

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

# WORKERS WORLD

Vol. 13, No. 11

June 8, 1971

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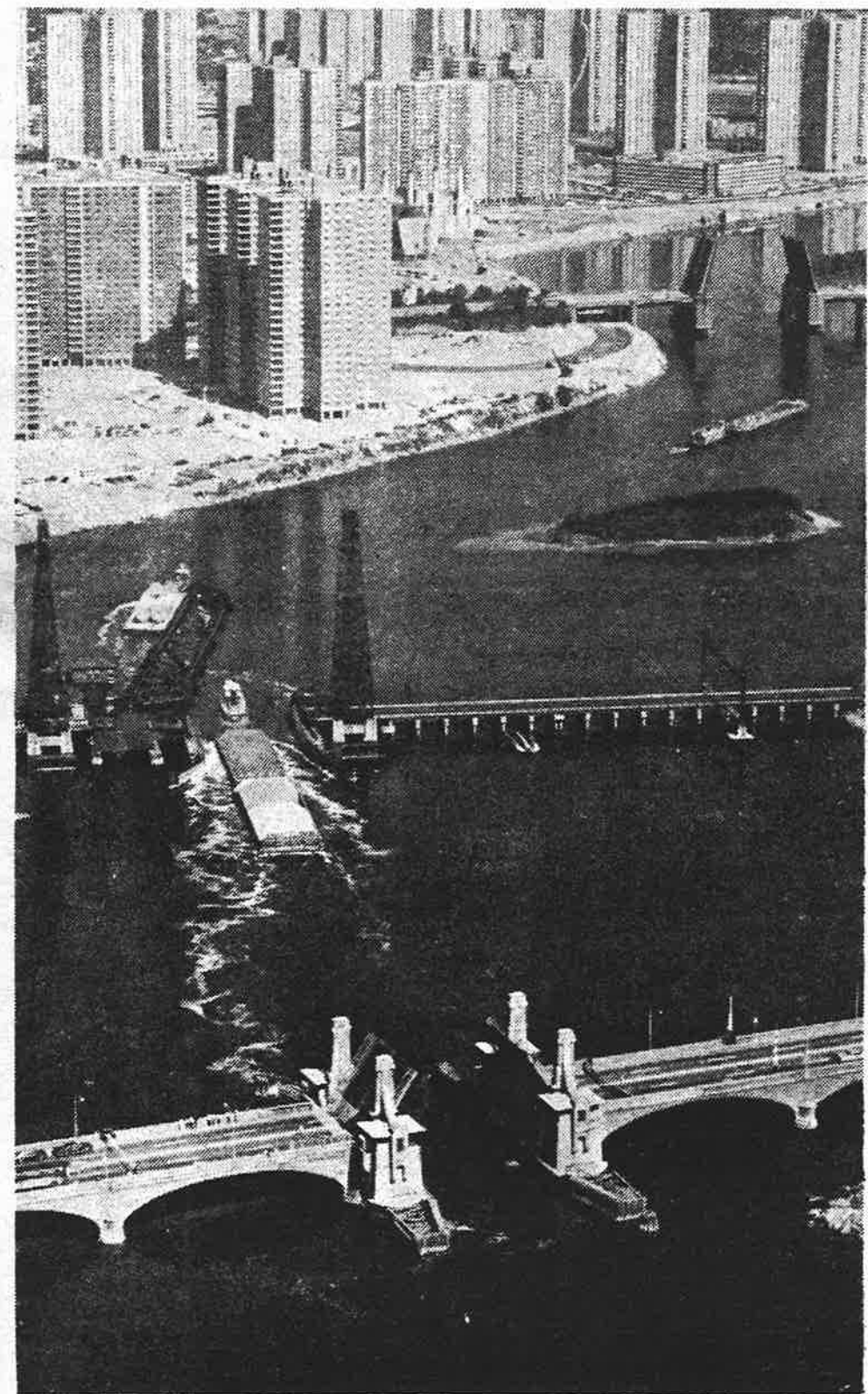
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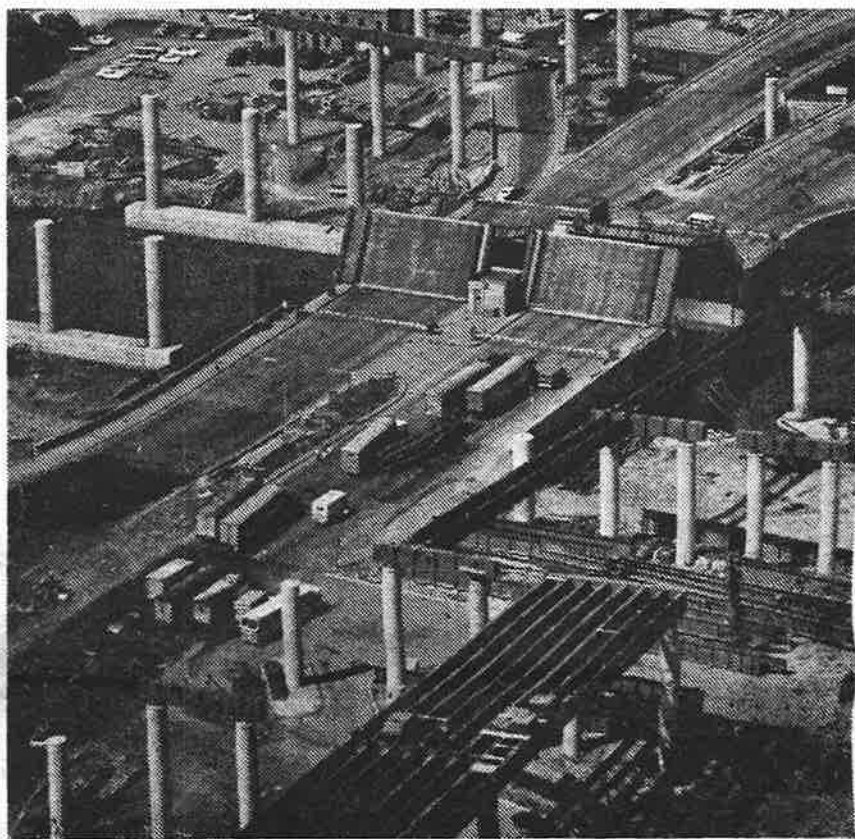
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Other cities face similar struggles

## Doublecrossed, NYC workers shut it down!



The draw bridges were up in New York City!



and Municipal Employees Union. These workers, who have traditionally been bound to their jobs by anti-labor legislation like the Taylor Law and the courts, decided they had had the last straw when their pension plan fell through. The action reflected the angry mood among all city workers who are low paid and frustrated by their traditional inability to fight back against their government bosses.

The fact that these are government workers on strike makes the action a highly political one. The workers are now engaged in a struggle not just with one boss, but with the capitalist state itself, which represents the interests of all the bosses put together!

True to his anti-labor colors, Mayor Lindsay immediately denounced the strike and got out three injunctions against each striking union—District Council 37 of the AFSME, Local 237 of the Teamsters and the bridgeworkers union, which is part of the parent Teamsters union. Executive Director of District Council 37, Victor Gotbaum, reflected the defiant mood of his membership when he declared, "I will not abide by the injunction. The strike will not only continue but will be escalated." (Confirming this prediction were rumors from other municipal workers, like those in the water department, that more actions were planned for tomorrow.)

In recent weeks there have been rumblings about the possibility of a general strike of city workers that could bring this town to a grinding halt. Such an action has been discussed ever since Governor Rockefeller and Mayor Lindsay began to

### This Strike Comes to You Through the Courtesy of Governor Nelson Rockefeller

There is only one reason we are striking today: Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

If you are inconvenienced and upset we are truly sorry. Our Union, District Council 37, did not want to strike. We did everything we could to avoid it. The men and women of our Union do not enjoy disturbing this neighborhood. We live here, too.

This is the first strike ever called by District Council 37.

One year ago, District Council 37 negotiated a contract with New York City. In full compliance with the Taylor Act, we negotiated in good faith. We were lawful. We were orderly.

A contract—including a new pension plan—was agreed to and approved by the New York City Council. Then it went to Albany for ratification. This is traditionally given once the City Council votes its approval.

Not this time, however. Rockefeller ordered the contract and our pension plan held up.

The contract has been signed for one year. But Rockefeller will not let it be voted on and approved by the Senate and Assembly. This is a clear violation of the "good faith" the Taylor Act demands from both parties in labor negotiations.

Over 2,000 members of our Union retired this year since the contract was signed. They made their decisions based on the new retirement plan. At this date, their retirement income is one-third less than they expected when they gave up their jobs.

#### The Alternative to Our Pension: Welfare

Understand this, District Council 37 is not made up of political fat cats. Our pension plan represents old age security for New York City employees whose AVERAGE SALARY IS \$7500 A YEAR.

For many of these people the only alternative to a decent pension will be welfare. That's what this strike is about.

It's about one man who is trying to force New York City to break a signed contract.

It's about one man who believes political deals are more important than the self respect of men and women who work a lifetime for New York City.

It's about Governor Rockefeller, who forced this strike on us—and you.

DISTRICT COUNCIL 37, AFSME, AFL-CIO, 365 BROADWAY, NYC 10019 WD 4-8700

threaten workers with massive layoffs due to budget cuts. While the politicians and bankers juggle with the fate of the workers, however, the rank and file are beginning to think of ways to strike back.

The struggle that is developing in this city may well be a foretaste of great class battles in cities across the country as well, where the ravages of inflation and unemployment could set a similar spark.

NEW YORK, June 7—Municipal workers in this city showed the kind of strategic power they hold when they selectively walked off their jobs this morning. At about 6 a.m., four highway vehicles were stalled and abandoned on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and workers at 28 draw bridges in the city left the spans high in the air and hit the bricks. The workers took with them vital key mechanisms from the bridges so that the scabs from the Army Corps of Engineers called in by Mayor Lindsay later today could not get the bridges down again. By this evening, Governor Rockefeller was already threatening to call out the National Guard to put down the strike.

The walkout and stall-in action immediately caused massive traffic jams, dramatically calling attention to the grievances of the city workers. The strike was called to retaliate against the killing of a bill in Albany that would have given the workers half-pay pensions at retirement after 20 years, and full-pay after 40 years. The pension agreement had already been negotiated with the city but fell victim to the vicious anti-labor anti-poor budget slashes now going on in the state capitol.

This militant action, which caught city officials and the cops alike completely off guard, was the first strike action ever called by District Council 37 of the State, County



# Jury finds James Johnson "not guilty"

## Conditions forced Black auto worker to shoot foremen

by BILL ALLEN

"On Wednesday evening, July 15, James Johnson, Jr. responded to months of harassment and years of oppression and shot to death two foremen and one job setter at the Chrysler Corporation's Eldon Avenue Gear and Axle Plant. Dead were Hugh M. Jones, 44, a Black production foreman; Gary L. Hinz, 32, a white production foreman; and Joseph Kowalski, a white job setter."

The above is quoted from an article in DRUM, the newspaper of the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement, a Black caucus of auto workers in Detroit and part of the League of Revolutionary Black Workers.

Johnson has been tried and found **not guilty** by reason of insanity and committed to Ionia State Hospital for the Criminally Insane. This verdict was reached by a Detroit jury of eight Black and four white people. Two jurors were auto workers themselves and three were wives of auto workers. Black and white auto workers testified during the trial to the unbearable conditions in the plant.

### Workers at breaking point

Time Magazine (June 7) would like us to believe the "not guilty" verdict was due to the judge. Judge Colombo was "scrupulously fair to the defense," they say. However, the auto industry has been "scrupulously" brutal and racist to Black workers. Colombo and the ruling class of Detroit are very aware of the explosive situation in the plants. And the jurors, who were taken to the plant where Johnson worked, got to see the conditions which drove the worker to do what he did. The League of Revolutionary Black Workers, which handled the defense, successfully showed the jurors that the auto barons were responsible for driving workers to the point of desperation

by subjecting them to cruel and inhuman conditions in the plants.

The League documented several incidents of this type in 1969 alone:

"In February of 1969 Bro. Rushie Forge was driven to the breaking point and lashed out, stabbing a Black labor relations representative, William Young, at Dodge Main. Bro. Chuck Wooten reached his breaking point minutes after Rushie by stomping Dick Prallie, a white general foreman, in Dept. 9110 at Dodge Main. In August of 1969, Bro. Sid Lewis was likewise driven to that point and lashed out at his foreman, Howard Lewis, in Dept. 9130 at Dodge Main."

There are 4,000 workers at the Eldon plant where Johnson worked, 65 per cent of them Black. There were several wildcat strikes in April 1970—wildcats over filth, layoffs and speedups. The second wildcat ended with the firing of 14 stewards. The stewards were not reinstated until the middle of May. This meant that Johnson and his brothers and sisters were working for a month without union representation—a situation the Chrysler Corporation took every advantage of.

During this period Johnson was involved in an accident that destroyed his car and placed him under medical care. His own doctor recommended that he stay out of work. But the Eldon plant doctors ordered him back. (The same plant doctors had ordered Sister Mamie Williams back to work after an accident in the plant. She later died in the hospital.)

### Fired for taking a vacation

When the company doctors ordered Johnson back to work, he left the plant on his two-week vacation. It was a legal vacation that had been applied for and approved by the company. When he returned from



his vacation his time card was missing and in its place was a discharge letter from the company, claiming his vacation was unauthorized. Johnson raised so much hell, the company reinstated him.

Johnson is the son of a Mississippi sharecropper, who at the age of nine viewed the mutilated body of his cousin, the victim of a racist lynch mob. In his three years at the Chrysler plant, he lost part of his hand in a conveyor belt, and worked up to 12 hours a day on a floor covered with an inch and a half of oil. He worked near drill presses, cutters and grinders without safety guards. He was continuously dodging runaway forklifts and jitney trucks with faulty brakes. It wasn't unusual to have pieces of equipment fall off the unguarded conveyor belts onto him during a speedup. He and his Black brothers and sisters were the butt of cruel racist remarks by the white foremen. These were the "normal" conditions at the Eldon plant.

On July 15 Johnson was taken off

his job as conveyor loader (replaced by a worker with two weeks' seniority) and placed on the brake oven job—a job of loading brake shoes in a huge bake oven, working in a constant temperature of 120 degrees.

Johnson protested being removed from his assigned job. He, his steward, and the general foreman went to the labor relations office. Johnson was suspended for insubordination and escorted out of the plant by security guards. He returned shortly with a carbine and killed the three men.

### "A victory for workers"

WORKERS WORLD spoke with Ken Cockrell, a lawyer from the League of Revolutionary Black Workers who successfully defended James Johnson. Cockrell called the verdict "a very important victory," and made it clear that they considered the plea of insanity "strictly a legal construct. It represents the efforts of a sick society to assuage its guilt by attempting to persuade the people that violence and murder are a rather rare aberration, when actually they are the day-to-day mode of existence of the bourgeois state."

