pundits on 43rd Street forgot to mention that U.S. oil corporations steal \$2 billion in profits from the Middle East every year!

Also significant in the Teheran oil talks was the inability of the Western oil monopolies to use their usual strongarm negotiating tactics against the individual oil-producing countries. In the past, the oil corporations could threaten to shift oil production from one country to another as leverage against the demands of any single oil-producing nation. But for the first time, the oil-producing countries banded together against the oil monopolies. This really

(continued on page 13)

U.S. overseers in Laos

10,000 "diplomatic agents" and a forest of radar poles

(Reprinted from "Vietnam Courier," Dec. 14, 1970. Excerpts from an article by Bun Thoong, a Lao journalist.)

The CIA tentacle of the U.S. octopus operates in a half-overt manner, while the USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) tentacle does not.

USAID is housed in about one hundred buildings lying in a vast compound surrounded by a thick high wall in the centre of Vientiane. It is known to all Vientianese as it lays hands on everything related to the daily life of the inhabitants—rice, water, wages, prices, goods—in Vientiane as well as other towns controlled by the Lao rightist elements.

It is heavily protected by an army of guards recruited from Thailand. Instead of uniforms they wear a livery and carry a bludgeon with a pistol bulging on their hips instead of a rifle.

What kind of aid does the U.S. grant to the Lao rightist elements? Look at the T 28 planes flying over Vientiane, the tanks and armoured cars crowding the Chinaimo barracks, the petrol tank farm and ammunition dumps in and around the capitol city. They are familiar to everyone.

Nevertheless the U.S. persists in calling USAID an economic and financial aid organ and the USAID compound a "civilian" quarter. If it is so, why are there so many radar poles, radio antennae, thick concrete-walled depots and plenty of "guards" together with a swarm of military attaches of the U.S. land force, air force and Navy.

Asked why, Laos being a landlocked country, there are naval officers among the American military attaches in the U.S. Embassy, an American diplomat after some embarrassment pointed his finger at a



Pathet Lao soldiers dig out cave for protection against U.S. saturation bombings.

map showing the Mekong River as if to say that there is water there, too.

That is why, despite all U.S. assertions to the contrary, nobody in Vientiane would believe that USAID is a purely "economic" body. The Thai sentries simply say: "USAID passes are the only valid admission into the compound even if the visitor is a high-ranking official in the government." Such paper-checkings do not frequently occur, because any visit to USAID is usually preceded by a U.S. Embassy car. But once a vice-minister of the Vientiane government was summoned by the USAID director, his car was halted by a guard who wanted to see his papers. He produced his vice-minister's credentials bearing a three-headed red elephant seal. But he was denied entry because he had no pass issued by the USAID office.

Fretting and fuming, the vice-minister heaved a sigh: "A state in a state!" No, in the eyes of our Lao people, this is a state treading on another state's neck.

The Vientianese call USAID by its true name: a U.S. military organ. In fact the USAID is fully equipped to become a U.S. military command in Laos. There are in it plenty of American operational officers of the three services and CIA intelligence officers. All Vientianese understand that plans and orders of operations given to all units of the rightist army, from Vang Pao's bandits to the Vientiane regular troops, have to come from USAID.

Another important tentacle of the U.S. octopus in

Laos is the U.S. Vientiane Embassy. It occupies a vast area near the "Black Tower," in the centre of the city....

The Lao functionaries in Vientiane like to tell an old story: after the signing of the Geneva Agreement on Laos in 1962 and the formation of the tripartite coalition government, Quinim Pholsena, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, sent to the various embassies in Vientiane a note asking them to submit the lists of their diplomatic and non-diplomatic personnel. The lists drawn up by the foreign missions including those of socialist, neutral and western countries itemized each about some dozen names of people entitled to diplomatic privileges. However, the U.S. Embassy supplied a list of 300 with diplomatic status, while keeping mum about others.

A simple calculation would put this number at one thousand (in 1962). At that time, implementing the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, the U.S. declared it had withdrawn from Laos about 700 men of its military service, but sent back to Vientiane (to mention only this city) about 1,000 diplomatic agents. This was the time when the U.S. hands were still tied up by many political commitments. After the CIA-masterminded assassination of Quinim Pholsena in April 1963 and the coup d'etat overthrowing the tripartite coalition government, none of the subsequent foreign ministers of the Vientiane government dare ask the American ambassador about the ten thousand Americans present in Laos....

editorial

The two-fold character of the war crisis

The crisis of U.S. imperialism has reached a new stage. A perpetual war crisis is now accompanied by a deepening economic crisis at home. It is the simultaneity of these two forms of the capitalist crisis which is new and significant. Until recently, war abroad has been a way of avoiding economic crisis at home. Now the war drags on and the recession gets deeper.

The U.S. capitalists have survived and grown richer during many wars and recessions in the past. But previously it has been a cyclical process. The spoils of imperialist war have given the rulers a margin of profit to siphon off to the working class. The heavy reliance on artificial stimulation of the economy through militarization has also been a principle factor in keeping the decadent profit system alive and functioning.

For all the plaudits heaped upon the New Deal for "saving capitalism," the truth is that the economic crisis was not ended until the U.S. decided to embark upon conquest in Asia and Europe. The Korean war was no less instrumental in bolstering the economy in the post WWII period. And the initial military spending for the Vietnam war temporarily nipped a recession in the bud.

10 years of war bring recession

After a decade of war, it is clear that the policy of imperialism abroad has failed to avert economic crisis. Instead of softening class antagonisms, instead of propping up the economic system, ten years of war have sharpened the antagonisms and brought increased economic hardships to the working class and the oppressed people.

Unemployment is rising; inflation is rampant; social services — schools, hospitals, welfare, medicine — are being abandoned at breakneck speed. And now Nixon is putting on the pressure to lower wages while letting profits soar.

The longer the war goes on, the deeper the recession gets. This is the two-fold crisis of imperialism. And this crisis is just beginning to open up in all its awesome dimensions.

The capitalist class will inevitably seek to solve this crisis by taking more war measures, by cracking down on the working class, by stepping up the war against Black America and the other oppressed peoples at home. For the monopolies it is a crisis in how to maintain their profits, how to squeeze more and more out of the workers at home and abroad, how to conquer more spheres of exploitation in the struggle for world domination. For the working class and oppressed people, the crisis is how to answer back the developing onslaught of the capitalists, how to resist the layoffs, the wage cuts, the speedups, the cutbacks in the elementary social services.

workers and bosses headed for clash

The two basic classes in society are heading toward an inevitable clash. There is no way out of the crisis on the basis of capitalism. Private ownership of banks, factories, mines, land and all the wealth of society is at the root of the crisis in the first place. Imperialist war, the drive for profits and periodic economic crises are congenital to the system. Any appeal to the capitalist class' reason or morality is doomed to failure.

The system is bankrupt and must be replaced by a system in which economic life is carried on to serve the needs of the vast majority of the working people and not one in which economic life is carried on for the enrichment of a few non-working exploiters. Only the socialist revolution will end imperialist war and economic crises forever.

On the situation in Laos...



You stupid, ignorant, brass-brained numbskulls, you told me this time we'd score a touchdown.



Workers World Party,

I thought I'd write a quick letter telling you about a rally held here last Monday (Feb. 8).

A recruiter from Bethlehem Steel was on campus and a group called Friends of the Pike County Association circulated petitions and put on skits in an indoor protest demonstration.

Pike County is a mountain county, the poorest county in the country, and Bethlehem Steel is its chief exploiter.

The "modern" methods of mining currently popular are strip mining and augering causing huge drills. Strip mining means simply clearing the land of everything that is on it in order to get at the coal. Obviously it completely devastates the land and leaves it in a state of total ruin.

Augering is equally as destructive and much more wasteful. There has been a lot of protest to these methods, and coal companies make feeble attempts to convince people they restore "value" to the land, and in prominent newspaper ads show pictures of strip mined land with fruit trees on it.

Of course, this planting is done in very few cases for the sake of publicity, and it is almost impossible to "reclaim" the land of the steep mountain regions anyway; the pictures are of the flatlands of Western Kentucky.

The rally was attended by about 300 people, and at its conclusion everyone moved to the building where the recruiting was supposed to be going on, but no one could get in. A few hours later two women were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct for sitting in a stairway which the dean

of students was walking down.

The rally could be an indication that activity could be picking up again around here.

Power to the people,
Lexington, Ky.

Dear Friends,

The Federazione Studenti Africani in Italia, mass organization of African students in Italy, has recently created in its seat at Padova a center of information and documentation concerning the revolutionary struggles of the people of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and of the proletariat in Western countries.

Aware of the valid contribution that your periodical WORKERS WORLD could give to such an undertaking the federation asks three subscriptions.

We send you best wishes.

The Secretary of Information

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are still working and fighting for the revolution, for now from Cuba. We've seen your newspaper and have of course been following your organization's development for some time and feel we have a lot in common. We would like to know more about your position and practice, and think the newspaper coming regularly would be of help. Also, if any of your militants visit Cuba, we would like to talk with them.

All power to the people!

(From two North Americans now living in Cuba.)

con un abrazo revolucionario
Havana, Cuba

QUOTE —

On February 13 CBS asked people the question, "What do you think of having a volunteer army?"

A Black GI in Vietnam responded: "It would be a poor man's army fighting a rich man's war."

in short

Joel Meyers home for 5 hours

Can prisoners help their families in a crisis? Can prisoners even help themselves if they are ill in prison? For thousands of people in U.S. concentration camps the answer to both these questions is no—if their family can't travel to see them or can't afford legal assistance, the prisoner spends his or her whole sentence totally at the mercy of the prison authorities. But draft resister Joel Meyers is a fighter, and he has family and friends and an organization to help him from the outside. Joel, who is a leading member of Youth Against War & Fascism, is serving a 3 1/2 year sentence at Lewisburg Penitentiary for refusing to be drafted into the imperialist army. Joel has had trouble with his neck since November, but for four months prison officials did nothing for him, claiming that their X-ray machine was out of order. When faced with a possible negligence claim filed by YAWF, however, they did finally begin to treat Joel and diagnosed the problem as a serious type of tumor which could require extensive and delicate surgery. Lewisburg's warden announced plans to ship Joel to the main Federal prison hospital at Springfield, Missouri.

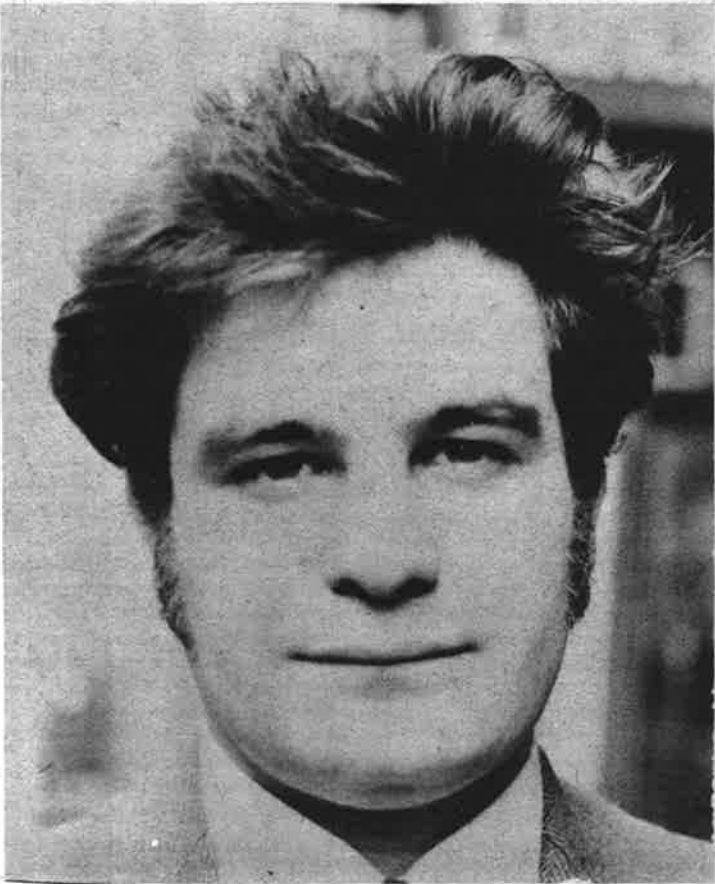
Never trust a hack

One thing every prisoner knows is: never trust a hack (a guard) and never trust the hack's doctor. Joel got word of the sudden move to his wife and to YAWF and plans were made to double-check the prison doctor's diagnosis. At the same time that YAWF was arranging for proper medical treatment for Joel, he was entitled to a visit home for his grandmother's funeral. The prison officials insisted that he be "guarded" on his trip home. YAWF and the family was forced to pay \$150

for the hack who accompanied Joel, in his own car, for five hours. During the day Joel was home with his family he was able to consult with a competent medical specialist on the operation prison authorities had ordered. The doctor found no tumor, but a herniated disk which called for a much simpler treatment and no surgery. Prison doctors had to agree that no operation would be performed without consultation with Joel's doctor. So Joel won this round. He has always been a determined fighter; that's why he's in prison—for fighting the imperialist war in Indochina. At his induction Joel gave out anti-war leaflets to fellow draftees. Fort Hamilton brass had six MPs throw him out of the induction center and ordered him not to come back. Joel complied with that order—but was later convicted of refusing induction and got a three and a half year sentence.

