

# workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

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Vol. 16, No. 8

April 19, 1974

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## We're being robbed!

# Behind the crushing rise in food prices

By LORRAINE BRESLOW

A food crisis looms like a storm cloud over the land. The people are demanding answers from the government about why there are soaring prices and chronic shortages. They are met with either silence or complicated distortions.

It is no accident that the government is unable to give an acceptable answer. For *the truth would indict the U.S. government*, particularly its Department of Agriculture, as the eager servants of those multibillion-dollar industrial Goliaths that control food production and distribution.

In the most routine and shameless manner, the government-agribusiness gang conduct their conspiracies. They drive up the prices of milk and beef. They destroy millions of chickens and oranges. They maneuver in a thousand and one other ways to enrich the food monopolists.

### SAME FACES, DIFFERENT HATS

Drawing back the curtain on this conspiracy reveals a multitude of agribusiness representatives personally holding governmental positions. Between them, Dr. Earl Butz and Dr. Virgil Wodicka, heads of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and of the Food and Drug Administration, respectively, served on the boards of the Ralston Purina Co., J.I. Case farm-machinery company, Stokely Van Camp, International Minerals & Chemicals, Libby McNeill & Libby, and Hunt-Wesson Foods before taking their Washington posts.

BankAmerica, which boasts a \$3 billion agricultural investment in addition to its hundreds of food industry affiliates, has board members on the Honolulu and California Chambers of Commerce and officials in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in California.

Proctor & Gamble's legal wizard, Bruce Harlow, is now a high aide and cohort of President Nixon. Even Nixon himself, before the 1968 election, was a retainer to PepsiCo.

### 'YOU SCRATCH MY BACK . . .

In the hallowed halls of Congress itself resound the voices of corporate farmers and food industry spokesmen like Rep. Charles Teague and Rep. Burt Talcott, both California ranchers; Sens. James O. Eastland and Herman Talmadge, two large farm owners on the Agriculture Committee; and Sen. Harry F. Byrd, who inherited his father's farm along with his Senate office. The list goes on and on.

Tenneco, Inc., one of the largest food conglomerates in the U.S. with 1970 profits of \$74 million, has one director who was both a member of Nixon's Pay Board and Vice President of the California Chamber of Commerce. And members of the Tenneco family tree got government aid a century ago! In 1877 Congress secretly passed a measure quietly signed by President Grant which turned over thousands of acres of land to speculators who formed the powerful

Kern County Land Co.—acquired by Tenneco in 1967.

The influence over government policy by Tenneco and other similar giant conglomerates has secured for them billions of dollars in subsidies, price supports, tax-loss farming, capital gains, and other loopholes open only to the corporate world.

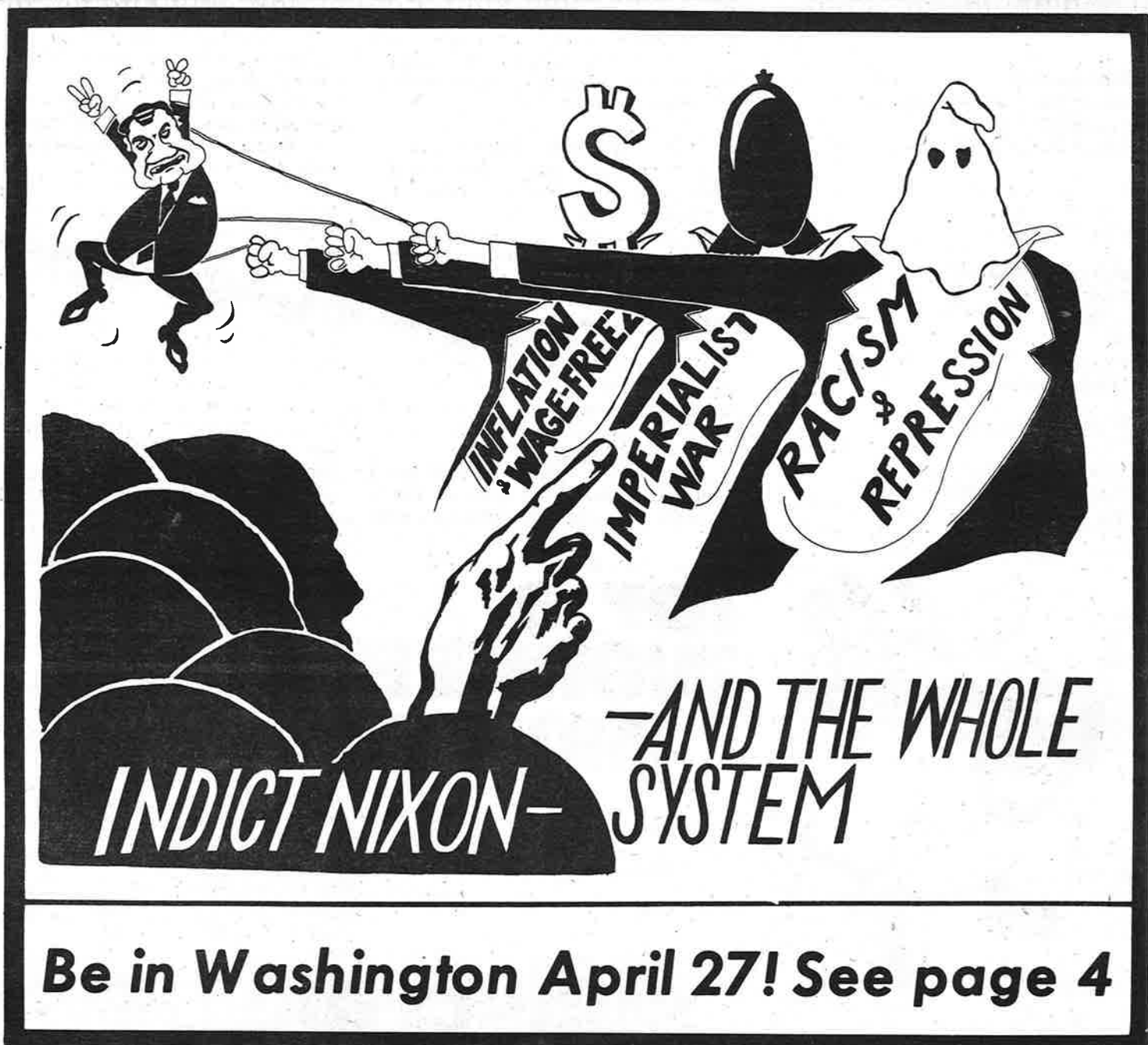
In 1970 Tenneco didn't pay a penny in taxes—on the contrary, the government paid it \$20 million!

While North American workers pay almost one-half their yearly income in various taxes, \$850 million from the U.S. Treasury was doled out to agribusinesses for "tax losses" in farming.

### . . . I'LL SCRATCH YOURS'

As if the battery of food corporation executives masquerading as "public" officials weren't enough to ensure total

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**BLAST FURNACE**

**BROTHERS**

50 CENTS

## The steel contract: what was won and lost

By VINCE COPELAND

In any serious estimate of the new steelworkers' contract, one proposition has to be kept firmly in mind.

Anything good in it comes from the struggle. Almost everything bad in it comes from giving up the struggle.

The capitalist press has been unstinting in its praise of United Steelworkers President I.W. Abel for giving up the strike weapon—reportedly for the next 6 years—in return for the new contract.

But anything gained at all in this contract is precisely the result of the union's power to strike, and more especially the result of all the past strikes of the steelworkers, not to mention the whole glorious history of labor and labor's martyrs in the past.

On the other hand, the shameful inadequacies in the wage increases and the built-in company cheating in the "cost-of-living" clauses are direct results of Abel's buddy-buddy bargaining with the company in which he raised not the ghost of a threat of an immediate strike.

**"EQUAL RIGHTS"—AND A CATCH**

There are gains in the contract for the Black, Latin, and female workers. The companies must now offer plantwide seniority, and many "minority" workers should be entitled to claim back pay. But these gains were compromised by signing away these workers' rights ever to sue the companies for back wages and damages under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The radical press in general has correctly echoed the NAACP's labor department in condemning this inexcusable concession and in scoring Abel for his continued racism and sexism.

But an honest worker in the plant would want to know: How much was it possible to get at this time, and could much more have been gained by a strike?

This is a very understandable way of looking at things. But there are deeper questions involved.

**THE MAIN QUESTION**

From the point of view of the most basic and historic interests of the whole working class, and even of the narrower interests of the steelworkers' union, the question of national, racial, and sexual equality is the main question today.

The "bread and butter" issues are very important, of course, and in a sense they are even more fundamental. Under some circumstances the struggle for these issues can be more unifying, and might do more to benefit real equality than anything else.

But that is not the point now—especially since the above agreement was in fact achieved, and achieved apparently without struggle.

**LAWS AND LIBERATION**

How did it happen? How did even this much get accomplished?

Abel and the racist bureaucracy were undoubtedly prodded by the government on this. And they also may have feared a mass walkout of Black workers from the union. (The workers usually have the legal right to do this at the end of every old contract and for the first month of the new one.) But the long, bitter Black liberation struggle is the most fundamental reason for the gains that were won.

The new agreement provides that Black and Latin workers, who have been really segregated into the dirtiest and hardest-working departments, should be given plantwide seniority (as opposed to the old "unit" or departmental seniority) and can now "bump" into the cleaner and easier-working departments.

The courts had previously made similar decisions in the cases of Lackawanna

(Buffalo), N.Y., and Sparrows Point (Baltimore), Md.

**A LITTLE JOKER**

The present contract makes this effective in nearly all plants in the country, but adds the joker that in order for plant-wide seniority to prevail, the worker must have been in the plant before Jan. 1, 1968!

It also provides for fairer practices, however, in the hiring of all women workers as well as Latin and Black men.

The Sparrows Point and Lackawanna decisions did not mention this. But according to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the equal hiring should have been going on for the past 10 years.

Could an open, hard-fought struggle of all the workers together have enforced a better deal than this?

All through the industry, in every union hall, in every company town, the United Steelworkers staff representatives will be answering that question with a smug, confident "No."

And maybe a large number of Third World and female members will believe them.

"Isn't this a 'first' for the industry?"—the staff representatives will say. Doesn't the new contract spell out a dozen rights that have always been violated in the past and now, presumably, will be enforced?

One reason many of the oppressed might believe this is that they see so much racism among white workers and so much misunderstanding of the issues.

It could even appear to some that the bureaucracy is more progressive on this point than the majority of the white workers!

**DID THEY GET RELIGION?**

We should not for one moment condone the racism or sexism of any rank-and-file whites—or even the semi-racism or sexism among the more advanced. But we must utterly oppose any notion that the bureaucrats have converted to an anti-racist position.

The truth is that had this gain—and it is a gain—been won in a common struggle, in strikes, wildcats, stoppages, etc., it would be worth at least a dozen times what it is worth now.

First, the minority workers would be far quicker to take full advantage of their new contractual rights, and less afraid of the possible antagonism of the white majority.

Second, the whites would understand the necessity for equality a whole lot more clearly. And many of the more advanced ones would be able to mollify or convince the more backward.

**THE EFFECTIVE IRON**

Third, and most important, the company executives themselves would feel the red-hot iron of worker solidarity poking into their fat behinds. They would have to forget about months-long or years-long grievances, and give justice right away. They would have to carry out in action all that they have so ponderously promised in words.

Naturally, a single struggle after the recent history of helplessness in the face of layoffs, racism, brutality, and company dictatorship would not by itself change everything.

But it would go a long way.

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**'Contract guts Civil Rights Act'**

CHICAGO, April 16—The recent industry-wide contract agreed on by the steel companies and the United Steelworkers of America actually guts Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act, Herbert Hill, Labor Director of the NAACP, asserted here today.

Hill pointed out that the Black and Latin workers concerned were totally excluded from negotiations and that the government has actually promised to take the side of the company and union officials in fighting any suits filed by Black or Latin workers under Title 7. This is supposedly in "exchange" for totally inadequate back pay adjustments averaging only \$400-\$600 for decades of discrimination.



## Boyle convicted in Yablonski murder

## Gov't link in conspiracy hidden

By TOM GARDNER

NORFOLK, Va.—Before 1969, Joseph "Jock" Yablonski, reform candidate against Tony Boyle for the presidency of the United Mine Workers (UMW), had never kept a gun in his house. But after receiving nearly 46,000 votes in the election which Boyle had stolen through intimidation, ballot stuffing, and violence, Yablonski remarked to a friend, "I think they're after me," and he kept a shotgun in his bedroom.

Yablonski, his wife Margaret, and their daughter Charlotte were brutally murdered in their beds on the night of Dec. 30, 1969. From the evidence gathered over the past 4 years, the suspicions of Yablonski—and thousands of rank-and-file insurgents in the UMW—have been confirmed.

## HIGH-LEVEL CONSPIRACY

The picture that emerged was one of a high-level conspiracy to get rid of Yablonski. After receiving more votes than any other insurgent candidate in the history of the UMW, Yablonski had said, "I have a constituency now and I intend to represent it."

Boyle and other UMW bureaucrats took the rank-and-file insurgency seriously, but falsely reasoned that they could kill the body by chopping off the head. At stake was not only Boyle's \$50,000-a-year salary, but millions of dollars in funds, intended for the benefit of the miners and their families, which Boyle and his henchmen spent and passed around at will.

The top bureaucrats had stolen \$850,000 from the union fund to give themselves lifetime pensions at full salary. They appointed brothers, sons, nieces, and loyal functionaries to nonexistent jobs at salaries in the \$20,000 bracket. They purchased a bank and coal and shipping companies, and they loaned the miners' money to coal companies that needed capital to mechanize thousands of UMW members out of jobs.

Yes, Boyle and his cronies had reason to fear the miners' insurgency and Yablonski. Yablonski had once been a loyal member of the "pie-card" club himself, living comfortably as a District Representative in Pennsylvania, and he was therefore hated all the more as a traitor. He had to be eliminated.

When the brutal Yablonski slaying hit the news, the miners who had supported him knew instantly that a plot had been hatched by the Boyle hierarchy to rid themselves of Yablonski and terrorize any other members who might challenge Boyle's leadership. The insurgents had witnessed Boyle's pleasure at the 1964 UMW convention as his loyal goons violently suppressed any dissenters who rose to speak. During the election they had seen paid pro-Boyle thugs break up and disperse a meeting of lung-diseased and crippled miners, some retired and others disabled, who had come together to support Yablonski.

The miners and many other working people wanted to know why obvious links in the assassination plot were not put together and the UMW leadership immediately investigated for its connections to the killing.

## WHAT TOOK SO LONG?

On April 11, 1974, Boyle was finally convicted on three counts of first-degree murder for ordering the Yablonski killings.

But what took so long? And what are the real lessons of the Boyle trials?

Prosecutor Richard Sprague told newsmen after Boyle's conviction, "The verdict was proper and shows that effective law enforcement can get to the people at the top. Unfortunately, people at the bottom are the only ones who are usually tried and convicted."

Is that what Boyle's conviction 4 years after the murder shows us, Mr. Sprague? Not hardly.

If we accept Sprague's conclusion, then we have to ask: Why weren't Nixon and the Pentagon brass, along with the hundreds of racist lifers like Calley, tried for the mass

murders committed against the people of Vietnam?

Why wasn't Rockefeller tried and convicted for ordaining the murder of 32 prisoners at Attica?

And why aren't coal company owners and executives charged with the murder of miners who die in their unsafe mines?

And furthermore, why did the Bureau of Mines support Boyle long after the murder? Who are the "people at the top" in the government itself who were accessories before or after the crime?

No, Mr. Sprague, the 4-year delay in convicting Boyle does not show that the courts and government in this country are willing to convict those "at the top." Compared to the real rulers and top dogs in this country, Boyle was nothing.

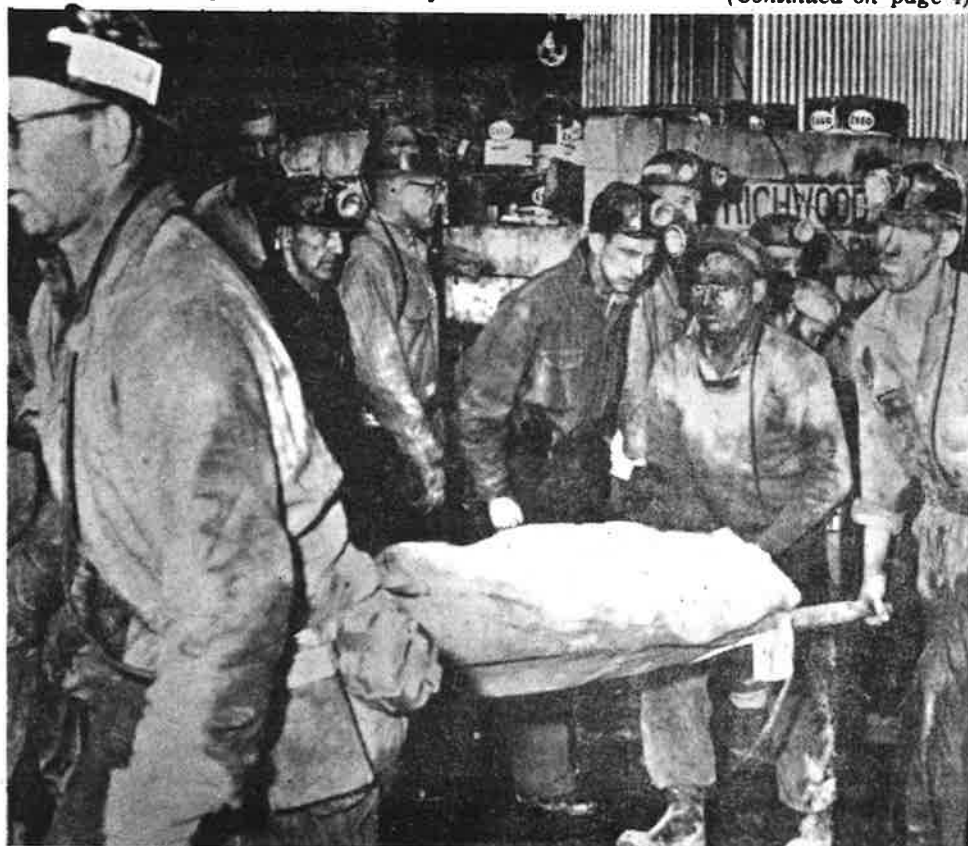
As head of a union, a labor official may at times be personally as crooked and ruthless as the corporate executives who exploit the workers. But his crimes can never be of the same magnitude. He is still only at the top of the people on the bottom.