(The League has filed for workmen's compensation to cover James Johnson's medical treatment, and is also working to get him out of the hospital.)

Cockrell contended that Johnson personifies the inability of oppressed workers to continue to accept their victimization, and also the inability of the union to represent the interests of the workers. While the resolution of the problem won't be found in individual workers bringing carbines into the plant, he said, the workers will continue to seek personal solutions to their unbearable tensions until there is a higher solidarity and class consciousness, and until Black workers function as the vanguard in the working class organizations.

Cockrell said it took a lot of courage for the jury to acquit James Johnson. It should be added that it took even more courage for the LRBW to step forward and come to the defense of a worker accused of murder, and to turn that charge around against the racist corporation that tormented him.

# Delaware Labor Center fights for fired worker

by JERRY ZILG

WILMINGTON—Lou Palladinetti was a worker at a duPont warehouse for four years. On February 22, he had his job "terminated"—not because of unexcused absences or lateness or refusing to do his work, but for "insubordination." He questioned company policy and stood up for his rights. Lou circulated a petition demanding that the company provide adequate protection for the workers' cars during working hours. So the duPont company "terminated" his job. Since the warehouse was non-union (not even a company union), Lou had no protection.

Three weeks later he applied for unemployment compensation benefits. Two weeks after that the Delaware State Labor Department declared him ineligible since he was fired for "just cause," i.e., "insubordination."

Lou decided to fight this collaboration between the bosses and the state. He was looking for allies, and turned to the Delaware Center for United Labor Action, because he knew it is a militant organization which fights for workers' rights.

Delaware CULA immediately mounted a campaign around Lou's case in particular and unemployment compensation in general. The labor activists of CULA knew that if they played by the bosses' rules, quietly filing appeals they had no chance. Though they did file appeals, they also took the case to the people.

The day of Lou's appeal hearing, a picket line was set up, complete with banners proclaiming "Unemployment benefits: a right, not a privilege."

Leaflets were distributed which said in part:

"At a time when workers' real wages are falling, unemployment rising and prices skyrocketing, the Unemployment Insurance Division of the State Department of Labor is denying unemployed workers their compensation benefits—benefits owed them from the fruits of their labor. Working people are being systematically denied their rights.

"When the war-inflated economy becomes unmanageable, it is workers who must pay with increased layoffs. Yet many of these workers don't even get the meager subsistence benefits due them. Why? On the bosses' say so, that's why. Companies can fire a worker on trumped-up or vague charges like 'insubordination' and the worker will be declared 'ineligible' for benefits just on the company's say so! (This recently happened to a former duPont worker at Eden Park).

"Workers who are 'fired' are presumed guilty by the State Department of Labor. The burden of proof is shifted to the worker who must prove his or her innocence. Any appeal hearing held under such conditions should be called by its real name—a kangaroo court. It is clear that the State Department of Labor is little more than a front for the bosses."

The response from the people was tremendous. Cars stopped and people asked for leaflets, and the

action received two articles in the local press plus radio and local television coverage. Meanwhile, Lou Palladinetti and his counsel from Delaware CULA, Ramon Ceci, walked out of his hearing after reading a letter demanding a bill of particulars.

The following Monday, a picket line was set up around the duPont warehouse at Eden Park. Management was so upset that they ordered all the blinds drawn and tried unsuccessfully to keep workers from the windows.

The persistent pressure by the CULA campaign forced the State Department of Labor to reschedule the hearing. The hearing was held May 19. After four hours (during which a picket line was maintained the entire time) the defense came away feeling that they had an excellent chance to win, not as a result of "justice" prevailing in the hearing, but because of the militant political defense.

In response to the written suggestion of the attorney for the State Department of Labor that Lou Palladinetti hire a lawyer or seek help from Legal Aid, Lou wrote, "I wish to state that I am more than pleased with the counsel provided by the Delaware Center for United Labor Action.... When aroused, working people have always been capable of conducting their own defense."

## An answer to William Pomeroy

# "Popular front" turns to counter-revolution in Ceylon

by DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Beginning March 3 in Ceylon an uprising against the Bandaranaike government exposed that regime's reactionary character. An estimated 80,000 people led by the People's Liberation Front took part in the rebellion, storming police stations and other agencies of repression. The stronghold of the rebellion was in the central highland region where big tea plantations are worked by oppressed Tamil laborers imported by the British from southern India.

Although there are still guerrilla groups holding out in these highlands, the main thrust of the rebellion was broken by the Bandaranaike regime, but only after helicopters and other military supplies were rushed in by Britain, the U.S., India and the Soviet Union.

This military assistance to crush a genuine revolutionary upheaval is only one aspect of the perfidious role played by so-called Marxist parties in the Ceylon affair. It dovetails with the domestic policy of the Communist Party of Ceylon and the so-called Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP). Both these workers' parties have for years helped prop up a bourgeois regime in Ceylon by joining popular front governments with the Bandaranaike party, the SLFP. Both parties have received Cabinet posts in exchange for keeping the highly organized proletariat of Ceylon in check.

## The apologies

of an "expert"—revisionist

This criminal betrayal of the oppressed in Ceylon has now been defended by William Pomeroy, long-touted as an expert on guerrilla warfare but actually an expert apologist for revisionism and class collaboration. Writing from London for the CP newspapers, and reprinted here in the Daily World of May 26, Pomeroy uses a shotgun approach of contradictory charges to try and discredit the revolutionary youth in rebellion. First they are "tragic" and "frustrated," the unfortunate victims of the inability of an underdeveloped country to make jobs for college and high school under-

graduates. Then, in the next breath (he is quoting the Ceylonese CP Minister of Housing), they are "potentially fascist and terrorist." He throws in that the CIA has been mentioned as a source of funds for the rebels—but doesn't tell us by whom.

Pomeroy admits that the youth "have legitimate grievances" and that "their program points on nationalization, anti-imperialism and people's control of the economy are correct." But, says our expert, their tactics were all wrong. They were premature and didn't have strong ties with the urban working class.

This evidently justifies their mass slaughter by the government, since the CP has done nothing to dissociate itself from the counter-revolutionary terror!

## Workers didn't rebel

—because CP didn't let them

But who did have strong ties with the workers? Wasn't it the CP and the LSSP, both claiming to be revolutionary parties? They're the reason the workers were not mobilized in the attempt to overthrow the corrupt Colombo regime. Their non-struggle line was the reason the youth were forced to break away and form their own movement. It is not the tactics of the rebellious youth that are to be criticized. They have taken the first step toward reintroducing revolutionary struggle into Ceylon after two decades of class collaborationist popular front tactics.

And who can really claim that this rebellion was an ultra-left adventure when it was able to rally tens of thousands under its banner in armed struggle? The test of correct tactics is whether they are capable of rousing the masses to struggle. The military defeat of the revolution may prove to be secondary compared to its political impact on the masses who want and need an organization that really intends to crush the bourgeois state and expropriate the ruling class, not holds hands with it. Wasn't this the significance of Fidel Castro's attack on the Moncada barracks? It ended in defeat, but it alerted the Cuban people to the fact

that a group of revolutionaries ready to die for them had come on the scene.

## Renegades from Leninism

and Trotskyism

For once the Daily World has nothing bad to say about the so-called "Trotskyists" in Ceylon. This is because the LSSP has departed as much from Trotsky as the CP has from Lenin. The LSSP was formed in the 1930's, when Trotsky was hammering away at the popular front tactics of the CPs in Spain and France, predicting that they spelled certain defeat for the working class. The CP never learned from these monumental defeats, while the LSSP has forgotten what it once knew.

Pomeroy presents the problems of "developing countries"—the lack of capital that forces them to turn to imperialist institutions like the International Monetary Fund for expensive loans, the unemployment, the unevenness of the economy inherited from colonial "one-crop" exploitation—as though they were incapable of solution. No where does he give even an inkling of the superiority of a planned socialist economy, of what great benefits would accrue to the masses if the possessing classes were expropriated and the economy taken over by the workers and oppressed. How could he, since this is what the revolutionary youth were demanding and what the CP says is impossible now—the masses must wait.

The masses have waited in Ceylon, and have seen their patience rewarded with the deterioration of their living conditions and the degeneration of the mass parties. In the wake of this counter-revolutionary onslaught, they are treated to the spectacle of a "Communist," the Minister of Housing Peter Keuneman, accepting a post on a seven-man government committee to adopt "emergency measures" to end the crisis.

No amount of crocodile tears from London can wash away the monstrous crime committed by the revisionists of all stripes against the flower of the revolutionary youth in Ceylon. Those who help reaction do its dirty work will be recognized by the masses as their enemies and dealt with.



— LNS photo

## Argentine guerrillas force Swift meat co. to feed the people!

ROSARIO, Argentina (LNS)—The manager of a large U.S. corporation was released here by his guerrilla captors on May 29 after the company agreed to distribute foodstuffs to the population and to rehire some of the 400 workers it had laid off.

Stanley Sylvester, the Argentine-born manager of the Swift meatpacking plant in Rosario and honorary British consul in the city, was captured and detained by a unit of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), one of five major urban guerrilla organizations now operating throughout the country.

After a trial in which Sylvester was found guilty of exploiting the people, ERP demanded that Swift distribute \$62,500 worth of meat, sugar, bread, salt, coffee, blankets and other items of prime necessity to the residents of Rosario's slum districts. Swift complied, and thousands of people turned out to get the foodstuffs from the trucks that went into the slums, and the meat given out at the plant.

Swift also agreed to the guerrillas' other major demand to rehire some of the 400 workers laid off by the company's decision to move out of Argentina.



# editorial

## Freedom for Bangla Desh and Washington's double-faced policy

The crocodile tears shed by the U.S. imperialist rulers over the massacres in East Pakistan (Bangla Desh) have already evaporated. After building up an image of being on the side of the Bengali people, Washington is now maneuvering for an accommodation between the blood-stained regime of Yahya Khan and the bourgeois moderate East Bengali leader, Sheik Mujibur Rahman. The aim of U.S. imperialist policy, therefore, is to prevent the emancipation of the Bengalis who already have proclaimed the Bangla Desh (Bengal Nation).

What the U.S. imperialists fear most from the independence war being waged in East Bengal is the potential volcanic spill-over into India-ruled West Bengal. In a June 2 editorial, the New York Times said:

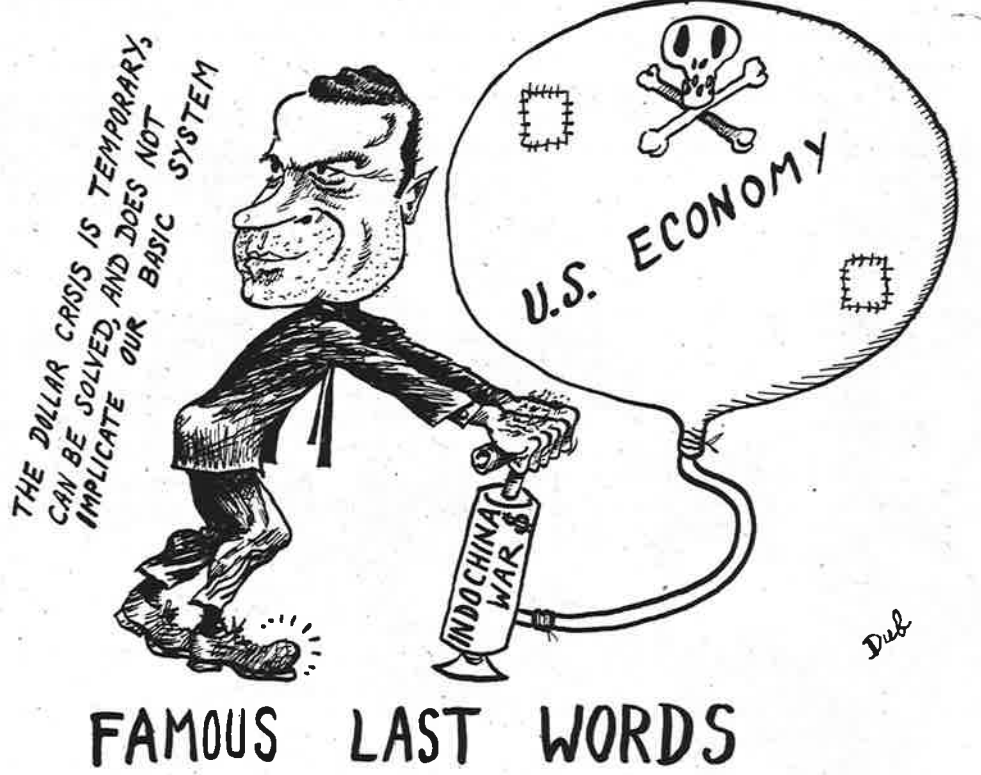
"A prolonged guerrilla conflict in East Pakistan would have profound repercussions in the neighboring violence-prone Indian state of West Bengal, already shaken by the influx of more than three million refugees from the Pakistani Army's campaign of terror."

The Times editorial was specifically geared to denounce and discredit the millions of Bengalis who call for the independence of East Bengal. But the strategy of U.S. imperialism in South Asia is best summarized in another part of the same editorial quoted above:

"It is obviously in nobody's interests to allow the Bengali 'spark' to explode into a major international conflict, one which might speedily involve the major powers. Nor is it wise to permit the situation in East Pakistan to continue to fester, inviting the gradual political disintegration of the entire subcontinent."

Washington and Wall Street are in effect saying that India and Pakistan, as carved out by British imperialism from the Indian subcontinent, are still the best instruments Western imperialism has for maintaining control over the South Asian masses.

Before the peoples of all South Asia can ever be freely united, however, they must be granted the right of self-determination. This fundamental principle is the absolute prerequisite for freedom from foreign, imperialist domination. And ultimately, only the proletarian revolution in South Asia can lay the foundation for unity of all peoples on the Indian subcontinent.



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Fill in coupon and mail to: WORKERS WORLD, 46 West 21 St., NYC.

## Workers get shaftogram from Western Union

If you ask for a raise in pay, the boss will tell you he can't give you one because that would cause inflation. But Western Union gave this phony excuse a different twist last week as 20,000 of its traffic, commercial and plant workers went on strike.

The company offered negotiators from the Communications Workers of America and the United Telegraph Union an increase of 6 per cent (not half-equalling the rise in cost of living since the last contract was signed) with that amount to cover all fringe benefits and wage increases put together.

On top of this, they offered another 4 per cent IF the U.S. Federal Communications Commission would approve a price increase for the company!

This was of course an open invitation for the union to lobby with the government to demand an increase in the cost of living.

(Almost simultaneously the Western Union board of directors declared a regular quarterly dividend to its shareholders and an added dividend to those holding preferred stock!)

It is the corporations, not the workers, who drive up the cost of living—with their endless imperialist wars and their constant efforts to stretch the dollar thinner and thinner as they try to blanket the world.

