Workers World

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

life in prison for a picket line against the U.S. role in the Mideast war. They have won much Chicano support in Houston. See back page.

The Houston 12 trial starts May 20. Five of these young men face

Vol. 16, No. 10

May 17, 1974

25 cents

Struggle grows in Portugal and Africa





Portuguese
workers
press
revolutionary
measures;
Liberation
groups in
Mozambique,
Angola, and
Guinea-Bissau
vow to fight
until victory.
See centerfold

The Portuguese workers and the people of Portugal's African colonies are in revolutionary struggle against fascist oppression in the factories, in the streets, and on the land. Left, May Day in Lisbon, Portugal. Banner in foreground reads, "End the colonial war!" Above, an assembly of Frelimo freedom fighters in Mozambique.

- 2-Labor victory in Britain; Anti-Nazi struggle
- 3-Printers locked out; Operators organize for CWA; Con Ed hearings
- 4—'Death Angel' frameups; Black trade union conference
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- 13—Kissinger & Mideast; monopolies' profits
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CORRECTION

In the last issue, we inadvertently attributed the song "Strange Fruit" to Billie Holiday. The words and music were written by Lewis Allen. It was Billie's rendition, however, that became famous as an outcry against lynching.

A working class victory we all can learn from

By VINCENT COPELAND

What can U.S. workers learn from the strike of British "engineers" (machine shop workers) on May 7 and 8?

The strike was, in effect, a protest over Britain's "industrial relations" law, which is something like the U.S. National Labor Relations Act. This is old in the U.S., but relatively new in Britain. It ties the workers up with all kinds of court procedures, fines them and their unions for "illegal" strikes, and so on-just as in the United States.

The particular issue of the strike was the refusal of the union to pay a \$156,000 fine, even though its national treasury of several million dollars would be forfeit if it failed to

The strike was getting so big, after just

one day, that the corporation bosses realized they could lose in profits many times the amount in the union treasury.

So someone stepped up to the court "anonymously" and paid the \$156,000 fine for the union. It is thought that the anonymous "benefactor" was in reality an agent for a coalition of corporations!

Meanwhile, under the all-out pressure of the workers, Parliament is in the process of repealing the antilabor "industrial relations" law and allowing the workers to retain their more or less unlimited power to strike and win direct settlements with their

Years ago, the bureaucratic labor leaders of the United States hailed the U.S. government's intervention into labor

struggles. To this day, they still believe that "Labor Board elections" are far superior to strikes or the threat of strike.

But after 38 years of NLRB regulations (leaving aside the more vicious trimmings of Taft-Hartley, etc.), the U.S. working class is only 22 percent organized.

The British working class, on the other hand, without "benefit" of government regulation, is now 40 percent organized!

It is true that British workers get less money than American workers, but that is because Britain is a poorer country, with antiquated industrial plants and machinery.

'Industrial relations,'' however (meaning the direct relations between workers and bosses), are infinitely superior to those in the average U.S. plant.

The boss has to ask the steward's permission for any one of dozens of measures he wants to put into effect. And if those measures are in any way detrimental to labor, that permission is rarely given.

As for the lesson for U.S. workers-need any more be said?

Nazis attack Jewish youth, anti-Nazis get busted

MILWAUKEE, May 14-If a bunch of uniformed Nazis start beating up a Jewish youth, and anti-Nazi protesters vigorously jump to his defense, what does the law do?

Arrest the anti-Nazis, of course.

That's the long and the short of what happened this week in Milwaukee. It showed once again how openly sympathetic the police and courts are to the vilest expressions of racism, anti-Semitism, and hatred of left organizations.

The story begins on Saturday, May 11, when a group of Nazis in storm trooper uniforms and helmets appeared at the federal building here during a rally protesting the fascist, military dictatorship

As the gathering ended, those who had been opposing fascism in Chile, mostly liberals, left, ignoring the very real presence of Nazis here.

Members of Youth Against War & Fascism quickly organized a demonstration. On the spot, they made a large banner proclaiming "Nazis are the enemy of all poor and working people" and chanted "Deport the Nazis to Buchenwald."

To counter the racist and anti-Semitic

leaflets being distributed by the Nazis. YAWF got out antifascist literature. Soon others, who were appalled at the Nazi program of racist genocide, came to protest. Some were Jews who remembered the 6 million of their brethren murdered during Hitler's reign of terror.

NAZIS ATTACK JEWISH YOUTH

With more and more people opposing them, the Nazis began to withdraw. But before they left, they attacked a Jewish youth. Immediately the demonstrators rushed to his aid and the fight was on.

Some of the fascist hoodlums ran away; others had their faces bloodied. Only the intervention of the cops, who were there to protect them, saved them.

The cops arrested four of the anti-Nazi protesters, including the Jewish youth who had been attacked. Only one of the Nazi attackers was arrested. The racism of the cops could be seen in the fact that, while they protected the Nazis, they made sure to arrest a Chicana woman among the anti-fascists.

But what happened in court is even more instructive. On May 13, the charges against all those arrested were dropped when the cops said they hadn't seen exactly how the fight started or what happened.

But on the very next day, two of the YAWF anti-Nazis were rearrested and charged with disorderly conduct for the incident! The Nazis, of course, were allowed to go scot free.

YAWF intends to expose the racist police and court system in fighting this case, for it is racism that has created the fertile field for the Nazis to sow their foul weeds in

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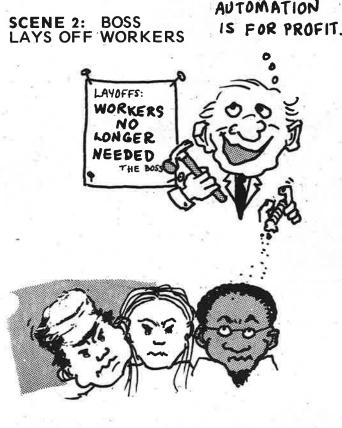
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'The News' lockout: Printers fight for their jobs

NEW YORK, May 11-Hundreds of printers here are being locked out of their jobs at The Daily News. Many hundreds more face the same struggle and fear the same possible fate—that of being locked out

(The New York Times has openly threatened to back up The News with the same sort of lockout.)

Regardless of who appeared to make the first motion toward strike or lockout in this dispute, the result is a lockout in the most fundamental immediate and longrange sense.

The printers are locked out by company ruthlessness-and by automation.

This automation is not an impersonal, robot-like science fiction creation of some master Frankenstein-maker. No, it is a calculated effort by the fascist fellowtraveling Daily News and its more respectable brainwash-buddy, The New York Times, to increase their already swollen profits at the expense of the workers who sweated to make those profits.

THEY PLANNED THE LOCKOUT

Both The Times and The News have been spending a fortune accumulating "alternate" printing machinery to be run by semiskilled, lower-paid, and less numerous

Now The News is actually running this machinery. And over 900 News workers are on the street.

(The hour The News began to do this, Bertram Powers, president of Typographers Local 6, personally smashed one of the new magnesium photographic plates when a boss gleefully showed it to him. Then The News called the police and forced all the typographers out of the building.)

Whatever the gimmicks and whereases proposed by The News (and backed up by The Times), it all comes down to throwing hundreds of workers on the scrap heap.

A 'LIBERAL' OPPRESSOR

The New York Times may have been long attacked by former Vice President Agnew and the rightwing generally as "pinko liberal" and "semicommunist," etc. But it has always shown itself to be 100 percent as viciously antilabor as The Daily

A \$300-million corporation, owning radio stations, papers in Florida, the extremely profitable magazine Family Circle, lumber mills, and great forests in Canada as well as in the United States, it has never-but never-endorsed any strike, anytime,

By a Con Ed worker

that began today.

were warned and did pay.

Mild opposition to a war the ruling class

residential customers who were allegedly 2

"allowed" 3 months to pay the exorbitant

monthly bills, now averaging over \$20 for

Harlem Consumers Education Council

(HCEC) and the Center for United Labor

Action (CULA) in federal court hearings

Edison has often turned off gas and elec-

tricity without any notice to people who

haven't been able to keep up with their bills,

and has often cut off service after customers

official and adds one more burden to the

The new policy makes these practices

Up until then, customers were

This procedure is being fought by the

As many New Yorkers can testify, Con

months behind in their payments.

New York's apartment dwellers.

could not win, yes. But support of a strike of working people against U.S. big business? Not by a jugful!

And in this case, being somewhat involved in a "conflict of interest," did it excuse itself from the judge's bench and let somebody else write the editorials in some other newspaper? Oh, no!

It outdid itself with a whole series of articles favorable to the openly reactionary Daily News.

MAKING IT PERFECTLY CLEAR

'This time he (Bertram Powers) will not divide the publishers," said The Times' formal statement in its issue of May 2, 5 days before The News' lockout. "Therefore, when The News begins to use its alternate methods, The Times will aid The News in every way possible."

The New York Post was less categorical in its editorials, but it joined The Times and The News in combined negotiations as the "New York City Publishers Association."

The typographers had been working without a contract since March 31, 1973, admittedly waiting until wage controls would be lifted so they could get a better

But the papers offered tnem exactly the same raise given earlier to the other unions (the truckers, the Newspaper Guild, the photo engravers, etc.). And the fact is that these lying newspaper bosses had also promised the other unions-verbally- that they would get extra money to match whatever increased raise the typographers won when controls were lifted.

Now the bosses speak out of the other side of their mouths. And in the face of the sky-high and constantly rising cost of living, they now tell the typographers to be satisfied because the other unions settled for less a year ago!

But the big, big issue is a firm guarantee that the printers will not be automated out of their jobs altogether. And the companies refuse to give any guarantee that the printers can live with.

THE 'STATESMEN OF LABOR'

Unfortunately, the other unions concerned-their leaderships, especially, that is-are too scared or too comfortable or too company minded to support the locked-out

They are playing the role of "statesmen of labor," pompously selling out their own unions and their own positions, as they tell their members to walk across the picket lines and do their best to break this crucially important strike.

However, Local 3 of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is also without a con-



tract at The News, and several rank-and-file electricians joined the picket line for a couple of hours on the first day, thus showing the possibility of real action if there were any real leadership to draw from.

At present writing, Harry Van Arsdale, Local 3's president and head of New York's Central Trades and Labor Council, is joining in "secret" negotiations with Local 6 and

The fact that he has instructed his

members to keep working at this time, however, does not bode well for his "assistance" at the negotiations.

In spite of the relatively high wages of the electrical construction workers, Van Arsdale did not play a great role in getting them. And he is not noted for any great personal militancy-to put the matter

It remains to be seen whether his intervention will be a plus or a minus.

Operators call on CWA to disconnect company union

By ELIZABETH ROSS

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) are putting on a drive to bring 1,400 telephone operators in New York City into the union. Most of these Bell Telephone operators are women, and 85 percent of them are Black.

About 30 years ago Ma Bell founded its own union, the Telephone Traffic Union (TTU), that made all other company unions sick with envy. Its one purpose was to keep the telephone workers from forming their own organization. It succeeded for 20 years.

When the CWA was organized in New York about 10 years ago, it covered only the linemen and overseas operators, but the gains it won for them put pressure on the TTU. Whatever the CWA has gained nationally, the TTU has had to give into

Still, the women operators work under unbelievably medieval conditions, such as:

If an operator is sick once in a year, she is put on Step One; after six sick periods in 20 months, she loses her job!

Supervisors lurk constantly behind the operators, listening to everything they say, seeing that they do not communicate with other operators at any time while they are on the board, giving them permission to go to the toilet only when a replacement can be found (which sometimes takes as long as an

In the last 3 years, 8,000 operators have lost their jobs.

Bobbie Blair was one of the 8,000. On April 23 she was fired after coming back to work from an operation. She had been working for Ma Bell for almost 5 years and had never been absent before her operation. Her hospitalization was fully justified, according to the company's own medical department.

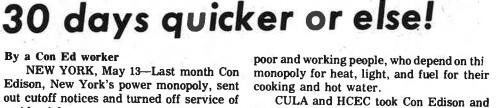
On May 6 the CWA held a rally in front of the Chelsea Telephone building at 18th St. and Seventh Avenue to get Bobbie's job back. The rally was supported by New Jersey CWA Traffic women, who crossed the river to attend. Although operators in the building get only a half-hour lunch period, hundreds came out to support Bobbie and their own rights.

Those inside cheered the CWA organizers when they went through the building with banners flying after the rally. Speakers included; Gloria Williams, Organizing Drive Director, and Dennis Serette, Vice President of CWA Local 1101.

It's a tough fight because some of the older women (those who have been working at the switch boards for 20 years or more) are afraid they could lose the pensions promised them by the company-meager as those pensions are—if they displease Ma Bell in any way. The fact that 10 million or more people are now unemployed is another cause for fear among the women operators, many of whom have children to support.

Two women in the recent past died of heart attacks while they were on the job rather than risk dismissal for taking sick

But the time is ripe for a change. The operators are fed up with the TTU and know that to have a fighting union, they must be that union.



the rubber-stamp "Public" Service Commission to federal court today in an effort to stop this new outrage. This new policy is part of Con Edison's

frantic effort to raise cash to pay off debts to bank and oil companies-corporations which are owned by the same people who

own Con Edison

Con Ed demands: Pay bills

Carl Jones of the Harlem Consumers Council and Jim McMahan of the Center for United Labor Action had prepared their own briefs and spoke for their organizations without lawyers. But the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Con Ed brought in two lawyers each, including the PSC's chief counsel, for their coordinated defense.

Jones and McMahan proved that the PSC and Con Edison work in collusion with (Continued on page 13)



New York Telephone workers rally for fired worker and further the campaign for a real

Black community hits 'Death Angel' frameup

By BOB DOBROW

NEW YORK, May 11—Three Black men, all members of the Nation of Islam, have been indicted in San Francisco on charges concerning the so-called "Zebra" killings. Their arrest coincided with a headline-hunting press conference by Mayor Alioto, who spun a viciously racist yarn of a "Death Angels" cult that he claimed was responsible for the murder of over 80 whites within the last 3 years.

This immediately brings to mind similar tales told of the Black Panther Party, the "Blood Brothers" in Harlem, and the "De Mau Maus" in Chicago.

On May 5, over 1,000 people packed into the Temple of Islam in the Black community of San Francisco to protest this frameup. John Muhammad, minister of Muslim Temple No. 26, has denounced the mayor for "trying to make his office look good at the expense of the Muslims." He said that the Muslims will defend those arrested "because we believe they are innocent. We don't even carry a penknife, and this the mayor knows."

Alioto's whole hoax about the "Death Angels" is one of the crudest frameups ever. Not even his fellow racist officials have corroborated the story. For instance, Los Angeles police chief Davis commented, "I never heard of any organization called the Death Angels in this city before." And State Attorney General Younger said, "We have no evidence of a statewide conspiracy."

Alioto's patched-together list, supposedly based on information supplied by an "informer," contains 80 victims over the last 3 years who bear no common characteristics to one another except that all 80 were white and all died! The assertion that all 80 victims were part of an organized plot is nothing but an out-and-out lie.

Seven men were originally arrested, but due to the complete lack of any evidence, four had to be released. The remaining three are Larry Green, J. C. Simon, and Manuel Moore. A San Francisco County grand jury is now sitting to indict the three on various counts of murder and conspiracy. Bail for each of the three has been set at a quarter of a million dollars!

On May 9, Judge Agnes Smith issued an order forbidding the media from publishing or broadcasting any opinions about the case. Although supposedly done to make sure that the defendants' right to a fair trail is not prejudiced, this seems like closing the barn door after the horse is gone. The press has for weeks been barraging the public with racist venom.

Could this gag order by the court have more to do with the fact that it appears information concerning the identity of Alioto's "informer" may have leaked out to the press? The informer, it seems, is a well-known police agent in the area.