He can be used as a labor lieutenant for the capitalists, and he can do great harm to the workers' movement, but he can never really make it to the top of the dung heap where the ruling class try to stay invisible in their haughty palaces.

## BOSSES NO LONGER NEEDED HIM

Boyle was finally prosecuted and convicted by the government, not because they just became aware of his crimes, but because Boyle was no longer useful to the chieftains of the coal industry and their

servants in Washington. In hundreds of walkouts and dozens of protracted wildcat strikes by rank-and-file miners, the point was finally driven home to the top brass of the coal industry and their captains in government that Boyle had lost his ability to



Boyle has been convicted of murdering opposition candidate in UMW. But who will be convicted of murdering these miners, killed by unsafe conditions? LNS photo

## Black workers fight layoffs at Ford

By ALVIN LONG

NORFOLK, Va.—In a protest that could have huge repercussions locally and nationally, Black workers at Ford Motor Company's Norfolk Assembly Plant are fighting back against energy-crisis-related layoffs. These layoffs have reduced the number of Blacks in the plant to approximately 15 and eliminated all women workers.

The Norfolk Ford plant, with 1,650 workers, had been producing pickup trucks and full-size LTDs before an alleged drop in sales led to the suspension of car production.

The changeover to all-truck production was accompanied by a permanent layoff of 501 workers, including about 150 of the 165 Blacks who had been in the plant. Virtually all of the plant's 15 women workers were permanently laid off.

The reason for the disproportionate layoffs of Black and women workers is that while seniority is the basis for layoffs and recall, the company had been refusing to hire Blacks and women until quite recently. The first few token Blacks on the assembly lines were not hired until 1961, a full 40 years after the plant came to Norfolk; all the women had been hired in the past 2 years. The Norfolk layoffs affect everyone hired after Jan. 1, 1964.

## CONCERNED BLACK WORKERS

The Concerned Black Ford Workers, a caucus in the plant, charged in a letter to Ford and to United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 919 that Ford's "past racial discriminatory hiring practices" are the cause behind the present elimination of Black workers. The caucus called on Ford Motor Company to "adopt a non-discriminatory method" of releasing and recalling workers.

The Black workers pointed to a recent court decision in Louisiana, in which a federal judge ruled that the Continental Can Company could not lay off workers by seniority because the company had refused to hire Blacks before the 1960s.

Both Ford Motor Company and the United Auto Workers have been deeply shaken by the letter from the Black workers in Norfolk.

The company has refused to release information on the exact number of Blacks and women laid off. The union leadership has refused to comment except to say, "It's a sad day when we (sic!) have to lay off so many good people."

"It looks," said Haywood Knight of the Concerned Black Ford Workers, "as if the union has no desire to protect its Black members from further effects of past hiring discrimination."

Black workers at Ford have been trying for years to make the union fight against continuing racism in hiring, promotions, and job placement at the plant, without ever getting a firm commitment from the UAW officials.

## SENIORITY USED AGAINST BLACKS AND WOMEN

The layoffs at the Norfolk Ford plant provide a clear example of the relationship of national and sexual oppression to the class struggle. Seniority is normally a progressive demand, won only through tremendous struggle by the trade union movement, and it usually provides an element of protection for the workers against discrimination and favoritism.

But when there have been decades of super-oppression of Black people and women, even a progressive demand for equality can be turned around by the ruling class, so that it acts in practice to perpetuate inequality through racial and sexual oppression.

Significantly, the Black workers stressed that they were not seeking "to impose any burden of the layoffs on white employees," even though the whites have for the most part remained silent on the question of racist discrimination against the Blacks.

It is obvious that Ford Motor Company should bear the burden of the present crisis

control the UMW membership and guarantee uninterrupted coal production.

Articles began to appear in business journals such as Fortune, Business Week, and the Wall Street Journal hypocritically condemning the corruption in the UMW and decrying the "anarchy in the coalfields" which Boyle's misleadership had created. One article, in Fortune, called for leadership that could "control its members and help provide stability for the industry."

With the Yablonski slaying, Boyle had overstepped his bounds. He, even more than

(Continued on page 4)

rather than the workers, Black or white. It was Norfolk Ford, after all, that refused to hire Black workers until forced to do so by the mass struggle of the civil rights movement.

During at least half of last year, Ford was speeding up its production in Norfolk—working everyone 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Now there are suddenly "too many" cars!

Ford made hundreds of millions of dollars in profit last year, while Henry himself got an extra \$865,000 in so-called salary for sitting around making decisions—like the decision to lay off the Norfolk workers.

## 30 FOR 40

Now the workers should make some decisions. One of them could be to fight for the 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay.

This would put practically everyone back to work at the same 40 hours' pay. It might be a big fight, even a nationwide fight. And it might take a little while to win.

But in the meantime, the workers could divide up the work anyway. They could get a 4-day week immediately (at the regular contract rates), and if any more still "had" to be laid off, there could be a free choice among those who preferred to take unemployment insurance or supplementary unemployment benefits (SUB).

Some UAW locals already have this "reverse seniority" which permits the older workers to go out on SUB, which comes to about 90 percent of their regular wages during layoff periods.

Absolutely the only thing preventing this is the lack of enough fighting solidarity and self-confidence among the union membership.

## TAKE UP THE FIGHT!

If all the Norfolk Ford workers were to unite against the discriminatory layoffs, Ford would have to back down, and the resulting settlement not only would protect the Blacks and women, but would establish a valuable precedent for all working people's job security.

The Concerned Black Ford Workers have started the ball rolling. Now it is up to all other workers at Ford and elsewhere to take up the fight.

Support the Concerned Black Ford Workers! Jobs or full compensation for all!

**Their crimes are endless**

# Indict Nixon—and the whole system!

By ANDY STAPP

The demand for the ouster of Richard Nixon is now a cry on the lips of the vast majority of the American people. Millions more believe that Congress and the courts will never punish him adequately for the crimes he has committed.

At last count, 125 of his aides were on trial or faced prosecution, including two former Cabinet members.

All those slick reactionaries swept into power by the rigged 1972 election are gone now.

Agnew, racist "law and order" hatchetman of the administration—caught taking money in brown paper bags. Ehrlichman, once the President's number 3 man, snarling and spewing the gutter abuse of a Nazi stormtrooper—indicted for burglary, conspiracy, perjury, and assorted other crimes. Haldeman, a year ago the all-powerful White House Chief of Staff—today moving frantically to avoid being put into one of those prisons he used to claim were "too soft on criminals."

Charles ("I'd walk on my grandmother for the President") Colson, head of the White House secret police, FTT bribe taker, strikebreaker against the farm workers—now finding solace in Jesus as he faces a long string of charges in earthly courts.

Robert Mardian, internal security fuhrer at the Justice Department who plotted with methodical cruelty the murder campaign against the Panthers—today wondering what it will be like for him in prison. Fred LaRue, Mississippi millionaire who years ago beat a charge of murdering his own father and eventually rose to prominence as architect of the racist "Southern strategy"—only to fall again in the welter of Watergate indictments.

Magruder, Liddy, Hunt, Stans, Mitchell, Chapin—all are gone.

All but one.

## STILL AT LARGE...

Were Nixon's crimes less than the others'?

He set up his own private gestapo in 1970 and turned them loose against his opponents, targeting even some members of the ruling class for destruction.

He became a millionaire by taking bribes from war profiteer Howard Hughes and crime syndicate banker Bebe Rebozo, but he is so cheap that he illegally deducted from his taxes the cost of cleaning his wife's bathroom rug.

He talks cynically about achieving a "full generation of peace" but he is the butcher of millions of people in South East Asia and, during last October's Middle East crisis, he ordered a total mobilization of the U.S. armed forces, which was an understood threat of nuclear war against the Soviet Union.

He congratulated Nelson Rockefeller for his mass execution of the prisoners at Attica and he continues to hand over millions of dollars to finance Portugal's genocidal war against the African people.

He has frozen the wages of American working people while driving prices up into the stratosphere with his super-inflationary \$99-billion Pentagon war budget.

He boasts an imperial lifestyle, and added \$17 billion in improvements to his homes in Florida and California, while millions go hungry and millions more have been thrown out of work.

Sure he's guilty! No one seriously doubts that. Even Nixon tacitly admits this, claiming, "Everybody does it."

Everybody? Was it the 40 million people who live in poverty who vetoed the minimum wage? Was it rank-and-file GIs and their parents who dragged out the genocidal war in Vietnam 4 more years? Was it housewives and working women who took bribes from the dairy trust? Was it the motorists waiting on gas lines for hours so they could get to work who conspired with the big oil companies to drive up the prices? Was it Black sharecroppers toiling

in the Mississippi Delta for \$900 a year who made racist speeches on national TV about the "work ethic"?

No, it is Nixon and other capitalist politicians from both Republican and Democratic parties who commit the crimes of imperialist aggression, racial repression, and profit gouging.

## BEHIND EVERY TAKER IS A GIVER

And even more responsible are the super-rich men who stand above these politicians, pulling the puppet strings.

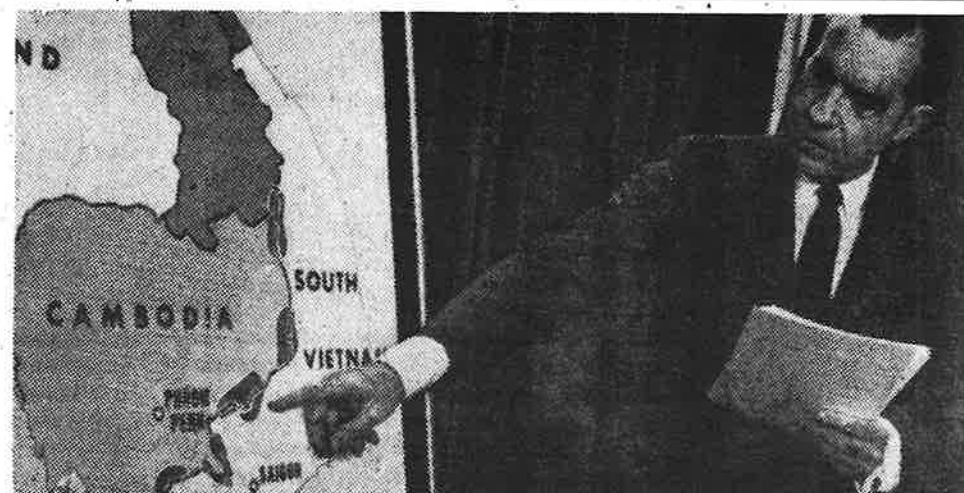
A few politicians who took the bribes, particularly the clique around Nixon, have been indicted for it. But it was the big businessmen, the super-rich monopolists, who gave the bribes. And whatever happens to Nixon, they will remain on the scene.

What if, in the face of the people's anger, the big capitalists gave up on Nixon? What then?

This would be a real victory, in one sense. After all, the big bosses put \$60 million behind Nixon's 1972 campaign, and there is no question that they don't like the people to see all that has been revealed

about the workings of capitalist "democracy" over the last year and a half.

But we can't let them go back to "business as usual" behind a new front man. Just replacing Nixon with Ford would be little more than a change of faces. If any victory over Nixon's policies is to be consummated, then we must press hard on the issues behind the man, while taking ad-



One of Nixon's greatest crimes, his aggression against Cambodia, cost hundreds of thousands of lives and still continues today (see article page 11).

# No tax loopholes for workers, only bosses

By TOM MITCHELL

Suppose you could file a tax return the way a businessman does. After all, aren't you in the business of making a living by selling your labor?

Before it even comes to the "loopholes" in the tax laws—the oil depletion allowance, phony capital losses, tax-free municipal bonds, bookkeeping tricks, and all the other "tax shelters"—taxes on the capitalist class are restricted to profits, not total revenue.

Your revenue is in the form of wages. There are a lot of expenses needed to maintain and renew your labor power, which is used up in the course of each workday. Food, clothing, shelter, and rest cannot be done without. Transportation is essential.

In fact, just about every hard-earned wage dollar gets spent to just keep us going. As it is, how many times a week do you put off or pass up a purchase?

But if you were a businessman, all these expenses could be deducted from your taxable income. And what if a worker could allow for depreciation, in this case your own body? Like a used machine, you will be worth less on the job market if you're out of work in your forties or fifties.

In short, if wages were taxed like business revenues, you would only pay taxes on the little, if any, income you put away in savings!

And even then, you could give yourself several different names and divide up this taxable income to come up paying nothing at all!

## THE GRADUATED WAGE TAX

We are told that ours is a "progressive" system of taxation that makes the rich pay a bigger percentage of their income. That's a lie. The tax bite on workers does increase as wages increase—making it even harder to keep up with inflation—but the income-tax burden falls heaviest on the working class.

More than 80 percent of the entire IRS collection is withheld directly from paychecks. If on April 15, you manage to come up with a small refund, you're supposed to think you "came out ahead."

But thanks to the withholding device, every paycheck, without exception, has been attached by the government collection agency. The entire working class comes out behind, by financing the parasites who own the country and use the government

vantage of our enemies' weaknesses and indecision.

Let's indict Nixon—and the whole rotten system!

## Be at D.C. impeach demo!

The National Campaign to Impeach Nixon will be demonstrating in Washington on April 27. New Yorkers who want a ride with Youth Against War & Fascism call AL 5-0352. Or look for the YAWF banners near the Ellipse.

See you in Washington!

spending for their special benefit.

## TAX REFORM

Nixon got pinched for \$440,022 by his "loyal opposition" in the impeachment campaign. Many of these same anti-Nixon politicians are talking about tax reform as well as election reforms. But not one of these stooges will consider taxing capitalists like workers.

These tax "reformers" tut-tut about the millionaires who use the "loopholes" in the law to pay virtually no taxes. But did you ever hear them suggest that capitalists should be restricted to the tax deductions allowed workers?

No, the politicians are employees of the capitalist class, and they will no sooner legislate equal taxation than they will require a capitalist, in order to be eligible for government handouts, to become as impoverished as a welfare client.

Can you see the bosses of the military-aerospace industry being subjected to the degrading insults of a welfare-claims center? No, they get a hundred times more than that—all handed to them on a silver platter.

There is only one way that working people will ever be able to figure their taxes like a businessman, and see the taxes used for their own benefit, too. The working class itself must throw out the capitalist class from control of the government and business, replacing capitalism with socialism.

# —Boyle convicted

(Continued from page 3)

the companies, had underestimated the depth of the rank-and-file insurgency growing in the minefields. But the companies and government still stalled to see what effect the murders would have. Had Boyle been successful in suppressing the insurgency, had he regained total control of the union, there might have been no government prosecution.

But the miners were on the move and there was no stopping them. The wildcats grew and the miners' struggle, just like the "gassy" mines they worked, remained on the verge of explosion.

So Boyle was indicted and the FBI, Labor Department, and Establishment press all got into the act. Detailed articles about corruption in the UMW were run regularly by the Washington Post, New York Times, and Louisville Courier-Journal. The press tried to make the miners think that all their problems, from accidents and Black Lung to a lack of retired and disabled benefits, were the fault of the UMW leadership rather than the companies.

No, it is not the government of the

bosses, and their flunkies like Nixon and Ford, who will administer justice to the top criminals. They are near the top of the list themselves.

## GET THE REAL CRIMINALS!

It is only the rank-and-file miners who can truly designate the guilty parties in the crimes committed against miners and their families over the years. And it is only the working people who can gain the power to administer true justice to these "high criminals."

When the miners and other working people get the chance to put the real criminals on trial, the list of indictments might look a little like the following:

Nov. 20, 1968: 78 miners killed by explosion in unsafe No. 9 Mine in Farmington, W. Va. Indicted: Board of Directors, Consolidation Coal Company and its parent, Continental Oil Company. Charge: mass murder.

Dec. 30, 1970: 38 miners killed in unsafe mine in Hyden, Ky. Indicted: Finley Company executives. Charge: mass murder.

Feb. 26, 1972: 118 people killed, 5,000 left homeless as slag heap collapses, flooding

towns. Indicted: Buffalo Creek Mine of Pittston Coal Company. Charge: mass murder.

July 22, 1972: 9 miners killed when Blacksville No. 1 Mine of Consolidation Coal Company in W. Va., operating illegally, catches fire....

Further charged with murder, cruelty, and complicity in thousands of other crimes against the mining families of this country would be a list of politicians and top corporate and financial executives too long to list here. But the facts would all be presented and those charged would be judged by working people from the mining communities. (They would have to also stand trial before other victims in this country and all over the world.)

These, the real "top criminals," would be forced to pay dearly for the years of oppression, murder, disease, and poverty that they have perpetrated on the mining communities and working people of America.

+ + +

In future issues of WW, the history and current developments of the struggles of the rank-and-file miners' movement and the UMW will be analyzed. Subscribe Now!