But Western Union, like its corporate companions, must first of all exploit the workers at home, and at the first sign of any problem with its profits, must try to make the workers pay.

By its gambit with the FCC, the company exposes itself as the enemy of the whole working public as well as of its own workers. It calls upon the people at large to pay its own workers the money it owes them.

The Western Union workers are already drawing their own conclusion to the company's cynical argument. They absolutely refused to agree to the FCC idea and they are drawing up their ranks for a tough, hard-fought strike.

## Letters

LOUISVILLE GE WORKERS STRIKE  
May 26, 1971

Brothers and Sisters,  
After having read your May 7 issue, please pass on my congratulations to CULA for the excellent job that they have been doing. I really enjoyed meeting them and you all also.

### A POEM AND A GOOD WORD

Greetings!

I send to you two poems and a subscription to your paper. If you enjoy the poems feel free to use them. I am twenty-two years old and have not yet been able to get one word of my poems in print.

There was a time when I would send long letters when I submitted poems to magazines and journals. I wrote those letters as introductions to the poems but I no longer do that. The poems, if good, will speak for themselves.

Carry on with your work. The Workers World is the best workers' newspaper that I know of.

Yours for the Revolution,  
Jerome Day Gunderson  
Santa Rosa, Calif.

### For Us, the Living

The old pale hotels;  
each room is a tomb  
where half dead men hang  
half living pictures on ghost walls  
on falling walls, on grey walls.  
The old pale hotels;  
a facade, a lie;  
the old people go there and die.  
In old pale hotels  
sick skinned men lay below  
tattered palls on sunken beds  
and age and pain fills their heads  
and denies them sleep.  
Where old women breathe in broken  
pieces  
and all the people are thin  
and live in the dust  
and their bones rust  
and life bursts,  
sinking into the hard, cracked floor.  
The old pale hotels grow large hands  
with strong fingers . . . .  
to reach for us,  
the living.

Have just read in the paper of Bobby and Ericka's charges being dropped, and all I can say is that, for once, somebody did the right thing. Right On.

Louisville has been undergoing many strikes by workers at G.E., five in the last seven weeks to be exact, over such things as incentive pay and getting a worker's job back. Usually, five or six will strike and 1500 will walk out in sympathy. It is really nice to watch. After all, G.E. does have a history of being rather "piggish."

We have been organizing study groups around Labors Untold Story, and they seem to be working quite well. We have six or seven now, comprised of about ten people each, mixtures of students, workers, and miscellaneous types like myself. We have also been working with the Black Worker's Coalition here, which is trying to change the racist policies at Ford. The work consists of getting up at 4:30 and picketing and leafletting, as the morning shift arrives. The response has been pretty good so far. One of our chants is, "U.A.W. means You Ain't White."

Power to the People  
Louisville, Kentucky

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# BOBBY AND ERICKA ARE FREED!



The following message was sent to the National Office of the Black Panther Party in Oakland by Youth Against War & Fascism as soon as news of the release of Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins was heard. It was printed in the Panther newspaper of June 5.

\* \* \*

Dear Bobby and Ericka,

We of Youth Against War & Fascism wish to extend to you our revolutionary congratulations upon your release from the fascist concentration camps.

Your arrests and imprisonment show the racist, fascist nature of this system in trying to break the Black Liberation Struggle and your release expresses the fact that justice for the people is obtained only through the

struggles of the people.

Your freedom is indeed a victory for the revolution and for all oppressed peoples struggling against U.S. imperialism. We rejoice! Bobby, Ericka, you have been an inspiration to all in the struggle and your victory is ours.

Long Live the Black Panther Party

Free All Political Prisoners

Victory to All Oppressed People Against U.S. Imperialism

(signed) National Office  
Youth Against War & Fascism  
58 West 25th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10010

## Part VII

### The story of Tricky Dick Nixon

## The rise of the bankers' boy

by F. O. RICHARDSON

In 1948, Nixon took another step in the right-wing campaign to create a cloud of anti-communist hysteria. He was appointed a one-man subcommittee to get Alger Hiss.

Hiss denied the charges and Nixon was appointed to become a one-man subcommittee to get him.

Nixon grilled Hiss on personal information in private sessions, then fed the information to his friend Chambers so Chambers could play it back in public and sound convincingly like an old friend of Hiss. The young representative held press conferences almost daily and leaked continual inflammatory and distorted information to the press, virtually convicting Hiss as a spy.

Typical of Nixon's duplicity, on August 16 he refused Hiss a transcript of testimony for that day's secret session where Hiss testified.

"The custom," Nixon announced in his pious voice, "is not to furnish a transcript whenever testimony is not made public. We are not going to divulge anything."

A week later front page stories taken from the secret testimony and embellished by Nixon accused Hiss's wife of espionage.

When an informer said in testimony held in closed session that he had "heard" that Hiss was a communist around 1941, Nixon stated to the press that the testimony had "linked" Hiss to the communists and upped the year to 1944.

Hiss balked at giving Nixon more personal testimony after he saw it being used by Chambers against him, and told Nixon he had read that he had

visited Chambers over the weekend at his farm. It is almost possible to hear Nixon's sanctimonious tones as he said, according to the court record, "That is quite incorrect."

"It is incorrect."

"Yes, sir. I can say that I have never spent the night with Mr. Chambers."

In this case Nixon's qualification made his statement literally true: he had only travelled out and spent the day.

The FBI did its bit. FBI men chauffeured Chambers around showing him houses where Hiss had lived so that he could describe them as an old friend; they pumped him full of inside information for some four months, and later they would furnish forged documents to exhibit to the world.

The climax came after the 1948 elections. Though Nixon had been reelected, the Republican presidential candidate had been defeated. In December the Department of Justice announced they would drop the Hiss case for lack of evidence.

With prearranged knowledge of what was going to happen, Nixon left for the Caribbean supposedly on a vacation. Suddenly Chambers revealed his FBI supplied "documents" which he said he'd hidden in a pumpkin.

Nixon in a grandstand play was taken off his pleasure trip by a Navy launch and flown back to Washington where without even seeing the papers he announced that they proved that communists were spies.

In spite of all the publicity and frameup "ev-



idence," the Nixon forces did not feel able to take any legal steps. Hiss, however, sued Chambers and in the rising fever of red scare hysteria, Hiss himself was convicted of perjury.

Nixon and the right wing claimed victory. And they were right. In spite of the fact that they had been unable to initiate a legal case against Hiss because they lacked evidence, they had begun a witchhunt hysteria which would last more than a decade; and in the process it would wipe out or housebreak every workers' organization, communist or not.

This roll-back of the working class gains by anti-communist hysteria would weaken and corrupt more than a generation of workers. It would imbue them with ignorance about their own exploitation and it would enable a unopposed ruling class to launch a war in Korea and then in Vietnam. And it would make Nixon president.



# A letter to American workers from Vietnam Federation of Unions

The following letter was sent to the Editor of WORKERS WORLD by the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions.

Hanoi April 12, 1971

Dear friends,

Eighty-five years ago, with an indomitable and valiant spirit of unity in struggle, the workers of Chicago, the working class and workers of the United States have made history over the immortal May Day. Since then, May Day has become a great festive occasion, a day of demonstration of the spirit of fighting for the right to live, democracy and social progress of the working people, a day of manifestation of the international solidarity of the workers all over the world. On this occasion, on behalf of the workers and trade unions of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, we wish to convey to you our heartfelt greetings and best wishes.

The historic May Day this year comes at a time when the American workers and people are carrying out a wide-spread Spring offensive against the unjust war waged for many years now by the U.S. government in Vietnam and Indochina, when the struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation of the Indo-chinese peoples has recorded great victories.

As you already know it, (Nixon has) not fulfilled the promise he gave at the time of his standing for election to the Presidency of the United States that he would "rapidly end the war in a six-month time." With a view to serving the interests of the U.S. monopolies, and to pursuing the scheme of turning Vietnam and Indochina into a new-type colony and a

military base of the United States, defying all the objections and protests on the part of the people in the United States and the world over, Mr. Nixon, over two years since he took office, has furthermore expanded the war to the whole of Indochina....

Faced with such a situation, the Vietnamese people have no other alternative than to unite more closely with the peoples of Laos and Cambodia and to fight side by side with them till final victory. We are also convinced that the men and women workers and the people of the United States will take up stronger actions and further develop the anti-war movement in order to compel Mr. Nixon and his government to put an early end to the unjust war in Vietnam and in Indochina, a war which is bringing about disastrous effects to the economic and social life in the United States itself.

Dear friends,

The Vietnamese workers and people have consistently persisted in the struggle for friendship among nations, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in the world over. We never mistake the American people for the warmongering clique of aggressors in the United States represented by Nixon. We are always convinced that the American working class and people who have made history over the immortal May Day with their freedom and justice-loving tradition, will certainly rise up and stage strong actions against the unjust war in Vietnam and Indochina....

We highly value the anti-war movement of the American workers and people and consider it to be a valuable support for the Vietnamese

and under Johnson half-a-million GIs to Vietnam.

The occasion for the miraculous change of heart in the Democratic Party is, of course, the current scramble for the Republican-held White House. In this factional rivalry within the ruling class, the Democratic pretenders to the throne are cynically playing upon the long standing grievances of the masses in their bid for votes.

Eugene McCarthy, one of these "anti-war" imperialists who tried to win the 1968 Democratic nomination, is again trying to lead his party to victory. Last time, McCarthy thought he'd ride in on the shoulders of young anti-war protestors. This time he's trying with the threat of a third party.

At his public appearances, before anti-war rallies, McCarthy comes on as a starry-eyed crusader. At a big rally in Minnesota last month he said, "...let us have a new party and a new policy and a true America."

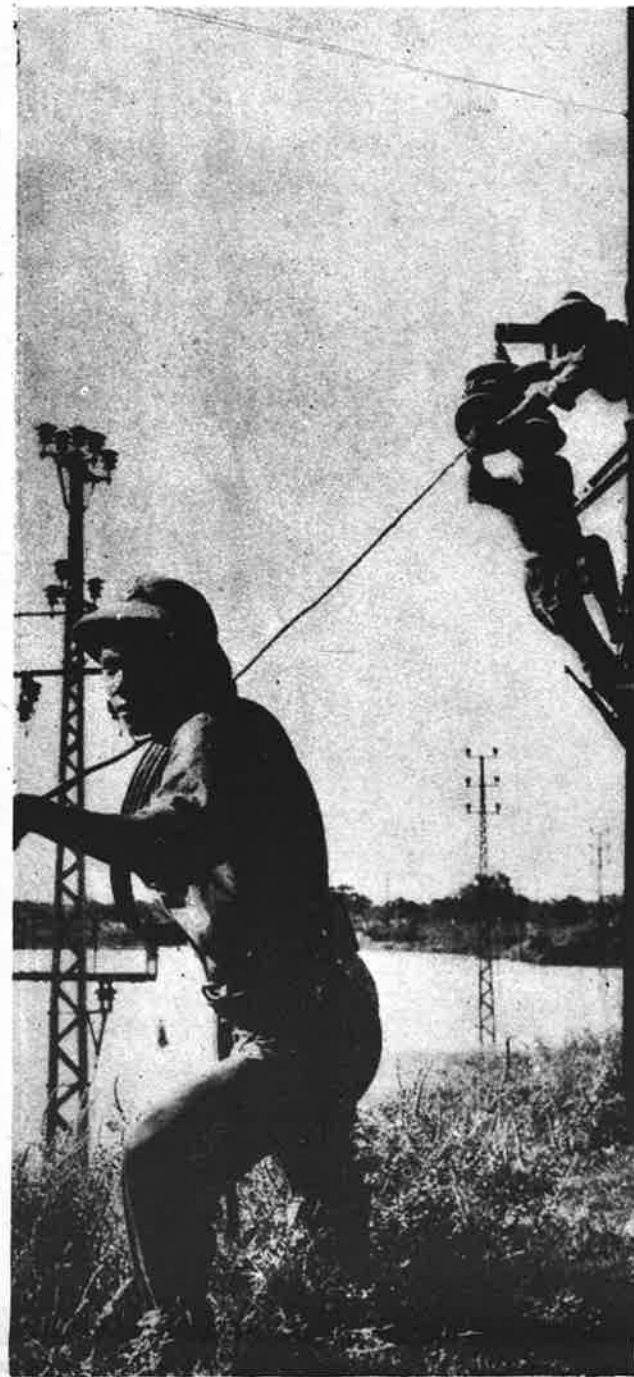
Privately, McCarthy admits he doesn't want any third party as long as the Democratic Party bosses choose him as their front man to run against Nixon. "You have to hold it over them as a threat," he was quoted.

McCarthy's "peace" program further reveals him to be another opportunist who is everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

According to the New York Times report on his Bloomington speech, "Mr. McCarthy also set himself apart from most of his party's critics of the war in Indochina by arguing that Congressionally mandated withdrawal from Vietnam might well be counter-productive. It would invite chaos in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, he said, and constitute an abdication of responsibility."

By "chaos" what can McCarthy mean but the overthrow of U.S. rule? And an "abdication of responsibility" means the "responsibility" to U.S. big business making super-profits off the war and the Asian people.

McCarthy made his position abundantly clear in commenting on the McGovern-Hatfield reso-



workers and people.

Availing ourselves of this occasion, we wish to convey to you, dear friends, and to American workers and people our heartfelt thanks....

The Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions

**McCarthy  
and Nixon  
cut from same  
class fabric**

by KENNY LAPIDES

Now they're posing as the anti-war party, friend of the oppressed, and spokesman for the alienated youth.

But under Kennedy they sent Green Berets to Southeast Asia, marines to Santo Domingo, CIA invaders to Cuba, mercenaries to the Congo,

lution. He argued "that the U.S. would have no influence on the political situation in Indochina once all American troops were gone." This is probably true, though only an imperialist would grieve over it.

The lesson to be learned from McCarthy, who is cut from the same class fabric as the other "anti-war" liberals, is that whatever doubts or reservations he may have about any particular war of U.S. imperialism, he is absolutely loyal to imperialist rule in general. When these liberals talk about "re-ordering priorities," they mean that the Indochina war has been a defeat for U.S. imperialist rule, with dangerous consequences for their rule at home. They want to redirect their forces of repression against the rising tide of resistance here and elsewhere abroad, particularly in the Middle East.

These imperialist liberals are absolutely committed to U.S. domination in the oil rich Middle East. They have said time and again that the stakes are incomparably higher there than in Vietnam. They would not hesitate one second to launch another Vietnam-type aggression against the Arab countries (as they did in 1967) to defend their billion dollar oil profits.

Nor have they hesitated to crush any rebellion or other act of self-defense by the Black community in its struggle for self-determination.

