

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

African liberation movements are responding to imperialist threats with armed action. And these successes are stirring revolutionary struggles in other parts of Africa. See pages 8 and 9.

Despite reformist support for the Spínola regime, the Portuguese workers are stepping up their assault on the gov't by occupying factories, striking, and demonstrating to free the African colonies. See pages 6 and 13.

Vol. 16, No. 11

May 31, 1974

25 cents

Soaring world prices spark mass struggles

A plague is raging unchecked within the world capitalist system. This terrible disease, rampant inflation, is ripping apart the very fabric of the advanced imperialist states and plunging the colonial world into even greater misery.

Last year inflation sliced 8 percent off the average U.S. worker's pay, the greatest drop in real income since the depth of the depression in 1931.

And insider economists and

politicians almost universally admit that the worst is yet to come. With inflation rising 400 percent faster than a decade ago, the earning power of today's dollar will be cut in half within 5 short years.

The global rebellion against the suffering inflicted by this economic crisis is shaking the foundations of capitalist rule from Portugal, where the workers are striking in the face of the highest inflation rate in Europe, to India, where 90 million people are

approaching outright death from hunger.

This issue of *Workers World* carries articles about the class war in both these countries, as well as the people's struggles against inflation here at home, from a strike for a cost-of-living allowance at *Detroit Firestone*, to actions against the high rates of the *Virginia Electric & Power Company*, to the fight for survival of people on welfare in *Chicago*.

Houston 12 win landmark decision over grand jury



The District Attorney quickly reindicted 5 of the Houston 12 this week after a judge overturned their grand jury indictments in a landmark decision against 'blue ribbon' juries. At left, supporters and relatives of the Houston 12 picket the court demanding an end to police brutality. See page 5.

index

- 2—Anti-Nazi struggle; Transit strike in D.C.
- 3—Utility rate hikes in Va. and Michigan; Strikes at G.M. and Firestone
- 4—S.L.A. funeral draws thousands; The real "terrorists"
- 5—Houston 12 reindicted; Mass support grows for the defense
- 6—Editorial: Class power in Portugal; Decline & Fall
- 7—Impeachment committee; Nixon's anti-Semitism; Mysterious Watergate deaths
- 8—Struggle in Angola; African liberation support month; Worker unrest in Ethiopia
- 9—Southern miners support S. African miners
- 10—Inflation and the profit system; Welfare in Chicago; Cattle poisoned
- 11—Famine or socialism?; Poverty funds cut off; Gay rights bill
- 12—Italian divorce vote; Strike in India crushed; Maalot vs Israeli bombings
- 13—Revolutionary upsurge in Portugal; French election
- 14, 15—Political Prisoners
- 16—District 1 elections; Election fraud in Dominican Republic

Vol. 16, No. 11 May 31, 1974

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Nazis ransack office—

YAWF responds to Nazi attack

By JIM MILLER

MILWAUKEE, May 29—The campaign against the reemergence of Nazi racism in this city took on added significance this week. Early on Sunday morning, May 24, the offices of Milwaukee Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) were broken into and ransacked. Paint was thrown everywhere, swastikas and racist epithets were painted on the walls, phone lines were cut, office supplies were ruined, and money was stolen.

This break-in was preceded by several weeks of harassing phone calls and several threatening letters. One was on the official stationery of the "National Socialist White People's Party," which was formerly the American Nazi Party and has its headquarters in Arlington, Va. The letter promised "excellent ovens for baking" and "no gas shortage," showing the local Nazis' pride in the atrocities and genocide of Hitler's fascist regime.

For over a week, the "Dial-a-Nazi" phone number—a recorded message by this same group—carried a verbal attack on YAWF predicting, in effect, the cowardly nighttime attack.

The Nazis are furious over a public campaign by YAWF to expose the nature of their racist "white power" propaganda. YAWF has been distributing several leaflets showing the danger to working people that the Nazis represent.

The leaflets explain how the Nazis stand as a threat to unions and to the right of workers to organize against the problems of unemployment, high food prices, and the cost of living. The leaflets argue that the only way to fight these injustices is to unite all the workers to defeat the racist maneuvers of the bosses and their stooges, the Nazis. The response to the leafleting was extremely good.

NAZIS GET POLICE PROTECTION

The Nazis feel that they can operate with police protection. In early May, they started a fight when YAWF demonstrated against their racist propaganda. The fight occurred when the Nazis appeared in stormtrooper uniforms, replete with helmets and swastikas, near a demonstration of solidarity with Chile. Of five people arrested, only one was a Nazi. (One

was a Jewish youth they had been taunting.)

Both the district attorney and the city attorney refused to issue any charges. Nevertheless, the police went to a reactionary judge and got charges brought against two of the YAWF members.

The DA is still refusing to prosecute the case, which has both the police and the Nazis looking for a way to injure the anti-Nazi campaign. The break-in of the YAWF offices was their frustrated attempt to stop this campaign.

But the attack has only made YAWF more determined to build a mass campaign against the Nazis. A new leaflet immediately came out condemning the attack calling on the working people of Milwaukee to unite and defeat the Nazis before they repeat the bloody crimes of fascism in Europe.

The leaflet ends by saying, "This attack was an attempt to intimidate us. Youth Against War & Fascism will not and cannot be stopped by these Nazis. We will continue to expose these racist scum and the Wall Street corporations they serve. We shall not rest until we drive the swastika off the streets of Milwaukee."

We want the men to go back to work." Even then, full bus schedules weren't running for another day and a half.

The workers' reaction to their union leaders was varied, but few were happy. One driver told me, "I have been paying dues to this union for 10 years, and this is the first strike in all that time. Where is the union now that we need it? What's all that money for except times like this?"

Another said, "Maybe we do have to go back, but do they have to be so happy about it? If we go back now, we're beat, and let's admit it."

Others complained of the lack of preparation for the strike. They didn't even know what the contract proposals were, and when picket lines were set up, the union officials were urging the workers back to work.

Right after work resumed, Metro announced it would "seek to terminate the cost-of-living clause." Then, the union announced that its members would be assessed \$24 each to pay for the fines—even though the fines could be considered illegal, since the strike was unsanctioned! Clearly, the union was trying to penalize the workers for their militancy.

This coin has two sides, though. The militant rank-and-filers of 689 will want leaders who share their own aspirations, and one setback won't defeat those feelings.

UNION BUSTING IN D.C.

The bus strike took place against a
(Continued on page 6)

Soaring prices force D.C. metro workers to wildcat

By DOUG L.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 12—Three thousand bus drivers, mechanics, and office workers of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689 walked out May 2 in the first major transit strike here since 1955. A combination of pressures from the company and union officials has forced them back to work, but a growing labor militancy in this traditionally unorganized city is surfacing.

The strike was called when the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority refused to renew the cost-of-living increase in the last union contract. Also in question were vacation and retirement plans.

The cost-of-living escalator had given the Metrobus workers about 70 cents an hour in raises over the last 6 months. As every worker knows, the cost of living is going up higher and faster than we can catch it. With the escalator clause, the Metro workers at least had half a chance.

WILDCAT, WILDCAT

On the first day of the strike the "Metrobosses" got Federal Judge Hart to sign an injunction forbidding the union officials from calling or leading a strike. At a union meeting the next evening, the workers

settled the issue when 1,000 walked out of the rented hotel ballroom shouting "Wildcat." (The hotel's well-off customers weren't used to rubbing shoulders with angry workers. One said, "I never knew this place was so rowdy.")

The next morning, two things happened. Many of the younger workers, almost all Black, began showing up at the beginning of their shifts out of uniform and ready to picket. At the same time, another federal judge hit the union with a \$25,000 per day fine, even though the union wasn't sanctioning the strike. At this point, the union officials began telling the workers to go back.

No one went back.

The strike went on and by May 6 only a handful of buses were running. The rank and file, independent of the union leadership, were sustaining a successful strike.

Later that morning, there was still another court hearing. Another judge ordered the union to accept binding arbitration on the escalator clause. He also advised the arbitrator to give "great weight" to the previous existence of the escalator in the last contract.

The bosses were delighted. The union officials? "We're happy with the decision.

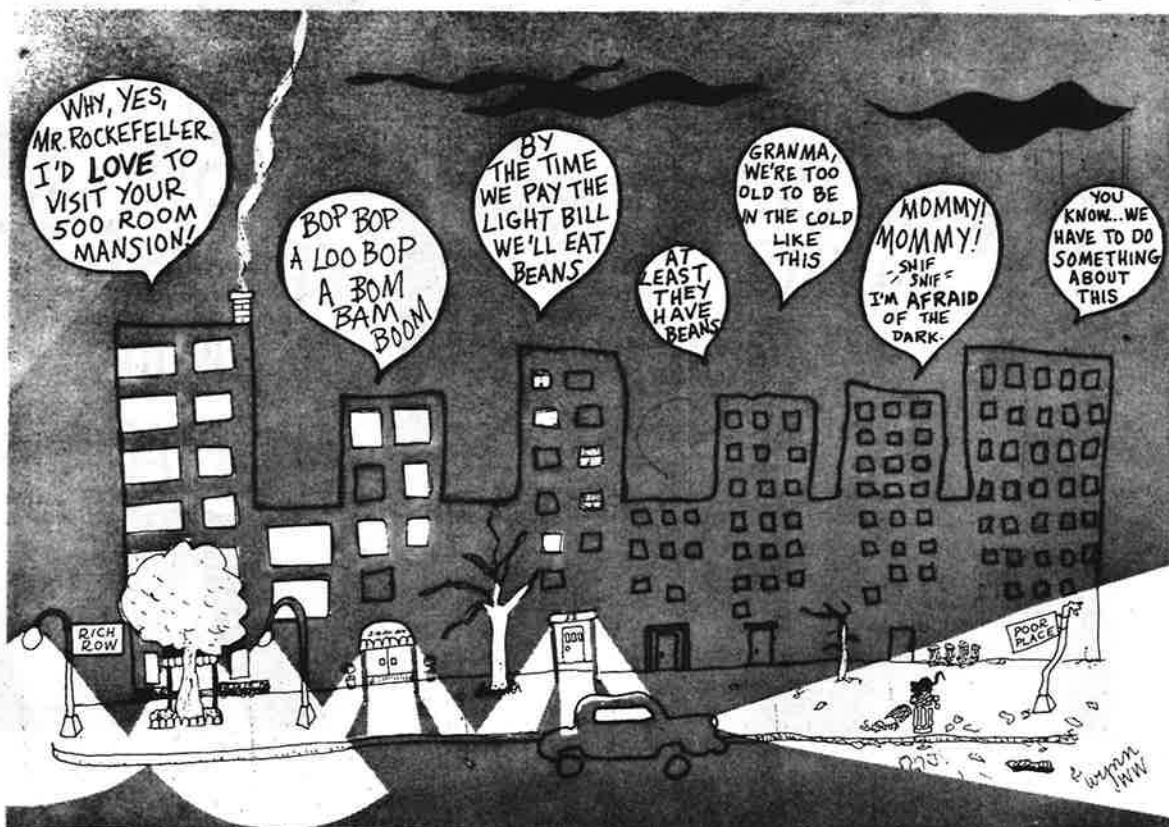
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Angry consumers fight Virginia utility company

By JOHN LEWIS

NORFOLK, May 26—The Virginia Electric & Power Co. (Veeco), one of the most profitable utilities in the country, is once again demanding that the people of Virginia pay more for gas and electricity. This is the third increase this rich monopoly has "requested" from the State Corporation Commission (SCC) over the past year and a half. During the past 3 years the SCC has given Veeco \$90.5 million in rate increases.

Like other utilities, Veeco is always crying poverty, but in reality it is a very rich company. In 1973 its net profits were \$164 million, an increase of 58.1 percent over the previous year. Veeco President T. Justin Moore says they need the new increase, amounting to \$50 million, because "our stockholders are not making enough return on their investment."

'PUBLIC' STATUS A FRAUD

Veeco tries to come across as a small struggling "public" utility. Veeco is not a public utility, any more than General Electric or Chase Manhattan Bank are "public" corporations. Their sole reason for existence is to make money, pure and simple.

As of the first quarter of 1973, 19 percent of Veeco stock was controlled by ten large banking and brokerage houses, nearly all located on Wall Street in New York City. One of the largest stockholders is Chase Manhattan Bank, owned by the billionaire Rockefeller family.

On May 16 the poor and working people of Virginia, represented by the Center for United Labor Action (CULA), confronted the SCC and exposed it as a willing tool of Veeco. The CULA pointed out that in 1972 this commission, which is supposed to protect the people of Virginia from these blood-sucking corporations, guaranteed Veeco an 8.56 percent rate of profit return annually.

Another hidden money-gouging technique that amounts to an even more blatant robbery of Veeco customers came to light during the past weeks. The "fossil fuel adjustment clause" allows Veeco to pass along to consumers all price increases it pays for fuel oil, coal, and natural gas. In 1974 alone Veeco will hold up the people of Virginia for \$125.6 million in "fuel adjustment" costs. This will amount to more than \$5 a month on the bills of Veeco residential customers.

THOUSANDS SIGN PETITIONS

Over the past month the Virginia CULA

has collected more than 6,000 signatures on petitions against the Veeco rate hike. The petition demands: (1) no increase; (2) a rollback in rates; and (3) that the SCC hold field hearings at times and locations that working people from all sections of the state can attend. The CULA also demands that the "fuel adjustment clause" be abolished.

In a statement at the SCC hearing, CULA spokeswoman Dianne Mathiowetz told the commissioners, "The poor and working people of Virginia cannot pay any more for the gas and electricity they need. You always tell us to tighten our belts. Veeco's stockholders should tighten their belts, eliminate waste (like the \$110,500 annual salary of Veeco chairman McGurn), and do the best they can!"

Ms. Mathiowetz also pointed out that in 1971 Veeco was ordered by a Virginia court to end its discriminatory hiring practices, by hiring Black men and women for all job levels in the company. Today, less than 1,000 of Veeco's nearly 7,000 employees are Black, and they have the dirtiest and the lowest paid jobs.

PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

Following Ms. Mathiowetz's statement, several members and friends in the CULA delegation took the floor and denounced Veeco's high-rate robbery. One Richmond woman said to the well-manicured commissioners, "I just don't see how my family can pay more." The delegation walked out of the hearing and set up a picket line in front of the building where the hearings were taking place. The picketers then marched to Veeco's Richmond headquarters, through streets filled with lunch hour crowds, and chanted, "Stop the rate increase! Say no to Veeco!"

In a statement to the press Ms. Mathiowetz said, "The Center for United Labor Action is not going to stop this campaign against the Veeco rate increase. We are going to continue our petition campaign and our work to bring the people of Virginia together to fight criminal corporations like Veeco that are robbing us."

In its continuing fight against Veeco, the CULA sponsored a roving picket through the city of Norfolk on Saturday, May 25. The caravan went through several busy shopping centers including downtown Norfolk with placard-covered cars, streamers waving, and horns blowing. The motorcade was met with a great response from the people, and along the way several hundred shoppers signed the petition against the rate hike.



Representatives of the Center for United Labor Action, Westside Mothers, and Women United for Action announce the formation of a coalition in Detroit to fight proposed utility rate hikes.

WW photo: Dave S.

Mich. coalition formed to fight utility rate hikes

DETROIT, May 22—At a press conference here this morning, several consumer and labor organizations announced the formation of a coalition to fight utility rate hikes. Represented at the press conference were the Center for United Labor Action, the Westside Mothers-Welfare Rights Organization, and Women United for Action. Other groups not present but endorsing the coalition are Committee for Labor Justice, Enjoy Senior Citizens Cooperative Community College, Metropolitan Detroit Consumers Protection Council, and the Roseville Women's group.

Chris Fry, spokesman for the Center for United Labor Action and the newly formed coalition, said, "The groups are joining forces in the face of large rate hikes proposed by Michigan Consolidated Gas, Detroit Edison, and Michigan Bell Telephone."

A spokeswoman from Women United for Action denounced the Public Service

Commission as a "rubber stamp" and proved it by reading out five separate rate hikes granted Detroit Edison and totaling \$116.2 million over the last 3 years. Edison is now requesting another \$93 million and Bell Telephone is demanding \$111.4 million.

Selma Goode of the Welfare Rights group called for a "freeze and even a rollback in utility rates." She stressed the increasingly difficult time those on fixed incomes had in paying for the necessities and said that, even with some small increases in assistance, "We never catch up."

The Westside Mothers also announced that a picket line was being held on May 24 on the steps of the State Capitol in Lansing to protest the rate hike schemes.

All three groups called on other groups and individuals to join with them and build an organized opposition at the upcoming (June 17) public hearings in Detroit on the telephone company rate hike proposals. The coalition can be contacted at (313) 832-4847.



In Detroit, Firestone workers rally during strike against layoffs and inflation.

WW photo: Blair

took a look at what is happening to a sister local in Region 1E, where a 4-month strike is being bitterly fought. They might start thinking of making some preparations—just to be on the safe side—like getting the local membership better informed and ready to defend our interests if the need arises.