# Wounded Knee, Houston 12 cheered at New York rally

By NAOMI COHEN

NEW YORK, April 6—A crowd of over 500 people gathered at the Washington Irving High School auditorium here tonight to rally to the support of the Wounded Knee and Houston 12 defendants. The joint benefit featured Russell Means, a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and defendant in the Wounded Knee mass trial, and Sharon Chin, representing the Houston 12.

Both cases could result in life imprisonment for some of the defendants, and both have been systematically denied national coverage by the capitalist news media because of the powerful political issues they raise.

As Russell Means pointed out, there are 139 people under indictment for last year's occupation of Wounded Knee. This constitutes the largest mass trial in U.S. history, "yet you hear nothing of the trials." The Houston 12, eight of whom are Chicano, have also been shut out of national coverage, even though five of the defendants are charged with "assault with intent to murder a policeman" and face possible life sentences. Their protest against U.S. aggression in the Mideast (for which they were attacked by the police) hit at the very nerve center of Texas' rulers—the oil billionaires.

Pam Kirkland, chairwoman of tonight's meeting, drew the similarities between the two frameup cases by showing how each grew out of an attempt by oppressed and working people to challenge the power of the corporate bosses. In Houston, of course, it was the oil barons who ordered their cops to beat and arrest 12 members and friends of Youth Against War & Fascism for trying to expose the oil companies' predatory role in the Mideast. At Wounded Knee, too, the declaration of the independent Oglala Sioux Nation threatened the vast wealth stolen from the Native American people by the railroad companies and other bosses.

## "RESERVATIONS ARE CONCENTRATION CAMPS"

"Reservations are in reality concentration camps," said Means. "While the Pine Ridge Reservation has 4,500 square miles of land, 92 percent of it is leased to non-Indians. These people grossed \$12 million off our land while the average income for an Indian family was \$900 a year." (In addition, the AIM leader pointed out that in the last 11 years, the Indian people have lost 11 million acres of their land.)

In Houston, Texas, Chin related, not only were the defendants severely beaten several times, but the day after their arrests Police Chief Herman Short stated on TV, "The next time they demonstrate, they are going to get their heads bashed in." Bail was originally set at the impossible sum of \$255,000.

In addition to the racism of the police in arresting so many Chicano demonstrators, Chin pointed out that one of the defendants, Bartee Haile, was a special target of police wrath. Haile, a leader of Houston Youth Against War & Fascism, was shot by the Houston cops several years ago when he came to the defense of Carl Hampton, a Black political leader there who was assassinated by the police.

## HOUSTON'S INFAMOUS COPS

Texas is notorious for the vicious, racist nature of the courts and the inhuman prison sentences meted out to the oppressed and poor. The Houston police are also widely infamous for their affiliation with the KKK. This, coupled with the determination of the oil barons to suppress all opposition to their control of the resources in the Mideast, makes the case of the Houston 12 a particularly important one to publicize nationwide.

A message sent from the Houston 12 to the meeting tonight was warmly received by the audience. The defendants extended special greetings to Russell Means and the

AIM defendants, noting the ties of blood and common oppression between the Native American and Chicano peoples.

In his talk tonight, Russell Means emphasized the distinctly different culture of the Native American people from the European invaders of North America. He spoke again and again of last year's occupation of Wounded Knee in terms of the setting up of a separate nation—the independent Oglala Sioux Nation. He vividly described the siege of the Oglala Sioux Nation by hundreds of federal marshals and Green Berets armed with tanks, anti-aircraft weapons, C-2 gas grenades, and attack dogs. "Malnutrition and starvation were suffered in Wounded Knee, 1973," he said. "They had a scorched earth policy—burning hundreds of acres around us." Yet, Means pointed out, "Walking through Wounded Knee we felt real freedom."

## U.S. LIKE SOUTH AFRICA

Means exposed the hypocrisy of the U.S. government's denouncement of the Bantu Development Act passed by South Africa. (This law, in effect, exiles the Bantu people to desert areas of South Africa where starvation and poverty are rampant.) "I have read the Bantu Development Act,"

# How you can help the Houston 12

Special to Workers World

HOUSTON, April 16—"When we were savagely attacked last October by the Houston police, the media were very eager to give the Houston 12 front-page coverage—coverage that was consistently biased and favorable to the ridiculous claims of the police. But that was 6 months ago.

"More recently, there has been a calculated effort by the Establishment media here in Houston and throughout the country to black out our struggle against this racist and political repression. But in spite of this blackout, more and more progressive and working people are hearing about the fight of the Houston 12 and offering their support and solidarity."

As Alex Rodriguez made these comments, he pulled letters from a table covered with correspondence. Alex, a veteran activist in the Houston movement, is one of the five young men who go on trial May 20 on the charge of "assault with intent to murder a police officer."

"Every day," he continued, "the defense committee receives several letters. They come from people and organizations around the country asking for more information about the case, sending statements of solidarity, and very often enclosing contributions to our defense."

"For example, there are statements of solidarity from the Seattle chapter of the National Lawyers Guild; the Carlos Feliciano Defense Committee; Ruchell Magee; the San Quentin 6; the Raza Unida Student Organization in Madison, Wis.; Nacogdoches County Voters League, Nacogdoches, Tex.; and the Berkeley-Oakland chapter of the New American Movement."

"And those are just a few of the organizations we've heard from," interjected William Christiansen, another of the five. "Also, there have been letters from individuals—in places like Brownsville, Tex.; Norman, Okla.; Bellevue, Wash.; Philadelphia; New Orleans; Little Rock; a prisoner in McAlester Penitentiary (Okla.); Nashville; Atlanta; and Medway, Mass."

"We're not sure how all these people heard about the Houston 12, but they did, and that's what is important."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

What can people in other cities do to

said Means, "and it is a virtual carbon copy of the U.S. Indian Reorganization Act of 1934."

The urgent need to support the Wounded Knee defendants and the Houston 12 was brought home by the last speaker, Ali Shabazz, who is presently working with the American Indian Defense Committee in Philadelphia. Shabazz made a moving appeal to the audience for the desperately

needed funds to fight these political cases in the courts.

Also on tonight's agenda was a message from Carlos Feliciano, a prominent Puerto Rican political prisoner here; Danny Kalb, a well known blues guitarist; and El Grupo, a singing group that performs revolutionary Latin folk songs. The singers all volunteered their time and remarkable talent to help make tonight's benefit a success.



Over 500 people attend New York benefit for Wounded Knee and Houston 12 defendants.

WW photo: Dick

defense program, and the May 20 trial. Send the Committee \$2, and a copy of the tape will be mailed to you.

"Fourth, pass out literature in your city about the case. We will try to send you as much as you want. Fifth, if possible, organize a demonstration before or during the trial. Good targets for these demonstrations are offices of the major oil companies."

"Finally, the Houston 12 Defense Committee needs money for legal expenses and all the costs of the program to free our Brothers."

"Nationally, in the Southwest, and here in Houston support is steadily growing," said Miguel Trujillo, still another of the 12 facing life imprisonment. "We know we are not alone. We know we have thousands of friends who are working for our freedom. We know we will win."

Get behind these Brothers! Write the Houston 12 Defense Committee, 2401 San Jacinto, Room 101, Houston, Tex. 77009.

# Racists sue civil rights groups for \$3.5 million to halt boycotts

By TOM MITCHELL

NEW YORK, April 17—White merchants in Port Gibson, Miss., who were the target of a boycott for Black civil rights in the 1960s, are pressing a damage suit for \$3,500,000 against the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), individual boycotters, and a local anti-poverty agency, Mississippi Action for Progress.

The suit will be decided by a judge in a district with a mostly white population. If there is an appeal, it would cost the Black organizations \$10,000 just for a copy of the court transcript. This is because the merchants stretched out their testimony to 125 days, repeating and repeating the fact that an effective boycott, helped by the establishment of Black-operated stores, took place.

In addition, if the judge rules in favor of the white storeowners, the NAACP will have to raise a bond of \$5 million to appeal!

Damage suits against civil rights boycotts have already been prosecuted against the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Grenada, Miss., and the NAACP in Savannah, Ga. The SCLC exhausted all its resources in an unsuccessful fight against the Grenada suit, and the NAACP was forced to raise money

throughout Georgia to pay \$85,000 in the Savannah case.

White merchants from as far away as Cairo, Ill., have come to Port Gibson to get pointers on opening boycott damage suits in their towns.

## PARALLEL TO CULA CASE

The tactic of an astronomical damage suit is also being pressed in Rochester, N.Y., against a national group of labor activists, the Center for United Labor Action (CULA).

In the aftermath of the victorious Farah pants strike which benefited enormously from a boycott, Sibley's department store in Rochester is continuing to press a \$2.5-million damage suit against the CULA for organizing a boycott of the store and its scab pants.

Sibley's is part of the giant Associated Dry Goods chain and the Sibley's lawyer has recently announced in court that he is also representing the National Association of Retailers.

## THE RIGHT TO BOYCOTT

The boycott has been one of the most effective weapons in the civil rights struggle. Boycotts by labor have had a resurgence since the United Farm Workers (Continued on page 15)



# Fight for a higher minimum wage!

Congress has passed, and President Nixon has signed (on April 8), a new minimum wage law.

But this first increase since 1966 is granted in a period of raging inflation, making the new minimum not only inadequate, but a cruel hoax perpetrated on the most oppressed section of the working class.

For about 36 million workers who are already "covered" (the great majority of whom already get more than the abysmal minimum), the minimum will be increased from \$1.60 to \$2.00 this May. They will get an additional \$.10 on Jan. 1, 1975. Another raise a year later will bring the hourly minimum to \$2.30 on Jan. 1, 1976. And who knows how high prices will be by then?

An additional 19 million workers, including most domestic workers, some farm workers, and city, state, and government employees, will also be covered now. Most of those in the lowest brackets of this group will get only \$1.90 on May 1. And about a million farm workers will be raised slightly from the present \$1.30 an hour in an obvious move to head off the United Farm Workers Union organizing drive.

Nixon vetoed similar legislation last August, when Congress could not muster the necessary two-thirds majority to override the undemocratic veto system. He said at that time that \$2 an hour would be inflationary.

(Leaving aside his own personal contribution to inflation via tax chiseling and expense-account padding, it should be

remembered that Nixon is the defender of the most excessively inflationary "defense" budgets and the author of two exceedingly inflationary devaluations of the dollar.)

But this is an election year. The Congress would easily override a veto. And, moreover, Nixon is looking for a little popular support in light of the impeachment threat hanging over him.

## WORKERS STILL WORSE OFF

Even with all this, however, the new minimum wage still leaves the poorest workers much worse off than they were in 1966.

Even the conservative New York Times (April 13) computes the real standard of living under the new minimum as 20 percent lower than it was 6 years ago.

It is significant that even the class collaborationist, "I-never-walked-a-picket-line" George Meany, head of the national AFL-CIO, has denounced the new law as inadequate and reiterated his demand for a \$3-an-hour minimum.

The AFL-CIO demand is already out of date, however, due to the ravages of inflation in the 2 or 3 years since it was first

raised. But the \$3 minimum could have been won if those in the Meany leadership, who well understand its necessity, had honestly fought for its realization.

The whole labor movement, high paid as well as low paid, could have been mobilized behind the \$3 demand.

It is really a life-and-death necessity for the poor and the most oppressed—and a self-preservation measure for the higher-paid workers. It would be a "floor" below which wages could not be driven. And it would be a higher starting point, from which the higher skilled or better organized could more easily grab the throats of the bosses for better money, or at least protect what they already have.

This could provide the basis for a powerful and united drive by all labor.

If the labor movement had militant and imaginative leaders—even if they were not revolutionary—it could most probably force Congress to require at least a minimum of \$3 an hour.

## FOR A \$4-AN-HOUR MINIMUM!

Actually, it can easily be shown that the real "poverty level" for a family of four is now \$8,000 a year, and since it is usually difficult for more than one adult to work steadily in most families with small kids, the absolute minimum really should be \$4 an hour.

This slogan doesn't require a socialist consciousness, much less a communist one. It would have to be raised in a practical way, as a more or less immediate demand in the living labor movement.

The militant and more progressive-minded workers, under the pressure of inflation in the growing crisis of the whole capitalist system, can lead great movements and intimidate or remove the conservative official leadership in the process. They can educate the higher paid as well as mobilize and inspire the lower paid to get behind such a demand.

This practical demand for a \$4 minimum would be called "impractical" by

said in his most memorable quote. 'I was a racketeer for capitalism. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909. I helped make Mexico safe for American oil interests in 1916. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenue in. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. I had a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals, promotions. I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate in three cities. The Marines operated on three continents.'

"Old Gimlet Eye, as his men called Butler, destroyed the plot by making it public. The conspirators slipped back into their Manhattan offices and hid under their desks. Nobody was indicted, nobody jailed, and the principals were gentlemanly enough not to pin the rap on their office boys or secretaries."

## Another 'free world' friend

Yaroslav Stetsko, speaking at the



the bureaucrats and their cynical supporters in the local leaderships.

But once it became an understood concept in the minds of the working class who need it so badly, it would become practical enough to frighten both the bosses and their political stooges in Washington. It could bring them all to their knees and make them pay it, whether they could "afford" it or not.

## Letter

## Worker hits NCLC

Four weeks ago, a young man who occasionally works at our plant started plastering our union bulletin board with a newspaper called "New Solidarity." We found out later that the paper comes from a group calling themselves "National Caucus of Labor Committees."

I want to relate to you what type of organization this NCLC is.

1. One of the leaflets he was handing out said, "Working people in the U.S. are like rats on a sinking ship." Personally, I don't like being called a "rat" because I work for a living. Yet, this guy claims to be fighting for working people.

2. Another of the NCLC leaflets starts off: "President Nixon is not guilty." Now, I can think of some vicious crimes that Nixon and his rich buddies have committed—from slaughtering the Southeast Asian people to robbing the entire U.S. working class of their wages, etc., etc. Yet, this NCLC guy says Nixon's not guilty. A Black worker at lunch started to read the leaflet. He got as far as "President Nixon is not guilty," put the leaflet down, and said, "That's all I need to know. If they (NCLC) say that, then they must be friends of Nixon. And any friend of Tricky's is my enemy."

3. He says he thinks bosses and supervisors are "pretty good people." He works at our plant so he must be talking

(Continued on page 14)



## Let's all support it the way he does

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 10 (AP):

"Julie Nixon Eisenhower says President Nixon could have contested portions of his back tax bill but did not in order to encourage Americans to support the tax collection system.

"Frankly, my father's entire position on the tax matter has been one of trying to encourage the American people to support the Internal Revenue Service system," the President's daughter told a news conference."

## How low can he go?

New York Times, April 5:

"WASHINGTON—President Nixon neglected to pay Social Security taxes for a maid he employed at his San Clemente home in 1969, though he took one-quarter of the wages he paid her as a 'business deduction' on his own tax return, according to the Congressional study of Mr. Nixon's taxes."

## Watergate, 1934

Washington Post, March 21:

"The year was 1934 and the money behind it came, as best it could be traced, from companies controlled by J. P. Morgan, the DuPonts, the Rockefellers, the Mellons. It appeared that some members of these famously rich families, like J. Howard Pew of Sun Oil, knew where their dough was going, but the facts were never firmly established by the House of Representatives committee. The committee, chaired by John McCormack, later to become Speaker of the House, was content to let the plot dissipate without chasing down the wealthy plotters.

"To viewers from two generations later

in our time with our troubles, the conspiracy looks as idiotically incomprehensible as Watergate may to our grandchildren. Nevertheless, the conspirators of '34 believed that Franklin D. Roosevelt, the man who saved corporate capitalism, was intent on destroying them, and that they were therefore entitled to do the same.

"Watergate is less a simple, discreet plot than it is an example of conspiracy as a normal way of life. There never was one single plan either to do anything or to cover anything up.

"By contrast the 1934 plot is easy to understand. A paramilitary force of half a million ex-World War I veterans was to be recruited and marched to Washington to overawe Roosevelt and force him to appoint a quasi-dictator type as secretary of general affairs. This superordinate Cabinet member would assume the President's powers while Roosevelt was to be allowed to continue to live in the White House and function as our equivalent of the King of England.

"To recruit this black-shirt army the plotters needed a well-known, forceful military figure, preferably one who had some experience at political gang bang. They chose Marine Maj. Gen. Smedley Darlington Butler, a two-time winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor and the most popular soldier of his era. In those days, the Marines did many of the jobs the CIA does now, so in the course of his career, Gen. Butler had learned to stuff ballot boxes, rig elections and promulgate specious constitutions in places like Nicaragua and Haiti.

"What the plotters failed to appreciate was that over the years the general had come to detest playing politics with machine guns.

"I spent 33 years being a high-class muscle man of Big Business," the general

Seventh World Conference of the World Anti-Communist League in Washington, D.C., April 9, 1974:

"The enslaved people of the Ukraine and Eastern Europe are preparing for the day when they will rise up and wage a great freedom fight against Russian communist tyranny."

Yaroslav Stetsko, Puppet "Premier" of the Nazi-occupied Ukraine, speaking in Lvov, June 3, 1942:

"I consider Marxism to be the creation of a purely Jewish mind. Therefore, I am firm in my opinion that the Jews must be liquidated and that it is worthwhile to use in the Ukraine the German methods of exterminating the Jews excluding their assimilation."

## Justice Dept. breeding ground for fascists

Intellectual Digest, March 1974:

"The conservation movement is a breeding ground of communists and other subversives. We intend to clean them out even if it means rounding up every bird watcher in the country."—Attorney General John Mitchell, April 10, 1971.

## Boss Tweed is alive and well in Chicago

Chicago Sun Times, April 8:

"A consulting firm Mayor Daley helped put on its feet with lucrative city contracts received \$60,000 in consulting fees to teach Daley's six secretaries how to 'communicate,' it was learned Sunday."