Just as the "anti-war" liberals in Washington on April 24 tried to divert the struggle away from the imperialist and racist nature of the war in Vietnam, so McCarthy, a loyal instrument of the ruling class, is trying to lead a campaign that will water down the movement against the Indochina war, divorce it from the Black liberation struggle, and blind it to the war against the Arab people.

All truly anti-war forces and individuals must know that as long as the imperialists in Washington rule, be they liberal or fascist, there will be imperialist wars. The fight against the war must be a fight against capitalism.

# Black airmen and women rebel at Travis AFB

A major rebellion of at least 1,000 Black and Third World Airmen and women shook California's Travis Air Force Base for four days, May 22 through 25, in a series of pitched battles against the blatant racism perpetrated by the military Brass. The base commanders were unable to "pacify" the courageous fighting men and women until they declared martial law—on their own military base!

Of the usual 10,000 population of Travis, only 6,500 are "permanent party." The rest are GIs shipping out to Indochina from this huge embarkation base, or wounded vets delivered to Travis to be temporarily patched up before assignment to a military hospital. Ten per cent of the Airmen and WAFs are Black and Third World, nearly all of them segregated in the "1300 barracks area."

The rebellion grew out of a number of racist incidents on Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23. When Black Airmen and WAFs defended themselves against the racist slurs and attacks, Travis Security Police cordoned off the "1300 barracks." On Sunday, two to four men were arrested—all of them Black.

## March on stockade

About 200 Black and Third World Airmen and WAFs marched on the stockade Monday demanding the release of two of the men, Byes and Mays, whose arrests were confirmed. Air Police armed with gas and automatic weapons, with bayonets at the ready, confronted the marchers. The APs were backed up

by a contingent of 86 civilian cops.

As the marchers chanted "Free our brothers," the police attacked and drove them back across the base. The demonstrators fought a slow retreat, and at times joined by white supporters, withdrew to the "1300 barracks." At one point the brothers and sisters took over a baseball game and expropriated the bats to use for self-defense.

At least 135 people were arrested, many of them after being brutally beaten. About 14 of the prisoners were Black women (WAFs) who had joined the struggle against the racist brass. The brass refused even to release the names of the prisoners and the actual toll may be much higher.

## Officers' quarters trashed

Five rings of Air Police and cops surrounded the "1300 barracks area," where fighting against racist whites and lifer brass continued into the next day. An officers' quarters was burned to the ground Monday night. When one brass-hat, a full-bird colonel, ventured too close to the rebellion, his car was surrounded and he was dragged out to face the wrath of the people he had ordered arrested and beaten. He reportedly turned up later at the base hospital for 23 stitches in his scalp.

Base commanders General Moore and Colonel Blake declared martial law on Tuesday morning and shotgun-armed patrols of APs, reinforced by MPs from Presidio, were ordered to arrest any group of five

and to shoot to kill. Observers reported hearing small arms fire and Molotov cocktails from the "1300" ghetto barracks area.

Some of the prisoners, including 14 WAFs, were released, but the others were dispersed among various stockades at other bases, no more than 20 together.

The Pentagon flew in a special "human relations advisor," William Beard, to consult with Travis brass on ways to "cool" the rebellion. On the following day, May 26, the brass announced that the remaining 89 prisoners had been brought back to Travis and returned to active duty. However, GIs at another base

(Continued on page 14)

## Seoul, Korea

# Black soldiers protest racism, war

The following article is reprinted from THE PEOPLE'S KOREA, published in Japan by the DPRK.

Over 20 Black soldiers belonging to the 8th Army of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in Seoul held a demonstration in Yongdungpo in the city at 5 p.m. on May 17, resolutely opposing the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Vietnam.

They waged the anti-war demonstration for many hours, demanding an immediate stop to the war of aggression in Vietnam, each wearing an arm band of anti-war insignia.

One of them declared that they were holding the demonstration because they "oppose war in any part of the world and want peace."

The anti-war demonstration of the Black soldiers shows that the criminal scheme of the U.S. imperialists to expand their war of aggression for staving off their doom is running up against a powerful rebuff even within their aggressor forces.

On the same day, 30 GIs stationed in Tongduchon and Uijongbu near the Military Demarcation Line distributed bills condemning the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression and war in Vietnam and Korea and demonstrated through Seoul streets and sat down at Myongdong.

cution by the military brass:

From the Vietnam Front

Camp Eagle, Vietnam, 1 May 1971—

To my brothers and sisters in the struggle,

The American Servicemen's Union is a rank-and-file organization that is completely run, operated and paid for by the lower class of the army—the enlisted men and women. As EM we realize that we are the slaves of the Brass. The people who are ordered to kill, kill, kill for the fascist lifer Brass and the man who stands next to them, our pig president, Nixon. Each and every day is another episode in our long struggle.

How much longer are we going to struggle? Every day the bombing continues, EM are killed or wounded, Vietnamese are raped and exploited, and the upper class warlords make more money. Blood money! It's time that we stopped giving them blood money and started seeing peace in Indochina. We must stop this insane, crazy war in Vietnam. We have to apply the brakes to the green war machine NOW! We cannot permit it to run amok any longer.

If it continues, the people of the world will continue to be at the mercy of Nixon and his henchmen. Nixon is

They wore a black arm band indicating their opposition to the war policy of the U.S. imperialists and chanted "Stop the aggressive war!" "Give us peace at once!"

This anti-war demonstration carried on by soldiers belonging to the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops occupying South Korea is an inevitable result of the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and their policy of colonial enslavement.

The sworn enemy of the Korean people, the U.S. imperialists, have occupied South Korea for 26 years and brought all sorts of misfortunes and tribulations upon the South Korean people. They are trying hard to provoke a new war in Korea, instead of drawing a due lesson from their appalling defeat in the Korean War.

Their machinations are revealing their true colors as the principal forces of aggression and war for American soldiers to see.

Of late, American soldiers stationed the world over and in particular in the U.S. mainland, Vietnam and other Asian countries are coming out in their anti-war struggle.

The anti-war struggle of American soldiers in South Korea is part of this struggle.

trying to take over the world like Hitler and his Nazis tried to do it in the 1940's. We must stop him. Without control of the military, Nixon's dictatorship will disintegrate. We must prevail for the sake of humanity! If we fail our souls will rot in the dungeons of fascism.

Presently in my unit, the pig Brass are out to suppress my ASU activities. The pigs are conspiring against me; they want me disposed of. They see the world under fascism as the totalitarian atmosphere of their liking. I see it as a disease that must be extinguished. They now are planning the steps to be made in getting rid of this ASU organizer.

With the help of the EM in this unit, they are informing me of this plot against me. With their help and the help of my brothers and sisters of the ASU, the pig Brass's plot will crumble. This is just another instance of the Brass trying to crush our Union. Like always it will fail. Power to the ASU. Power to the people!

/signed/  
Robert Michener  
Service Battery, Second Battalion  
Eleventh Artillery, 101st Airborne  
Division (Airmobile)  
Camp Eagle, South Vietnam

# ASU Vietnam organizer framed on dope charges

NEW YORK, May 19 (ASU)—PFC Robert Michener, ASU organizer in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, has been framed up on a phony dope bust. He told the National Office of the ASU in a letter dated 22 April: "Thanks to a few EM informers and some friends I found out some very interesting information. It seems that the pigs around here are out to get me. The CO has conspired with the First Pig (Sergeant) and assorted pig officers to nab me for anything. And the clincher is that they believe I'm pushing dope! I find that charge hard to believe. But with the suspicion of being a dope peddler they could always PLANT some dope and win out."

"The ASU members in my unit have been notified on what's happening to me and we're planning out steps we're going to take in handling it. So I thought I'd let you in on what's happening to me. I might get railroaded into a frameup and I want you to know what's going on from the beginning."

On May 1, PFC Michener wrote to the National Office, "Two days ago I was called down to the orderly room to see my fascist, racist CO. He read me Article 31 (5th Amendment). I was being charged with possession of grass. The next step was a shake down of my personal belongings. I was then taken

to CID and refused to talk to the pigs.

"One EM in my unit overheard the CO say to the XO that they don't want me for drugs but for my ASU activities. They know that their 'plant' failed and now they want to pin me with being a subversive. The XO has proclaimed me a 'communist' in front of five officers."

John Lewis, National Field Organizer of the ASU, said today, "Bob Michener has been organizing for the ASU in his unit in Vietnam for several months. He had been under constant attack by his racist, fascist CO, Captain Karl Ingram, for his union organizing activities. Brother Michener has been getting out the word about the ASU to the line units of the 101st Airborne Division, and this is one thing that the Brass do not like. They want to keep the EM ignorant of the ASU so that they will be the willing tools of the war machine. Thanks to organizers like Michener this will not happen and line-unit GI will continue to hear about the Union and will continue to organize to build the powerful EM organization that is needed to smash the power of the Brass, and stop war, racism and the oppression of GIs."

The following is a statement that Pvt. Michener wrote to the ASU concerning his frameup and his perse-



## A talk with Palestine guerrilla spokesman

**"We need solidarity in deeds"**

by NAOMI COHEN

The Palestinian resistance movement is facing a period of counterrevolutionary advance . . . . We need solidarity in deeds, not just in words . . . . The resistance movement is engaged in a battle for survival."

These were the grim facts described to WORKERS WORLD newspaper in a discussion with a spokesman for the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Ahmad Kayali spoke with us May 28, just two weeks after President Anwar Sadat of Egypt staged a coup against leftist elements in the UAR government, and just one day after the USSR and the Egyptian governments signed a 15-year treaty. It was indeed an important moment to discuss the perspective of the Palestinian liberation movement in the light of unfolding events.

### New strategy of resistance movement

The DPF representative wished to stress to us, and to all revolutionaries in the U.S. who are serious about supporting the cause of Palestinian and Arab liberation, that the Palestinian resistance movement is now facing a deadly, counterrevolutionary advance, particularly in Jordan. "We are moving underground, which means that we need a great deal of financial assistance," he told us. "We need solidarity in deeds, not just in words." (Only days after we spoke with Kayali the New York Times carried accounts of new assaults against the guerrillas in Jordan and King Hussein's threat to crush the Palestinian movement there.)

Because the Palestinian movement is faced with a counterrevolutionary advance, Kayali explained, it is important to understand the new strategy of the resistance developed after the September massacre of Palestinians in Jordan. Since then there has been a polarization in the resistance movement. On the right, Kayali said, is Al Fatah, which "believes in coexisting with the Hussein regime and depends directly on support from the Arab states." In particular, he noted, "Fatah has now adopted the line of Cairo and Moscow" which means that "indirectly they are for accepting a political settlement."

The left tendency in the resistance movement Kayali explained, is represented by groups like the DPF and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which believe that it is impossible to coexist with Hussein. "Hussein is trying to crush the resistance movement in order to prove to the U.S. that he is the master in Jordan."

In order to combat the counterrevolution, Kayali explained, the left Palestinian tendencies are trying to "mobilize a new united front to organize resistance to Hussein and the Rogers plan."

The Palestinian resistance movement, said Kayali, had learned from past experience that the guardianship of Arab states hampered the struggle. The fact that Arab states were the main contributors to the resistance movement meant that the resistance organizations couldn't intervene in the internal affairs of Jordan or any other state. "No Arab state," he pointed out, "is for the overthrow of Hussein."

The lesson that the movement learned from the September battles in Jordan was the necessity



## Protest for Gaza

NEW YORK, June 5—Over 150 demonstrators took to the streets today and chanted "U.S. out of the Middle East, Palestine will win!" to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the infamous June War waged by the U.S.-backed Israeli forces.

A picket line was organized in front of Rockefeller Center at 50th Street and Fifth Avenue at 2 p.m. by the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation (CSMEL), Progressive Arab Students, the Iranian Students Association, the American Servicemen's Union (ASU), and Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF).

The demonstration attracted the attention of many passers-by as the militant pickets chanted slogans, such as "Arab land, Arab oil, for the Arab people!" and "Rockefeller gets rich off the Arab people!"

and "Stop the war against the people of Gaza; U.S., Israel, Out!"

The entire picket line marched, at about 3:15 p.m., down Fifth Avenue to the Israeli Discount Bank at 43rd Street, with the demonstrators displaying huge banners saying "Victory to the Arab People, U.S.-Israel Out," "Gaza Strip—Warsaw Ghetto in the Mideast" and "U.S. 6th Fleet Out of the Middle East." The Palestinian brothers and sisters also carried a large Palestinian flag.

At the Israeli Discount Bank, several speakers discussed the critical struggle in the Middle East. The speakers were Bill Doares of CSMEL, Mohammed Ibrahim, a Palestinian student, Berooze, an Iranian student, Beth Slater from YAWF Women, Ned Hanlon of CSMEL, and John Lewis of the American Servicemen's Union.

## Commemorate 4th anniversary of U.S.-Israeli aggression against Arab people

### Meeting on Mideast struggle

NEW YORK, June 4—To commemorate the 4th anniversary of the June War of 1967, a public meeting was held tonight to discuss the recent developments in the United Arab Republic and its effect on the Arab liberation struggle. The meeting was held at the New Yorker Hotel at 8 p.m. and was sponsored by the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation (CSMEL), the Progressive Arab Students Organization, the Iranian Students Association, and Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF).

Some 200 participants listened to speakers Yusrah Ibrahim, a Palestinian sister who lived in a refugee camp 30 miles from Jerusalem until August 1967; Rita Freed, Chairwoman of CSMEL and recently returned from Palestine Week in Algeria; Ahmad Mobarez, a representative of the Iranian Students Association; and the featured speaker of the evening, Sam Marcy, Chairman of Workers World Party. After being introduced by Beth Slater, from YAWF Women, Rita Freed of CSMEL acted as chairwoman of the meeting.

Rita Freed gave a thoroughgoing

talk on the background of the June War, explaining that Israel was a creation of British and U.S. imperialism in the first place, and therefore destined to be used as an oppressor state over the Arab people. She also brought out that U.S. oil interests in the Middle East were much more vital than the U.S. interests in Southeast Asia, and largely account for the deep involvement of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East.

### Woman refugee speaks

Yusrah Ibrahim discussed at length the critical situation in the Gaza Strip. Despite the brutal repression unleashed by Israeli forces against the people of Gaza, she said, Gaza was still the stronghold of Palestinian resistance. Gaza women and girls have displayed unprecedented heroism by defying a curfew and battling Israeli troops in the streets. Sister Ibrahim appealed to all American progressives to break the curtain of silence on the repression in the Gaza Strip and urged everyone to come to the Mideast demonstration scheduled for the next day.