FIRESTONE STRIKE AIMED AT INFLATION

On Tuesday, May 21, about 500 people rallied at 6 a.m. outside the Firestone Plant in Riverview (outside Detroit). The rally, organized by UAW Region 1E, was held to support striking members of Local 174 who have been on strike for 15 weeks. Workers and officials from many other UAW locals attended the rally as well as a large delegation from the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO.

Local 174 members know what they are fighting for. "We want a cost-of-living allowance (COLA)—With the way prices are going up, we have to have it. The company offered us a COLA but put a 5-cent ceiling on it!" one worker explained. By comparison, Big Three auto workers will get a 13-cent COLA raise for the 3 months ending in June, alone.

A better pension plan also is a major issue. And many workers speak of the unsafe working conditions and numerous accidents in the truck wheel-rim plant.

The strike has been harassed by cops and an injunction is in force limiting pickets to 10 per gate. But with 500 people in the streets yesterday, no cops came near the pickets and no word of an injunction was heard, either.

WORKERS TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

Supervisory personnel have been trying to do some production work and the pickets have responded with justified anger. Now cops have to escort the cars in—and their safety is still not assured. During the early morning rally, several cars were forced to turn back while another group of workers smashed as many windows of the plant as they could reach. Large plywood sheets cover what once were office windows nearest the street. Six scab truckers probably won't want to return after pickets followed them onto the freeway and dropped bricks on them from overpasses.

In both the Fleetwood and the Firestone strikes, pickets say one thing: "We're out now, no sense going back till we win something."

Detroit UAW workers walk out at Fleetwood, Firestone

By a striking Fleetwood worker

DETROIT, May 22—At 10 a.m. on May 13, 2,000 day-shift workers at the GM Fisher Body Fleetwood Plant walked off the job and began picketing the gates. Although the UAW International contract was ratified in December, Fleetwood Local 15 has been without a local plant agreement since last September.

Management, no doubt feeling the workers were in a weak position with high unemployment and the uncertainty of layoffs, went on the offensive and began to ruthlessly eliminate jobs. A speedup drive last December sparked determined resistance, especially on the cotan line (vinyl tops). But the slump in car sales brought on intermittent layoffs throughout February, and in late March workers with less than 8 years' seniority were "indefinitely" laid off.

LAYOFFS AND SPEEDUP KEY ISSUES

With the layoffs began another wave of speedup and "job consolidation." In every

department workers reported jobs were being reorganized with extra work being added to already difficult jobs. In some places, one worker was being made to do what two had formerly done.

Management wouldn't bargain seriously with the union, so on May 13 Local 15 walked out. Always looking to save a buck, Fleetwood called back almost all those on layoff just before the strike so the company wouldn't have to pay out unemployment benefits.

With the strike almost 2 weeks old, negotiations have been resumed, but the union hasn't held any strike meetings yet to let the membership know where things stand. In fact, the scheduled monthly membership meeting of May 19 was "cancelled due to strike" (as the sign on the locked union hall door informed anyone who showed up to attend).

While it is possible that a settlement may be quickly reached, it is also possible that we may be in for a long strike. Local 15 leaders might be less self-assured if they

Funeral for SLA leader draws thousands from Black community

By ALAN ROTH

CLEVELAND, May 23—Well over 2,000 persons, predominantly Black, rallied today at the funeral of Cinque (Donald DeFreeze), General Field Marshal of the Symbionese Liberation Army. This tremendous outpouring of people from Cleveland's Black community was a show of solidarity with their fallen brother and a political expression of their opposition to the racism and brutal repression of the police.

Close to 500 persons crowded into the funeral home, while the rest stood quietly outside, on the sidewalk and in the street. Many leaders of the Black community were present, from nationalists to civil rights activists to former Panthers.

Inside the funeral home, a religious service was conducted by members of the Sunni Orthodox Muslim sect. Uniformed honor guards, provided by the Black Unity House, stood guard over the coffin. In front of the coffin was a large wreath which bore the inscription, "General Field Marshal Cinque—SLA." Another smaller wreath read simply, "He fed us."

At the end of the brief service, Delano DeFreeze, brother of Cinque, spoke in a solemn voice. "Brothers and sisters, there is not much I can say for my fallen brother. He lived for the people. He fell for the people."

When the service ended, the casket was carried out, while almost everyone in the audience stood with clenched fists raised. As the coffin made its way to the hearse, most outside raised clenched fists too. There was silence, but a feeling of militancy. Traffic was stopped as people lined the street to allow the funeral procession to leave for the cemetery.

After the burial, Delano DeFreeze held a news conference, calling the massive turnout for the funeral a "demonstration of unity."

"We must be willing to die for the people. For Black people. For white people.

The cause is to change the system. The system is Nixon. The SLA shall not die. The Black Nationalists shall not die. The Black Panthers shall not die."

Before the funeral, Delano had made a call asking that "all revolutionaries and

Black militants" send representatives to the funeral. The only multinational group from outside the Black community to respond, however, was Youth Against War & Fascism, which sent a delegation of seven members. Other major political tendencies that claim to speak for the masses were absent. These political groups posed the question of the SLA's tactics as primary and joined in with the ruling class's hypocritical campaign against "violence and terrorism."

But those who attended the funeral keenly remembered the millions of dollars

of food given away in Oakland, California, as demanded by the SLA. These people recognized Cinque as a fighter on the side of the oppressed, and as a man who was massacred by the police and FBI for being such a fighter. That was the main issue of the day. That was the reason for the wide support and sympathy for Cinque.

The fact that so many people from the Black community came to the funeral during working hours was an indication that a renewed struggle against the conditions of poverty, exploitation, and racism may be in the offing.



Solemn militancy at the funeral of Cinque (DeFreeze): "He fed us."

Ruling class and its police exposed as real 'terrorists'

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

The U.S. ruling class and its governmental authorities have shown once again the utter hypocrisy behind their hysterical denunciations of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) as "violent" and "terrorist." In an orgy of violence and terror, upwards of 500 cops, FBI agents, and other assorted gunslingers turned a Black neighborhood in Los Angeles into a bloody battlefield on May 17. As police in flak jackets and gas masks demolished a house containing six alleged SLA members with an incredible barrage of firepower, including tear gas and even fragmentation grenades, one cop boasted, "It's just like Vietnam."

Hundreds of neighborhood people, many small children, huddled on the sidewalks or scrambled to safety as the blitzkrieg operation began without warning.

After 70 minutes of deafening gunfire, in which time the house was burned to the ground while police kept firemen from putting out the blaze, this miniwar against "terrorism" had come to its sickening end. In the ashes were the bodies of four women and two men—certainly one of the most uneven and vindictive battles in recent history.

REAL TERRORISTS UNTOUCHED

There is much that the progressive people of this country must learn from this episode. But while many radicals, in imitation of the capitalist press, have focused on the ill-conceived tactics of the SLA—which are so obviously recognized by the masses as tragically self-defeating—the ruling class itself and its groveling

apologists in the media have escaped the condemnation and rage they so richly deserve.

What right has this class of mass murderers, who have spread death and destruction around the world with their atomic bombs and B-52s, to talk in sanctimonious terms of "terrorism"? They mouth pat phrases about "those who live by the sword will die by the sword," when it is they and their money-hungry profit system that are reaping one small grain of the violence they have sown so wildly.

In pontificating on the "crimes" of the SLA (which have yet to be proven in court—and now probably never will be), not one of the "crusading" bourgeois newspapers, which are basking in the light of popularity because of their role in the Watergate exposures, dare raise the following questions.

NO WAR AGAINST FASCISTS

Why has the SLA been hunted down with such implacable hatred by the authorities, when armed terrorist groups on the right are treated with diffidence?

For example, there was the dismissal of the case against the Jewish Defense League, which despite its name is a racist, rightwing organization. After firebombing Sol Hurok's office in New York City, which resulted in the death of his secretary, they were freed because of "illegal wiretap evidence." No massive shootout; no helicopters and fragmentation bombs. The organization exists today, carrying out terror especially against Arabs and Black people.

The KKK and the American Nazi Party flourish with police protection. An ex-CIA

agent described by police as having the largest private arsenal in the history of Philadelphia was recently acquitted on weapons charges for "lack of evidence." No burning his house to the ground; not even confiscation of his weapons.

Not even in the much-touted "war against organized crime" (which is a farce), in which the criminals are acknowledged to have tremendous resources and limitless arsenals and to employ torture and mutilation against their victims, would the police authorities ever dream of unleashing an attack one-tenth the size of this one.

(The office of the Nadjari Commission, investigating police corruption in New York City and especially the theft of \$93 million worth of heroin by cops, was recently shot up by on-duty police, in what was described as "horseplay" by the detective in charge. This happened in Police Headquarters! Far from setting off a manhunt, this brazen act of terrorism and intimidation has quietly been "forgotten.")

When seen against this backdrop, the alleged "terrorism" of the SLA seems small indeed. Their acts might go unnoticed in this country of daily acts of violence, if it were not for one thing.

They forced a millionaire to part with some of his loot and feed poor people. And it is for this, and this alone, that the full weight of the terrorist state apparatus came down against them with implacable fury.

'RADICALS' BOWED TO PRESSURE

Many on the left have been derailed from recognizing this by a myriad of insinuations in the capitalist press—chief among them that Field Marshal Cinque was a police agent or provocateur. It is a peculiar agent who would choose death over surrender!

But so-called "leftists" seized on these

accusations—that a group like the SLA must be the result of a police plot—because they refuse to acknowledge the frustration and despair building up among wide sections of the oppressed and the youth, a frustration often generated by the inactivity and fear of struggle of these reformist parties.

While acts of individual terror show no way out for the masses of people, and in this case make martyrs out of the individuals involved, this does not diminish their self-sacrifice. They may be mistaken, but that it is an honest mistake can be seen in their willingness to lay down their lives in the struggle.

Most of all, they have not been martyred because they lacked a correct political approach to the masses, but because they did succeed in winning food for the people.

And that is what the oppressed people will remember them for.

GREEK BENEFIT

NEW YORK, May 31—A benefit program to aid Greek political prisoners will be held here tonight at the New York University Law School.

In calling for this night of solidarity with the victims of fascist torture, several Greek anti-fascist organizations, including Demokratia and the North American Greek Relief Fund, have demanded that all Greek political prisoners be freed, that a board of inquiry be established to insure their release and medical care, and that international organizations condemn the rule by terror that exists in Greece.

Speakers at tonight's benefit will include Mary Kaufman, former U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials and recently part of an investigating team to visit Greece, and C. Nicolopoulos, former chief editor of VIMA. The program will also include two documentary films and musical entertainment.

Houston 12 win battle over racist grand jury system; DA reindicts 5 defendants on felonies

By SHARON SHELTON

HOUSTON, May 23—"This just shows the determination of the racist Houston police, the District Attorney, and their bosses, the oil billionaires, to pursue their railroad of the Houston 12. They hope to crush all dissent with their unreasoning vendetta against us."

Alex Rodriguez, one of the five members of the Houston 12 facing trumped-up charges of "attempted murder of a policeman," was referring to the Harris County DA's quick reindictment of the five—only 48 hours after all felony charges were suddenly dropped as the trial was scheduled to begin Monday.

The case of the Houston 12 stems from a picket line last October called by Houston Youth Against War & Fascism against the role of the oil monopolies in backing U.S.-Israeli aggression in the Middle East. As the protest was drawing to a close, the Houston police viciously attacked with clubs, black-jacks, and drawn guns. Besides the felony charges against the five, charges of "aggravated assault" were levied against all twelve.

The charges had been dropped against the five after Judge Andrew Jefferson was forced to rule in favor of a far-reaching motion by Houston 12 lawyers, showing the prejudiced nature of the grand jury. Jefferson's ruling Monday followed a campaign by the Houston 12 Defense Committee to expose the racist nature of the jury process itself.

STUDY SHOWS GRAND JURIES RIGGED

The motion has been based on a 10-year study that proved that Chicanos, Blacks, women, and workers making less than \$10,000 a year have not been adequately represented on Harris County panels. The study showed that grand juries here have been dominated by white businessmen and professionals earning over \$25,000 a year

Houston 12 Defense Committee brings case to the people

By BARBARA TIMKO

HOUSTON, May 25—A week marked by dramatic developments in the case of the Houston 12 began early on the morning of May 20. First there was a demonstration of solidarity for five of the defendants—Miguel Trujillo, Alex Rodriguez, Jose Berriga, Bartee Haile, and William Christiansen—scheduled to appear that day before Judge Andrew Jefferson.

As members of the Houston 12 Defense Committee and the families of the defendants set up a picket line outside the courthouse, they were quickly joined by people from the Chicano community of Houston's Northside who had come to show support for the Houston 12.

Among those on the picket line, which grew to a strong force of 60 people, were members of Amigos Unidos and the senior citizens from Centro Chicano, including one man who had fought in the Mexican Revolution. Many were workers who felt the cause of the Houston 12 was so important that they sacrificed a day's pay to be in court. Still others had joined the line before beginning work at a local restaurant where they were employed as waiters and waitresses.

SUPPORTERS FROM ALL OVER

By 9 a.m. the courtroom was filled to capacity with friends and supporters. One Houston woman who came to the trial had heard about the case from a member of a Houston 12 Support Committee in Washington, D.C. Another woman heard about the Houston 12 during a visit to Chicago. Also in the courtroom were a

and constituting only 10 percent of the population.

After the ruling and dismissal of charges had been announced, the many Houston 12 supporters who filled the courtroom hailed it as an important victory made possible by the activities in solidarity with the case that have been carried out not only in Houston but across the country. (See accompanying article.)

The ruling, if enforced, could have an impact on many thousands of cases in Texas alone. "This decision is a blow against that vicious system that brutalizes and oppresses the poor from arrest to the penitentiary and all the horrible stops in between," Rodriguez pointed out.

The Houston police and DA Carroll Vance also realized the implications of this admission by the court that the grand jury had been stacked. They immediately began scheming to overthrow the decision by pressing reindictment.

Vance showed his racist and arrogant attitude toward representation of oppressed people on grand juries when he cynically commented to the local press, "Where do you draw the line? What if you have more bald-headed people than people with hair?"

REAFFIRM FAITH IN THE PEOPLE

The reindictment was carried out by a grand jury selected in just the same prejudiced way as the old one whose indictment was thrown out. The only difference was that this time the panel contained one Chicano.

"Reindictment did not surprise us," Rodriguez said. "The fact that the new grand jury had one lone Chicano does not mean it is at all representative of the community. This is really nothing more than a gross form of tokenism."

Another of the five, William Christiansen, emphasized, "Our faith has

striking family belonging to the United Farm Workers and now living temporarily in Houston because of the boycott. They came to the trial with the Houston coordinator of the UFW.

In the first minutes of the court proceeding, Judge Jefferson ruled that the felony charges be dropped against the five defendants. To the huge crowd of supporters who gathered outside the courtroom, Alex Rodriguez explained that the judge threw out the felony indictments because the grand jury which indicted the five did not represent the defendants or the people of Houston, because it contained no Chicanos, Blacks, women, or working people.

Following Alex's explanation, the group walked to District Attorney Carol Vance's office with the defendants to set up a picket line which demanded that no more charges be brought against the five. As they marched to Vance's office, Mr. Trujillo, father of defendant Miguel Trujillo, commented to the crowd, "The first battle is always hardest to win, but after the first is won, the others come easy." The statement seemed to sum up the determined mood of the crowd to set up an enthusiastic picket line, which the older people insisted on joining despite Houston's midmorning heat.

Media coverage of the picket line was extensive as radio and newspaper reporters held press conferences with the defendants and TV crews from Houston's three main networks filmed the line. Later, all three television stations covered the case in their evening and late-night broadcasts. Stories about the latest developments in the case made the front pages in all the large

never lain in the court system itself. The courts are just part of the repressive apparatus that's being used to railroad us into prison. We know that it is only mass support that will free the Houston 12!"

The expected trial date for those five of

AS VICTIMS OF THE RAPACIOUS AMERICAN
POLICE-JUDICIAL-PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX
OURSELVES, WE OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP
POPULATION OF THE OKLAHOMA STATE PENITENTIARY
AT McALESTER, OKLAHOMA, FULLY SUPPORT OUR
BROTHERS, THE HOUSTON 12, IN THEIR EFFORTS TO
ACHIEVE AT LEAST A MODICUM OF JUSTICE IN AN
INHERENTLY REPRESSIVE, RACIST SOCIETY.

IT IS OUR SINCERE BELIEF THAT THE ONLY
WAY JUSTICE CAN BE SERVED IN THE OBVIOUSLY
POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, SHAM CASE AGAINST MIGUEL
TRUJILLO, ALEX RODRIGUEZ, BARTEE HAILE, JOSE
BARRIBA, AND WILLIAM CHRISTIANSEN IS FOR
HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CAROL VANCE
TO DROP THE CHARGE OF "ATTEMPTED MURDER OF
A POLICE OFFICER" IMMEDIATELY!

IF WE WERE NOT BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN
ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST INFAMOUS CONCENTRATION
CAMPS FOR THE POOR, WE WOULD ALL BE IN
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, PROTESTING THIS GROSS
TRAVESTY ON JUSTICE.

A letter of support sent by inmates at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester to the Houston 12. It was signed by many inmates. They also collected funds for the Houston 12, but prison officials would not allow them to send the money.