## Pushers in blue

New York Post, April 3:

"At least 10 more narcotics detectives will be indicted early next week by federal grand juries investigating how the drug underworld bought off police here.

"State and federal sources estimate that about 50 of the more than 70 officers assigned to the Special Investigations Unit of the Narcotics Division between 1968 and 1972 will ultimately face charges."



## New position of Psychiatric Ass'n

# Gay victory teaches importance of struggle

By BOB McCUBBIN

In May 1970, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) held its annual convention in San Francisco. The gay liberation movement, at that time only about a year old, was nevertheless well known in San Francisco. There were several gay organizations in the city. There had been a number of demonstrations: against police harassment and brutality, and to protest the firing of gays who had refused to keep their homosexuality hidden on the job.

This reporter was working at that time as a clerk in the psychiatry department of one of the major hospitals in San Francisco. Each afternoon during the APA convention, reports were brought back to the hospital on what was happening there.

We found out the first day that not all the people attending the convention were psychiatrists. At least 15 gay militants showed up and, with the power of a growing movement behind them, denounced the psychiatrists, demanding that the psychiatric profession end its persecution of gay people. They argued that the use by professionals of such terms as "sick" and "perverted" when speaking of homosexuals was not only insulting and harmful to the self-images of gay people, but that these words and the theories behind them were used to justify all kinds of discrimination against gays, and tended to sanction the treatment of gay people as criminals.

Each day, as reports of the disruption occurring at the APA convention were brought back to the hospital, I listened without visible emotion, but inside I was cheering. Then, on about the third day of the convention, something even more exciting happened. One of the young psychiatric trainees attached to the hospital made it known that he was a homosexual and proceeded to join the other gays in their protests at the convention. It was as though a bomb had dropped. Word of it spread through the whole hospital in a matter of hours.

The "nonprofessionals," that is, the workers, responded in a variety of ways: some with cruel jokes, some with interest and sympathy. But among the psychiatrists and other professionals, the same cold, disdainful response could be observed in almost all of them. They all agreed, without saying it out loud, that the young homosexual intern had just wrecked his promising career. And you could see that it infuriated them that they had somehow let a "pervert" into their prestigious training program.

Last week, by a polling of its membership, the APA confirmed the decision its board of trustees had announced last winter: homosexuality is not a mental illness. This decree was no revelation to those millions of homosexuals who have managed to lead productive and healthy lives for years despite the former position of the APA and the prejudice and persecution which that position encouraged.

But how did the change come about? Were there perhaps major new studies on the question, or had a new revolutionary psychological theory been advanced? No, it was nothing like that. Scientific evidence would never have brought about the change in the APA's position for the simple reason that the position was not based on scientific investigation in the first place. It was, rather, based on bourgeois morality and plain, old-fashioned bigotry.

In reality, it was the cumulative effect of actions like the one at the APA convention in San Francisco and hundreds of other demonstrations around the country that forced the APA to change its stand. And this is particularly important to understand since the struggle against gay oppression is still so far from its goals. The lesson of the APA victory is, as the militants in the anti-war movement used to put it: "Stay in the streets!" It should be remembered that the APA statement will not, of itself, put an end

to job and housing discrimination, police brutality, entrapment, prison behavior-modification programs, and all the other injustices which are inflicted against gays in this country. The public outcries against these practices must continue.

In this regard, the New York City Council's continuing refusal to pass a gay civil rights law is in flagrant contradiction to its professed humanitarianism and shows its collusion with the most reactionary forces. The Gay Rights Action Coalition (GRAC) is calling for a mass demonstration on Saturday, April 20, to demand passage of a gay civil rights law in New York City. The march will begin at Washington Square Park at 1 p.m. and end at Union Square, where there will be a rally. The GRAC is calling on all progressive people, gay and straight, to attend this event.

## NY student coalition protests budget cuts

By KEN OXTOBY

NEW YORK, April 4—Almost 200 students today participated in a demonstration at City Hall called by the New York City High School Coalition, an organization with members in more than 25 different schools.

The main demand raised was an end to budget cuts by the Board of Education. The students also wanted better hot lunch programs, better bilingual programs for students needing them, an end to teacher firings, and the hiring of additional teachers.

The High School Coalition has been built over the last year in response to a drastic cutback in funds by the city, state, and federal governments. It has sent speakers to many Board of Education and City Planning Commission hearings to give the students' point of view.

Many schools sent contingents of varying sizes to today's demonstration. A group of over 50 students from Stuyvesant High School marched down Broadway carrying its message of "Board of Education, stop the cuts now!" and "Board of Ed, where's our bread?" to the many people it passed.

The high schools of Art & Design, Music & Art, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington, and many others were represented, comprising Third World and progressive white students together in full solidarity.

David Goldsmith, Student Union

## Life for the poor in Chicago: part 5

# Racism, sexism pervade schools

By GREGG MOSSBERGER  
(Continued from last issue)

CHICAGO—It comes as no surprise that the conditions in Chicago's schools are worst in the poorest communities, especially in the Black and Latin neighborhoods where racism adds another dimension to the oppression the students suffer.

There is no question that the racism which pervades U.S. society in general absolutely saturates the Chicago school system. Worse still, segregation is increasing to keep pace with the deteriorating physical conditions. Forty-seven percent of the public schools have what are officially designated as "segregated" faculties, up from 44.7 percent last year. Of the 540,000 students in Chicago schools, 57.6 percent are Black, 11.1 percent are Latin, and 29.5 percent are white. Despite this, Black teachers make up only 39.5 percent of the



Actions like this, where Chicago gay people demonstrated their pride and their power, have taught professionals something about mental health. WW photo

all courses of study.

It was pointed out at the rally that in one department alone—the Biology Department at Stuyvesant—the funds for student supplies were cut from \$20,000 to \$1,800 a year. And if this is happening in the more "prestigious" high schools with emphasis on academic programs, it is easy to see how the commercial and vocational schools—that are little more than detention centers, anyway—are suffering.

Ken Oxtoby, a student leader and senior at Stuyvesant and a member of High School Youth Against War & Fascism, contrasted the cuts in the education, health care, and housing budgets to the constant increases in military spending. He emphasized that those present should organize in their schools to build the struggle. "The schools have got to such a deplorable state that if anything is going to get done, we are going to have to do it ourselves," he told the crowd.



The withdrawal of the HEW grant really only exposes the rotten hypocrisy and actual complicity in racism on the part of the federal government, it should be noted. This action of merely denying desperately needed funds punishes the students for the board's racism! Instead of spending the money to improve conditions and end discrimination, they keep the money in corruption-ridden Washington.

Because of this racism, the approximately 400,000 Latin people living in Chicago have special problems trying to educate their children. The Board of Education reported as long ago as March 1973 that over 40,000 Spanish-speaking students are having difficulty in school due to language problems. Nevertheless, the board continues its notorious racist course, aided by the government. Both cry, "We have no funds."

Governor Walker's budget made clear the lack of concern that even liberal politicians have for the welfare of the poor. Now even the existing bilingual programs are in a precarious position. To help illustrate the trend all over in the oppressed communities, here are some facts on these

(Continued on page 14)

faculty, while a mere 1.6 percent of the faculty members are Latin. Less than one-fifth of the principals are Black, even though 259 of the 537 elementary schools have Black enrollments greater than 90 percent. Another 104 schools are more than 90 percent white. The pattern continues into the 70 high schools, where 28 are more than 90 percent Black and 11 are more than 90 percent white.

### OPPRESSED, THEN ROBBED!

This segregation is so blatant that the federal government last spring refused a \$2.3 million Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) grant to the Chicago Board of Education because the system's faculty is too segregated. One case especially noticeable is that of Sheridan Grammar School, where 93.2 percent of the students, but only 10 percent of the faculty members, are Latin.

## Agribusiness plot revealed in chicken kill

Eight million Mississippi chickens were killed late in March, as a result of contamination from the pesticide dieldrin. Immediately, senators from states where poultry is a prime agribusiness industry introduced in Congress bills designed to compensate producers for the birds that the producers destroyed. Behind these events lies a long history of government subservience to the agribusiness monoliths which have come to control the bulk of food production in the U.S.

Of course, the removal of so many chickens from the market will drive prices still higher. But this is not enough for the greedy producers. They have demanded \$8 million "compensation" for the birds they dosed with the dieldrin-saturated feed.

How the dieldrin got into the feed is a story all in itself. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it "doesn't know," but it is quite likely that the transport vehicles in which the "accident" occurred were owned by the same poultry producers who will receive indemnities for their "loss." Poultry workers reported that when news of the contamination got out, one of the big broiler producers rushed out and poisoned all his birds.

By no stretch of the imagination could

with the aim of insuring high prices.

Some examples of this manipulation are:

+ During Phase 1, the USDA advised poultry producers to cut back on their flocks by 4-6 percent in order to create a shortage and drive prices up. After this was done, prices indeed zoomed.

+ During Phase 3<sup>1/2</sup>, millions of baby chicks were pulverized by poultry producers.

+ As late as January 1973, the USDA told the broiler industry to cut back production by 5 percent to avoid "depressed prices," when in fact wholesale prices were 27 percent above the previous year's level.

Throughout this period, the small, chicken farmer has become even, more impoverished.

Ralston Purina's drive to take over southern poultry production in the 1960s wiped out thousands of family farmers who didn't have the resources to fight this vicious monopoly. Little farmers who balked were blacklisted and found themselves unable to get chickens. Even many who surrendered and came under the sway of the giants were ruined. Some small Alabama poultry growers under contract to Pillsbury found they were making minus 36 cents per hour.

On April 16, 1973, the Justice Department filed an antitrust suit against the poultry monopolists, charging that they "have engaged in a combination and conspiracy to fix, maintain, and stabilize the price of broilers."

Today, all this is forgotten as Senators Eastland, Stennis, Ervin, and Sparkman rush to hand over the keys of the federal

meeting with cattle producers in the White House, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials made public a plan whereby the government would buy \$45 million worth of prime-grade beef to ground into hamburger meat for the school lunch program.

There should be no doubt that the plan's purpose is to help the cattle industry by creating a shortage and bolstering profits. They're not at all interested in helping hungry children. For one thing, according to a meat broker quoted in *The New York Times*, usually only low-grade hamburger meat is included in school lunches. Our children should get good meat all the time—not just when the cattle industry profits by it!

What's more, the announcement of the plan coincided with a USDA decision to "phase down" federal funding of the school lunch program itself, a decision that will affect millions of children, and which reveals most dramatically that it is not the school children the USDA is trying to help.

John Larsen of the USDA openly admitted it is the cattle producers who are really being helped.

"It will have an upward thrust in cattle prices, but it's impossible to say how much," he said. "But it will be a little shot in

shortages by not planting crops. And only recently, it was revealed that the Nixon administration received giant payoffs from the large milk cooperatives to insure high milk prices.

Last year's beef prices soared to record highs under Nixon's "price-control" manipulations. But these huge profits only whetted the appetite of the meat-industry heads. Along with their servants in government, they are now frantically searching for new ways to send prices up even further, at the expense of the working and poor masses.

## Dairy trusts, Connally, Nixon milk the people

By ANDY STAPP

The disclosure that in 1971 former Secretary of the Treasury John Connally took a \$10,000 cash bribe from a lawyer for the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. in return for using his influence to get higher price supports for milk is only the latest in a series of scandals that have torn the mask off the dairy trust.

Actually, the \$10,000 given Connally was only part of a much bigger conspiracy that the milk trust entered into with the Nixon administration. The first payoff to the White House was made in August 1969, when a Democratic lawyer acting as a lobbyist for the milk bosses forked over a briefcase stuffed with \$100,000 to Herbert Kalmbach, Nixon's personal lawyer. The bribe was concealed by entering it on the books as funds owed a public relations firm.

Another \$50,000 from Pennsylvania milk interests was siphoned off to Nixon crony Frederick LaRue and used to buy the silence of the Watergate conspirators.

By 1972 the milk lobby had doled out \$500,000 to the Nixon administration to get increased price supports, which, over the past 2 years, have cost the American people an estimated \$500 to \$700 million for milk at the store. That's a return of 10 to 1 on the milk trust's "investment"!

Most of the cash came from the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (AMPI) and Mid-American Dairymen, two huge milk co-ops now preparing to merge. AMPI ranked 133 in *Fortune's* list of the top 500 industrial corporations in 1972.

Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, AMPI had sales of milk and milk products in 1972 of \$1,042,873,162! On top of this, AMPI's sales of producer supplies and equipment for the same year came to \$11,105,345. For hauling and other services, AMPI raked in an additional \$16,549,217 in 1972.

This super-rich octopus, incorporating 44,000 dairy operations in 22 states, hardly fits the popular image of a farmer cooperative "battling monopoly"—an image fostered by Madison Avenue hirelings of the milk trust.

Mid-American Dairymen, an outfit with \$532 million in sales last year, and AMPI control one-fifth of the U.S. milk supply.

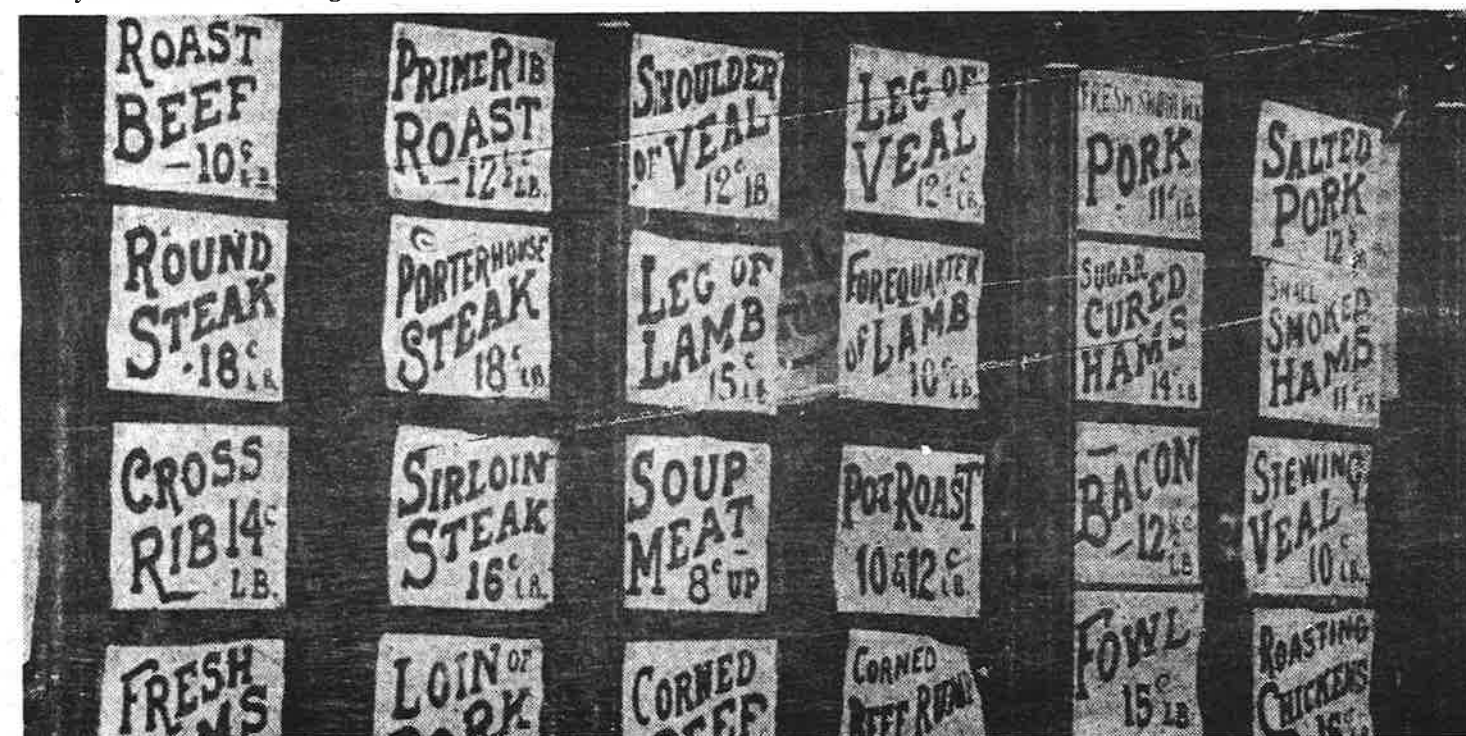
Between them, these two giants spread the cream around, not only to the Nixon clique but to "deserving" Democrats—like Mississippi's Eastland of the Senate Agriculture Committee, who got \$15,000. Humphrey, a member of the same committee, slopped up \$8,600, and Tennessee's

"The U.S. Department of Defense is on world. Look at these figures from the Fried

"+ The 3.7 million gallons of fuel consumed in a V airlift exercise to West Germany could last a year.

"+ The 3,440 gallons of fuel burned by farm equipment to prepare the ground, at 400 acres of corn yielding 56,000 bushels.

+ +  
From AI



The Zeilder Ave. Meat Market, Queens, 1912. Prices are now 15-20 times as great. Do you earn 20 times as much as your grandfather did?

the five poultry producers who are demanding the \$8 million be viewed as small farmers.

"It is definitely not the small, poor farmers who are getting the compensation," said W. O. Thomas, a member of the National Farmers Organization in Cullman, Alabama. "This is what is being passed on to the public, but the small farms involved merely fatten the birds who are owned by the vertical integrators. These small contract growers get 1<sup>1/2</sup>-2 cents a pound to fatten the chickens.

"It is highly unlikely that these poor farmers will get anything, and if they get something from the compensation it will be a pittance. The large vertical integrators are the ones who will receive the indemnity," Thomas added.