Ahmad Mobarez explained that the Confederation of Iranian Students, which has many chapters around the world and of which the Iranian Students Association of the U.S. is a member, was made illegal by the U.S.-puppet Shah of Iran over a year ago. Mr Mobarez told the audience that "the Palestinian revolution is an inspiration to the Iranian struggle, since the Palestinian and Iranian peoples have the same common enemy: imperialism." He also said that most of the Iranian people sup-



of uniting with other Arab organizations in the liberation struggle. "The resistance movement didn't build a united front with other Arab organizations," Kayali said. "This split it from Arab revolutionary forces in Jordan, Libya, Syria, Iraq, the Gulf area, etc. We now know that the Palestinian people alone cannot liberate the area, but must build progressive regimes around Israel."

### UAR-USSR pact

Kayali had just seen the UAR-Soviet treaty in the morning papers when we asked his impression. The 15-year pact, he felt, was in general a progressive step in so far as it would tend to halt the rightward political turn Sadat took when he ousted Vice President Aly Sabry from the government and then had almost all the members of the cabinet purged and arrested. The Sadat coup in Egypt, Kayali said, developed out of a factional struggle between a pro-U.S. grouping headed by Sadat, and a pro-Soviet grouping headed by Sabry.

In spite of the fact that the pro-Soviet faction in the government was ousted, the Soviet leaders moved swiftly to sign a treaty with Sadat to prevent the Egyptian leader from moving closer to U.S. imperialism. Diplomatically, said the DPF representative, this was a wise move for the Soviet Union. In effect, through massive military aid to the UAR, the USSR controls the army in Egypt and was thus able to dictate the terms of the strong friendship treaty to Sadat.

(Of course, the meaning of the treaty was not lost on the U.S. government. The capitalist press here immediately characterized it as

"a serious blow to the hopes of the United States for a reduction of Soviet influence," in the words of the New York Times of May 28. The June 7th issue of Newsweek magazine called the treaty "Russia's new coup in Egypt.")

### Revisionist Soviet leaders betray Palestine

Kayali pointed out, however, that the Soviet leaders in endorsing Sadat showed that they cared little about the political character of the regime, and even less about the Egyptian masses. The Soviet Union, with all its influence in Egypt, has never tried to build mass support for any revolutionary movement there. It is more interested in making a deal with the government

than arousing the masses for struggle.

While seeing the progressive side of the pact, the DPF recognizes, nevertheless, that the revisionist Soviet leaders are arming Egypt on the one hand, while at the same time wheeling and dealing with the U.S. to arrive at some sort of political solution in the Middle East. Any such "solution," the Palestinians feel, is aimed at destroying the struggle for the liberation of their homeland.

The revolutionary organizations in the Palestinian resistance movement are, therefore, looking ahead to a period of protracted struggle and are calling upon all their revolutionary allies in the Middle East and around the world to support, in whatever way possible, their just cause.



Wahdat refugee camp, Amman. — LNS photo

# Anniversary gression people

port the struggle for Palestinian liberation.

Sam Marcy, Chairman of Workers World Party, focused on the significance of the recent developments in Egypt. He stated that the Sadat coup was definitely a turn to the right, with the Western imperialist powers never questioning the purge

tactics of Sadat. Had the coup been a left-wing one, the imperialist press certainly would have been screaming bloody murder.

He also said that the coup was possible because the revolution led by Nasser against King Farouk weakened the landed aristocracy and foreign domination, but "the possessing

classes were never overthrown by the Nasser regime."

Comrade Marcy's talk developed the Leninist concept of self-determination. The socialist countries, he explained, have a responsibility to extend whatever diplomatic and military aid is possible to nations in a progressive struggle against imperialism, regardless of the nature of the regime. As an example, he cited Ethiopia, where the struggle against Italian fascism was carried out under a monarchy but was nevertheless progressive.

### What kind of support?

This does not mean, however, that political support should be given the government, especially when there are more revolutionary elements struggling for power. He cited as an example that Communists have been in jail in Egypt for years, yet the Soviet Union has collaborated politically with the bourgeois elements in Egypt, undermining the class struggle there and throughout the Middle East.

The Workers World Party leader characterized the Sadat regime as Bonapartist, since it could swing to both left and right depending on the overall situation in the Middle East crisis. He also said that the complete support given to Sadat by the Soviet leadership is a setback for all revolutionaries and the Egyptian people.

The meeting ended with a spirited discussion with the audience that focused on the question of self-determination and ranged from Africa to Pakistan.

## DPF leader arrested in Jordan

The Jordanian government recently arrested a leader of the Democratic Popular Front and is holding him, according to reports received by this paper. The prisoner, Taiser Alzzabir, is a leading member of the Central Committee of the DPF. Friends fear Alzzabir will be assassinated in prison and have opened a campaign to save his life. They ask that telegrams and petitions be sent to U Thant and to Jordanian officials to protest the danger Alzzabir faces.

## Israel: Base of Western Imperialism 35¢

by Abdel-Wahab M. El-Messiri

Order from: CSMEL  
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# On the organizing

## Detroit

### 300 people tell Bell, "No rate hike!"



DETROIT, May 27—The Public Service Commission held a "public" hearing on the suggested Michigan Bell Telephone rate increase here yesterday at 9:30 a.m. Detroit Youth Against War & Fascism realized that this could not be a public hearing without the public's knowledge, and so distributed over 12,000 leaflets announcing the hearing and obtained over 1,700 signatures on petitions to stop the rate increase.

The auditorium was filled with 300 people—UAW retirees, UAW representatives, Detroit YAWF, CWA workers, independents and the press. It was clear from the beginning of the hearing that audience participation was going to be a problem for the PSC. Before the hearing officially began, a woman loudly complained about her lack of phone service over the past six months. She was told to wait. Even though this was the ONLY day that people were allowed to speak it was more

important for a PAID Bell executive to reiterate Bell's demands. Audience demands prevented the hearing from continuing in normal fashion:

—Judy Baldwin, who had obtained many signatures from her local union demanding hearings when working people could attend, interrupted a Bell Telephone executive demanding that the PSC allow the people who were not paid to be at the hearing have a chance to speak. The audience was split in their response to this demand and the hearing continued.

—A YAWF member exposed three FBI agents who were present—the audience clapped and cheered him as he denounced the secret police spies.

—The president of UAW Local #7 clearly explained how the rate increase would hit Detroit residents much harder than the residents of the suburban areas surrounding the city.

—A retiree who said he lived on "Social Starvation" had his statement emphasized by a YAWF banner which read "Ma Bell Wants More — Ma Bell Robs the Poor."

—Two CWA employees from Local 4001 spoke out in favor of the Bell increase. They rationalized that the increase would increase their wages. However, Judy Bald-

win pointed out that Michigan Bell Telephone had NEVER ONCE stated that their rate increase would go toward employees' wages and MBT already has enough money to increase the workers wages. Two telephone operators from Local 4010 who opposed the rate increase informed YAWF after the hearing that one "little old lady" had vented her anger at the CWA 4001 Local President by kicking him in the shins.

—Deb Dunfield of YAWF presented the PSC with petitions and stated her organization's opposition to the rate increase, the war tax and the war which AT & T supports. The audience responded with clapping and cheering.

Throughout the day the audience demanded hearings at an hour (evenings or weekends) when the majority of the people could attend. At 4:30 p.m., the PSC finally granted a second day for the "public" to speak—to be held this morning

at 10 a.m. Today's hearing was sparsely attended. The hearing was not publicized (although the PSC promised to publicize it) and again the "public" hearing was held on a weekday in the morning. Jane Williams demanded that there be a public hearing when people could attend. The demand was ignored and the PSC proved how little they wanted the public to take part in the MBT rate increase decision. The remaining PSC hearings held in Detroit about MBT's proposed increase are closed to public speakers.

The next "public" hearing will be held in Lansing, June 14. Detroit YAWF is now preparing for this next encounter with the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Jane Williams  
Judy Baldwin

Detroit YAWF

## Youngstown

### Anti-war issue

### stirring steel workers

## Washington

### Steel rank and file present demands

Members and friends of Rank And File Team (RAFT) went to Washington on May 19 to show their resolve to the corporation representatives and the Steelworkers Union leaders that they are not going to be satisfied with another poor settlement in the new contract which expires on August 1, 1971. This small group (about 20 in number), spoke the feelings of most steelworkers when it demanded:

1. Cost of living escalator clauses for pensioners and workers to keep up with the rising cost of living.
2. Elimination of the no-strike clauses from the contracts to more effectively settle grievances.
3. Ratification of the contracts by the rank and file.
4. Better pension agreement to more closely resemble the wages on the job.
5. Better vacation plans.
6. Other improvements in the contract.

Although RAFT, which is a recently organized group, is still small, many who are in it have the support of great numbers of steelworkers. With the approaching

strike, the interest will undoubtedly increase and the demands and desires for an effective strike will grow.

There are already groups of steelworkers in many steel districts who are rebelling against the terms of the old contract. They are thinking about the coming strike and the role the government will probably play in trying to break the strike by using the Taft-Hartley injunction law as it was used in the past against the steelworkers. They are also grappling with the problem of how to counter the propaganda of the steel corporations and their government which is supporting the corporations.

The leadership of the steelworkers' union cannot be relied on to carry out an intensive propaganda campaign to show the broad masses of the steelworkers the connection between the vicious strike-breaking companies and the government in Washington. But the leaders of the union, headed by I. W. Abel, also know that the members are dissatisfied. It is doubtful if this leadership will be able to agree to an unsatisfactory settlement without a rebellion against it from the ranks.

YOUNGSTOWN—The Youngstown, Ohio district has not had a great deal of activity against the war in Vietnam and Indochina in the last few years. Because the area is mainly a one-industry area, steel, the workers went along with the war, thinking it would give them jobs producing the steel needed for war materials. And they believed their leaders who supported the war policies carried out in Asia.

But as the opposition to the war grew (opposition caused by the defeats handed to U.S. imperialism by the Vietnamese and Indochinese people and other anti-imperialist fighters around the world) the workers also started questioning the war policies of big business and its agents in Washington. The sons and daughters of the workers sense more and more the uselessness to them of the war in Indochina. The lesson is mercilessly being brought home to the workers, who now see that they are forced to make the greatest sacrifices while the war-makers are getting richer and richer. They see that inflation is cutting their living standards. And right now, Nixon and the steel corporations are sharpening their knives for a confrontation with the steelworkers over their upcoming contract.

A few events recently showed

the qualitative change in workers' consciousness that has taken place in the Youngstown area. First, the Greater Youngstown Area AFL-CIO Council voted to support the anti-war demonstration in Washington on April 24. Second, AFL-CIO President, Al Shipka, spoke at a May 5 Rally to 500 people on the square in Youngstown, commemorating the students of Kent State who were killed last year. And third, there were demonstrations every day for two weeks recently against a Chamber of Commerce propaganda campaign for the war machine.

Last, but perhaps most significant, is the fact that Youngstown steelworkers are in the forefront of the campaign to get a better contract this year. They've demonstrated against their own leadership at a district conference in Youngstown in April. And on May 19, they led a delegation to picket at the "sound off" session of union leaders and steel corporation executives in Washington.

These activities, as they have developed and grown, are only a glimpse of the potential militancy of the working class once it is aroused. And while, for now, the rank and file are preparing only for a fight against the steel barons, steelworkers (and all workers) will soon find that to really win any battle for their class they must take on the system itself.



# front

## Wilmington

### YAWF protests police harassment

WILMINGTON—Crooked Victor Battaglia, city solicitor of Wilmington, lives in a section of this city that has not been touched by pollution and the constant noise of trucks and traffic. On his block trees, grass, flowers and 50,000-dollar-and-up homes are abundant. To the many people who have never seen the outside of the rat-infested tenements such as exist in West Center City, Battaglia lives in a mansion. To his neighbors merely three blocks away, who live in modest, crowded row homes and struggle each day to make ends meet, Battaglia is quite privileged.

But Delaware Youth Against War & Fascism broke that quiet when 12 people arrived in front of Battaglia's home 7 p.m. May 25 and quickly set up a militant picket line. The picket line was complete with chants and a banner which read, "Cops and courts serve the rich and jail the poor."

This picket line was in response to Victor Battaglia's refusal to prosecute two policemen who viciously kicked in the door (with a gun drawn) of YAWF leader Kermit Leibensperger's apartment on April 27. The cops quickly handcuffed Kermit, bound his feet and shanghaied him off to prison. All this was done without a warrant, first on the excuse of looking for run-aways and then on the pretext of charges stemming out of a YAWF rally against the Indochina war. (Kermit had already been booked on charges for that rally and was released on bail.)

The police are clearly guilty of

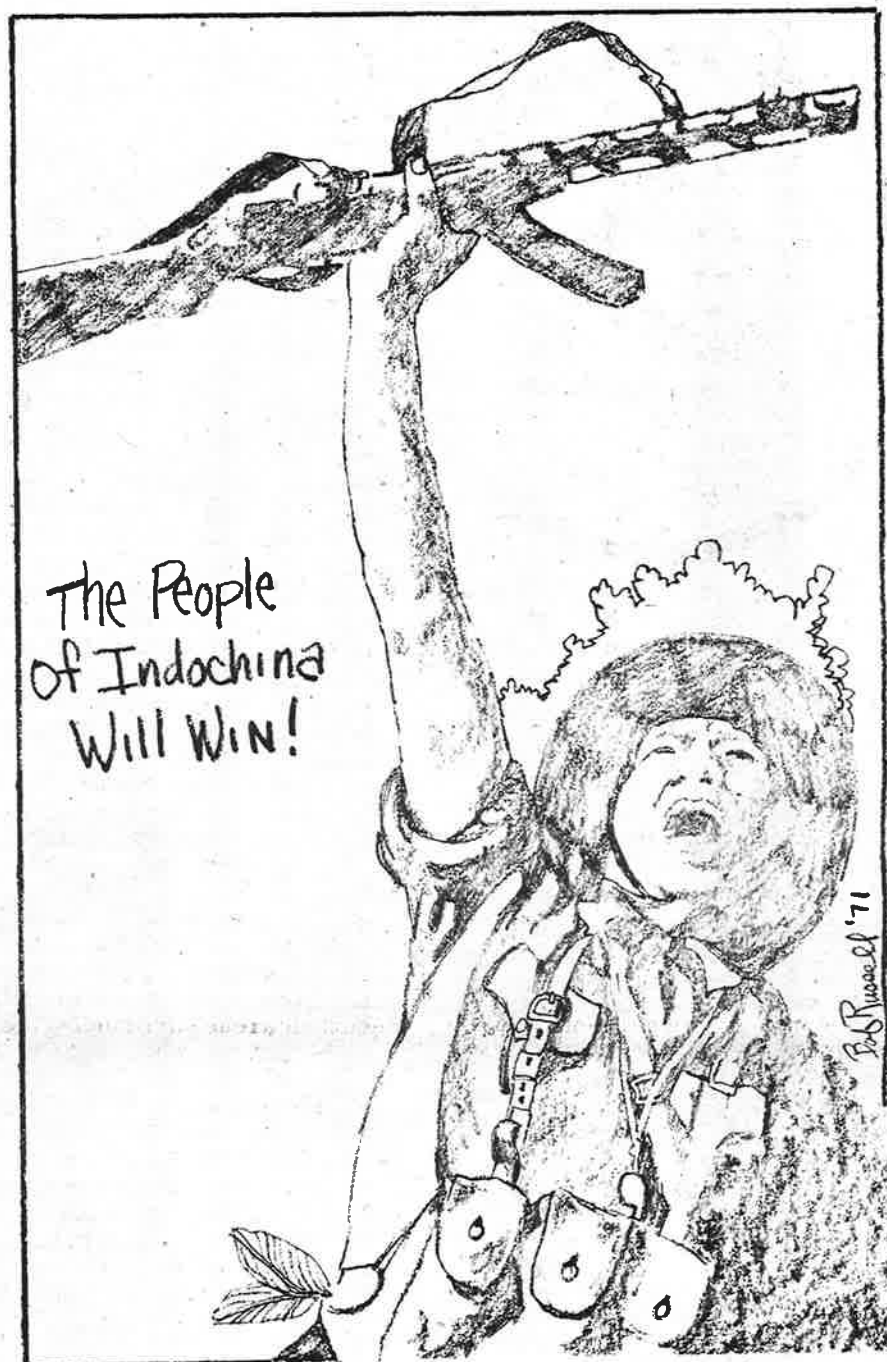
assault with a deadly weapon and breaking and entering. Yet no charges were brought against them. Mayor Haskell and Police Chief John McCool are clearly guilty of violating Leibensperger's civil rights. All these facts have been admitted and the city was forced by Delaware YAWF and the people to make a public apology for their actions. Still, the city solicitor Battaglia refuses to prosecute the police for their criminal acts.