Houston papers. To the demand of the Houston 12 that no more charges be filed, the DA replied in a filmed TV interview that he would seek reindictment of the five as soon as possible.

SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL

To continue pressure on the District Attorney against reindictment, the Houston 12 Defense Committee mobilized a group of 30 people to confront Mayor Fred Hofheinz about the case at the weekly Wednesday City Council meeting. Eight speakers, including three of the defendants, challenged the mayor to use the influence of his office to end police brutality.

Miguel Trujillo stated, "On the night of October 9, the police attacked the demonstrators like a pack of angry wolves." His wife, Becca Trujillo, declared to the city council members that "the biggest crime in Houston today is police brutality."

"Police in this city," she continued, "think because they have a uniform, gun, and badge that they can treat people, especially Blacks and Chicanos, any way they want."

Joanne Gavin, of the Houston 12 Defense Committee, demanded that the mayor put a stop to Houston's system of "rent-a-cop." Houston policemen are allowed to hire themselves out as security guards, fully uniformed and armed, at \$5 to \$8 an hour.

The speakers also demanded that no reindictments be brought and that all charges against all 12 be dropped immediately.

By coincidence, another speaker at the council meeting also raised the issue of police brutality. In a moving personal account, a Black man told about his false arrest and beating at the infamous Reisner Street jail by Houston police and the subsequent costly legal battle he has had to take on. Instead of assuring the man that steps would be taken to correct this injustice, he was attacked by council members who

the Houston 12 facing the felony charges will now be late September, and the misdemeanors should be tried in October.

Meanwhile, the Houston 12 Defense Committee and supporters all across the country are gearing up for several more months of activities in the struggle to free the Houston 12.

As Gerri Pressnall, a member of the Defense Committee, pledged, "We will continue to struggle with every ounce of our strength until the Houston 12 are free and the people of Houston are free of police harassment, brutality, and frame-ups!"

wanted to know why he waited so long to come forth with his story. Council members wouldn't even listen when he tried to explain.

While members of the defense committee were still addressing the mayor, the defendants were informed that a grand jury impaneled by State District Court Judge Joseph Guarino had issued reindictments.

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

Meanwhile nationwide and local support continues to spread for the Houston 12. Fund raising efforts, picket lines, and publicity campaigns in support of the case are springing up around the country.

Supporters in Norfolk, Va., for example, held a film festival on May 11 to raise money for the case. They have also put posters in stores and schools in Norfolk and have distributed a leaflet publicizing the Houston 12.

In Cleveland, Ohio, a petitioning campaign is in full swing. So far, hundreds of signatures from Cleveland residents have been collected on the petitions which call for an immediate end to the frameup.

Other support activities have taken place in Buffalo, Detroit, Milwaukee, Washington, D.C., Rochester, Baltimore, Wilmington, Trenton, New York City, and elsewhere.

In Houston, a local community organization, Centro Chicano, announced plans to organize a city-wide meeting of senior citizens to allow the Houston 12 to explain the case and help raise money for their defense.

Also, the League of United Latin American Citizens held a press conference to announce plans for filing a class action suit to uphold Judge Jefferson's ruling that grand juries be representative of the people of Houston.

National support for the Houston 12 will continue to grow as the defense committee and the poor and oppressed in Houston continue to fight to free the Houston 12.



EDITORIAL

Which class will hold power in Portugal?

The rapid pace of events in Portugal since the ouster of the Caetano dictatorship last April 25 has placed the most fundamental of all questions on the agenda: which class, the workers or the capitalists, will hold the power?

Sweeping strikes in food production, transportation, and manufacturing industries have crossed the boundaries of "normal class struggle."

Hundreds of bosses, the hated big money men who stood behind the fascist dictatorship, have been forcibly ousted from many sectors of the economy by enraged and militant workers.

Striking subway and railway workers have now walked off the job. They have seized the trains and continue to operate them, carrying passengers for free! Many factories and shipyards have been occupied by strikers.

WORKERS DEMANDING POWER

Portugal's working people are clearly saying: We run the railroads, we bake the bread, we unload the ships. We create the wealth and it should be ours, not piled up in the bank vaults of a handful of fascist parasites.

As every Marxist knows, this is the classical situation that opens the door for the workers' struggle for state power, for the socialist revolution.

Unfortunately, the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) views the mass strike wave rolling across the country as an obstacle to be overcome rather than an opportunity to be seized.

After five decades of savage repression, the PCP has stepped into the center of the political arena as the largest and best organized political party in the country. Its rapid growth over the past month is attributable to the enormous prestige conferred on it by the masses for its heroic underground resistance to the Salazar-Caetano police torturers.

The PCP, however, is wielding its

newfound authority not against the capitalist class which spawned the fascist tyranny, but against the striking workers!

CP WARNS OF REVOLUTION

The Daily World, organ of the CPUSA, a fraternal party of the PCP, wrote on May 29: "A. Dias Lorenzo, editor of the PCP newspaper, Avante, in a Monday speech to a workers' meeting in Lisbon, warned of the danger presented by the still-active revolutionary forces in the country."

"Danger of still-active revolutionary forces"? No, it's not a misprint in the Daily World.

The next paragraph of the article says: "The Avante editor singled out for special mention the presence of ultra-left elements in the country, who may compromise the gains of the people and the Portuguese Democratic Movement."

The leaders of the PCP have stated that the mass strikes cause instability and might well bring about counterrevolution. They call on the working class to support the "democratic generals." The latest news from Portugal is that Gen. Spinoia, in a nationwide broadcast, has attacked the strikes as leading to "anarchy," and that a simultaneous declaration by the PCP "condemned the strikes... and cautioned the nation against chaos in language similar to that used by the President" (New York Times, May 30).

Of course, no experienced communist would say that all workers' struggles advance the overall revolutionary struggle equally. It is a tactical question. In July 1917, Lenin himself warned against premature uprisings by the masses, saying that the timing was not appropriate.

Lenin, however, never sowed illusions about the "democratic bourgeoisie." Rather, he tirelessly pointed out to the masses how the liberal capitalists were prone to turn against the working class and capitulate to the ultraright.

And he certainly never gave any

programmatic support to the capitalist government, as has the PCP.

LEFT COVER FOR BOURGEOISIE

We ask the leaders of the two major Portuguese working class parties, the PCP and PSP (Portuguese Socialist Party): Why have you entered into the same government with a hardened militarist and imperialist like Spinoia, the unregenerate butcher of the people of Guinea-Bissau and enemy of the Portuguese working people?

Is it the job of revolutionaries to accept appointments to head the ministries of labor and foreign affairs of a capitalist state, as you have done?

Didn't the junta give you these jobs because they needed someone "credible" to negotiate with the workers at home and the

liberation movements in Africa? Aren't you just giving the bosses a "left cover" for their claims that further class struggle by the workers, and further agitation for immediate withdrawal from the colonies, are "provocations" that will bring back the old fascists?

So by threatening a return to fascism, these overnight "democrats" like Gen. Spinoia are obtaining for Portuguese capital what they couldn't get in their old role as... fascists.

The masses are absolutely right to strike and strike again at the gang of cut-throat capitalists who still run Portugal. The left parties should be fighting to broaden these struggles from strikes over immediate economic demands to a political struggle for workers' power.



Youth Against War & Fascism holds demonstration in Times Square in support of the struggle of the Portuguese workers and the liberation of the African colonies.

-D.C. wildcat

(Continued from page 2)

rising backdrop of anti-union hysteria here in D.C. As might be expected, the courts, bosses, and newspapers were screaming about the "public interest." They didn't mention, of course, that a victory for a relatively large union like 689 would help raise the wage base for the working public. Nor do they consider the drivers part of the public. At any rate, the new-found concern for the public's right to transportation fell largely on deaf ears.

Recently, the city's two major newspapers (the Post and Star-News) announced they won't renew their contracts with ITU Local 1, hoping to replace most of the workers with automatic machinery. The Washington area is not industrial, and U.S. government workers, not protected by union

contracts, aren't allowed to strike. The government hires more than half the workers in the city.

George Washington University, the second largest boss, recently made news when it prosecuted 55 hospital workers for a peaceful sit-in demanding a union election. Metro itself will be "number two" when the new subway is finished, and you can bet they'll try harder to bust the union than they did this time. Even the construction trades are being hurt as scab contractors grab more and more of the building industry, threatening to leave the unions out of water as subway construction gets finished.

The bosses won't have it easy, however. The Metrobus strike merely touched the surface of a growing militancy in the Black city of D.C.—a militancy that is just as strong outside the shops and offices as in them. In a short time, these union-busting bosses could be in for the surprise of their lives!



DECLINE & FALL

On a wing and a prayer?

New York Post, April 25:

"Nicholas V. Pertou was elected today as national co-chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He is president of the Westinghouse Defense and Electronic Systems Center in Baltimore."

The precinct connection

Chicago Daily News, April 13:

"A Hometown policeman has been arrested in connection with the theft of 200 color television sets and stereo equipment, valued at about \$100,000 from a South Side railyard.

"Police were baffled as to how Patrolman Frank Stenson, a five-year veteran of the Hometown police department, managed to unload the trailer and haul away the equipment without being seen by railroad security personnel.

"Investigators were attempting to learn

what happened to the remaining 195 TV sets which haven't been recovered."

If they want those sets back, perhaps they should check out the railroad cops who "didn't see" the robbery. Of course, it's possible that pig Stenson carried off all 200 color TVs all by himself.

We know what to do about them

From an advertisement for Human Events, a "conservative" Republican magazine:

"In the inflation and depression yet to come, some people may have to beg for money. Some will steal food just to survive. But others will be GETTING RICH, and you will be one of them—if you know what to do!"

Militarist on militarism

General Leonard Wood speaking to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, April 1915:

"We soldiers and sailors are merely your trained servants. You create wars, we

try to terminate them. Nine out of ten wars are based on trade."

Woodrow Wilson, speaking in St. Louis, 1918:

"Why, my fellow citizens, is there any man here, or any woman—let me say is there any child here—who does not know that the seed of war in the modern world is industrial and commercial rivalry."

U.S. Navy Department statement quoted in Congressional Record, April 15, 1947:

"Realistically, all wars have been for economic reasons. To make them politically and socially palatable, ideological issues have always been invoked."

Thurman Arnold, U.S. Assistant Attorney General, quoted in the Boston Globe, March 5, 1951.

"We just don't know what it would do or what would happen if war should end. Our production system has gotten ahead of our ability to distribute goods. The only way we can keep up with production is to wage war—a method of distributing goods when there's no other market."

Paul Mellon, present owner of the Aluminum Company of America, Gulf Oil Company, Mellon National Bank & Trust, etc., etc. . . .

"As a young officer, I found the War

(WWII) a good time to reflect and collect my thoughts."

It happens daley in chicago

Chicago Today, April 10:

"A federal grand jury today indicted Matthew P. Danaher, Circuit Court clerk, and two top assistants on charges of conspiring to defraud the government, conspiring to receive illegal profits and tax evasion.

"Peter Deul, Danaher's associate clerk, said Danaher has stated he has no intention of resigning.

"The indictment said that \$400,000 in bribes were paid in part to have Danaher use his influence as a member of the board of directors of Evergreen Savings & Loan Association to secure favorable consideration of loan applications from building contractors totaling about \$3,600,000.

"Danaher, a neighbor of Mayor Daley and the mayor's political protegee, has been under investigation by various governmental agencies for several years.

"Daley said, 'It is a sad day for Matt and his family.'

"Indicted with Danaher was John P. Hyland, president and board chairman of Evergreen Savings & Loan Association. Hyland's wife, Mary, answered the telephone at their home and said, 'John's at Mass now.'"

Impeachment committee covers up Nixon's crimes against the people

By ANDY STAPP

The most hated president in U.S. history seems determined to defy the people and stay in power. This is after numerous legal authorities have made known that Nixon is liable to prosecution for at least six felonies committed in relation to the Watergate break-in and cover-up. And it is after many of his White House aides, including Chapin, Dean, LaRue, Magruder, and Hunt, and former Attorney General Kleindienst, have already pleaded guilty to various crimes.

The anti-Nixon grouping of the ruling class, using the media and various committees of Congress, has continued to press the attack. Nixon himself has bolstered his defenses, courting the ultraracist bloc of Southern and Midwestern Senators and refusing to release any of the material requested by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is investigating his role in Watergate and the ITT and milk trust bribe cases.

This latter illegal act—the acceptance of hundreds of thousands of dollars from big dairy operations in return for raising price supports which cost the people of this country hundreds of millions of dollars—is of course a crime that strikes into every home and particularly victimizes children.

On the whole, however, the anti-Nixon grouping of the capitalist class is determined to get him out of office on the narrowest grounds and wants to conceal the far greater atrocities he has committed as head of state.

WHICH ARE WORSE?

After briefly entertaining the idea of charging him with the illegal bombing of Cambodia, the Senate Judiciary Committee backed down. But which is the greater crime: the killing and maiming of tens of thousands of Cambodian men, women, and children in the B-52 saturation raids of August 1973, or the "excessive spending of public funds on (Nixon's dog) King Timahoe," a charge now being investigated by the Rodino committee?

Which is more serious: Nixon's plot of June 5, 1970, when he conspired with a number of high-ranking admirals, generals, and police officials to set up an all-out police state, or the committee's charge that he evaded a couple of hundred dollars in

California gasoline tax?

Which is the more criminal act: the break-in at the Democratic National Committee Watergate headquarters, or the break-in of Black Panther Party headquarters in Chicago and the calculated murder of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, an operation that was planned right in the bowels of Nixon's Justice Department according to documents recently pried loose from the FBI after a court suit?

THEY'RE ALL IN IT

The ruling class politicians and media can't expose Nixon's crimes against the masses because he carried out most of these vile acts in the interest of the entire capitalist class. All factions support imperialism and promote racism, for the system itself generates the monstrous wars and repression of nonwhite peoples that characterize capitalism in its decline. All the establishment politicians, newspapers, judges, TV networks, and so on have benefited from this privileged social order which has brought so much misery to the world's people.

The only difference between them is over what course to chart to preserve the capitalist system in a period of growing anti-imperialist movements in the oppressed countries coupled with the rising militancy of the masses in the capitalist countries themselves.

The struggle between the contending factions of the capitalist class is bitter, indeed. The depth of the dispute, which has been aggravated and heightened by the U.S. defeat in Indochina, can be sounded in the words of General Alexander Haig. Nixon's top aide was quoted in the May 27 Newsweek as saying: "I am the first active duty general who had to retire from military service to enter combat."

Both the pro- and anti-Nixon camps are anxious, however, to keep the real crimes of this government—imperialist wars of aggression, wage freezes, genocidal racism—under wraps.

The House Judiciary Committee, meeting behind the closed doors of room 2141 of the vast white marble Rayburn Office Building, can never pose a lasting solution to the crisis for, in truth, they won't even deal with the real questions.

Mysterious deaths linked to Watergate

By JULIO GHIGLIOTTY

Since the uncovering of the Watergate scandal, several people who were inextricably intertwined with the White House and its role in the break-in have died under peculiar circumstances. The most widely known was Dorothy Hunt, E. Howard Hunt's wife, who died in a plane crash on the way to Chicago. The recently released White House transcripts have revealed that she was carrying "hush" money for the Watergate burglars. Unofficial investigators have cited sabotage as the possible cause of the crash.

Another case is the death of Murray Chotiner, Nixon's lawyer pal and early manager of his political career. He was run over this winter by a truck. He was also a key witness in the case against Robert Vesco, the New Jersey financier under investigation.

However, according to a recent Intelligence Report release from a group in Washington (Organizing Committee for a Fifth Estate) claiming to have very credible sources, the rumors about assassinations by the Nixonites focus on the death shortly before this past Christmas of Beverly Kaye, a 42-year-old White House secretary. She was an assistant to Stephen Bull, the Secret Service agent who is Keeper of the Sacred Tapes at the White House. As his secretary,

Ms. Kaye was in charge of the storing and preservation of the tapes.

She came into the White House under the Johnson administration and was described by friends as "a confirmed Democrat and very quietly anti-Nixon." Her testimony would have been, according to highly placed sources, among the most damaging to the Nixon administration that has been presented to date. Neighbors in Falls Church, where she resided, were convinced, from the stories of her experiences in the White House, that Nixon and his aides were involved in the break-in long before the media starting publicizing evidence pointing to that conclusion.

Shortly before Christmas, 1973, Beverly Kaye complained to her co-workers of feeling ill. As a White House physician escorted her downstairs for treatment, she reportedly collapsed in the elevator. Doctors at George Washington Hospital reported her death was caused by a massive stroke.

The White House paid for Beverly Kaye's funeral. Her ex-boss, Stephen Bull, refused to let the casket be opened at the funeral home, supposedly because of disfigurement. But in high-class funerals like this one, cosmetic methods are customarily used to prepare the body for



What Senate Committee is investigating Nixon's most serious crime: mass murder?

Nixon's anti-Semitism exposed in tapes

By NAOMI COHEN

Where is the outrage of the so-called leaders of the Jewish community who supported Nixon now that his use of vicious ethnic epithets in his everyday private conversations has been made public with the White House tapes?