Parole denied

His first parole hearing came up recently. Parole was denied, though nearly all draft resisters are routinely released on parole after two years. Prison authorities don't want another strong anti-imperialist fighter on the streets. They threaten that Joel will have to max-out (serve his full time) his sentence to be completed in 1972. The hacks have already taken away 60 days' good-time, after a work stoppage at the prison last summer. (Joel was charged with having organized the action and was put in solitary for 30 days.) Joel is challenging the parole denial and YAWF will assist with that action as well as keep track of Joel's medical situation. Joel was home for only five hours. But he said that although for those five hours he was released from a maximum security prison, anywhere you go in this country is at least a minimum security prison.



Anti-imperialist fighter, Joel Meyers.

Depressed about the war in Indochina? Here's a note to brighten your day. ADMIRAL THOMAS H. MOORER, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon executive committee that runs the war in Asia and U.S. aggression all over the world, doesn't let the kill and over-kill get him down. The Admiral recently appeared center-stage at the 24th annual Washington Mardi Gras Ball, escorting the festival queen. The ballroom was decorated with a replica of a Southern plantation mansion even down to the Spanish moss, and plane loads of rich Louisianans flew in for the event. Senator Russell Long was there wearing a white tunic and plume, along with 200 other masked revelers of the Mystical Order of the Krewe—a fun and games group of middle-aged politicians. There was just one thing missing: with all those pigs assembled in one place, what a shame there wasn't a barbecue.

The SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (SWP) has confused a lot of youth by saying it is wrong to refuse the draft, and counterposing resistance in the army to draft resistance...as if it were unprincipled to support both kinds of struggle against the imperialist war machine. But what does their "resistance" in the army come down to in practice? On February 14, in a discussion on radio CBS-FM in New York City, ex-serviceman Joe Miles of the SWP said he would not have refused orders to shoot Vietnamese if he had been sent to Vietnam. Thus, this so-called "socialist" party turns out to be more reactionary than thousands of youth who follow their instincts and fight the fascist brass at every level, whether by going AWOL, refusing the draft, or punching their sergeant in the mouth.

The hatred of the South Vietnamese people toward the U.S.-puppet Thieu and his army is so great that some 150,000 troops desert each year, according to official sources. What happens to these SOUTH VIETNAMESE DESERTERS if they are caught? A

recent article in the N.Y. Times told some of the grisly facts. They are called the "coolies of the battlefield," because they are sent right to the front and assigned to the most dangerous tasks—a virtual death sentence. There are several hundred "forced labor" companies in the puppet army. These men cannot carry weapons and suffer the highest fatalities of the war.

They are not allowed to speak to other soldiers, but must do things like clear the dead from the battlefield. If they are killed in combat, their families are not even notified and are entitled to no benefits. Since they are provided no uniforms, they must beg rags from the other soldiers. Any soldier caught giving them food or money will be disciplined.

Most of these men went AWOL to see their families after many years' separation. One fellow had returned home for his mother's funeral, then voluntarily went back to his company. But he was convicted of desertion anyway. Even death does not free them. They are not permitted coffins, but are buried in chains to show they are still prisoners.

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Latest Nevada industry: legalized prostitution

by Ellen Pierce

"I'm accepted here now just like any other businessman...I even get invitations to make speeches at the Lions and the Kiwanis."

This boast of success comes from Joe Conforte, a pimp who is making loads of money in Storey County, Nevada, where prostitution is now legal.

By legalizing prostitution, the "pillars of the community" have put their stamp of approval not on the prostitutes — they will never be asked to address the Ladies' Auxiliary — but on the pimp who profits off the lowest form of exploitation. Under the excuse of "making it legal and sanitary," as county commissioner Del Carlo put it, local businessmen are exploring the possibilities — and profitability — of turning prostitution into a major industry of the area, which is only a few miles from Reno. (The \$1,000-

a-month license fee paid by Conforte already accounts for 20 per cent of the county budget and he is making so much money that he plans to retire soon and start a non-profit organization to lobby for legalization).

Off the pimp

While Conforte is having such success as a businessman and public speaker, life is not so wonderful for the prostitutes. He claims they earn \$500 to \$1,000 a week (at \$10 for 20 minutes — much of which he pockets) and can take a vacation (unpaid, of course) for as long as they like after three weeks of steady work. But the women live in conditions of semi-slavery in trailers surrounded by a chain fence.

They are not allowed more than two incoming and two outgoing phone

calls a week and cannot spend more than 45 minutes at the local bar after working a shift. These rules are calculated to ensure that Conforte gets his profit and that none of the women works outside of his monopoly.

The smirking tone of an article describing this expansion of legalized prostitution in Nevada, appearing in the New York Times on Feb. 14, reveals almost as much as its facts. Conforte is referred to as an "entrepreneur," a "one-man lobby for the industry" and, mildly disapprovingly, as a "character." His observations and views are quoted extensively. He is never, ever called a pimp.

The prostitutes, on the other hand, are only mentioned in passing. The reporter did not bother to interview "the girls" (as he calls them). Nor does he mention how many of the 20 women come from oppressed Black, Chicano or Indian minorities.

Another kind of exploitation

Storey County is a mining area. For years men, women and even children have been exploited in dangerous, back-breaking work in the mines while fabulous profits enrich their bosses. From this kind of exploitation they go to selling women's bodies as only another business enterprise for the capitalists. If their bourgeois morality or sensitivity is offended they can console themselves with their money. While no woman should be jailed or ostracized by bourgeois society for an act of survival, these parasites who

exploit her are criminals.

The legalization of prostitution has nothing in common with women's liberation, sexual or otherwise; it just reasserts the idea of women as objects or property. And the argument that "prostitution will always exist, so why not make it clean and legal" is just as false.

Revolution ended

prostitution in China

In China, for example, where the sale of female children was common among millions of desperately poor families, prostitution no longer exists. But it took a revolution to accomplish this.

Anti-communist arguments sometimes attack socialist countries as dull and prudish because they lack strip-tease shows, topless waitresses and the other chauvinist entertainments so profitable and popular in "democratic" countries. Even though according to bourgeois morality, prostitutes (but not their customers) are bad, these reactionaries never compliment socialism for eliminating prostitution (along with the "moral" forms of exploitation of all working people).

Meanwhile, Joe Conforte predicts that business will be good for him in spite of the so-called sexual revolution. "Do you think that all the home cooking in the world will close all the good restaurants?" he asks philosophically.

No, Mr. Pimp, but revolution will close down your business and all other exploitation.

If you want to please the bosses ARBITRATE

by Bill Allen

In my shop arbitration is difficult to expose because the Union won an important case three years ago. Most of the Sisters and Brothers still remember it.

In this particular case (it was about hiring practices) arbitration itself was minor. There were work stoppages, slowdowns and demonstrations that had forced the issue to arbitration. And even while the case was being arbitrated, a great many workers let it be known that if the Union didn't win the arbitration — they were going to continue the fight.

Well, I'm glad the Union won the case, but it opened the door for the Company and the Union bureaucrats to dull the militancy in the shop. From then until recently the Union bureaucracy has looked at all major grievances (those where mass action is needed) through arbitration-tinted glasses.

For example, about a year ago the company posted an assigned overtime list for the week. After the list had been up for 24 hours the company realized that they didn't need that much overtime, so they removed, altered and reposted the list. Now, most of the women and men had made advance arrangements (baby-sitters — late suppers, etc.) to work overtime. When they saw that their names were removed, they were furious. The grievance was brought to the shop committee (the stewards).

The stewards told all the people that overtime was suspended for everyone. To go slow, real slow, during normal work hours. Then the shop committee asked the executive board (the bureaucrats) to go to the company and demand that they either reinstate the original overtime list or pay those people whose names had been removed, whether they worked or not. It was assigned to them in writing by the company and it was theirs. The executive board said, OK, but first stop

the slowdown so they could meet with the company in an "atmosphere of good faith." The stewards mistakenly agreed.

The Union gave their demand to the company. They refused. Furthermore the company said they were not legally bound to pay and the Union could take it to arbitration if they wished.

The next day a membership meeting was called. The President of the Union opened the meeting as follows:

"We met with the Company yesterday. We told them cheapskates that they didn't have the right to alter a posted assigned overtime list. Furthermore, they should pay the people." Applause from the members followed. Then he said, "They kept refusing and we called them every dirty name you can think of. Didn't we, fellas?" Nods of agreement from the rest of the executive board. He continued, "But they kept holding firm, and we kept caucusing to try to figure out why. After hours of this we adjourned and went back to the Union office. The company had kept pushing to arbitrate."

At this point a sister yelled out, "OK, let's arbitrate it — we're right." More applause.

Then the Union President said, "Well, we thought so too. So, we got in touch with our Union lawyer. He told us that this type of case can go either way, and that most of them are lost."

It got very quiet. Then he said, "Now, I'm ready to spend every last dime in our treasury for a good Union cause. Arbitration is long and it's expensive. But our lawyers tell us we don't have much of a chance to win. Now you elected us and entrusted us with the finances of this Union. We will not take from \$15,000 to \$20,000 of your money, because that's what arbitration costs, and throw it down the drain."

Then someone yelled out, "OK, we don't arbitrate. What do we do now?"

This question was answered by a lot of shouting and raised hands.

The President called for order and said, "I'll tell you what we're going to do. Right after this meeting we're going right up to the company Pre-

sident's office. We're going to tell him that the company better not ever do this again — or else. And we'll tell them what "or else" means. Now I see it's getting late. Let's adjourn this meeting so we can go over there. There's beer and sandwiches in the back, help yourselves."

He hit the gavel, nodded to the other board members, and they all left.

There are many lessons in this example, but the one I wish to emphasize is how the company and the Union bureaucracy (and sometimes the government) use arbitration, real or proposed, to throw a struggle off the track and allow the workers to believe that arbitration and justice mean the same thing. Happily, this is changing now in my shop.

The company (with Union cooperation) has initiated a discipline program for workers with bad attendance and lateness records. It starts with written warnings, then escalates to suspensions and ultimately firings.

The bureaucrats' excuse for cooperating is they feel the Union doesn't have a chance with this type of case in arbitration. And it's probably true.

But we have had a couple of firings. There is a lot of grumbling among the rank and file. The shop committee feels that the Union leadership has not given them anything to fight with — and they're frustrated. There is a strong feeling among the people that something strong should be done — with or without the support of the Union leadership.

Another indication of the changing attitude toward arbitration was a brief but pointed argument the other day. A Black steward was telling the Union Vice President that the company discriminates against the Black Sisters and Brothers, and that he felt the Union should do something about it.

The V.P. said, "Yes, I know, but these discrimination cases are rough to prove in arbitration."

The steward replied, "Fuck arbitration, I didn't say anything about arbitration. I don't need any dog of a judge to tell me whether the company's racist or not. I know it is."

NEWS ITEM : CORPORATION LAYS OFF 1200
EMPLOYEES VIA RECORDED PHONE MESSAGE.



Buffalo tax rebellion brings workers to the streets

Special to Workers World

"from Buffalo YAWF

The war-weary, over-taxed American people are about at the end of their rope. The war in Southeast Asia has been dragging on for years now, the cost of living and unemployment rise every day and, on top of all that, the tax on working and poor people also rises every day.

Nelson Rockefeller, the governor of New York State, has now proposed a 1.1 billion dollar tax increase. Of course, Rocky made sure that the super-rich corporations (GE, GM, Bethlehem Steel, N.Y. Telephone, etc.) would only have to pay \$218 million of this hike—the workers and poor would have to pay the rest. These same corporations, some of which are owned by Rockefeller himself, are profiting directly from the war in Indochina. (the stock market rose to the highest its been in a long time since the invasion into Laos).

Working people don't profit from the war, in fact, they're hurt by it. As the war in Southeast Asia against the Indochinese people is being stepped up, the bosses are not only forcing us to fight and die in it, they're forcing us to pay for it. And now they want us to pay more!

It is against this backdrop of lower wages and higher taxes that the working people in this steel city are beginning to rebel.

Three weeks ago, a short letter from an angry taxpayer appeared in the letter column of the Buffalo Evening News asking people to attend a tax-hike protest rally in a working-class suburb of Buffalo. On only a day's notice, 200-300 angry taxpayers showed up. YAWF also attended the rally and distributed literature.