ESCALATION OF ATTACKS ON BLACK COMMUNITY

The original arrest of seven Black Muslims came as a culmination of Alioto's "Operation Zebra" campaign (see WW, May 3). This involved the absolutely illegal use of police manhunts throughout the Black community and the issuance of South Africa style identity cards. This, of course, fueled the vicious racism that has been pushed statewide by higher-ups like Reagan.

The Muslims have met with constant harassment. In April, police in Sacramento raided a Muslim mosque, while last January Berkeley police opened fire on a Black Muslim van.

The Black Panther Party has also had its offices raided and meets constant



On May 2, a strong demonstration called by Youth Against War & Fascism resounded in the streets of downtown New York, calling for an end to the fascist repression and terror of Mayor Alioto's "Operation Zebra" in San Francisco.

WW photos: Dick

harassment, especially from the Oakland police who are notorious in the Bay Area. Just in the last month alone, four Black children have been murdered by trigger-happy white policemen who are still on the force!

Now, Alioto's hysteria about the supposed "Death Angels" cult represents the bottom of the pit, in terms of the depth to which the forces of reaction are willing to stoop. He is trying to create a racist pogrom atmosphere, and in this regard he has the full cooperation not only of the Hearstowned San Francisco Examiner, but also the "liberal" Chronicle as well, which both gave credibility to "Operation Zebra."

Now, more than ever progressive people all over the country must intervene, stand up to racism and repression, and actively fight those who are trying to generate it.

Militant resolutions passed by Black trade union conf.

By STELLA COWAN (a participant in the conference)

DETROIT, May 5—Approximately 1,300 rank-and-file Black sisters and brothers attended the third annual convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists here today.

The coalition conference emphasized its awareness of the economic significance of the Black working class, organized and unorganized, in the Black community and in the organized labor movement. It also realized the importance of harnessing the energy of Black unionists to further the economic struggles of Blacks and other Third World sisters and brothers.

Underlining this important concept was an awareness of the need to organize the unorganized. This was a workshop issue as well as an adopted resolution.

RESOLUTIONS MORE MILITANT

The resolutions adopted at this year's convention went even further politically than those adopted last year in Chicago. At

those adopted last year in Chicago. At

the Chicago conference resolutions were passed in support of Black workers in South Africa, women's rights, the farm workers, the Farah strikers, a national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others

This year in Detroit, a resolution urging the coalition to support the Great Lake Steel Women's Committee class action suit filed through the EEOC was adopted. These steel women are fighting against sex discrimination on the job. The GLS Women's Committee needs support to fight the stall tactics being employed by the U.S. Justice Department in collaboration with the steel companies.

Five other resolutions were in support of the struggle of women, including support for the Equal Rights Amendment and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

SUPPORT INTERNALTIONAL STRUGGLES

An international political perspective was reflected in a resolution supporting the

democratic rights of the Chilean people and condemning the Chilean junta government. A telegram will be sent out by the coalition condemning and protesting the pending execution of six leftist leaders imprisoned in Chile

South African workers' struggles were elaborated upon by a South African sister in Saturday's session.

A resolution had also been submitted in support of the liberation struggles in Portugal, but seemed to imply support of the present ruling junta. The delegates realized this regime represents the same class as its predecessor. The resolution was referred back to the committee for rewording to express support for African liberation and the Portuguese workers' struggles. A resolution on the Prisoners Labor Union calling for support from the coalition was also adopted.

The resolutions passed help illustrate the positive aspects and importance of the coalition in leading a political struggle among Black workers. They also represent political expression of the Black rank and file at the conference.

Many of the convention speakers were mere liberals, or represented various union bureaucracies. However, the very progressive character of many of the resolutions (which would never be passed by

the white labor bureaucrats) showed how even the relatively "moderate" in the Black struggle must reflect to some degree the militancy of the oppressed.

The political atmosphere, however, was generally low key, with few obvious Black militant or Black nationalist contingents participating.

During the exchange of ideas at the workshops, the rank-and-file brothers and sisters showed their differences with the more liberal politics of the bureaucrats in control. Progressive political awareness was apparent in the support of welfare rights and organizing of domestic workers.

One sister from San Francisco strongly urged the conference to deal with both these points. A brother from Chicago raised the tremendous oppression of all Third World and poor people as he spoke about the struggle of our Native American and Latin brothers and sisters.

SUPPORT CONCORD BOYCOTT

A very spirited march and demonstration calling for the boycott of Concord Fabrics took place at lunchtime Saturday. About 200 conference delegates marched from the convention hall to Hudson's department store where Concord Fabrics are sold, and picketed the front entrance.

The workers of Concord Fabrics of New York City were forced to go out on strike 7 months ago in an effort to save their jobs. When their contract expired, the plant was closed down and moved its warehouses from New York to Lyman, S. Carolina, and Milledgeville, Georgia. A substantial number of the workers who lost their jobs are Black and Spanish speaking; many have years of service with this company.

The great potential of Black trade union leadership—in a country where basic industry is more and more run by Black workers—was keenly felt at this conference. The impact and progressive influence such leadership can exert in the Black and Third World community will be extremely important in the advancement of the struggle of our class against the rich ruling class of this country.



Participants at the convention of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists address themselves to At left, a Brother speaks at "organizing the unorganized" workshop.

many trade union and international issues. Photos: Debra Field

Senecas fight utilities in test of sovereignty

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

NEW YORK, May 13—The Niagara-Mohawk Power Co. had to tuck its tail between its legs and make a hasty retreat from the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation last week. A lineman from the power company (which usurped its name from the Indians) and two deputy sheriffs were trying to turn off the electricity to Indians on the reservation when they came under fire.

The shooting incident gave a hard, cold reality to a situation that the businesses and officials who run Western New York State have been trying to keep out of the public eye: the Seneca Nation of Indians, especially those of the Cattaraugus and Allegheny reservations, is demanding its sovereignty.

The struggle in this state, which parallels similar struggles of Native Americans across the U.S. who have been robbed of their lands and rights, reaches deep into the Seneca Nation. About half the Indians on the Cattaraugus reservation have supported a return to the traditional Seneca form of government, and have moved to be accepted back into the Iroquois Confederacy.

FIGHT UTILITIES AND PAID STOOGES

They are fighting not only the huge corporations that control this country, and the federal government that represents these big business interests, but they are also in a direct struggle with conservatives on the reservation who have long acted as stooges of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Just as at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the BIA has lined up paid mercenaries (some get as much as \$520 a day for "patrol duty"!) against the Indian militants.

The Indians were forced to take up arms



"The Seneca Nation of Indians...is demanding its sovereignty."

against Niagara-Mohawk Power Co. because of a long history of usurpation by the utility and allied companies.

The Cattaraugus and Allegheny reservations are strategically located. Several utilities have power and gas pipelines which cross Indian land. These include ITT, AT&T, Bell Telephone, a Western Union line to Asia, the cable for burglar alarm service to all Western New York's banks, and 25 natural gas wells of the Iroquois (another stolen Indian name) Gas Corp.

In addition, the New York State Thruway extension runs across the Cattaraugus reservation, and a planned enlargement of Highway 17 would cut off part of the Allegheny. Finally, a crosscountry TV coaxial cable also intersects the Indians' land, as does at least one railroad.

A fair payment for this commercial use of Indian land underlies the demands for sovereignty. Almost all of the arrangements with these giant corporations were made at give-away prices by the pro-BIA "elected" leaders.

For example, the Iroquois Gas Corp.'s wells produce 3½ million cubic feet of

natural gas per day per well. But the Indians receive only \$20,000 a year rental—a sum recovered by the utility in just a few days from these wells.

LIGHTS ARE STILL ON

So, a few months ago, the Indians decided to test their demands for the right to renegotiate these contracts as a sovereign nation by refusing to pay their utility bills. It was this action that prompted Niagara-Mohawk to attempt to shut off service on May 7, with the ensuing armed confrontation. The lights are still on.

The Seneca militants, with the help of an Indian lawyer, Meredith Quinn, have dug deep into the treaties signed by the U.S. government with the Indian nations to prove their claim of sovereignty. As has been revealed in much recent literature, the history of these treaties is full of fraud and deception on the part of the U.S. government.

The Cattaraugus reservation was the first in this country to have the so-called elective system forced on it. In imitation of the U.S. political system, a "head of government" was set up who was invested with sole power over the affairs of the tribe.

In 1848, the Seneca chiefs agreed to try the "elective" system on a trial basis. Ten years later, the chief notified the U.S. government that the system was rejected. But his rejection was made orally, not in writing, and the U.S. refused to honor it. (Washington had made sure earlier to get the tentative agreement on paper.)

The traditional form of Seneca government had been through the clan mothers, who selected the chiefs. Aside from anything else, it is obvious that the "elective" system in fact disenfranchised half the Indian people, since at that time women had no vote in the United States!

After studying this history, the Seneca militants decided to return to the traditional form of government. Accordingly, on Sept. 17, 1973, they issued a document saying (once again, but this time in writing) that they rejected the "elective" system and were continuing the chieftain form of government. They thereby removed all federal, state, and local jurisdiction. On December 2 they were accepted back into the Iroquois Confederacy.

Thus, the clash with Niagara-Mohawk this May 7 may well be the first in a historic struggle of Native American people to win back their land and control of their destiny. The stakes are high for the Indians, because the stooge government agreed in 1964 to terminate the Cattaraugus reservation in exchange for a minimal cash payment. The federal authorities want to build a dam on the Cattaraugus River which would flood much of the area.

But the flood of anger from a people aware of the thieving and callous history of this government is rising faster than the waters of the Cattaraugus. The big corporations that thought they were getting such a great deal when they bought their right-of-way across Indian lands for a song may wish they had put their expensive and vulnerable equipment in some safer place.



Farm worker picket line in 1973: the struggle will continue until the workers have won their rights.

Grape strike on again; UFW needs labor support

By TOM MITCHELL

NEW YORK, May 13—With the beginning of the grape harvest in the Coachella Valley in southern California, United Farm Workers (UFW) union picket lines have been set up once again. But this year the lines are around the fields where last year Teamster officials went over the heads of the workers and into the arms of the growers. The workers have responded to the picket lines with slowdowns, and several have walked out of the fields onto the lines.

Last year the growers went to the Teamsters Union and signed "sweetheart" contracts to replace the expired UFW contracts won with the aid of the national grape boycott of the 1960s. The farm workers struck, but the growers brought in scabs from Mexico who worked in fear of deportation, and the local sheriffs with the assistance of Teamster goons (paid \$50 a day) attacked the UFW picket lines.

After two farm workers were killed, Ceser Chavez, President of the UFW, called off picketing.

This year, with the number of farm workers covered by UFW contracts drastically decreased, the raiding Teamster officials have budgeted \$100,000 a month out of dues money in the hopes of completely destroying the UFW. But the UFW still has the hearts of the farm workers and is carrying on a determined battle to win back the stolen contracts.

In the past year, the UFW has concentrated on strengthening its national boycott organization, sending executive board members and strikers to the major urban areas to speak at public meetings and gather forces.

On April 8, AFL-CIO President George Meany, who has consistently shown the enthusiasm of a mule in supporting the UFW, gave recognition to the continuing vitality of the farm workers' struggle and reluctantly endorsed the boycott of lettuce and grapes.

Meany held back from endorsing the Gallo boycott, but the fact that Almaden renewed its contract with the UFW in late March will increase the pressure on Gallo to sign with the UFW.

LABOR SUPPORT FOR UFW

In addition, the UFW has gained new support in the labor movement, including a \$100,000 contribution on April 1 from United Auto Workers Region 6 on the west coast and a pledge of picket line support during the UAW international convention in Los Angeles in early June.

On April 3, in Tucson, Arizona, the chairman of Truckers For Justice, a nationwide organization of about 500 independent truckers formed during the nationwide shutdown last December, pledged that its members will respect UFW picket lines and not haul scab grapes or lettuce.

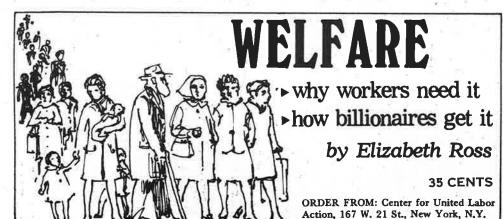
Seeing the gathering support for the UFW, Coachella Valley grower K.K. Larson held a surprise "election" on March 21, literally standing over the workers and pushing a pen into their hands.

In 1970 Larson had finally accepted the challenge from the UFW to submit to elections. His workers voted 152-2 for the union! But the March 21 fraud has reversed this victory. This has been the source of much grower-Teamster propaganda about how the farm workers themselves don't want the UFW.

The UFW has drafted a bill for the California State Legislature, supported by the state AFL-CIO, that would provide for fair elections on a week's notice during the harvest time peak employment, but would retain the right to strike at harvest and the right to boycott scab products. The bill is opposed by the Teamsters.

Even if the bill is rejected by a legislature that has a history of serving the interests of the big agricultural businessmen, the Teamsters have been further exposed in the bankruptcy of their claims to represent the farm workers.

The United Farm Workers union, which for the first time gave true representation to the agricultural workers of the Southwest, mainly Chicano, was built on dedication and determination against great obstacles. The farm workers who have known the benefits of UFW contracts with union hiring halls will never lose their desire to have them again. UFW organizers are showing the perseverance and making the sacrifices that will surely bring victory.





Tapes, transcripts, subpoenas, secret hearings—what's really going on?

After the release of the edited transcripts of the 32 White House tapes, there was a strong push to force Nixon to resign. Some of his hard-core Republican supporters bolted, others expressed their "shock" or "disappointment" at the tapes.

But Nixon has mustered up a counteroffensive, and the talk has gone back to impeachment proceedings in the Congress.

What has really been happening in these last weeks, we don't know yet. There is a fierce and implacable struggle going on within the ruling circles of U.S. imperialism, and like all other truly important events, the truth about this one is being religiously kept from the people.

But while the air of crisis has been removed from the front pages, the crisis is far from being resolved. On the contrary, the fact that the anti-Nixon forces have made another major offensive and failed, that Nixon refuses to resign although it is clear that he has no power left to drum up popular support—these all point to the possibility that another sharp turn of events may be in the offing.

While the newspaper and TV talk focuses on the superficial aspects of Nixon's personality, there are undoubtedly much deeper questions wracking the corporate ruling class. Many a President has been given a much-needed facelift by the media when the ruling Establishment needed to present a united and smiling image to the people. But there is no such support for Nixon in the media at the present time, as is

obvious to anyone.

Where is he getting the kind of support that has made him declare he'll stay in office even if only one Senator backs him? It has been mentioned casually once or twice in the press that Wall Street has still not deserted Nixon. But Wall Street is a broad term, and there are warring factions there too.

What is not being discussed, not even by the most "in" commentators, is where financial titans like the Rockefellers the Mellons, etc. stand.

There have been a few hints thrown out in papers like The New York Times that Nixon could call on the military if all else failed. This seemed a more real possibility, perhaps one that the ruling class might be compelled to resort to, last fall before Ford was named as Nixon's successor. But there are a few recent events in this area that bear watching.

By accident or design, there is a big turnover taking place in the top military chiefs. A new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has been named by Nixon; so has a new head of the Air Force in Europe. Chief of the Navy Admiral Elmo Zumwalt is retiring, leaving another key post open.

A high point in the confrontation building last week occurred when General Haig of the White House staff refused to honor a subpoena to testify before a congressional committee on Watergate. This has since been patched over, and Haig has now testified in closed session about a \$100,000 "gift" from Hughes to Rebozo. But the prospect of how to force a general to testify must have panicked a few Senators at one point.

The crisis in the long run flows from the worldwide losses suffered by the U.S. capitalist empire. Beginning with Vietnam and continuing with the Middle East, the power that at the end of World War II walked into and economically took over dozens of former colonial possessions is being crippled by the unstemmable tide of the liberation struggles.

This has created the greatest instability in the U.S. economy, has brought on the dollar devaluation and the energy crisis, and constantly feeds a deep political crisis within the ruling class government.