Although some of the slurs were carefully edited out of the tape transcripts made public by the White House recently, several sources who have heard the original tapes have confirmed Nixon's constant references to "Jew boys," "those Jews," as well as his characterization of Judge John Sirica as "the wop" and a remark about L. Patrick Gray, former acting head of the FBI, as the "thick-headed mick."

According to a report in The New York Times of May 12, anti-Semitic remarks seemed to abound in Nixon's conversations of Feb. 28 and March 20 with John Dean. For example, in discussing the SEC investigation of a secret \$200,000 cash contribution by Robert Vesco, Nixon is reported to have complained to Dean that "those Jew boys (in the SEC) are all over everybody. You can't stop them." Nixon also referred to the prosecutors in the case as "those Jews down there."

During the Feb. 28 meeting in the Oval Office, The New York Times reports one source as saying that the president warned about a network of Jews in government and in the press who kept one another informed, to the effect that "Jewish guys in the government were leaking to Jewish guys in the media." (It's the old Jewish conspiracy theory.)

'GOOD HUMOR'?

In the face of this evidence, White House aides have claimed that Nixon never made any of these remarks seriously, saying that they were made in a spirit of good humor among friends and close aides. This spirit of so-called "good humor," however, need only be checked with Nixon's record.

On May 12, the Morning Freiheit, a Jewish daily newspaper, reprinted excerpts from an April 30 article in the Boston

viewing.

Several doubts have cropped up as to the actual cause of Beverly Kaye's death. It was termed a "statistical aberration" by a prominent coroner. Another doctor speculated that an air bubble injected into her bloodstream could have caused her death, which would have been analysed as death by stroke by any superficial autopsy.

It is a peculiar "coincidence" that the deaths of these people have all been beneficial to the Nixon administration's attempts to cover up their role in the Watergate break-in and the continuing power struggle within the ruling class. While there is no conclusive evidence to prove that assassination has been used by the Nixon administration to quiet opponents and crucial witnesses against them, it should come as no surprise that they did.

Phoenix which expose some of Nixon's nefarious connections.

For example, presidential adviser Richard Moore, who testified for Nixon before the Senate Watergate committee on July 12, 1973, was the executive director of the America First Committee. This pro-Nazi group was disbanded immediately after Pearl Harbor, but before that time it actively opposed lend lease to Britain and the Soviet Union and supported Nazi claims to all of continental Europe and half of South America. According to the Boston Phoenix, "The Firsters blamed the war danger to the United States in 1941 on the British, the Jews, and the Roosevelt Administration."

MITCHELL HIRED NAZIS

With this kind of adviser, it was no wonder, then, that Nixon would see nothing wrong in inviting Dr. Joseph Pauco, a prominent Republican Party adviser, to the White House for a prayer session. Pauco's record as a pro-Nazi in Slovakia during World War II would not offend Nixon a bit. Nor was he bothered by the fact that the head of the National Republican Party Heritage Groups Council, Laszlo Pasztor, belonged to an extreme rightwing fascist group, the Arrow Cross Party, in Hungary during the war.

More recently, the anti-Semitic and extreme racist connections of high officials in the Nixon administration was exposed when John Mitchell, head of the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP), hired members of the National Socialist White People's (Nazi) Party to help defeat Wallace in California in 1971 so that Nixon would get the racist vote that Wallace attracted.

The reactionary "leaders" who mobilize Jewish people here by the tens of thousands to "defend Soviet Jewry," and who are constantly finding "anti-Semitism" in other oppressed people, have in reality delivered a large part of the Jewish community over to the real anti-Semites. It is no wonder that their only response to the latest tape revelations is an embarrassed silence.

This is the government which trained the Saigon regime in the tactics and strategy for the Phoenix Program, now known as "F-6." This government taught the Chilean, Greek, and Brazilian military how to carry out coups and the techniques for the torture of workers and progressives; it carried out the assassinations of Black Panthers, Carl Hampton, and several Young Lords; murdered six SLA members in a ghetto house in Watts without regard for people living in the area; and has consistently framed up progressive people throughout the nation.

It is not inconceivable that the Nixon administration has carried out further assassinations in the Watergate struggle. After all, the stakes for these criminals are control of the state apparatus of the wealthiest power on earth.

Africans reject Portuguese maneuvers to disarm

By CAL BONNER

NEW YORK, May 29—In the month since the overthrow of the fascist Caetano regime by a military coup in Portugal, the junta in power has been bringing tremendous pressure to bear on the liberation groups in the territories of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau to lay down their arms and negotiate, naked to their enemy.

Since the formation of the provisional government in Lisbon, which includes socialists and communists, it appears that the reformist leaders of these parties have added their weight to these efforts. Mario Soares, the Socialist Party leader, has been carrying out negotiations with the African groups as the new Foreign Minister.

The liberation movements, however, have continued to keep up their military pressure on the colonial regime, while the African masses see in the turmoil confronting the Portuguese rulers the reflection and potential realization of their long struggle for independence.

NEOCOLONIALISM IN ANGOLA

In Angola, the largest and richest of the three colonies (and where U.S. capital is most heavily invested), Portuguese and U.S. imperialism are trying to take advantage of internal divisions within the liberation forces to supplant open colonialism with neocolonial wage slavery. That is the meaning of Gen. Antonio de Spínola's insistence that the Portuguese colonies now be "allowed" autonomy within a federation with Portugal, while he has ruled out real (meaning economic as well as political) independence.

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the major group fighting in Angola, has made it clear, however, that it rejects this neocolonialist arrangement. In a communique quoted here by Page Townsend of the National Black News Service, the MPLA has asserted, "At the time of inevitable independence, any company operating inside Angola or along the coast will be chased out of our national territory and all their equipment and assets seized."

The implications of this are well understood, not only by the Portuguese ruling class but by U.S. capital as well, which gets a 32 percent yearly return on its oil investments in Angola—three times the profit rate in other parts of the world!

Gulf Oil has \$200 million invested in Angola right now, in some 155 offshore wells which produce about 150,000 barrels of oil a year. Other U.S. oil giants have been exploring there and in Mozambique, where Gulf and Bunker Hunt have bought up the major oil rights.

The PAIGC in Guinea-Bissau and Frelimo in Mozambique have made tremendous strides in securing the countryside for their respective peoples. After more than a decade of armed struggle the guerillas have won control of enormous areas of African land and raw materials, and liberated the people there from the Portuguese colonialist and U.S. imperialist foes.

IMPERIALISM'S NEW TACTIC

In recent weeks, papers like *The New York Times* and *Manchester Guardian* have fronted for their imperialist mentors in raising a new kind of threat to the African movements. In editorials and carefully worded news stories, they have "warned" the African and world anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist movements that the African

liberation movements must lay down their weapons and negotiate with the Spínola government in Lisbon or risk South African, Rhodesian, and by implication Western imperialist intervention on the side of white supremacy in southern Africa.

Lisbon's mailed fist has been carefully gloved by the soft-selling "socialist" Mario Soares, the new Foreign Minister and chief negotiator for the new government. (One could hardly expect the liberation groups' representatives to meet and remain in the same area with, much less talk to, a man with such an odious history of butchering oppressed peoples as Spínola.)

Soares is reportedly in London negotiating with representatives of the PAIGC of Guinea-Bissau. (Guinea-Bissau, the smallest and least wealthy of Portugal's three African colonies, declared its independence last Sept. 24, after just a little over a decade of armed struggle.) And at the urging of Lisbon's new leaders, the colonial administration in Mozambique sent six of its members to Frelimo headquarters in Tanzania to negotiate a cease-fire.

Angola right now, in some 150 offshore wells which produce about 150,000 barrels of oil a all three of the primary liberation groups—MPLA, Frelimo, and the PAIGC—are holding firm in their demands for immediate and complete independence for each of the territories. Moreover, they've shown the strength to back up their demands. Frelimo has recently destroyed Portuguese-owned farms, trains, roads, and other material manifestations of colonialist usurpations of Black Africa's land, labor, and resources.

Black people in U.S. march for African liberation

WASHINGTON, May 25—In 1972 the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), a broad-based united front of Black people in Central and North America organized essentially around giving support to the liberation movements in Africa, designated the month of May as African liberation support month.

Demonstrating support for the African liberation movements could not be more timely with the continued success of the liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies, the PAIGC (Republic of Guinea-Bissau), Frelimo (Mozambique), and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

The ALSC organized these activities in the month of May to demonstrate support for African liberation, as well as antiracist and anticapitalist struggles here in the U.S.

On May 19th (Malcolm X's birthday) the ALSC held local demonstrations around the country against fascist police repression in the U.S.

On May 23 and 24 the ALSC sponsored a national conference on racism and imperialism at Howard University in Washington, D.C., to discuss ideological currents inside the Black liberation movement. The conference was attended by at least 1,000 Black people, including representation from a wide range of organizations, among them the Youth Organization for Black Unity (YOBU), People's College (Nashville, Tenn.), the African People's Congress, the All-African People's Party, the Republic of New Africa, the New Pan-Africanist Party, and others.

The culminating activity for African liberation month was held in Washington on May 25, international day of solidarity with the African liberation movements. More than 5,000 Black people from all over the country held a forceful march through the Black community, and then went past the

African liberation is a

This poem is by a Frelimo freedom fighter in Mozambique.

To the Political Commissars, sowers of the Revolution.

and comrades came
who spoke with strong voices
stronger than all the words
which we ignored
the words struck sparks
and we were the powder
the words explained the burden of the company
and the company bent our backs



The African liberation struggle continues despite torture and intimidation: a soldier in Guinea-Bissau maimed by napalm (left); South African miners har

White House and the Portuguese Embassy, chanting and carrying signs saying, "Africa for the Africans," "Long live the spirit of Amílcar Cabral," "Death to the imperialist monster," "Jail Nixon and the whole profit system," and many more.

The march proceeded to Malcolm X Park for a rally and other African Liberation Day activities.

No lasting calm seen in destitute Ethiopia

By JOEL MEYERS

The situation in Ethiopia seems to have settled down for the moment, but only very temporarily and superficially. The recent general strikes and military and student revolts, and the fact that the government in Addis Ababa had to at least promise to meet the demands of strikers and rebels, show that the Ethiopian government can no longer contain the pressure growing out of the glaring need for revolutionary social change.

The workers got a chance to feel their power and to test the weakness of the narrowly based U.S. puppet monarchy of Haile Selassie, whose regime is based on harsh tribal domination and landlordism.

'TRIBAL' WARS OVER LAND

A virtual war has been going on in the countryside, which the press here has depicted as a tribal war. But the imperialist press ignores the fact that one Amharic tribe, that of Haile Selassie, owns most of

the land, and that this ownership is concentrated in the hands of a few families of that tribe, who charge peasants up to 90 percent of their crop as "rent" for the lands they live on and till.

The slightest change in social conditions is feared by the landed aristocracy as a threat to its delicate rule over the bulk of the population which has no title to land at all. The resulting social stagnation is illustrated in the fact that out of a population of 23 million, only 300,000 people are employed in nonagricultural work, and of these only 50,000 are employed in manufacturing.

More than 90 percent of the population is illiterate, and after a much-touted United Nations program of aid, only 2 percent of the population can be accommodated in all the secondary schools of the country.

FREEDOM FOR ERITREA

In addition to the land wars, which are really a revolution going on in the countryside, there is armed resistance to Ethiopian rule over Eritrea, an independent country annexed by Ethiopia in 1952 as implementation of a UN resolution proposed by the U.S. The U.S. now has 1,800 "advisers" propping up Ethiopia's armed forces there. The annexation of Eritrea gave Ethiopia direct access to the sea for the first time, enabling U.S. businesses to make a mint extracting minerals and coffee from Ethiopia.

Imperialist commercial policy was designed to reduce Ethiopia to a one-crop coffee-producing country. As a result, Ethiopia has been dependent on imports for necessary food. This left the population of the country open to a food crisis which stems directly from imperialist policies in international trade. Estimates of starvation in the still developing famine have ranged up to 300,000 in the last few months.

In the past few weeks, food prices in the cities have doubled. The increasing intensification of hardship and exploitation led to the first general strike in Ethiopian history. Starting with teachers and taxi

a worldwide struggle!

the words were like whips
flaying our blindness
and in the words we understood.
Comrades came
who spoke patiently
with more patience than all our mothers.

They brought conduct and words like seeds
and we were the land
and the bosses
were the rain that makes the hatred grow.

The examples, the words,
like lights in the night
showed us the way
a long and hard path on which many would fall,

but nothing
is so long as the contract
nor as hard as the mine
while the hunger for cotton
has condemned us to death already.
In the words we understood.
Comrades came
with words like grenades,
leaving splinters of ideas in our minds
breaking walls of ignorance
and patient
and strong
and constant
they explained
and in the words we discovered the truth.



Left: a revolutionary way to work (center). On African Liberation Day, demonstrators in the U.S. add their harassed on their voices to the worldwide outcry (right).

drivers, the strike was political from the beginning, the strikers demanding a new constitution guaranteeing civil liberties and the right of the people to organize opposition parties, the right to unionize and to strike, and free education for the whole population.

A thousand students were arrested some weeks later for supporting these demands and adding a few of their own, such as to cut all ties with U.S. imperialism, land to the tillers, and to abolish the monarchy. Ethiopian students in Moscow seized their embassy there.

STRIKES LED TO MUTINY

Then the armed forces revolted, at first over higher pay demands. They quickly included the political demands that the other sectors were already raising. In addition, they arrested the members of Haile Selassie's old cabinet, who had all resigned under the pressure of the general strike. Rebellious troops then took over all the major cities and issued a call for independence for Eritrea.

The government promised to meet all the demands, but instead of quelling the protest this led to the demands being escalated further. When the government agreed to a \$1.80 per day minimum wage, the demand became \$3.00. The government pleaded for time to implement the political demands, but the population remained skeptical.

The strike, illegal in Ethiopia, grew broader and broader. Even 200 priests struck for higher pay and against "dishonest bishops." Finally, when police were called out to quell the strike, they too rioted in support of the strike.

The government claims that "law and order" have been restored. But if the strike is ended for now, the illegal popular organizations are still intact, and the government has merely bought time with promises which it obviously cannot deliver.

Another weak link in the chain of international monopoly capital is cracking.

PANEL ON ETHIOPIA

A program including a panel discussion on "The Current Situation in Ethiopia" and a film on Ethiopia will be held in New York on June 21, at the International House, 500 Riverside Drive, at 6:00 p.m. Among the speakers on the panel will be the General-Secretary of the Ethiopian Students Union and a representative of the Eritreans for Liberation.

Southern miners and consumers resist import of South African coal

By TOM GARDNER

ATLANTA, Ga., May 27—On May 22, nearly 8,000 Alabama miners in District 22 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMW) didn't mine one lump of coal. Instead they called for a 1-day "memorial" which was 90 percent effective, while close to 700 miners traveled to Birmingham, Ala., to stop the importation of South African coal.

The miners picketed a stockholders' meeting of the Southern Company, a large utility holding company which is importing the coal for its generating plants. The miners and many Southern Co. consumers carried signs reading: "No slave coal," "Stop Southern Company imperialism," and "Pull the switch on Southern Co."

Just the day before in Atlanta, a large group of consumers had picketed the

headquarters of one of Southern Co.'s subsidiaries, the Georgia Power Company. The demonstration was called by the Committee to Stop South Africa Coal and the Georgia Power Project, which has fought the company's rate hikes. The picketers pointed out that South African coal is mined by Black Africans working under slave labor conditions and controlled by the racist system of "apartheid" which the UN has called a "crime against humanity." They also pointed out that the imported coal would put about 400 U.S. miners out of work the first year.

MINERS SUPPORT THEIR S. AFRICAN BROTHERS

Many of the consumers in Atlanta drove to Birmingham the next day to join the miners in their protest against the importation of slave coal. In an important departure from the antireporter approach against imported products taken by some U.S. union leaders, the UMW has made it clear that it is concerned not only about the loss of jobs here but also about the slave conditions of their brother miners in South Africa.

One UMW local president told the press in Birmingham that the conditions suffered by those who mined South African coal were their main concern. He said, "The United Mineworkers do not favor discrimination any time, any where, for any reason."

Of course, this has not always been the position of the national UMW leadership. The corrupt UMW leadership under Tony Boyle did very little for the Black miners as their numbers were drastically reduced in the coalfields of this country, and would hardly have taken a principled stand against apartheid in South Africa. But under a reform administration brought to power by a rank-and-file insurgency in the UMW, a more progressive position has been taken in response to the imports. The door has been opened to developing a deeper awareness among miners and other workers of the need for showing international support for the struggles of superoppressed workers like

those in South Africa.

That awareness was deepened further when the 700 miners in Birmingham ended their picket with a rally. The miners listened carefully to one of the speakers, Donald Stone of the Black Workers Congress, as he detailed the oppressive working conditions for Black miners in South Africa. They cheered enthusiastically as he called for international workers' solidarity against the common enemy, the monopoly capitalist corporations.

SLAVE LABOR CONDITIONS

Many American workers are shocked to learn the facts about the extreme oppression of Black Africans under the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. An even more chilling thought is that if U.S. companies will go half way around the world to get cheaper coal produced under slave conditions, they will also do whatever they can to push workers here back into the same situation.