The large poultry integrators—Pillsbury, Ralston Purina, Swift and Co., and Wilson and Co. (a subsidiary of Ling-Temco-Vought)—control 97 percent of all broiler production in the U.S.

In 1973 Pillsbury's profits were up 38 percent. Esmark, the parent company of Swift, reported a profit leap of 34 percent for the same period.

Much of the enormous profits these companies have enjoyed have come about through the manipulation of production by both the poultry industry and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) itself,

treasury to these same criminals, all, naturally, in the name of compensation.

Ralston Purina will get more millions of our tax money. And the men who send the check, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and Dr. Virgil Wodicka, Director of the Food Bureau of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, will pay with a smile. They both worked for Ralston Purina before entering "public service."

## Cattle industry hamburger sales beef up profits

By SHARON SHELTON

Tenneco, Kaiser Steel, Boeing Aircraft, DuPont Industries, Ling-Temco-Vought, IT&T—these are a few of the giant corporations that monopolize cattle production in the U.S.

Yet, at a time when meat has become a luxury item for most poor and working people, whose standard of living has plummeted in the last year, it is these very multibillion-dollar corporations that the Nixon administration has deemed in need of a financial "shot in the arm."

The latest scheme cooked up by the beef industry and the government was announced on March 26. On that date, at a

the arm for producers."

Wall Street must have gotten the message, because immediately after the announcement, prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange shot up and cattle futures closed with 1-cent-a-pound advances.

It should be no surprise that the USDA is conspiring with the agribusiness chiefs to jack up the prices. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz came straight from the board of Ralston Purina and has business ties with a chemical corporation, a canning company, and Tenneco. All these concerns are part of the huge interconnecting network of corporations that control the food industry from the farm to the supermarket.

And his assistant, Clayton Yeutter, who was instrumental in setting up the hamburger-purchase program, is a cattle producer himself. He is also a member of the Commodity Credit Board, the agency through which the beef is being bought. Yet, Yeutter says he sees it as only a "nominal" conflict that, while his farm brings in approximately \$20,000 a year from cattle, he advised on the \$45 million hamburger-purchase plan.

This collusion between agribusiness and its servants in government is nothing new. For years and years, large farming interests have been raking in millions of tax dollars in subsidies approved by Congress for the express purpose of maintaining



# rise in food prices

Jones, Chairman of the House Agriculture Dairy Subcommittee, got \$110,000 of the loot. In all, 11 members of the House and Senate agriculture committees received ill-disguised bribes of \$5,000 each from the dairy industry in 1973.

The transformation of the co-op movement from a struggle against the food monopolists into a front for monopoly itself was stated rather succinctly by Ernest Lindsay, President of Farmland Industries.

Speaking to the delegates at the 1973 annual meeting of the National Council of Farm Cooperatives, a lobby representing the largest farmer co-ops in the country, Lindsay said, "Perhaps the most vivid proof that growing cooperatives know about financial and other aspects of modern American business is provided by our meeting place.

"In their wildest imaginings, the cooperative leaders of the thirties could not have foreseen that someday the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives would be meeting on a Bahamian Island in a beautiful resort, and near a casino."

The American people who are paying an all-time, high price for their families' milk (between March 1971 and March 1974 the price of fluid milk rose 37.5 percent) may not be as enthusiastic as Mr. Lindsay about these dairy bosses living it up at a Caribbean casino.

For the present, the dairy industry's greed and the government's corruption have won their victory over America's children. Per capita consumption of milk in dairy-rich New York State alone has dropped over 40 quarts per person in 1973 due to impossible prices.

## Citrus bosses squeeze higher prices, kill orange crop

By LORRAINE BRESLOW

On March 26 the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it was recommending to the navel-orange industry that it destroy 35 percent of its current crop in an effort to further drive prices up! This move starkly reveals once again not only the spectacular greed of the agribusiness firms for profit, but also their absolute domination over the federal government and its food policy.

At the behest of the corporate citrus kings, the Agriculture Department established and administers an orange-marketing order system which fixes a "prorate," or limit, on how much of the fruit will come to market. This is the device now being used to destroy hundreds of carloads of fresh oranges so that the remaining ones can be sold at the supermarkets at costs even higher than the record-breaking prices we have seen over the last 2 years.

It is obvious that the gauge for setting the limit on marketing orders is not based on the needs of the poor and working people for nourishing food, but rather on the desire of the corporate heads of Tropicana, Minute Maid, and Sunkist to further enrich themselves.

Like most food production in the U.S. today, citrus is big business. Eighty-five percent of the citrus industry is controlled

by huge integrators (companies that make tremendous profits contracting other, smaller farms to grow for them). These integrators are made up of vast cooperatives. The whole apparatus is controlled by corporate conglomerates from all areas of industry. There are two main geographical groups of citrus cooperatives: the California (controlled by Sunkist) and the Florida (dominated by Minute Maid and Tropicana).

The Sunkist Growers, Inc., markets 45 percent of this country's fresh oranges and 85 percent of its fresh lemons. Though it is primarily a marketing co-op, its business includes processing, packing, transporting, wholesaling, and advertising. Sunkist's revenues between 1971 and 1972 totaled \$288,508,000, including \$89,689,000 for military contracts. Members of the cooperative number 8,600 growers, grouped into local associations, including Central California Citrus Exchange, Allied Citrus Exchange, Phoenix Arizona Citrus Exchange, Mid-California Citrus Exchange, plus 105 others. Included in Sunkist's membership are such "farmers" as



Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Co.

Sunkist's Florida twin, Minute Maid, controls 20 percent of the entire U.S. frozen-juice industry. Pulling the strings behind the scene at Minute Maid is the multinational Coca-Cola Co. owned by the billionaire Woodruff family. Apparently Coca-Cola, whose avowed aim is to "get the world to sing in perfect harmony," has already accomplished the more modest goal of harmonizing a good portion of this country's citrus industry under its corporate baton.

Concealed by the sugary phrases of Coke's well-heeled PR men lies the seamier side of the company's activities, such as the mass destruction of oranges and the brutal exploitation of thousands of mostly Black and Brown migrant laborers who toil in the orange groves to bring Coke "the real thing"—superprofits.

The same hideous conditions that prevail in the barrack slums of Coca-Cola's citrus empire are duplicated in California's fruit-rich Imperial Valley. Here the notoriously rightwing Teague family, rulers of the California citrus industry, champion the cause of repression against Chicano farm workers. In 1941 Charles Teague, founder of the California Citrus Growers Association and President of the California Chamber of Commerce, viciously broke a farm workers' strike by surrounding the migrant camp with armed guards, evicting

the workers from their homes, and herding in scabs.

Today his son, Milton, carries on as general manager of Limoneira Ranch and as President of both Sunkist and the California Chamber of Commerce. Milton's brother, Charles, works the other end of the street as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives where he tailors national legislation to the needs of the agribusiness millionaires.

Sunkist rules the roost not only in Congress but in the highest levels of the executive branch itself. At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Robert Long, former director of Sunkist Growers, Inc. and Vice President for Agricultural Loans at BankAmerica, wears the hat of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. And thus the grower-government marriage is consummated.

It was Robert Long's Department of Agriculture that made the decision to destroy a substantial portion of this year's orange crops, thus insuring higher profits for his fellow citrus bosses.

## —Food prices

(Continued from page 1)

command of government, the industry has engaged in a consistent policy of payoffs, bribes, and "campaign contributions" to

grain in Argentina. Del Monte and Dole control the fruit and vegetable industries in the Philippines, Hawaii, Thailand, and Kenya, where they pay the workers as little as 10 cents an hour. The Valley of the Jolly Green Giant can now also be found on Taiwan, the island of the vicious old fascist, Chiang Kai-shek.

The rulers of the corporate food dominion are criminals. Their monopoly power enabled them to overcharge the North American people \$2.1 billion for food in 1972, according to a recent Federal Trade Commission report.

They are guilty of the crimes of racism and repression against farm and food-plant workers in this country and around the world. While they rape and waste the lands, adulterate our foods, and destroy crops by the thousands of tons, the majority of the world's people go hungry.

According to Dr. John Knowles, President of the Rockefeller Foundation, of the 2.5 billion people living in the non-communist countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, 1.5 billion are malnourished and another 500 million are starving to death. Right here in the United States, which claims to be the richest country in the world, the U.S. government admits that 46 million people are living in poverty, over 13 million of them dying by inches from starvation.

This country has the resources and technological capability to feed a population

politicians.

Millionaire rancher Francis L. Capaert and the King Ranch barons of the Kleberg family together contributed \$307 thousand to Nixon's 1972 election campaign to assure the cattle industry a free rein to fix the price and supply of beef.

CREEP also enjoyed a \$47,000 contribution from RCA subsidiary Banquet Foods, a controller of the prepared-dinner market.

Del Monte Corp., the world's largest processor of fruits and vegetables, even established its own "Del Monte Voluntary Nonpartisan Good Government Fund" (!) which parceled out over \$20,000 to both national and state candidates in the 1972 campaigns.

### THE GIANTS TAKE OVER

The power of firms like Del Monte is vast indeed. Monopolization in food manufacturing has risen to the point where 100 out of 32,500 food corporations received 71 percent of the whole industry's profits. Monstrous diversified conglomerates like Standard Oil, Dow Chemical, Boeing, Monsanto, Penn Central, Getty Oil, Union Carbide, and Gulf & Western are among the largest food producers. They deal in everything from petroleum to pesticides to pork and their empires extend worldwide.

Cargill, Inc., infamous profiteer in the wheat deal, is the largest exporter of feed

at least 5 times its own size. But only when the workers and oppressed people take food production out of the hands of the capitalists and their stooge government can the total eradication of hunger be realized.

## China: Food for people, not profit

By NAOMI COHEN

Perhaps no people in the world have known hunger more than did the people of pre-revolutionary China. Untold millions used to perish in the periodic famines and droughts that hit China as though with a vengeance. In the 3 years between 1941 and 1943, the worst famine in 100 years devastated North China. Here is how Jack Belden, an American journalist traveling and writing in China at the time, described it in his book, *China Shakes the World*.

"To begin with, there was a crop failure in the Taihang and Taiyueh mountains, a flood in southern Hopei and locusts in Honan which soon began to sweep over all four provinces. In addition, one million starving refugees from the Kuomintang-occupied areas of Honan crossed the Yellow River and invaded the Border Region (the area controlled by the Chinese Communist Party

(Continued on page 10)

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ends Committee on National Legislation:  
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ls."

+ +  
Allied Industrial Worker, February 1974

(Continued from page 9)

and the People's Liberation Army—ed.).  
 "Among these refugees, out of ten family members, it was estimated that five had died in their native place. The other five were flocking into the Communist areas to try to save their lives....

#### PEOPLE ATE BARK, DIRT

"In Honan, the roads to the Taihang Mountains were soon filled with corpses. In the spring of 1942, the buds of all trees were eaten. The bark was stripped from every tree so that the trunks presented a strange white appearance like people stripped of clothes. In some places, people ate the feces of silkworms; in other places, they ate a queer white earth. But such food could only stave off starvation for a few days and the victims quickly died.

"Women exchanged their babies, saying: 'you eat mine, I'll eat yours.' When a man was going to die, he dug a pit and sat inside and asked the neighbors to fill in the earth when he was dead. Afterward, however, no one could be found to fill in the pits for all were either dead or too weak to shovel earth. Men sold their children first, then their wives. Those who survived were getting weaker and even in those areas where there was rain, they were too weak to plant or plow...."

A century of colonialist domination had brought no relief to China's hundreds of millions of peasants. On the contrary, China was being bled by the imperialist world while its peasantry was suffering a seemingly endless starvation.

But there was an end to the starvation. In 1949, a socialist revolution swept China. The revolution, at long last, rationalized production, gave land to the peasants, and drove out the imperialists and their puppets.

#### REVOLUTION ERASED HUNGER

If the Chinese revolution had done nothing else, the fact that it began to successfully feed China's millions was a colossal testament to the potential of the socialist mode of production.

Today, even the most reactionary bourgeois commentators must agree that the people of China are no longer hungry—on the contrary, they are well fed—despite there being about 800 million of them.

C.L. Sulzberger of The New York Times wrote from China on October 20, 1973, "The diet is already adequate and is bound to get better.... The old-fashioned China of intermittent famines occasioned by alternating droughts and floods has vanished."

#### FOOD SURPLUSES

Not only are the people being fed, reported Sulzberger, but there are huge reserves being stored all over the country in case of emergency. According to an official in Peking's Agricultural Ministry, the an-

nual rate of increase in grain output is between 4 and 5 percent, whereas population growth is about 2 percent a year. This has been achieved even though only 20 percent of the land is cultivated. To improve on these already impressive statistics, the Chinese government is planning to double the area of arable land and expand facilities for producing chemical fertilizers.

While most communes still must use primitive tools to till the land, the Chinese people have succeeded in becoming self-sufficient in food production, while so many capitalist, more developed countries have failed. What is the secret of their success?

There is no real mystery in the Chinese agricultural successes, but the reporters sent there to witness it are often loathe to write up the conclusions from what they see

of the hands of greedy landlords and capitalists who ran it for profit. Feeding all the people became a first priority of the whole society and no one was allowed to profit off the hunger or misery of another. Hunger was eradicated only when capitalism was driven out of China.

## People eat plenty of meat in socialist Siberia

By E. ROSS

Not so long ago, people in the United States had an opportunity to buy meat that was cheaper than beef and had a higher

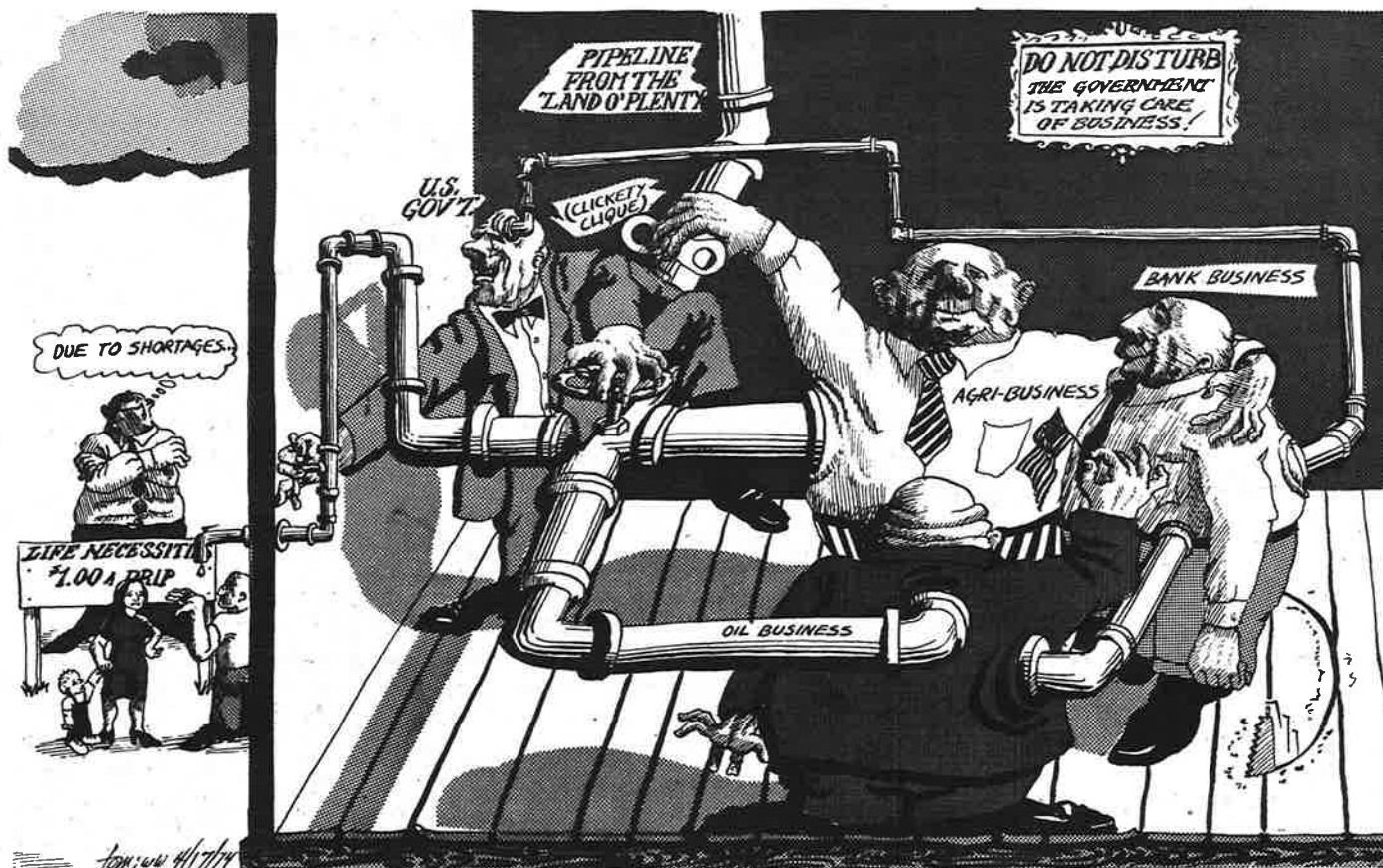
the Soviets and Scandinavians were seeing and acted on that vision. Largely due to their efforts, a herd of nearly a million reindeer came into existence in Alaska, employing many hundreds of Eskimo as well as whites.

"But there was a catch. The market for the meat was in the South, and soon after the first shipments reached San Francisco the demand for reindeer meat became so great that the beef barons became alarmed. They went to Washington. Not long thereafter, reindeer meat was embargoed by law in the United States. Deprived of markets by the beef lobby, the Lomen herds went into decline, and today there are only about thirty thousand reindeer left in all Alaska."