Class-conscious workers and progressive people must be on guard that such instability can produce unexpected and great change with little warning from the "crusading" media.

Chicago

Public Meeting

"LEGACY OF LENIN"

Sat., June 8 7:00 P.M.

Hear

Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World Newspaper

Midland Hotel Lincoln Room

Adams & LaSalle in the Chicago Loop

Sponsored by Chicago Youth Against War & Fascism 542 S. Dearborne Rooms 309-311 Chicago, Ill. 60605 Phone: (312) 922-0326



We are writing in support of the more than 30,000 Canadian postal workers who were just on strike. We are two Detroit postal workers who face similar attacks on our job security and wages.

The Post Office in Canada is starting a nationwide postal code (like our zip code) and bringing in \$90 million worth of new sorting machines. Workers on these machines start at 54 cents an hour less than those who used to sort the mail by hand. That's an outrageous \$30-a-week pay cut!

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers, seeing this threat of layoffs and lower pay scales, called for a boycott of the postal code.

In Montreal, Quebec (the most oppressed province where French-speaking Quebecois are demanding self-determination—WW), the strike began when 20 workers were suspended for wearing T-shirts calling on the public to support the boycott. Though Canadian postal workers (just like us) don't legally have the right to strike, they took it. The union demanded equal pay for all mail sorting jobs and no layoffs.

In Detroit, bags of sorted Canadian mail piled up and first class letters were returned during the strike. After over 2 weeks of a united strike of both indoor and outdoor workers, the Canadian government was forced to negotiate.

Automation could mean "progress" if it lightened our heavy work loads and improved service to the public. But we've seen new, expensive equipment introduced and then even more work added to our jobs.

For instance, carrier routes were mechanized a couple years ago in many areas. But at the same time all the parcel post routes were eliminated, forcing regular mail carriers to handle packages too. With the new machinery as an excuse, mail routes were sped up. In one year, from 1972 to 1973, over 50,000 U.S. Postal Service jobs were eliminated, while the heart attack rate of the remaining carriers went up 75 percent!

We are behind our Canadian and Quebecois sisters and brothers 100 percent in their fight against any wage cuts or job eliminations.

Two Detroit postal workers

DECLINE & FAIL

He wouldn't go along

Washington Star-News, May 4:

"A black District Court commissioner in Prince Georges County has resigned his post, charging that he was pressured from his job because white county policemen and court officials resented his attempts to handle blacks more equitably.

"Richard W. Boger, 23, was appointed to the \$8,401-a-year post in January.... Judge James Rea, Boger's supervisor and administrative head of the county District Court . . refused to comment on Boger's charges.

"Boger said the pressure came from

Rea and county policemen because he refused to either issue warrants or set high bonds for some of the suspects brought before him.

"One such case, he said, occurred a week ago when a white county officer brought a man in '... head bandaged, teeth broken and face cut."

"'And the officer didn't have a hair outof place,' Boger said, adding that the policeman wanted to charge the man with assault on a police officer.

"Boger said another incident involved the arrest of a middle-aged black man for petty larceny. The arresting officers, who Boger said were white, wanted a high bond placed on the suspect, who Boger said had worked in the same job and paid mortgages on the same house for 13 years.

"'When I released the man on his

personal recognizance,' Boger added, 'the policeman launched into this long tirade about how incompetent I was.'"

Corruption in Chicago again... Chicago Sun-Times, April 2:

"Associate Circuit Court Judge James L. Oakey Jr. won \$3 million in business with the Chicago Housing Authority for a security guard firm that employed him as a 'sales representative' while he was on the bench.

"The contracts won by Oakey for Wells Fargo Protective Services Inc., 214 W. Ohio, were granted by the CHA board of commissioners without competitive bidding. contracts gave Wells Fargo the guard service in some CHA housing developments.

"Sources still at Wells Fargo said the payments for the CHA work to Judge Oakey and a firm in which he had an interest exceeded \$50,000. 'It was more than that, but I don't want to say how much,' one reliable company source stated.

"Oakey's role with Wells Fargo was confirmed by Ronald E. Stackler . . . (who) said he hired Judge Oakey because 'he was a desired friend of ours. We felt he had the contacts and could bring us a lot of business.' "

...and again

Chicago Sun-Times. May 3:

"Ald. Thomas E. Keane (31st) was indicted Thursday on federal conspiracy

and mail-fraud charges of using his political power to profit in secret land deals.

"The indictment contended that Keane, 68, used his position as the city's most powerful alderman to get inside information, to obtain passage of special ordinances and to arrange the sale of his land to other government agencies. The indictment charged Keane with 20 counts of mail fraud and one count of conspiracy.

". Keane was charged with 'a plot to defraud the citizens of Chicago and the aldermen by entering into a scheme and conspiracy to learn where public projects would be built and then going out and buying tax-delinquent property in that area.'

"While the indictment contained no estimates of the profits reaped by Keane and partners, The Sun-Times and Better Government Assn. investigation showed that the scheme grossed approximately \$1 million from 1965 through 1973."

(WW note: Such swindles as the above two items show that, from the small budgets allocated to public housing, so much is stolen by rich businessmen that it is unavoidable that the projects become death traps. See story on boy crushed to death, page 11.)

Nixon on good language

The New York Times, May 12:

"During a televised debate in the 1960 Presidential campaign Mr. Nixon said—in reference to the public swearing in of former President Harry S. Truman—'I am very proud that President Eisenhower restored dignity and decency and, frankly, good language to the conduct of the President of the United States.

"And I only hope that, should I win this election, that I could approach President Eisenhower in maintaining the dignity of the

office, in seeing to it that whenever any mother or father talks to his child, he can look at the man in the White House, and whatever he may think of his policies, he will say, Well, there is a man who maintains the kind of standards personally that I would want my child to follow."

Games busy Congress play The New York Times, May 12:

"The transcripts, said Representative Robert W. Kastenmeier, a Wisconsin Democrat who is a member of the Judiciary Committee, have started 'a whole new parlor game' in which persons take the parts of the White House participants and fill in the blanks."

Borgia better than Nixon?

Roderigo Borgia, Pope from 1492 to 1503 (Alexander VI), was called "the Nero among Popes."

He made his son, Caesar Borgia, a bishop at the age of 16, and took several minor Italian states to put under Caesar's rule, hoping to found a Borgia dynasty. He built a palace for the last of his mistresses, Julia Farnese, and made her brother a cardinal. He kept one of his daughters (Lucretia Borgia) in another palace and one of his sons in the Vatican itself.

When Father Girolamo Savonarola, the democratic-minded Dominican priest, assailed him for his many crimes, this Pope had him tortured, hanged, and his corpse burned at the stake.

He stole from the Church so openly and on so lavish a scale that it makes Richard Nixon himself look like a second-class sneak thief.

But one thing he never did do.

He didn't defend himself by saying that he had only been trying to preserve the sacred "office of the Papacy."

Dicky, we always knew ye!

By VINCENT COPELAND

It's good to see the White House transcripts published, even though they have been edited so ruthlessly, because they help to show the general public what a scurrilous, cynical, selfish opportunist occupies the Presidency.

But the moral indignation expressed so fervently in the multimillion-dollar newspapers is just as hypocritical as Nixon's own TV speeches, and just as selfishly motivated.

Why didn't any of these papers expose Nixon's real personality—his known public record—at the time he was running for office?

Except for a few references to "the old Nixon"—or in the more daring sheets, "Tricky Dick"—they never really made much of the following facts in his record, when they could have done so in the 1972 election, and even in 1968.

(1) In 1952 he used an \$18,000 "campaign fund" for his own personal benefit. He went on national TV with his wife and dog, Checkers, to "explain" it. But all he explained was why he was such a good American and a true-blood opportunist.

The fact that his crookedness and thievery were then in the thousand-dollar instead of the million-dollar class shows only a quantitative escalation. It doesn't in the least change the original crooked pattern.

(2) In 1960 the late Drew Pearson revealed that Nixon's brother received a slush fund from certain contractors during his Vice Presidency, strongly hinting that most of this found its way to Nixon himself.

(3) In 1959, Nixon, the great "expert" on foreign policy, used an official trip to the Soviet Union to sell Pepsi-Cola for his friend Donald Kendall, the chairman of Pepsi-Cola Company. (He put a bottle of Pepsi-prominently labeled—into then Premier Nikita Khrushchev's hand during a much photographed and publicized "kitchen debate" in Moscow.)

(4) In 1948 and subsequent years, he engineered the extreme right-wing attack on New Deal bureaucrat Alger Hiss, "proving" that he was a spy for the Soviet Union.

He did this in such a crude way that even conservative, ruthlessly anticommunist President Harry Truman branded it a "frameup." And the arch-conservative (but Democrat) Secretary of State Dean Acheson also stood up for Hiss.

(The cold war witch-hunt atmosphere was so intimidating, however, that Acheson had to put his defense of Hiss into religious phraseology.)

(5) In 1952 Nixon, the defender (now) of the sanctity of the "office of the Presidency." called President Truman a "traitor." This was in a speech on Oct. 27 at Texarkana, Texas while running for Vice President. He lumped in Adlai Stevenson and Dean Acheson as traitors too, for good measure.

(6) In 1946 when first running for



Congress in California against conservative Democrat Jerry Voorhis, he conducted an undercover telephone campaign telling the voters that Voorhis was a secret Communist.

(7) In 1950 he helped launch the vicious Senator Joseph McCarthy on his career in a speech two weeks before the latter's infamous "I have in my hand 205... card-carrying members," etc.

Senator McCarthy only echoed Nixon's Jan. 26, 1950 speech and repeated whole sentences of it when he made his own Feb. 9 speech in Wheeling, Va.

(8) In 1955, one year after the famous Supreme Court school decision, he appeared as U.S. Vice President at the NAACP convention in Atlantic City. He told the assembled delegates that Black equality and Black freedom should be full and complete in 10 years—that is, by 1965.

But as President he came out against busing, defied the U.S. Supreme Court, and did everything he could in his 1968-72 term to sabotage its decisions in this regard.

 $+ + \pm$

Now if Workers World knows all this, why didn't The New York Times know it? Why didn't the Washington Post, Newsweek, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and the other anti-Nixon papers?

Not to mention the 685 daily papers and the vast majority of Wall Street bankers and bosses who so enthusiastically supported Nixon in 1972.

(Much of the above information, and particularly details on the Nixon frameup of Hiss, can be found in The Honorable Mr. Nixon by William A. Reuben, Action Books, New York City, 1956.)

Mass murderer at large

Besides being, like most other U.S. capitalist politicians, a common crook, let us remember that Richard Nixon is also one of the biggest mass murderers in history.

Besides persecuting the poor at home, he bombed (and is still bombing) the homes, schools, and hospitals of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia on a colossal scale. He invaded the latter two countries without consulting Congress at all—in spite of his love of "constitutionality." And he conducted "secret" bombing on a massive scale.

Now he is (apparently) going to be impeached for using bad language.

By BOB McCUBBIN

NEW YORK, May 13—The Watergate crisis reached a new stage last week with the publication of the expurgated and Nixoncensored version of some 32 tapes. While it seems clear that anything substantially damaging to the White House cabal had been carefully edited out, what remained was seemingly bad enough to trigger what first appeared to be an avalanche of rats deserting the sinking ship

Senator Hugh Scott, Republican leader of the Senate and close associate of Tricky Dick, characterized the transcribed White House conversations as "... deplorable, disgusting, shabby, immoral." This is the same politician who arrogantly asserted in January that the White House had hard evidence that would make a liar out of John Dean and show conclusively that Nixon was innocent of all wrongdoing.

Charles Percy, another high-ranking Republican Senator, said of Scott's more recent evaluation, "I'd add 'shocking."

The Chicago Tribune, a right wing bourgeois mouthpiece whose extended love affair with Nixon has suddenly and gracelessly ended, has now, like Scott, called for Nixon's resignation.

The list of those former friends of Nixon who were so "shocked" by the Watergate conversations includes John Rhodes, Republican House leader ("devastating"), Senator Marlow Cook ("moral turpitude"), James Kilpatrick, conservative journalist ("shame, embarrassment, disgust, chagrin"), Nelson Rockefeller ("a really serious situation as far as the moral tone of the Administration is concerned"), Billy Graham ("it's not the language I've ever heard him use"), and William Randolph Hearst ("the cheapest and sleaziest kind of conniving").

Undoubtedly, these incorruptible men had never heard a four-letter word or a racist slur before—certainly not from those exalted and morally pure beings who run this country! Heavens to Betsy!

Now that a Nixonite counteroffensive has begun, however, the flood of outraged morality seems to have ebbed into the greasy backwaters once again. Nevertheless, a student of morality might want to take a few minutes to examine the ethical platform on which these latter-day critics of Nixon stand so shakily.

Their panicky flight from Nixon's ranks was not based on any suddenly discovered difference in political policy. As a matter of fact, some bourgeois commentators have tried to placate the remaining hard-core Nixonites by reminding them that Gerald Ford is every bit as racist and militarist-

minded as Nixon ever was.

The "moral indignation" over the White House conversations could be put in proper perspective if only the people were able to subpoena the tapes of these worthy gentlemen.

What, for instance, would the tapes of Rockefeller planning the mass murder at Attica sound like? Would they contain racist expletives—or just long gaps?

What about Hearst discussing mow to shortchange the People in Need food program by giving away meat that was 70 percent fat? Would this constitute, to use Hearst's own words, "the cheapest and sleaziest kind of conniving"?

And what kinds of words does Billy Graham use, late at night, as he reviews the take of the latest "Crusade"? Does he speak as sanctimoniously about his profits as he does about the souls he professes to save?

Talk of "morality" from the rich crooks who systematically exploit and impoverish the masses of this country and the world is certainly the height of hypocrisy. And their "shock" at the number of "expletives" in Nixon's conversations shows what kind of morality they worry about.

The Rockefellers, the Scotts, the Hearsts, and the Grahams view morality not as a guide to conduct but as a weapon with which to deceive the oppressed and exploited. Morality is that which teaches the poor that they are responsible for their poverty, that patient suffering is the only sure ticket to heaven, that to turn the other cheek is the most moral act.

Morality for the capitalists is using words like "freedom" and 'honor" to justify their genocidal campaign against the Vietnamese people. It is using words like "rehabilitation" and "protecting society" to explain the dungeons and concentration camps where the rebellious poor people, especially the Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and Indians who exist as captive nations within the U.S. are systematically tortured and murdered.

What does the capitalist class know of morality—these parasites who suck the blood of the workers and poor, who spend millions in an attempt to "enrich" their lives while millions of poor people wait in hopeless despair on welfare and unemployment lines?

The real moral force in the world today is expressed concretely and powerfully all across the globe in the revolutionary movements of the workers and oppressed people. These profound expressions of morality are guided by a deep love for the people and the most implacable and potent hatred of the master class.

Your share of national debt

The U.S. Treasury is now selling bonds that will give you 812 percent on your savings. Isn't that nice?

The only trouble is that the lowest-priced bonds will cost you \$10 thousand apiece.

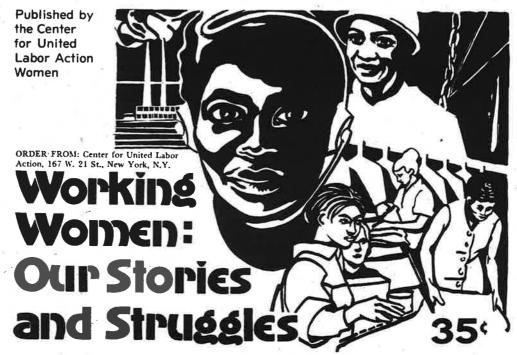
In other words, they're meant for big investors, bankers, and other Wall Street bums who live on the people's money.

Actually, by far the greater part of the national debt is owed to these parasites. And the interest bill alone now comes to about \$26 billion a year.