All of these police attacks against Delaware YAWF have been an attempt to silence and intimidate YAWF after we held a militant and successful rally against the Indochina war. But police repression and fascist attacks are not new to the city of Wilmington and especially the Black community. Three years ago Wilmington residents witnessed the longest National Guard occupation of the Black community in the history of this country — nine months.

YAWF is neither intimidated nor remaining silent as a result of this police campaign of harassment. In the picket line against Battaglia, in countless press releases and in a press conference of all progressive groups in Wilmington we have clearly pointed out the function of the courts, police and jails. On June 5 we are calling a demonstration against police repression. The people's response has been great! The only way to stop police repression is to fight it openly and in the streets where the people can see.

— Sharon Black

Delaware YAWF



## Milwaukee

### Menominees fight battle for land on two fronts

KESHENA, MENOMINEE COUNTRY, May 30—Members of DRUMS (Determination of Rights and Unity for Menominee Shareholders) defied a court injunction against demonstrations by burning the court order and then marching to the land development office for Legend Lake, the project to sell Indian land to white buyers. The Menominee Indians have been protesting the sale for over a year because the Menominee people have no voice in the sale of their hereditary lands.

The injunction, issued by Circuit Judge James Martineau, forbids disruptive demonstrations by DRUMS on the property of Menominee Enterprises, the corporation which administers Menominee lands. DRUMS declared that since the land was Indian property in the first place the injunction was meaningless.

Over 100 people, mostly Menominee Indians, but with supporters from the Indian Action Centers in Chicago and Milwaukee, the Chicago Indian Village, the Latin

American Union for Civil Rights in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Welfare Rights Organization, and Chicago and Milwaukee Youth Against War & Fascism, marched onto the parking lot and set up a huge war dance. They then occupied a large tour boat, the "Legend Queen," used to show the lake to prospective buyers, and demanded a ride since the land the artificial lake is on was theirs. When the white business agents for Legend Lake refused, the crowd surged towards the offices surrounding the building and the sheriff's deputies protecting it.

When two Menominee women, Carol Girgnon and Frita Bergeon, the vice president of the Milwaukee chapter of DRUMS, were attacked by police, the crowd responded by refusing to allow the pigs to take them away. A group then tried to smash down the door, and Sheriff Wilmer Peters, backed up by white riot police from nearby Shawano County sprayed the people with Mace. The people, however, stood up to the macing. Carol Girgnon denounced the few Indian police there as trait-

ors to her people, as tears flowed down her face from the vicious mace attack.

MILWAUKEE, June 1—In a follow-up to their militant action in Keshena this weekend, 35 Menominees, along with some Latin and white supporters, marched into the main building of the First Wisconsin National Bank (which proudly bears a plaque outside commemorating the birth of Wisconsin's "first white boy" at the beginning of white expansion into Menominee lands in the 1840's). The demonstration was against the role of the First Wisconsin Trust Company, part of the huge banking complex, in the recent election to end the Voting Trust provision of Menominee Enterprises. Through the Voting Trust, seven individuals dominate the supposedly tribal corporation. The white bankers' Trust Company controls 20 percent of the shares—those belonging to Indian minors. The bank voted these shares as a bloc to keep the Voting Trust even though many of the Indian families want to end the trust arrangement,

which keeps the Menominee people from controlling their own lands.

Beating a war drum, the group marched around in a circle and several times walked through the carpeted area where pompous minor bank officials sit. Finally several representatives of the Trust came downstairs and a vocal debate took place between Loyd Powless, president of the Milwaukee chapter of DRUMS, Loretta Tamosheh, a Menominee organizer for welfare rights and the lily-white bank officials.

The demonstration exposed the nature of the white-dominated bank, which has no real desire to represent the Menominee people. As one sign put it, "American Indians fight CRIME: colonialism, racism, imperialist banks, manipulators, exploiters." The banks represent the rich who want to steal the last few remaining pieces of Indian land to make the white man's robbery of this continent complete. DRUMS and other militant Native American groups are not going to let this happen.

by Jim Miller

# Class struggle in Israel revived by Mideast Jews

by M. MARGOLIES

The capitalist-owned press, TV and radio in the U.S. has always tried to picture Israel as a "socialist" country and the "homeland" for all the Jewish people. One would never think that there was anything so mundane as a class struggle there (heaven forbid), or national oppression, other than against the Arab people. But all of a sudden a struggle has broken out which prompted the New York Times to headline a story, "Muted Class Strife Is Erupting in Israel."

So there is a class struggle in Israel! Along with widespread strikes by Israeli workers, and the courageous struggles of the Arab masses in the Israeli-occupied territories, there has recently been a rebellion of non-European Jews in the so-called homeland. It seems that not all Jews are equal in Israel. Made up mainly of North African and Middle Eastern peoples, these Jews have suffered discrimination at the hands of the Israeli government dominated by the minority Western population.

Although you would not have known it from previous reports in the U.S. capitalist press, there has always been a class struggle by workers in Israel—Arabs, non-European Jews and poor European Jews—against the bosses in capitalist Israel. Before the June, 1967 war, unemployment had risen to 11 per cent and workers were demonstrating against the soaring unemployment.

## Black Panthers formed

Both the war hysteria and carefully nurtured chauvinism and expansionism by the Israeli rulers have worked to mute this struggle somewhat. But, like their Washington masters, the Israeli ruling class has systematically oppressed dark-skinned peoples. Arabs and non-European Jews get the lowest paying jobs, inadequate education and suffer from racist discrimination. Of course, the Arab population of Israel is super-oppressed by the near martial law they live under and the anti-Arab hysteria whipped up by the government. But racist discrimination against non-European Jews, too, is widespread and deep. And their rebellion is growing.

Recently, the non-European Jews have organized protests against this discrimination. About five months ago, a group called the Black Panthers was formed by them in Jerusalem. Their choice of the name, Black Panthers, was clearly an indication of their identification with the oppression of the Black people in the United

States and greatly embarrassed the Israeli government which has tried to label the Black liberation movement in the U.S. as anti-semitic.

On April 18, a clash with the police took place at a government ceremony welcoming North African immigrants. A letter from Mike Rubin (author of the pamphlet, "An Israeli Worker's Answer," published by the Committee to Support Middle East Liberation) described the events:

"During the proceedings the Panthers asked to be allowed onto one of the stages to read a song, specially written for the occasion, which dealt East, where profits are many times greater Jews. The public agreed, and when one of the Panther leaders, Ruben Avergil, tried to get on the stage a plainclothesman tried to prevent him from ascending. The public interfered and uniformed police broke in and a big battle ensued with the cops using horses and billy clubs. The police arrested a number of Panthers, whereupon the others organized a demonstration outside the jail.... Again there was violence from the police....

"During the night the pigs arrested more Panthers in their homes.... Those who were wounded and tried to get medical care at the government-sponsored health station were refused....

"...the following day the Panthers again called for a demonstration, and although it was on very short notice, over a thousand people, mostly youth and students assembled....



Riot-equipped Jerusalem police arrest Israeli Black Panther.

"The crowd held placards reading, 'Golda Meir, come live one day in Mussara' (an Eastern Jewish ghetto—ed.); 'Poverty cries, hunger cries'; 'The Knesset (the Israeli parliament—ed.); a puppet theater.'"

On May 18, a large demonstration led by the Black Panthers fought street battles with the police for six hours. The originally peaceful demonstration was attacked by the police wielding clubs and fire hoses. Rush-hour traffic was halted. Store windows were smashed along the main street. At least 100 were arrested and at least ten policemen were injured. The movement is said to be growing rapidly.

## 60 per cent are non-European Jews

According to the New York Times, "About 20 per cent of the population lives at or below the designated poverty level. In Tel Aviv one family out of four lives in what the municipality terms slum dwellings."

"Anyone walking the streets of urban residential sections can see that in the more affluent neighborhoods people of light, European features are dominant, and that in the poorer streets the people are of swarthy Eastern appearance."

Non-European Jews are at least 60 per cent of the Israeli population; yet they have 17 out of 120 members of parliament and only two out of 18 cabinet ministers. They make up 60 per cent of all children entering primary schools, but only 25 per cent of those entering secondary schools, and only 8 per cent at the university level.

## Peace based on equality

War hysteria is part of the social glue that holds the country together. One non-European spokesman recently said, "If we ever get peace in the Middle East, we will have civil war at home."

Israel is an artificial state created by Western imperialism (and now the puppet of the U.S.) as a military outpost in the oil-rich Middle East, where profits are many times greater than in the U.S. It is no coincidence that rights, privileges and political power are dominated by Western Jews.

There is only one basis for peace and justice in the Middle East—the formation of a Palestinian state with equal rights for all the inhabitants: Arab, Christian, non-European Jew, and European Jew; a state free from ties to imperialism, unlike Israel. In the meantime, the class war is taking place not only along the borders but within Israel itself.

by P. MEISNER

One of the most harmful aspects of the political character of some of the self-styled North American radical organizations is their hostility and arrogance towards Third World liberation movements within the U.S. Some of these groups are vehemently opposed to all nationalist movements, while others give only lip service to the liberation movements.

Over the last few months a small group calling itself the Workers League not only verbally attacked the Cuban Revolution and MPI (Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico), but even went as far as to physically harass MPI members at their outdoor rallies as well as at MPI's own headquarters. Workers League members would shove their newspaper into the faces of MPI followers, with the newspaper containing wild denunciations of MPI as being bourgeois, Stalinist, etc. In addition to taking a reactionary ideological position on all national liberation movements, the actions of the Workers League against MPI can only place these fake Marxists in the category of provocateurs.

The most serious incident between the two organizations occurred on April 9 when Workers League members assaulted MPI militants right in front of MPI's headquarters. Again, Workers League hooligans harassed MPI members and sympathizers as they entered MPI's headquarters for a Friday night meeting. The three or four MPI members who were physically attacked defended themselves as well as they could under circumstances where the Workers League group

had gathered about 20 of their members on the sidewalk in front of MPI's 14th Street headquarters. (Sending 20 people to sell their newspaper was an obvious effort at intimidation.)

The second kind of radical group that supports the liberation movements only when it "pays off" as an issue within the radical movement is an organization like the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). The reformist SWP is famous, or infamous, for attacking the Cuban Revolution, the Black Panther Party, the Palestinian organizations and others at the worst possible moment for these liberation movements. And in this case, the SWP newspaper, *The Militant*, was true to form when it published a long article in its May 14 issue entitled, "Against Violence in the Radical Movement." The article purported to take a neutral position between the Workers League and MPI—a real crime in itself—but really amounted to a half apology for the Workers League as a legitimate left organization with a "legal" right to "debate" MPI's political ideology.

The real issue, of course, was not "violence in the movement" but the need to defend the principle of self-determination for oppressed people. *The Militant*, however, treats MPI and the Workers League provocateurs as if they were equal. This shameful article never distinguished the progressive character of MPI, as a genuine Puerto Rican liberation organization, from the reactionary political character of the Workers League.

All progressives and all those who consider themselves revolutionaries are duty bound to defend every liberation movement from being attacked by North Americans, whether from U.S. imperialist ruling circles or renegade "radicals."

Phony radicals  
attack  
Puerto Rican  
militants



**Waitresses stage  
walkout; women  
supporters picket...**

# "Namath is a pig-skin"



Waitresses picket outside Bachelors III...

...Michelle Packman attacked and arrested by cops.



by ELLEN PIERCE

NEW YORK, May 26—Much to the surprise of the so-called "beautiful people" trying to get into Bachelors III, Joe Namath's bar on New York's Upper East Side, there were about 40 women picketing the place tonight. The women chanted "Don't cross the picket line—the waitresses got fired" and "Namath is a pigskin." A banner declaring "Namath gets rich—waitresses get fired" hung under the canopied entrance. And in case someone was not persuaded by the signs and chants, women's bodies blocked the door and some "unlady-like" forms of persuasion were used to convince would-be customers that there was no business as usual at the bar this evening.

The demonstrators were at Bachelors III at the request of six waitresses, all of whom had been fired on two days' notice. The excuse for firing the waitresses, who are to be replaced by an all-male staff, was that they "were bringing in the wrong element," the gangsters who got Namath in trouble with football commissioner Pete Rozelle last season. But as one waitress pointed out, the gangsters were at the bar before the women were hired and will be there after the firings too. And the waitresses' uniforms of leotards and aprons were designed to make them sex objects and servants combined.

Even before being fired the waitresses had plenty of grievances—harassment from customers, Namath in particular, an unsafe stairway that had caused several falls and before-tips pay of only \$20 a week. When the firings came, the waitresses decided to strike back. Hoping for help from the Women's Liberation movement, they called the downtown Women's Center. The

women there weren't sure what to do and referred the waitresses to the Women's Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism. Within a few hours, signs and a banner had been made and a plan of action agreed on.

Women from YAWF and the Women's Bail Fund would go into the bar in two's and three's. A password was arranged so the waitresses would know their sisters. At the peak busy time, five minutes to eleven, the waitresses would take off their aprons and walk out with all their supporters behind them.