The meeting was largely disorganized and about the only thing really accomplished was to call for another meeting the following week. The lack of organization, however, couldn't hide the anger and frustration of Buffalo's working class. The people were overwhelmingly for the impeachment of Rockefeller and such actions as refusing to pay taxes and work stoppages were talked about.

Hearings not public

Subsequent "public" hearings on taxes got a lot of publicity in the bourgeois press urging people to attend. In a leaflet entitled "Stop this Robbery" YAWF demanded that the meetings be held after working hours so that the people most directly affected, the workers, could attend. We also demanded that the hearings be televised and held in facilities large enough for everyone who desired to attend (such facilities are readily available in Buffalo).

We also demanded a people-run hearing, not one controlled by the



Dan Bentivogli, Chairman of Buffalo YAWF, addresses rally.

same lying politicians who raise our taxes and their salaries every year.

For the people who could attend (300-400 each day), the meetings became a good lesson in how the ruling class runs things. Although the microphone was "open" to anyone who signed up, the businessmen, politicians, political hacks and property owners were always the first to the microphones. By the time the people in the crowd got their "chance" to speak, it was late afternoon and the room had practically emptied.

Of course, all of the bosses' stooges who spoke hit at the welfare budget and denounced the people on welfare as the cause of all the state's problems. To answer these paid liars, YAWF put out another leaflet for the second day of hearings entitled "Blame the Rich, Not the Poor."

welfare not the issue

The YAWF leaflet explained that unemployment was the reason people were forced on the welfare roll, and that the real welfare recipients are the Rockefellers, Morgans, Fords and DuPonts, who collect millions of dollars every day for literally doing nothing (compared with the \$56 per month per person that "welfare" hands out). The welfare cheaters are on Wall Street and pay no taxes, the leaflet explained.

Further, the issue of welfare is a bosses' trick used to split the workers and keep them arguing with each other. Welfare is a smokescreen used by the corporation-run government to hide the fact that they're stealing billions from

the working people, the leaflet pointed out.

The audience, largely middle-class and businessmen was hostile at first but Charlene Tracy and Dan Bentivogli from YAWF drew applause when they spoke on the points made in the leaflets.

The same middle-class homeowners who attempted to control the last taxpayers' rally tried again Feb. 21 at a rally held in downtown Buffalo across from city hall. This time they were joined by politicians. However, the important difference between this rally and the "public" hearings of the previous days was that the working public was there and was demanding to be heard. They had heard enough from politicians.

The politicians were booed from the time they first started speaking — none of the people had invited them; no one wanted to hear them. One of the politicians, frustrated by the constant crowd heckling, finally yelled, "I'm doing all I can—what else can I do—bomb the governor's office?" Everyone in the crowd cheered their approval of this suggestion.

Let the people speak

The YAWF contingent kept yelling and demanding that the politicians turn the mike over to the people. The unofficial "chair" of the rally, the homeowner who had invited the politicians, kept the microphone to himself. A squad from YAWF moved to

(continued on page 11)



(Photo: Betsy Harris)

The new life style — is it the revolution?

by Elizabeth Ross

One of the hottest subjects afoot today is the new "Life Style."

The way of life that shuns the establishment and above all the nuclear family, that refuses to conform to conservative dictates in dress, manners and morals, that calls for love not war, for communal living, irregular work hours and love of humanity instead of family — this life style is being attacked, embraced, and examined from every angle.

While Charles Reich, in his lyrical "Greening of America" proclaims it as the revolution itself, which will, without violence, lead to "economic equality and social ownership of the means of production," the financial pages of the New York Times (Feb. 14) takes an opposite approach and slyly informs investors looking for a fast buck that they could do worse than learn how to cater to "movement people." There's money in it, they say, and go on to give examples:

Take, for instance, Norman Stubbs, president of the East West Musical Instrument Company of San Francisco, whose company grossed \$750,000 in the last three years. He wears a pony-tail, lets his employees keep their own hours, and says, "business should be joyful instead of being pressed to the grindstone. It's possible to be gracious in business."

But lest would-be investors might think Mr. Stubbs' joyous graciousness could interfere with his profits, the Times hastens to allay their fears with another quote from

Mr. Stubbs. "I can't believe in socialism because I don't like to carry other people," he joyously exclaims.

And Allan Kueny, a silver-jewelry manufacturer in Charlestown, Mass., who lets his craftsmen keep their own timetable and gives them two months' paid vacation a year, also provided them with the fun of building him a swimming pool in the yard of his \$25,000 home. "It may provide the company with a handsome capital gain as the area is redeveloped.... Long-haired guys have to do business like everybody else," the article concludes.

It isn't true, of course. Many long-haired guys can and do work for a wage just like the vast majority of other Americans. All it proves is that the capitalist system breeds every kind of charlatan just as surely as a dead dog breeds maggots. And if there's money to be made out of movement people, somebody's going to make it even if they have to let their hair grow and allow their employees to work barefooted.

We have our own attitude to the new life style. We welcome it as a symptom of the great changes in consciousness that are sweeping the world. Unlike Charles Reich, we do not believe that it is an end in itself, or that it can replace the organized overthrow of the capitalist system.

Life styles are reflections of social realities. It was not large, tightly knit, God-fearing families that produced individual farming, but the needs of the individual farms that produced that kind of families. Now that family farms are disappearing, family ties are loosening, too, and have become burdensome and oppressive.

Nor was it the bourgeois life style, with authority centered in the father, and his sons eagerly looking forward to their rights of inheritance, that produced the system of private property, but on the contrary, it was that system that produced the narrow life style we are all too familiar with.

But capitalism in its convulsive decline cannot any more sustain its own institutions. Fathers are torn from their homes to fight in imperialist wars, mothers must work away from the home in order that their children will survive, and most wage earners can no longer afford to live in homes that will house any but the smallest families.

All of these social realities are pressing in on the youth of today and affecting their attitudes.

Many movement people don't know why they are turning off, though. They only know they want to get away from all the ugliness of the life they have been brought up in. In their despair they resort to drugs or mysticism, or fall for the seductive nonsense of a Charles Reich, who tells them they don't have to struggle to change the world—they're already changing it by the way they live and feel.

But the most thoughtful of the rebellious youth—the most determined and the most objective—look away from their own souls to world realities.

In the socialist revolution these youth see not a Utopia, but an indication of the way they want to travel. And they will join in the revolutionary struggle to make a new life style possible for everyone.

Tear down the concentration camps-- the real criminals are at large!

When we say that the U.S. prisons are nothing but concentration camps we mean that most of the people imprisoned are there because of this system. That doesn't mean that all prisoners are charged with political "crimes" or even that they were political activists when they were arrested. But it does mean that the vast majority of U.S. prisoners are Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano or the poor in general. Many of the prisoners held in the concentration camps have never even been tried or sentenced. They are in prison because they are too poor to raise the bail needed to get out.

But while most of the people in prisons are there because of the color of their skin or the poverty they suffer from, most of the criminals in this society are on the outside. Not only that, they are usually looked upon as the most respectable members of the community—the businessmen, the bankers, the politicians, etc.

Here's just one small example of how the real criminals never get put in prison:

The Labor Department reported on February 23 that almost 270,000 workers in private industry are due \$55.2 million in back wages as a result of violations of federal labor laws in the last six months. Robert D. Moran, administrator of the department's Wage and Hour Division, said that 132,000 workers received less than the minimum wage and 151,000 had not received time-and-a-half for overtime hours.

Here you have over one quarter of a million workers who were cheated, victims of the criminal bosses. But are those bosses in jail? Did the Labor Department publish the names of the bosses who are cheating 270,000 workers so that they could be prosecuted? No! Never! Why, if you tried to count the number of rich people who are in prison the figure would look something like this: .0001%.

Just the other day one of N.Y. Mayor Lindsay's city administrators, Marcus, (who was caught in a kickback scheme), got out of jail after serving only a

few months of his already light sentence.

The above crimes against the working people of this country are, of course, but a fraction of the crimes committed by the tiny clique of bankers and monopolists who rule this country. The Rockefellers, the Morgans, Fords, and duPonts are all responsible for the worst war crimes (along with Nixon, Agnew, Mitchell and their mad military advisers) against the people of Indochina, the Mideast, Latin America and the oppressed peoples right here at home.

The fact that almost all the prisoners in this country are Black, Puerto Rican or just plain poor, is clear evidence of the prejudice of the system against the oppressed and the poor and makes them all political prisoners. But in addition many prisoners, like Malcolm X and Eldridge Cleaver, become strong revolutionary fighters in prison.

Supposing 70 to 80 per cent of the prisoners in this country were rich people? Wouldn't that signify a political act? Wouldn't the bosses and the bankers be screaming about persecution and prejudice?

Therefore, we demand the immediate abolition of the concentration camps for the poor and the oppressed. Let the prisoners be paroled to their families or organizations of the people. If anyone objects that there are dangerous "criminals" being released, let the people decide who is "dangerous." The people can set up courts of their own and replace the courts run by racist judges and cops. If the communities have to be safeguarded, let the people organize self-defense groups to do the job. No more mercenary armies of racist police in the Black and Puerto Rican communities!

And remember, the U.S. concentration camps are really just a substitute for housing, jobs and education, for the poor! The real criminals in this country are those who run it and they are at large, armed and dangerous!

**Tear down the concentration camps!
Free the prisoners!**



Prisons explode from coast to coast

Auburn

AUBURN, Feb. 24—The Auburn Six fought another round in the court today while demonstrators outside drowned out much of the proceeding with militant chants in their support. The six prisoners were being arraigned in chains on charges coming out of the November rebellion at the New York State prison facility, when nearly 1700 inmates rebelled, seized the major prison buildings and held hostages for the better part of a day.

The six have been singled out of some 250 prisoners held in segregation since the rebellion. These 250 in turn are "suspected" of leading the revolt in which nearly every inmate at the prison participated. In today's arraignment, all six pleaded not guilty and made motions to be removed from the

prison because their lives are in jeopardy there. They also requested that the chains which they had to wear into court be removed. Judge Sapperstein denied most of the defense motions.

News about the inhuman and sadistic conditions at the prison, which houses mostly Black and Puerto Rican inmates, has filtered out around the state, largely because of letters written by dozens of the prisoners to Youth Against War & Fascism, organizers of today's demonstration. The response has been encouraging, and two hundred people came to this isolated town today to support the besieged prisoners. Organizations represented were the Black Students Union of Oneonta, the Foco Coffee House from Oneonta, the Syracuse Red Star Collective, the Puerto Rican Organization from Syracuse, and Buffalo and New York YAWF. Students came from Cornell, Ithaca College and Auburn Community College and there were individuals from Utica and Cortland. There were also 14 relatives of imprisoned men who demonstrated.

Altogether, 200 people marched for four hours, first at the courthouse during the arraignments, and later at the jail itself. (Among the "notables" observing the demonstration was none other than the mayor of Auburn himself.) This town, which lives almost completely off the prison and is almost entirely white, is visibly uptight about the resistance to this racist concentration camp.

The prisoners are subjected to daily and hourly harassment and brutality at this "correction" facility. It was learned today that some of the men are being taken up on the roof of the main building and beaten. One of the Auburn Six appeared in court today with several bandages on his arm and leg from a previous beating. (At their last court appearance, several of the prisoners were beaten right before the spectators.)

Although the courtroom was packed with pigs and the judge allowed only a small group of supporters, the Third World Caucus of YAWF was able to send in a delegation, and then arranged that all other organizations present were able to have an observer in the courtroom for at least part of the session.

Most of the defendants were represented in court by Richard Greenberg, an attorney retained by Youth Against War & Fascism. Greenberg, in making the motion that their chains be removed before proceeding further, said that their shackles were "an outrage,

"Stand tall and defend"

The following letter was sent out of Auburn prison through Attorney Jeff Glen from Charles Leon Hill. He introduced himself in court February 24 as Leon Writer for the People.

February 13, 1971

Greetings to the brothers and sisters,

All power to the people. Right on! Power to the comrades. Received the telegram this evening. (He is referring to a telegram YAWF sent the prisoners telling them of a federal suit that was going to be filed to sue the prison guards for beating the Auburn 6 in court, February 8.—ed.) It's boss to know you are taking care of business. It's fuel to our fire.

We are following advice of the letter. Tonight we will institute a class to get all the facts together and get ourselves together if we are cross examined by the District Attorney on the 22nd. I will act as the District Attorney and be awful severe so there won't be any slip-ups on the 22nd of this month.

The comrades Sharon Chin (of the YAWF Third World Caucus—ed.) and the other sisters and brothers inspired us on Tuesday (the day of the YAWF demonstration in Auburn.—ed.).