Meanwhile, the price of all animal food rises day by day, week by week, and year by year in the United States.

Soviet planners were at first cool to Soviet scientists who were enthusiastic about developing the northern regions and increasing their reindeer herds. But, after all, Soviet officials had no beef lobby to pacify, and so they came up with the necessary funds.

Dr. Andreëv, a member of the USSR



This New York headline in 1933 was not caused by droughts or floods or any other "acts of God," but by capitalist crisis.

for the working and poor people back home, who are now beginning to feel the serious pinch of rising food prices and artificial shortages.

The revolution took food production out

protein content. Those who ate it thought it delicious and wanted more. But you can't get reindeer meat in the U.S. any more—you're stuck with high-priced beef.

Here is the story, as told by Farley Mowat, a Canadian student of northern lands and their potentials and author of the book The Siberians.

Reindeer meat is widely eaten in northern countries. Scandinavia, for example, boasts a herd of a million animals. Reindeer find their own food beneath the snow in tundra and forest; they are so hardy they need no shelter (cattle do in the wintertime); they are immune to many of the diseases that afflict sheep and cattle. Therefore, their meat is far less expensive.

Siberians also supply most of their protein needs from this source, and have enough left over to send to the western regions of the USSR.

Mowat says: "In 1968 there were two million four hundred thousand domestic reindeer in the USSR, and meat production topped fifty thousand tons, while an additional eight thousand tons was harvested from wild reindeer herds.... Soviet reindeer experts estimate that their North has a carrying capacity of four and a half million head of domestic reindeer, with an annual production of at least one hundred thousand tons of meat; and they expect to reach these figures within eight years.

"It seems incredible that a free-enterprise, competitive society such as ours should not have turned the Christmas reindeer-in-the-sky into a going industry. The truth is that we tried—or rather a pair of perceptive young men in Alaska did. They were the Lomen brothers and they saw what

Academy of Sciences and winner of the Lenin Prize for his reindeer work, explained what happened.

"Many years ago some of us in this country foresaw the coming opening of the Northern regions and we also foresaw the dangers implicit in it. We realized that only the widest, and the wisest, use of resources of the North would make it possible to populate this region on a large scale, on a permanent basis, and without destroying or damaging the environment....

"We set up a number of research stations. We recruited hundreds of enthusiastic young workers in zoology, botany, geobotany, and kindred sciences. The State was at first unimpressed but we later convinced some of the authorities and they made money available for our task.... Now the reindeer industry is the most valuable husbandry in our North. It outclasses cattle breeding, fishing, trapping, or fur raising."

Unimaginative and privileged bureaucrats are no asset to any society, and those in the Soviet Union have been a brake on the tremendous potentials created by the Socialist Revolution of 1917. But the bureaucrats in Washington are a thousand times more venal because they serve an exploiting class. Their complete subservience to the beef trust, the oil cartels, the armament kings, and all the money lords who use them as puppets to rule the United States and a large part of the world is a matter of public record.

The quick action of the beef barons against American consumers that deprived all of us of a cheaper source of animal protein is only one, rather small, example of their criminality.



United Farm Workers picket in New York City on April 13, supported by Women United for Action, a consumers' group. Fight for decent food at prices everyone can afford must also include the right of farm workers to earn a decent wage. WUA photo: Beverley





Joining the wave of strikes protesting outrageous inflation in Japan, Tokyo nurses demonstrate in front of Keio Hospital.

Photo: Japan Press Service

## 6.3 million Japanese workers strike—and win!

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, April 14—The biggest general strike in Japan's history has proved to be a monumental victory for millions of Japanese workers. They have won a 30 percent pay hike after crippling most of the country's transport, government, and other services.

More than 6.3 million railway, airline, bus, subway, taxi, postal, sanitation, communication, longshore workers, teachers, and government doctors went out on strike throughout Japan on the morning of April 11. The powerful strike was settled 2 days later, after the country was virtually brought to a halt.

Japanese workers fought hard through this strike to battle a soaring rate of inflation. Prices are now rising at 26 percent per year, but are expected to catch up to the wholesale-price inflation of 35.4 percent!

In effect, the wage settlement brought most Japanese workers up to the real April 1973 wage level. But while the workers are really only catching up, the large increase they won is still a victory—because it

showed the power of labor when it is united. Nevertheless, the workers will be hard put to catch up to the present inflationary spiral created by Japanese capitalism.

Two issues still not settled are the right for government employees to strike and a cost-of-living clause for all labor contracts involved. These demands are still being negotiated at the present time.

However, it appears that the millions of workers who have just returned to their jobs are ready to go out on strike again, if necessary, to get a fair settlement on these just demands.

The April 11 general strike is testimony to the highly organized character of the Japanese working class and its trade unions. The Japanese workers are certainly ready again to take on Japan's ruling capitalist class to struggle for a living wage and social benefits.

Whatever lies ahead for the Japanese workers, the general strike in Japan offers a rich lesson for the U.S. working class and the world proletariat as well.

## Italian divorce law under attack from rightwing; CPI vacillates

By MYRON JEFKA

Italy's upcoming nationwide referendum on the repeal of the 1971 divorce law is approaching, and so far is scheduled to take place on May 18.

The divorce law itself is inadequate, since it allows only couples who have been legally separated for 5 years to obtain a divorce. However, its abolition would be a tremendous setback to the struggle for social and economic emancipation of the Italian people from the decaying capitalist system.

Although legalized divorce has been established in almost all the industrialized capitalist countries, this elementary democratic right had been completely denied the Italian people by the tremendous political power of the Vatican.

This power is reflected within the bourgeois establishment by the Christian Democratic Party, the country's largest political party. It is further propped up by the lasting scars left by fascism's rule from 1922 to 1945 and by the contemporary neofascist threat.

### FASCISTS USE DIVORCE ISSUE

In fact, the neofascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) is trying to use the antidivorce referendum to whip up a nation-

wide hysteria over the issue of the "sanctity" of the family. They are maneuvering with the Christian Democratic rightwing, whose hesitations are counterbalanced by the Vatican's intransigence in provoking a showdown.

The Christian Democrats themselves are fearful that, aside from splitting their own ranks, their "center-left" ruling coalition under Premier Mario Rumor is in danger of falling apart: the Socialist, Social Democratic, and Republican parties are all in favor of maintaining the divorce law.

The New York Times reports that "Houses all over Rome are covered with such slogans as 'Family, yes—divorce, no!' and 'Divorce plus abortion equals cancer.'" But the polarization among the population is so deep that even some of the Vatican hierarchy are reported to be "unenthusiastic" about the referendum, while a section of the clergy closer to the masses has actually come out against it.

Although the Italian population in general, and Italian women in particular, would suffer from the abolition of the right to divorce, the repeal would take its largest toll on poor and working class families. This is especially so since wealthier Italians are in a better position to get undesirable marriages "annulled" due to their closer

## Court turns deaf ear to Nixon's crimes in Cambodia

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

NEW YORK, April 16—It has been revealed that President Nixon permitted secret U.S. ground raids in Laos and Cambodia from 1970 to 1973, thus violating two congressional mandates forbidding such military acts.

Yet despite this disclosure, the Supreme Court has let stand a lower court decision stating that the bombing of Cambodia was legal, thus probably causing the House of Representatives to drop the question of Cambodia from its list of impeachable offenses.

On March 26, the Senate Armed Services Committee quietly made public the information about the raids, thus in effect admitting that Nixon and the Pentagon deliberately and willfully disobeyed the law of the land.

Congress had expressly forbidden such raids in Laos back in December 1969. Knowing that they were disobeying this congressional order, the Pentagon ordered 32 ground operations there in 1970 and 1971. And Nixon approved them.

A year later, Congress finally acted on a similar bill banning ground action by U.S. troops in Cambodia. Nevertheless, the Pentagon went ahead, with White House approval, and carried out 31 missions involving a platoon or more of combat troops; some included 50 to 100 men.

### 'ANNIHILATION' THEIR GOAL

Nor were these merely "intelligence-gathering" missions. Senator Harold

connections to and ability to bribe the Vatican bureaucracy.

Much progress has been made in recent years in freeing the workers especially from the hold that the Catholic Church has traditionally had on the Italian masses. Although divorce was not legal until 1971, an estimated one marriage in ten resulted in separation. Most of the individuals concerned entered into what we would call common-law relationships with others.

Since the overthrow of the hated fascist regime, which had been blessed by the Vatican, the church has lost a tremendous amount of its following in the large class-conscious stratum of the working class, especially in the industrial North.

### CPI BOWS TO CHURCH

It is thus quite shocking to learn of the position of the Italian Communist Party (CPI), Italy's second-largest political party and the largest communist (revisionist) party in the capitalist world. The CPI was forced, due to obvious mass pressure, to support the 1971 divorce law. However, it has since come out publicly against the campaign to legalize abortion, and is now trembling in fear before the antidivorce

Hughes (Dem.-Iowa) acknowledged that one witness before the committee testified that many of them were designated "slam" for "search, locate, and annihilate missions."

These vile and criminal acts against the Cambodian people were being paid for with the money of U.S. citizens—while the most furtive and elaborate measures were being taken to make sure we wouldn't find out about it!

And what's going to be done about it? Not a damn thing, it seems. For in a related issue, the Supreme Court on April 15 refused to review a lower court ruling letting Nixon off the hook for bombing Cambodia without congressional authorization.

The case against Nixon had been brought by four Air Force officers who had refused to carry out the bombing, plus Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (Dem.-Brooklyn). But the high court found that these five "lacked standing" and, anyway, the case was a political question "not reviewable by the courts!"

It is obvious that the real crimes of Nixon and the corporate ruling class he represents—which includes the bloody-handed generals of the military-industrial complex—will never be checked by the senile institutions of bourgeois legality. They have made a mockery of the very terms "law and order."

The only just treatment of these monstrous war criminals will come from the people, who will "impeach" the whole capitalist class!

referendum.

It has for years avoided attacking the Vatican, and is openly following a policy in pursuit of parliamentary collaboration with the church-supported Christian Democrats. The CPI is doing everything it can to sweep the divorce issue under the rug, in fear of a split in its own ranks.

Should the referendum succeed, the neofascist threat would loom ever more menacingly, and the CPI leadership would have been guilty of abandoning millions of workers and oppressed people into the ideological clutches of capitalist reaction.

However, should the CPI take the lead in opposing the referendum with a mass campaign to "Vote No to the fascist mobilization!"—a campaign which would take into account the special needs of the most oppressed sections of the Italian population to whom the neofascists are making demagogic appeals—then it could become the vanguard of all the oppressed masses.

The bourgeois and clerical forces of reaction could then be handed a defeat which would pave the way, not only for a more progressive divorce law, but for the abolition of the capitalist system as well!



The Faisal monarchy will keep the oil flowing... to the U.S.

## Deal with Faisal is profit bonanza for U.S. oil trust

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, April 14—With some slight concessions to the Saudi Arabian government, U.S. imperialism may have brought the Saudi monarchy back into the palm of its hand. Not only will the new pact signed by Washington and King Faisal on April 5 result in increased crude-oil production in Saudi Arabia (largely U.S. owned), but it may virtually guarantee that Saudi Arabia will never participate in another oil embargo.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Commerce just revealed the startling news that Saudi Arabian crude oil never stopped coming to the U.S. during the 5-month oil embargo!

This further exposes the U.S. oil monopolies' manipulation of the domestic energy crisis, whereby the oil giants were able to increase gasoline prices to more than 60 cents a gallon. While there certainly was and still exists an immediate and short-term shortage of oil in the world, U.S. oil monopolies actually made up for much of the domestic shortage by importing substantial quantities of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Indonesia, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Italy. The first two of the countries mentioned were quietly violating the Arab oil embargo, while the last two mentioned have no crude-oil production and were merely diverting Arab crude oil to the U.S.

Approximately 260,000 barrels of Saudi Arabian crude oil were shipped to the U.S. in January of this year, and over 525,000 barrels were shipped in February—the result of increasing Saudi Arabian crude-oil production.

The new U.S.-Saudi Arabia deal includes beefing up the Faisal monarchy's armed forces with a variety of weapons, fighter aircraft, and naval vessels. The U.S. government and U.S. corporations will also invest in and provide assistance for some large industrial projects, road building, and

transportation equipment.

But the U.S. oil monopolies never had (and still don't have) any desire to industrialize Saudi Arabia. They have always been content to plunder that country's oil resources and to keep the U.S.-puppet feudal monarchy as backward as ever. The new consciousness sweeping the Arab continent, however, along with the politically devastating effects of the October War on Israel and the tremendous surpluses coming into the Saudi Arabian banks (due to higher crude-oil prices) have pushed Faisal to make some mild attempt at industrializing the country and eliminating some of the most cruel poverty.

But the imperialist negotiators from Wall Street and Washington would never have entered into such a pact without getting from Saudi Arabia's ruling aristocracy some kind of guarantee to keep oil flowing through the U.S.-dominated Aramco consortium. Faisal has already agreed to increase Aramco's crude-oil production from 8.5 million to 11.2 million barrels a day by the end of 1975.

As though Aramco's profits weren't already astronomical (\$3.2 billion in 1973—almost double the 1972 profits), no doubt they will multiply further. The Saudi Arabian government has also done the bidding of the oil monopolies by being the first oil-producing country to call for a reduction of crude-oil prices—a familiar cry of the Western imperialist powers. Other Middle East oil-producing nations have made an alternative proposal: to set up a fund to compensate poor nations for their high crude-oil bills.

The Faisal monarchy may go along with its U.S. imperialist master to keep U.S. monopoly profits skyrocketing. But the Saudi Arabian masses are awakening, along with their brothers and sisters throughout the Middle East, to the need of overthrowing both the feudal monarchy and the yoke of U.S. imperialism if Saudi Arabia is ever to be economically liberated.

"The basic cause of the U.S. invasion of Vietnam lies deep within the social and economic system of the United States, itself. The aggression was built in, and the Asian war was predetermined before Lyndon Johnson was born."

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## Portuguese guerrillas hit ship bound for Africa

By CALVIN BONNER

NEW YORK, April 13—Hundreds of Portuguese soldiers' families watched, dumbstruck, as a bomb blast shook a troop ship off the Lisbon pier and its soldier-passengers, who were sailing for duty in Guinea-Bissau on the night of April 9.

An Interior Ministry spokesman claimed that two of the thousand soldiers were injured, neither seriously, and that a third was nearly asphyxiated by smoke. The 10,742-ton ship Niassa received a yard-wide hole in its hull, which required immediate repair, thus delaying the ship on its mission of death to Africa.

A group called the Revolutionary Brigades warned the news media before the explosion occurred and claimed responsibility for the action on behalf of what apparently is an increasingly militant opposition to the government's policies in the African colonies and to domestic political repression.

Since 1970 the Revolutionary Brigades, one of several guerrilla groups operating within Portugal, has been presenting a fourth front, dealing blows to the Lisbon government through acts of sabotage expressly designed to demoralize the troops and cripple Lisbon's military efforts. On July 11, 1972, an explosive charge destroyed 15 trucks slated to be requisitioned by the army. The armed services map office in Lisbon was raided, and more than 60 pounds of ordnance surveys of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau were carried off and distributed to the liberation groups in these African colonies.

In Lisbon again, on March 9 and 10, 1973,

the military headquarters, the recruiting center, and the army's duplicating services all were damaged by explosions.

According to a Revolutionary Brigades spokesperson, the armed struggle of the Portuguese fourth front is "intended to unfreeze a situation of political inaction brought about by more than 40 years under Salazar and 5 years under Caetano. The action will be continued, but it will not be enough. It must be supplemented by organizing a political struggle using mass movements."

Armed groups now operating in Portugal are apparently holding their own, despite the loss to their ranks caused by arrests of several of their members by the political police. Several members of one group, the League for Unity and Revolutionary Action, were arrested late last year and are believed to be undergoing torture in the prisons. According to the April 13 issue of the British *Manchester Guardian*, seven members of the Armed Revolutionary Action came up for trial in Lisbon on March 26, charged with having participated in several bombing attempts between 1970 and 1973. And twelve members of the clandestine Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat, from which the Revolutionary Brigades broke away, are awaiting trial.

Despite the fierce repression, the recent actions reflect a great degree of optimism in the hearts of revolutionaries operating within Portugal. They know that since Portugal's ruling class must now wage combat on four fronts, the hour for revolution in Portugal is closer at hand.

## —Chilean workers

(Continued from page 16)

about everyone volunteered; the selection proved difficult.

We incorporated our hijacked trucks into a large convoy. There was police protection at the beginning but only to the limits of the province—after that it was only sporadic. The convoy left on Wednesday, reached Huachipato on Friday, and got back to Santiago Sunday night. Our guys had to load and unload, sleep in the trucks, oftentimes go all day without eating because they'd left with just the money they had in their pockets. The snipers assaulted the convoy at several points.

Three workers were killed in the skirmishes (fortunately none of them from the foundry).

The volunteers showed up as usual Monday morning. They were haggard but didn't complain. With renewed enthusiasm we began to prepare the molds. The next day, the 11th of September, we'd be able to renew the smelting.

When I first entered the foundry several years ago, I wondered what sort of snake pit I'd fallen into. The boss was a German who possessed several other firms besides. He'd shrewdly used a time-tested tactic—divide and conquer—and it had worked very well. The executives and foremen were his trusted men, those he'd signaled out as a mark of his favor.

The division of the "workers" was completed by a discriminating bonus system which favored certain groups at the expense of others. The overall result was a climate of jealousy and antagonism which gave everyone the chance to scorn some and envy others. A judicious combination of these elements usually resulted in the possible neutralization of the trade unions, thus putting them at the boss's service. The foremen and executives were all-powerful; they dictated measures arbitrarily and didn't hesitate to dismiss anyone who questioned them. There were always 20 guys

outside to take your place. No use in appealing to the Work Inspection Office; you'd have to pay lawyers and there were hundreds of legal devices the boss could use to screw you.