Black miners in South Africa are paid about \$66 per month. They are not allowed to negotiate or strike. Most of them are forced to work at the threat of prison or deportation if they refuse.

In 1960 the worst mine disaster in history from an unsafe roof in the Carter mine in South Africa killed 437 miners.

When other miners refused to work in the same unsafe mine, they were forced back to work by government troops at gun point. Black miners work 10 to 12 hours a day and are prevented by law from having skilled jobs or being paid as much as whites.

Last September 12 Black South African miners were killed by police and 27 wounded when they staged a walkout against unfair pay differentials.

These slave wages and prison camp conditions make it possible for Southern Company and its big New York bank stockholders to profit by importing the South African coal. UMW Research Director Tom Bethel estimates in a recent article in the UMW Journal that the price of South African coal at the pithead is about \$1.95 a ton compared with \$7.65 here in 1972.

It was after the infamous Sharpeville massacre, with the South African fascist regime's stability shaken by domestic rebellion and international sanctions, that large U.S. banks such as Chase Manhattan, Morgan Guaranty Trust, and First National City, all of New York City, rushed in to bolster the regime with emergency loans and investments. These same banks are large stockholders in the Southern Co., which has subsidiary utility companies in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. They now expect to cash in on their bloody investment in maintaining Black slave labor in South Africa.

The International Longshoremen's Association is being asked to refuse to unload the coal when it arrives in Mobile, Ala., in mid-July. The mineworkers are continuing to build opposition to the coal imports and educate rank-and-file miners on the slave labor conditions under which it is produced. Progressive groups such as the Georgia Power Project in Atlanta and the Selma Project in Alabama intend to keep fighting the South African coal.

In these efforts, as well as with the continuing Rhodesian chrome boycott by longshoremen, lie the seeds of international workers' solidarity which move us an important step closer to ending capitalist oppression and building a workers' world.

(Thanks to Georgia Power Project and UMW Journal for some of the information contained in this article.)



Spectre of inflation threatens profit system

By TOM MITCHELL

Worldwide inflation in the industrialized capitalist countries leaped 12 percent over last year, compared with 3 percent in the 1960s, and it continues to get worse. In the U.S., inflation in 1974 has been at a 16 percent rate, compared with 10 percent last year.

At this rate, in just 5 years prices will be doubled and the purchasing power of paper dollars will be cut in half!

In response to inflation, interest rates on loans have reached all-time highs, while businesses and consumers alike are forced to resort to ever-increasing indebtedness to make purchases and meet payments on outstanding loans. Now it will take only a minor reverse to cause bankruptcy.

MORE THAN ONE BANK SHAKY

The Federal Reserve Bank has tried to tighten up on credit and spending by making it more expensive for commercial banks to borrow funds from it. But last week the Franklin National Bank, 20th largest in the U.S., with assets of \$5 billion, nearly went bankrupt.

Immediately, the Fed extended more than \$1 billion in credit to the Franklin and poured new funds into the money supply, feeding inflation to stave off the crisis.

Rumors swept Wall Street that half a dozen other banks are shaky, and none other than billionaire banker David Rockefeller felt compelled to speak out, declaring that there is no reason for panic.

The capitalist financiers are desperately searching for a way to slow down rampaging prices in order to save their system. But in the modern capitalist economy dominated by monopoly price fixing, inflationary deficit spending for military production is the fuel that has sustained the general expansion and prosperity that has lasted since World War II.

WAR BUDGET SAPS DOLLAR

The Pentagon is calling for a budget of \$99 billion for the year beginning June 1974, up from \$80 billion just a year ago, while the national debt owed to the Wall Street banks has reached nearly half a trillion dollars.

Because the production of military goods brings nothing back into the economy in exchange, the billions of dollars in deficit spending pumped into the cost-plus profits of military contractors are essentially valueless and eat away at the value of the dollar.

The military is wedded to the giant corporations, defending the superprofits from their neocolonial empire. And as long

as monopolies control production, they will use their power to create shortages and jack up prices. The inflated prices we pay today are a result of the fact that the free operation of supply and demand on prices went out with the horse and buggy.

The plain truth is that the capitalists and their representatives in government are utterly incapable of controlling inflation. Even though they can see that runaway prices will lead to disaster, the demand to make profits now forces them to continue to feed inflation.

'EXPERTS' HAVE NO ANSWERS

All the techniques of government intervention in the economy have outlived their effectiveness. At a recent conference of economists the only counter to inflation that they could agree on was a depression. One despairing economist remarked: "All we can do is rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic."

The capitalist system of exploitation is in crisis, and it is all they can do to keep it running from week to week. As for us, we are told to learn to live with inflation, to calmly accept disappearing real income, and not to worry about an economy held together with funny money and state subsidies to failing corporations.

But working and poor people are not about to passively accept increasing impoverishment. The material imperative of getting the money to pay the higher prices is sure to sharpen the class struggle—and that's the unspoken greatest fear of all to the capitalists.

It is the workers who have built this country from the ground up and who daily increase the profits of the superrich few who own everything that is produced. The workers will not surrender without a fight their right to a comfortable standard of living in return for their labor.

COST-OF-LIVING ESCALATOR

All labor organizations must unite in a common defense against inflation. As a start, the profit incentive must be taken out of price increases by getting a point for point cost-of-living escalator for all working people, just like there is a minimum wage.

Also, the enormous government handouts to the military contractors must be stopped. All these funds should be put into the true welfare of poor and working people, to produce schools, hospitals, housing, and other things of real value.

And eventually, labor will have to challenge the right of monopolies to restrict production and fix high prices. The multibillion profits of the giant corporations must be turned into a general price rollback.

Did dairies kill cows to drive up milk prices?

By KAREN PAULICH

DETROIT, May 25—Milk is being removed from the grocery shelves and poured into the dirt by producers here, while more than 1,000 Michigan cows are being destroyed and laid to waste. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports, these dairy cattle have been "accidentally" contaminated with a very poisonous fire-retarding chemical that was mixed into their feed.

Traces of this dangerous chemical, bromide, have been found in milk. It is not yet certain how bromide affects human beings, but there have been reports of illness due to the contaminant, including loss of hair in children. Milk containing bromide has been on the market in Michigan since last fall!

ACCIDENT OR DESIGN?

In view of the increased prices the dairies will get, the bromide poisoning may not have been entirely accidental. It comes

at exactly the same time that the dairy industry is announcing it will slaughter more than 50,000 cows nationwide. The only reason: to boost prices. At least 300 milk cows have already been destroyed in Upstate New York. Just a few weeks ago, there was also a sudden "epidemic" of tuberculosis in the Michigan herds, which disappeared almost as quickly as it came.

Most of these cows aren't being destroyed by small dirt farmers scrounging to stay out of the red. Ninety-eight percent of all fluid-grade milk is controlled by a few huge agribusiness monopolies, and the three main dairy associations are continuing to sew up the market.

The Farm Bureau, which distributed the feed, has strong ties with the Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) and is a willing servant of the agribusiness monopolies who control today's food production from the farm to the shelf. And the USDA certainly hasn't stepped in to

Life for the poor in Chicago: Part 6

Flat grants make welfare worse

By EILEEN JONES

CHICAGO, May 20—Anyone living on welfare in Illinois can testify to the fact that over the past few months the welfare system has gone from bad to the worst possible. In October 1973, the Illinois welfare system was changed over to a flat grant system. Since 70 percent of Illinois' 1.1 million recipients live in Cook County, this is concentrated mostly in the Chicago area.

Although the old system of welfare in Illinois was hardly providing a decent standard of living for recipients, the new flat grant plan has made life impossible. People on welfare now receive a flat sum of money which is based on family size only.

The old payment was decided on the basis of family size, age of children, amount of rent paid, and needs of the individuals. A family of four in Chicago, with one adult, now receives \$288 per month regardless of what rent they pay or their needs. The most allowed for rent (utilities included) is \$105 per month—but most families are paying \$145 or more plus utilities.

Before, recipients survived by depending on the 90 special allowances made for expenses and emergencies not covered by their basic payment. These have been cut out, allowing for nothing but expenses incurred in the WIN program—a system of forced labor demanded of those on welfare. Mothers aren't even allowed money to send their children to school, let alone to provide for the things they will need there. A new mother can't get clothing or furniture for her baby. Things such as furniture, household items, doing the laundry, and babysitters are considered luxuries.

Advocates of the flat grant system said that by redistributing the money, 75 percent of the people would receive more in their grant than before. However, this token amount has to be used for immediate needs which are no longer covered, leaving one-fourth of the people with less than they received before. And they are the people who depended on the old allowances the most.

Governor Walker tries to justify this oppressive system of welfare with his rhetorical garbage about getting rid of the "cheaters" and providing only for the "truly needy." It was the well-known racist Governor Ronald Reagan who handed this plan over to Walker. Walker was so impressed that Reagan's plan cut off some

350,000 California welfare recipients in the last 2 years, that he hired the same group of Reagan lawyers as "public aid" consultants.

To get rid of the so-called "cheaters," the State Welfare Department has sent a posse of 115 special investigators to Cook County where they are reviewing some 30,000 "questionable" recipients, trying to find some way to get rid of them. They began by cutting off 200 cases 2 weeks before Christmas, and plan to continue canceling 1,000 cases a month. That means thousands of poor people left with nothing but starvation!

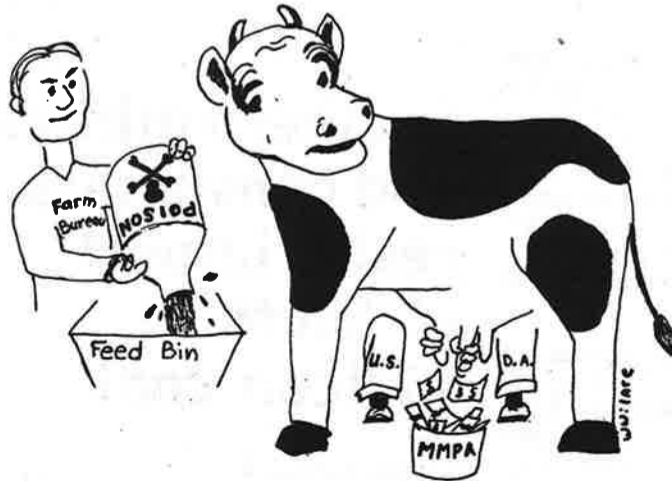
As part of this attack, the state is forcing recipients to prove every month that they are eligible for welfare. Notices are sent out on a regular basis demanding that recipients report all sources of income within 15 days or they will be cut off. The letter scares recipients into believing that if they don't report all additional income, including gifts, they will be taken to court. These notices are purposely not written in Spanish and are vaguely worded. The state is also demanding that all recipients prove their U.S. citizenship before being able to receive aid.

If Walker really wanted to help the poor, he could stop paying \$3.2 million per month to the Lincoln National Bank just for handling food stamp cards. (The Lincoln National Bank holds a monopoly on food stamp distribution for the entire state.)

But Dan Walker isn't fooling many people with his phony rhetoric about helping the poor. He certainly didn't fool the South Side residents of Chicago, when he ventured into the Black community to hold his 22nd "accountability session." The crowd let him know they saw through his play of representing the poor and oppressed, and drowned out his attempts to "explain" his actions with shouts of "liar, liar."

And he certainly doesn't fool the Welfare Rights Organization which is fighting his flat grant system and demanding a 25 percent increase in all grants, the flexible coverage of rent and utilities, and a \$25 per month carfare allowance for each school child.

Until working people control their own destiny and can do away with the humiliating and degrading system of welfare altogether, the struggle goes on to make life on welfare at least bearable.



protect consumers—Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and his gang are former executives and stockholders and present cronies of agribusiness giants like Ralston-Purina.

POISONED COWS, POISONED CHICKENS

The whole incident calls to mind the recent killing in Mississippi of more than 8 million poisoned chickens. This "mishap" followed a drop in the price of chicken and caused poultry prices to climb again. The agribusiness monopolies that bred these chickens got an extra little bonus to boot—\$1 compensation per chicken from the federal government, which was 30 cents more than

the going farm price. By the way, the Michigan legislature is also considering handsome subsidies to compensate the dairies whose herd was affected.

Who could doubt that there are some "dirty tricks" going on behind the scenes among the milk monopolies, the USDA, and the state government. By now, Watergate and the \$2 million milk bribes have shown the "honesty" of the dairy monopolies to be pretty questionable, anyway.

The only cure for poisoned cows, high prices, and the other diseases of capitalism will be for the workers and oppressed to seize the means of production. Only then can we produce food for people, not for profit.

Famine or socialism?

By ELIZABETH ROSS

Every week new predictions of worldwide and imminent famine are broadcast from college rostrums, pulpits, and seats of government.

The official reasons for the coming catastrophe are invariably given as burgeoning populations and the impossibility of growing enough food for this overcrowded planet.

A month ago the British novelist, C.P. Snow, backed by 1,000 world-renowned celebrities, went before the UN to plead for a much greater effort by all nations to

spread birth control knowledge and supply contraceptive devices to stave off future starvation.

To show that even politicians (of the Democratic variety) were sensitive to the needs of the poor in every corner of the globe, Hubert Humphrey, few weeks later, made vague noises about the moral obligations of Americans and other UN members to remember the needy in this hour of their greatest distress.

A week later, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund warned that 400 to 500 million children are threatened by severe malnutrition, even

starvation, and called on the UN to declare a state of emergency for the first time in 27 years. (That there are "at any given time 10 million children in the world suffering from severe malnutrition" was not, apparently, sufficient cause for such grave concern.)

It is desperately true that millions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are even now facing starvation, and their plight will undoubtedly worsen in the months to come.

But no prayers, no calls for charity, or rigid laws to limit population growth can solve this cruel dilemma.

Only a profound change in social relations and a reorganization of production to benefit the toilers—in a word, the socialist revolution—can end the threat of famine now facing humanity.

But the solutions being offered are far from revolutionary. They are instead inclined to be bizarre, and many betray more than a hint of fascist ideology.

Bizarre is the only word to use for the

suggestion made at a meeting of physicists at Princeton on May 13. There it was projected that most of humanity may be living on space platforms a century from now! It was pointed out that "virtually unlimited" resources exist in space and that sunlight provides a continuous source of free energy with no nighttime interruption.

More pessimistic and sinister are political economist Robert Heilbroner's theses appearing in his new book, *An Inquiry into the Human Prospect*.

"If we ask whether it is possible to meet the challenges of the future without the payment of a fearful price, the answer must be: No, there is no such hope," concludes Heilbroner. "Iron" governments and ultimately nuclear war are, in his view, inevitable. These are sentiments to hearten potential fascists around the world.

It is a lie that the capitalist rulers of the earth cannot feed the people. The truth is that they will not. They prefer to spend resources and manpower on war materials, on investments in highly profitable industries (which include tempting and sleazy gadgets to lure the poor as well as luxury items for the rich), and on expanding their already overgrown empires.

Some of the experts on food production who work for the UN must have winced when they listened to those dire prophecies, for only a year ago they published the hitherto unknown fact that during the decade of the 1960s world food production increased one and three-quarters times as fast as the increase in world population!

But the government priorities that could boost food production still higher are diverted into other channels. In the House of Representatives a bill was just passed allowing \$22.6 billion for arms in the coming fiscal year. Saigon will get more than \$1 billion of this—the same amount it received last year, although the administration wanted to grant the puppet government \$474 million more. (At the same time the Department of Agriculture advises citrus growers to destroy 35 percent of their crops to keep prices up.)

Countries under the domination of imperialism are forced to produce a single crop, which causes an imbalance of nutrients in the soil, subjects the economy to the vagaries of fluctuating market prices, and robs the people of their former knowledge and skills in growing many kinds of grains and vegetables.

Ceylon is an example: tea is its single commodity, which has gone up very little in price in recent years. The Ceylonese must exchange their low-priced tea for foods and other necessities of life at greatly inflated prices.

The result is that today the people of Ceylon, one of the most fertile islands in the world, are facing immediate starvation. They just haven't enough money to eat.

Cuba, before the revolution, was in the same predicament: when the price of sugar on the world market was low, Cuban peasants went hungry. Now, although sugar is still Cuba's principal cash crop, every effort by Cuba's socialist government is made to increase the acreage planted in grain and vegetables, while new breeds of cattle that can thrive on the hot, dry island have been introduced and grow in numbers. Cuba's children are well fed in spite of the U.S. blockade.

But the proof that socialist planning can overcome all obstacles in attaining food for all lies in the example of China. China, where for more than a century there were 6 years of famine for every 1 of plenty, and millions died of starvation, has conquered hunger!

C.L. Sulzberger, well-known conservative columnist for *The New York Times*, in a series written last year, stated that mainland China, with the largest population in the world (800 million), using only 20 percent of its land for agricultural purposes (because the rest was either desert or had been ruined by generations of greedy landlords) is now able to feed all its people without outside aid!

What more proof is needed that the obstacle to satisfying humanity's most basic need—hunger—lies not in the lack of nature's resources but in a decaying social organization?



In the midst of abundance, with food production increasing faster than the world population, 500 million children are near starvation.