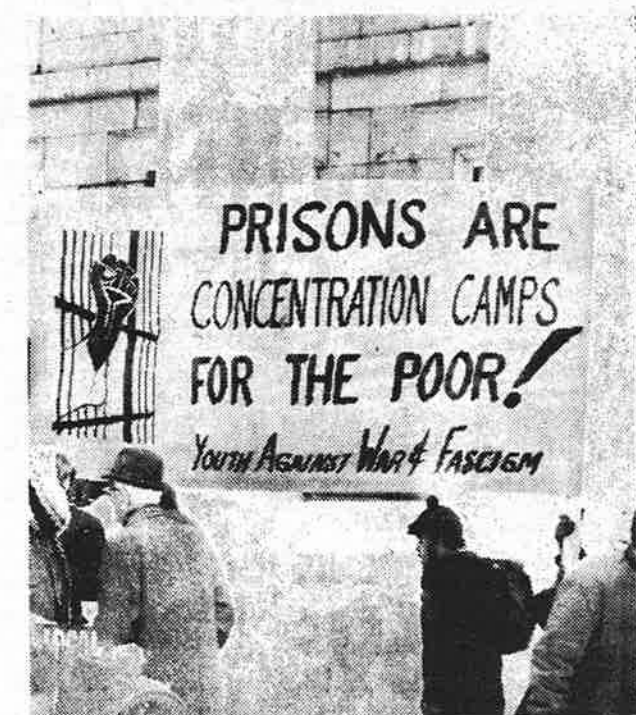
a reflection of the 400 years of slavery and exploitation that the Black people of this nation have had to endure."

Dade County, Fla.

DADE COUNTY, Fla., Feb. 23—Sixty-four prisoners in the maximum security section of Raiford Prison were injured by "trigger-happy" guards who shot wildly into a group of men on the ball diamond of the prison on February 12. The incident was described by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson as a "prisoner-shoot" after Anderson received letters from 43 of the prisoners.

Shortly after Anderson's column appeared on February 19, attorney Carol Wild Scott, an ACLU lawyer representing 36 of the inmates in a civil rights suit, was shot in the door of her home at 4:50 a.m. She is in serious condition with bullet wounds in her chest.

Atty. Scott had described the prison shootings



YAWF demonstrators outside of Auburn prison.



Defy the pig regime"

They made us know the beauty and joy of being part of the people's struggle. Who are we but the wishes of the people's expression? We have a duty to continue to be worthy of the people's concern and we live and will die to be a part of this honorable station.

These dogs refuse to give us the packages the brothers and sisters sent us. They refuse to allow us to write the YAWF even though Sharon Chin is on the court record that she is our legal assistant. We will make these fascist dogs follow the law that they get their power from.

Brother Jeff, we the Auburn 6, and all the prisoners of Auburn concentration camp who dare to stand tall and defy the pig regime, stretch our hands to you in the power embrace and our hearts, souls, will, our collective passion say to you, thank you for being a brother.

The YAWF and all the comrades throughout the planet will march side by side destroying capitalism, burying racism, offing pigs, building a brave new revolutionary haven where the people, the masses, is the highest value.

Always a brother and comrade,
Charles Leon Hill, 62401
Segregation H-2

as the "Raiford Massacre," a label born out by the letters to Anderson and the independent verification of four prison employees and one prison official.

The ghastly events of February 12 occurred when the men struck for prison reforms. According to the 43 letters and eyewitnesses to the event, guards with shotguns and submachineguns began firing into the men, who were either lying or sitting on the ground in passive protest. The shooting was done at point blank range with no warning, and large-caliber deer slugs were later removed from at least two of the victims. One witness said the guards "made a shooting gallery out of the ball field with live ammunition and human targets."

Other prisoners who tried to remove the wounded men from the ball field were also brutalized. Two were treated at the hospital for swollen testicles after they had been brutally kicked while trying to carry other wounded men from the yard.

YAWF Prisoners Solidarity Committee

Launches campaign to abolish concentration camps

JOHN D. MITCHELL:

THE UNDERSIGNED DEMAND THE ABOLITION OF U.S. CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The United States prison system is barbaric and inhuman. The proof? Prisoners rebel again and again in the face of overwhelming force wielded by cruel and sadistic officials. Obviously, for thousands of prisoners, death or harsh retribution has become preferable to rotting their lives away in overcrowded dungeons.

In Soledad Prison, The Tombs, Auburn N.Y., Dade County, Florida, Baltimore, Cleveland, Leavenworth and dozens of other concentration camps where rebellions have erupted the same gruesome and horrifying conditions have been laid bare: beatings, solitary confinement, food not fit for animals, the crudest medical care, the loss of all legal, civil and political rights, isolation from family, friends and the rest of society.

Not only are the prisons filled with political prisoners such as Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins, Angela Davis, Ruchel Magee, Martin Sostre, etc., but they have become veritable "housing for the poor." The overwhelming majority are Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano.

The prisons are exclusively for the oppressed and not for the real criminals. Corporate swindlers who fleece the people out of billions of dollars by illegal monopolistic price rises are not in jail. War criminals who order the massacre of the Indo-Chinese peoples are not in jail. Big business polluters who poison the air, the sea and the land are not in jail. Behind the walls are the poor, the jobless, the hungry—perpetually harassed by the police, given turnstile justice by high-paid judicial tyrants and sentenced to "cruel and unusual punishment."

The U.S. Government talks a great deal about abolishing alleged concentration camps in other countries. But every state in the union has its own American variety of Auschwitz and Buchenwald. We demand the abolition of the concentration camp system, the razing of the concentration camps themselves and that the prisoners be released in the custody of their families, friends or responsible organizations of the people.

Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism
58 West 25th St. N.Y. N.Y. 10010
(212) 989 3932, 242 9225, 675 2520

NAME	ADDRESS
NAME	ADDRESS
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Detroit

DETROIT, Feb. 14—Twelve prisoners in Wayne County Jail are on a hunger strike demanding an end to shakedowns, prompt medical treatment and the right to have magazines and books in their cells. The leaders of the strike are James Darden, a Black Panther held on \$10,000 bail and John Sinclair, of the White Panther Party, presently held at Wayne County for trial on charges of conspiracy to bomb the Ann Arbor CIA recruiters in 1968.

The spirit and political consciousness on the cell block is very high. A Panther brother who was in for a few days on a frameup charge that was later dropped told members of Detroit YAWF that when he walked into the cell block, he was greeted with "Power to the People." One brother offered him a cigarette (a great sacrifice in jail) and told him that on this block the brothers believe in socialist principles! They sang revolutionary songs and kept the Panther up late into the night talking about the revolutionary movement.

They had also been very heartened by a demonstration at the prison on January 27 organized by Detroit YAWF. The temperature was below zero at the time, and the men inside spread the news about the demonstration throughout the prison.

Baltimore

BALTIMORE, Feb. 18—Prisoners in the Baltimore City Jail shook their clenched fists today and shouted encouragement to 40 demonstrators who marched around the building. The give-and-take between the imprisoned men and those on the outside giving voice to their demands was constant throughout the demonstration. One prisoner, able to get a message out, said the spirit of those in the concentration camp was as high as it had been during the rebellion yesterday.

The issues in Baltimore which the prisoners are raising are: amnesty for all prisoners who participated in the protest, better conditions in the prison; health inspection; judge review for all prisoners awaiting trial; and the release of Eddie Conway from solitary confinement. Conway is a Black Panther who was framed up on a murder charge and then thrown into solitary after the rebellion.

The incarcerated men cheered as a huge banner was unfurled reading, "Tear the Prisons Down." The demonstration was sponsored by the Committee to Defend Political Prisoners and was supported by New York and Wilmington Youth Against War & Fascism.

The racist prison authorities are now charging that Arthur Turco, a white lawyer charged in the

Panther frameup, was responsible for the rebellion. Turco, a diabetic, is being fed the wrong foods and is badly in need of medical care.

Contributions to help the imprisoned Black Panthers in Baltimore can be sent to the Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, P.O. Box 1095, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.

Seattle

SEATTLE, Feb. 24—Over 500 prisoners at the McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary near here have been on strike for the last three days. The prisoners began the work stoppage on February 22 in protest over the censorship of their mail, the low pay, and the fact that several prisoners have been killed by psychotic inmates under psychiatric care who had been released into the general prison population.

Today in Stielacom, Washington, a terminal point for the ferry that makes the half-mile trip into the Puget Sound to reach McNeil Island, the Prison Reform Coalition held a demonstration in solidarity with the striking prisoners. Their banners included one reading, "Jails are concentration camps for the poor." Meanwhile, in the maximum security prison, eight prisoners had been put into special segregation as "leaders" of the strike. They included one member of the Black Panther Party, Willie Brazier. The rest of the 500 protesters are at present locked into their cells and refusing to work.

Jessep, Md.

JESSEP, Md., Feb. 23—One hundred prisoners in Patuxent Federal Prison rebelled yesterday against the inhuman conditions in the prison. Their demands included an end to the racist and subhuman conditions and an end to indeterminate sentences which many of the inmates have.

The prison holds 500 inmates and is a maximum security Federal prison. On Tuesday some of the guards on the 4-8 shift refused to work because they said the prisoners are angry and are "conning" to take over the prison. As of now all the prisoners are locked back in their cells.

Today a demonstration was held outside the prison sponsored by the Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, from Baltimore. There were 20 people on the demonstration. The prisoners yelled down to the demonstration, "Free Bobby," and "Let us eat" (the prisoners apparently are not being fed) and "Don't give up, come back again, we need your support."

An interview with Joyce Townsend

The torture of a Black revolutionary family

Her husband was shot in front of own house by pigs -- then jailed
-- see story below -- but she continues fight.

by Naomi Cohen

BRIDGEPORT, Feb. 20 — WORKERS WORLD got the following interview with Joyce Townsend, wife of Larry Townsend, here today, at the A.M.E. Zion Church where a rally was held to support Larry Townsend.

WORKERS WORLD: Why do you feel the police are persecuting you and your husband?

JOYCE TOWNSEND: To be perfectly honest with you, we are being persecuted because we stood up, because we refused to be brutalized, because we saw that there were hungry kids that needed to be fed and that there's unemployment, indecent housing, that Black people aren't getting adequate education.

These are the things that we were fighting for, and as you know, if you stand up in this system against any of these things, right away you become number one to be eliminated. We are

Bridgeport, Conn.

Black leader shot by cops; community rallies to his defense

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 20 — "A revolutionary must have undying love for his people. And Lawrence Townsend is like this. The first time I saw him he was swinging a mop, cleaning up after the children's free breakfast program."

The speeches, the poems, the rally here tonight at the A.M.E. Zion Church were all dedicated to Lawrence Townsend, a leader of the Black community in this city who is presently in prison, charged with attempted murder and under \$100,000 bail. It's a story we've heard too many times before. A Black revolutionary moves to organize the community and the police move in with a frameup.

Last January 5, in the middle of the afternoon, Larry Townsend was gunned down in front of his own house by the police who had been after him for so long. Now he is being charged with the attempted murder of the very men who tried to kill him.

The rally tonight was attended by about 125 people, most of them supporters from the Black community. Charles Garry, well-known attorney for the Black Panther Party addressed the crowd saying, "We have to start talking about tearing down the prisons.... You cannot get justice in the courtrooms until you have social justice."

number one in Bridgeport. And on January 5, the cops tried to kill him. They had said that they were going to kill him prior to this and they attempted to do it.

That is basically why. He's Black. And if you're Black and you stand up, that's two strikes against you automatically.

WW: What are the charges against Larry?

JT: Two counts of attempted murder.

WW: How has he been treated in jail?

JT: All of the guards in North Avenue know him. He once ran a story in the Bridgeport Post about the way they were treating the prisoners in jail. He had been arrested and gotten right out, but he saw that, for example, they turn the news off at 5 o'clock so that the brothers won't see what's going on

in the street. Unsentenced inmates are allowed only 15-minute visits twice a week. They aren't allowed literature; they can spend only \$8 a week on commissary; they don't get counseling; their lawyers aren't permitted to go in and because Larry has spoken out against these things, now that he is inside it is worse for him.

"I fear for his life"

I always live with the fear that they are going to call me in the middle of the night and say that he hung himself. So I purposely took away his belt so they can't use that excuse (to kill him). When I go to visit him they sometimes cut our visits short — maybe we get ten minutes. And they always seem to seat me at the front so that the pig can watch everything I do. So I fear for his life. I want him home. But \$100,000 (his bail) is a lot of money.

WW: What has it been like for you and your children?

JT: I have two children and I just had a miscarriage Sunday. It's been like one nightmare. I fear for my life; I fear for my kids' lives. But I know that I have to participate in the revolution. I can't just stop because my husband got shot and because they are

trying to kill me.

A lot of blood is going to be shed before the Black people can obtain their liberation. So I just live from day to day, hoping that we will wake up the next morning and go on.

WW: How are you supporting yourself now?

JT: I'm on city welfare. I get \$21.50 a week. We can't really live on that, but we manage.

WW: Isn't this the way many women are forced to live if their husbands are prisoners?

JT: Yes. You talk about genocide — in the Black community, they either kill the men or ship them off to Vietnam to be killed or there are no jobs. So it's left up to us to support our families. And then you read in a report that some doctor has written up that we are shiftless and lazy, when in reality there was nothing there for us. So this happens to Black women all the time.