I remembered the day they fired the smelting-oven crew—about 12 comrades. They'd been working between 14 and 16 hours a day for several months, Saturdays and Sunday included; they got together and refused to work overtime one weekend. Monday morning they were forbidden entry and told they had been fired for "refusing to cooperate in production." They didn't get a dime of indemnity and it took about 2 years to train guys to replace them.

Then there were the Friday pay lines. There you kept vigil for hours, sometimes in the rain, to receive like a beggar what you'd earned during the week. The boss paid you when he felt like it; if you didn't like it, lump it and go work somewhere else.

About 6 months prior to the 1970 elections, the boss went to Europe to "see his family." When he got back there was no money to pay us—and during the following months bank loans kept us going. In a year's time we were on the edge of bankruptcy, and the foundry with its 400 workers was in danger of being closed down within 2 weeks. When we realized how critical the situation was we began moving fast. A delegation succeeded in exposing our problem to Allende—a takeover was being planned but it wasn't necessary: the State intervened. The boss was obliged to sell 51 percent of the stock to the state at a nominal value of a peso per stock to cover his debts. An administrator was named and the changes began. In the subsequent months the state bought the other 49 percent.

What next happened in the foundry was sort of the reflection at our level of what was going on in the country as a whole. It was sort of a new birth. All of a sudden this factory belonged to Chile, our production went to the national welfare. The destiny of the foundry was in our hands, and, through it, the destiny of our country. We were listened to for the first time; we could suggest, criticize, invent.

A worker participation system was set up. At first no one knew too much what these organizations were supposed to be; but as time went by they took form and im-



# Latin students found Socialist Federation

By JULIO GHIGLIOTTY

NEW YORK, April 6—Close to 500 Latin students from various colleges gathered at St. Mark's Church today for the Founding Assembly of the Federation of Puerto Rican Socialist Students (FUSP). This federation has pledged itself to the political goals of fighting for university reforms; building anti-imperialist student unity and worker-student unity; developing the struggle for independence and socialism for Puerto Rico; and international solidarity.

Sandra Rodriguez, Secretary of Propaganda and Information for the FUSP, chaired the meeting and opened with an introduction dedicating the assembly to "Ramon E. Betances, Antonia Martinez, Pancho Cruz, and all oppressed peoples struggling to free themselves from imperialist domination and exploitation." Pancho Cruz's sister announced that he was scheduled to be released from prison on April 17. This news brought a tumultuous roar of approval from the audience.

Representatives from student organizations in Puerto Rico attended and expressed their solidarity with the development of the Puerto Rican student movement in New York.

Jose Rafael Coss, President of the Federation of University Students for Independence (FUPI) in Puerto Rico, expressed his organization's solidarity with the New York federation. He described the role of the universities as one of perpetuating capitalism and producing its

servants. He reviewed the history of FUPI as an organization that saw the students' struggle as an integral part of the struggle for independence and socialism in Puerto Rico. He stated that FUSP was a significant development in the struggle of Puerto Ricans in the U.S.

The president of FEPI, an organization of high school students in Puerto Rico, also expressed the solidarity of the members of his organization towards the FUSP. He also read a statement of solidarity from a Korean students' organization based in Japan.

Messages of solidarity from Georgina Hoggard of School District 1 and from the Puerto Rican Migrant Workers Association were read by the chair.

After a brief performance by El Grupo, a talented and dedicated Latin singing group, Arturo Rivera, President of FUSP, gave an analysis of Puerto Rican students here in the U.S. and outlined the main principles of the new organization.

Genaro Renta, a member of the Political Commission of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) in Puerto Rico and Secretary of Organization on the national level, was the final speaker. He gave a militant anti-imperialist rundown of the devastating effects of the imperialist domination of Puerto Rico.

The Founding Assembly concluded with the singing of "La Borinquena" and a performance by El Grupo.

portance, and developed into embryos of working class power. All decisions of importance were amply discussed in the Production Committees, in the sections, in the assemblies. The new technicians were there to guide us, to share their knowledge with us, to help us with the elements of decision which only they could furnish. The whip gave way to confidence and, in general, the workers proved themselves worthy of this confidence. . . .

This doesn't mean that we didn't run into problems. Sometimes the administrators who occupied the politically distributed posts were restricting it to lower-level decisions without a real control in the direction of the factory. Thus it was that, in face of internal frustrating limitations, we took over the plant to demand the replacement of our first-named administrator. We won that battle and several subsequent ones. More and more we became conscious of our possibilities. . . .

We tried to break down the barriers which had been erected to divide us. We dissolved the three trade unions and formed a single one. Any executive or foreman could be submitted to the Discipline Committee. A collective bonus system was set up. In general there was a qualitative change in human relationships. . . .

One of the most striking changes when the State took over was that instead of his production, the worker himself became the center of concern. The first big changes were social changes: decent wages, a canteen, decent sanitary facilities, showers, etc. And with a decent level of life and being treated as human beings, and aware of our dignity and responsibility, we produced more—and better. The suggestions of the workers led to several major improvements in the process.

The foundry now wasn't just a productive unit—it was a social unity which produced. A recreation program was set up. Ample facilities were given to complete one's education in the foundry itself, or to follow programs of technical and professional education. A library was created through voluntary efforts of the workers. Cultural groups periodically visited the plant with concerts, chorales, plays, etc. The "roto," the broken-down one, could now pull himself together, stand on his

own two feet and take in hand his destiny. He was no longer a tool to exploit; he was a person who had a right to develop his possibilities—the same right hitherto reserved to the bastard born on the other side of the tracks. . . .

Something died September 11, 1973, in this country named Chile: it was all this hope, all these aspirations to a better, more fraternal, and more just society. All this newly recognized dignity and confidence in ourselves, all these new possibilities, which enabled us to direct and control our production. . . .

## —MIR

(Continued from page 16)

On the other hand, in the agricultural domain, the UP during 1971 limited expropriation to a little more than 1,000 fundos, going later to 3,000. . . . It was thus that the UP was led to defend explicitly the large agricultural enterprises. . . . (which produced in 1973 close to 50 percent of all agricultural production in Chile, their number growing from 4,500 in 1970 to 9,000 in 1973).

### KEPT BOURGEOIS INSTITUTIONS

In the political arena, its plan for class collaboration expressed itself in subordination to bourgeois institutions, and also in legitimizing these before the masses, so that the ruling class, having "legality" on its side, controlled the powerful institutions of the state apparatus (the parliament, judiciary, treasury, the majority of the officer corps of the armed forces, etc.). Through these institutions they in fact co-governed Chile, while submitting the government to constant hostility (parliamentary blockade, accusations against the ministers, proceedings against the functionaries of the government, etc.). . . .

All these concessions (the protection given to the large capitalists, the promises of payment of foreign debt to the Americans, legitimizing the high officers of the armed forces, etc.) reinforced the ruling classes, who, supported by the American financial blockade, succeeded in retaining in their hands an enormous scope of power and riches which they did not hesitate to



Book burning in Chile: the junta can't erase class consciousness so easily.

violently throw against the government, the working class, and the people through sabotage of production (aside from their own enterprises), hoarding, speculation and black market, inflation, military pressure, etc.

### INHIBITED POPULAR STRUGGLE

Worse, there were concessions made by the reformists that struck directly at sectors of the people: protection given to the large industrial capitalists, growers, distributors, etc. which barred the road to the struggle of the workers, the lack of support for the direct mobilizations of the workers, even attacks against them, including even repressive acts here and there, combat against the political work in the heart of the armed forces. All that, at the time, fragmented the left, divided and confused the workers, who saw the government as an instrument of their struggles.

On the political terrain, the UP developed the parliamentary road, with frustrated attempts at an alliance with the Christian Democrats and, each time that the latter miscarried, not only did the UP refuse to appeal to the masses, but even worse took shelter in the state apparatus, forming the civilian-military government, increasing the weight of the state and the establishment, and in particular that of the reactionary corps of high officers of the armed forces.

### GAVE IN BUT DIDN'T LEAD

But lost in its vacillations, reformism had to retreat before the pressure of the mass movement, its large base of popular support, and before the force of the direct mobilizations of the people. It was the masses who occupied more than 300 large enterprises and obliged the government to take them in its control. It was they who invaded the fortresses of the agricultural bourgeoisie by the seizures of large fundos, who occupied numerous construction enterprises, vineyards, and several distribution centers.

But these concessions made by the reformists to the workers, who had always been combatted from the first and often held back (expulsion from occupied fundos, factories, etc.), had been limited, dispersed, and occasional. Thus the government only gave in to the pressures of the mass movements, which means that it denied them its support, it didn't lead them, even resisted them, provoking fragmentation, dispersion, and the confusion of the mass movement. In spite of this, the legitimacy that the government finally gave to these conquests of the mass movement added to the hardening and the ferocity of the ruling

class.

Thus the government, submissive to bourgeois order and looking to seal an alliance with a bourgeois faction, made all sorts of concessions to law and order and to the ruling class, injuring thereby the interests of the working class and the people, whom they disoriented.

During that time, the ruling classes had never lost sight of the revolutionary and anti-capitalist character the mass movement was taking, and they opened hostilities against the government from the beginning, in spite of all promises by the reformists on limiting their plans.

Thus, the UP government did not obtain the strength which could have given it an alliance with a bourgeois faction. In fact, it reinforced the ruling classes and weakened, divided, and dispersed its real source of power, the mass movement.

### JUNE 1973 ATTEMPTED COUP

This all became multiplied after the failure of the attempted military coup of June 29, 1973 and the putschist menace arising from that. The government took no measures against the real conspirators, it did not carry out changes among the army cadres; it limited itself to arresting those who were directly implicated, etc.

The mass movement, with the working class at its head, had attained an extraordinary level of consciousness and organization: it occupied hundreds of factories, it organized itself into "cordones industriales" (similar to workers' councils) and, in some areas, in "comandos comunales" (made up of workers, pobladores or squatters, students, and peasants), even succeeding in developing at a mass level organic and material forms of self-defense.

The ruling class used a double tactic. On the one hand it forcibly developed its offensive (truckers' strike, murders, accusations against the ministers of parliament, withholding state funds, declarations of the President of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, etc.) and on the other hand, it allowed a section of the Christian Democratic Party to open a dialog with the government to exact, first concessions, then consensus, then capitulation, and finally resignation.

### FROM 'DIALOG' TO DEFEAT

With the illusion of this dialog the government began the capitulation and thus sealed its fate in these weeks: it set up a cabinet of dialog, then the military-civilian cabinet, and struck at the workers, return-

(Continued on page 15)

# political prisoners

## Carlos Feliciano

NEW YORK—A demonstration has been called for April 23, 1974, in support of CARLOS FELICIANO, who will be presenting papers in his appeal of a Manhattan conviction on explosives charges.

Carlos has now endured two trials for bombing conspiracy charges. In the Bronx, he was acquitted. Then in Manhattan, a jury acquitted him of the two major charges, but convicted him of four lesser charges, which he is appealing. These charges carry a 4-year prison term.

In the Manhattan trial, Judge Arnold Fraiman refused to allow Carlos to present his defense! The jury came up with the compromise verdict after harassment and intimidation by Judge Fraiman.

The frameup undoubtedly would have been more successful had it not been for the mass support from the community, the Puerto Rican independence movement, and progressive North American groups.

The April 23 demonstration, called by the Committee to Defend Carlos Feliciano, will be held outside the New York State Appeals Court at 25th Street and Madison Avenue, beginning at 9:30 a.m. It will let the racist courts know that support for Carlos is growing stronger and that no compromise verdict can lure us into submission or ease the growing hatred for those who oppress Carlos and all other liberation fighters!

For more information, contact the Committee to Defend Carlos Feliciano, St. Mark's Church, Second Avenue at 10th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003, phone (212) OR 4-6377.



Carlos Feliciano, shown here last year with family and supporters, is appealing conviction on frameup charges.

## Leavenworth Brothers

Two Black prisoners, ALF HILL and ALFRED JASPER, have been convicted by an all-white jury in Topeka, Kansas, on charges of assaulting a guard and inciting mutiny at the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary during the July 31, 1973, rebellion at the prison.

U.S. District Judge George Templar

refused to allow Hill to examine prospective jurors, cross-examine witnesses, or make an opening or closing statement. However, Templar added, "You may assist in your defense." When Hill asked, "How?" Templar snapped, "I have had enough of your say, sit down."

Addressing the jury in a plea for justice, Brother Hill said, "There are no Black people here. . . . This is a frameup. My nose was broken. I've got no shoes. They tell me

they're going to kill me. . . . They broke my ribs. The man who should be here on trial is the man who broke my ribs." He continued, "This is a racist frameup. The judge should take his black robe off and put on the white robe of the Ku Klux Klan. . . ."

Brother Jasper was found guilty of "conveying a thing designed to injure a person, from place to place, in Leavenworth Penitentiary, specifically a sock filled with glass," which guards testified that Associate Warden Vanderslice took from Jasper's pocket in the "hole" during the July 31 rebellion.

Jasper and defense witnesses testified that an Afro comb was taken, not a glass-filled sock. Defense counsel Albert Reiderer in his summation asked, "Why would Jasper transport such an openly displayed sock in the presence of 15 to 20 riot-equipped guards?"

## BEATINGS, SHACKLES, AND SOLITARY

Hill and Jasper are two of seven inmates recently indicted on charges of assault, kidnaping, and murder in the aftermath of the July 31 rebellion. The others are ODELL BENNETT, JESSE LEE EVAN, WILLIAM HURST, JESSE LOPEZ, and ARMANDO MIRAMON.

These 7 are among 26 inmates who have been locked in solitary since the rebellion. They have been denied access to their legal papers and the law library, and their lawyers have been unable to get messages to them or meet with them. And they are unable to speak to each other.

On February 13, when six of the seven appeared in court for indictments, they were beaten on the bus coming and going and were shackled in the courtroom. Before leaving the prison they were brutally raped by forced rectal searches. During court proceedings, the prisoners were denied requests to be seen by a doctor, in spite of obvious bruises and cuts and one of the prisoner's faces having to be wiped of blood.

Supporters of the Brothers who attempted to approach the bus were

Caucus of Labor Committees). At my plant we are dealing with him as if he were a proclaimed enemy of all poor and working people—because this is how the NCLC acts.

A rank-and-file Teamster laborer, Washington, D.C.

## —Chicago schools

(Continued from page 7)

language problems that a teacher at the Jose de Diego Bilingual Center at Schley Elementary School told *Workers World*.

Funds are running out there. Title III funds for the preschool part of the program have stopped, and the state and school board have made no effort to renew. The school board finally agreed to consider requesting more funds only after 75 angry parents came to their meeting in February. The bilingual program now runs only up to the third grade. There are no plans to extend it and it may shortly be cut back to the second grade. Worse still, the principal of the school is extremely racist and continually tries to sabotage the bilingual center.

His attitude makes him so hated that he is very afraid of the people in the area. So afraid, in fact, that an off-duty cop, the school security guard, has to escort him to his car each day. The teacher also noted that it is well known that the cops push drugs to the students.

## TRACKED INTO POVERTY

The very extent of the segregation greatly facilitates the infamous practice of "tracking." In certain high schools the students know that they will not go to college. The courses all instruct them only in the basics that they will need to know to

make good manual laborers (if that much). Training for jobs which don't even exist is also common, which helps perpetuate the army of unemployed.

Others, like Lane Tech, specialize in technical training. Only a few offer college-preparatory courses such as advanced math and sciences, and even these are geared to "track" students according to what is expected of them, based largely on their families' economic status. Generally, the poorer the area, the worse the schools.

In all of the schools, sex discrimination still plays a large role in determining a student's educational experiences. The feeling is perpetuated that there is something "wrong" with a woman student who would rather learn printing or machine-shop skills than study beauty courses—or with a man who would really like to learn to be a good cook and isn't all that interested in cars. Physical barriers often stand in the way of those who try to break out of traditional roles.

Some students told *Workers World* that physical education is still very instructive in showing the school system's discriminatory practices. What the school publications call "girls' physical education classes" are not designed to improve muscular ability or build physical coordination and dexterity. Rather, they teach only the most elementary health principles and try to make the women "feminine looking." The men's gym equipment, inferior as it is in the poor areas, is almost always better than that for the women. The vast majority of the money for organized sports still goes to the male teams. The schools are still represented in athletic competition by all-male teams. The only visible females are cheerleaders. (There is presently a suit being pursued in the courts by a high school woman who is protesting her exclusion from organized

sports activities because of her sex.) Where improvements have been made, it has only been through prolonged struggle led by the women themselves.

## STUDENTS' ANSWER: STRUGGLE!

This brings us to one final point about Chicago schools. The terrible conditions just touched on here are so unbearably oppressive that they have naturally evoked a response from the victims. That response is the usual one poor and working people have in face of oppression—struggle.

When the roof collapsed at Audubon, the parents and students organized a picket line and boycotted the school. Last spring over 2,000 students at Westinghouse Vocational H.S. walked out in protest against leaky roofs, inadequate fire-alarm systems, poor ventilation, and faulty stairways. They picketed the Board of Education, demanding a response to their just grievances.

The Pilsen community has virtually exploded in the struggle for a high school to meet the special needs of Latin students. They are now forced to attend Froebel Branch of Harrison H.S. Froebel is very old and run down; it was very conservatively called a "barn" by school officials in a polite mood.