That means the bankers gouge the government about \$400 every year for every family in the country.

Furthermore, most of that \$26 billion a year represents interest at a much lower rate than 812 percent, since the bonds were sold years ago when interest rates were lower.

If the interest rates stay this high—and even if the national debt does not increase (which is a utopian condition!)—the total interest we will have to pay the bankers will be not \$26 billion, but \$38 billion every year.



By NAOMI COHEN

NEW YORK, May 12—In the wake of the revolutionary upheaval presently sweeping Portugal, reports are surfacing of steppedup U.S.-NATO activities to bolster the racist rule of southern Africa's white settler regimes.

Undoubtedly spurred on by uncertainty over the fate of Portugal's long-oppressed African colonies, the U.S. military is moving swiftly to strengthen its unholy alliance with the southern African regimes under the pretext of extending NATO's "protection" to the sea route around Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

This information was revealed in a report prepared for the UN committee on decolonization. Supposedly, NATO is concerned with protecting the sea route between the Persian Gulf and Europe, which is used to transport about 600 million tons of oil yearly destined for Europe and the United States. While NATO officials have denied that the defense of the sea route has anything to do with defense of the South Africa regime, the UN report indicates that defense of the sea route would be impossible without the "active cooperation, at several levels, with the defense forces of Portugal and South Africa."

In addition the report reveals there is no real threat to the route around the Cape of Good Hope. The real motive of cooperation, it concludes, is to "relieve pressure on the white regimes."

U.S. AID TO SOUTH AFRICA

According to the New York Post of May 10, an unnamed NATO official admitted that the contingency plan was designed to make it possible "to go to the aid of our potential allies in southern Africa if the need should arise." The report concludes that the whole discussion of protecting the sea route is a "smokescreen" to hide the evolving alliance designed to sustain the racist rule of the South African government.

The establishment of closer ties be-

tween the U.S. and South Africa was further confirmed in a trip here by Admiral H. H. Bierman, Chief of the General Staff of the South African Defense Force, who arrived in the U.S. on May 5. Ostensibly here on a "private" visit, Bierman made one of his first calls on the Pentagon to meet with Acting Secretary of the Navy Mittendorf. Admiral John McCain, an aircraft-carrier task force commander in the Pacific for many years, was one of Bierman's hosts.

According to a press release from the American Committee on Africa, "Admiral Bierman is one of the chief architects of racist South Africa's current military strategy, which seeks to involve the U.S. and other NATO countries in a closer regional alliance against what South African Minister of Defense Botha recently described as the forces of 'international communism and its cohorts—leftist activists, exaggerated humanism, permissivism, materialism, and related ideologies.'"

While the U.S. claims to adhere to the UN arms embargo on South Africa, the Pentagon has been selling light aircraft and helicopters to the racist regime under the pretext that they are for civilian use.

Clearly, the whole strategy of U.S.-NATO plans for southern Africa point toward bolstering up regimes that have suffered severe blows recently at the hands of the liberation movements. And with the recent upsurge of workers' struggles in Portugal and calls for complete independence for the Portuguese colonies in Africa, South Africa and Rhodesia are more isolated than ever before.

U.S. imperialism is rushing in to fill the void and help out the racist regimes which are its most natural allies on the continent. The anti-imperialist forces here must strengthen our ties with our natural allies in Africa—the liberation struggles that are chipping away at the racist settler states and colonial regimes.



By JAIME VEVE

With the downfall of the fascist Caetano regime in Portugal, much interest is centered on the liberation struggles in Portugal's African colonies.

Alongside the PAIGC of Guinea-Bissau, and Frelimo of Mozambique, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) has been waging a heroic struggle for national liberation for the last 17 years.

MPLA was created in 1956 after a long period of struggle against Portuguese colonialism (characterized by the existence of several clandestine organizations). The manifesto announcing MPLA's formation proclaimed that the only route possible for the liberation of the Angolan people was through revolutionary struggle.

"Portuguese colonialism will not fall without a struggle. That is why the Angolan people will liberate themselves only through revolutionary struggle." In 1959 the Portuguese colonialists

reacted in typical fashion. Alarmed by the growing activity of MPLA, they unleashed a wave of repression, arresting hundreds of patriots. Some of the leaders of MPLA were

then sentenced and deported to the Cape Verde Islands.

The arrests and trials of these MPLA members forced the Portuguese to recognize the existence of the Angolan national liberation movement. Prior to this, the Portuguese had denied the existence of nationalist sentiments.

ROAD OF ARMED STRUGGLE
In 1961 MPLA embarked on the road of

armed struggle for national liberation. The outbreak of armed struggle took place in a series of dramatic actions in Luanda, the capital. There was an attack on the military prison where the victims of the 1960 trials were being held, attacks on police stations, and on the prison of the notorious Portuguese secret police, PIDE.

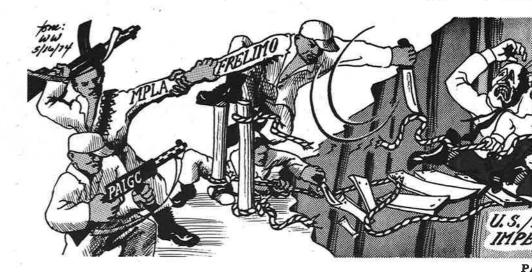
The colonists responded to the attack of the nationalists with brutal repression, killing over 3,000 people during the month of February 1961.

One month later, after MPLA withdrew to the northern part of Angola, the war for national liberation began. Despite the efforts of imperialism, the Angolan liberation struggle has continued to develop. In 1963 the war spread to Cabinda, a Portuguese enclave north of Angola proper, where Gulf Oil has investments of over \$200 million; in 1966 to Moxico and Cuanda-Cubanga in the east. In 1968 the struggle reached Luanda in the northeast, and in 1969 Bie in central Angola.

PORTUGAL FIGHTS, U.S. PROFITS

Angola is the richest of Portugal's African colonies. In 1972, Portugal covered 60 percent of its military expenses in Angola with a \$61 million check from Gulf Oil for taxes and royalties.

But Gulf itself was able to net \$70 million from its Cabinda operation, while letting Portugal do the fighting for it—which shows why the imperialists prefer neocolonialist methods of exploitation! This profit was in line with the 32 percent annual rate of return U.S. oil companies reap in Africa—three



How PAIGC won freedom of Guinea-Bissau

By JOEL MEYERS

Shortly before the downfall of the fascist Lisbon regime last month, the U.S. magazine Business Week predicted that companies here "would be dealing with Lisbon rather than any independent African government for some time."

Interpreting the firing of Gen. Antonio Spinola as a decisive victory for the Caetano regime, this organ of U.S. big business believed that, with "the hardliners on the African wars firmly in control," U.S.-Portuguese imperialism would perpetuate its plunder of the people of Africa.

But at the time the BW editors were penning these lines, Guinea-Bissau had already proclaimed its independence from Portuguese rule 6 months earlier, had been recognized by 82 countries, and was "dealing with" them accordingly.

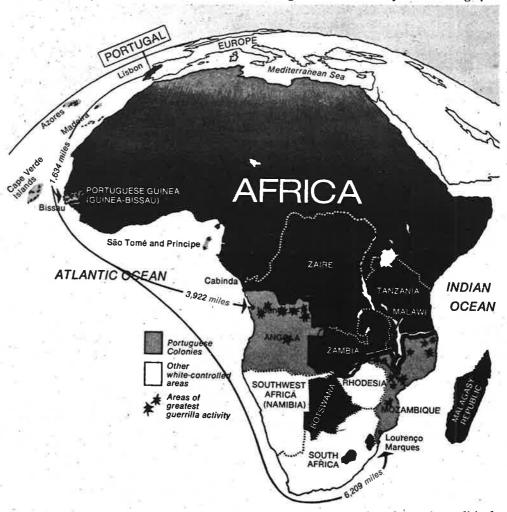
It is true that Portuguese intruders still infest urban areas of Guinea-Bissau, under military protection, and that the present rulers of Portugal, including the junta that carried out the coup, contend that Guinea-Bissau is but a province of Portugal.

Workers Worl

And so the struggle continues to expel the last imperialist agents from the country.

The African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), launched in 1962 under the leadership of Amilcar Cabral, has consistently led the liberation struggle.

Since its proclamation of indepedence, many foreign newsmen have visited Guinea-Bissau and supported the PAIGC's claims to hold three-quarters of the countryside. In its reorganization of society outside the grip of



times the rate of profit available in the rest of the world. the country, whether from the political, economic, or social point of view, be in the

The intransigent attitude toward all imperialists—not just the visible Portuguese masters—by MPLA seems to distinguish it from the two other organizations in Angola opposing Portuguese rule, the FNLA and UNITA.

MPLA is considered by the Portuguese themselves as the main enemy, since by far the majority of attacks on Portuguese installations are carried out by MPLA. It is also the only one of the three groups recognized by the Organization of African Unity.

MPLA's WORLD OUTLOOK

Some of MPLA's political principles were recently summarized by its President, Dr. Agostinho Neto.

"It is necessary that the real control of

economic, or social point of view, be in the hands of people who are devoted to the struggle, and not in the fists of bureaucrats...

"Much less could we allow foreigners to continue to exploit our peoples. . . . We have to fight for complete independence. . . political, economic and social, and for our peoples to really be the masters of their own destiny. . . .

"Our struggle is not an isolated struggle in the world. It is part of a global struggle by humanity to bring an end to the exploitation of man by man, and it is within this framework that we must view our struggle—outside the narrow limits of racial prejudice."

The armed struggle has brought about (Continued on page 14)

PAIGC comrades in Guinea-Bissau carry SAM-7 missle.

the colonialists, the PAIGC has set up 122 schools, 117 health centers, 16 hospitals, and 17 trading centers, according to The New York Times.

It has been able to do this because the liberated areas are defended by a guerrilla army of some 20,000 troops, against the NATO-equipped Portuguese army of 26,000. In addition to weapons captured from the Portuguese, the liberation forces receive arms from the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba. Since last fall, the guerrillas have added Soviet SAM-7 missiles to their arsenal—shoulder-held ground-to-air missiles which have inflicted heavy losses on the lowflying Dakota transports, Fiat fighter planes, and helicopters with which the Portuguese had previously ranged freely throughout the country.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MARXISM

The struggle of the PAIGC has been successful not only on the military field, however. Valuable contributions to the science of revolution have been made by the Party, led by Amilcar Cabral and, since his assassination by mercenaries under General Spinola's command, by the present Secretary General of the PAIGC, Aristides Pereira, and President of the Republic Luis Cabral

The fighters in Guinea-Bissau have greatly enriched Marxism by showing how the doctrine of scientific socialism can be applied in a country where the proletariat was extremely underdeveloped. This was due to the extremely harsh measures of the

imperialists designed to hold the African people in destitution and illiteracy.

The U.S.-Anglo-Portuguese capitalists had been careful not to invest their capital in manufacturing and commercial industries in Guinea-Bissau. Such industries would have led to a higher standard of living and the growth of a proletariat in the Marxist sense

Instead, industrial development proceeded almost solely in an extractive and parasitic direction. Educational and medical conditions were abysmally backward, even by colonial standards. Even in conditions of guerrilla warfare, the people today are receiving much better education and medical care in the jungle schools and hospitals of the PAIGC than they were allowed under Portuguese rule.

The struggle in Guinea-Bissau overcame these difficulties to add a highly successful component to the world revolution.

Of course, it goes without saying that Portugal—a small and impoverished country itself—could not have maintained its colonial presence in Guinea-Bissau without enormous financial and military aid supplied by its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies. In fact, what might be called NATO imperialism, led by the U.S., has really waged the war behind the Portuguese insignia, using Portuguese draftees and economically coerced mercenaries.

It is really all of NATO against which the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has been victorious in establishing its independence.

Frelimo combats unabated oppression in Mozambique

By CAL BONNER

Mozambique—one of Portugal's African colonies—is nearly twice as big as Texas (it is many times richer in natural resources) and is located on the eastern coast of southern Africa. Three weeks after the military coup that overthrew nearly half a century of authoritarian rule in Portugal and her overseas colonies, there are no signs that the new junta will give up without a military defeat.

For the first time in memory, May Day was proclaimed a national holiday in Mozambique. It was marked by a multiracial student meeting in Lourenco Marques, the capital, and by a rally 500 miles north at the coastal city of Beira.

For the average African in Mozambique things haven't changed. Africans in Mozambique are still physically forced to work on Portuguese-run plantations at starvation wages or to plant cotton in their fields rather than their normal food. Many are pressed into forced labor on "public works" projects, while others are herded into cattle cars and shipped by the thousands to South Africa. There the colonial government "rents" them at so much "per head" to the Witwatersrand Corporation to work in the mines.

Without the intervention of the Por-

tuguese masses to end the colonial wars, the wars in Africa may even intensify. The Vice President of Lisbon's ruling military junta, Gen. Francisco da Costa Gomes, continues to threaten the more than 8 million Mozambican Blacks with war if the liberation army of Frelimo (the Mozam-

bique Liberation Front) does not lay down its arms.

Frelimo has rejected all proposals from Lisbon that do not contain assurances that Mozambique's independence will be recognized and that Portuguese troops will be withdrawn immediately from the territory.

General Costa Gomes arrived in Mozambique on Friday, May 10, on what was officially described as a fact-finding mission. Sunday, he visited the army headquarters in Nampula, from which the war against the Frelimo liberation army is directed. He returned to Portugal shaken by the weak economy and military situation, but reiterated his intention to induce the guerillas to "enter political life as legitimate political parties."

Recently, Frelimo units have left the sparsely populated areas of northern Mozambique to engage the enemy in areas in the white-settler populated central and southern regions of the country. Their most recently reported attacks were on public transportation north and west of Beira in which trains and buses were shot up and railways mined. Within the past 2 years the Frelimo guerillas have doubled their area of operations and show no evidence that the armed struggle to free Mozambique will slacken.

Support for the armed liberation movement appears to be solid. According to a May 11 New York Times report from Mozambique, "The coup in Lisbon, according to those in contact with the black (Continued on page 14)

As CP, SP join bourgeois gov't

Portuguese workers press revolutionary measures

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

NEW YORK, May 16—The revolutionary ferment now sweeping Portugal is much more than just the "effervescence" of a people long-repressed releasing their joyous feelings, or even the grimmer explosion of an angry people settling old scores with their fascist torturers.

There are these ingredients, of course, but all the indications are that a much stronger brew is being prepared by the Portuguese masses.

A deep-going social revolution, in which the exploited and oppressed classes confront the owners of property and power in a showdown struggle, is bubbling and boiling in Portugal today.

IT STARTED WITH THE POLICE

The first targets of the people's long pent-up anger were of course the hated butchers and torturers— the secret police. Just as in Cuba, the people wanted to eradicate these scum from the face of the earth—and set an example for those who might think of reverting to fascist brutality at a later time.

While the leaders of the military junta that politely asked fascist dictator Caetano to resign tried to carry out the coup without the participation of the masses, they were stunned by the results. This eye-witness account from the Cuban paper Granma gives the flavor of those first few days.

"The people are seeking out the 30,000 agents of the sinister repressive apparatus whose names appear on seized files.

"Whenever one of them is located, thousands of people descend on him to apply justice on the spot. The Army constantly tries to prevent this from happening in order to send the servants of the deposed dictatorship to prison.

"The troops, which support the movement of the Armed Forces, of the majors and captains, give the V for victory salute. Among the crowd, there are clenched fist salutes. Until recently, expressions of this kind led to jail terms or death.

"During the development of the victorious uprising, which began at 4:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 25, the rebel command insisted that the people remain in their homes to prevent bloodshed and loss of life.

"When it became known that dictator Marcello Caetano was trying to resist at the garrison of the National Republican Guard, in Carmo, thousands of people marched to the spot and demanded his surrender while chanting: 'Down with the colonial war' and 'Freedom for political prisoners.'"