Everything went according to schedule. When the walk-out began, so did chants of "Namath gets rich—waitresses get fired." A picket line was set up on the street before the astounded customers had closed their gaping mouths. Some of the waitresses burned their aprons outside. The tensions that had built up waiting for the walk-out became feelings of strength and solidarity as women marched and blocked the door to the bar.

Before long, eight squad cars of police arrived to "protect" Bachelors III. They did the dirty work of escorting in scabs and trying to keep pickets away from the door. Like many of those who tried to get in, the pigs were amazed at the militancy of the women who pushed back every time they were pushed away.

Namath eventually responded to the chants of "We want Joe—with a rope around his neck" by coming to the window. He blew kisses to the demonstrators and held up a little hand-lettered sign that said, "Make love, not war." This was Joe at his chauvinist best.

When Tom Jones, infamous singer of male chauvinist songs, and his entourage of body guards tried to

slink out of the bar, the chants became louder and fists flew into the air. The pigs attacked the line and a scuffle broke out. Michelle Packman, of YAWF Women, was arrested on charges of felonious assault, harassment and resisting arrest.

The demonstration ended with a brief rally at which one of the waitresses said she loved the action but hated the way the police beat and arrested Michelle. She called on everyone to go up to the precinct to get her out. Three waitresses led the way as the women marched

to the station house chanting "Free Michelle—Jail Namath." The pigs barricaded the entire street and wouldn't let the women into the precinct to see their arrested sister. "We want to get inside to report a crime," women shouted. "We saw a woman assaulted by five pigs outside Bachelors III."

The next day, after being arraigned and paroled, Michelle told how one particular pig kept abusing her, verbally and physically. He finally gave up, complaining to his sadistic buddies, "I can't make her cry."

## New York

# "Penal colony" assailed by Women's Bail Fund

On Tuesday, June 1, the Women's Bail Fund confronted the New York City "Corrections" Department on behalf of prisoners in the Women's House of Detention. When they were barred from Commissioner McGrath's office, the women, including representatives of YAWF Women and the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of YAWF, held a press conference to announce their demands to the people. Portions of the Women's Bail Fund press release follow.

NEW YORK, June 1—All people in U.S. prisons, jails and stockades have one thing in common—they are there because of the system. And when we call people imprisoned "political prisoners," we mean that they have been locked away for uncovering, consciously or unconsciously, what this system is really all about.

The U.S. system is simply not about people; it's about profits. There is no better illustration of this fact than that in the richest country in the world, the working people and the poor, the Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano and Native American people have gotten only starvation, wars, higher taxes, inflation, longer and longer unemployment lines and increasing util-

ity rates out of the capitalistic system....

We call Rikers Island a concentration camp because, knowing the conditions of U.S. prisons around the world, as in Con Son and Palestine, the move to isolate the women on this island will leave them open to the traditional U.S. tortures: beatings, solitary confinement, food not fit for animals, the crudest medical care, the loss of all legal, civil and political rights; the isolation from family, friends, and the rest of society. This last point—the isolation—is especially true at Rikers, a penal colony isolated from the surveillance and support of the people of this city....

We demand that: 1) The move to Rikers be stopped and full exposure of the hazardous conditions be made. A public tour be made immediately. 2) Sisters be paroled and tried by juries of their peers on the basis of whether or not they have committed a crime against the people. 3) The House of Detention be turned over as reparation to the people it has oppressed the most—the poor and the Third World—as a community center, medical facility, food co-op, liberation school and shelter. 4) Indictments against prison rebels be dropped, and the brothers also paroled.

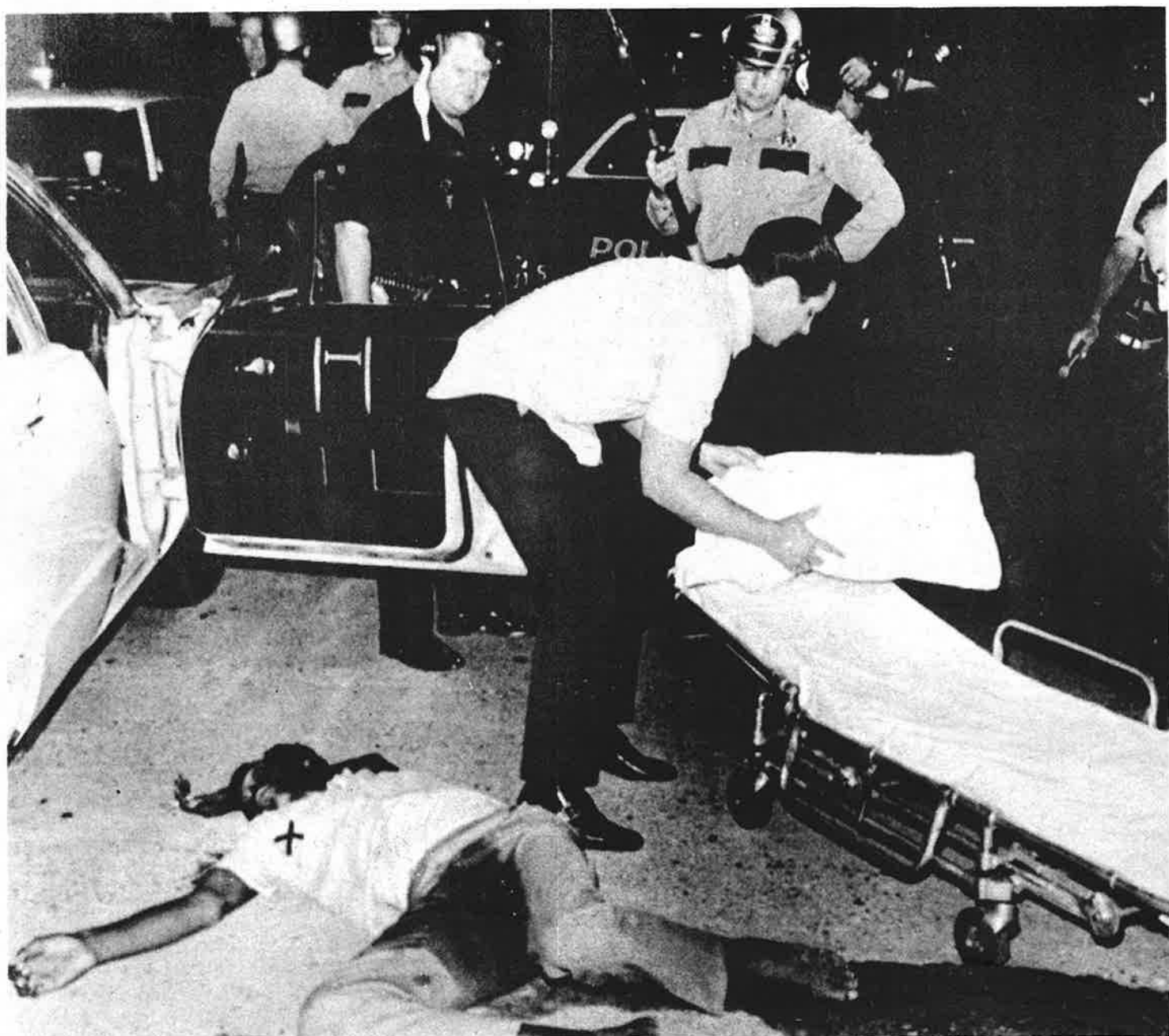
## Feminism and Marxism

by Dorothy Ballan

**A materialist view of  
women's oppression**

\$1 write to YAWF Women 58 W. 25 St., NYC 10010

# Black uprising in Chattanooga



—LNS photo

Leon Anderson (right), a 22-year-old Black youth shot by cops, lay dying in a Chattanooga street during the night of May 24.

The Black community of Chattanooga rose up for four days late last month in a valiant fight against the vicious racism and unbearable oppression suffered in that city where Confederate flags and the old slaveholders' anthem, "Dixie," are still seen and heard every day. City rulers called in 2,000 National Guardsmen and about 100 state troopers and attempted to close down the Black community when youth rebelled against the refusal of a music auditorium management to refund their money after a concert was cancelled.

Convoys of police squad cars swept through the Black community. Gun-toting cops yelling, "All you boys, get off the streets," arrested scores—just for being Black! Po-

lice shot through windows of Black homes and invaded housing projects to dragnet people out of their homes.

Thirty-eight per cent of the people of Chattanooga are Black. They live in a ghetto of shacks without side-

walks, in houses built below road level that are flooded every time it rains. Or they live in flimsy, segregated public housing projects described by Black community leaders as "concrete concentration

camps."

Leon Anderson of Chattanooga will be remembered by his people and he will be avenged—along with every other victim of the racist Establishment.

## —Travis rebellion

(Continued from page 7)

reported that Travis prisoners were still in the stockade there. Also, the brass is continuing an "investigation" and may still bring charges against these men, or other Airmen and WAFs.

Tension over the vicious racism at Travis had been growing for at least a year, Black Airmen and WAFs explained after martial law was lifted and they were able to talk to civilian supporters. The Pacific News Service reports: "One Black Airman voiced a general anger over the promotion system at Travis, called WAPS (Weighted Airman Promotion System). 'The system,' he said, 'is based on IQ tests, which have proven to be a measure of your middle class background, rather than of your ability. This keeps Black people out of the good jobs, and we end up cooking in the Mess or cleaning up in the hospital.'"

The Black and Third World men and women, who are continuing to organize, announced the following demands:

All Black and Third World Airmen and WAFs be released and any and all charges dropped; an end to the isolation of WAFs from their brother Airmen; and all Black and Third World people be discharged until the U.S. Air Force stops its racist policies.

## Garment workers revolt against bad contract

NEW YORK, June 4—Last Wednesday, four hundred angry workers closed down traffic on 15th Street here as their companions also closed down most of the garment shops in the city.

After thirty years of taking increasing grievances, speedups and sweetheart contracts, the rank-and-file cutters of Local 4 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America took to the streets in a revolt against the reactionary union bureaucrats who are supposed to be their "leaders." These officials had tried to ram one more inadequate pro-company contract down their throats.

Demanding a full membership meeting to accept or reject (and they were determined to reject) the contract, they picketed outside ACWA headquarters for several hours with placards that read: "No Sweetheart Contract" and "Cost of Living Goes Up, But Pay Stays the Same." Then they marched through nearby Union Square to the Shirt-makers Union hall and held a protest meeting indoors.

In passing, they crowded outside the Amalgamated Bank, a showpiece of the union bureaucracy,

on the other side of the square. The demonstration helped accentuate the poverty and exploitation of the membership especially in contrast to the big bank. It was the severest blow to the image of the "labor statesmen" of the Amalgamated in many a year.

The cutters are mostly highly skilled workers in the garment industry and are mostly white, male, middle-aged or older. But even their relatively high status could not hide the oppression and the exploitation they are feeling with the technological advances, speedup, "incentive systems," mandatory overtime and actual decrease in real wages.

So when the workers were given a 20-cent-an-hour increase for each of three years without a cost-of-living provision, they rejected the contract. (The bureaucrats had actually agreed to taking out such a provision that had already been in the previous contract!)

The union leadership, headed by Jacob Potofsky, hadn't anticipated such a response from the incensed workers, who learned about the contract only the night before it was to be ratified. The anger at

the high-handed tactics was expressed in chants like "Jackie's got to go" and "Strike, strike!"

One striker summed it up to a knot of cutters around him by saying: "We haven't had a real wage increase since the war (WWII), but this time around we're taking a loss. We won't take another sweetheart contract. We're going to strike."

So far, they have forced the leadership to agree to an open membership meeting on the new contract early next week. Like a lot of other bureaucrats nowadays, the Amalgamated "statesmen" are finding it isn't so easy to push off a sweetheart contract on workers who have been aroused by deteriorating conditions and are itching for a fight.

In the meantime there are many thousands of superexploited pressers and machine operators in the same union who are mostly Black and Puerto Rican. Their wages are much lower than those of the cutters. They need a rebellion too. And needless to say, their action when it does come will be much more explosive than the thunderous preview described above.



# POOR WOMEN TOLD: STERILIZATION OR STARVATION

by SHIRLEY JOLLS

The Tennessee state Legislature is currently pushing a bill to force women with one or more so-called "illegitimate" children to submit to sterilization—or lose all welfare benefits. The proposal has been approved by the state Welfare Committee and if its main public supporter, Rep. Larry Bates, can steer it past the Rules Committee, the out-and-out racist measure will come to a vote this year.

Many women from across Tennessee have organized a determined campaign against the barbaric law, which is aimed first and foremost at Black and Third World women, increasing numbers of whom cannot get jobs or day care facilities for their children and have nowhere to turn except to the inadequate welfare system. According to the April issue of "The Southern Patriot," welfare recipients demonstrated against Bates as the legislative session opened in February and again in March. These actions forced Bates and his co-legislators to have a public hearing on the bill.

"At the hearing March 15," reports "The Southern Patriot," "a wide range of people spoke out against the bill: doctors, Black legislators, representatives of social agencies and human-rights groups. But the most angry and outspoken opposition to the bill was provided by some 200 welfare women—mostly Black, some white. In fact, the only person who spoke for the bill was Bates himself."

Although the bill's racist supporters suffered a setback in the public hearing, the Tennessee women know that they will have to fight and fight hard against this sterilization bill.

The Tennessee proposal is only one example of a nationwide attempt to force Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano and poor white women to submit to sterilization. Ten states have considered such laws in the last ten or fifteen years: California, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia.

Another recent feeler by the government took place early this year in Illinois where state Representative Webber Borchers of Decatur introduced a bill requiring that any mother of three children submit to sterilization in order to continue receiving welfare. In addition, the Borchers bill requires that the father be sterilized by a vasectomy procedure. Each parent would get \$100, like the "bounty" paid for the elimination of bothersome animals.

The Illinois sterilization plan as posed by Borchers was so blatantly Nazi-like that his fellow

legislators were afraid to discuss it openly, and late in May they stopped it in their Executive Committee. But that doesn't mean they are all against the plan—some of them just feel the law to take away a person's capacity to have children has to be presented in a more palatable form. The only real opposition to Borchers' bill came from Black members of the legislature. Borchers has vowed to re-submit the bill, rewording it to make sterilization sound "voluntary."

It is a known fact that many poor women are often involuntarily sterilized, even where no law exists. As long ago as 1964, Fannie Lou Hamer of the Mississippi Freedom Party exposed the fact that as many as six out of ten Black women in Sunflower County were simply taken to the hospital and sterilized, and that some were not even told until afterwards what had been done to them. In many courts across the country judges who have a Black, Puerto Rican or Chicano woman in their power try to pressure her to submit to sterilization as part of the sentence in her case.

The Establishment's efforts to gain acceptance for forced sterilization draws support from the liberals' ZPG-debate. ZPG, the concept of "zero population growth," is increasingly presented as the solution to widespread hunger and unemployment. On May 6, Garret Hardin, a professor of "human ecology" (a new-type Malthus) at the University of California, stated in the New York Times that only two options were possible, to eliminate the "welfare state" and allow "excess children" to starve, or to give the government (Hardin calls it the "community") the right to decide when and by whom children "may be procreated."