Poverty fund cutoffs spur New York protests

By CAL BONNER

NEW YORK, May 26—July 1 of this year is the scheduled termination date for federal funds to the antipoverty programs sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity. These programs have been giving assistance to the poor in New York City and other cities across the United States. If President Nixon and Congress refuse to resuscitate the funding of these domestic aid projects, many jobs will be lost and over a million residents of the city of New York will be denied services provided through the Council Against Poverty (CAP) and the Community Development Agency (CDA). Presently, \$21 million a year is provided by the federal government; the city provides an additional \$23 million.

Direct response to this latest attack by

the Nixon administration on the living standards of the urban poor began when more than 5,000 workers and supporters of the 400 OEO programs operating in this city marched in the streets and held a rally April 16. They declared a spring offensive to demand federal and city funding of these programs beyond the deadline.

The offensive, called "Fight for Survival," was formally kicked off with a mass rally at City Hall. This followed a march by thousands across the Brooklyn Bridge and protest rallies at Gov. Malcolm Wilson's office in Manhattan, in Federal Plaza, and in the office of the Internal Revenue Service, the latter two also in Manhattan. A 26-day vigil, which ended May 11, was initiated.

The predominantly young and Third World gathering displayed much spirit,

singing and clapping to the accompaniment of trumpets, loud whistles, and drums. The sisters and brothers also wore buttons with the messages, "S.O.S. Save our services!" and "East Harlem lives."

The pressure exerted on Mayor Abraham Beame assured the release of city funds for the programs. But an adamantly anti-poor administration in the seat of the U.S. empire insures the expiration of the federal funds on June 30, with the consequence of added misery to the lives of the poor people of New York City.

Officials of CAP—New York City's agency for making the policies on services to the poor and oppressed through contracts with nearly 400 Community Corporation and Delegate agencies—and the CDA—its administrative arm, stated that the termination of the OEO would result in the loss to the city of over 5,000 agency jobs. In addition, some 7,000 community residents serving on the policy-making boards find their jobs endangered by the OEO termination. Over a million residents of the city received services through the agencies in 1973.

Party Councilman Matthew Troy.

Just after the City Council's vote yesterday, GAA members in the gallery shouted "Bigot!" at the opposition councilmen and shook their fists at them. Then, about 200 supporters of the bill went to protest in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral. A delegation of protesters met with Msgr. Eugene Clark to demand that the church reverse its position on homosexual rights. Clark, representing Cardinal Cooke, refused to budge from the church's position. Meanwhile, outside, the demonstrators shouted, "Shame on Cardinal Cooke!" and "Cooke is a bigot!"

The gay civil rights bill will be reintroduced in the City Council this week but will not be pressed for passage until after the November elections. Considering the closeness of yesterday's vote, it is inexcusable that the City Council will not bring the bill to a second vote any sooner. Gay people and all progressives supporting the gay civil rights bill will certainly wage a resolute struggle to get the bill passed, even if the capitalist bigots on the City Council refuse to do so.

Gay rights bill defeated; activists vow to fight on!

NEW YORK, May 24—Despite the narrow defeat of Intro 2 (the gay civil rights bill) in the City Council yesterday, gay movement activists vowed to step up their struggle to gain full equality for all homosexuals. Morty Manford, president of the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), told the press that there would be "an escalation of confrontation programs. . . . It's not a matter of picketing any more. It's a matter of disrupting the operation of government."

Following a 3½-year struggle, the gay civil rights bill was finally voted out of City Council committee and brought onto the floor for a vote. The bill was barely defeated by a 22 to 19 margin. The bill, although slightly watered down by amendment, was to guarantee homosexuals equal access to

housing, jobs, and public accommodations.

The close vote reflects the strong pressure exerted by gay militants on the city's ruling class and politicians. At various times, gay people have demonstrated in the City Council chambers, at the mayor's office, at the homes of antigay politicians, at "high society" gatherings, and in the streets.

But an amalgam of reactionary forces spent tens of thousands of dollars on a campaign against the bill. They also delivered threats to City Council members either who favored the bill or who wavered to any extent. The opposition was led by the New York archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church, the Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA), and Democratic

Divorce Italian style Women, workers beat back Church, rightist mobilization

By LORRAINE BRESLOW

Celebration filled the working class trattorias and streets of Rome, Milan, Florence, and cities throughout Italy. As workers and students crowded into Rome's Piazza Venezia singing the International, others waving red flags filled the streets in night-long rallies, jubilant in their victory over the Vatican, the Fascists, and Italy's largest capitalist party in the May 13 divorce referendum.

In that referendum the Italian people, especially workers and women, voted by a margin of 19 million to 13 million against repealing the 1970 law granting the right to divorce. This issue came to a ballot as the result of a frantic rightwing mobilization against not only divorce, but primarily against the leftwing and the increasing militancy and class consciousness of the working class in general.

Italy's economy, reflecting the inability of capitalism worldwide to emerge from its ever-deepening crisis, is racked with 20 percent inflation, unemployment, deficit spending, and a deterioration of the social reforms won in bitter struggles by the workers. It was no accident, however, that the Vatican, the ruling church-backed Christian Democratic Party, and the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement-National Right Wing centered their confrontation with the left on the divorce question.

This rightwing alliance, relying on the clerical and patriarchal ideas that have saturated Italy for almost 2,000 years, felt fully confident it would arise victorious from the referendum.

Those who vote for divorce "will burn in hell" threatened Giuseppe Cardinal Siri, Archbishop of Genoa. Most of Italy's 190,000 priests and nuns participated in the rightwing mobilization, sloganeering to "save the family" and even plastering up posters reading "divorce equals cancer" and "divorce equals communism." Up to the day of the referendum, priests in thousands of churches around Italy told congregations to vote against divorce—while hundreds walked out of those sermons in protest.

However, despite this reactionary drive and despite the fact that the million-member Communist Party began seriously counterattacking only on the very eve of the referendum, the working class, especially the women, won by a huge majority.

It was the women who, contrary to the predictions of the capitalist press, played the most significant role in maintaining the right to divorce. The election results showed that 1.7 million more women voted than men. Italian women, even in the traditionally most conservative southern areas, eloquently demonstrated a profound break with the ideology of patriarchal imprisonment, responding undoubtedly to the movement for the liberation and rights of women worldwide.

Just as the oppression of women is woven into the very fabric of the capitalist system, so the struggle for women's rights is an integral part of the workers' struggle against capitalism as a whole. In the case of the divorce referendum in Italy, it became the pivot of the class struggle from which both women and all workers in Italy won a stunning victory.



Joyful Romans celebrate victory of the divorce law, a triumph over forces of the rightwing and the Vatican.

Gov't troops crush strike by 2 million Indian RR workers

By ANDY STAPP

Just three weeks after it began, India's first general strike of railway workers has ended, crushed by governmental repression of unprecedented ferocity. By the 20th day of the walkout, the Gandhi regime had arrested 50,000 (fifty thousand!) workers, thus breaking the back of the strike that had paralyzed Asia's largest railway network.

The strike came at a time of mounting revolutionary crisis in the Indian subcontinent. Ninety million people face starvation, but the Gandhi regime has responded by ordering out troops and cops to gun down thousands of workers and peasants in Bihar, Gujarat, and other states who have rioted against governmental corruption and hunger.

The railway strike was simply the culmination of this mass upheaval against India's ruling Congress Party, which has monopolized political power in the country since 1947.

"The government fought a miniwar," angrily stated one union official as the strike came to an end.

And a war it was, the police rampaging through the homes of workers, even raping the wives of strikers who had been imprisoned.

CAN'T LIVE ON \$26 A MONTH

With wages of most railway workers at only \$26 a month, the union was demanding a doubling of pay. Indira Gandhi, whose pet dog has a higher caloric intake than the average citizen of the country she rules, said that these small wage increases would be "impossible."

In a bitter attack on the strikers, she

denounced those who "wish to remove certain classes" (meaning her own class of rich capitalist parasites). Replying to critics in parliament who denounced her arrest of the 50,000 workers, she stated, "I have not cracked down on anyone."

The capitalist press in the U.S. had a great deal to say about India last week, mostly deploring that India had developed a "Nagasaki-type bomb." None, however, condemned the arrest of tens of thousands of railway strikers and the rape of their wives and daughters. The U.S. press, which often hypocritically bemoans India's "inefficiency" at feeding her vast and poor population, was suddenly full of praise for the very efficient manner in which the strike was crushed.

The May 28 New York Times called the smashing of the six unions a "triumph for Mrs. Gandhi" and gloated about "her victory over the two million railroad workers."

In fact, the suppression of the strike was so brutal it was necessary for the National Coordination Struggle, the united group of the six striking unions, to operate completely from underground from the day the walkout began.

But even in the fact of the government's out-and-out police state tactics, many union leaders both in and out of prison opposed ending the strike when it did.

As the railways began to run again on May 28, the big Indian bosses like M.N. Berry, chairman of the Railway Board, heaved a sigh of relief. They had bought more time in postponing the inevitable showdown with the hundreds of millions of people they oppress and exploit.

Why no outrage in press over bombing of refugees?

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

The power of the imperialist press to create "moral" issues—and to bury them—was illustrated in its coverage of the Palestinian commando attack at Maalot, and the subsequent heavy bombing of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon by Israeli planes.

The Palestinian action, in which the three commandoes and 20 of their young hostages were killed, most probably by the invading Israeli troops, was characterized by the press as "savagely," "abominable," and an "outrage."

But when Israeli phantom jets and ships then bombed and shelled the refugee camps, leaving more than 60 dead and 200 wounded, the news reporting was in the dry language of Pentagon "body count" press releases.

We saw the grieving parents of the Israeli children. But there were weeping and outraged kin of men, women, and children killed in Lebanon, too. We weren't allowed to feel their pain.

WEAPONS OF THE DISPOSSESSED

Why did three young Palestinians take on a mission of this kind, one where they knew their own deaths were probable? Why didn't they fight in a more impersonal way, with planes and gunboats? Is it because they are blood-thirsty, as all the frenzy implies, or "beyond the pale of the human race," as the Christian Science Monitor wrote?

They chose this weapon—of a small commando attack—instead of the more expensive weapons used by the Israelis because they don't have the resources at the Israelis' disposal, resources provided by U.S. imperialism in the form of economic and military aid.

And so they are forced to take hostages, fight in hand-to-hand combat, and even go on "suicide" missions in a war where the other side can launch a bombing run, push the right buttons dispassionately, and be back in time for supper.

And not even have to look at the torn

flesh and smoking buildings.

The Palestinians who fought at Maalot didn't just launch a sudden attack, wildly killing anyone at hand. They gave the Israeli authorities a choice—unlike the Israeli air attacks on the refugees. They would release their hostages in exchange for the release of 20 of their comrades in Israeli prisons. The negotiations were sabotaged by the Israelis and the attack by Israeli soldiers was sudden and unexpected.

The French ambassador to Israel, Jean Herly, was prevented by the Israeli command from reaching the guerillas. He had hoped to extend their deadline for the prisoner release.

Just as at Attica and at Munich, it was the authorities who sacrificed the lives of the hostages in order to win a political point.

WHY THERE'S A WAR

Completely ignored by the press here in its great "moral outrage" are the reasons why there has been a war going on in the Middle East since 1948. The Palestinians are fighting because they are a people who were forced out of their homeland when Israel was created. The commando organizations are fighting for a Palestinian state in which both Arab and Jew will have equality before the law in a democratic socialist order.

Arabs are automatically second-class citizens in Israel, which was set up as a Jewish state. Even more important, Israel has always been lined up with the imperialist powers against the aspirations of the Arabs throughout the Middle East, as it has shown on countless occasions.

We in this country are constantly bombarded with pro-Israeli propaganda not because of any sympathy with the Jewish people on the part of U.S. imperialism, but because this Zionist garrison in the Middle East provides the shock troops for a war that ultimately serves Wall Street's interests. And those interests boil down to oil—billions of dollars worth of it.

It is the rich ruling class in the U.S. who



Demonstrators in Detroit condemn Israeli terrorism.

WW photo: Larry Montgomery

deserve the bitterest moral outrage for the deaths at Maalot—and in Lebanon. They who never pull a trigger, who never don a uniform, who never suffer battle fatigue or encounter the horror of physical pain. They just shape the policies that keep the oil

profits flowing in, policies that are transmitted from the board rooms, to the cabinet offices, to the staff headquarters, to the field positions.

It is they who must be put "beyond the pale of the human race."

Revolutionary mood of workers challenging Portuguese capital

By ANDY STAPP

The explosive rebellion of Portugal's working class, ignited by the ouster of the hated Caetano regime, is shaking the rotten foundations of Portuguese capitalism.

The dramatic upsurge of these, the poorest workers in all Europe, strikes fear not only into "their own" fascist bourgeoisie, but into the hearts of the U.S. imperialists themselves.

Writing from Lisbon, New York Times reporter Henry Giniger filed a dispatch reflecting Wall Street's dismay that events had gotten so far "out of control."

"Ignoring a plea for order and work by General Antonio de Spinoza, who took office yesterday as president," Giniger reported on May 17, "8,500 workers of Lisbon's biggest shipyard, Lisnav, occupied the sprawling plant along the Tagus River last night with demands for a doubling of wages and for worker control.

"It was a revolutionary scene, with banners proclaiming 'we want to own our own country' and 'down with the useless lackeys; up with the workers.' Hammer and sickle symbols were sprayed over executive elevators leading to offices where Portugal's biggest industrial and commercial combine, the Companhia Uniao Fabril, held sway up to yesterday."

Despite Spinoza's back-to-work order, 200,000 textile workers are prepared to join the swelling revolt if they do not receive a 70 percent pay increase. They also have demanded that their fascist bosses be thrown out. Striking workers are occupying the plants of Firestone, International Telephone and Telegraph, Timex, and Bayer, refusing to return to work until the fascists who run these American-owned companies are removed.

In the same article cited above, Giniger writes with alarm that "Signs of the revolutionary mood appeared principally in the public services, almost at the beginning of the coup. Despite warnings against 'mini revolutions' and anarchy, the mood has spread, posing a clear threat to the economy and creating the danger of sharp reactions from the military who appear to be alarmed at the prospect that it might turn into chaos."

What exactly does this overpaid scribbler for The New York Times mean when he writes about a "clear threat to the economy"?

This flunkey knows very well that the country's per capital income is \$423, that miners are paid \$2.00 a day, and other industrial workers \$1.80 a day.

The "clear threat to the economy" he moans about is the economy of the fascist superrich who held the popular masses of Portugal in a reign of terror for over four decades.

Writing about this scum that floats at the top of Portuguese society, Time magazine of May 20 sympathizes with those "at the other end of the spectrum, Portugal's wealthy industrialist and the oligarchic '100 families' who virtually own the economy...desperately maneuvering and power broking to keep the junta from making concessions to the restive workers."

As the strike movement, the worker occupations of factories, and the demand for the overthrow of the fascist-soaked capitalist class sweep through the masses like a growing hurricane, the militarists, headed by Spinoza, are frantically trying to put the lid back on a Pandora's box they never intended to open.

On May 28 Air Force General Carlos Galvao de Melo went on Portuguese national TV and threatened that the military would "not tolerate" the massive strikes, adding that he and many other army officers are "disgusted and almost frightened by the ingratitude" of the people.

The Portuguese working class does not seem any more enthusiastic about General de Melo than he is about them, and even as

he spoke streetcar workers, postmen, and bakers went out, swelling the ranks of the strikers.

The "democratic military" has used force in recent weeks to disperse demonstrations against the continuation of the African wars. It has also made clear its friendship with U.S. imperialism.

The Washington Post of May 25 describes one junta officer who "voiced wonder what 'so many CIA agents are doing in Portugal.' He said the armed forces movement wants to cooperate with the U.S.," the Post added.

In fact, both Nixon and Kissinger have sent messages of support to Spinoza. They are counting on him to contain the growing revolution in that country. The first diplomat to visit Gen. Spinoza after his installation as president was the U.S. ambassador.

A decree passed by the junta gives General Francisco Costa Gomes, Armed Forces chief of staff, equal power with the civilian premier. Spinoza has stated that he will continue to wage the vicious colonial war against the African people, a war despised by the vast majority of the Portuguese people. Spinoza has also flatly stated that "due to the transitory character of the provisional government (elections are not scheduled for a year), we cannot proceed to great basic reforms."

Of course Spinoza's service to fascism is a matter of record. Before the coup, the closest he ever got to a communist was when he was fighting alongside the Nazi army in the suburbs of Leningrad. And it was Spinoza who ordered the vile assassination of Amilcar Cabral, head of the PAIGC, which has succeeded in liberating most of Guinea-Bissau from Lisbon rule.

Although the hated secret police, the PIDE-DGS, has been totally routed in Portugal by the fury of the working people they used to enjoy torturing, Spinoza has given the go ahead for this gestapo to operate in the colonies, merely absorbing its members into the military police. He also arranged for Caetano and other big fascist criminals to get to Brazil to escape the

wrath of the people who wanted them tried and executed.

Shamefully, the leaders of the two major working class parties in Portugal, the Communist Party (largest in the country) and the Socialist Party, have given the same uncritical support to Spinoza that the Popular Unity government of Chile gave to Pinochet.

Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese CP, warned the workers against being "impatient" on May 17. The New York Times of May 22 reports, "The Communists, generally believed to be the best organized political movement in Portugal, are continuing their efforts to quell the labor unrest that has boiled up since the collapse of the Caetano Government.

"The second Communist in the government, labor minister Avelino Pacheco Goncalves, a 34-year-old bank employee, is busily involved in talks to settle



Despite the electoral victory of the conservative, d'Estaing, French workers continue their fight against inflation.

'Third turn' of class struggle opens after French election

By JOHN C. OTTO

MAY 24—Valery Giscard-d'Estaing, fully backed by the French ruling class, has won the French presidential election by a narrow margin over Francois Mitterand, who was supported by nearly all the working class organizations. In this "second turn," or run-off election, Giscard-d'Estaing got 50.7 percent of the votes cast, defeating Mitterand by about 400,000 votes.

ELECTION RIGGED AGAINST WORKERS

Even looking at the elections from a narrow numerical point of view, we find them rigged against the working class. About 20 percent of France's workers are foreigners, mostly from former French colonies in Africa and North Africa or from Portugal and Italy, and have no vote. The large majority of these 4 million probably would have voted for Mitterand, as most of the French workers did. Also, the youth would have tended to vote for Mitterand if they had been given the franchise.

But besides actually whittling down their numbers, a bourgeois election underestimates the social weight of the workers, including the foreign workers. The working class plays a vital role in the most important industries, producing the bulk of the commodities in the nation. It can act

together in strength through its unions and parties. In contrast, the many small farmers and shopkeepers are isolated and easily mobilized to vote for the candidate of big capital. Giscard-d'Estaing, playing on their fear of losing their small holdings, made anticommunism a major theme of his campaign—even though it is big capital, not communism, which historically has ruined the small property owners and turned them into wage earners.

STRUGGLE GOES ON

The electoral results do no more than confirm that the French masses want real socialism. The French working class will make real social gains not at the ballot box but in struggles in the factories and in the streets. There may be some temporary demoralization due to Mitterand's electoral defeat, but there has been no real setback to the workers' organizations, while French capitalism still finds itself in the economic crisis it faced before the death of Pompidou and the election.

Mitterand was more of a liberal than a socialist, and his election could only have opened up a struggle for the social gains for the workers promised by his program; the ruling class and its oppressive state apparatus would have still been intact. On the other hand, in a demagogic attempt to soften his own image among the workers,

the many strikes that are plaguing Portugal."

Instead of rallying the Portuguese workers for the final push to overthrow the hated capitalists, the revisionist CP, like Spinoza and The New York Times, calls for cooperation with the military brass and a return to the pre-coup status quo with a few reforms that leave the fundamental oppressive economic structure intact.

But with the workers in a fighting mood the outcome of this great class battle has not been decided. It is the workers who are on the advance, the junta and the capitalists who are retreating.

At the huge May Day march, in place of the official CP chant, "The people united will never be defeated," many workers shouted, "The people armed will never be defeated." The situation in Portugal today has some striking resemblances to the situation in Russia in February 1917 after the Czar was overthrown but before the capitalist class itself had been crushed. Like Kerensky, the revisionists stand blocking the road to revolution.

One Portuguese workers' leader gave the proper answer to the junta and the sell-outs. "Go on striking," said Isabel do Carmo on May 22. "Only thus you'll establish a true dictatorship of the proletariat."

even Giscard-d'Estaing (who claims he can trace his lineage back to Louis XV), made some promises to improve the standard of living of the workers.

The trade union organizations have seized upon these promises as the minimum gains expected under the new government. The more progressive unions announced within a few days after the election that they would not sit on their hands waiting for the new president to keep those promises. The struggle would begin for higher salaries, shorter hours, a minimum wage, and better pensions for the aged and handicapped, and especially to improve the living conditions for the lowest paid workers.

THE THIRD TURN: CLASS STRUGGLE

In an immediate reaction to the election, the Communist Party asked the workers to accept the result in serenity and tranquility, telling them that no demonstrations were necessary, while the Socialists said that the left has always respected the solidarity of the "nation" and would not open a social struggle.

Of the more left groups, the Lutte Ouvriere called upon the workers to make sure Giscard keeps his promises, and Alain Krivine of the Front Communist Revolutionnaire said that the workers would not wait 7 years (till the next election) but will prepare for the third turn: struggles to obtain the satisfaction of their demands and the overthrow of the reactionary regime.

It should be noted that already the workers have pushed their reformist leadership into making demands on the new government. The election is over; the third turn of the class struggle is opening in France.

political prisoners

NORFOLK BSU

NORFOLK, Va., May 24—A few minutes past midnight on the morning of May 13, police with drawn guns kicked down the door of a house in downtown Norfolk and attacked and arrested three members of the Norfolk State College Black Student Union (BSU). It was only the latest in a number of racist police attacks that have occurred in Norfolk's Black community since A.J. Brown, former director of the Dallas, Texas police department, took over as chief of police in this southeastern Virginia city.

The gestapo-style attack began when police pounded on the door of the residence, claiming to be looking for someone who was not there. After refusing to show a search warrant, the police called for reinforcements, surrounded the block, and broke in, attacking and arresting those they found within.

Arrested were HERMANN REEVES, Chairman of the BSU, who suffered a broken hand and is charged with interfering with an officer; TACITUS HALL, who was struck on the head and required several stitches, charged with assault and interfering; and JOHN HENDRICKS, who is charged with interfering.

The attack came one week after an article appeared in the *Vanguard*, newspaper of the BSU, exposing police terror against the Black and Chicano communities in Dallas during Brown's time as director in that notoriously racist city. Among the incidents recounted by the BSU were:

(1) The murder of 12-year-old Santos Minez, who was shot in the back of the head while handcuffed by killer-cop Darryl Cain in July 1973.

(2) The murder of Tomas Rodriguez and the permanent crippling of his pregnant wife by police who fired eight shotgun blasts into their house in what was later termed a "justifiable mistake."

(3) The brutal beating and frameup of Cal Ray Biggens on a murder-robbery charge with no substantial evidence.

Norfolk, the largest city in Virginia, is one of the fastest growing cities in the state and a major base for the U.S. military. Brown's appointment as chief of police is seen by progressives here as part of a deliberate effort by the ruling class and military to prevent the growth of any progressive movement, particularly in the city's large, oppressed Black community.

Just a few days before the May 13 raid, the BSU received a letter from Brown, attempting to reply to the *Vanguard* article and asking for a chance to prove himself before being judged.

The Black Student Union says that they and the people of Norfolk will judge Brown by his actions, not by his words. They are calling upon the Black community and all progressive people in Norfolk to come to the three brothers' trial on June 11 to show Brown and his blue-coated thugs that they will not allow a police state in Norfolk.

LEAVENWORTH BROTHERS

TOPEKA, Ks. May 9—Today, ODELL BENNETT, a Black Leavenworth Brother, was convicted of resisting and interfering with a federal officer, acquitted on a similar charge, and had a mistrial declared on two others.

Bennett is among seven inmates indicted in the aftermath of a rebellion at the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary on July 31, 1973.

The charges he faced today resulted from his refusal to submit to a digital rectal examination rape by prison guards on August 22, 1973, before going to court to press 6 civil suits pending against the Leavenworth warden, Loren Daggett.

When seven of eight guards came to his

cell, where he had conducted a hunger strike for 22 days, and ordered him to submit to the "finger wave," Bennett said he would rather drop the charges than be brutalized. One of the guards said, "Let's get that nigger," and they attacked.

He was handcuffed and beaten for 10 minutes in his cell, for which he was charged with assault and acquitted.

Bennett was then taken to the marshal's office where the prosecution admitted he went limp and received the rectal probe on his knees before he collapsed, for which he was found guilty of resisting.

Two other charges were placed on him while he was shackled in handcuffs, belly chain, and leg irons. The one Black juror refused to believe that he committed assault in this condition, so that a mistrial was declared on these counts.

Bennett faces up to 3 additional years for the conviction, which will be appealed.

Also today, the only white inmate among the seven indicted Leavenworth Brothers, WILLIAM HURST, was found dead in his cell in the Wyandotte County Jail in Kansas City, supposedly a suicide. He was charged with assault and kidnap of four guards with the demand of meeting with Warden Daggett to discuss prisoner grievances.

Hurst had been separated from the other Leavenworth Brothers by the prison administration, which hoped through isolation to break down their morale and interracial solidarity.

The Leavenworth Brothers Offense Defense Committee staged a 21-mile march from Leocomptom, Kansas (the capital of the Kansas slave state), to Topeka, in support of Bennett. The committee announced that the issue of negligence in connection with Hurst's death is under investigation.

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

JAMES WASHINGTON MALCOLM JEFFERSON

By JIM HARLOW

NORFOLK, Va., May 23—Today the state's third attempt to try JAMES WASHINGTON for murder ended in a mistrial in Powhatan County Court. Washington and MALCOLM JEFFERSON, two young Black prisoners now being held in the State Penitentiary in Richmond, are accused of killing State Farm guard Captain Raul Monte, in a supposed escape attempt at the Powhatan court in November 1971.

Both men were then inmates at the State Farm, and were in court that day on charges of weapons possession. Jefferson was sentenced to death last year under Virginia law which specifies a mandatory death penalty for prisoners convicted of killing guards. His execution was scheduled for the first week in May 1973, but he entered an appeal and is now awaiting its outcome.

Washington's first trial over a year ago ended in a hung jury; his second appearance was declared a mistrial by Judge James Wilkinson after Washington accused both the judge and jury of racism, and declared that he could not hope for a fair trial in Powhatan. However, for the third time, Washington was brought to trial in the same courtroom where the original incident took place.

Had this third trial been completed, Washington would in all likelihood have been sentenced to death. The trials of Jefferson and Washington are very significant for the state government as it, like state legislatures around the country, is attempting to reinforce and expand the death penalty as a weapon against poor and

working people and political activists, especially if they are Black prisoners.

If these two brothers are executed, theirs will be the first executions nationally since the Supreme Court's July 1972 Furman decision against the discretionary death sentence. The Virginia Prisoners Solidarity Committee and its allies around the country have launched a campaign against this legal lynching, and have held many demonstrations in Norfolk and Richmond over the past 2 years in support of Jefferson and Washington.

Washington's third trial was halted when his two court-appointed lawyers told the judge they were withdrawing from the case because of "irreconcilable differences" with their client. This followed a jury selection in which one of the lawyers had forced many of the prospective jurors to admit to extensive prior knowledge of the case and to reveal their racist hostility towards all Black people.

The judge then declared a mistrial, and said there would be a new attempt to try Washington in July or August of this year. Washington has pleaded innocent throughout his ordeal, and another trial, under Virginia law, may raise the possibility for dismissal of the case. The law states that a defendant is in jeopardy once a plea is entered, and that a second trial after a mistrial would place the accused in double jeopardy, which would be grounds for dismissal.

THOMAS WANSLEY JAMES CARRINGTON

By JIM HARLOW

NORFOLK, May 24—On Monday, May 13, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a near-unanimous decision, rejected the appeal of THOMAS WANSLEY, a young Black man from Lynchburg, Va. who has served over 11 years in prison on a frameup charge of faping a white woman.

And on Monday, May 20, the appeal of JAMES CARRINGTON was turned down by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond. Carrington is a young Black man from Keysville, Va. who was sentenced to 75 years in prison in 1971, for the alleged rape of a white woman.

The defense of these two victims of racist lynch-mob "justice" has been a major effort of the Committee to Free Thomas Wansley and James Carrington, the Virginia Prisoners Solidarity Committee, the Virginia Students Civil Rights Committee, and progressive groups nationwide, such as the Southern Conference Educational Fund. These markedly similar cases are but two examples of the vicious use of the rape charge as a weapon against Black people in the South.

Both of these men were arrested, tried, and convicted in an atmosphere of hysteria fanned by the white power structure's fear of growing resistance in the Black community to repression and segregation. Lynchburg in 1962 was the scene of much early civil rights activity in Virginia.

Wansley, a 17-year-old dishwasher at the time of his arrest, was used as a scapegoat for increased police terror against that movement. Carrington, the father of two children and a foundry workers, was mobbed and beaten by a group of KKK vigilantes in the middle of the night, and then arrested, in 1971. He lived in an area where the racist reaction against public school integration was particularly intense. (Prince Edward County, near Keysville, closed its schools in 1959 for 6 years, rather than submit to federal integration guidelines.)

The mothers of these men, although both advanced in age and in poor health,

have been active in their defense, along with other family members and friends. Mrs. Willie Mae Thornton, the mother of Thomas Wansley, has spoken at rallies and press conferences. Mrs. Otelia Carrington has also waged a constant struggle, both in the KKK-infested Keysville area and statewide, in defense of her son. In March 1973 she spoke at the Conference on Repression and the Prison Struggle held in Richmond, organized by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and other Virginia groups.

Both Wansley and Carrington have been very active in the struggle for prisoners' rights on both sides of the walls. Wansley co-authored a suit in 1968 to desegregate the Virginia prison system. Later, he was also a principal in a suit against the prison administration attacking brutality by guards and officials, which resulted in the famous Landman decision in September 1972. During his 10-year confinement in the State Penitentiary, Wansley became known as a legal expert and writ writer.

In January 1973, Federal Judge Robert Merhige, Jr., ordered Wansley released on bond, citing prejudicial pretrial publicity and white majority composition of the trial jury as two factors that made a fair trial in Lynchburg impossible. But that decision was reversed last November by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on a challenge from the State Attorney General, and Wansley was returned to prison. He would have to serve another 3½ years before becoming eligible for parole.

The decision of the racist courts notwithstanding, the defense of Thomas Wansley and James Carrington will continue to be maintained by their relatives, friends, and supporters everywhere. Their families have suffered much personal hardship in working for their freedom, and contributions may be sent to The Committee to Free Thomas Wansley and James Carrington. In Richmond: 1103 Floyd Ave., Richmond, Va. 23220, (804) 355-4860. In Norfolk: P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, Va. 23509, (804) 625-7759.

CARLOS FELICIANO

By JOE ZARBA

NEW YORK, May 25—On May 23, CARLOS FELICIANO was to have presented papers beginning his appeal of a conviction on possession of explosives resulting from a Manhattan trial last October.

Because Judge Arnold Fraiman (who had harassed the jury into convicting Carlos) had not completed the transcripts by this date, Carlos was told at the last minute that he did not have to appear. Despite this, 50 supporters demonstrated outside the court to let the racists inside know that Carlos is completely innocent. Support for Carlos is still growing from progressive organizations and individuals demanding a complete acquittal and an end to the frameup and harassment which has been going on for 4½ years.

It was the courts, acting on behalf of the ruling class, who would not let Carlos present a defense in the Manhattan trial. To do so would have been to implicate Nixon's personal security squad, the FBI, the Puerto Rican secret police, and the New York City Police Department in a concerted effort to frame this fighter for Puerto Rican independence.

At a rally after the demonstration, Rev. David Garcia, Chairman of the Carlos Feliciano Defense Committee, reiterated that the appeal will center on the issue of the colonial status of Puerto Rico. It will also challenge the credibility of the fingerprint "expert" instrumental in this case, who made a major misidentification in the trial of the Harlem Four, another political frameup.

If the courts and the racists they serve got the message by our presence today, then they know that this was only a new beginning in the struggle for Carlos and for the independence of Puerto Rico. As one of the chants so aptly put it, "In the courts and in the streets, we will fight the imperialists!"

Free Carlos Feliciano, free Puerto Rico now!

AIM

On Jan. 21, 1973, Wesley Bad Heart Bull was stabbed and killed in Buffalo Gap, S.D., by a white gas station manager from Custer, who had told a number of people of his intention after a white bar owner in Buffalo Gap offered a reward for Wesley's death.

White witnesses made no attempt to stop the assault or catch the assailant. When the murderer turned himself in, he was charged only with second-degree manslaughter.

On Feb. 6, 1973, about 100 Indians came to Custer to demonstrate for justice. Riot squad cops met them with riot sticks, baseball bats, mace, tear gas, and other weapons. Many Indians were injured, 30 were arrested, and later 19 were indicted, including Wesley's mother, Sarah Bad Heart Bull, who is facing 20 years in prison.

In May 1973, Wesley's murderer was acquitted by an all-white jury. On Feb. 18, 1974, Wesley's brother, Butch Bad Heart Bull, was murdered by a white man who is free on bond with no trial date set.

Now 5 of the 19 indicted Indians from the Feb. 6, 1973 protest are on trial in Custer, S.D. Judge Joseph Bottum decided that since they are facing the charges together, he would only allow them the number of challenges in jury selection granted to a single defendant.

On April 25, when Bottum ordered jury selection to continue in spite of a defense motion for more challenges pending in State Supreme Court, the defense lawyers refused to continue the "legal lynching." Bottum dismissed the two white defense lawyers and jailed and fined the Indian lawyer, Ramon Roubideaux, for contempt.

On April 26, over 50 Indian supporters of the defendants refused to stand in respect for Bottum in the courtroom. They were ejected into the hallway, and over an

hour later, Bottum reinstated the defense lawyers.