IT CONTINUES IN THE FACTORIES

These first mass outpourings into the streets to tear down the fascist stooges have been followed by a more systematic, organized offensive by the masses to eradicate the fascists from every position of power.

At first in the press, then in the factories, schools, and offices, workers and students took advantage of the fear and indecision in the fascist ruling class to carry out a genuine purge—in the best sense of the word.

Le Monde of May 14 reported that 3 days earlier a huge crowd of railroad workers from around the country had gathered in Lisbon. About 5,000 of them demonstrated in the streets. After this display of strength, they went on to kick out the old administrators of the state-run railroads and replace them with 12 men picked by the workers themselves.

The French daily went on to describe how the workers of Portugal are weakening the old labor laws, dismantling the old economic and judicial institutions, and demanding a complete purge of the government.

The junta is much "disquieted" by this, says Le Monde, and while not daring to use force against the masses—would the troops carry out their orders?—issued a "brusque communique" on insubordination.

The unions issued their own "communique" criticizing the communique.

Is this merely an effort by the masses to



Gen. Spinola: Is this the "democratic military" the Portuguese CP supports?

institute "democracy"—that is, a political struggle alone? That is how it is being widely formulated, by both the bourgeois press and by reformists in the working class movement.

But this formulation avoids the real question. Who are the fascists? After nearly half a century of fascist rule, the entire Portuguese bourgeoise is saturated through and through with fascism. So is the top military command—including those who are being hailed today as "democrats."

And what is fascism, anyway? In Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Germany (and now in Chile) it was a movement supported by the bourgeoisie in order to save capitalism in a period of great instability and proletarian upsurge. Fascism is a club used by the bosses against the workers and oppressed. Its targets are the trade union, the workers' parties, and any independent organization of the masses.

Thus, the struggle to uproot fascism in Portugal is in its essence a class struggle—and it cannot be completed until the bourgeoisie is wrenched out of power and a workers' order established.

The working class can win many allies in this struggle. There is a popular hatred of the fascist goons and their inhuman methods that reaches into wide sections of the middle class and the intellectuals. But they will be won to the workers' side by seeing that only the workers can decisively defeat the fascist ruling class, and that

(Continued on page 14)

Struggle over education in an oppressed ghetto

By J. STEVENS

The Lower East Side of Manhattan has been a ghetto for the oppressed of New York City since the beginning of the last century. Tides of nationalities have flowed and ebbed through the bleak tenements and decaying streets; they have been forced to live in the worst housing, forced to grasp at whatever employment was available, and forced to send their children to schools where education was doled out with the ideology of the oppressor class as a staple.

As the area approached its present demographic character, with Spanish-speaking peoples of the Carribean and Latin America settling next to the oppressed Black and Chinese, the change in ethnic character of the population brought intensified oppression—in housing, work, and the education of school children. White teachers from the middle classes, assigned to the Lower East Side at random by the Board of Education, were expected to teach the children of the oppressed.

Cases of racist brutality against the bodies and minds of the children increased in frequency and severity. Resistance to these conditions by children and their parents encountered bureaucratic indifference at best and police attacks whenever school officials could characterize irate members of the community as "savage intruders" or "disruptive influences."

As have the oppressed throughout history, the parents of the Lower East Side seized the means at their disposal to resist. That instrument was the 1969 School Decentralization Law. A school board was elected by the community of the Lower East Side (Community School District No. 1) to effect the goals of the parents. Foremost among these goals was the parents' determination to control the hiring of teachers. To educate their children, District 1 schools would have to offer bilingual and trilingual educational programs to deal with

the varied cultural backgrounds of the students and classroom materials and texts which are nonracist in content.

To realize these goals, the parentsupported board hired Puerto Rican educator Luis Fuentes as Community Superintendent. Long a thorn in the side of the Board of Education and anathema to the racist leader of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Albert Shanker, Fuentes pursued in office those policies which the parents had set before him.

At last, parents on the Lower East Side were able to approach the schools with the feeling that the authorities in their district had the interest of their children at heart. Bilingual programs expanded. School funds could be used to produce texts written in the community, and uncooperative teachers could be held accountable for their actions.

Stunned by the ability of the community to take educational matters into their own hands, the forces of reaction, from the central Board of Education to the leadership of the UFT, collaborated with reactionary religious leaders in the white enclaves of the Lower East Side to restore the old regime's hegemony in the District Office. A propaganda campaign was mounted to discredit Fuentes with charges of anti-Semitism, even though no concrete evidence could be brought forward to substantiate the charge in any of the inquiries held before the Board of Education or the State Education Commissioner.

The two forces collided directly in the May 1, 1973 Local School Board Election. The coalition of Parents Associations selected a slate of candidates to represent the interests of the community against the slate presented by the UFT leadership and its allies. It became clear from the first day of the campaign that the Board of Elections and the Board of Education were establishing regulations which would (Continued on page 14)





The hated bill collector: parasite of capitalism

By JOHN LOMBARDO

CHICAGO, April 24—Capitalism spawns the worst sort of parasites. Since it is a system of harsh exploitation and oppression, it intentionally fosters feelings of powerlessness in the working class and the poor, thus disarming them and making them vulnerable to every type of unscrupulous swindler.

One of the vilest professions gouging the workers is that of bill collecting. An expose of credit agencies, recently run as a series in the Chicago Tribune (another kind of swindle operation), put the spotlight on some of the rodents who make their living off the unfortunate circumstances of the indebted worker.

Bill collecting in Illinois is virtually free of any legal restrictions. As a result, it is a potential \$2-million-a-year bonanza for credit agencies in this state. The money is almost pure commissions (a percentage of the bills to be collected), but it also includes additional "interest" fees tacked onto the bills and pocketed solely by the collection agencies. A worker who may start out owing

\$100 may be hoodwinked into paying twice as much to the collection agency because he or she isn't familiar with the law, and may even be tricked into thinking that the agency is the law.

'OPEN UP-POLICE!'

Collectors, because they have no legal authority themselves, pose as cops, lawyers, deputy sheriffs, and even federal marshals. Their most effective weapon is trickery combined with threat: the loss of a job, garnisheeing wages, court action, jail.

Phone calls and personal visits go hand in hand with terror tactics and official-looking forms that are passed off as court orders, notices of issuance of a warrant, and Internal Revenue Service questionnaires. Collectors employ any number of phone gags to get information about a person's workplace, bank account, relatives, and so on. They give the appearance of having the full weight of the state behind them, yet they very rarely take a case to court—it isn't profitable.

Here's an example of their methods.

District 1 election raises issue of self-determination

NEW YORK, May 15—Thousands of residents of New York's Lower East Side voted yesterday in a school board election that has meaning far beyond the bounds of School District 1. The battle lines in the election have been clearly drawn between the vast majority of Puerto Rican, Black, and Chinese residents of this oppressed area who are backing the Por Los Ninos ("For the Children") slate against the mainly white, so-called "Brotherhood" slate put up and financed by the reactionary leadership of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT)

Although the election results are not expected to be announced until later this week, it has been clear throughout the campaign that the "Brotherhood" grouping was attempting to create an outright hysteria among the elderly white-minority population (most of whom have no children in District 1 schools) to try to frustrate the will of the nonwhite majority in electing a school board responsive to the parents and community it is supposed to serve.

In addition to relying on smear tactics in an attempt to discredit Luis Fuentes, who is the district superintendent, the slate backed by Albert Shanker, head of the UFT, has made a poisonous appeal to racism in its propaganda by calling Fuentes' supporters 'extremists' who welcome narcotics peddlers and practice violence in the schools.

(Shanker is notorious nationally for leading the racist teachers' walkout here against community control in 1968. The damage that strike did to teacher-community relations is still being felt throughout this city's schools today.)

UFT PITS WHITE AGAINST LATIN
Openly addressing their appeal to the

white people who, for the most part have no children in the schools on the Lower East Side, the racist slate warned that Fuentes' supporters would help make the district's schools "the headquarters for racists, criminal elements, and patronage for political extremists." Their well-financed campaign even included providing free taxi service for people to get to the polls (aimed at the elderly white people whom they were trying to mobilize against their Puerto Rican neighbors).

On the other side, the Por Los Ninos slate is composed of four Latin people, three Blacks, a white man, and a Chinese woman, representing the cross-section of groups in the community. This slate has put forward a highly progressive and detailed program for improving the education in District 1.

In their platform are plans to involve the parents, proposals for more bilingual and multicultural programs, and calls for making the schools centers for community education 24 hours a day.

The election yesterday was ordered by the court after the community protested an election held one year ago which was so rigged in favor of the reactionaries that they got a majority on the school board, despite the fact that their views were those of a tiny minority. The community was so outraged by that election that school board meetings ever since have been virtual battlegrounds between the white-dominated board and the Latin, Black, and Chinese parents who are demanding a more representative body.

Behind the whole struggle, of course, lies the battle of the oppressed people to win a measure of self-determination in the running of their schools and in the way their children will be educated. The community of District 1 has shown that it is determined to win this fundamental right.







Six of the nine-member Por Los Ninos slate (left to right): Carmen Barreto, Bertram Beck, Georgina Hoggard, Elroye Jones, Henry Ramos, Janice Wong.

An 84-year-old Black woman was bedridden because of a broken leg. Donald A. Saville of Affiliated Creditors Bureau called her about a \$56 debt on a Mobil creditcard account.

First he threatened to file suit if the bill were not paid by a certain date. The woman, who never had owned a gasoline credit card because she'd never learned to drive, was naturally upset.

Saville began screaming at her, saying things like, "If I talked plainer, I'd be talking to a 2-year-old!" His response when she said she had a broken leg was, "Too bad, lady. You still owe the money."

When the woman's granddaughter got on the phone to explain, Saville, after warning her not to be "as stupid as your grandmother," realized he'd reached the wrong party. He simply hung up as if nothing had happened, and called another debtor.

CREDIT AND CAPITALISM

The Tribune's disclosures have prompted the U.S. Attorney General to investigate. Perhaps legislation will be passed, after a few prosecutions, to make bill collecting a slightly less monstrous practice.

But this is not the point. Poor people are still going to face the threats of collection agencies because credit buying is a necessity from the point of view of the

function of capitalism. For the capitalist manufacturer and retailers, credit is an ideal means of increasing their turnover; their commodities move faster because the average worker, barely able to make ends meet on low wages, can go into debt through credit

Millions of dollars that exist only in the account ledgers of credit departments are chalked up as "earnings"; commodities that normally would not be sold for months (if at all) are moved out immediately to make room for new commodities.

However, the credit system which helps the acceleration of capital must itself be maintained in good working order. This is where the collection agency comes in, as an unofficial goon squad of the capitalist who cannot afford the time and expense of taking his every debtor to court. The bill collector, as verminous as he is, performs a vital service for the capitalist; he is an integral part of the system of profit.

There is no such thing as debt in any of the socialist countries. A planned economic system, where private ownership of the means of production has been abolished and where only what is needed is produced, has no use for bill collectors. In fact, one of the first steps taken after every socialist revolution is the eradication of all debts.

First, however, must come the eradication of the capitalist system itself, under which the parasitic bill collector

Part 2

The racist use of the rape charge

In the last issue of Workers World, the racist use of the rape charge was extensively documented in excerpts from news stories written around the turn of the century about the lynchings of Black men as the result of false charges of raping white women. Part II, below, deals with the continuing use of this charge to frame up Black men today. By VERONICA GOLOS

The U.S. government has been an accomplice to all of these crimes, either directly, or indirectly by refusing to grant any protection to the Black population and by refusing to punish the racists who committed these acts. In the hundreds of detailed records of lynchings, there is either no mention of members of the mobs being brought to court, or the fate of the victim is written as "killed by unknown assailants."

RACIST IN INTENT

The so-called anti-rape laws which have been passed are essentially racist in their intent and particularly in the carrying out of the sentencing. These laws have never been used to protect women in this society; they have been used as a weapon of terror and intimidation. Some facts bear this out:

Of the 40 men "legally" executed in the state of Virginia for supposed rapes since 1908, all were Black. The same is true of the 13 executions for "attempted" rape—100 percent of the victims were Black. Nor is the situation unique to Virginia. In the entire United States, 89 percent of the men

executed for rape since 1930 have been Black and 81 percent of those executed for the charge of rape after 1960 have been Black. This also proves that the racist use of the rape charge is not a practice of the distant past.

The charge of rape in the South has included not only the accusation of actual rape, but also the "crime" of a Black man lifting his eyes off the ground and supposedly looking at white women in a "certain" manner.

Within memory of many people in the South is the case of Emmitt Till from Money, Miss., who in 1955 at the age of 15 was found floating in the Tallahatchie River. He had been shot in the head. He had allegedly made "fresh" remarks to a white woman

Two white men kidnapped Emmitt Till from his home. The white men said that they were offended when Till, who had visited a store and spoken to a Mrs. Bryant, waved "goodbye." Some bystanders said that Till had sounded the two notes of the wolf whistle at Mrs. Bryant.

Mack Ingram, a North Carolina farmer and father of 11 children, received 9 years in prison in 1953 for looking at a white woman. The judge at his trial said, "You looked at this pure white woman with lust in your eyes and the thought of rape on your mind."

THOMAS WANSLEY CASE
And even more recent is the case of

Thomas Wansley, who at 16 years of age was arrested and accused of raping a 59-year-old white woman. This took place in 1960 during the tremendous civil rights struggles in his home town, which is called Lynchburg, Va. (At the same time, a white man was found guilty of having raped an 11-year-old Black girl who was retarded and crippled. He received 5 years in prison.)

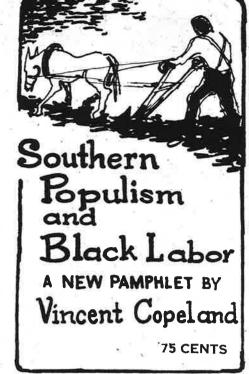
Wansley was first sentenced to death, then to life imprisonment. After 10 years in prison he won an appeal and was free for a year before the state court appealed his case and he was sent back to jail. He is presently in State Farm, Va.

Then there is the case of James Carrington from Charlotte County, Va., who in 1970 was attacked and almost beaten to death by a KKK-type posse for sitting in a car with a white woman friend. The leader of the attack was the woman's father. The woman was coerced into testifying against James. He was sentenced to 75 years, even though there was absolutely no objective evidence supporting the charge of rape.

CHARGES ARISE AFTER STRUGGLES

Even more recently, on December 3, 1973, three young Black men were sentenced to death on the accusation of rape in Tarboro, North Carolina. The men were Veron Leroy Brown, 22, Bobby Hines, 23, and Jesse Lee Walston, 23. At the trial, a Black nurse and a white doctor who examined the woman both testified that there was no evidence of rape, although she had had sexual intercourse.

Tarboro is near Greensboro, North Carolina, the scene of many protests against racism. This is a familiar pattern. Often rape cases are brought during periods of great upsurge as a means of crushing the struggle against racism. The case of the



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Scottsboro Nine during the Depression is an example.

In the South, 39 percent of the Black men accused of raping white women have been sentenced to death. No white man has ever been executed for the rape of a Black woman. The whole history of the use of the rape charge as a racist tool shows how the laws against rape have protected no one. In a society where racism is used to divide the people, neither women nor men are protected.

Black child's death brings protest against rotten housing for poor

By ALAN BALSAM

BOSTON, May 10—On Friday, April 26, a 9-year-old Black child was found crushed in an elevator shaft of a building in the Mission Hill Extension Public Housing Project. His death has ignited intense anger over public housing conditions and prompted tenants' rallies and demonstrations.

Alfonso Johnson and his sister Patricia had been trapped when an elevator jammed between floors. Alfonso climbed up into the elevator shaft in an attempt to rescue then both. Instead he was crushed to death when Boston Fire Department "rescuers" pushed the elevator button, causing it to disengage.