From behind the liberal mask of wanting to "improve the quality of life," Hardin concludes: "It is not a question of freedom vs. nonfreedom. If we defend the freedom to breed, we shall ultimately lose all other freedoms as a result of unbearable overcrowding."

Some of Hardin's fellow "ecologists" met with determined resistance last July 23 in Wilmington, Delaware, when YAWF Women demonstrated at a pro-sterilization ZPG meeting in that city, demanding that the real issues be raised. Their banners read: "More food and housing, not sterilization" and "Sterilization: the American solution to poverty."

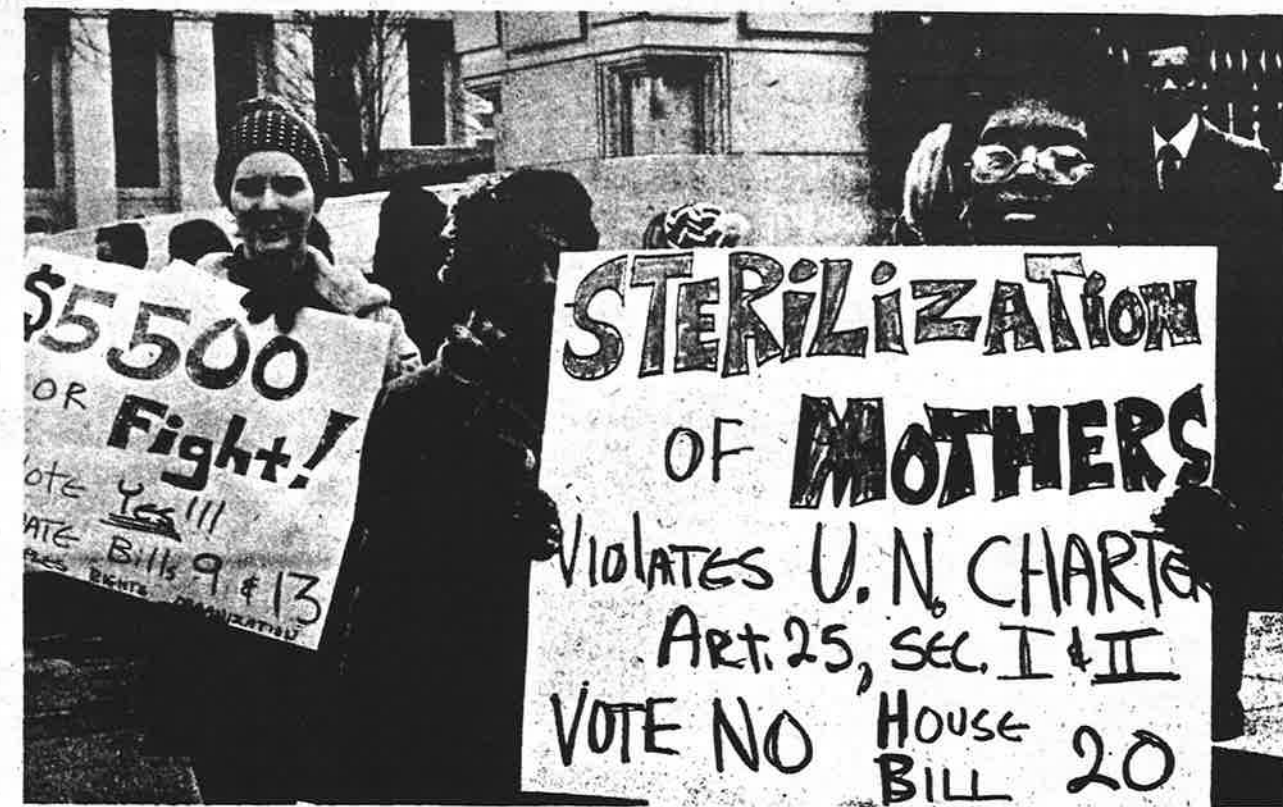
The ecologists and the out-right racists don't, of course, say a word about the real problems raised by the women at that meeting: the capitalist system that reserves billions of dollars in profits for the few who own the factories and the slum tenements and spends billions more on war and on police to force submission in the oppressed communities—the system that now hopes to get rid of "excess" people by sterilization. And of course, it always turns out that the "excess" people are poor and usually non-white.

The plan to force sterilization of poor women has surfaced in the midst of the continuing controversy on abortion reform. The Establishment is willing to allow a debate on abortion, which they know applies at this time primarily to white, middle class women. But in regard to Black and Third World women, they do not debate the individual choice to have or not have children—these racists plan rather to forcibly prevent these poor, oppressed women from having children whether they want them or not.

Those who justly fight for the right to free and safe abortion on demand must be aware that there is another, inseparable struggle to be waged—to prevent the use of forced sterilization as a fascist "final solution" against Black and Third World people.

One woman at the Tennessee hearings made the real point that all people have a right to live and have children. She shouted at an official who claimed the "welfare river is running dry"—"End the war in Vietnam and we'll have plenty of money!"

Welfare women picket Tennessee Capitol March 15.  
—photo by The Southern Patriot



## SUPPORT ANTI-WAR AIRMEN!

Demonstration

Griffiss AFB, Rome, N.Y.  
Saturday, June 12  
In NYC contact: American Servicemen's Union (Tel: 675-6780)

## PROTEST SLUM HOUSING AND

HIGH RENTS!  
Demonstration

Tuesday, June 8, 10 a.m.  
Hotel Commodore, 42nd St. & Lex. Ave., NYC (Landlords' convention)

Initiated by community women. Participating organizations: Center for United Labor Action (Tel: 741-0633), YAWF Women, and others.

## FREE THE WOMEN PRISONERS! Marathon Bail Out

Thurs.-Sun., June 10-13  
Washington Square Methodist Church, 4th St. off 6th Ave., NYC  
Sponsored by: Women's Bail Fund, PO Box 637, Cooper Sta., NYC 10003

## THIRD WORLD GARMENT WORKERS ORGANIZE!

Rally

Wednesday, June 9, noon  
36th St. and 8th Ave., NYC  
Sponsored by: Latin Workers Movement

## FREE HUEY NEWTON!

Retrial of 1967 frameup set to begin June 28

Attend the trial: Alameda County Courthouse, San Francisco

## HOLD THIS DATE: Saturday, June 26

Demonstration against U.S. concentration camp prisons — Rockefeller Center, NYC

Sponsored by: Prisoners Solidarity Committee of YAWF, Young Lords Party, Movimiento Pro Independencia and others.

# Calendar of events

**Katara of New York 21 tells WW:**

# "The morale in the prisons is beautiful"

Katara, in jail for two years as a member of the New York 21, talked of their acquittal and the conditions in the prisons to WORKERS WORLD editor Deirdre Griswold.

Q: The acquittal of the 21 was a victory for oppressed people all over, and it was a big surprise for us who know how reactionary the legal system is and has been in the past. Do you have any comments on why you got an acquittal in this case?

A: First of all, Philips didn't have anything. Like Afeni said in her opening statement, they were going to give a dash of truth and a cupful of lies. And basically that's all he did. Like he had his 21 BOSS agents that were running around, he had four or five infiltrators and he had technical advisors, he had sound equipment men, and you had all them running around trying to cook up something. The people that were sitting on the jury had open minds, and that's the main reason why we're out on the street now. If it was up to Murtagh, Hogan and the whole legal structure in Babylon, we'd be hung up in our cells by now. I know a lot of people ask me, do I believe in the fairness of the American court system now? And I answer them definitely not. Because it wasn't the court system that let us go, it was the people. That's why I say, all power to the people.

Q: The papers make it sound like now the 21 have been acquitted, everybody's out, the case is over. But I understand that there are a number of the brothers still in jail on related charges. What's their situation?

A: Right on. You have Brother Lumumba Shakur. The indictment was under his name, Lumumba Shakur et al. That brother was acquitted of all charges, but now you have the brother still in jail and he's still trying to get bail money. He's still in the same situation he was at before the acquittal. Approximately four cases are still pending against him. He has one case in Manhattan, one in the Bronx, one in Queens and one in Connecticut.

You have Ali Bey Hassan. He's acquitted of all charges just like the rest of the 21 defendants, but he's got a case pending against him now in New Jersey. You've got Kwasi Bel Lagoon. The brother didn't go to trial with us, but we still have to know if Hogan and Mitchell and all their little friends are going to try him on the charges. We still have to find out if he's going to drop the charges, add additional charges. . . he couldn't get all of us so he's going to try to get some of us on something.

We have Brother Richard Harris who's serving time in New Jersey now. He still has to go to

trial on charges. Brother Bob Collier—he's waiting now at the Federal House of Detention for a probation hearing. They want to know whether he broke his probation by getting arrested on April 2nd! You also have a brother that wasn't originally on the 21 case per se but has become very close to us. Now he's on the Queens 8 indictment for the jail rebellions, Brother Jimmy Capers. He's still inside the prisons. So basically what you have is four or five people who were acquitted of trying to blow up and assassinate half of New York City, who were acquitted by a jury, and they're still sitting in jail on different charges.

You had Brother Kwando Kinshasa who's out on bail now, on the Queens 8 indictment with Lumumba Shakur and James Capers. From information we have they were reindicted soon after the first not-guilty came in. And so although it's a victory for the people to get acquitted, for us to be out here on the streets again, it's only half a victory because we don't have everybody back out on the streets, and even if we did, it wouldn't be a total victory because the jails are overflowing with people.

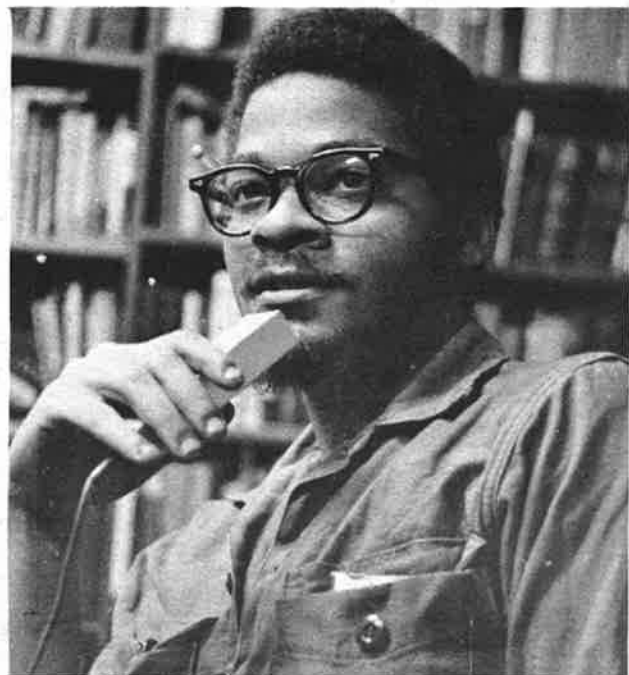
## Guards lust for "payback"

Q: And what about their situation in prison? What effect does the acquittal in this case have on their relationships within the prison itself, like with the guards and so on?

A: Well, I came out right after the acquittal. Brother Kinshasa was telling me that they were driving back to Rikers Island, the day we were acquitted. They passed the 7th precinct, right before you go on the bridge going to Queens. We always used to pass it going to trial. They had this little fat sergeant out there. They had little nooses hanging up. And he came out with about three other cops and started going through his bag—started talking about he's going to live to see the day that we hang from those nooses. And back at Rikers Island, all the officers in the American Nazi Party and the John Birch Society were going to start up something as soon as we got back.

Q: So you think then that unless the five who are in are bailed out soon, it's very likely that the prison authorities will concoct some kind of additional charges against them?

A: Well, myself, I went out to Kew Gardens to pick up Kinshasa when he got bailed out. He was ready to come out, but we had to wait an extra hour on him, he was locking on the sixth floor. And when they heard he was going to get bailed out, they just lined up all up and down the eleva-



tors and stairway, and they stopped him on each floor and made him go through a strip search. See, the whole thing is that most of the correction officials that I've come in contact with, they want some payback. They want to get at those brothers, especially Brother Lumumba Shakur. They're continually trying to find little bits and pieces, any infraction of a regulation, to try and come in the block or something. So the thing is right now to get the brothers out of jail as quickly as possible so that nothing will happen to them.

## Jails getting even worse

Q: What about the conditions in the New York City jails since the rebellion?

A: I'd have to say that the conditions in the jail, if they've done anything, have gotten steadily worse. Because the rebellions were brought forth out of the situation in the jails at that time: the overcrowding, waiting there for ten or twelve months.

The little people on the street, the people that don't have a political organization behind them, that don't have access to the media, that don't have lawyers working for them 24 hours a day—there are some brothers in jail that we met sitting there on \$50 bail for eight months. It's all the things like that that bring forth the rebellions that you had last year.

The brothers' consciousness in jail has risen to such a level that when you used to have jail outbreaks, it used to be for more commissary or more candy or stay out to watch TV later. But now the brothers' political consciousness has risen to the level where they're not asking for commissary or TV anymore, they're asking for their rights as human beings. Because the guards are now even more ferocious. We've got one guard out on Rikers Island who walks around with a swastika on.

Q: Have you heard from some of the other of the 21 what effect the acquittals had on the general prison morale?

## Prisoners cheered the acquittal

A: They said when they got back to the block—we had half of the block, and on the other half of the block was bing, the 24-hour lock-up—when the brothers on the other side heard the brothers coming back in, everybody started cheering.

So now the brothers in jail are starting to unite. Starting to say, if you try and jack him up, you're going to have to jack me up too. The morale in the prisons now is beautiful. It used to be that when a dude came into prison, he'd rap with the other men about how to rob a bank better, or how to make a connection with dope and get bailed out. But now when a brother rolls in on loitering or some other small charge, the brothers will start rapping about politics to him, about Angela Davis' trial, about the 21 trial, about Bobby and Ahmed Evans. And it's not just the political prisoners now that are fighting to get political literature into the jail. Everybody now leaves there with a higher level of political consciousness.



While the acquittal of the New York 21 marked a stunning victory for the liberation struggle, it shouldn't be forgotten that half a dozen of the brothers are still behind bars. In several cases, the charges against them were cooked up while they were in prison. The three people seated on the left in this photo (Lumumba Shakur, Bob Collier and Ali Bey Hassan) are among those still in jail. Also awaiting bail or trial are Richard Harris, Donald Weems and James Capers (Capers is not one of the original 21 but became associated with them in the Queens 8 indictments arising from the prison rebellion there). The bails on those still inside total \$50,000. As the accompanying interview explains, they are in danger of reprisals from the racist guards who are seeking "vengeance" for the acquittal of the 21. Bail funds can be sent to: Committee to Bail Out the 21, 640 Broadway, New York City. Telephone 677-1552.