WW: You say the police have been harassing you and the defense committee?

"They follow me everywhere"

JT: Right. They follow me everywhere. I can't go shopping, I can't go any place. Especially the two cops who shot Larry; they are always around. Two Fridays ago, to be exact, they threatened my life. I was at North Avenue and Paul Lingo (one of the cops-ed.) said to me, "Joyce if you don't be cool you're going to be next and you're going to be in worse shape than Larry. We're going to shut you up once and for all." So I just looked at him. I had four witnesses with me. I called my lawyer and something is going to be done about it.

I had a miscarriage Sunday. And I had to call the city ambulance. They

(continued on page 13)

A short film on Lawrence Townsend was shown. And from the statements he made, it was easy to see why the Bridgeport authorities are so afraid of freeing him. Townsend said of the police:

"We look at the police as the go-between. In other words, they keep us from getting to the root of the problem. We call them the protectors of the system.... The word pig... was actually started for the businessman, the politician and the policemen. They are all pigs. And we look at the businessman and the politician as being even the worse pigs than the ones who run around here in blue uniforms, because (the cops) are protecting those people, they are protecting their property."

Joyce Townsend ended the rally with a very moving speech, explaining why it was that the police had shot Larry down. She and her two children have also gone through a nightmare of persecution from the police (see interview), yet Joyce radiates courage and determination to go on with the struggle.

"Larry's going to be out," she said. "One way or the other.... He'll either be out on bond or he'll be liberated." She ended her talk by reaffirming the right of Black people to self-defense. "Larry knows that we have to have our liberation. Seize the time!"

(From the Young Lords Party)

The Young Lords Party is moving to unite the Puerto Rican liberation struggle by opening a branch in Ponce, Puerto Rico. One third of our nation lives in the united states while two thirds live on the island — the time has come to bring our nation together.

On March 21, members of the Party will be going to Puerto Rico for a demonstration with the Nationalist Party to commemorate the Ponce massacre. We know that the police are planning a big bust which they think will destroy the Lords and the fighting capacity of the Puerto Rican nation. The homes of our leaders have been ransacked and all our court cases are being held up. The police — which are the military arm of the businessmen and politicians — want to stop our expansion to Puerto Rico. We want Puerto Rico to be free. They want Puerto Rico to remain enslaved.



The Young Lords Party needs the support of the people if we are to survive. We have always said that the Party serves and protects the people and that the people will protect the Party. Our liberation fight is not the fight of only the YLP, we fight for all Puerto Ricans and Third World People who want the right to determine their own lives, to control their own communities.

In order to be able to open the branch in Ponce, we are having an economic offensive in the month of February. This will be an all-out drive to get money and materials to enable us to expand to the island and fight off the police attacks that will follow the opening of the new branch in Ponce.

The Young Lords Party is not funded by any government agency. We are totally dependent on the support of our people. We feel that our nation is awakened and understands that we are being killed slowly but steadily. We will have to work together and look after each other as a nation in order to sur-

vive and live as the proud women and men of a proud nation.

That is why the Young Lords Party depends on you to supply the tools we will need to increase our struggle. Here is a list of things that can be used to strengthen the Party and the Nation:

- 1) Money — any amount, even if it seems small
- 2) Food
- 3) Clothing
- 4) Office Equipment — mimeographs, typewriters, stencils, pens, pads, etc.
- 5) Subscriptions to Palante
- 6) Distribution Points — places that will sell Palante
- 7) Students should have clothing and food drives at their schools
- 8) Arrange for Lords to speak at different places

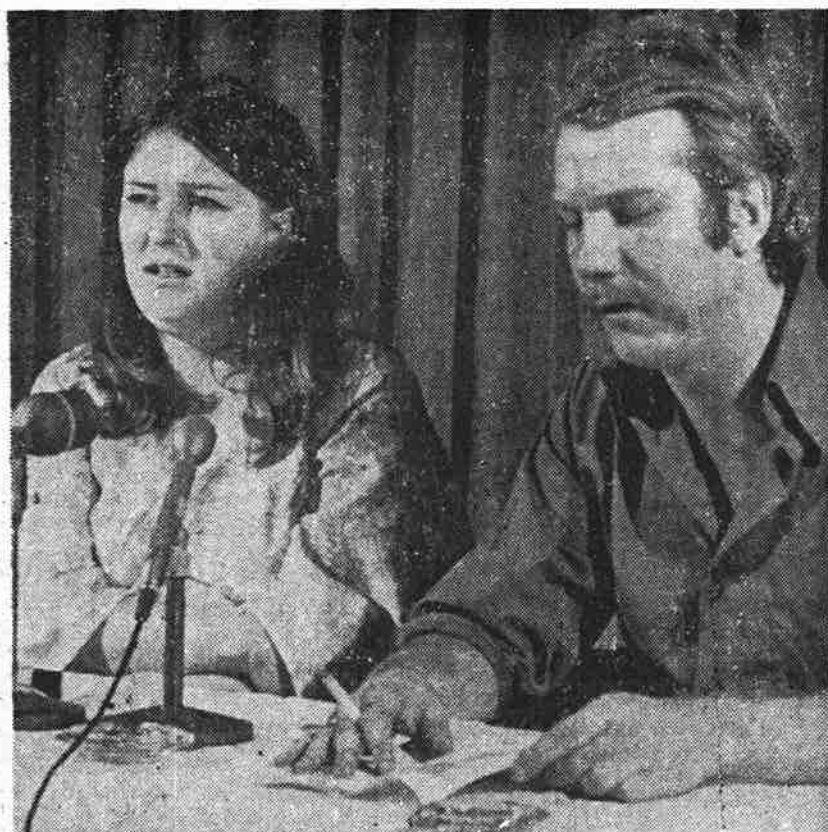
LIBERATE PUERTO RICO NOW!
PONCE — MARCH 21
ROMPE CADENAS!

Young Lords
move to Ponce;
you can help!

3 Union members charged with bombing

Mitchell announces attack on GI union

Peggy Geden, wife of one of the Camp McCoy 3, and ASU organizer Terry Klug at press conference they organized in Denver.



Special to Workers World from the American Servicemen's Union

On February 11, Attorney General Mitchell announced the indictment of three members of the American Servicemen's Union on charges that they dynamited installations at Camp McCoy, Wisc., last July 26, the anniversary of Fidel Castro's attack on the Moncada Barracks.

Damage to the Camp's Central Telephone Exchange, a Western Electric transformer, and the base's waterworks was estimated at \$100,000 by United States Attorney John Olsen. Destruction at the two old World War II buildings housing the telephone exchange was almost total, putting the phone service out of operation for almost a month.

Immediately after the explosions last summer Pfc. Dannie Kreps, Pfc. Thomas Geden, and Pfc. Thomas Chase, all Vietnam veterans, were held for questioning by the FBI and Army Criminal Investigation agents. The pigs threatened the men with charges of treason, conspiracy, sedition, etc. The three GIs were held under barracks arrest until August 19. Geden, who is married, was not allowed to see his wife and child. Then the ASU had a writ of habeas corpus filed in federal court forcing the brass to release them. They were transferred to Fort Carson, Colorado.

The Pentagon continued its efforts to bust the union on these phony charges, however, and a Grand Jury was ordered convened in Madison, Wisc., to "investigate" the bombings.

At Fort Carson the soldiers continued to struggle and Chase faced a special court-martial for distri-

buting the Bond, the ASU national newspaper. Geden was thrown into the stockade pending a general court-martial for participating in a demonstration at Fort Carson's main gate while in uniform. They were never brought to trial on these charges, however, for at 11 a.m. on February 11, the three GIs were taken into custody by the FBI and removed to the Denver County Jail. The union-busting Grand Jury had brought down frameup indictments charging Chase, Geden, and Kreps with the explosions. The charges could bring the ASU members up to 35 years in jail each and individual fines up to \$30,000.

The Federal government had followed the growing strength of the ASU over the past several years with growing alarm. Now, with the invasion of Laos, and the escalated warfare against the Black Panther Party and all oppressed national minorities, the ruling class along with its puppets in the military was attempting to intimidate the American Servicemen's Union by framing three of its organizers. The fact that the announcement came directly from Mitchell made it clear that this was to be a major attack on the ASU.

The union responded to the phony charges against the men by immediately sending Terry Klug, a leader of the Ft. Dix 38 stockade rebellion recently released from the stockade and now on the national staff of ASU, to Denver where he could

help to organize defense work. The day of his arrival, Klug got into the prison and saw Chase.

On February 17, Klug and Peggy Geden, Tom Geden's wife, held a press conference in Denver which was attended by about 16 representatives of the capitalist media.

The Associated Press quoted Klug that "The McCoy 3 have been framed by a conspiracy of the Federal government and their henchmen—the military brass. This is an attack on our union." The AP stated that Peggy Geden felt her husband "had been singled out for his membership in ASU."

In a letter to the ASU national office from the Denver County Jail, Chase wrote, "Mitchell said we are 'bombers' and, at the same time, Nixon orders more bombs to be dropped on the people of Southeast Asia. He raps about peace, but orders a wider and wider war. There is no question in my mind that we are innocent of their so-called 'crimes' and that this frameup will fail."

Klug flew out to Madison where the men will be formally arraigned.

Geden and Kreps are being held on \$15,000 bail each and Chase on \$25,000. Contributions to their defense can be sent to The Camp McCoy Three Defense Committee, 156 Fifth Avenue, Room 538, New York City, N.Y. 10010.

American people warned U.S. pushes toward brink in Korea

NEW YORK, February 24—The American people were warned today that U.S. policies may explode into a new war in Korea.

Giving this alarming news was Prof. Howard L. Parsons, chairman of the newly formed American-Korean Friendship and Information Center. He was speaking at a press conference at the Overseas Press Club in mid-town New York City announcing formation of the new group whose purpose will be to publicize and oppose U.S. aggression against the Korean people. A vice-chairman of the group, Andy Stapp, who is the head of the GI's American Servicemen's Union, denounced the U.S. occupation of South Korea as an "imperialist crime" and said GIs there want to come home.

Dr. Parsons said, "A vast hoax is being perpetrated on the American people by its government at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars." He said that this deception could "quickly lead to a renewal of hot war on the peninsula" unless these policies are checked. He compared the situation to Vietnam. "In each case," he said, "the U.S. government hypocritically appears to be withdrawing military support; it is in fact maintaining its indirect support (of these) bankrupt and undemocratic governments."

Further pointing out the similarity between the situation in Vietnam and Korea, Dr. Parsons said, "In South Vietnam, 'Vietnamization' is a cover-up for increased U.S. participation in the war—actually in all of Indo-China—by means of air power and tactical weapons requiring fewer troops. In South Korea, the announcement is a camouflage for what can best be termed the 'Japanization' of the Korean situation. That is, Japan would take over significant American military commitments in South Korea while Washington would continue to direct the overall operations. With U.S. encouragement, Japanese economic penetration and colonization of South Korea has already reached remarkable proportions."

Andy Stapp, the American Servicemen's Union Chairman, said, "Sixty thousand American soldiers are stationed with the 8th Army in Korea. Every year GIs are killed because glory-hungry officers send them on 'probing missions' across the DMZ."

He continued, "While the men freeze on the 38th parallel, officers in Seoul make big money off the black market. GIs who rebel against this treatment are sent to the ASCOM stockade. The U.S. occupation of South Korea is an imperialist crime committed against

the Korean people."

Stapp said, "There is widespread recognition in America that Washington and Wall Street are waging a genocidal war of aggression on the people of South East Asia. It is important for us to remember the equally barbaric war U.S. imperialism unleashed on the Korean people in North East Asia only 20 years ago. Today Korea is still divided; the cause of the division being U.S. imperialism."

Andy Stapp pointed out that, "The GIs want to come home and the American Servicemen's Union completely supports them in their desire to withdraw from Korea."

The purpose of the new American-Korean Center is to tell the American people what is going on and to rally them behind a demand for a genuine

pull-out of all U.S. troops and an end to U.S. taxpayers' money being poured into the puppet government of South Korea.

In the last several months, a committee of initiating sponsors formed the American-Korean Friendship and Information Center. Joseph Brandt is executive director and Prof. Fred J. Carrier of Villanova University has been named director of education and information. The vice-chairmen and vice-chairwomen of the committee are: Joe Walker, New York editor, "Muhammad Speaks," Ruth Gage-Colby, WILPF, Dr. Herbert Aptheker, Director of AIMS, Rev. Lee H. Ball, Ruth Crawford France, journalist, Andrew Stapp, Chairman, ASU, and Jarvis Tyner, National Chairman, YWLL.

— Buffalo tax rebellion

(continued from page 7)

the front and opened up their own portable sound system to the people. Meanwhile, another squad opened up a YAWF banner reading "Stop Robbing Us, Tax the Rich, Not the Poor."