But the boy's body was overlooked for 16 hours!

As firemen took 4-year-old Patricia from the elevator, she was crying and calling her brother's name, according to eyewitnesses, and kept pointing to the elevator. Yet no attempt was made by the rescue unit to look for Alfonso, or anyone else who might have been in the elevator with Patricia! (She was too small to have reached the button herself.)

Mrs. Patricia Guy, Alfonso's mother, knowing that her son was missing, called the police and fire departments, pleading with them to check the elevator for him. Her calls were ignored. One officer told Mrs. Guy to wait 24 hours and then report the situation to missing persons. Finally, after 16 hours of desperation, the boy's body was found.

PUBLIC HOUSING IN BOSTON

Public housing here is operated by the Boston Housing Authority and is the fourth largest program in the country, with 60,000 people living in 35 projects or in private units leased by the housing authority. As in most cities, the projects house the very poor. Many are Black and Latin because the double burden of class and national oppression has prevented them from significant advancement. Large numbers are elderly people and others on fixed incomes.

Over the years, the cost of operating public housing has risen greatly, while the incomes of those who live in it have fallen far behind the tremendous increases in the cost of living.

The housing shortage in Boston has reached critical levels; what housing is available is largely substandard. In the projects, more than 10,000 units are 17 or more years old and thousands of these are over 30 years old. The Boston Housing Authority concedes that at least 20 percent of all the city's housing is substandard, while the physical condition of public housing is by far the worst, and has been deteriorating rapidly during the 1960s and early 1970s.

The crisis in this profit system, which is now characterized by slumping production and soaring inflation, has hurt the vast majority of Americans, but has devastated the very poor. For example, during the height of the recent "energy crisis" when working people were told to conserve fuel, tenants in the housing projects had no heat or hot water during the daylight hours.

In spite of these miserable conditions, the waiting list to get into this rotten housing is well into the thousands, indicating the desperate position in which many people



Alfonso Johnson

find themselves in this "land of op-

DEATH SPARKS COMMUNITY ANGER

Alfonso Johnson's death touched off rallies of tenants on Friday, April 26 and again on Sunday, April 28. Boston Housing Authority residents placed the blame for the child's death on negligence on the part of the Authority and the city government.

The following Monday, about 300 angry Mission Hill tenants demonstrated outside of Boston City Hall and then jammed the city council chambers demanding a meeting with Mayor White. Eleanor Williams, a member of the Mission Hill Area Planning Action Council called for a city-wide rent strike by tenants of all projects. "We don't

need a housing department that continues to take corruption and doesn't come out to inspect our apartments," Ms. Williams said.

During the 3-hour occupation of the council chambers before the Mayor arrived, a people's hearing was held to bring out the living conditions people in the projects face every day. These include: trash and leaking water backed up in the basements, dangerous falling elevators, lack of garbage pickups and maintenance of buildings, lead wall paint, and lack of repairs on apartments.

White met with the residents for only 20 minutes before the militant mood of the crowd sent him scurrying away.

At a public meeting, held May 1, over 100 Mission Hill tenants and their supporters gathered to discuss strategy. An immediate goal is to throw out the present Task Force members who, while elected to represent project tenants, have instead allowed the buildings to remain unsafe and unsanitary. These Task Force members has also called for evictions of tenants, and have voted for a rent increase to be passed on to those who can least afford it.

(The struggle against the Boston Housing Authority for decent housing at affordable prices is but one part of a widening struggle of tenants throughout Boston to fight the landlord-bankers and the politicians they control. The next issue of WW will explore the struggle over rent control.)



The death of 9-year-old Alfonso Johnson, crushed by a malfunctioning elevator, sparked angry protests at Boston's City Hall over conditions in that city's public housing.

Socialist leads after 1st round

French vote tests radical parties

By JOHN OTTO

On Sunday, May 5, the "first turn" of the French presidential elections ended with none of the 12 candidates getting a majority of the votes. Francois Mitterand, a Socialist Party (SP) candidate supported by the French Communist Party (CPF) and most French workers, received 43 percent of the votes cast. Giscard-d'Estaing, a conservative backed by most of the French bourgeoisie, received 33 percent. These two will face each other in a runoff on May 19.

Chaban-Delmas, the Gaullist candidate, received less than 15 percent of the vote, a sign of the current weakness of the party that has ruled France for the last 16 years. This reflects both the disgust of the masses with Gaullist policies and the lack of any political figure with enough stature to pretend to stand above the class struggle (while working for the bosses' interests) as did De Gaulle himself.

The runoff is expected to be close, with the conservative Giscard-d'Estaing waging a vile anticommunist campaign against Mitterand. Mitterand, who has more of a liberal than a socialist past, will move to the right to try to pick up Gaullist votes.

ELECTION DOESN'T MEASURE WORKERS' STRENGTH

Though this election can indicate trends among the French masses, it is weighted in France (as are elections in all imperialist countries) in favor of the ruling class and understates the actual strength of the workers. A remarkable fact in France is that 20 percent of the work force is foreign, many having come from former French colonies. (See WW of Dec. 28, 1973.) These workers, concentrated in the hardest jobs in key industries and living in the suburbs of Paris and the other industrial centers, play an enormously important role in strikes and street demonstrations, but they have no weight at all in elections.

N.Y. TIMES THREATENS COUP

Even if the elections should bring Mitterand into office, the French ruling class, with encouragement from its U.S. counterpart, is ready to call on the generals to keep the French communists out of the government. A New York Times editorial on May 7 made a not-so-veiled threat when it stated there was talk among right-wing circles in Paris of a coup should Mitterand want to invite too many CPF leaders into his cabinet.

ROLE OF THE RADICAL LEFT
With the SP, the CPF, the two major

trade union federations, and even the small left-Social democratic party (PSU) supporting Mitterand in the "first turn" and advocating a social "truce" during the election period (no strikes, no mass demonstrations, etc.), the only avenue for dissension from Mitterand in a more revolutionary direction was through the smaller, radical parties generally to the left of the CPF.

Representing these parties in the election were Arlette Laguiller of the Lutte Ouvrière (LO) (Workers Struggle) and Alain Krivine of the Front Communiste Revolutionnaire (FCR) (formerly Ligue Communiste). Both organizations are described in the French press as Trotskyist and have programs critical of the reformist policies of the CPF and Mitterand. The FCR has led many militant antifascist and pro-Chile demonstrations in the past year.

Arlette Laguiller attracted a relatively large number of progressive votes (2½ percent) as she was the only woman candidate (a struggle led by women against repressive abortion laws is underway in France now). She also played a leading role in the recent militant strikes in the French banks, which were occupied by their workers.

The FCR originally tried to push a candidate who could also be supported by the PSU and the LO and attract all leftists and militants; they nominated a PSU activist who was a leader of the famous LIP strike (where workers took over and ran a watch factory). The other organizations did not approve, and the FCR then ran its own candidate, Krivine, and stressed its own party program during the election (receiving 0.4 percent of the votes).

Some of the radical left parties have called for their supporters to vote for Mitterand in the runoff on May 19, giving what they call "critical support" to the moderate Socialist Party candidate.

(This important tactical question, of course, can only be weighed in terms of a clear and principled approach to the French working class, whereby the latter are not merely led to the polls and captured by the moderate left-liberal forces behind Mitterand. The crucial task is to organize the French workers to maintain their political independence and militancy before, during, and after the election, while at the same time giving a critical support vote for Mitterand, so that the revolutionary, vanguard working class forces not separate themselves from the mass of workers. An analysis of this question and the runoff

(Continued on page 14)



Asked by the crisis-ridden Indira Ghandi government to sacrifice their salary demands,

Nationwide rail workers' strike defies Ghandi gov't, 7,000 arrests

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, May 11—More than 7,000 Indian trade unionists have been arrested by the Indira Ghandi government in a last-ditch attempt to prevent a nationwide rail strike. Some 1,000 union leaders were among those arrested, and all of them remain in jail as of this writing. One leader died of a heart attack while incarcerated. carcerated.

Rail workers responded to the arrests by walking off their jobs on May 2 in the cities of Bombay, Bhopal, Lucknow, Ahmaddebad, Photna, and other key rail centers. By May 7, a full walkout was in effect involving most of India's 2 million railway workers.

Army reserve troops have been called up by the central government of Prime Minister Ghandi to guard all major railway yards, stations, and crossing points. Troop escorts have been set up to accompany each train.

At least 70 percent of India's freight and 50 percent of passenger traffic are carried by India's rails. The rail strike has also affected production in steel plants, auto, and machinery factories.

The railway workers are demanding substantial wage increases above the present subsistence range of \$26 to \$115 a month. Other government workers have a \$45 minimum wage and also receive an annual bonus. The railway workers, however, have a lower minimum wage and receive no bonus.

The rail strike has become a major test for the Ghandi regime, which has come under great attack from both the left and the right. The rightwing opposition bourgeois parties led a debate on a no-confidence motion last week, but Ghandi and Congress Party forces were able to defeat it. However, the more serious threat comes from the mass rebellions that have spread throughout India, especially recently in the states of Gujarat and Bihar, over the availability and soaring prices of food.

Yesterday, Mrs. Ghandi tried to force the jailed union leaders to call off the strike. She "agreed" to have negotiations with the strike leaders as soon as the strike would end. But at the same time, Mrs. Ghandi insisted that she could not give in to the wage demands of the railway workers because "other sections of the populace are in worse condition than the railwaymen" and indicated that the nation's current economic crisis demanded "sacrifice by workers."

It's not Indira Ghandi and her bourgeois supporters who must sacrifice, but a railway worker who earns \$26 a month!

The railway workers have not been intimidated by the government attack and are staying out until the government offers to seriously negotiate. The Ghandi government is also well aware that the end of British colonial rule in India came after crippling nationwide rail strikes which were attacked by colonial troops.

But the Nehru-Ghandi era of capitalist rule is drawing to a close in India. Poverty, famine, and national oppression still reign in India, and the rail strike may be the spark to the Ghandi regime's downfall.

With the capitalist world generally entering a period of instability, inflation, and heightened economic rivalry, the objective conditions are ripening in all the poorer countries for proletarian revolution—the only road to complete liberation from neocolonial slavery.

U.S. violates ceasefire, but still losing

By N. GREEN

May 13—Despite proclamations by the Nixon administration that peace has come to Southeast Asia, the war still goes on. As recently as last week, The New York Times (May 2) reported that Saigon troops crossed 2½ miles into Cambodia, 50 miles west of Saigon. The raids were backed by 60 armored personnel carriers and 3,000 infantrymen.

These latest raids into Cambodia by the Saigon government violate the Paris ceasefire agreements of 15 months ago. According to Article 20, "foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos, totally withdraw and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material" and shall "refrain from using the territory of Cambodia and the territory of Laos to encroach on the sovereignty and security of one another."

The Saigon puppet command excuses this gross violation by saying that "its forces reserved the right of hot pursuit into Cambodia." This "hot pursuit" by Saigon

was to cut off supposed North Vietnamese supply lines into Cambodia.

After the fall of Tong Le Chan, a base on the Cambodian border, Saigon went so far as to issue a report that "North Vietnamese troops attacked in human waves in tanks." However, this report was later retracted. It became clear that Vietnamese liberation troops "simply walked into an empty base."

At the same time, the Thieu regime has cut off all telephone lines for the North Vietnamese and PRG military delegations in Saigon. The holding of the revolutionary delegations virtually incommunicado is again in direct violation of the Paris agreement and shows that the Thieu puppet regime is running scared. As its position in the outlying areas crumbles, it must at all costs prevent the true situation from being revealed to the foreign press.

STILL A U.S. WAR

Despite the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam, U.S. military aid continues. Over \$1 billion was appropriated for the fiscal year 1974 (which ends June 30). In February, the Nixon administration asked for additional funds of \$474 million. The request was rejected by Congress in April, but, miraculously, the Pentagon found an "error" in its budget that freed an additional \$266 million for South Vietnam. American military aid to Cambodia amounts to \$1.6 million a day.

In Cambodia, the deteriorating state of the Lon Nol regime continues to be seen in recent victories of the liberation forces. In a May 10 article, the New York Post reported that "a seventh government outpost" fell to the Khmer Rouge.

In less than a month, two major provincial capitals were won by the People's National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia. When the liberation forces retook Oudong and Kampot, a provincial capital, the U.S. military "advisers" were forced to run for their lives. The liberated zones range as close as 3 miles to Phnom Penh

Oudong, the former royal capital, was taken by liberation forces on March 18, the anniversary of the CIA coup against Premier Sihanouk in 1970. The fall of Oudong was a severe military defeat for the Lon Nol regime. In April, government

troops were sent to retake Oudong, but were again severely defeated.

Losses of equipment have cost the Lon Nol regime hundreds of weapons, including two navy boats. Some 1,200 to 1,500 Cambodian troops were either missing (defected), or dead after the battle of Oudong.

Said one unnamed Western "military observer," it was "a major defeat... and certainly its worst defeat for some time."

James Markham, in the April 28 New York Times, said of the attack, it "resulted in a demoralizing rout of more than 2,000 elite troops... the insurgents (liberation forces—WW) have severed all highways out of the capital."

In fact, the liberation forces hold more than 30 miles of the 147 miles of Highway 4, Phnom Penh's supply route to Kompong Som, a major seaport.

Thus, despite the money, weapons, and military "advisers" still being supplied by U.S. imperialism, the reactionary forces allied with neocolonialism in Southeast Asia continue to give way before the motivated and disciplined troops bringing socialist liberation.

Kissinger tries to salvage U.S. influence in Mideast

By JOEL MEYERS

NEW YORK, May 11—After more than 2 months of steady and heavy fighting between Israel and Syria, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is careening from capital to capital in the Middle East, trying to salvage as much as he can of U.S. position and influence in the area.

Syria, fighting alone, has been able to battle Israel to at least a standstill. This is in sharp contrast to the 1967 war, in which Israel sent its armies to successfully invade territories of every Arab country on its border, and within 6 days bit off huge areas of Jordan, the Golan Heights (Syria), and the entire Sinai Peninsula (Egypt), deploying Israeli forces along the entire east bank of the Suez Canal.

The current fighting is regarded as the second phase of the October war, which was launched last year by the Arabs in an effort to recover the territories newly occupied by Israel in 1967. These efforts were highly successful on the Sinai front, where the Egyptian forces, in a truly dazzling military feat, crossed the Suez Canal and shattered the much vaunted Bar-Lev line. The result was that the canal was once again secured in Egyptian hands, and the door to driving the Israeli occupiers out of the entire Sinai at least partly pried open.

Also shattered along with the Bar-Lev line was the myth of Israeli invincibility. This had been heavily relied upon by the U.S. to intimidate all the peoples of the Middle East. The Israeli settlers' regime was made to pay with more than 2,000 deaths—a heavy price for its role as policeman for U.S. corporate interests in the Middle East.

The new political reality became more

and more apparent and was reflected in the unprecedented oil boycott, directed primarily against U.S. and European imperialism.

Also, the Soviet Union made available modern military equipment, including its latest surface-to-air missiles, for which the U.S.-supplied Israeli planes proved no match.

Currently, the socialist camp is aiding Syria with the delivery of the latest Mig 23s and 25s, which can outfight the Pentagon's F-4s and Phantom jets supplied to Israel.

Of perhaps the most far-reaching political significance, Cuba is reported in the April 2 New York Times to have deployed 3,000 commandos with the Syrian forces.

In the face of all this, the Israeli regime has been in a state of crisis ever since the October war. The crisis has already brought down the Golda Meir government, whose successors have not been able to restore the former semblance of stability.

Israel serves as an outpost of Western imperialism. The recent defeats it has suffered reveal in reality the crumbling of U.S. influence over the entire area, with drastic consequences for the oil and other corporations which have successfully been milking the Middle East for so long.