On April 30, supporters again refused to rise at the entrance of Bottum. Riot police armed with clubs, mace, and tear gas attacked the unarmed defendants and supporters, and eight were sent to the hospital for treatment. Defendant David Hill received severe head injuries and may lose his right eye.

On May 3, nine supporters were arraigned on assault charges from the April 30 protest and police attack: TED MEANS, CURTIS BALD EAGLE, KENNY KANE, BILL FLOOD, DEWEY DUBRAY, RUSSELL MEANS, VERNON BELLECOURT, ALLEN COOPER, and LOIS TIGER.

The government is piling injustice on top of injustice in its efforts to repress and destroy the American Indian Movement. But AIM continues to win the leadership of the Indian people in their struggle to win back the rights to their land, culture, and lives.

On April 16, in a pretrial motion, the Custer defense challenged the jurisdiction of the state of South Dakota since Custer is located in Indian land held under the 1868 Great Sioux Nation Treaty. This treaty, in which the U.S. granted ownership of the Black Hills to the Sioux, was broken in 1876 when mining companies went in after gold.

The U.S. admitted the legal Sioux ownership last Feb. 15, when the Indian Claims Commission offered \$121.5 million in compensation. But the Black Hills Sioux Nation Treaty Council repudiated the offer, declaring: "The sacred Black Hills are not for sale."

The Wounded Knee Legal Defense Offense Committee is in great need of funds for the nine charged in the April 30 police attack, the 19 Custer defendants, and the 120 Wounded Knee defendants facing federal and state charges. Send support to Box 255, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101.

PRISONERS LABOR UNION

DETROIT, May 24—In a recent decision, two of three judges on the Michigan Employment Relations Commission (MERC) admitted that prisoners

are employees of the Department of Corrections and have the legal right to unionize.

But they refused to recognize the Prisoners Labor Union (PLU) on a technical disagreement over whether the PLU would be under the jurisdiction of civil service or public service.

The fact that MERC recognized the PLU in principle if not in practice is a concession to the struggle that prisoners have waged for several years now all across the country and in Michigan in particular for the PLU.

In Michigan prisoners do many different kinds of work, including: making office furniture, doing laundry for area hospitals, making surgical garments, teaching in the prison schools, janitorial work, and work in the prison hospitals, kitchens, and farms.

For this work, prisoners receive 25-30 cents a day, while the state rakes in millions of dollars in profit.

There are virtually no health and safety regulations that are enforced; the machinery is outdated and falling apart; there is little or no protection against any infectious diseases on the soiled hospital linen; there is no workman's compensation if a prisoner is injured on the job because of the negligence and lack of concern shown by the Department of Corrections.

Through collective bargaining, the Prisoners Labor Union would be able to begin to deal with the inhuman living and working conditions; update the medical treatment and facilities; offer a means to support prisoners' families on the outside of the walls; bring an end to the experimental drug programs being carried out by Upjohn, Lilly, etc; and an end to the vicious racism within the prisons.

The efforts of prisoners in Jackson and Marquette to organize the Prisoners Labor Union have been met with vicious attacks from state officials. The state's attorneys have even tried to use the 13th Amendment to the Constitution to support their argument that prisoners are slaves.

And inside the walls, guards used "slave-master" repression through beatings, gassings, transfers, solitary confinement, confiscation of union

documents, and special harassment aimed at union organizers. The Department of Corrections is clearly afraid of the PLU because it will be an organization of prisoners.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee supports the struggle for union recognition being waged by prisoners in Jackson, Marquette, and around the country. For more information, contact the PSC, P.O. Box 08141, Detroit, Mich. 48208; phone: (313) 962-4979.

NEW YORK 5

NEW YORK, May 16—The trial of the NEW YORK FIVE on charges of killing two cops in Harlem in May 1971 has ended in a hung jury and mistrial.

The five men, GABRIEL and FRANCISCO TORRES, ALBERT WASHINGTON, ANTHONY BOTTOM, and HERMAN BELL, had been named by the cops as members of the Black Liberation Army.

Lawyers for the defense accused the cops of falsifying evidence and coercing false testimony in their efforts to get a conviction on the frameup charges.

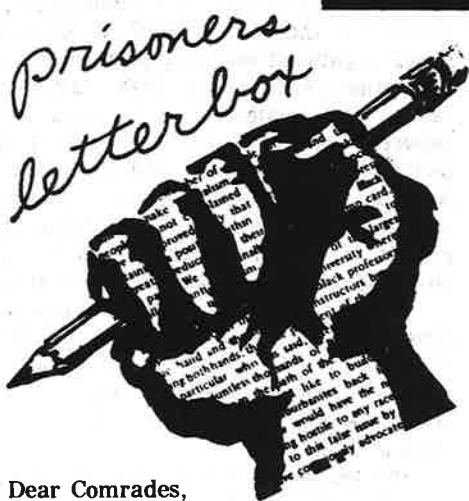
Three women who had relationships with the defendants all said under cross-examination that the police told them they might lose their children if they refused to cooperate. All were also confined to either Civil Jail or house arrest for more than a year before the trial.

The lawyers themselves also played up to the fears of the jurors about the BLA, fomented by the hysterically racist press stories, when they assured the jurors an acquittal would not set them free.

The Torres brothers are serving 20 years on a California bank robbery conviction, and Washington and Bottom are serving 25 years on attempted murder charges resulting from a shootout with the cops. Bell faces several other charges.

It is to the credit of some of the jurors that they doubted the cops' testimony and stood up against the pressure on them to bring in a conviction.

Of course, the media gave little coverage to the mistrial, but the hung jury is a step toward derailing the plans of the state to railroad into prison everyone who is militantly committed to Black liberation.



Dear Comrades,

The present is to make you aware of an incident that occurred the 21st of April 1974 in the state prison of Attica. We the Latin population of Attica would like you to take into consideration and publish this article concerning all the oppressed peoples.

On April 21, 1974, the Latin and Black population of Attica mourned the 9th anniversary of the death of our great Father, Don Pedro Albizu Campos. In the morning of the above mentioned date both groups met in the Catholic Church to pay tribute on behalf of our now deceased leader. On the left side of our shirts we wore a black patch, symbol of our grief.

The Catholic Chaplain dedicated the mass to Don Pedro, however, he only mentioned Don Pedro's name once during the mass hour proving his disinterest towards the matter. We then decided to pay tribute on our own as we headed to the yard (A-yard). While in the yard, one of our Latin Brothers was called into a meeting room by a Sargeant and a member of the administration staff. He was told to remove the black patch from the left side of his shirt, violating his freedom of religion and belief, while also violating his rights to the practice of his culture. He refused, as a man, to

remove this patch: the only thing we had to represent this great man. In doing this he was taken to the box (solitary confinement) accompanied by a great number of Brothers who also refused to remove the patch. We, the people of Attica do not have the power to do anything about this unjustly act.

We are publishing this article to make the concerned people aware of this inhuman and unjust act, and also to ask for the peoples support against these acts which are occurring each and everyday. The riot and deaths of '71 did not accomplish anything. In fact, the situation in Attica is worst. We feel: If the situation would have been reversed; an insignia of the American Flag and a symbol in memory of an American President, we would've probably had a steak dinner or a free buy at commissary, but since this day was in memory of a man whose only ambition and endeavors was that of the liberation and independence of our oppressed peoples, we were condemned and deprived of the right to worship his image, the image of Don Pedro Albizu Campos.

The Oppressed Latin & Black Population of Attica

P.S. We are not giving out names or numbers for fear of the actions, physical and unlawful, that might be taken against us and our Brothers that are in the box.

April 8, 1974

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters.

We would like to take this time to thank members of Workers World, who ardently struggled to bring about our freedom from these frame-up charges. But it should go without saying, "convictions do not end just peoples struggles nor do they occupy a decisive stage in our advance to freedom."

We feel, the conviction on Feb. 1, 1974 and the sentencing on Feb. 27, 1974, are to be considered minor set backs. In our view, it is not defeatist to acknowledge that we have lost a single battle. How else can we regroup and even think of carrying on the fight. We realize it would be totally impossible to continue to struggle or ever think about winning without the aid of the people. Ameriklan justice concedes nothing but air without a demand. It never did and never will. Find out just what people will submit to and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue and continue till they have resisted either with words or blows or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they suppress. If true justice is to ever replace this injustice practiced by the Ameriklan government on the American people, it is necessary that we take to the streets in defense of what we know is right. It is not enough to just be conscious of the injustice, the misuse of power and the total disregard for human life. We must act! Only the peoples special brand of practice can negate the conviction of the "Smyrna 5." We feel it is necessary now that our supporters "regroup" and carry the struggle to its logical end. Resent events in our case demonstrate without a doubt, the disregard for our lives and the total disregard for our people. After sentencing four of us to suffer for 35 years and the other (Lester M. Johnson) to 40 years, the state has the audacity to indict us on charge of contempt of court. The only logic in this action is to satisfy the sadomasoch ego of the state. And only if we allow these injustices to happen will they happen. We ask the people to end this mistreatment and support our efforts to regain a new trial. If our people are as one, if thousands of men are like one, victory will certainly be ours. This letter is brief and to the point, but we think you will all un-

derstand. We send our warmest revolutionary greetings, from all the comrades, Smyrna five.

Carl Henry
Ronald Payne
Lester Johnson
Gary Watson
Thomas LeGrande

Contributions are need for legal fees, telephone calls, and mailing. Any who can help or would like more information should contact: The Smyrna 5 Legal-Defense-Support Committee, c-o Dr. Jimmy L. McClinton, 240 N. Rodney St., Wilm., Dela. 19805, and-or Prisoners' Solidarity Committee, 824 Washington St., Wilm., Dela. 19801.

To the concerned People of society,

We are calling for People concerned to write letters to the federal court about a motion, asking that Judge Ralph Geffen not interfere with the suit in case of Brother Ruchell Magee vs. Public Defender Sheldon Portman et al. (filed 4-4-74) because such judge has in Prior events shown and applied Prejudice in grabbing his legal documents with the specific intents of denying them without hearing or reading the merits. His technicalities are all negative assumption from his Pervert head! But he holds them for months, some time a year, to see if he's being watched By the People. This old buzzard is silly sick! And a clown coward in a direct conspiracy with these other fools. This call is to help comrade Ruchell Magee. If there is something that can be done then I will help my comrades! Power to the People!

yours in the struggle

Sunni Ali

P.S.—Here is comrade Ruchell Magee's address: Box 5547, San Jose, California 95125. Ask the People to write and help this Brother!

Shanker victory frustrates will of oppressed community

By J. STEVENS

NEW YORK, May 24—The slate of candidates supported by Albert Shanker, racist leader of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), won a five-to-four majority in the Lower East Side community school district board elections on May 14.

In a school district where 95 percent of the student population are Latin, Black, or Oriental, 60 percent of those eligible to vote are elderly and white.

The effect of the election on the future of Luis Fuentes, the pro-community school superintendent in the district, rests on the outcome of the struggle between two trends.

The efforts of the UFT leadership to destroy community control by ousting Fuentes will rely on the legal and political power of the five UFT-slate board members to cancel Fuentes' contract. The five members include Jerome Goodman, Carol Kozlowsky, Richard Lee Price, Adolph Rhoer, and Martin Rubin. Members of the Por Los Ninos (Parents') slate elected to the board are Carmen Barreto, Georgina Hoggard, Henry Ramos, and Janice Wong.

As Luis Fuentes has pointed out, the UFT-slate board members are on the defensive. The Por Los Ninos candidates outpolled any previous community control slate, and it is clear that it is only a matter of time before the strength of the reactionary forces will be completely eroded. Furthermore, Fuentes' contract states he cannot be removed from the superintendency unless a two-thirds majority of the board votes to do so. The Fuentes supporters on the board are strong in their resolve to maintain Fuentes' contract, whatever legal attempts are made by the UFT slate to overthrow this provision of the contract.

LEGAL BATTLES

The community has carried out the struggle for community control in the schools, in the streets, and in the courts. It was a federal court ruling by Judge Charles Stewart that forced this recent election to take place because of overwhelming evidence of racist discrimination in the last election.

Although there were more examples of this kind of discrimination in the May 14 elections, the days are over when the



Community volunteers publicize parents' slate for school board election in New York's District 1. Photo: Claridad

community would stand by helpless as their rights were usurped at the polls.

The legal and electoral apparatus of the city and federal governments only grants rights to the oppressed when the unified will of the community forces concessions in its favor. It will take more than a lawyer's argument to overturn the current bilingual

and bicultural programs administered by Luis Fuentes in the schools of the Lower East Side of New York.

The community's will may have been frustrated by the outcome of the recent vote, but the struggle for community control in this oppressed community is alive and well as the school year draws to a close.

Balaguer "elected" Trujillo-style, amid mass boycott and resistance

By P. MEISNER

The election fraud held in the Dominican Republic last week shows that another Trujillo-style dictatorship is entrenched in power. For the third time in a row, Joaquin Balaguer, a close aide and official of the old Trujillo regime (and often referred to as Trujillo's "spiritual son"), has been "elected" president. But this time, the U.S.-puppet regime is facing its greatest mass opposition since the 1965 popular uprising.

'ELECTION' BY TERROR

The election campaign was so dominated by terror and intimidation carried out by the Balaguer forces (as was the case in the 1966 and 1970 elections) that the main electoral opposition to Balaguer withdrew from the election and boycotted it. More than 25 oppositionists were murdered by Balaguer's police and army troops during the campaign, while many others were wounded. Civil servants were threatened with the loss of their government jobs if they didn't turn out at the polls. Other Dominicans were threatened with losing their right to travel if they didn't vote on election day.

But despite Balaguer's terror against the Dominican people, more than 1 million of the 2 million registered voters boycotted the polls on May 16. And of the 1 million who voted, more than 300,000 turned in deliberately spoiled ballots.

Balaguer came to power in 1966 after U.S. troops crushed the 1965 popular revolt in Santo Domingo. Balaguer was groomed in New York as the U.S.-backed candidate for the phony presidential election held in 1966. Although former president Juan Bosch, a liberal, opposed Balaguer then, that campaign was also a farce as scores of Bosch organizers were gunned down by the fascist

and pro-Balaguer army and police. Many polling booths yielded up stuffed ballot boxes, as government employees were given a free hand to vote for Balaguer as many times as they wanted (a practice repeated in this election).

OPPOSITION PARTIES

Although the 1974 electoral campaign reflected greater mass opposition to the brutal Balaguer dictatorship, some strange

Popular Dominican Movement (MPD), a radical left party with Maoist leanings; and, incredible as it may seem, the Dominican Democratic party (PQD), an ultrarightist party headed by the hated exgeneral Elias Wessin y Wessin.

Wessin y Wessin was forced into exile by Balaguer after the 1965 rebellion for representing an open fascist policy. His odious reputation would have embarrassed both Balaguer and Washington, who were

to destroy the rebels in 1965; a recalcitrant protege of the U.S."

The Acuerdo de Santiago could not be considered even a reformist popular front, since its presidential candidate was a wealthy and conservative cattle rancher named Silvestre Antonio Guzman and its vice-presidential candidate was no less than the fascist "gorilla" himself, Wessin y Wessin.

The parties of the Acuerdo de Santiago were originally part of a larger electoral alliance called the Bloc of National Dignity, which also included ex-PRD leader Juan Bosch, rightwing bourgeois parties such as the National Civic Union (UCN), and other radical left parties. In a factional split between Bosch and the PRD, the PRD pulled out of the Bloc and formed the Acuerdo. While the Acuerdo may have been objectively to the right of the remaining parties of the Bloc, neither represented anything near a progressive united front.

Balaguer had to amend the Dominican constitution to reelect himself in 1970, thereby breaking an antisuccession provision. It now appears that Balaguer will hold "elections" much in the same way Trujillo used to.

But the oppressed Dominican masses, regardless of elections, are rising up against Balaguer's reign of terror. Hundreds of political prisoners have been on hunger strikes. Demonstrations in support of the prisoners have been taking place throughout the Dominican Republic. The demonstrations have also called for the safe and legal return of thousands of political exiles. Within days after the "election," Balaguer was forced to release five MPD political prisoners.

These are definite signs that the spirit of the heroic 1965 rebellion in Santo Domingo has already been revived.



Prior to the 1970 elections in the Dominican Republic, relatives of prisoners demonstrated against prison conditions, hiding their faces behind placards for fear of reprisals. Photo: LNS

alliances of opposition political parties were formed. The main opposition front to Balaguer just before the election was the Acuerdo de Santiago (Santiago Agreement). This alliance included the Revolutionary Dominican Party (PRD), a liberal bourgeois-nationalist party; the Revolutionary Social-Christian Party (PRSC), a moderate-liberal party; the

desperately trying to paint up the new puppet dictatorship as a "democracy." The most generous characterization of Wessin y Wessin was made in 1965 by The New York Times's correspondent in Santo Domingo, Tad Szulc. In the latter's book, Dominican Diary, he identifies Wessin y Wessin as:

"Troop commander at San Isidro Base who overthrew Dr. Bosch in 1963 and sought

May 17, 1974: Police terrorism was the real issue



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