Dan Bentivogli from YAWF spoke twice on the necessity of putting the blame in the right place—on the super-rich people who run this country—and not on welfare recipients. The response from the audience was overwhelmingly in support of these remarks.

The people then heard from workers who threatened a tax revolt, a workers' uprising "like the one they had in Poland" and a "tax war against Rocky." The workers, especially the women,

denounced the role of the bosses' press and demanded fair news coverage.

Tax demonstration

When the rally started to break up, the women from the community called for a march to the Buffalo Evening News to protest the press coverage. Pushing the YAWF banner to the front, the women carried a sign stating, "Rock Taxefeller" and led a march of around 60 people.

Everyone left in high spirits with another rally called for Feb. 25 in a union hall at 8:00 p.m. The rally and demonstration were only a rumbling, but a clear indication of the coming class struggle.

Eyewitness report from Wilmington, N.C.

Black students battle cops, klan and lies

(NEWS from Southern Conference Educational Fund)

WILMINGTON, N.C.—Reports distributed by major news services on recent racial violence here have not told the truth about what took place, a Black reporter charges. Jim Grant, who writes for The Southern Patriot, was on the scene for five days at the height of the crisis.

"What happened here was as close to an insurrection as anything I've ever seen," Grant said. "About 1,300 students were involved in one way or another. The real cause of the trouble was a conspiracy between police, school officials, and city government—a conspiracy to try to crush those students."

Grant declared that the following specific falsehoods were generally stated as facts in news reports sent out of Wilmington:

1. That violence erupted in the city because of sniper fire from young Black people.

The facts, Grant said, are that students were peacefully protesting against conditions in so-called integrated schools. They had been meeting in the Gregory Congregational United Church of Christ for several days, when on February 4, there were anonymous threats that the church would be bombed.

People in the community armed themselves to defend the church and built barricades to keep white attackers out. But there was no firing from those defending the church until "marauding bands of Klansmen began to invade the area close to the church, coming in cars and pick-up trucks loaded with weapons." They passed easily through police lines a few blocks away, and fired at the young Black people.

"We have it on reliable authority that Klansmen came in from all the surrounding counties," Grant said. This area has long been a stronghold of Klan activity.

2. That a 19-year-old Black youth, Stephen Mitchell, who was shot and killed by police, was armed at the time and that police shot him in self-defense.

The fact, Grant said, is that Mitchell was unarmed. He, along with other unarmed young Black people, was fighting a fire at a store and two Black homes one block from the church. Firemen were refusing to come into the area. They did not arrive until an hour after the blaze started. The fire is believed to have been arson. Black people who were defending the church went out unarmed to try to put out the fire.

"It was cold-blooded murder," Grant said. "He was shot several times, and police dragged him 50 feet and threw him in a car. We all believe he was still alive when they started dragging him." Mitchell was a member of the student steering committee that has been pressing demands on school officials.

3. That a white man fatally wounded on February 7 just happened to wander into the area on his way to the grocery.

Actually, Grant said, the white man came into the area in a truck, rode up to the barricade near the church, and got out, pointing his shotgun at the young Blacks there. This was one of numerous such incidents, Grant said, and this particular man had been seen in the area before, during the crisis.

"I guess he figured he could just walk into the area and start shooting," Grant noted. "Maybe he could have 25 years ago—but things aren't like that anymore."

Grant himself narrowly missed being hit by gunfire at the height of the disorders. He said he was near the barricades when a truckload of white men rode up and jumped out shooting. "All of us hit the ground—literally. A Black minister who did not duck quick enough was hit in the leg," Grant reported.

The trouble in Wilmington started when

school officials refused to even negotiate with Black students in three schools who were demanding Black studies courses, more Black participation in academic and athletic affairs, and other such changes. Students began a boycott of classes February 2, and on February 4 staged a mass march of close to 2,000 persons to City Hall. There they found the government offices padlocked.

Wilmington quieted down—at least temporarily—after the weekend of February 7, when National Guardsmen moved in. However, it was not the coming of the Guard that stilled the protest, Grant said.

"The young people had stood off the Klansmen and the police and they had to retreat," he noted. "What changed things was when the congregation of the Gregory Church met on February 7 and voted to evict the young people from the church."

"They said the students could stay if they would stay unarmed. That would have been suicide. The church people said they should depend on the police to protect them from the Klansmen. But anyone who could analyze the situation knew that the police and the Klansmen were working together."

"The students decided it would be foolish to make a 'Custer's Last Stand'—so they dispersed into the community. It was sad; some of the church trustees were unbearable pressures; they were dependent on the city power structure for their jobs."

The white minister of the Black congregation, the Rev. Eugene Templeton, backed the students completely, Grant said. He has since been fired.

"Nothing is solved in Wilmington—and the School Board is still refusing to budge an inch, although the students have offered a compromise proposal. Things are not likely to stay quiet very long."



White racists in Cairo, Ill., counter-picket demonstrators of Black United Front.

Cairo, Ill.

Expose pig plan

to kill

Black leader

The following release was put out by the Harlem Committee to Defend Ruchell Magee.

"...YOU (AMERICA) ARE PLAYING DANGEROUSLY SICK GAMES AT THE WRONG TIME WITH HUMAN LIVES, AND YOU ARE NOT AND CANNOT HIDE THIS CASE NO LONGER"
—Ruchell Magee

How can we, oppressed people, consider determining our own lives and futures or discuss the destruction of the machinery of the racist American Empire, when in silence we seemingly allow these very pigs, our confirmed enemies, to determine (as though they could) the very path our revolution will take. We permit ourselves to conveniently forget those whom we need to remember, those of our people, our comrades who are truly working in our interest.

And it's all done through TV mirror images. And while we cheer for those who pass before the screen, we are

CAIRO, Ill., February 2—Mayor Pete Thomas, Police Commissioner Carl Meisenheimer, William Morgan, President of Security Bank, State's Attorney Peyton Berbling, Car dealer Calvin Watson, Mr. James Avery (all from Cairo) and two unidentified white men were implicated in a conspiracy to assassinate the Rev. Charles Koen, executive director of the United Front of Cairo. The allegations were made in a press conference held at St. Columba's Church in Cairo today.

The charges were made by Mr. Leveland "Baby" Rush, 32, born and raised in Cairo but now living outside of this southern Illinois city. Rush, who is Black, said that he was offered \$75,000.00 to be the "triggerman" in the attempt to murder the Black leader. Mr. Rush said he was taken to a meeting with these men by Mr. Avery and the offer was made at this gathering, by Mayor Thomas. He also said that Mr. Watson offered him a car to use in committing the act which he could keep afterwards.

He said, too, that Mr. Berbling offered, "Since your mind might be depressed after Mr. Koen's murder, we will guarantee you a month-or-so vacation with pay." At the time, Rush was employed by the Illinois Highway Department. Rush asked for time to consider the "deal" and then left the

city and state. He remained there until he made a decision to disclose the plans to the Rev. Koen and the community.

Also disclosed at the conference was that at the same meeting held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Cairo on Friday evening, January 1, 1971, was the fact that these men had agreed that Mr. Morgan would make a "loan" of \$25,000.00, to Mr. Avery, who is Black, if he could break the 22-month-old economic boycott by Blacks against Cairo's white merchants. Rush stated that Morgan agreed with Avery that the money would be given as a loan, but would not have to be paid back.

Commenting on the plot against his life, the Rev. Koen stated: "They don't realize yet that you might kill a man, but you cannot kill his ideas or the spirit that spurred him on. We have tried to say, if I am murdered, people all across the country will respond and react to such a deed. If I die, we have made preparations for the work to continue and moves to be made on the person or persons who would be responsible for my death."

For further information contact:
Rev. Manker R. Harris
UNITED FRONT OF CAIRO
P.O. BOX 544
CAIRO, ILL. 62914

Ask support for

Ruchell Magee,

survivor of heroic

courtroom battle

silent, as they would have us be, about those who are purposely pushed into the background. And we continue in this pace from day to day.

Ruchell Magee is a glaring indictment against all of us—for the people have seemingly chosen to forget him. On August 7 of last year, he and three others attempted to carry out a dynamic, revolutionary act in behalf of their own and others' freedom from the oppressor's clutches. The three other men, William Christmas, James McClain and Jonathan Jackson were killed in this attempt, but Ruchell Magee remains, recaptured to stand trial for this heroic act.

It was a heroic, revolutionary act, and our applause and our cheers and our support and our actions should proclaim that. But too many have been silent, never fixing their lips—as though afraid—to speak the name Ruchell Magee. Yet, of the men who executed this act of revolution, he alone does remain in the hands of the pigs,

facing the gas chamber. He is charged with murder and kidnapping and conspiracy to commit both.

Whether or not he willingly pre-planned to participate in this act is of no significance here. However, brother Ruchell can clarify that: "On August 7, 1970, I was taken out of my place of confinement (San Quentin Prison)... to testify as a defense witness in the case of: People of California vs. James David McClain. The time was approximately 10:00 o'clock a.m. and I was on the witness-stand testifying before a trial jury of 12 people.... While I was testifying, up rose a young gentlemen whom I later learned was seventeen-year-old Jonathan Jackson."

But the significant point is that 31-year-old Ruchell Magee has spent 15 years of his life in prison, and only a fool or a man so beaten-down that he could not move would refuse this strike for some semblance of freedom.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The plight of small farmers

by Shirley Jolls

There's a story about farmers' children, that they never have enough milk. It says that when prices are low, the family has to sell all they produce to get enough money to make ends meet; and when prices are high, they sell all they produce to save up a little money against the hard times coming around again.

It isn't an old tale, not about the peasant people who used to produce food for themselves and barter a few things for some special tools. It's a story about a more recent time, when monopoly capitalism had already begun its penetration of agriculture and all farm people were driven to compete in the cash economy.

Agriculture is among the last sectors of production to be modernized by capitalism. The change from small family farms to large-scale or intensive business farming has been gradual, and many agricultural areas of the U.S. are still in a transitional state.

The new methods, advanced machinery, improved fertilizers and seed strains, all these developments will in the future enable people to produce more and better food more efficiently, just as clothing is more efficiently produced in a mechanized factory system than on a family's hand-loom. But finance capital has forced the new technology on the farm people, as it forced the factory system on the peasant people, without any regard for the toll in human misery.

When farm people gain control of their sector of production, alongside the workers in socialized factories, then the automatic pickers and the vacuum-bottle silos will be welcomed for the benefits they bring to everyone. In the meantime, the inexorable change from the old ways of farming to the mechanized and expensive technology and the capitalist market proceeds to grind the life out of thousands of people across the U.S.

People forced off the land

Much has been made recently of the revelation in last year's census that thousands of people have been forced off their family farms in the Midwest, the "granary of America." Whole towns in Nebraska, Iowa and the Dakotas, once bustling with grain and cattle shipments, have "died"—the stores closed, the people gone because the surrounding farm land lies unworked. The farm people are mostly gone too—the young moved on to the new factories in Albuquerque, Boise and Tucson. Generally the old people stay behind, eking out a living as best they can, maybe a little bit ready to die since their way



Lincoln Valley, N.D., is in area now becoming desolate. This town has a population of one.

of life is dead.

The author saw the same thing happen to the farm communities of Western New York State after the Second World War. The details are different, since the area produced different crops, but the story of unemployment, dislocation and misery was the same.

There is a small farm town some 40 miles from the industrial center of Buffalo that had no electricity until 1941, when the federal government's anti-depression Rural Electrification Administration reached the area. The war came that year, too, and REA stopped putting up the power lines half way through the community, leaving the other half with its old gas lights and kerosene lamps.

The installation of electricity was the turning point, however, and after the war the pace of change quickened as more and more business farms were set up in surrounding areas. Many farm families visited the local "show farm" to admire the automatic milking machines and the stainless steel tubing and electric manure conveyors that made it possible for four or five hired hands to work a 300-or 400-cow dairy. The new machines were truly wonderful, but it was easy to see that this corporate farm and others like it could each produce more milk than five or six family farms.

Farmers couldn't compete

The farm families tried to compete in the new market by buying the new machinery. That meant they needed money. Someone in the family, generally the woman first, went to work in a cannery or at Buffalo's nearby TB sanatorium to finance the purchase. There were always new needs, a baler that would enable the family to process all the hay it needed for a larger herd of cows, or a land-contouring project that would reclaim several acres of swamp land for a new crop. Many of the men got factory jobs, often the night shifts so that they could farm during the day. Generally they had to drive 30 or 40 miles to the plants on the outskirts of Buffalo.

The farm families hung on for a time, working a wage job and farming faster and harder in the hours between their shift at the restaurant counter or on the auto assembly line. It was impossible, however, to compete for long with the corporate farms, whose owners had direct connections with the big chain stores and the food processing corporations.