Kissinger, with his "shuttle diplomacy," is trying to negotiate a ceasefire on U.S. terms, one which will guarantee a measure of security to imperialism. But there can be no "stability" for the rapacious, profit-hungry corporations in an era when the oppressed peoples of the world are finding out their real strength.

-Con Ed

(Continued from page 3

each other and that the new cutoff policy is illegal, because it denies the customer due process of law. The cutoffs supposedly can only take effect after a "hearing" by Con Edison which is in reality a threat of "pay up or be cut off." Customers who complain to the PSC complaint bureau are simply referred back to Con Edison.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SMALL CUSTOMERS

The new 2-month policy was also shown to violate the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law, because it is being applied only to small, residential customers. Big users of electricity are given special cut rates and even then, when they fail to pay on time, are never threatened with a cutoff of power.

The Port Authority is one of several major users of electricity that has not paid Con Edison bills on time yet but has never been threatened with a loss of service.

Carl Jones pointed out a blatant case of PSC-Con Edison collusion in the fact that Joseph Swidler, head of the PSC, has also been a consultant for Con Edison. He also termed the latest move of Con Edison part of a continuing war against poor Black communities, where people's gas and electricity are turned off without any notice.

Both Jones and McMahan submitted Con Edison bills as evidence of illegal "estimated" bills and cutoffs without court proceedings.

Both the Harlem Consumers Education Council and the Center for United Labor Action called for the setting up of a working people's Public Service Commission made up of consumers and community organizations and labor unions to hold hearings on gas and electricity turnoffs. They also demanded a real public investigation into Con Edison's shady financial dealings which would force them to open their books to the people.

The PSC's defense of all Con Ed's practices was so blatant that even the judge accused them of collusion and said the PSC was defending Con Edison more vigorously than did the company itself.

CON ED TO GET \$500 M

Con Edison's constant rate increases, its upcoming \$500 million gift from New York State, and the PSC's outright defense of Con Edison have led to widespread outrage among New York's workers and poor. Their pressure was reflected in Con Edison's recent decision to end "estimated" billings (after receiving tens of thousands of letters protesting estimated bills) as well as the State's efforts to support the monopoly's claims of "poverty."

Today State Controller Arthur Levitt said that the company was going bankrupt and would need immediate relief from the state. He supported Con Ed Chairman Luce's threat of an additional 25 percent rate increase, on top of the upcoming 29 percent increase already in the works!

The judge's apparent hostility towards Con Edison and the PSC was undoubtedly for the benefit of the public which is exerting growing pressure on this issue. When it came to what he would do, the judge withheld decision.

It will be the action of the people which will ultimately force the billionaire owners of Con Edison and their "public servant" flunkies to back away from their outrageous rate increases and cutoffs.

Oil monopolies pump record profits, not more oil

y MYRON JEFKA

The 1974 first quarter reports of the top 20 U.S. oil companies are in, and they show very clearly who are profiting from and who are paying for the energy crisis.

The profits are enormous. Yet even these unprecedented reported earnings are much lower than the companies' real profits. Through fancy accounting procedures, they keep the figures low to avoid taxes.

In a recent letter to The New York Times, Prof. Herbert D. Drechsler, a mineral economics expert at Columbia University, estimated that "as a rule of thumb, the net profits of the oil companies should be increased by 40 percent" to calculate their real profits. However, even taking their own figures at face value, the results are still astonishing.

Total profits reported by the top 20 U.S., oil companies last quarter add up to an astronomical \$3.3 billion! This is a 79 percent increase over reported profits for the first quarter of last year. If profits continue throughout the year at the present rate, they will add up to \$13.2 billion for 1974. That's \$65 for each person in the U.S., or \$260 for a family of four!

The four largest reports of quarterly profits come from Rockefeller-controlled Exxon (\$705 million), Texaco (\$589 million), Mellon-controlled Gulf (\$290 million), and Rockefeller-controlled Mobil (\$258 million). Their total profits of \$1.84 billion are more than half the profits of the top 20.

DON'T BLAME THE ARABS

The doubling of the price of gasoline in the last year has been blamed on the increase in prices set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). But this is only half the story.

Most of the oil produced in the Middle East and Venezuela is predominantly U.S. owned. Even where the oil-producing countries have nationalized somewhat, they haven't expropriated or taken the oil installations outright but have demanded to buy a certain percent of control. So the profits from higher oil prices still go mainly to the imperialists.

The bulk of the profits from oil produced in the Middle East winds up in the hands of Western imperialist multinational banks and corporations, either directly or indirectly. Only a small portion of the increased profits stay in the producing countries for their own economic development. Even where there has been nationalization, the majority is paid back to the original owners as payment for their former property.

In addition, the foreign imperialists extract tribute in the form of interest on past loans.

In his keynote address to the recent UN session on raw materials and development, Algerian President Houari Boumidiene pleaded with the imperialists to improve the terms of some debts and cancel others. He pointed out that the outstanding debt owed by the "developing" to the "developed" countries was approximately \$80 billion, and that the annual debt service on this huge amount (interest and interest upon interest, etc.) was about \$10 billion each year.

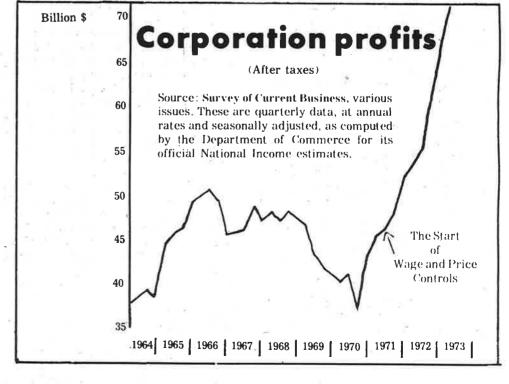
As long as the world market is dominated by the U.S. and other imperialist powers, the underdeveloped countries stand no chance of ever catching up. On the contrary, every year they fall further and further behind.

WE'RE OVERPAYING FOR OIL PRODUCED RIGHT HERE

Last year it became apparent that, due to the anarchy of capitalist production and the lack of socially conscious planning to meet the needs of the people instead of the profit hungry capitalists, a fuel crisis was developing. It was intensified by the oil embargo.

Instead of doing everything they could to increase production and distribution in order to lessen the effects of a crisis they couldn't prevent, the oil companies instead fed the flames of anticipated shortages by hoarding and stockpiling inventories on a speculative basis.

The fuel crisis, followed by these record profit reports, show that U.S.-dominated multinational corporations and financial institutions are milking both the American public and the people of the underdeveloped countries, including the oil-producing countries of the Middle East. The struggle of the American people for lower prices is against the same enemy as the struggle of the oppressed peoples throughout the world for control of their own resources.



Gulf pays itself for price increase

When the Arab countries slapped an embargo on oil exports a few months ago, none were louder in their denunciation of the "greedy, blackmailing" Arabs than the U.S. oil companies.

Gulf, one of the giants, "regretfully"

passed on to American consumers a price increase of \$46.5 million for crude oil it had bought overseas.

Now the Federal Energy Administration has sent a Notice of Probable Violation to Gulf, asserting that the two

overseas companies—one in Nígeria, the other in Cabinda, a Portuguese possession—which Gulf paid the increases to were not owned by Arabs at all, but by Gulf itself, which took the \$46.5 million out of one pocket and put it into the other.

Gulf "categorically denies" any violation. These profiteers apparently will claim that any hard-nosed American corporation would have done the same.

No doubt they're right.

political prisoners

ATTICA BROTHERS

On April 29 in Buffalo, when two of the indicted ATTICA BROTHERS refused to be taken to a pretrial hearing handcuffed behind their backs, they were brutally beaten and maced along with four other defendants in the Erie County Jail.

Legal papers and other private property, which the warden claimed were contraband, were confiscated. Lawyers were not allowed to speak to their clients until late in the day.

The hearing itself was to determine if the cases were ready to go to trial. It is now going on 3 years since the assault on rebelling Attica prisoners in which state troopers murdered 32 inmates and 11 hostages. The defense is not ready for trial because the state has withheld evidence, but the state is trying to put the blame for the delay on the defense.

The Attica Brothers Legal Defense is limited to contributions from the public, while the state has already spent \$4 million and is requesting another \$1.550,000.

A total of 61 prisoners were indicted by a grand jury that sat for 30 months without indicting a single agent of the state. Now a

second grand jury has been empaneled, which is unheard of in any previous historical case.

The defense understands that the purpose of this second grand jury is to make token scapegoat indictments of guards or sheriffs' deputies to cover the frameups of the Attica Brothers. While 12 of the 23 people on the first grand jury had friends or acquaintances who worked at the prison in 1971, during selection of the second grand jury such associations have been grounds for disqualification.

The composition of the first grand jury is being challenged by the Fair Jury Project, an arm of the Attica defense, which has asked for evidentiary hearings on discrimination

Support for the Attica Brothers has been growing. On April 27, several hundred people rallied in downtown Buffalo and then marched to the Erie County Jail, chanting: "Hands off the Attica Brothers, drop the charges now!"

LEROY MASON

By ROBERT H. POWELL

RICHMOND, Va., May 10—On May 4, LEROY MASON, a Black civil rights and prison reform activist, was arrested on charges of kidnaping and killing a white couple from North Carolina. Mason's bond was set at \$100,000 cash or \$200,000 in property.

The only evidence against Mason at this point is the "confession" of a 21-year-old drug addict to the effect that she and Mason committed the crime

While in Virginia state penitentiary Mason was a dynamic fighter for human rights for prisoners. He was one of three prisoners who sued and won damages against the Virginia penal system. This famous court decision, Landman vs. Royster, has in practical effect been a prisoners' legal bill of rights.

In 1968 Mason was a leader in the prisoners' strike that led to many gains for prisoners inside the decadent walls of the Richmond Pen.

In May 1972, Mason was paroled from prison. At first he worked as a TV news broadcaster and had his own talk show. He took a cut in pay to start work as a counselor in the local drug rehabilitation program.

Since he has been out of prison, he has organized former prisoners into a group called Exodus which helps former prisoners adjust to their lives outside the prison walls and to work for the Brothers and Sisters still on the inside.

Mason also aided the Prisoners' Solidarity Committee and the People's Coalition in their citizens' investigation of the prisons in Virginia.

In the last month, Mason publicly denounced Virginia Governor Mills Godwin as a racist because Godwin refused to invite Black state legislators to a meeting and dinner at his Eastern Virginia plantation. The only Blacks allowed were cooks, servants, and doormen. The people he invited were white businessmen and their political lackeys. Mason also stated Godwin and his racist administration are trying to destroy everything that the prisoners of Virginia have gained by years of struggle. Godwin was so enraged by this simple exposure that he verbally lambasted Mason in the press and on TV.

Mason's case has been set on the front pages of the Richmond papers right next to the "Zebra" case in San Francisco. Obviously this is to fan racist hysteria over interracial killings.

The Virginia ruling class is obviously going to use this case to try to discredit the work of the prisoners' movement on both sides of the walls. They will try to use this case to show that only repression and brutality will work against prisoners.

-Angola

(Continued from page 8)

total liberation of much of the eastern region from Portuguese domination.

In addition to the military struggle, MPLA has also taken on the tasks of national reconstruction in these regions. This has meant organizing agricultural production, creating schools, health clinics, and people's militias.

The role of U.S. imperialism and its Western European allies in aiding Portugal is not lost on MPLA, as evidenced in a statement by Dr. Neto.

"Who exploits the iron ore in Angola? The West Germans! Who exploits the petroleum? The Americans and Belgians! And to whom does the Benguela Railway belong? To the English! Who owns the diamond company? The Americans, Belgians, French, and the English! Who exploits the petroleum in the district of Cabinda? The Americans!"

Since 1961 the U.S. has given Portugal \$400 million in arms and munitions. The U.S. has also supplied Portugal with napalm, several different defoliants used in Vietnam, fighter and bomber aircraft, and 707s and 747s for troop transport. But the struggle has only intensified.

From a few hundred men and women who in 1961 took up arms in a relatively obscure struggle for freedom, MPLA today leads a national liberation movement which is pounding at the very doors of Portugal and its imperialist backers.

-Mozambique

(Continued from page 9)

population, has released a flood of expectation of immediate independence."

'ALL FOR FRELIMO'

An owner of a small shop along the Lourenco Marques-Beira road who, one gathers, is not pro-Frelimo, is quoted by The Times as saying "they're (the Africans) all for Frelimo." A similar comment was made by a missionary from the U.S. and her colleague. "They're all for Frelimo', was the unhappy comment of an American missionary. One of her colleagues said,

"They've been getting a lot more independent all the time." Asked to explain, she said, 'More independent to us, to everybody." The missionary offered malaria pills to the visitors and said, 'We have a cheaper kind for the Africans."

African masses in Mozambique are showing, and will continue to show, their willingness to gain true economic and political independence—no matter how high the price—and are not expected to fall for the cheap promises of the colonialists and their U.S. imperialist backers.

-Portuguese workers

(Continued from page 9)

implies a struggle for power.

Is this what the Communist Party of Portugal is preparing the masses for?

CP JOINS SPINOLA IN GOV'T

On the contrary. It is showing right now that it is ready to make the same mistakes as its fraternal Chilean party, mistakes that have been made so often in the past.

The Communist Party has just joined the new provisional government, whose president is General Spinola, along with the Socialist Party and elements termed "moderate" (that means they never got in much trouble with the fascists).

The CP has won great influence with the workers by patiently and courageously organizing under the conditions of fascist dictatorship. It was even able to lead successful strikes over the past year—a sure sign of the Caetano regime's imminent downfall.

But by joining this bourgeois government it is already being forced into a position where it will have to exert this influence against the revolutionary desires of the masses.

According to the Daily World (May 14), which represents the same international tendency as the Portuguese CP, the CP, the SP, and other "democratic parties" have "already begun discussions on drawing up a joint political program." Is it possible that the CP has no program of its own to advance?

The main tasks of the new provisional government (in which the leader of the CP is now a Minister Without Portfolio) are outlined by the Daily World as follows: "to hold free elections as soon as possible, to

restore democratic freedoms and to grapple with Portugal's tough economic situation."

WHAT ABOUT THE COLONIAL WAR?

But the biggest immediate crisis facing the Portuguese ruling class is what to do about the war in the African colonies! This is, very largely what brought down the Caetano regime. And the new president of Portugal, General Spinola, has said he will not allow independence for the colonies.

At the very least, the CP should have refused to enter the government as long as Portugal holds onto the colonies. Not only have they joined with the bourgeois parties to stabilize things, but they have relegated this all-important issue to second-place.

All the statements by CP leader Alvaro Cunhal in favor of independence for Guinea-Bissau, Angola, and Mozambique add up to nothing when the party is giving its support to the very military men who are prosecuting the war.

Furthermore, each day of the war adds to the misery of the workers, who have been bleeding on the battlefield and out of their wages to pay for this war of colonial oppression.

REPLAY OF CHILEAN ERRORS

Cunhal's attitude toward the military sounds like a tragic and inexcusable replay of the position taken by the left parties in Chile's Popular Unity Coalition. He is calling for the "strongest possible cooperation between the masses of the people and the Portuguese armed forces."

But who among the armed forces is he talking about? The rank-and-file who must hate their fascist officers—or the military men who are now part of the same government as the CP and SP? These top brass are unregenerate representatives of capitalist reaction. Their class allegiance is absolutely unquestionable.

If the Chilean military, who had a muchtouted history of "democracy" and "impartiality," could turn so savagely on the working class, then isn't it a foregone

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conclusion that these old fascist warhorses would revert to fascism in an instant if that's what the Portuguese capitalists decided was necessary?

The lower ranks are of course another story. They are the sons of the workers and peasants, and every effort should be made to convince them to turn their guns against the hated officer class. Undoubtedly this is exactly what many of the revolutionary cadres in Portugal have been thinking for a long time, and there have been recent reports that left-wing literature is now circulating openly among the ranks of Portuguese soldiers in Mozambique.