There were several demonstrations last June that led to many arrests and increased police terror in the Chicano community. Only after physical confrontations with the police, with injuries on both sides, were the students and parents able to win some concessions. But the struggle for a community-controlled high school which will really serve the interests of the Mexican and Chicano students in the Pilsen area still continues.

In short, the workers and oppressed people are not depending on either miracles or the liberal politicians to get what is

## —Letter on NCLC

(Continued from page 6)

about our bosses. These bosses have told our men that if they complain about working conditions (safety hazards), they will get sent home. We have about one serious accident per week at the plant. And this NCLC chump says these bosses are good people?! Whose side is he on?

4. He says the solution to working people's problems is to "have a mass strike." I ask him about this and he says all we have to do is not go to work. I say, "Then who stops the scabs and the National Guard and the Army from walking into our plant and doing our work?" He says, "The Army and the Guard might not come to break the strike." This NCLC guy is either a fool and a nut, or he is some shrewd character who is really trying to destroy our solidarity on the job and consequently weaken the struggle of all working people.

5. As if this is not enough, he is a racist dog! I know these are strong words, but listen to what he does. One day, he walks into the lunchroom during break and lectures the workers for 20 minutes on what our problems are and how we should solve them. To begin with, he is white, and almost all the workers at our plant are Black. So, how does he know the problems a Black man faces? Then this NCLC guy says that the Black workers at our plant really aren't "that exploited." That was the icing on the cake.

It seems that this NCLC is really against working people. They must be trying to discredit and confuse the progressive elements of the working class. I write this letter in the hopes that it will help other people handle this type of person (National



threatened with arrest and a federal marshal chased a supporter who was attempting to photograph the beatings.

#### SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION

On Feb. 18, the Leavenworth Brothers Offense-Defense Committee held a march of 200 people at the penitentiary, in which Philip Berrigan participated. Gary Eldredge, lawyer for several Brothers, presented a petition to Warden Loren Daggett demanding: (1) release the Leavenworth Brothers from solitary; (2) drop the charges against the Brothers who are under indictment for their resistance to the inhumane conditions which exist at Leavenworth; (3) comply with the July 31 list of prisoner grievances.

Warden Daggett has been challenged to a debate on the conditions at Leavenworth, but he announced that a debate would be like "a urinating contest with skunks."

As a result of the growing support for the Leavenworth Brothers, at their court appearance on Feb. 22 the prisoners were not "fingerwaved" or beaten, and they were well dressed. Also, a nutritionist and nurse were brought to this hearing to examine Odell Bennett, who underwent a hunger strike to protest prison conditions.

Bennett, a "jailhouse lawyer," filed a suit on March 21 in U.S. District Court for compensatory and punitive damages of \$76,500 for injuries sustained from prison guards at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo., in what the prisoner has termed "an unprovoked, vicious, and dastardly, preplanned assault" on Sept. 29, 1973.

For more information on the Leavenworth Brothers cases, contact the Leavenworth Brothers Offense-Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5818, Kansas City, Mo. 64111, phone (816) 753-1619.

## Juan Mendez

CHICAGO, April 8—JUAN MENDEZ, a leader of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) in Chicago, is currently on trial here for charges stemming from a demonstration in support of Latin student demands almost a year and a half ago at Tuley High School.

For several years, community groups had tried to get the school principal, Dr. Fink, to respond to the problems and needs



Martin Sostre

of the school population, which is about two-thirds Puerto Rican. His consistently arrogant refusal to even seriously listen led to his becoming a target for the Latin community in their struggle against the racist public school system.

In January 1973, a picket line calling on Fink to meet the community's demands or be replaced was set up outside the school. Inside the school, students confronted Fink with the same demands. When the Chicago police arrived and entered the school, 2,000 students walked out to join the demonstrators.

The cops gathered in force and attacked the picket line, and 19 persons were arrested. All these cases have been resolved except for that of Juan Mendez, who faces charges of aggravated battery, destruction of state property, and resisting arrest.

Juan's case has been in court about 20 times! The state has continually asked for delays in the hope of discouraging Juan's witnesses and supporters, most of whom have to take off work each time. But support remains strong, and Juan told *Workers World* that he is confident this attack on the Puerto Rican liberation struggle will not succeed.

Free Juan Mendez!

Viva Puerto Rico libre y socialista!

## Martin Sostre

BUFFALO, N.Y.—After a 9-month delay, U.S. District Judge John Curtin in Buffalo has denied the appeal of MARTIN SOSTRE on his 1968 conviction on charges of selling heroin.

Sostre was framed up following the 1967 Black rebellion in Buffalo because of his activity in operating the Afro-Asian Bookstore. The cops intimidated Arto Williams into testifying against Sostre in exchange for dropping larceny charges against Williams.

In 1971 Williams signed an affidavit admitting he lied during Sostre's trial to avoid conviction in his own case. Also, one of Sostre's arresting officers has been charged with grand larceny in the theft of \$500,000 worth of heroin stolen from the police narcotics locker.

Sostre, now 51, was convicted on all counts and sentenced to 31 to 51 years in prison. He has served over 6 years, most of this time in solitary confinement. He now has several charges of assault on prison guards against him, stemming from incidents in which guards have tried to force him to submit to rectal searches before seeing visitors.

Curtin's decision is an open admission by the state that they knew the case was a deliberate frameup from the very start and they fully intend to continue to oppress Sostre. Sostre plans to take his case to the U.S. Court of Appeals. For more information, contact the Martin Sostre Defense Committee, Box 327, Glen Gardner, N.J. 08826.

## Gary Lawton, Zurebu Gardner

RIVERSIDE, Calif., April 3—The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California has announced its entry into the murder trial of GARY LAWTON and ZUREBU GARDNER. At a news conference held on April 1 in Riverside, following a community demonstration against continued police harassment of defendants and their families and supporters, ACLU spokesperson Mark Rosenbaum characterized the prosecution as a racial and excessive one.

Riverside's District Attorney, Byron

Morton, assisted by the State Attorney General's office, started this prosecution 3 years ago after the shooting deaths of two Riverside policemen. In two previous lengthy trials, before predominantly white juries, the prosecution failed to obtain guilty verdicts. In fact, the majority of jurors have voted for acquittal.

Mark Rosenbaum, in explaining ACLU's rare involvement in a criminal trial of this nature, said, "I believe these men are innocent and that the State has had more than ample opportunity to present its case before a judicial tribunal."

"Criminal prosecutions should not be a vehicle for State harassment, intimidation, and exhaustion of those merely accused."

After an ACLU investigation it has determined that the tactics of the police and District Attorney's office—including intentional disruption of the lives of the defendants, continued harassment of defendants' witnesses, and concealment from the public of the exorbitant costs and facts regarding this case—have resulted in a situation in which no ultimate verdict by any jury will be able to command the respect of and exact the integrity from the community.

"From the very beginning this prosecution has been marked by an antipathy and fear of the Black community. It is not coincidental that the State has chosen as its targets community activists who merely have exercised their First Amendment rights," Rosenbaum said. "This is serious enough. But the situation is of even graver consequence because of their repeated failures to establish Lawton's and Gardner's guilt. The prospects that they will ever voluntarily abandon this prosecution and admit publicly that they have achieved no progress in their investigation of these murders are then frighteningly slim."

The ACLU is also investigating the possibility of filing judicial actions on behalf of similarly oppressed Black and Brown citizens in the Riverside community.

During the first trial of Lawton and Gardner, the ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief. Today it is intensifying its efforts on behalf of the defendants.

For more information, contact the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, 3859 Main St., Room 22, Riverside, Calif. 92502, phone (714) 686-2362 or (714) 682-3486.

necessary, what is ours by right. Let's keep up the struggle until we completely take over the school system (and every other capitalist institution; and Educate to Liberate! We have a right to relevant education which finds no need to lie about everything from history and economics to biology and geography. Let's fight to get it!

## —Miss. boycott

(Continued from page 5)

won recognition for their predominantly Mexican-American members with the help of the grape boycott.

From the small businessmen with their Chamber of Commerce governments in Southern towns, to the agribusiness monopolists in the West, to the garment bosses in the South and Southwest, all of these racist union-busters have been forced to make concessions to progress under the pressure of boycotts.

Now they are moving to outlaw the boycott and financially destroy the leading boycott organizations.

Of course, none of the complainants in the boycott damage suits has ever found fault with white churches setting up schools for white children kept out of integrated schools. Neither have the bosses seen any fault in themselves for boycotting union representation elections.

But selective buying boycotts have a long history in this country. Before there ever was a United States of America, colonists were boycotting British tea in protest against high taxes.

In the past the labor movement made great use of boycotts until the "New Deal" made the government a party to union recognition and at the same time outlawed all union-sponsored "secondary" boycotts

against stores selling scab merchandise.

The upsurge in the struggle of oppressed nationalities in the U.S. has reactivated the boycott tactic and breathed new life into the labor movement as well. The legal cases against the boycott are designed to deny civil and labor rights.

What is at issue is the right of oppressed nationalities, working and poor people to free speech. Do we not have the right to protest injustice by boycotting?

The boycott is a basic democratic expression of power by masses of people because it is only effective when many, many people enforce it. For that reason, the businessmen will never be able to crush the boycott.

No law can tell us what to buy.

## —MIR

(Continued from page 13)

ning dozens of factories taken over by the workers. It combatted the power of the people (comandos and cordones), carrying out repressive actions here and there to evacuate the occupied factories, repressing the workers of certain "cordones" and pobladores in the streets, combatting furiously the revolutionary left and accusing it of being subversive, permitting and finally giving its guarantee to dozens of military searches in the factories in its hunt for arms, during which it savagely tortured the workers and peasants (Nentehue, Sumar, etc.).

It brought up on charges the sailors of the fleet who prepared self-defense measures in case of a military coup, thus giving its support to the brutal tortures carried out by the officers of the Navy, and thus allowing the Military Courts of the Navy to indict and persecute the secretary

generals of the PS, the MIR, and the MAPU (Socialist Party, Movement of the Revolutionary Left, and Movement of United Patriotic Action).

In this way the government reinforced the ruling class offensive, even that of the reactionary, high-ranking officers; it frustrated, disconcerted, and disjointed the anti-putschist sections of the army and divided the left, opening thereby the road to putschism.

That was the responsibility of reformist policies and it is that which certain people are trying to hide and to obscure. A number of their representatives and militants have subsequently heroically combatted the "gorillas," others have had to go into exile, and still others remain today in Chile, confronting the repression.

#### MIR's ROLE

As far as we (MIR) are concerned, during the last three years, we alerted the workers and the left to the catastrophe into which reformist policies were leading them and we have done among the masses, as long as possible, all that we were able to avoid it.

The masses were not "leftists" when

they multiplied their mobilizations to defend their interests. After having carried the UP into the government, they accelerated their march by the only road that history offered them. It was not they who stopped the alliance between the UP and the Christian Democratic Party, but the law of the class struggle.

As far as we are concerned, we had been neither "impatient" nor "leftist." We gave leadership—in the measure of our forces—to the historic march of the workers against the ruling class and the capitalist class, in the factories, fundos, campamentos, schools and universities, and in the regiments. But we were not able to remove the reformists from the leadership of the mass movement. It is that which was our weakness and our fault, and nothing else.

We are staying in Chile to reorganize the mass movement, looking for unity with all the left and all the sectors ready to combat the gorilla dictatorship, while preparing the revolutionary war through which the gorilla dictatorship will be overthrown and the power conquered by the workers, with the installation of a revolutionary government of workers and peasants.



The pamphlet, *Chile 1970-1973*, is available from World View Publishers, 46 West 21st Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. The price is 75 cents.

# MIR leader analyzes fall of Allende gov't

Some of the reformist parties, particularly in Europe, have claimed that the bloody overthrow of the Popular Unity (UP) government in Chile was due to "ultraleft" errors of groups like the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) which, they say, prevented Allende from making an alliance with the Christian Democrats.

We reprint here the major portions of an interview given by Miguel Enriquez, one of the leaders of MIR, to the French paper Rouge. Speaking March 19 from somewhere in Santiago, Enriquez goes over those reformist policies of the UP government which 'so disastrously exposed and weakened the workers' organizations to the onslaught of fascist reaction. Translation for Workers World by John C. Otto.

The UP government was a left petty-bourgeois government. Its axis was the alliance of worker reformism with petty bourgeois reformism. It followed for 3 years a reformist policy characterized by its submission to bourgeois order and its constant attempts to concretize its design for class collaboration.

Reformism did not understand the character of the period during its administration, that character which impeded it from successfully developing its design for class collaboration. The system of capitalist domination had entered into crisis. The mass movement, whose mobilizations and activity had grown since 1967, began boiling over with the arrival of the UP in the government. Over the last 3

years, the masses multiplied their mobilizations and developed their level of organization and consciousness beyond anything seen before in Chile.

At the same time, and partly as a consequence of this, the bourgeoisie's in-

ternal crisis continued to deepen. That's what misled the reformists. Seeing the accentuation of the bourgeoisie's internal struggle, they supposed they could form an alliance with one of these factions.

They did not understand that, in spite of

their divergences, the two bourgeois factions had known clearly and from the beginning that the rise of the mass movement, by its character, went beyond the timid reforms the UP proposed and menaced the system of capitalist domination itself.

The whole of the ruling class, from the beginning, had definitely taken upon itself the defense of the system of capitalist domination and the struggle to overthrow the UP government. The accentuation and polarization of the class struggle had historically closed all possibility of success for the reformist plans of class collaboration.

## UP's ECONOMIC POLICY

Always relying upon this illusory plan of class collaboration and on the illusion of having conquered the power, the UP followed an economic policy which operated essentially on consumption and not on the ownership of the means of production: drastic redistribution of revenues, thus increasing consumption, but increasing production only by maximizing the capacity in existence, which was attained towards the middle of 1972.

The UP also acted on the means of production, but in a limited manner: nationalization of the large copper mines and the banks, a plan to pass into the social sector only 91 large enterprises (there are between 500 and 800), protecting all the large construction and distribution firms.

(Continued on page 13)



Mass arrests followed military coup in Chile. Thousands were herded into the National Stadium and thousands more were massacred.

## A taste of workers' power in Chilean factories before coup

How did life for the workers improve in Chile under the Allende government, and what were the weaknesses that led to the horrendous fascist takeover of Sept. 11, 1973? This account, by a Chilean worker who escaped to Argentina after the coup, sheds light on these questions. It is excerpted from People's Translation Service.

The last union meeting we held at the foundry before the coup was impressive. It was sort of a sequel to an assembly which the management had called several days before to inform us that our stock raw material was down to zero, that with the truck owners' strike there was no way of withdrawing the stock of ingots reserved for us in Concepcion, and that we'd have to seriously consider the prospect of having to paralyze production. The news was badly received—first of all because the administration had waited until the last minute to inform us how critical the situation was; second because this meant passively submitting to the conditions which the rightwing "owners' strike" was imposing; thirdly because we'd broken all production records the previous month and had a great number of urgent pieces to cast in the days to come.

The Production Committees met immediately afterwards and in the subsequent discussions unanimity was quickly obtained; nobody except the workers of this

plant was going to stop production; neither the truck owners, nor the shop owners, nor the doctors, nor the professional people were going to tell us what to do. The only ones who were going to decide the day and the hour that production was to cease were the workers who produce. We'd get the raw material to Santiago, cost what it might, and that was that.

The decision was made and it was final; we communicated it to the administration who gave us the green light. It took a while to put together the means to realize it, though. We knew that there was a whole fleet of trucks destined to the Truck Owners' Trade Union once their conflict was resolved. We tried getting the use of a few of these trucks through official channels but without luck. The government was doing all in its power to resolve this obviously political strike without provoking open conflict.

We couldn't accept an impasse of this type. The trucks were there. The truck owners were interested in something else much beyond their use: the paralysis of the country and the eventual overthrow of the government. It was a vicious circle. So we adopted the only solution possible: we hijacked the trucks and assumed full responsibility for our action.

Once we obtained the means to fetch the raw material we convoked a general meeting to inform all the workers of our

success and ask for volunteers to accompany the trucks. Everyone knew what that involved, a long journey and a perilous one, most of it on our own time and no bonus for a thing. The truck owners and rightwing

terrorist groups were sniping at anything that moved along the roads, and dynamiting bridges and railway tracks.

The response was tremendous—just

(Continued on page 12)

## 'Many died under torture, others burned to death'

Jose Toha was the last defense minister of the Allende government. He stood 6 feet four inches tall. The French press reported that when he finally died in a fascist prison at the end of March, Jose Toha weighed only 110 pounds.

The U.S.-backed junta had announced that "all the communist Jews will die." Jose Toha was a prominent Jewish member of the Chilean Socialist Party. So the butchers tortured him and then starved him to death.

Even as Toha lay on the filthy floor of his prison cell gasping out the last moments of his life, U.S. Treasury Secy. George P. Schultz, accompanied by 10 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, led 1,000 delegates from the Inter-American Development Bank to Santiago to hear Gen. Augusto Pinochet denounce "international communism."

This is the reality of Chile today.

Testifying on April 1 in Helsinki before

an international commission of inquiry on the crimes of Pinochet's fascists, Juventine Velazquez, a peasant from southern Chile, described how immediately after the September 11 military takeover, "many died under torture, many were castrated. Others had gasoline poured on them and were burned to death. Some were dropped from helicopters. Others, I saw myself, were shot to death on boats out on the river and thrown overboard."

He told how peasant men were taken out of their houses, and their wives and daughters raped in their presence. Some victims were tortured by setting fire to their hair or applying fire to their genitals. Juventine Velazquez's five brothers were executed.

He alone escaped to tell the world what the butchers had done in Cotin Province, 200 miles south of Santiago.

LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTIONARY ALLIANCE  
OF THE 'SOUTHERN CONE' LIBERATION GROUPS!

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