Within a dozen years nearly all the family farms lay idle. The young people had joined the ranks of the workers in the mills and factories. Others, especially the older people, stayed on, living in the backwash of progress. They enjoy some advances, such as television and the new variety of foods gathered in the supermarkets. But in many ways they have really been forced backward—growing a few vegetables in a small garden, keeping one cow. Often they have almost no money; many did not even get the chance to join the Social Security program when that pittance was made available to farm people. If they have no family nearby, they may have to stay at home alone day after day, since there is no public transportation.

The farm people didn't give up their livelihood without a fight. And in some cases they fought a very modern battle against the inroads of the corporate farms. In a mid-state area the farmers took a page from the workers' book and conducted a militant strike to keep their market for milk. More often, they found it impossible to organize themselves in the face of the old farmers' organizations such as the Grange and the Dairymen's League. These had been taken over by the big businessmen with interests in the new corporate farms and now served only to prevent any effective struggle by the farm people.

They weren't fighting for the "good old days"—that meant pumping water by hand, walking hour after hour behind the horse-drawn plow, living in week-long isolation miles from the nearest town. The fight was for a place in the modern world, a share of the progress the new technology offered.

Farm people won't have that place until they are able to join with the working class to gain control not only of the factories and plants but of the new industry which capitalism has made of farming.

advances of the revolutionary liberation movements in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. It would seem to be a made adventure for Wall Street to further expand its imperialist tentacles in Indochina, but the desperate search for profits and capitalist expansion far outweigh considerations of sanity. The crisis of U.S. imperialism today is a crisis of "expand or die."

— Townsend interview

(continued from page 10)

know me, everybody in this town knows me, and when they came to get me they sent a pig. He refused to put me on the stretcher. They kept harassing me to walk down the stairs, but I couldn't. There were two or three white kids there with me and this right away blew their minds. Because I'm not a racist,

I'm a person and they couldn't dig these white kids being here. Anyway, the white kids took me and got an ambulance and I went to the hospital.

I'm hemorrhaging and they (the cops) say I had an abortion. They came back and raided my apartment looking for "instruments." So my lawyer called the hospital and told them to leave me alone, that I did have a miscarriage—you see, my doctor got there and assured them that I did have a miscarriage. But this is just another form of their harassment so I've just got to live with it.

WW: Do you think they are trying to set you up for a frameup?

JT: Yes. For anything. I can't spit on the sidewalk and they have told me this, that I had better not even jaywalk, that if I do, they are going to lock me up.

WW: Do you have a defense committee for Larry?

JT: Yes. The defense committee gave this rally. There is also a defense committee in Westport that is composed of the white middle class, which we

really depend upon to get most of our money. Because, let's face it, in the Black community we have no money. We can't possibly raise \$100,000.

WW: Where can people write in order to help or contribute and what can they do?

JT: We need money. We need money for food, for medical expenses, for small things—like a lot of people get busted because they are supporting Larry, so we are constantly getting people out of jail. They can also come to court—we are looking for court watchers, we are looking for people to write letters to show that people from all over are concerned with his well-being in jail. This will also assure me that he will be safe in jail. If everybody writes from all over the country they will know that people are concerned.

So they can write to 1106 North Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn. and he will get it. And if they want to send money they can send it to P.O. Box 9044 and they can reach us at 334-3361 if they want to call and ask questions.

— Offshore oil

(continued from page 3)

broke the back of Washington's negotiating strategy in Teheran.

Therefore, the first serious threat to the U.S. oil empire in the Middle East is inevitably forcing Wall Street to look for new sources of petroleum. After the June '67 Mideast War, the Western imperialist powers began to explore the possibilities of Alaskan oil and Arctic oil. However, the reserves in both areas were found to be far short of oil demands by Europe and Japan. The hard fact was that still 80% of the non-Socialist world's known oil reserves were in the Middle East.

Thus it is that U.S. oil monopolies are now trying to create an oil empire in Southeast Asia, despite the great

On the organizing front

San Francisco

Two rallies differ

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 13—Members of the Bay Area Youth Against War & Fascism attended two rallies here this afternoon. The first was called by the San Francisco United Committee to Free Angela Davis. The second, two hours later, was called by the Student Mobilization Committee, the Coalition Against War, Racism and Repression and the National Peace Action Coalition. The ostensible purpose of the second rally was to protest the invasion of Laos by U.S. and Saigon puppet troops.

Speakers at the Free Angela Rally included members of the Angela Davis Defense Committee, the Soledad Brothers Defense Committee and Los Siete. Speaker after speaker emphasized the need to defend all political prisoners including Angela Davis, Ruchell Magee, Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins. The YAWF banner held throughout the rally read "Free Angela Davis and Ruchell Magee." The several hundred people at this rally listened carefully to the speeches and the level of politics was

high.

In contrast, the "Protest Rally" at the Civic Center was dominated by SWP speakers and other left-liberals. One of the featured speakers was an area capitalist politician who stressed the need to restore young people's faith in bourgeois elections. The thousand or more people who had turned out hoping to find expression of and direction for their hatred of the imperialist government were deeply disappointed. Soon after the speeches commenced, people began leaving in droves.

As usual, SMC monitors did the pigs' work for them, pushing protestors around rather than challenging the pigs. Of course this was in perfect harmony with the overall tone of the rally. All San Francisco revolutionaries should work together to insure that future rallies have a genuine anti-imperialist character.

—Bob McCubbin
Bay Area YAWF

Chicago

Huey speaks to 5000

CHICAGO, Feb. 21—Huey Newton spoke before a tremendous crowd, estimated from 4,000 to 5,000 people, here tonight. The evening was a living example of the continuing interest in and vitality of the Black Panther Party.

Newton began his talk by saying that it was the power of the people that kept him from the gas chamber in California. He thanked everyone for their support and urged that now the people had to free Bobby Seale, Ericka Huggins, Angela Davis and Ruchell Magee.

The Panther leader denounced the capitalist press for telling the people that the Panther Party is deteriorating. And he once again defended the expulsion of some of the New York 21.

"We must seize the means of production in order to free the people from labor," Newton said. "The ruling circle is the enemy and our main problem is raising the people's political consciousness."

During a lively question and answer period, Newton discussed, among other

things, the case of Angela Davis. He asserted that she must be set free. He attacked the CP, however, characterizing it as a revisionist party and called for the setting up of autonomous defense committees for Angela and all political prisoners.

Newton also commented on a question about party structure by saying that the Black Panther Party has put the brakes on its membership drive to screen people more carefully for membership. People will now be required to do community work for six months before they can qualify.

During his talk Newton stressed that the violence perpetrated against the people was organized by a small ruling circle. This violence takes many forms, such as indecent housing, unemployment, lack of education, the basic necessities of life. He warned the rulers that the Black Panther Party would not rest until all the people are free. "The slaves," he said, "must expropriate the power of the slavemasters."

Cleveland

Workers unionize — in spite of all

CLEVELAND, Feb. 19—The workers at the Saga Food Company, food suppliers at the Case Western Reserve University, voted to affiliate with Local 1199 in a National Labor Board Election here today. This means that for the first time, campus workers will have a union.

The union won by a vote of 54 to 51 in a difficult struggle against great odds. Most of the workers who voted for the union are Black and have been working for Saga for many years. Their wages are very low and working conditions are bad.

Case Western University, which contracts out the eating services to Saga, carried on a vicious anti-union campaign. In January the same union busting techniques were successfully used against about 315 maintenance and

service workers who were trying to organize. And it was thought that after the defeat in January, the Saga workers would not be able to win the election.

The victory for the workers today, however, demonstrated their determination to raise their wages and get better working conditions, in spite of the threat of unemployment. The workers defeated in January were overjoyed at the victory and got renewed strength to carry on their battle for union recognition.

There has never been a union on the university campus. The hospital adjoining the campus is likewise unorganized. But now workers at the hospital are showing interest in organizing themselves.

At the same time that the workers were organizing for the union election,

various campus organizations of students called a meeting (three days before the election) to "discuss and fight racist unemployment at Case Western." SDS and Progressive Labor Party, instrumental in organizing this meeting, were uninterested in discussing ways of helping the workers win their election, however.

In fact, when workers at the meeting began to raise the issue of the union election, these pretended "working class organizers" threatened to throw the workers out. In the course of the meeting it was revealed that the PLers were not interested at all in the outcome of the election. They thereby lined up with the bosses against the workers. The workers walked out of the meeting, with some students leaving in disgust with them.

bombs in business establishments throughout New York City. The enormous ransom placed on Feliciano was based on the District Attorney's charge that Feliciano was a member of MIRA, an underground guerilla Puerto Rican organization. This has been denied by Carlos Feliciano, but he was proud to tell the Yankee court that he is a member of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, the revolutionary organization of the late Pedro Albizu Campos.

In 1948, Carlos Feliciano was arrested for refusing to register with the U.S. imperialist draft board in Puerto Rico, but was able to escape the clutches of the FBI at the time. During the Nationalist uprising in 1950 led by Albizu Campos, Feliciano was arrested again and convicted of "advocating the overthrow of the government of Puerto Rico by force and violence." He spent five years in prison, in the same cell with Albizu Campos, who was serving a life sentence for his heroic dedication to liberate Puerto Rico from Yankee colonialism.

The significance of the case of Carlos Feliciano was clearly expressed by the Committee to Defend Carlos Feliciano in its February 9 release:

"Carlos has long held a belief, as personal as it is political, in the right of Puerto Rico to be free and independent. As have so many nationalists and patriots before him, Carlos has spent the last nine months in jail, paying for that belief. He is being framed, not for crimes, but for 'conspiracy.' As the Puerto Rican movement develops and

grows, a conviction in Carlos' case could set a dangerous precedent for the movement. As has become so clear from the cases of the Panthers, Angela Davis, the Berrigans and the other political prisoners on the growing list, the 'conspiracy' laws are very effective means of dealing with political dissidents."

The militant march in the Bronx ended up at the Bronx House of Detention where Carlos Feliciano is being held. Several leaders from the Spanish-speaking organizations addressed a rally there, denouncing the Yankee imperialist government for jailing their revolutionary brother, Carlos Feliciano. Many prisoners could be seen standing by their prison windows attentively listening to the speakers.



Solidarity with Puerto Rican political prisoner

NEW YORK, Feb. 21—Over 600 demonstrators held an impressive march through the East Bronx Puerto Rican community in support of the imprisoned Carlos Feliciano here today. The march originated from Borinquen Plaza, 138th Street and Willis Avenue, and eventually ended at the Bronx House of Detention at 161st Street and River Avenue.

The marchers were organized in almost military formation as they chanted, "Free Carlos Feliciano!" "Free Puerto Rico, Right Now!" or "Free Feliciano, Right Now!" Many Puerto Rican people on the streets and by their apartment windows responded with clenched fists and slogans of support in Spanish.

The demonstration was organized by the Committee to Defend Carlos Fel-

iciano and included the participation of the Young Lords Party, the Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (MPI), the Puerto Rican Student Union (PRSU), the Inmates Liberation Front (ILF), progressive Dominican groups, I Wor Kuen, and Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF).

A huge "Free Carlos Feliciano" banner was carried by the Puerto Rican organizations, while many Puerto Rican, MPI and Lares flags were also well displayed. The ILF also carried a banner saying, "Free All Political Prisoners Now." One large YAWF banner read, "Independence for Puerto Rico, No U.S. Draft, Free All Political Prisoners."

Carlos Feliciano is currently being held on \$175,000 bail on conspiracy charges involving the planting of 35

Can workers fight shrinking paychecks

Thirty thousand container workers went on strike last week when the three biggest can corporations in the U.S. refused to give them a cost-of-living clause in their contracts.

The immediate cause of the strike was this:

Continental Can, American Can and the Crown Cork and Seal Company were asked by the United Steelworkers of America to give one cent for each four tenths of a per cent that the cost of living should go up in the next three years (in the conservative Bureau of Labor Statistics figures), in addition to other normal contract demands. This was a reasonable request and

in fact a relatively conservative one, since a worker getting \$3.50 per hour would not get a .4 per cent increase over his wages, which would be 1.4 cents per hour, but only one cent an hour. If the cost of living should go up eight per cent, that is twenty times the .4 per cent during a year, which is very probable, the increase per hour would be 20 cents according to the union demand. But eight per cent of \$3.50 is 28 cents and the worker would still be eight cents an hour behind the rising cost of living.

(The union has already negotiated a "substantial" wage increase. But since there was no cost-of-living provision in the last contract, the increase barely equals the rise in living costs

during the last three years.)

Thus 30,000 workers are walking the streets and pounding the picket areas because of four tenths of a per cent, as the newspapers of big business would have it. In reality, of course, they are struggling to maintain their standard of living.

These corporations, whose own chairmen and public relations figures are always blaming the workers for causing the increase in the cost of living—these corporations, knowing that they themselves, and their war, are causing inflation and are going to cause more of it—refuse to give this penny to their employees.