REVOLUTIONARY TIDE ADVANCES

The following report from Lisbon which appeared in the May 16 New York Times (and was pulled from the later editions) indicates how much the Portuguese (and U.S.) imperialists are relying on the CP to turn back the revolutionary tide in Portugal into safe channels.

"Strikes, plant occupations, and demonstrations by workers are spreading, despite the apparent moderation by major forces on the left. The Communists and Socialists do not seem to have any firm control over the workers.

"Demands for substantial wage increases to beat the high rate of inflation and pressure to get rid of managers associated with the old regime have kept the business community in near panic.

"General Spinola asked for an increase in productivity, which he called the most urgent of demands.

"'I appeal for this to the collective conscience of the Portuguese workers, who surely will not allow the sad specter of an economic crisis with all its privations and unemployment to cast a shadow over its liberation.'"

Does Cunhal endorse this back-to-work drive when he talks about "grappling with Portugal's tough economic situation"?

There is but one answer to the grinding poverty and oppression, the economic stagnation and ruthless oppression suffered for so long by the Portuguese masses: that is the seizure of the means of production, the unseating of the fascist military and state apparatus, an immediate end to colonial oppression, and the reorganization of Portugal on a socialist basis.

This is the profound task ahead for the Portuguese proletariat, and each day they show themselves more equal to such a task. But they may have to do it over the heads of their "leaders."

A number of Richmond citizens have organized to fight back in defense of Leroy Mason by starting the Leroy Mason Defense Committee. The committee's functions are to raise funds for his defense, for economic aid to his family, publicity, and legal research.

Contributions and correspondence can be sent to the Leroy Mason Defense Committee, P.O. Box 25082, Richmond, Va. or care of the Woody Guthrie Center, 1103 Floyd Ave., Richmond, Va. 23220.

GARY LAWTON ZUREBU GARDNER

RIVERSIDE, Calif., April 22—More than 100 Riverside residents and supporters of defendants GARY LAWTON and ZUREBU GARDNER jammed a Riverside courtroom on Friday, April 19, to hear attorney William Kunstler and Mark Rosenbaum of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) ask the court to drop all charges against the defendants and to turn over to the defense all government evidence gained from "electronic surveillance" and illegal wiretaps.

Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner are two Black residents of Riverside, Calif. The District Attorney has charged them with the 1971 shooting of two white Riverside policemen. There have been two trials already, over a 2-year period. Both ended in hung juries. Although the majority of jurors have voted for acquittal, a third trial is scheduled to begin May 20.

Kunstler, co-counsel for Lawton, argued that another retrial would violate their constitutional right to equal protection under the law and due process on the basis of racial discrimination. He noted that retrials in cases of hung juries are scheduled almost exclusively or members of minority groups, and especially for Black leaders who are critical of the existing social system. At a Los Angeles news conference on April 18, Kunstler had described the case against Lawton and Gardner as "a political frameup of the traditional type."

The written motion for dismissal of charges was filed by Kunstler, Franklin Glenn (chief attorney for Lawton), Leonard Holt (attorney for Gardner), and the ACLU Foundation in Los Angeles. The attorneys argued that the U.S. Constitution protects the defendants from being tried repeatedly for the same offense. In the written motion the attorneys cited the fact that charges against Lawton and Gardner have been unresolved for over 2 years. They also pointed to numerous changes in testimony of prosecution witnesses between the first and second trial.

In another defense motion Mark Rosenbaum, ACLU staff member, asked for a court order forcing the prosecution to turn over to the defense all evidence obtained by government surveillance and illegal wiretapping. Rosenbaum said that recent court decisions concerning government surveillance in the Ellsberg-Russo (Pentagon Papers) case and the Wounded Knee trials demanded that the government

release such material.

Riverside Superior Court Judge Francis Estudillo indefinitely delayed his decision on ordering the charges dismissed, but set an April 26 date for his decision on the "wiretap" motion.

Woody Diaz, spokesperson for the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, said that the large crowd was part of the growing public support for the defendants. Diaz also announced the formation of a new Los Angeles-based Lawton-Gardner Committee with approximately 60 members.

For more information, contact: Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee, 3859 Main St., Rm. 22, Riverside, Calif. 92502. Phone (714)686-2363 or (714)682-1871.

THE JESSUP UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT

The Jessup Underground Movement is a multinational organization of convicted people determined to expose the many bitter, untold truths about the prison situation in the State of Maryland, in particular. During the month of March, the JUM uncovered the following:

(1) embezzlement and misappropriation of prisoners' funds (resulting in the arrest of five prison financial office staff members);

(2) behavior modification treatment of prisoners that encourages them to commit

crimes against the poor, telling these prisoners that they would be treated leniently in the courts if they stayed in their own communities;

(3) a million-dollar scandal involving the Warden, both Assistant Wardens, high officials of the Maryland House of Corrections, and the entire Division of Corrections of the State of Maryland, resulting in the arrest of Assistant Warden of Treatment Marcellus Moore on charges of violation of the public trust, income tax evasion, lying before a federal grand jury, and conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of prisoners; and

(4) a human medical experimentation program that systematically inflicts on prisoners such dreadful diseases as malaria, typhoid, cholera, scurvy, and cancer, in a conspiracy involving the U.S. Army, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Smith Drug Co., the University of Maryland, and the Maryland Division of Corrections.

The Jessup Underground Movement report on the "Infectious Disease Study" program (as verified by Senator Kennedy's subcommittee on health) reveals that most of the tests conducted on prisoners are extremely dangerous and, as testified by expert physicians, have no immediate or rational medical or scientific value.

The Jessup Underground Movement is now working for the removal of the entire prison administrative bureaucracy, while at the same time supporting the unionization of prisoners. For more information, contact: Jomo Kamau, Jessup Underground Movement, P.O. Box 534, Jessup, Maryland 20794.

-District 1

(Continued from page 10)
discriminate against parent

discriminate against parents in favor of the anticommunity slate.

Registration procedures, lack of Spanish-speaking registration materials and personnel, registration locations in middle-class projects, and intentional distribution of misinformation by Board of Elections officials working in the oppressed sections of the community—this whole catalogue of electoral fraud was practiced with ruthless consistency, with the clear intention of frustrating the will of the parents.

The election was stolen. The racist slate had ensured the "election" of enough of its candidates to dominate the new board. This new board faced the wrath of the community with arrogant disregard and police repression at its public meetings. It instituted a series of policies to undo all the gains that the parents had struggled for over the years. Finally, it tried to cancel the contract which had guaranteed Fuentes three years of superintendency.

Fuentes stood with the parents and refused to comply with the board's ruling to oust him. Progressive organizations rallied behind the community, some offering

assistance in the courts. The legal battle resulted in a federal court order to run new elections because of the discriminatory manner in which the previous election had been conducted. Whatever the outcome of the election, the parents of District 1 deserve the unconditional and continued support of all progressive organizations in this struggle for community control of their schools.

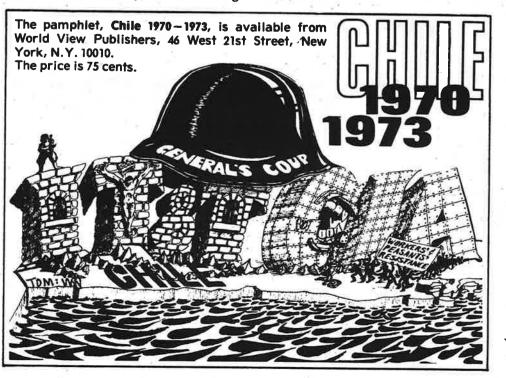
-French vote

(Continued from page 12)

election results will follow in the next issue of WW.)

STRUGGLE IN THE STREETS

More important than these organizations' vote totals was their call to the workers to refuse the social truce demands. When the CPF and the trade unions, in an unprecedented capitulation, called off the traditional May Day march, the LO, the FCR, the "Maoist" organizations such as L'Humanite Rouge, and groups representing foreign workers called their own marches, attracting 30,000 all told to the streets of Paris. This is a sure sign of increasing ferment among the workers, whatever the outcome of the election.





Demonstrations in several major U.S. cities, including this one in Washington, D.C., called for the release of Chilean political prisoners.

WW photo

Rallies demand 'Down with junta'

NEW YORK, May 11—As part of nationwide actions in support of Chilean political prisoners, 300 people marched and rallied here this afternoon after 200 protesters picketed the U.S. State Department offices in the morning. Demonstrations of several hundred people each were also held in Buffalo, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and at least five other cities.

The Chilean fascist military junta is currently staging show trials of leaders of trade union federations and political parties that supported the government of socialist Salvador Allende before the generals' coup on Sept. 11, 1973.

Speakers at the rallies reported that torture and execution is continuing against the tens of thousands of working class leaders arrested following the coup. A telegram was sent to General Pinochet, demanding the release of all political prisoners, including the six in the show trial.

They are: Luis Corvalan, General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party; Clodomiro Almeyda, former Foreign Minister; Orlando Letelier, former Ambassador to the U.S.; Luis Vitale, Marxist historian; Luis Figueroa, President of CUT.

the Chilean trade union federation; and Bautista Van Schowen, a leading member of the MIR, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left.

At the State Department offices, the demonstrators demanded an end to U.S. aid to the junta. The U.S. government has poured financial and military support into Chile since the coup.

The demonstrators also called for the State Department to permit easy immigration of Chileans seeking refuge from the fascist terror. A representative of Chileans for Democracy pointed out that the U.S. has allowed 10,000 Cubans to immigrate to the U.S. in recent months while only 12 Chilean families have been allowed entrance.

At this time the Chilean people are in desperate need of massive international support against the junta. Support from people in the U.S. is especially important because it hite at the installar and installar and

because it hits at the junta's main prop.

Allende had approved the nationalization of some of the biggest U.S. companies in Chile that the junta has returned to their imperialist backers. We in the U.S. must mobilize to cut the junta's lifeline to the U.S. government.

FREE HOUSTON 12

Houston 12 frameup trial begins May 20

By BARBARA TIMKO

HOUSTON, May 15—For 5 of the Houston 12, the final struggle to beat the frameup charges against them is about to begin. On Monday, May 20, Miguel Trujillo, Jose Barriga, Alex Rodriguez, William Christiansen, and Bartee Haile go on trial in the courtroom of Andrew Jefferson on the charge of attempted murder of a police officer.

They were among the victims of a police attack last October during a demonstration called by Youth Against War & Fascism to protest U.S. involvement in the Mideast War. These five young men face life in prison if convicted.

GRAND JURY SYSTEM CHALLENGED

At a pretrial hearing yesterday, a motion that challenges the basic nature of the grand jury system in Harris County was presented by lawyers for the Houston 12 before Judge Andrew Jefferson in the 208th District Court. Attorney Cameron Cunningham called to the stand several witnesses whose testimony supported the defense contention that the present grand jury system does not represent a true cross-section of the metropolitan population.

Cunningham went on to show that the grand jury in Harris County actually functions as a rubber stamp for the district attorney. Testimony by Dr. Robert Carr, acting chairman of the Political Science Department of the University of Houston, revealed that while business executives, professionals, and proprietors make up only 10 percent of those living in the county, these groups constitute 62 percent of those serving on grand juries in recent years.

POOR, CHICANOS EXCLUDED

Dr. Carr pointed out that over half of the grand jurors in Harris County made over \$25,000 a year. Defense statistics also showed that while women make up 51 percent of the population, only a third of the grand jurors, and only 8 percent of commissioners, were women.

Of special importance to the Houston 12, 8 of whom are Chicano, was Carr's testimony that less than 3 percent of Harris County grand jurors are Chicano. Even conservative estimates, he told the court, place the Chicano population in the county at at least 11 percent.

The district attorney's office, recognizing the importance of the motion, and determined to continue its racist frameup of the Houston 12, hastily announced it would call 12 judges to the stand.

DO YOU SWEAR NOT TO TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH OR ANYTHING RESEMBLING THE TRUTH, SO HELP YOU GOLD LIMEAN "GOD"?

The judge today announced he would reserve decision on this very important question of the grand jury selection. He also agreed to allow Alex Rodriguez to make the opening statement to the jury, but refused to grant him the right to cross-examine witnesses.

DEFENSE CAMPAIGN IN HIGH GEAR

During the past 8 months, the Houston 12 Defense Committee has worked on a day-to-day basis to build a strong defense for these brothers. It was formed immediately after the 12 young men, 8 of whom are Chicano, were arrested and beaten by Houston's racist police force. Now, with the trial only 5 days away, the level of activity has accelerated. The defense committee has stepped up its leafletting campaign to reach people on the street, since local TV and newspaper coverage has been denied the case. Houston's media are controlled by the oil monopolies.

A citywide telephone callup\campaign to inform people about the case and ask them to come to court during the trial and show support for the defendants has also been started by the defense committee.

Community support for the Houston 12 continues to grow. Recently Alex Rodriguez and Miguel Trujillo were invited to speak at the district convention of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), which is a countywide organization of Chicano professionals engaged in community work. After these 2 members of the Houston 12 addressed the convention, the delegates passed a resolution to give the Houston 12 complete support and made a contribution to help with legal costs.

The Houston 12 also obtained permission to go before all the local Houston LULAC clubs to ask for political and financial support.

Earlier this week, the Black Panther Party and the Houston 12 Defense Committee issued a joint leaflet demanding that the charges against the Houston 12 be dropped. The Black Panther Party has also said it will be part of the demonstration of solidarity for the Houston 12 which is scheduled to take place on the morning of the trials.

The Black Panther Party has also taken part in a telephone callup campaign in their community in an effort to bring a busload of supporters to the trial.

YESSIR,

The Houston 12 are innocent of the

MR. OIL BARON,

20 are railroaded into jail, it will open the door to the repression of all individuals and

organizations working for change in the city

of Houston.

This is why the struggle to free the Houston 12 continues.



Joining the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Houston, members of Houston 12 Defense Committee serve food and rally support for the defendants.

WW photo: Barbara

Chicano community supports Houston 12

By SHARON SHELTON

HOUSTON, May 13—The slogan "Apoyen los doce de Houston!" appeared on a banner above a booth for the Houston 12 at a celebration here of El Cinco de Mayo, May 5, one of the largest annual Mexican holidays commemorated by Chicanos throughout the Southwest.

El Cinco de Mayo marked the defeat of the French army in Mexico in 1860. The Houston celebration of the holiday took place in Moody Park, located in the heart of the Chicano community. It drew over 6,000 people during the day.

The Houston 12 Defense Committee had been invited by the organizers of the commemoration to have a booth as a way of building support for the case. Other booths were occupied by churches and community organizations. It was the first time that any political group had been invited to have a booth.

Amigos Unidos, a local Chicano organization, was instrumental in getting the booth for the defense committee. Members of Amigos Unidos were able to get other

charges the police have made against them.

If these five young men facing trial on May

organizations, individuals, and a grocery store to donate the ingredients for menudo and mole, traditional Chicano dishes, which were sold at the booth to raise defense funds.

Defense committee members and supporters passed out over a thousand leaflets explaining the racist frameup of the Houston 12, 8 of whom are Chicano. Many passersby stopped to talk with the defense committee members and members of Amigos Unidos about the case.

It is no accident that such a strong show of support for the Houston 12 has come from the Chicano community. The Houston Police Department is notorious for its racist, KKK activities. Chicano sympathizers have over and over told members of the defense committee countless incidents of police terror and brutality. They know the necessity of fighting this vicious frameup.

El Cinco de Mayo is just one example of the support that is growing daily as the May 20 trial date approaches. A victory for the Houston 12 will be a victory for all oppressed people.

Free the Houston 12!

DEMONSTRATE

STOP THE FRAMEUP!



MONDAY, MAY 20, 5:00 P.M.

AT OFFICE OF TEXACO, 135 East 42 St. NYC (near Lex & 42nd St.)

FREE THE HOUSTON 12!