The head of Continental Can is John J. McCloy, a statesman of the capitalist

class if there ever was one. He is also a top man (formerly chairman of the board) in the Chase Manhattan Bank, which in turn, as the biggest oil bank in the world, engineers the U.S.-Israeli war upon the Arab people and makes hundreds of millions in profit from the Vietnam war, too.

But he says he can't pay the workers who have made him rich; he can't pay them enough to keep up with the cost of living!

The workers may not fully understand the international crimes of John J. McCloy and his buddies in the other can companies. They may not comprehend the relationship of super-exploitation of the colonies to the profits that the bosses have extracted from their labor and exported as capital to oppress the people abroad.

But they do understand that they are being robbed. They do understand that it is not they who are to blame for inflation. They do understand that their bosses refuse to let them catch up with inflation, let alone overcome it....

And they are mad enough to fight about it.

**"They're duPont
workers; we care!"**

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 15—DuPont workers here and in Richmond, Va. demonstrated today in a strong show of solidarity with 1100 duPont workers at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Newport Local 10 (which led the demonstrations at the various Wilmington plants), Rapauna Local 12, United Chemical Workers Local 4 and the Edgemoor Independent Union—all affiliated with the Federation of Independent Union, duPont System (FIUDS) were involved in the Wilmington demonstrations at the Chestnut Run plant, the Newport pigments plant and the Experimental Station at Carney's Point, New Jersey.

From the striking Niagara Plant, John Harrison, Wage and Hour Chairman of striking Local 10 and National secretary of FIUDS, also reported that the "Toledo, Ohio duPont local had over 200 union employees demonstrate between 4 and 5 p.m. on Monday, too." These were some of the many

demonstrations reported in on Monday, Feb. 15 by the FIUDS at 17 duPont plants throughout the country. "I'm sure the other Locals participated," said Harrison.

The Niagara strike began five months ago and is the longest strike in duPont's 170-year history. It has become a symbol of the workers' struggle for a national union, acting as a catalyst to spur the demonstrations as a first step in building a national union to replace duPont's local company union policy.

The Niagara strike began when Local 10 at Niagara tried to bargain for a 20-cent-an-hour wage increase, an agency shop, improvements in duPont's so-called Industrial Relations Plans and Practices, an increase in shift differential to 15 cents an hour from the current 11 cents an hour, and a tenth holiday.

DuPont answered last September 21 with an offer of only two cents an hour increase of shift differential, a "revised" grievance procedure and a dele-

tion of the one-year service requirement in the family provision in case of death. DuPont's offer was made on a "take it or leave it" basis and has not changed in five months. In February, duPont took away Blue Cross from the union members, refusing to pay medical and hospitalization insurance coverage for union members.

At the Newport Pigment plant, where 200 spirited pickets marched, one worker commented when a company flunkey took his picture, "It'll take more than that to scare me! In 1962 I was making nine cents more an hour than a mechanic at the duPont-owned General Motors. Now I'm making \$1.52 an hour less!"

Another guy on the line added, "The duPonts own this state, but things are going to change."

One of the duPont managers taunted the pickets, saying, "What do you care about what's happening to the workers way up in Niagara County?"

The pickets yelled back, "They're duPont workers; we care!"

calendar of events

February 17 through March 12
Daily 1-7 pm
ARM 2 Exhibition on Palestinian
Resistance
Museum, 729 Broadway, New York

Friday, February 26,
7:00-11:00 pm
Benefit for Third World Women's
Coalition
City College of New York
Finley Hall, Room 330
133 Street and Convent Ave.
\$2.00 Donation

Friday, February 26
Benefit for Ruchell Magee
RIIS Community Center
Long Island City, Queens, N.Y.
Sponsored by the Black Panther
Party

Saturday, February 27, 2 pm
Gav Community Prison Demonstration
Tombs, 100 Centre Street
New York

Monday, March 1
Federal court hearing for civil
suit brought by prisoners against
the state guards for beating them
in court. YAWF members will
testify as witnesses.
Auburn, New York Federal Building

Friday, March 5
Intercommunal Day Mass Rally
Sponsored by the Black Panther
Party

Sunday, March 7, 3:00 pm
Dr. Heldman (an attorney) for
Amnesty International will
speak. He has just returned
from Iran.
McMillan Hall, Columbia University
Sponsored by the Iranian
Students Assoc.

H. S. YAWF leads anti-war demos

NEW YORK, Feb. 18—At Music & Art High School today, the High School Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism led a student strike against the U.S.-supported South Vietnamese puppet invasion of Laos. About 200-250 students participated in the strike by staying out of classes; 150 of them went to join students from Dalton, Seward Park and Stuyvesant high schools at Stuyvesant. Here banners signed by YAWF protesting the war against Indochina and Black America were visible, carrying the message of what the strike was all about.

While in the process of trying to convince more Stuyvesant students to leave school and participate in the strike, Dave Grad, a YAWF H.S. Caucus member, was arrested for trespassing. He was released on a

summons.

An interesting sidelight of the demonstration is that the Student Mobilization Committee, the organization that called the strike, did their utmost to cool any militancy, cooperating with the pigs at every turn.

But despite this, the members of YAWF's High School Caucus feel that this is only the beginning of a successful struggle in the high schools. During the week of the strike, they distributed over 10,000 copies of "Jailbreak," the Caucus' newspaper, at 15 schools. It was well received, carrying articles on the Laos invasion, racism in the high schools, the New York police strike, the military and many other articles of interest to high school students.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

DEMONSTRATE
Saturday March 6, 1971 1:00 p.m.
At the Women's House of Detention
(Greenwich & 6th Aves., New York City)

Sponsored by: WOMEN of Youth Against War & Fascism
58 West 25th Street
New York, New York 10011
242-9225 or 989-3932

Women's Bail Fund
P.O. Box 637, Cooper Station
New York, New York

A look at Nixon's medical plans

Band-aids for a gaping wound

by Larry Levy, M. D.

Are the Medicare and Medicaid programs the answer to the growing health needs of the American people? Have these programs substantially altered the availability and quality of health care for the aged, invalid and poor? Is Nixon's "New National Health Strategy" going to work?

Nineteen months ago Nixon said that America's medical system faced a "massive crisis." The crisis did not begin then, nor is it any closer to being solved now.

In his State of the State message this year Rockefeller made a proposal for a compulsory state health insurance program. He has made a similar proposal in each of the four preceding years. All of them have died in legislature. Why?

Medicare and Medicaid are only band-aids on a gaping wound. They don't work. They are inadequate reforms won by a desperate people. The price of medical care, if you can get it, is so high that only the very rich can sustain the financial shock of an average hospital bill.

It's true that some of the financial burden of old people has been relieved by Medicare. In reality, the program pays only 47 per cent of the total cost of care—not much when the bill is often many thousands of dollars.

Medicaid has made it profitable for enterprising businessmen and doctors to establish practices in poor communities. This, too, has helped. It has mostly helped doctors to get rich, for the patient must still wait hours to see a doctor who doesn't really give a damn. The doctor is driven by "economic incentive," as Nixon puts it. This means that the more patients the doctor sees the more

money he makes, so he better be fast. He better not waste time talking to patients, listening to their complaints, reassuring them.

Can a new expanded Federal Health Insurance Program (F.H.I.P.) do the trick? No! Like the others it is a bandaid, somewhat larger maybe, but nonetheless inadequate. The patient will still pay more than 25 per cent of doctor and hospital costs. That means for an average hospital bill of \$1200 the patient will pay \$450.

Why is it that a truly progressive system of socialized medicine can't be instituted? The answer lies in the nature of the capitalist system itself. When everything in society revolves around money and profits, medical care becomes a commodity also. Something to be bought and sold, something to extract the highest profit from.

Medicare, Medicaid and the new F.H.I.P. are gains won by the people. The situation is desperate. During the past two decades the U.S. has dropped from 7th to 16th in prevention of infant mortality, from 6th to 8th in female life expectancy, and from 10th to 24th in male life expectancy. Non-white people have a life expectancy six years shorter than whites. And they have twice the infant mortality rate and four times the maternal death rate.

Nixon knows he has a "massive crisis" on his hands. One that is potentially so explosive it could rock the very foundations of the capitalist system. The people are very angry, angry and tired of the shit that passes for "care."

That's why the reforms and new programs are enacted. They are meant to appease. They are not designed to alter the basic problem. The bosses and their puppet Nixon will give

only as much as they feel they have to, never more.

Even when they "give" there's a contradiction they must deal with. How much can they afford and still be able to make super profits? Obviously not much. Just two weeks prior to his "New National Health Strategy" Nixon announced a proposal to cut existing Medicare benefits. This is to be coupled with an increase in the payments made by the 20 million old people in this program.

At present 80 per cent of the first 60 days in the hospital are paid by the insurance. Nixon wants to reduce this to 20 days. Part B of Medicare, doctor fee insurance, costs the patient \$5.30 per month now (to go to \$5.60 in July), plus a \$60 deductible that the patient pays. Nixon wants to make sick old people pay even higher rates. Since the insurance only pays 47 per cent of the total cost now, it would be effectively cut to about half of that if his proposals are adopted.

It would seem contradictory that on the one hand Nixon makes a proposal to institute a new national health program, while on the other hand he recommends drastically cutting back what already exists. It is not as strange as it appears.

The contradiction lies in the capitalist system. The problem for the ruling class has always been to steal as much as they can from the people, while "giving" enough crumbs to keep the people from taking it all.

The answer is that no health care system, welfare program, or other reform enacted by demagogic politicians in class society will do the job. These programs are always half-measures, band-aids, on wounds that can only be healed by the people doing the job themselves.

Abortion: the latest big business racket

by Emily Hanlon

Abortion has become big business, perhaps one of the most lucrative businesses of the year—lucrative, that is, for everyone except the women who are desperate to terminate an unwanted pregnancy.

The New York State Abortion Reform Law has given birth to another form of capitalist exploiter who profits from human suffering—the abortion brokers or the commercial abortion referral agencies.

These agencies do most of their business with out-of-state women who do not know where or to whom to go in New York to get an abortion. The referral agency finds the woman a doctor who will perform the necessary type of abortion, hospital space and care plus "extras" which include such things as airport limousine service, "coun-

seling" and "silk sheets."

There is nothing apparently fraudulent about the service these agencies provide. That is, by and large they are not fly-by-night set-ups that take the women's money and then disappear. They do send women to reputable hospitals and doctors, but the agency fee is usually about \$100! The trick is that the agencies refuse to tell how much of the pre-paid package deal goes to the doctor, the hospital and to the agency. Sometimes the agencies fees are more than the doctor's fees! But since most women are not in a position to question the fees, the agencies are making as much as \$70,000 a week profit off the desperation of pregnant women. One agency is estimated to have grossed well over \$1 million since the abortion law went into effect on July 1, 1970.

In fact, because of the secrecy of the relationships between the agencies, the hospitals and the doctors, it is hard to tell who is fixing the fees. But one thing

is clear, and that is that the profit-making scheme could not exist without the consent of all involved—that is everyone except the woman in whose interests this "humanitarian" business contract is supposed to be made.

For example, some hospitals and doctors have refused to make beds available and perform abortions for agencies not providing a guaranteed supply of patients. And some agencies have refused to refer patients to hospitals and doctors who do not give them a big enough cut. Some doctors and hospitals even have their own referral agency.

These agencies are using all the techniques of Madison Avenue and big business to further their "humanitarian crusades." Ads have been run from inconspicuous lines in public notice columns in hundred of small town newspapers to op ads in the New York Review of Books. Campus newspapers are a favorite advertising area. One such ad began, "What to give her for Christmas." Another agency had a plane sky-write its name, telephone number and service over the Super-bowl game in Miami.

This method apparently caught the crude fancy of another agency which began writing similar messages in the skies over the Miami beaches. In different parts of the country, billboards can be seen advertising package abor-

tion deals.

Since medicine in this country is little more than big business run in the interest of the doctors, drug firms and the rich and not in the interest of the masses of people, it is not surprising that the abortion reform laws have done little to help the large majority of women. The poor and oppressed women knew all along that the abortion law was a rich man's law. Some doctors make as much as \$4,000 a day performing abortions—now that includes fees that the working woman or welfare mother couldn't possibly afford, not to mention the referral agency fee.

It is true that the non-profit abortion referral services such as Planned Parenthood's Family Planning Information Service, the Clergy's Consultation Services and the services growing out of the Women's Liberation Movement such as the New York Abortion Project, just do not have the money and the facilities to reach out and help the thousands of women who are desperate for an abortion. But commercial agencies which get rich off of human misery can never be justified by saying that it meets a need of the people.

If abortions were free and safe to everyone, if abortion and all medicine were freed from the profit incentive and practices in the interest of the people, then parasites such as abortion brokers could not survive.



In China, medical care is free for all, regardless of age. This picture shows a team of medical workers teaching rural health workers to perform surgical operations. (Hsinhua photo)